



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

ASIA WEST PACIFIC SECTION INC

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Seoul Monthly Meeting's 50th Anniversary, December 2010

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Pradip Lamichhane from Nepal Friends Church speaks at Australia Yearly Meeting in January 2011.

Editorial: How is our sense of community realised in AWPS? Our face-to-face Gathering is almost upon us. Friends from eleven countries will seek to “know one another in the things that are eternal”, through a program of worship, study, cultural understanding, discussions, Home Groups, excursions plus post Gathering visitation. Early Quaker Francis Howgill wrote in 1663, “The Kingdom of Heaven did gather us, and catch us all, in a net, and His Heavenly power at one time drew many hundreds to land, that we came to know a place to stand in and what to wait in, and the Lord appeared daily to us, to our astonishment, amazement and general admiration we often said to one another, with great joy of heart 'What? Is the Kingdom of God come to be with us?' ” Please pray the AWPS Gathering will realise this same state of grace as was experienced by the Westmoreland Quakers.

We now have greater access to technology to keep our sense of community alive and well, but it is the same Spirit that holds, guides, disciplines and creates inner joy. This issue looks forward to the Gathering with reports from many of our groups. These will be placed on our website for our wider community and returning Friends will have much to share on deep consideration of our theme “Faith and Action”, James 2: 14-16.

Valerie Joy, Executive Secretary AWPS

World Conference 2012

Applications for open places at the World Conference of Friends to be held in Nakuru, Kenya in April 2012 are now being received by FWCC's World Office at openplaces@saltandlight2012.org

Notice of AWPS Inc General Meeting to be held at Bukal ng Tipan Retreat Center, Manila at 11am on Wednesday 6th April 2011.

Agenda

1. Clerk's Welcome
2. Record members present YM or Group wise and visitors.
3. Secretary's report
4. Clerk's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Approval of accounts for 2008, 2009, 2010
7. Appointment of Auditor for 2011
8. Appointments.
9. General Business
10. Close Meeting

Valerie Joy, Executive Secretary AWPS

Enquiries/Apologies to the Executive Secretary AWPS at

Valerie@fwccawps.org by 30 March.

Seoul Monthly Meeting's annual report for 2010 (by Kim Hyung-Lyul)

Our warmest greetings to Friends in Asia-West Pacific Section. 2010 was very meaningful year for Seoul Monthly Meeting. It was 50 years since 18 December 1960 when our Meeting officially started. So we had a simple memorial gathering at our Meeting House on the first day afternoon of 12 December. It started following the regular Meeting for Worship and lunch. There were around 40 people, including some attenders. The Clerk, Oh ChulGuen's gave greetings followed by Kim HyungLyul's "Brief history of SMM;" Park SungJoon's speech titled

"Quakerism from where I stand"; Lee YoonGu's reminiscences, and Lee Haeng Woo's "the activities of SMM's 50." The most meaningful thing was that Taisoo Kim, Watson who had participated in SMM in the mid-1960s and after her marriage emigrated to Australia, was with us. It made all of us very glad. And also Lee Haeng Woo who is living in the USA was with us and Lee YoonGu memorized SMM and presented at the Meeting.

The annual meeting for 2010 was held on the first day afternoon 2. Jan. 2011 Oh ChulGuen, former Clerk for 1 year was warmly thanked, Kim SungSoo, former recording clerk for 2 years and Choi YaeRi, former treasurer for 7 years. SMM then asked the following three persons to keep the role of Clerk, Recording Clerk, and Treasurer, to which they agreed: Kwak BoonYi as Clerk, Kwak BongSoo as Recording Clerk, and Shin HaengSook as Treasurer. Our account for 2010 was as following. Income: 8,100,280 (Korean won); Expenditure: 8,070,251(Korean won). For 2011, SMM plans to have a joint retreat with DaeJeon Meeting and DaeGu worship groups as soon as it can be arranged.

Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting

To all Friends everywhere, warm greetings from Friends in Australia. We pay our respects to the Elders of the Indigenous Dharwal Nation—past, present and future—upon whose land we are gathered for our Yearly Meeting, 8–15 January 2011, at Campus East (University of Wollongong, New South Wales).

This place between Grandfather Mountain and Sister Islands is one of water, known for spirits of peace and harmony. Here we have come together as one, though we are many, to sing with one voice and to share our dreams, each of us a bearer of inner Light. In our ‘welcome to country’ we were heartened by an affirmation of mutual involvement between Aboriginal and Quaker communities over the years, and by the leadership promise in Indigenous youth.

Steamy rain reminded us of the suffering and loss due to disastrous floods in Queensland and other regions right across Australia. In

meeting one another from all parts of this vast continent and from overseas, we have broken our isolation, seen through other eyes and come to fresh understandings, particularly through the experiences of Friends in Nepal (our Asia West Pacific Section visitors) and Aotearoa/ New Zealand. In our Share and Tell sessions we have heard of intervisitation, innovative projects and seen films that were disturbing and uplifting. Our times of Worship together have brought us insights and inspiration from all generations. Some morning Meetings for Worship were planned and led by children. We were touched by Testimonies to individual Friends who have died and by our Meeting for Remembrance for these losses.

Our Earthcare concern has infused all facets of this Yearly Meeting. Summer School has offered many possibilities for all ages: a more prominent public Quaker voice and practical steps for reducing our ecological footprint, learning from other faiths, the challenge and celebration of Nature (in leech and redcapped dotterel, a local bird), connection with change the world with song, and several practices for enhancing our discernment and spiritual sustainability. The children's creativity has opened doors between us.

The Backhouse Lecture, delivered by Rowe Morrow in her lively and personal style, challenged us to discover our true role and to make choices that will cost us, but will restore the earth and our humanity. This can only be done through community. Rowe spoke of discovering her spiritual truth through cosmology and her experience with permaculture projects which have created food, beauty and health out of the destruction of war.

Quaker Service Australia projects also build peace through development.

We are on a journey of trust together—seeking truth, beauty and love—and we are finding these in precious moments through the transforming power of the Spirit at work in us. We are grateful that our Quaker processes give us safety to express ourselves. We are grateful that divergent views can all be held up to the Light to be heard with tender respect and moved hearts. We have laboured a long time with a number

of troubling issues and are now finding clarity and unity.

The State of the Society address illuminated the delicate balance between reflection and engagement in our Meetings and individual lives. Whatever the future holds for our first Australian Quaker study and retreat centre at Silver Wattle (near Bungendore, New South Wales), this leading is acknowledged and supported with our loving care, despite deep disquiet amongst some Friends. We have heard stories of our local witness on issues of peace, asylum seekers and Indigenous rights, and we commemorated 350 years of our Peace Testimony at a public vigil and re-enactment. There is hope that we can repair the earth and heal our broken relationship, that we can create the space to nurture our spiritual potential. We move forward in faith reminded that, paraphrasing Pablo Casals: The task may appear impossible. We must take the first step.

Hong Kong Friends Meeting Report to FWCC AWPS

In 1661 George Fox records in his Journal the efforts of several Friends to travel to China. Friends have a continuous presence in South China going back to the mid-18th Century and Hong Kong Friends Meeting traces its roots back to that time. Hong Kong was officially founded in 1841 and along with the rest of the British and American business community in South China, Friends relocated to Hong Kong. Friends were active in business, government and education. Friends maintained our presence in Hong Kong through boom times and through the hardships of plague, war and occupation, even internment in POW camps.

Hong Kong Meeting, though small, continues to grow. We have welcomed back Friends who previously lived in Hong Kong and worshipped with us in the 1950s, 1970s and 1990s as well as welcoming newcomers to Hong Kong and newcomers from Hong Kong.

The life of our Meeting focuses on our worship, which we hold in the silent unprogrammed style, and on our business meetings – what Faith and Practice calls Meetings for Worship for Church Affairs. Our business meetings are held as Meetings for Worship. Contributions on

agenda items are spoken as prepared Ministry and a worshipful, respectful, silence greets each contribution. Minutes of our business meetings are kept short and succinct and record the essence of the decision made. Minutes are taken at the Meeting itself and read back and agreed by Friends present. If we feel insufficient Friends are present to agree a Minute we hold over our business meeting to a future date. Likewise if we do not find unity we hold over decision making until we are in unity. Periodically we hold after-meeting study groups.

Our Meeting reflects the international character of Hong Kong with Lao, Japanese, Indonesian, Chinese, Indian, American, Australian, and British Friends worshipping together. Our age ranges from 18 months to 86.

We welcome all Friends to visit us.

Julian Stargardt Clerk HKMM

Report from Quaker Friends Marble Rocks

Greetings from Quaker Friends Marble Rocks, a small but warm hearted member's work in true Quaker spirit for the upliftment and betterment of the society.

We are progressing in mutual love and friendship after joining the world of Friends. Our motto is to spread Quaker traditions, values and practices among the people.

Foremost, from 14th June to 20th June we organized one week's vocational Bible classes in which 30 children participated with great enthusiasm giving the teaching and values of Quakerism. Drawing competition was also a part of these classes in which beautiful drawings were made by the children. This year we had distributed stationeries, school bags to poor children and educational classes were taken up.

On 15th August on the great occasion of Indian Independence we held a health camp in which medicines were distributed for common ailments and general awareness about AIDS & hygiene was shared. Two of our members gave counseling to the youth and women for their

problems and worked on their solution which was a great benefit to them.

From 15th September to 17th September a youth camp was held with fifteen young boys and girls. They were excited and enthusiastic to learn about Quaker values and practices and they were encouraged to share these with other friends. Shiny Manuel shared with them about the Biblical character Elijah which she had learnt during a short course on Elijah by Helen Bayes in Australian Quaker Centre, Silver Wattle. Discussions, cultural programs like dancing, singing and quizzes were conducted during the course of camp.

Our Women's Fellowship did house visits to the sick and needy and supported them medically, financially, and in prayers.

At Christmas the Sunday school children along with the youth group together distributed gifts and sweets in the slums. This year the winters were extreme, so we collected warm clothes and blankets and distributed them on large scale to the poor, needy and platform people.

Our aim is clear that during the global change we will continue to spread the message of love, peace, equality and truth amongst others. We request the world Friends to guide and uphold us in fulfilling our mission.

With best wishes, *Rashmi Manuel* QFMRS

General Conference of Friends in India (GCFI)

After reaching 50 years of its existence in 2009, though a small group GCFI continues to progress with hope and prayer. In February 2010, 15 members participated in the All India Friends Gathering held at Chhatarpur, with two being among the main speakers. This Gathering helped to strengthen the ties that exist between different Friends churches and groups in India.

In September 2010 we held our annual meeting in Nagpur. Guest speaker Sudha Reddy spoke on our responsibility towards climate change. Vasant Bawa is active in this field and is a member of the Section Global Concerns Committee. Archana Gaur is involved in

environmental concerns around forested Pachmarhi. Dilawar Chetsingh continues his involvement in a NGO on bird study and conservation.

We seek to cooperate with other groups in holding sessions on Quaker beliefs and testimonies, especially for Young Friends. We hope to have an Old Peoples Gathering for the over sixties prior to our 2011 meeting, in which we can invite other YMs to join. The aim is to get the views of this age group and learn from their experience.

We are supportive of FWCC activities. Contributions by two members have been included in the Study Booklet for the Manila Gathering. At our annual meeting this year we will spend time studying the Salt and Light theme for the World Conference.

Vishala Jadhav FWCC Representative

ANNUAL REPORT MAHOBA YM

We send many greetings in the name of the Lord. On December 16/12/2010, Mahoba YM held its annual meeting and elected the working committee of 2011-2012. The presiding clerk started the business session with prayer. The previous quarterly report was read and accepted by all the members followed by reports from the Secretary and president of the board. These reports were accepted. Mr. Atul Deen (Kulphar monthly meeting) read the work report and give thanks to all for their work in the areas of HIV/AIDS, Eye camps, Children's health check up program, organized by MAHOBA YM.

The Woman's group reported their distribution of blankets and gifts to poor people and slum children.

After lunch the second session was started and the Nominations Committee recommended names for the new committee for the year 2011-2012. We were pleased to confirm Friends willing to serve on the Executive Board, the Preaching Board, the Women's Group and the Youth Group.

Mahoba YM welcomes Quakers who locate here from elsewhere for employment and hope they will become members of the group. The

meeting concluded with prayer.

Piyush Augustine, Presiding Clerk

Australia Yearly Meeting Report: All the regions that were visited by our Filipino Friends in 2010 reported that their opportunity for closer contact with these Friends was really beneficial. John Ocol [now living in Canada] started a project in Manila using bicycles with side-cars to collect and sell recyclable garbage from the suburb around their Church to avoid this being swept into drains and rivers, which was, in part, responsible for the dreadful floods of last year.

Boni Quirog reported that his visits with Australian Friends were of immense value. Boni returned to his home on Bohol Island to start a project *Environmental Action through Cultural Exchange* that was funded with some of the monies from the Flood Disaster Fund that was initiated by AWPS. He organised an interfaith environmental group to collect garbage from the beaches of his island. Julian Stargardt continues his leading for the Global Change initiative and asks you to visit the FWCC's Global Change website to study the six queries that are posted there. More information is available from Julian at friends.hk@gmail.com

The visit from Pradip and Barsha Lamichhane from Nepal at AYM in Wollongong in January this year was greatly appreciated. They were also able to visit several meetings afterwards and share insights into the Friends Church in Nepal. Barsha then worked at Silver Wattle Quaker Centre to learn more about Australian Quakers and improve her English. Pradip has been serving AWPS for some time and is a member of the International Planning Committee for the forthcoming World Conference of FWCC in Kenya 2012 and he and his wife are both adult Young Friends.

AWPS intervisitation is still seen as critical means of Friendship and communications - the soul of our work in FWCC - across our vast geographic section.

Jim Palmer and Marion Sullivan attended the 7th Triennial of Africa
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Section in Kenya in May2010. A full report from Marion is available from the www.fwccawps.org website, in the September issue of the AWPS Newsletter.

Valerie Joy travelled to Singapore, Jogjakarta, [to join in the Indonesian YM] and then onto Manila to meet with F/friends and the organising committee for the Gathering. Taisoo Kim Watson travelled to Seoul MM to join in their 50th Anniversary and the two worshipping group in DaeJon and DaeGu. She also attended Japan YM, along with Drew Lawson who delivered the Nitobe Annual Lecture and conducted workshops on John Woolman.

A giant step forward was the publication of the AWPS Essay *Courageous Spirit* written by our Friend John Cartwright [WA RM]. John explores some remarkable parallels between Buddhism and Quakerism and remarks on how Western influence has impacted on Buddhist belief and practice. John is hoping to be at the Manila Gathering. All enquiries and donations for this project can be made to Topsy Evans, our Section Treasurer, as well as suggestions for a suitable topic.

Also available from our website is the study booklet *Faith and Action* which is in preparation for the Manila Gathering. However, it is a great resource for any one or group who want to use this in a small study group environment - not just at the Gathering.

Plans for a panel for the Australian Quaker Tapestry, based on the AWPS section are now finalised with a beautiful design and funds for this are being sought.

Michael Corbett and Barbara True – Co-Conveners, AYM FWCC AWPS

REPORT OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND, YM

YMANZ is in good heart, observing our Quaker processes and being led in spiritual depth by our co-clerks Claire and Linley Gregory.

The concerns during 2010 have been many and varied. There is in
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progress a revision of Questions and Counsel (Advices and Queries).

There is a concern that the cost of Yearly Meeting is too high and thus prevents some Friends from attending - should it be the responsibility of YM to make sure that as many New Zealand Friends who wish to are able to be present?

The NZ Quaker Lecture has now had its second year of presentation, the 2010 lecture titled "Honouring the Other" giving the message of "not to let abstractions obscure the individual faces within groups that we perceive as external to ourselves, we have to learn to how to honour and have radical respect for the Other". After a third presentation in 2011 should this lecture be recognised annually?

There is a very dominant concern about travelling to Friends Gatherings. The dilemma between the importance and wish to meet face to face, for which there is no substitute, and the recognition that air travel is detrimental to the planet and increases consumption of the earth's resources. How best can we achieve shared responsibility and remedial action when incurred by representatives travelling on Quakers' behalf. As a Yearly Meeting we accept a shared responsibility.

A developing trend in respect to Penal Reform, leading "to populist rather than considered evidence-based decision making, resulting in an emphasis on punishment rather than prevention and rehabilitation". Friends are active in this field with the hope of seeing change and reasonable justice.

A draft is also being prepared making points in relation to the Liquor Law Reform Bill, to be sent on behalf of ANZYM.

Over the past year there has been a move to develop criteria for distribution of Quaker funds within NZ. Some funds are designated specifically for educational purposes, but how do Friends learn about implementing investment policies and what objectives are necessary in keeping with our Testimonies of simplicity, integrity, equality, peace and sustainability?

There have been six Friends selected to represent ANZYM at the

World Conference of Friends, in Kenya. Discussions have taken place within our Monthly Meetings of the six queries, through the “FWCC Cluster Group process”, a worshipful discernment of how Friends respond to global change, how are we affected by change, how our faith sustains us, how our lives contribute to causes both positively and negatively, and what message do Friends have to offer each other and to the world.

With our Testimonies do we have faith that we can change ourselves and thereby encourage change?

Patricia Macgregor and Anna Dunford, A/NZ Representatives.

Climate Negotiations in Cancún Attended by Mary Gilbert, Arlington MM:

In the December 2010 climate negotiations (COP16) in Cancun, Mexico, the negotiating atmosphere was much more positive and participatory than last year’s contentious and frustrating summit in Copenhagen. Last year I and many other registered observers had very limited access to the plenary sessions. The difference in atmosphere this time was due to Mexico’s Patricia Espinoza, who, as the new President of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), made sure that observers like me and my colleagues from Quaker Earthcare Witness could attend every plenary meeting, right up to the final meetings on the final day.

Last year many countries were infuriated by the Copenhagen Accord and the process which produced it. The Accord was drawn up behind closed doors by an invited group of heads of state, in a process external to accepted UN process. The plenary first saw the document at 3AM on the Saturday after the sessions were scheduled to close on Friday, and they were asked to adopt it as if they had participated in its creation. Espinoza repeatedly promised “no secret meetings” and “no surprise text” in Cancún, and she kept her word. She set up “contact groups” consisting of one rich and one poor country, for difficult issues. Any text that appeared for negotiation had been discussed and agreed by those parties and brought to the plenary in a timely manner.

Over our two weeks in Cancún we saw a real change in mood, from angry suspicion, "...we will see if you are for real!" to lengthy standing ovations when Espinoza entered. A palpable sense of trust had grown. Even low-lying countries and the small island states (some of which are already making plans to move whole populations because of sea level rise and storm events), mountainous countries losing their glaciers, and nations already experiencing serious drought were on board with the compromises. Only Bolivia remained outside the agreement, mostly because the agreed document endorses a rise of up to 2°C, and if industrial nations live up to current pledges, we can expect an increase of 4°C. Bolivia called this genocide and ecocide. (For a full, clear statement of Bolivia's reasons see pwccc.wordpress.com.) Read more at Cancun for Arlington.doc.



**FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR
CONSULTATION (QUAKERS)**

www.quno.org

Appointment of new Director for QUNO Geneva

The Quaker United Nations Committee (Geneva) is delighted to announce that they have appointed a new Director for QUNO Geneva, to take up the post in June 2011, when David Atwood, the present Director, retires.

The appointed Friend is Jonathan Woolley, a British national who has put down roots in Mexico. He has also lived in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Kenya, Nigeria and Sri Lanka and has worked in many other countries during a long career in participatory agricultural research and in institutional change. Recently, from 2003 to 2009, he was Program Director of the Challenge Program on Water and Food, an international network based in Sri Lanka, and now works as a consultant. He joined the Religious Society of Friends in Britain Yearly Meeting and is now an elder in Mexico City Meeting, part of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

His professional knowledge of food, water, development, migration,

climate change, international politics and economics will contribute to the work of QUNO, as will his considerable experience of advocacy, project design and program leadership. He has built and managed harmonious and effective teams and has been responsible for significant budgets and successful and substantial fundraising. He has worked for and with several UN agencies, including the FAO.

Jonathan says: “Even when I lived far from regular Friends’ meetings, Quaker support and insights helped me to build understanding and cooperation among people. I feel extraordinarily fortunate now to focus that intention as a member of QUNO which, for over 60 years, has been such a consistent and inspired presence for a more peaceful and just world. Please hold all of the QUNO Geneva team in the Light as we respond to evolving challenges while remaining true to the original vision of supporting the UN’s goals through quiet diplomacy in small groups.”

David Atwood is not only Director of QUNO Geneva but also its Disarmament and Peace Representative. Arrangements are being made to ensure this crucial strand of QUNO's work can continue.

The Quaker United Nations Office, located in Geneva and New York, represents Quakers through Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Since the founding of the United Nations in 1945, Quakers have shared that organisation's aims and supported its efforts to abolish war and promote peaceful resolution of conflicts, human rights, economic justice and good governance.

QUNO Geneva is governed by a committee of Friends representing Friends World Committee for Consultation and Britain Yearly Meeting (through Quaker Peace & Social Witness). It is in the process of becoming a more clearly independent Swiss Association, but the relationships with these two bodies will continue to be close.

Robert Howell, Aotearoa, New Zealand YM

News of Friends

Sachiko Yamamoto from Japan Yearly Meeting wrote:

We had a great time with Drew Lawson and Taisoo. They are visiting Osaka now. The retreat we had with them was just wonderful. 20 people attended and some of the older members mentioned that this kind of retreat was just what we needed and that we were reminded of the importance of deep silence by Drew.

Throughout the Yearly Meeting, many members felt that we are lucky to have wonderful Friends in the world, although our numbers here are decreasing. Thank you for encouraging us to invite Drew and sending us Taisoo. We felt stronger connections with Friends in Australia and Seoul.

Mamoro Hitomi: Life gives us various chances. Sometimes happy, and sometimes on the contrary. AWPS gave me lots of happy memories of the Friends at the gatherings. I really love it. Taisoo Kim Watson made a happy visit to Japan Yearly Meeting, and I also enjoyed another reunion with her in Mito for two days.

On New Year's Eve of 2009 my wife Chie died after staying at hospitals over half a year. Disorder of immunity often leads to death. While I visited her every afternoon, I never thought cooking was so hard. But it was so different to cook only for myself. And I found my weight coming down. Then I decided to move to a nursing home. My daughter's family were pleased to live at my house. And so I began to comb out the property of 50 years of our life to make space for them. It was really a good work. I couldn't ask my daughter to help, because she is paralyzed.

Now I have been here over 10 days. I am well cared with three meals everyday. When I came here my blood pressure was very high. So every morning and evening nurses or helpers visit my room to check it. But it was a good chance to be good friends with each other. Then it is gradually growing down. Actually I don't feel unwell. So I enjoy walking or driving to take something from home. But I am reluctant to attend Manila Gathering, because I need a more relaxed life nowadays. I received AWPS Newsletter No.88 at my old home today. I am surely glad that one of the books I left you got very good reception. I have read almost all the books you gifted me and found them

interesting and uplifting/inspiring!

Kenneth Co writes: As for what is going on with my life: I have left teaching in Xian for personal and family reasons. Right now I straddle between Fujian and Hong Kong. In Fijian I am over- seeing the construction of an Annex building to a huge familial house built in the 1950's. In Hong Kong, I am enjoying the closeness of close family: my wife Stella, 2nd son Jesse and his steady girl friend whom he plans to marry in a year or two!

When I go into China by myself, dreams become more vivid and I feel I can be closer to Spirit; perhaps China is not as materialistic as the hurly burly business center that is Hong Kong.

Devdas Shrisunder writes: I am thankful to the Asia West Pacific Section of FWCC for giving me a grant to attend Pendle Hill. I arrived on the 15th of September and initially stayed with Scott and Susan Rhodewalt in their home.

During this period I visited two monthly meetings - London Grove and Westtown. Over two days at Wilmington Friends School, I taught four Peace and Justice classes and five of their Lower school classes where I taught students in first through fifth grade a little Hindi and gave them an introduction to India. On another day I taught Westtown Upper School students in history, English and religion classes. During a two-day visit to Washington I attended a mid-week meeting for worship at William Penn House and toured Sidwell Friends School.

I joined Pendle Hill on 27th Sept. 2010 and completed my term on 17th Dec. During this term I selected the following subjects for my studies:-

1. Quakerism
2. Gospel of St. Luke
3. Prayer

While studying at Pendle Hill, I visited one of the local monthly

meetings almost every Sunday. This included Central Philadelphia, Media, Providence, and Swarthmore. I tried to find out the concerns of the meetings and as to how they worship. This was an exciting experience. One weekend I visited Chestertown, Maryland and stayed with Al and Anne Briggs who arranged a Saturday night dinner at Chester River Meeting. There I talked about Indian Friends and their present activities.

During my third week at Pendle Hill, an opportunity was provided to me to speak to the meeting of the Pendle Hill Board. During the first month the nomination committee selected me to be a member of the clerking team for student and staff business meetings at Pendle Hill. As a group we clerked three meetings during the term.

On the 26th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, that is leakage of mythel isocynate from the Union Carbide Plant resulting in the deaths of more than 15,000 people and permanent injuries to more than 120,000 people, I spoke at Haverford College. Students and teachers in the environmental studies class asked many questions after I spoke for half an hour.

After the completion of the Pendle Hill courses we were required to make a presentation of what we have learned. It was a wonderful experience for me to learn more about Quaker principles, its history, splits, witness etc. This helped me to deepen my faith and also gave me new ideas as to how put this faith into action. I will share my experiences with the Quakers in India, particularly with Young Friends by organizing Study Camps.

Apart from studies, I was required to perform my daily, weekly and Work Study duties that I did with best of my satisfaction. This included working in the library on Wednesdays and delivering clothes to and from the laundry on Mondays and Thursdays.

It was an added opportunity for me to be a part of celebration of Pendle Hill's 80th Anniversary. During this festival I joined my hands with the fellow students and the staff to make this celebration a success. I was also blessed to hear the series of Lectures from

distinguished Quakers including Palmer Parker and Michael Birkel during this time.

India Friends Working Group (IFWG) of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who supported my coming to Pendle Hill held their three meetings during the period of my stay here and I attended those meetings. I shared with them my experiences at Pendle Hill and the vision, which I am carrying back to India. This group was always supportive to me and encouraged me at every step during my study.

Yours in Christ, Devdas Shrisunder

[Editor's note: IFWG also provided funding for Quaker materials to be translated into Hindi. This will assist Devdas in teaching Quaker Studies to Indian Friends. We also plan to put this material on our website]

Taisoo Kim Watson writes:

If I had any reservations for this journey because of the length of the trip, I know now it was a very worthy project to accomplish. I thank Valerie, Topsy and Dilawar of AWPS/FWCC for their encouragement and for some financial support and many Friends in Japan and Korea for their warm hospitality.

I attended the Japan Yearly Meeting, Osaka and Mito Monthly Meetings in Japan. In Korea, I attended the Daegu and Daejeon Monthly Meetings and the 50th anniversary celebration of Seoul Friends Meeting. At each Meeting, I was given a chance to share my thoughts on building fellowship and to share experiences of spiritual journeys with Friends from other countries through the AWPS/FWCC programs.

The JYM began with the participation of 25 Japanese Friends from on the weekend of 20th- 21st November. As I had attended a Young Friends Work Camp in Japan organised by AFSC in 1965, I felt as if I had come home. The Japanese Friends gave me a warm welcome, and a couple of Friends remembered my husband Keith Watson. I shared a room with Yukiko and her daughter Naomi at Friends Centre

and we shared many experiences living in Japan, Korea, America and Australia. I learned about what it was like to be a Quaker in Japan during the War.

On 23rd November, we had a very good Meeting for Worship and discussion session with eight Friends from the Osaka Monthly Meeting. I learnt much by listening (with the help of Yukiko and Naomi) to the testimonies of the Friends. We really enjoyed dinner with the Kamimura family at their home.

On Friday 26 November, I addressed the Assembly of The Tokyo Friends School and shared my thoughts on Tolerance, Acceptance and Respect by using some of Australian people's real experiences living with people from many different countries.

In Mito, nine Friends attended the Meeting for Worship and shared a boxed lunch. There, Mamoru Hitomi and I were invited to a home of Friend Etsuko for dinner with her lovely family.

It was a nostalgic but also overwhelming feeling to go back to my native country, Korea, after so many years. Han Sung Hun and Jin Bokyom and their daughter came to meet me at Gumi bus station. On 5 December, the four of us took taxi, train and taxi to go to the Office that was made available to them by a friend for Meeting for Worship. Two more young attenders joined us for Worship. I encouraged the young attenders to attend Young Friends Gathering in Manila.

I was met at Daejeon station on 5 December by Daejeon Monthly Meeting Friends, Jonghee Lee and Sang-soon Yim. About seven Friends were gathered in this very simple and beautiful apartment of Jonghee Lee. Jonghee Lee and her husband Chonyon Kim had become Quakers in Germany and under their guidance; they have built a strong fellowship among Members of Daejeon Meeting.

On Saturday 11 December, I stayed at home of Yeri Choi and her husband Tom Coyner; their hospitality was warm and delicious. At the meeting house in Seoul, I could not believe the changes to the simple one-storey building and its surroundings. Besides myself, there were

only three other Friends from the 1960s who attended this 50th anniversary celebration. I was so glad I attended the Daegu and Daejeon Meetings as I felt I was meeting old friends again. We started the day with Meeting for Worship, a glorious Korean lunch, and then spent the afternoon going through the history of Korean Quakers. I was sad to learn that the anxieties and angers accumulated by conflicts of many centuries are still not resolved in Korea. I was very moved to see a photograph of Seoul Friends taken in 1964 including Keith and myself hanging on the wall. A few said they had wondered who this youngest person was. I left my country as the youngest Member and returned to my home Meeting as a grandmother.

From a longer letter- *Hong Kong Friends* wrote:

We write to express our love and concern as floods impact parts of Eastern Australia and disrupt the lives of many and bush fires affect Western Australia and other parts of the country.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and we trust you will let us know if there is anything of a practical nature we can do for you as Australia recovers from these events.

We live in a time of increasing global change that affects every aspect of everyone's lives everywhere. The recent floods may be an effect of climate change, as rising sea temperatures bring Northern Australia's floods further south. Unaccustomed weather may become regular not just in Australia but across the world as environmental change impacts us. We need to learn to adjust to the effects of such events and to mitigate the causes and their impact. Friends can serve as a beacon for the world at this time of global change with our processes of discerning truth and finding unity.

The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies in Phnom Penh, Cambodia announces its 2011 Short Courses

Peace Research Methodology – 4 to 9 April

Reflecting on Peace Practice – 13 to 17 June

Fundamentals for Peace and Conflict Work – 8 to 13 August

Intra-Organizational Conflict Management – 13 to 15 October

- All short courses are taking place at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Each course (no matter the length) costs US\$500 per participants which includes hotel accommodation with breakfast, lunch, airport pick up, course materials and handouts. Payment needs to be made to CPCS in advance.
- Each participant will be responsible for their own travel expenses including air ticket, visa and other travel taxes
- Courses run with a minimum of ten participants.

For those interested to attend these courses or any of these, kindly email back to: bahtlatumbo@yahoo.com and we will send you the application form right away.

Kindly circulate to your wider network.

Latest News on Christchurch Earthquake: The Co-Clerks Linley and Claire Gregory wrote: This is so much worse than the previous times, it will take a long time to restore basic amenities. Several Friends have had to move out of their houses; many have had to move to relatives or have taken their relatives or others in.

The meeting house has water through it and the cottage is badly damaged. They cannot meet there. This Sunday they will be holding Meeting for Worship in 3 different places. This is due not just because of the state of the Meeting House but as the roads in many places are not passable. Friends in and from Christchurch need our love, prayers, holding in the Light. Please send them waves of love.

Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa/New Zealand Te Haahi Tuuhauwiri



Topsy Evans, speaks with Indian Friends Daniel Masih (now deceased), Arvind Swan and Devdas Shrisunder at Friends Rural Centre. Photo by Sieneke Martin



Area of Coastal Cleanup on Bohol with President of the local Barangay (Council), Valerie Joy and Boni Quirog. Bohol will be visited by several Friends after the AWPS Gathering in Manila and be cared for by Boni Quirog.

If you appreciate receiving the AWPS Newsletter, you may wish to contribute towards the cost of production. Annual cost is AUD \$20.

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 tevens@c130.aone.net.au for our bank details. Please also remember AWPS in your will-

Thanks

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