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Friends enjoy the Fun Night at Manila



YOUNG FRIENDS GATHERING

Bakal ng Tipan Retreat Center, CICM Mary Hill Compound, Taytay-Rizal, Philippines

Young Friends Gathering

*Patricia Macgregor
AWPS Clerk*



Editorial: Greetings to all our readers from a very busy time in the life of AWPS. At Manila, we have reflected on the spiritual challenges raised by the natural disasters in our region, and the challenge of being empowered rather than paralyzed. We look to act in ways uniquely Asian in our Quaker responses, as we live the Kingdom of God and work fruitfully. We have studied Friends traditions and practices from all over our Section and shared our Quaker faith and ideas with Young Friends- and they with us. God will provide all that is needed when someone is called to serve: Matt 21:22 "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer". Pray that labourers will come forth in the vineyard and that God will raise up new leadership to take us forward in uncertain times.

We are approaching the World Gathering in Kenya, 2012 in less than a year. Wherever you are, pray and support this event with all of your hearts and minds. *Valerie Joy Secretary AWPS*

WORLD CONFERENCE 17-25 April 2012: "Being Salt and Light, Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world"

Welcome to Kenya- *Karibu nyote*

This is the 6th World Conference of the Religious Society of Friends since all traditions recognised the need to come together at the All Friends Conference held in London in 1920.

The experience of working together in the First World War and its aftermath led Friends to understand that we can unite in service to mend a broken world despite our theological and cultural differences.

As we gather from all parts of the family of Friends, we will be challenged by these theological and cultural differences, by the variety of ways worship and even by our approaches to daily living. The challenges and difficulties we face can be the seeds that lead to new growth. We come with faith that we can find ways to work together to build God's Kingdom.

We look forward to experiencing the richness of our many expressions of the Kingdom of God, our different ways of being Salt and Light, as we discover our common roots and come to know each other, in the things that are eternal. We pray that as we seek God's guidance, led by the Spirit of Christ, our time together will be a blessing to us and to the entire world.

AWPS GATHERING EPISTLE: Greetings to all Quakers everywhere: The 9th Asia West Pacific Section Gathering of FWCC, 1-7 April 2011, hosted by one of our newest affiliates, PEFIM (Philippines Evangelical Friends International Ministries), was held in the beautiful surrounds of Bukal ng Tipan, a conference centre overlooking Manila in the Philippines.

We came from 13 countries, including 12 groups who are affiliated to FWCC, 12 other Friends groups, 3 international Friends plus some visiting enquirers. We came together to make friends, and to share a diversity of practices of worship of our God as we work toward the fulfillment of Christ's promise of living in the Kingdom of God. We shared our witness with each other through different styles of worship in the mornings, on Sunday and in the quietening epilogues.

Theme of Faith and Action

Our theme of Faith and Action wove through our week, and we shared deeply on this theme with our small Home Groups, which met regularly. Our friendships deepened here, experiences and emotions were shared and questions were explored. As each day neared the end, we were treated to the best views of the city as the sun was setting, where the silhouettes of the skyline could finally be seen. The pollution haze was transformed to spectacular colours in the sky, before the vista was lit up by the night lights. This unexpected view helped to broaden our thinking throughout the week.

As the breezes blew and kept us cool, we were led through the Book of James by Janet Scott and Paul Anderson. We learned of James, brother of Jesus, James the man of prayer, guided by the Holy Spirit. Janet encouraged us to revisit James 2:17-18. She exhorted us by saying as brothers and sisters of James we need to be part of our community, to practice acts of loving and to treat each other equally with respect.

Paul Anderson emphasised that Faith without Action is dead. As a world grouping of Quakers, we are drawn to share our witness with each other and to ask: How is God speaking to us now?

Beside the keynote speakers, Theresa Quintos-Delos, the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process, explained the Philippine government policy for peace. Despite some reduction in conflict, those involved are conscious of the complexity of the process. We join with Friends and other groups in the Philippines in prayer for continuing resolution

of the conflict. This accords with our hope for dialogue and greater understanding between groups, in an atmosphere of cooperation and transparency.

We heard about the exciting development of Quaker Centres in both Australia, at Silver Wattle, and in India at the Friends Rural Centre, Rasulia. We pray that both communities further develop their programs and facilities as a means of expressing Quaker Faith and Action.

We were deeply moved by an award-winning documentary by a local film-maker whose passion is bringing to public notice social injustices in the Philippines. The film was about a group of disenfranchised farmers from Mindanao who carried out a 1700km walk to win back their land. Their cause was supported by the Catholic Cardinal Archbishop of Manila, and the farmers were able to overcome the legal impediments to working the land. It was heartening to see that when people take action on issues fundamental to a fruitful life, they can overcome legal and other impediments.

In small groups we grappled with the FWCC Global Change Queries. Our responses will be forwarded to the World Office for inclusion in Friends' response worldwide, as we seek a distinctly Quaker response.

We were given some hope of moving towards peace by representatives of Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism. They spoke of the cornerstone message of all religions: love your neighbour as yourself. We saw hope of continuing dialogue that will work towards removing misunderstanding, in order to achieve peace.

We heard from our Clerk about the progress of the Section in its 26 years, including embracing electronic advances in our work. We have welcomed Friends from the programmed and evangelical churches, and the affiliation to the FWCC of PEFIM, Mahoba and Marble Rocks in India has doubled our membership. We have confidence in our Young Friends. We have all been encouraged that by including them in our gatherings we can nurture them into leadership roles.

Our Japanese Friends have been doing their best to help victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami by offering their meeting houses to accommodate some of those affected. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Japan, and also those in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Gathering came to a conclusion with a heart-warming multicultural performance of songs, poems and stories. This expression of unity as

brothers and sisters in Christ will carry us on in our endeavour to continue building our faith and action.

Dilawar Chetsingh, Clerk AWPS

AWPS YOUNG FRIENDS GATHERING

Greetings to Young Friends everywhere: The second AWPS Young Friends Gathering of FWCC, 7-9 April 2011, was held in the breathtaking surroundings of *Bukal ng Tipan*, Philippines.

We adopted the same theme as that of the AWPS General Gathering, 'Faith and Action'. It was very fitting to the occasion as we all left each of our cities, provinces, and countries, bearing in our hearts and minds the eagerness to share and learn from others how to translate faith into concrete actions that will benefit the greater good. As a Friend said, 'One of the coolest things about being here is this big group of young evangelical Friends, singing and dancing with such vibrant energy of song and spirit.' It was like a beating pulse that kept all of our blood pumping throughout the gathering.

The start was marked by a unique way of introducing ourselves. Aside from our names, each of us gave a word from our own dialect and told everyone what they meant. Not only was our global vocabulary broadened, we were also able to create a special kind of bond among us by using unfamiliar words that belonged to the mother tongue of another *Taman* (Friend).

Janet Scott's talk gave us an overview of Quaker history. It was as inspiring as it was informative and we loved it because it spoke to all conditions, whether programmed or unprogrammed and everyone somehow found resonance in her words. Helen Bayes shared with us her thoughtful perspective on Elijah, using his story of prophetic vision under persecution to inspire us to find our own prophetic voice.

Julian Stargardt shared a few thoughts on the subject of his advocacy where we were made to feel the weight of his Concern. We were challenged to contribute our personal experiences on Global Change (which here in the Philippines is substantial) to the cluster group process.

The Bible Study was such an amazing experience because Rev. Crisanto de la Cruz of PEFIM was very sensitive to the fact that people bearing other beliefs were in the same room. None of the unprogrammed

Quakers were made to feel excluded in any way. It was a safe haven for Friends from diverse traditions to share whatever their feelings were, while Pastor Cris shared with us his passionate and inspiring love of Jesus Christ and the Bible.

Nadine Hoover conducted a workshop on non-violence and trauma healing, which was, to say the least, invigorating to Young Friends' spirits. Her youthful approach made it very easy for us since there was limitless room for self-expression. Shortly after this, we exchanged ideas and finally came up with a way for us Young Friends to maintain communication after this gathering.

The highlight of the day was the evening concert where the beauty of different cultures was shared in a new way, expressed through song and dance. We gave praise to the Spirit with loud and beautiful voices, and shaking bodies. To the varied styles of dances from hip hop and *Bhangra*, to songs from India, Nepal and Bohol, we quaked in the rhythm of the Spirit! After that energetic concert, we gathered around a small campfire as we came to know each other more deeply, exploring our fears, hopes and secret *kagalakan* (joys) in the flickering light of the embers, and in the twilight company of the *toko* (gecko lizard), frogs and bats.

Two members of the United Religions Initiative interfaith movement, in which three Young Friends in attendance participate, gave a brief presentation on conflict resolution and interfaith community understanding.

As a conclusion to the gathering, several friends exchanged letters of heart-warming messages of *aroha* (love) and gratitude for the new bonds created in such a short span of time. Those three days will surely be cherished throughout our lifetimes. The *kaanyag* (beauty) of the place and the beauty of the people we spent time with will be etched in our hearts forever.

Thomas Owen, Marjorie Angalot, Ludwig Bon Quirog (Epistle Committee)

ASIA WEST PACIFIC GENERAL MEETING: held at 11.10am.
Wednesday, 6 April 2011 Bukan ng Tipan Retreat Centre, Philippines

1. Members Present

Paul Anderson, Therese Anne Asis, Mel Aspiras, Piyush Augustine,

Yukiko Backes, Helen Bayes, Jairaj Brown, Dilawar Chetsingh, Jaibu Choi, Kenneth Co, David Cooper, Michael Corbett, Cris de la Cruz, Anna Dunford, John Edwards, Topsy Evans, David Evans, Raffy Gaid, Rose Gaid, Mary Grbavac , Nadine Hoover, Marvin Hubbard, Nancy Irving, Valerie Joy, Abhishek Khwayaju, Boon Yi Kwak, Hiroko Koibuchi, Tony Lacumbis, Carmela Lao, Patricia Macgregor, Shiny Manuel, Sieneke Martin, Setsuko Masaike, Tina Montiel, Lalthla Muana, Thomas Owen, Jim Palmer, Yanni Pantou, David Purnell, Boni Quirog, Ben Roxas, John Taylor, Kinuyo Nakamura, Hyung Reul Kim, Betty Pulido, Janet Scott, Jaime Tabingo, Lydia Tabingo, Ronald Titus, Salomon Samuel, Julian Stargardt, Luther Villamero, Taisoo Kim Watson, Helen Webb.

Apologies: No Apologies have been received

1. Secretary’s Report

The report has been read and is accepted.

2. Clerk’s Report

The report has been read and is accepted.

3. Treasurer’s report

The report has been read and is accepted.

4. 2008, 2009, 2010 Accounts

The audited accounts presented by the Treasurer are accepted.

5. Appointment of Auditor for 2011

We appoint Inga Tolley, South Australia Regional Meeting, AYM as our Auditor for 2011.

6. Appointments

We note that our Public Officer for AWPS Incorporated is Topsy Evans. She was appointed at the Bhopal AWPS Inc. General Meeting up to 2011. On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, we appoint Topsy Evans until the next Gathering in 2014.

7. Bank Signatories

We accept the name of Helen Lucas as a fourth signatory. The other signatories are Topsy Evans, Geoff Greeves (SARM) and Taisoo Kim Watson (QRM) -any two to sign.

8. General Business

The Constitution as approved at our General Meeting in Bhopal 2008

is accepted.

9. Closure of General Meeting: There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.40am

Valerie Joy, Executive Secretary, Asia West Pacific Section Inc

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS of Asia West Pacific Section, FWCC held at Bukal ng Tipan, Manila, Philippines, 1- 7 April 2011

These are located on the website www.fwccawps.org-

Selected parts of the minutes are:

2011/15 Treasurer's report

We hear and accept the Treasurer's report. Our attention is drawn to the need to make the costs of all our Gatherings self-funding. This means the overall costs of the Gatherings must be shared as much as possible.

In the past this has been achieved by generous donations from Friends towards the cost of fares and accommodation for representatives from groups, which cannot afford the costs. This is unsustainable and the Finance Committee asks the Section to consider very carefully how Gatherings may be funded in the future.

We agree that AWPS will not be able to subsidise representatives' expenses to the extent that has been possible in the past. It will be necessary for all groups to bear some of the cost of their representation at future Gatherings. We ask them to start planning how they will do this in preparation for the Gathering in 2014.

We also hear that many Friends have been generous in their financial support for relief efforts after floods in the Philippines in 2009. We are now asked to assist with the costs of repairs to damage to Friends properties caused by the recent earthquake and tsunami and relief activities in Japan.

2011/17 Applications for affiliation

17.1 Application from Daejon Meeting, South Korea

We hear how this group began as a study group in 2004 and has held Meetings for Worship since 2009. The membership is now 14 plus several enquirers and meets weekly for one hour. They have received supportive visits from Australian and German Friends and their study

groups have attracted 170 people. The group has appointed a clerk, recording clerk and accountant.

The Clerk of Seoul Monthly Meeting has expressed her happiness at this application. She has given us a message from Seoul Monthly Meeting, which welcomes the application for recognition of Daejon Friends.

We support this application and as this still a small group, we refer it to the International Membership Applications Committee of FWCC.

17.2 Christian Friends Trust in Karnataka, India

We hear from Arun Massey that he started his ministry in Karnataka in 1995, offering refuge and protection for temple prostitute girls. Since then, he and his wife have established 6 Friends Churches and various cell groups. EFI heard about his ministry & offered support for his work. CFT and the service organization, Caring Hands, became affiliated with EFI in 2010.

We note that the CFT has over 200 members and could be recognized as a YM of AWPS. However we need to become more familiar with the group and we ask CFT to welcome a visit by Friends appointed by the AWPS Committee. The Visitors will gather information and bring a recommendation in respect of this application to be considered at our next Business Meeting in Kenya in April 2012.

2011/19 Nominations Committee

We appoint David Purnell (AYM, 2nd term), Thomas Watts (A/NZ YM, 2nd term), Betty Pulido (PEFIM), Sachiko Yamamoto (JYM), Swarnlata Brown (BMMS) and Boon Yi Kwak (Seoul MM) to the Nominations Committee from the end of this Gathering until the end of the Gathering in 2014. David Purnell is asked to convene the first meeting of the committee.

2011/20 Young Friends

Thomas Owen (A/NZ YM) has reported that YFs are widely dispersed and use different names for their groups. The AWP YF Gathering will be held immediately after this Gathering. The first official YF event was held in 2008 after the Bhopal Gathering. Three YFs of the AWPS, Emily Chapman-Searle AYM, Piyush Augustine Mahoba YM and John Ocol PEFIM, are now on the FWCC YAF Committee working to continue the mission of the 2005 World

Gathering of YFs. As John Ocol has moved to Canada, Therese Anne Asis is being considered by the International Nominations Committee as our replacement.

We hear that YFs are clearly active in their YMs and groups and that contact between YFs is expanding in the Section.

2011/21 Appointments

Nominations Committee brings forward these names for appointment to vacancies in office-holders of the Section:

Clerk

Patricia Macgregor, A/NZ YM, from the end of this Gathering until the end of the next Section Gathering in 2014

Treasurer

Taisoo Kim Watson, AYM from 1st January 2012 until the end of the year of the next Section Gathering, ie 2014.

Associate Treasurer

Geoff Greeves, AYM from 1st January 2012 until the end of the year of the next Section Gathering in 2014.

Executive Secretary

Valerie Joy AYM for a further period until 31st Dec 2012.

Associate Secretary

Ronald Titus, Bhopal YM, immediately after this Gathering until the end of the Section Gathering 2014.

Finance Committee

Anna Dunford A/NZ YM (2nd term), Geoff Greeves AYM (2nd term), Ronald Titus Bhopal YM (2nd term), until the end of the Section Gathering 2014.

General Members of the Section Committee

We appoint until the end of the next Section Gathering, Lydia Tabingo, PEFIM (2nd term), Yukiko Backes, JYM, Anna Dunford A/NZYM, Hyung Reul Kim, Seoul MM, Salomon Samuel, MIYM.

Global Change Committee

Seiichi Kondo JYM, Julian Stargardt HK MM, Vasant Bawa GCFI, Shiny Manuel (Marble Rocks MM), Tom Coyner (Seoul MM), Flor Angel Braid UPPG (all 2nd term). Rosemary Morrow AYM, Marvin

Hubbard A/NZ YM and Anna Wilkinson AYM. The Committee will choose its convener(s). Their term is until the end of the next Section Gathering in 2014.

Public Officer

Topsy Evans until the Gathering of 2014

2011/24 Indonesian Friends Church

We hear a presentation from Indonesian Friends about the spread of Friends Churches, and their efforts to become self-supporting through fundraising in their congregations. They now have 30 churches, hold YM gatherings, and are affiliated with the Protestant Association of Churches in Indonesia and provide services including an orphanage and training centre. We note their peace-building activities in war-torn areas.

2011/25 Global Change: The six queries of the Global Change Committee have been discussed at this Gathering and Friends have made valuable responses, which will be taken to the Committee and forwarded to the World Office. Friends are asked to take back the 6 queries to their Meetings and to send in further responses to the Committee.

CLERK'S REPORT, by *Dilawar Chetsingh*

I was a bit surprised to be appointed Clerk in 2004, and took a little time to learn from others and pick up my role. The Secretary, Clerk, Treasurer and other officeholders have worked as a team and together we have tried to do our best for the Section. I particularly thank Kenneth, Valerie and Topsy for their leadership and dedication. Now that I am handing over to my successor, it seems a good opportunity to take note of the road we have travelled and the tasks ahead.

Perhaps the most significant development of the past few years has been our reaching out to welcome Friends from the programmed and evangelical churches, some of whom have been led to seek affiliation to the Section and to FWCC. The addition of PEFIM, Mahoba and Marble Rocks has doubled the membership of the Section. We have gradually been able to establish closer contacts with Friends from Indonesia, Nepal and now Myanmar. At the same time we have seen the revival of the liberal group of Friends in Singapore, and have received requests for affiliation from the Daejon group in Korea and the Christian Friends Trust in south India. I think this desire for

inclusiveness and acceptance of the Section being open to Friends of different 'flavours' indicates a willingness to learn from each other to a greater degree than existed earlier. It may have been something new for unprogrammed Friends to get used to programmed worship and vice versa. But we are ready to sail together in the same boat while retaining our individual styles of worship and traditions.

We have felt greater involvement for each other in several ways. One is in Intervisitation, the twinning of a few Meetings and inviting representatives from other countries to attend Yearly Meeting sessions. Also in inviting Friends from other Meetings to assist in Quaker Learning programmes. In natural disasters we have prayed for each other and tried in our small way to assist in relief and rehabilitation.

Recent years have also seen us take steps to strengthen the Section as an institution. After considering it for some time, the Section approved our seeking incorporation as a legally recognised body. AWPS Incorporated is now a recognised entity. Not at present but maybe in the future we may become entitled to tax concessions. We have also reviewed and brought in appropriate amendments to our constitution to better reflect the way we would like to function.

The increasing use of electronic means has assisted us. As individual Friends, there is greater use of e mail, enabling us to be in touch with each other speedily and more frequently. The Section Committee, the GCC and sometimes the Finance Committee hold their meetings through Skype, in addition to corresponding by e mail. An increasing number of Friends receive the AWPS Newsletter in e mail form. Hopefully the website is being accessed by a larger number of Friends, and this trend should continue when new software packages are put in place shortly. We need to support these electronic efforts.

The Section finances have improved to some extent. Valerie's foregoing the Secretary's honorarium has been a great help. And Topsy has been a vigilant Treasurer, gradually building up a reserve which is used to assist representatives from less developed countries to attend Section Gatherings. This is a major expenditure and having this reserve available to fall back on if necessary is of great assistance.

Looking to the future and some of the areas to which we need to give special attention. One is Young Friends. Are we doing enough to interest and involve Young Friends in our Yearly Meetings, Churches and Section? Are we adequately providing them with Quaker Learning

so that they know about the roots of our faith and the Quaker testimonies? Are we encouraging them to be ready to assume leadership responsibilities? With the increasing age profile in a number of Yearly Meetings and groups, these are very relevant questions. Young Friends have their own way of communicating with each other and doing things. We all have a lot of confidence in them and hope they will play a greater role in their own countries and in Section activities.

Many of us try to practice our faith in action and are involved in dealing with various social issues. Can we do a little more in this respect? We need to be inspired by what Quakers significantly contributed to in the past - such as the abolition of slavery, prison reform, standing up for human rights and the alleviation of misery.

Inter-faith study and dialogue deserve our attention. Large parts of our geographical Section comprise of countries with the majority of the population being followers of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism and Shintoism. Christians are often small minorities. Particularly for Friends in such countries, but also for us all, it is necessary to understand the other religions and to discover the areas of similarity. We have come a long way since the Section was established 25 years ago. Let us maintain the progress.

Friends World Committee for Consultation, General Information – General Secretary Position: The position of FWCC General Secretary is a challenging, exciting position serving the world family of Friends. The General Secretary can be drawn from any part of the world family, but must be in membership.

The General Secretary of FWCC works in partnership with the Central Executive Committee and the four geographical Sections of FWCC to carry forward FWCC's mission: Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

The four primary areas of work are connections and communications among Friends, Quaker United Nations work, ecumenical work through Christian world communions, and office administration. The position entails extensive international travel, speaking to Friends groups of all sizes, networking, and a great deal of written communication. There

are four documents in this recruitment package: General Information, the 'person specification', terms & conditions of employment, and the timeline. Please acquaint yourself with all four and look at the website www.fwccworld.org before submitting your application.

Application Process: The FWCC process is using the British system of assessing candidates by using a 'person spec'. Application is by letter. We ask applicants to use the 'person spec' as the basis of a letter in which the applicant addresses each item in the 'person spec' and how she/he fits that part. The result will likely be a long letter with headings for each item of the 'person spec'. In addition, we ask each applicant to provide the names of three references. The information should include how that person knows the applicant and that person's telephone and email contact information as well as postal address. We also ask each applicant to provide a resume/CV of education, work history and Quaker activities and volunteer history. Lists of academic or professional publications and presentations, unless germane to this position, are not necessary.

Please send this information as email attachments to one email, each with your last name as part of the filename, to recruitment@friendsworldoffice.org. The deadline is November 1, 2011, which will be strictly observed. Nancy Irving, current General Secretary, is available to field your questions at nancyi@friendsworldoffice.org.

THE REPORT OF JAPAN YEARLY MEETING: JYM has a history of 124 years. First 100 years we had missionaries and many Friends teachers from US and Canada. Mainly from Philadelphia many dedicated Friends had stayed in Japan to help Friends meetings and Friends School in Tokyo.

After WWII in 1945, Friends in the States helped in many fields in Japan to support the food and clothes for children as well as opening the neighborhood centers for the needy people in Tokyo and seminars and work camps for university students by American Friends Service Committee. Those who had joined the AFSC projects have been interested in their spiritual basis and joined Friends in Japan. Ever since then Friends in Japan put more emphasis on peace projects. During 1970's Friends demonstrated active non-violence. Recently we have learned AVP which solves violence before getting worse conditions.

The five Monthly Meetings in JYM have a total number of Friends

of 142. We feel there are not many young members among Friends, and we hope to provide chances to encourage them. Some students and graduates of Friends School have been joining Young Friends programs and Friends activities and visiting overseas Friends programs.

Last fall we had our Yearly Meeting in November 20 to 21 at Tokyo Friends Meetinghouse. Prior to the business meeting we had an open talk on "Peace Testimony of JYM" coordinated by Yoshiko Tanaka. We have many written testimonies by our predecessors but not by Friends today. Spoken words based on our own faith and reflecting the world now has been anticipated. There may be some differences in expressing the thought but there must be agreement of the foundation of the Faith. Since 1972, the training of non-violence has been practiced, which has an important meaning of testimony. In the evening talk, we focused on how to simplify JYM management. Sachiko Yamamoto pointed out to put more emphasis on ministry among five Monthly Meetings. Friends related organizations like Friends School should nurture more young Friends to keep the original mission. Naomi Kamimura emphasized the important role of JYM among world Friends. Faith is not the expression of knowledge but the spiritual inner prayer. It is important to keep ties among Friends in the world especially with AWPS Friends. Fusao Asano pointed the help of ministry for local Monthly Meetings by YM and they learn about Friends organization by sharing the role of YM.

We were grateful for having Drew Lawson assisted by AYM and Taisoo Kim Watson from AWPS during our YM. Both were not only at JYM but also at the retreat prior to the Yearly Meeting, visiting Monthly Meetings, Friends School and talking to the students. Their ministry inspired us greatly. Faith emerges through them and manifests through their actions.

After JYM, the Nitobe Memorial Lecture was given by Drew Lawson on "Movings of Divine Love." He talked quoting John Woolman's Journal, and how his life was always with God. Love of God is not dependant on how many are together in the meeting for worship and God is closer when we are in silence. Just follow what He tells us.

Taisoo visited Osaka Meeting and Mito meeting after JYM and through her friendly talk we felt her ministry of faith. She also visited Hiroshima World Friendship Center. For her, visiting Seoul Meeting must have been a homecoming. Friends in Seoul were celebrating their 50th anniversary. So her visit had a special meaning.

Her late husband, Keith Watson was remembered well by many senior Friends in Japan.

Since March 11th this year, our concern has been a wide area of devastated Northern Japan by a great Earthquake and Tsunami. We soon learned Friends meetinghouse in Mito and Tokyo Friends Center had damage in their buildings and both are needed to be repaired soon. For the devastated areas many are donating money and emergency necessities such as food, water and blankets. So many have lost houses, family members and relatives. Some villages were washed away by a strong and huge tsunami. It was over 10 meters or 15 meters in some places. We could tell by the color of water on the wall. Along the coast, they often had tsunamis and they always had tsunami drill-exercises. Some areas had 10 meter high walls along the coast line but this time it wasn't high enough. School children were all saved by the regular training for tsunami. Now Young Friends and Friends International Work Campers (grown up from AFSC's campers) are ready to work for help. During the vacation they can work and this time the rescue work will continue for some months or some years. They have to meet what the people in the devastated areas need and at the same time they have to cooperate with other helpers. It is the time to test what your faith is.

Yukiko I. Backes

Other messages from Japanese Friends were from Gerry Yakota of Osaka MM, Yazuzo Tatsumi, Clerk Mito MM, Kazuko Kagami, Clerk of Japan YM, Seiichi Kondo from Osaka MM.

A Short History of Mito Monthly Meeting House

(Religious Society of Friends in Japan)

George Braithwaite, a British Quaker, first visited Mito in December 1882. At that time, the Methodist mission in Mito had been rejected by the people there and forced to withdraw.

In November 1899, Gurney and Elizabeth Binford were sent as the first Friends missionaries to Mito, by the Foreign Missionary Association of Friends of Canada. After ten years of prayer and hard work, they were finally able to find a place and built a meeting house at the present location. The dedication ceremony was held on January 6th, 1912.

During the Second World War, the Mito Meeting House was burned
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down in the air raids on August 2nd, 1945. Only part of the brick walls remained. Later, using those bricks, which had withstood the fire, the meeting house was rebuilt, thanks to a large sum donated by Canadian Friend, Ella Firth. On May 8th, 1949, a dedication ceremony was held, at which Elizabeth Gray Vining made a speech and over 200 people gathered. (The meeting house had also served as the space for Shoyu Kindergarten ever since its founding in 1913 by Edith Sharpless.)

Some fifty years later, it was determined that major repairs to the meeting house would be necessary, and, in 2002, at a cost of about 40 million yen (US\$450,000), the meeting house was restored. Once again, however, it has been severely damaged by the tremendous power of the earthquake on March 11th, 2011.

A History of Help by Foreign Friends

In 1931 that Mito Monthly Meeting was officially organized and joined Japan Yearly Meeting. Many foreign Friends, however, were closely involved in nurturing the meeting both before and after 1931. Gurney and Elizabeth Binford (1899-1922), Edith Sharpless (1912-1936, 1950-1956), Tom and Esther Jones (1919-1922), Herbert and Madeline Nicholson (1922-1939, 1957-1961), Burnham Braithwaite (1930-1932), Samuel and Peg Nicholson (1964-1966), and other foreign missionaries lived in Mito and helped with the meeting and with activities there. Esther Rhoads occasionally helped, both before and after the Second World War. Kenneth and Sonoko Strong spent two years in Mito after the war helping with the AFSC neighborhood center. Lillie Roudabush, Donald Knapp, and many other foreign teachers at the Friends Girls School in Tokyo volunteered to help with Young Friends' activities every Saturday after the war.

Our Hope

We know that God does not give us trials that we cannot endure. Along with the trials, he will also provide us the way of escape. (1 Corinthians: 10:13). We will not lose hope, even when we are sunk to the bottom in disappointment. We will not be destroyed, even when devastated. (2 Corinthians 2:8,9) With our faith, we will rebuild once again. Though we realize it will not be possible, we wish we could rebuild with bricks – of the same red color as the bricks of the Seoul Meeting House in Korea and the Jordan Meeting House in England that suffered the fire. We will live our faith as led in James 2:14-17. We hope to rebuild our meeting house, though we spent all our funds for the repair in

2002. We hope for your help. Please help us.

We are grateful to you for your warm prayers from many parts of the world. Mamoru Hitomi, Fumiko Koizumi, Mitsuo Otsu, Reiko Miyazaki, Teruo Kobayashi, Yasuzo Tatsumi, (Members of Mito Monthly Meeting)

Bhopal Yearly Meeting Report, Jan 2011

Greetings! We are continuing to gather together for worship every Sunday and also in the member's homes during Lent. We are experiencing spiritual growth though praying and listening to the Word of God.

The Women's Fellowship is engaged in the social witness program. They distributed fruits and other items to residents of Aged Care Homes. We also provide medical and other assistance to our members who need this. To help support and meet the needs of serious illness of members, we have established a "Medical Help Fund", where each earning member contributes Rs50/- a month.

Looking into the spiritual needs of the Young Friends and Junior Young Friends, we organised two Study Camps, in which elementary Bible and Quaker Studies were done. This May we are holding a Young Friends camp for those between 18 and 24 years and have also invited other YFs from other Yearly Meetings to participate.

A Committee has been formed to translate Quaker literature into Hindi, and this work has started. Devdas Shrisunder completed one term at Pendle Hill in 2010. One Young Friend is expected to participate in the Youth Leadership Development Training program in 2011.

We hold all Friends, Y.M.s and Groups in our prayers and invite Friends to visit us, so that we may have exchange of thoughts and visions in Quaker concerns. Many the Holy Spirit guide and enable us to serve and help each other by sharing our religious experiences and exploring new ways in interfaith dialogue.

Ronald Titus, Sunny Singh and Arvind Iliazer.

News from Bhopal Yearly Meeting: Devdas Shrisunder

Bhopal Friends appreciate the team effort of the Section for the affiliation of Evangelical Friends particularly of India and Philippines to the AWPS.

Your concern for the Young Friends and Interfaith actions is timely. For the last two years Bhopal Friends have been organizing Study Camps for the YF and this year in the first week of May 2011 we will have at a Study Camp at FRC, Rasulia. In the first camp we shared primarily about the basic principles of Quakerism and its values. In the second camp we devoted time for the Historical part of Quakers in India particularly how Quakers started institutions in the Hoshangabad District. This year we will devote more time for Quaker Education and its witnesses. We are also trying to invite YFs from other YM/MM to participate in this camp.

There was another effort from our meeting to send one YF to Pendle Hill for Youth Leadership Development Training in June 2011. Unfortunately the selected candidate is having her University Examination then and we have to cancel this move until a later date.

Further news: Being inspired by the success of the YF Study Camp, a decision has been made to name FRC as a Study Centre. We also felt that these camps should not be limited only to the Indian participants but should be open to the participants from other parts of the world. We see the need of developing infrastructure at the centre particularly accommodation, study hall etc. After thoughtful discussion we approved to hold a study cum work camp at FRC, Rasulia in the month of Oct-Nov' 2012 . We may have participants from other countries but may limit the numbers. Please give this your prayerful support.

Report of Mid India Yearly Meeting

Greetings and good wishes in the most precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The 102nd annual session of MIYM was held in the Friends Church Mission Kheda, on 27-28 November, 2010. Ninety Friends attended from Itarsi, Kheda, Hoshangabad, Sohagpur and Seoni-Malwa. The theme was "Lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness and receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls" James 1:21.

The gathered meeting worshipped and prayed, especially for the families of Friends who passed away. In particular, we remembered the life of Daniel Yakub Masih who was actively and tirelessly working for Friends rural Centre, Rasulia, Friends Schools Governing Board India, Mid India Yearly Meeting and Hoshangabad Monthly Meeting. Mid India Friends are actively involved in the work of Friends School Governing board and Friends Rural Centre, Rasulia.

The compassionate service to the needy people continues in Mid India. A child development Centre has successfully grown in Itarsi. Now 311 disadvantaged children are being supported in holistic development which includes the physical, cognitive, spiritual and social development needs of these children.

The Friends Boy's Higher Secondary School Itarsi continues to provide a place of meeting for deaf people from Hoshangabad district on Sundays. The Friends Girls Higher Secondary School in Sohagpur and Hostel continues to be supported by New Zealand Friends.

We are thankful to God and Friends for helping us in the compassionate ministry to needy people and are thus led by God in the path of mission and service- following the vision of founder Friends' missionaries.

Denis Jonathon (Chairperson), *Doreen Robert* (Secretary)

We also received written greetings from Samuel Ram Lal, from Hoshangabad Monthly Meeting, with a particular concern for Japanese Friends and others affected by recent disasters.

News of Friends: *Jason Tower* is the new Quaker International Affairs Representative for Northeast Asia based in Beijing. j_gtower@hotmail.com

Denny Barnes, originally from Portland Oregon, who has been working in China since 1987, has been put in touch with Friends in Shanghai. dennybarnes@gmail.com

Don and Cyra Goertzen formerly of Manila Worshipping group write: We are in our second week here at Haigazian University in Beirut. We are settling into our work of conceptualizing an Economic Justice Center to be based at the University.

John Taylor wrote "Please give my email address to other Friends who are in - or passing through - Jakarta. I am going to try to organize an unprogrammed Friends worship group here. We had quite a large group back in the 1980s and early 1990s, but somehow it dried up. And I became active in an English-speaking community church. I am planning to be based for much of the time in Ubud, Bali, from mid-September onwards, so the Friends worship group may pop up in Ubud. Only the Holy Spirit knows" jtaylr35@yahoo.com

Indonesia Peace Initiative writes: We have fully funded the "The

Peace Place" in Pati, Central Java! The Grand Opening of "The Peace Place" will be a six-day training beginning on June 19, 2011. We successfully raised funds to cover one year's salary for the director, Nanik (she only has one name as is common in Java), and to move a traditional Javanese teak house to the property. The workshops include nonviolence training, trauma healing, developmental play, conscience and re-naturalize lifestyles. Nanik is from a conservative Mennonite Church. She attended the Friends World Committee for Consultation gathering in Manila and said she felt she'd come home. Christian and Muslim staff have committed to working cooperatively to build this program based on Friends' practices in an area of Indonesia where there is a great deal of religious tension and violence.

Advertisement for Secretary AWPS :

The Section Committee is finalizing an announcement calling for applications for this position, commencing after January 2013. The detail of this position are now posted on the website : www.fwccawps.org enquiries to valerie@fwccawps.org.

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage: Mid July 2012 to Mid August 2012

Will you be aged 16-18? Would you like a chance to be part of a community of Young Friends; dive into your spiritual journey; form lasting friendships; explore our inspiring Quaker roots and share and experience different cultures, traditions and worship?

Next Quaker Youth Pilgrimage planned for 2012 FWCC will soon begin the search for two adult leaders and 24 young Friends ages 16-18 to participate in the 2012 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Hosted by FWCC's Europe and Middle East Section, this month-long pilgrimage will take place from mid-July through mid-August. Details are still in the planning stage, but potential pilgrims and leaders may make early enquiries. The Pilgrimage is an opportunity to promote loving understanding within the Quaker worldwide family. Please encourage young Friends to consider this life-changing opportunity for spiritual growth.

Further information and applications to Rachel Miller, 11 Garth Brow, Kendal LA9 5NN, UK; qyp.emes@gmail.com

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Please send this or its equivalent in your currency to your Treasurer. This office bearer can then make an annual remittance in \$AUD to AWPS Treasurer, Topsy Evans, PO Box 181 Glen Osmond, SA 5064 Australia. Your donation can be even more useful by combining with other Friends to send a lump sum, so minimising bank charges. If you would like to use internet transfers, please contact Topsy Evans on tevans@c130.aone.net.au for our bank details. You may like to contribute to our work of Intervisitation, our Gathering fund, or the AWPS Essay. Please also remember AWPS in your will **Thanks**



Keynote Speakers Janet Scott, BYM and Paul Anderson at the Manila Gathering



Feeling on top of the world- group excursion to Tagaytay,



Young Friends at an Interfaith Session

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