



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

ASIA WEST PACIFIC SECTION INC

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Quakers Celebrate God's Light in Everyone

Editorial: In this quarter, we have been very busy finalising details of the Bhopal Section Gathering. Record numbers are attending- some 127 adult Friends and around 54 Young Friends, will either live in or attend on a daily basis. We are very grateful to the Bhopal YM Arrangements Committee, for their service to FWCC in ensuring this meeting will be spiritually enlivening, intellectually stimulating and a lot of fun. We plan a blog, so Friends everywhere can follow the events and see photos of our activities. Go to our website: www.fwccawps.org

Committees are being appointed to care for each segment of the Gathering, so that visitors will mingle with local Friends on a whole range of tasks from running the Home Groups, Pastoral Care, Worship, Music, Games, Dance, Pilates or Yoga, Interest Groups, Bookstall, Help Desk, Computer & Blog facilitators and Interpreters.

Friends from Africa, Cuba, Norway, Ireland, UK, Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia and USA, will join with members of regular AWPS Yearly Meetings and groups. Our worship, discussions and activities will be informed by these varied backgrounds. We are looking forward to welcoming new groups to FWCC, via AWPS. Young Friends will attend both the Gathering and their own event following and will provide energy, focus, leadership and vision for the future of AWPS.

The CEC (Central Executive Committee) of FWCC will be present and its members are playing vital roles during the Gathering. Overseas Friends will be involved in intervisitation and cultural events, both before and after the Gathering, a highlight being the centenary celebrations of Mid India Yearly Meeting.

We are very grateful for donations received, fund raising being done and successful applications for grants which will enable us to bring many Friends in our Section, who wish to attend. It is still possible to send donations to our Treasurer, to assist Friends from developing countries in our region. It is so important that we are inclusive.

As a Peace Church, Quakers in the AWPS need to be aware of violence being perpetrated on Christians in Orissa. Fundamentalist groups are going from village to village, destroying Churches, burning houses, attacking and killing Christians. The Christian community is saddened by the response of the Orissa Government so far, to tackle the boiling pot of crooked political agendas. May we hold the Christians, their attackers and governments in the Light, that peace may prevail in India, and harmony reign between religious, ethnic and caste social divisions.

Valerie Joy Secretary AWPS

PHILIPPINE EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH, INC.

10 Main Street, Marietta-Romeo Village, Sta. Lucia, Pasig City
Metro-Manila, Philippines

Warm greetings in the matchless name of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose we are and whom we serve!

This letter is a confirmation of our decision in our first general meeting held in Samagta Evangelical Friends Church on January 5, 2008 of the National Council of the Philippine Evangelical Friends Church, Inc. Our decision pertained to our official affiliation with the AWPS-FWCC. Our decision to affiliate was based on the following reasons:

1. We desire to have a broader base as Friends in the region. Having a broader base would give us opportunity to know and get acquainted and have fellowship with the different Friends in general.
2. We desire to contribute something significant especially in the spiritual aspects to the Friends denomination both in the evangelical and non-evangelical persuasions.
3. We desire to share Jesus Christ through preaching and teaching of the written Word of God in all gatherings whenever there is opportunity to do so.
4. We desire to experience corporate worship to Lord and glorify His name among all Friends with different theological persuasions. We would expect that we would have chances and opportunities to introduce the Filipino evangelical Friends' way of corporate praise and worship.
5. We desire to utilize the gifts and talents that the Lord has bestowed upon each of us during joint activities and corporate worship.

With these reasons, we do hope and pray that the governing body of AWPS of FWCC will approve our application for affiliation.

Thank you very much in anticipation for your kind consideration.
May the Lord continue to bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ, *Jaime P. Tabingo*, National Director, PEFC

Notice of General Meeting: If you will not be in attendance at Bhopal and you wish to record an apology or make a comment, please email it to the Secretary, valerie@fwccawps.org

GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-WEST PACIFIC SECTION INCORPORATED

A General Meeting of the Association will be held at 10am on 11th November 2008 in the Auditorium at the Pastoral Centre, E 6 Arera Colony, Bhopal 462 016, Madhya Pradesh, India.

The Agenda

- 1 Welcome to those Friends present
- 2 Minutes of the General Meeting held at Mannix College in Melbourne on 11th January 2008
- 3 Business arising from these Minutes
- 4 Clerk's report
- 5 Treasurer's report
 - a 2007 Financial report
- 6 Appointment of an auditor for 2008
- 7 General Business
 - a Possible changes to the Constitution
- 8 Appointments:
 - a Clerk
 - b Secretary
 - c Associate Secretary
 - d Treasurer
 - e Associate Treasurer
 - f General committee members (up to 5)
 - g Two Friends for the FWCC International Membership Committee
 - h The Public Officer
- 9 Any Other Business

Valerie Joy, Executive Secretary AWPS

SECTION MEETING BUSINESS: (This will take place over several sessions allocated for business on the agenda.)

- Remembrance of Friends who have died after the Dublin Triennial
- Greetings received
- Previous minutes circulated (September 2007 Newsletter)
- Representation
- Welcome
- Appointments for the Gathering: recording clerk, reporters, epistle group
- Business arising(2007/3):
- 2008 edition of the Handbook: note the inclusion of Grievance Procedure
- Incorporation of the Section in South Australia
- Report Section Committee approvals:
- appointment of Associate Treasurer till 31st December 2008
- appointment of International Membership Committee members till 31st December 2008
- printing of the Newsletter in Australia and India
- affiliation of PEFC to FWCC through AWPS
- Application for affiliation of PEFC to FWCC through AWPS
- Application of Mahoba group of Friends for affiliation to FWCC through AWPS
- Reports from YMs/groups, including those not affiliated to AWPS/FWCC
- Clerk's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's and Associate Treasurer's Report
- QUNO Reports
- Report on HPC
- Report on transfer of printing of Section Newsletter to India
- Report on Section website
- Report on Incorporation of AWPS in South Australia, and approval of Public Officer till 2011 Section Gathering
- General Meeting of AWPS Inc.
- Approval of further amendments to the AWPS constitution
- Report of the IMC members

- Nominations Committee Report/Appointments: Executive Secretary, Treasurer, 2 IMC members, 3 Section Committee members
- Co-options to FWCC
- Appointment of the Nominations Committee members till the 2011 Section Meeting
- Venue of the 2011 Section Meeting
- Any other item

International Nominations Committee of FWCC: Helen Bayes is the AWPS representative on the International Nominations Committee of FWCC. This committee is convened by Martin Garate of Chile YM. The committee brings forward names for global committees or working groups such as the International Finance Committee, the International Membership Committee and the newly-formed Young Adult Friends Committee. It also nominates Section representatives for the two QUNO Committees -in New York and Geneva.

The brand-new Young Adult Friends Committee was created at the 2007 Triennial in Dublin. There are three places for each Section, and out of the 12 members, the INC will nominate 2 co-convenors. Helen is currently consulting widely to bring forward the names of three active Young Friends (aged 18-34), to represent the rich range of Friends' practice in our Section.

Later in this year, replacements for the AWPS representatives on the two QUNO Committees will need to be put forward. At present these are Australian Friend, Topsy Evans (Geneva) and New Zealand Friend, Linley Gregory (New York). It is quite a challenge to inform and consult widely around the Section, for such appointments. Helen would be very glad to receive suggestions of names for positions, as they come up.

Helen will put news of vacancies and appointments into this newsletter from time to time. Her email address is: baymor@cyberone.com.au

The AWPS Newsletter: This publication was produced in Hong Kong from June 2004-March 2008. The June issue was

published in Australia, as an interim measure, approved by the Committee. They asked for other options, and our Clerk Dilawar writes: *For the future it was necessary to find a more economical place to print the Newsletter. Printing and postage in India is much cheaper than in Australia. A Christian printer in Noida has been located who has as a concession given a low quote of Rs 3000 for 700 copies(about AUD 75).For 500 copies the cost may come down slightly because of the paper saved. He will normally complete the work within a week, 10 days if he is busy with other orders. He will show me the proof to ensure that everything is alright. The matter will be sent by the Secretary, who will send out the e mail copies and have the issue put on the website. The labels and addresses will be sent to me in bulk and I will get the copies labeled, packed and posted. For this I will take the assistance of a helper who will be given a small honorarium of about Rs 500(AUD 12) per issue. The postage within India will be Rs 8(AUD 20 cents) per copy. The postage to other countries may be about double that, which will be seen when the first issue is posted. It is hoped that in due course a younger Friend can be found who will take over this responsibility for overseeing the printing and having copies posted.*

The Section Committee have approved the printing of the Newsletter from India, commencing with this issue.

€/\$ Help Support this 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

Reports:

REPORT FROM JAPAN YEARLY MEETING

1. Each monthly meeting has been trying different approach for outreach, yet questions remain on the purpose of participating in international gatherings and only a handful of members choose to attend overseas meetings.
2. With our Friends Center restoration underway, the Young Friends

retreat was held in Tokyo with 30 participants including adult Friends attending.

3. For AWPS in Bhopal, we are trying to increase Young Friends from Japan Yearly Meeting to attend, so YF here would be more aware of the international network of Friends as well as strengthening JYM as part of the AWP Section. *Naomi Kamimura*



Mid India Yearly Meeting celebrates 100 Years!

Based in Itarsi, it has 7-8 Local Meetings. MIYM closely supports the Friends School Governing Board which is responsible for the management of Friends Girls Higher Secondary School in Sohagpur, and with the management of two High Schools in Itarsi.

Aotearoa/New Zealand Report: Yearly Meeting Epistle July 2008 Tena koutou katoa and loving greetings to Friends everywhere,

In July 2008, Friends in Aotearoa/New Zealand gathered at Tibb's House, Auckland, for Yearly Meeting. Nestled beneath Maungawhau, an extinct volcano near the city centre, the spacious houses and giant pohutukawa trees of a boy's boarding school provided the venue. The weather sent us rain, mist, fog and welcome sunshine. The buildings provided hot meals and, almost always, electricity.

Some Friends arrived two days early to attend a seminar on "Nurturing our Meetings". This helped them to prepare for Yearly Meeting by holding it in the light and allowing Friends to move into deeper spiritual awareness. Other Friends arrived on the Friday for formal proceedings, beginning with meeting and greeting of Friends from every Monthly Meeting in the country, including Young Friends and others from Australia and Britain. We worshipped together, received messages from those unable to attend and heard the names of Friends who have died in the past year. These gentle beginnings prepared the ground for the hard work to follow.

In two and a half days of business considerations we heard updates from the work of Quaker committees; Treaty Relations, Quaker Peace and Service, The Right Use of Money, Futures, Alternatives to Violence, Handbook Revision and Centenary Celebrations.

We were challenged and enlightened by Friends working on issues of Climate Change and Penal Reform; how can we move forward as a community on these matters and what is our role to play within our nation and the wider world?

The meeting laboured over two major concerns about caring for money in right ordering. It took a long time! One proposal for a committee to advise on ethical investments yielded a struggle. Another to set up a committee to disperse funds on testimony-inspired projects was easily agreed upon.

We celebrated with Young Friends, through their lively presentation the completion of their first year as a constituent meeting of our Yearly Meeting.

For all the long considerations and determined, sometimes painful, inquiry of our policies, the spirit of laughter and joy were never far from proceedings. Listening, acceptance and forgiveness were part of our process.

In a sun-dappled and full-to-the-walls Meeting House for Sunday Worship we were reminded that Meeting for Worship is a party where we are all guests and hosts; the Divine Spirit our eternal guest and host.

The energy of Young Friends, the animated oratory of older Friends, the smile, song and story of an Alternatives to Violence Project Aotearoa volunteer, Mareti Kume, and a surprise brief visit from ex-asylum seeker Ahmed Zaoui, all lifted our hearts and breathed life to refresh us anew to persevere with the work at hand.

We were also blessed with the launch of a book of poetry written by our late Friend, Judith Child. Her words capture our experience:

“In the deep water of silence, tangled and withered leaves and branches are disentangled, and, revived and refreshed, can move about freely, while the root is still firmly attached to bedrock”.

Arohanui, and loving greetings to all.

News of Friends:

Former Secretary **Kenneth Co**, cannot be with us at the Bhopal Gathering, but he has donated towards bringing a Filipino Friend to attend the Bhopal gathering. Recently Kenneth has done some short courses and sojourn at Pendle Hill, visited Friends’ schools in the US to discuss educational issues and visited his family in Albany NY. Please keep him in your prayers.

Hong Kong MM: extended a warm welcome to visitors this summer: Prof Alan Davies from Edinburgh, UK and Prof Joe Ritchie from Florida both of whom are here for 3 months. On 13 July we

welcomed Michael Tan from the Philippines. Patrick Wood from Chengdu may also be coming to Hong Kong, we hope he will stay ! Hong Kong MM is well prepared for visitors, who generally speak after meeting. A regular feature is that Friends adjourn to nearby restaurants for lunch.

Jennifer Overington from Taipei, Canada and other parts asks that Friends use her new email address: jenniferoverington@gmail.com

In **Seoul MM**: Bo Gyom Jin and Paul Sung Hun will marry this October in the Meeting House. Bo Gyom is the 2009 AWPS visitor to Australia Yearly Meeting and is planning for Paul to accompany her on her visitation, which will take place between 1-10 January. Some time back Bo Gyom spent one year at Pendle Hill. Australian Friends are looking forward to her visit, and sharing her experiences of being a Friend in Seoul.

Helen Bayes has been accepted by Christian Peacemaker Teams, on a delegation to the CPT office in Hebron, Palestine during October. She will bring an up-to-date focus to discussions on the formation of CPT Australasia.

Valerie Joy is the Brisbane representative for CPT and will host several visitors during August/September on speaking tours on the topic of peace between Israel and Palestine.

Bob Stauffer of Hawaii Yearly Meeting, has moved back from California to his family home in Kolohala Rd Hawaii. AWPS loves hearing from Friends in Hawaii, who feel a bit connected to us.

Cristina Monteil: I continue to teach at the Ateneo de Manila University's Psychology Department, where I have been for over 30 years. My research is on peace and political psychology. At the moment, I am editing a volume on Peace Psychology in Asia in collaboration with Noraini Noor from the International Islamic University Malaysia. This will be published by Springer (New York).

Sachiko Yamamoto reports: Recently Yoshie Suyama and I joined the retreat of Tuchiura Monthly Meeting. I spoke about the importance of attending the AWPS Gathering and sending our Young Friend to the YF Gathering. People from Shimotsuma Monthly Meeting will be also there, for it will be held in Shimotsuma. I am looking forward to introducing Yoshie to Friends from the two MMs. It will be a good chance for Yoshie to worship and share with other Japanese Friends.

Last June. I attended the retreat of Osaka Monthly Meeting. It was a very lively retreat with four young people, including Shoko Yajima, who now works in Osaka. I was able to persuade two other Friends and Shoko's mother to come with me. I think intervisitation is necessary even among us in Japan.

We are happy that we will have a report from **Friends Peace Teams in Aceh, Indonesia** at the Bhopal Gathering.

Friends Peace Teams Report from Nadine Hoover:

Friends Peace Teams is Quakers doing Quaker service and witness in the world. Conscientious service does not start after a draft or declaration of war; it starts today. Friends Peace Teams gives you endless opportunities to support and engage in alternative conscientious service in the world.

Friends Peace Teams provided extensive relief to those affected by an outbreak of violence in Kenya following the general election this year. Youth did not initiate this violence, but were central in its expansion. In the immediate aftermath, the African Great Lakes Initiative conducted forty mini Alternatives to Violence workshops. There has been a burst of requests for full Alternatives to Violence workshops, so additional staff have been taken on and facilitators supported to do this. About 200 workshops have been arranged. Facilitators attending the Alternatives to Violence Project International Gathering in Kenya on September 14-20 are offering to support facilitation teams the week before and after the gathering. We still receive donations to Friends Peace

Teams, with Kenya Relief noted in the memo line.

Indonesia is continuing to conduct Alternatives to Violence workshops among refugees, in the “heart” of the war and with young children who were victims of the war. Indonesians are just beginning to be able to do their own basic workshops, so we have begun translating and introducing the advanced workshops. NYYM Friends continue to support seven Indonesian pre-school teachers to receive their bachelor’s degrees and we sent six other teachers to Jakarta for a two-week intensive training in developmental activities for young children. We are training potters from Papua, Borneo and Aceh to make silver-treated ceramic filters for clean drinking water. We hired a half-time coordinator in Indonesia for more continuity.

Sarah Mandolang received a Elise Boulding Fund grant and monthly, regional and yearly meeting funds to travel in Rwanda with the Friendly Folk Dancers, to Uganda to work with returning child soldiers at UNIFAT, a K-7th grade school, attend the AVP International gathering and volunteer for AVP workshops in Kenya, attend a Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) workshop in Africa that she intends to bring to Indonesia. Meetings in Delaware and Florida are raising additional funds for her to return via India to attend the FWCC Asia West Pacific gathering and following young adult Friends gathering. She returns in November and will be available in the Spring to speak to meetings.

The Latin American/ Caribbean program is bringing HROC to Colombia and continuing to support Alternatives to Violence workshops in that region as well. The bi-annual *PeaceWays* magazine brings inspiring witness from our work! Do you receive it? Ask your meeting about putting Friends Peace Teams in your monthly meeting budget and receiving bundles of *PeaceWays* and become a donor yourself. Beyond donations to the operating fund of Friends Peace Teams, each region of the world and activity much raise their own funds and appreciate earmarked funds for specific work in specific regions. We make every dollar go a long way!

Nadine Hoover, NYYM Representative
Friends Peace Teams, 1001 Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63104
www.friendspeaceteams.org

The Indonesia Initiative of Friends Peace Teams has one part-time coordinator in Aceh and a volunteer coordinator in New York. To support this work, please: 1) travel with us to meet our friends in Indonesia (see www.friendspeaceteams.org for details), 2) send donations to Friends Peace Teams, 1001 Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63104 designate in the memo line: Indonesia Initiative, and 3) check to see that your monthly meeting makes an undesignated contribution to Friends Peace Teams to cover core administrative costs.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AWPS CONSTITUTION:

These proposed changes either bring the Constitution into line with the present practice of the Section, or clarify its wording. A copy of the Constitution, incorporating all of these proposed changes will be included in the participants bags available on arrival at Bhopal.

A To make the use of the term 'Meeting' consistent

Clause 5b – change 'Gathering' to 'Meeting'

Clauses 7a, 7b, 8a, 8c and 9a, 9b – add 'business' prior to 'meeting/s'

B An addition to Clauses 6a and 6B

Add 'next' to the last lines of both Clauses, to read "...and would be reviewed at the next Section business meeting"

C Additions to Clause 7

Addition of 3 headings, 7a, 7b, 7c and the addition of 'business' before 'meeting' in 7a and 7b.

7c Notice of Section General Meetings: Thirty days notice of the time, place and nature of a Section General Meeting, given to members through the AWPS Newsletter, will be sufficient notice of any Section General Meeting.

D To clarify the appointments of an Associate Secretary and Associate Treasurer

Clause 8b - change to

"8b On the request of the Secretary, or Treasurer respectively, an Associate Secretary may be appointed to assist the Secretary and an Associate Treasurer to assist the Treasurer for a period of not more than three years. If these appointments are made they will be made at the Section business meeting, or between Section meetings by the Section Committee. Where the appointment is made by the Section Committee it will be for a term until the next Section business meeting. Reappointments for a further period of not more than three years may be made by the Section business meeting. The Associate Secretary and Associate Treasurer, when appointed, will also be office holders of the Section."

E To increase the number of general members of the Section Committee

Clause 9b *“The Committee shall consist of the office holders and a minimum of three, and up to five, of the representatives of Yearly Meetings or affiliated groups of the Section.”* Also, the removal of ‘three’ in the next sentence.

F Amendment of the headings for Clause 12 and the addition of provisions re accounting records and Taxation Returns

‘Clause 12 The Section Accounts and Financial Records

A heading *“12a Bank Accounts”* will be added before the first paragraph.

The Clause will then continue as -

“12b Financial records

Financial records concerning activities of the Section must be retained for a period of seven years after the completion of the transaction to which they relate.’

12c Taxation Returns

The Treasurer will be responsible for the production and submission of any Taxation Returns required under the taxation laws in the country in which the Asia West Pacific Section accounts are held.”

G Consistency in the use or not of a hyphen in the Section’s name

Most references to the Section do not contain a hyphen, but some do. Our logo does not contain a hyphen, so we should remove hyphens throughout. There are also some very minor changes in punctuation suggested.

Alan Clayton and Topsy Evans

August 2008

On –Line Meeting for Worship:

Hello **Asia West Pacific Section of FWCC,**

My name is George Leonard and I am the administrator of a new website presence called Quaker Faith and Fellowship – the link is <http://www.quakerfaithandfellowship.org> .

We have just been listed with FWCC at http://www.fwccworld.org/projects/project_detail.php?prjid=1530 which gives a little information about us.

If you have persons there in your area who might be interested in a Friendly cyberspace community which offers online Meeting for Worship with a Coffee & Tea room for after meeting discussions + a Forum for informal discussions then I would encourage you to let your community know about our presence.

We are praying that others from around the world will come to our site and take on responsibilities for the scheduling of online Meetings for Worship in the hope that all those who are isolated for one reason

or another will have to opportunity through the Internet to unit with others in for spiritual nourishment.

Thank you for your attention and God bless, George

QUNO Geneva: Quaker Peace & Social Witness and Friends World Committee for Consultation are seeking to appoint a Representative, Global Economic Issues for the Quaker United Nations Office Geneva from January 2009 to continue and develop the programme of work on global economic issues, taking forward areas of Quaker concern and issues relating to those concerns within the United Nations and other international organisations based in Geneva. (See www.quno.org).

Skills and experience include:

- a proven background in global economic issues through study and work experience,
- commitment to the values of the Religious Society of Friends,
- programme and budgetary management,
- ability to work as part of a small team
- strong communication skills
- fundraising for projects.

Details from: Personnel Office, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ or viviens@quaker.org.uk, quoting reference QPSW. A full application pack is also available on the website www.quaker.org.uk

Peace Vigils on International Day of Peace, 24 October:

An Australian Friend currently in Scotland, has written to ask if Quakers the world over would plan peace vigils at 12.30 on that date. The vigils should take place in a public place, and can be conducted in any way that is suitable for those Friends in that place. By starting in Aotearoa NZ- our most easterly time-zone, we could cover several hours of peace witness, before leaving the AWPS time zones. If you

would like to discuss this further, please send your suggestions to me:
valerie.joy1@optusnet.net.au

Members of the India Friends Working Group in Philadelphia, fund raising for the AWPS Gathering- Good on you!



If undelivered please return to:
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