The AWPS Gathering opened with a celebration of Korean traditional dancing

If undelivered please return to
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FWCC Friends World Committee For Consultation
ASIA-WEST PACIFIC SECTION

AWPS Epistle, November, 2005

To Friends Everywhere,

Amongst the colorful trees of autumn, 60 Friends from various countries were called to gather at KwangLim Seminar House for the Asia West Pacific Gathering.
In this country of "the land and the sea" which has been dominated by great powers, we were welcomed by Korean dancers. Hearing the gongs and drums speaking to each other gave us a feeling of freedom and joy.
Very quickly a special atmosphere of unified warmth and intimate sharing developed, as we all felt drawn together in the Spirit. Bridges were built, space and time disappeared, we endeavored to understand each other so that words and languages became unimportant, for our eyes showed the love we felt for each other, We are all different lamps, but shed the same Light.

The theme *"Building Peace and Living our Quaker Testimonies in an Environment of Conflict*" was a serious challenge, as Friends from different Quaker backgrounds struggled to understand the situation of the unification of Korea, as well as being made more aware of other conflicts and oppressions throughout the world. This was emphasized by the depth of worship which arose during an Epilogue where origami cranes, the bird of peace, were placed on a map of the world, bringing individual concerns into our awareness.

As we worshipped on Sunday at the Seoul Meeting House, many Friends were brought to tears as we heard the pain caused by the troubled history between Korea and Japan, but we also heard leadings towards harmony and friendship.
We came to Seoul to find new Friends, we go from Seoul with many new friends, new commitments understandings and new visions.

December 05-January 06 **Issue no 68**

Editorial

Dear Friends everywhere, this edition of AWPS is packed full of reports from the Section Gathering in Seoul, South Korea. There are still more outstanding, which will be published in future newsletters. We would love to include hundreds of photos also to show the wonderful flavor of this shared time together in the autumn colored hillsides north of Seoul. Tom Coyner has a website with 100 photos of the gathering– go to http://seoulman.smugmug.com/gallery/977215– for some very action packed as well as very scenic shots.

The Gathering was made possible by the small group of Friends in the Seoul Monthly Meeting, who through Herculean efforts brought together the aspects of transport to and from Kwanglim, accommodation, food, information to participants, office and spaces for meetings. We visitors were given an exposure to Korean culture, including music, drumming, religion and politics. Thank you dear Friends in Seoul.

Keeping the momentum alive until our next Gathering in 2008 is critical, and needs involvement from Friends everywhere. We who have worshipped together through FWCC Gatherings, can share the many flavors of Quaker practice in our home meetings. At Seoul we had unprogrammed, semi-programmed, Evangelical, Bible/Christ centered, and Universalist Friends– all eager to share insights, and to listen to the Truth shining in the eyes of Friends from other traditions.

We were humbled to learn of the suffering for peace made by Korean peacemakers, and the actual discrimination against Christians being experienced by Indian Quakers. In Japan, Quaker numbers are falling, but we rejoice to learn that new Friends Churches are being established in the Philippines. There is so much to learn from each other. We believe we have been given the Light of understanding and truth, through God's Holy Spirit. May we stand joyfully and powerfully in God's love, caring for one another by appreciating one another's concerns. See Minute 13 for suggestions on how to implement this in your meeting or church.
In Love and Peace, *Valerie Joy*, Associate Sectary, AWPS.

travel expenditure in 2005. This has resulted in a large saving on the anticipated budget amount, but is this the way in which we want to save money ?

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 That Friends are encouraged to increase their personal giving to AWPS.
2 That Friends in the Section be asked to make a real effort to increase annual grants to AWPS from their Yearly Meetings.
3 That we reconsider our financial ability to pay the honorarium of the Secretary at its present rate.
4 That the financial decisions made at the Gathering in Seoul be revisited at the Triennial in Dublin in 2007, and appropriate action taken.
Topsy Evans
Associate Treasurer AWPS

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BUNDELKHAND YEARLY MEETING CHHATARPUR M.P. INDIA

Greetings and love from Bundelkhand YM. First I thank our almighty God who brought us safely to Seoul to attend the AWPS Gathering. As you all know, Delhi in India is suffering from terrorism. On 29 October there were three bomb blasts in Delhi. Actually the whole world is affected by terrorism. We need peace and harmony in our nation.
In Bundelkhand YM, Chhatarpur, Nowgong, Bijawar, Ghuwara churches are having regular Sunday worship and in Khajurajo, Panna & Parpalpur, Friends also gather to worship. In addition, women's fellowship, youth fellowship and Sunday schools meet regularly.
Chhatarpur Monthly Meeting runs a Hindi medium middle school, but recently the roof collapsed. Thank God that it was not school time. In this school 98% of the students are from other religions.
Nowgong MM runs an English medium school.
A Hindu person has had a court case against us in relation to our Church property In Bijawar. We hope soon to get a decision in our favour.
In Ghuwara we are planning to start a school, to provide a better education for children there. We also plan to start a medical clinic there. Our YM is working to have good relationships and harmony, so that we can work for education, evangelism and good health care.
Visa problems prevented our Young Friends attending the World Gathering of Young Friends in UK.
Thanking you,
Swarnlata Brown, General Superintendent, BMMS, India

Report from the AWPS Associate Treasurer

(as at November 2005)

For clarity, I have separated the accounts for the Gathering from those for the administration of the Section. The following information refers only to the administrative accounts. I have yet to receive the final accounts for 2004, and have only partial accounts for 2005, but the picture is clear – we are only just managing to balance our finances, with nothing to spare. Friends, if we wish to expand, or even continue the work of the Section, we must ensure that we do not run down our reserve funds. In my opinion, we have two options. We must either increase our income or reduce our expenditure.

INCOME

This is derived from 3 sources.

1 Grants from Yearly Meetings, which lately have amounted to just under AUD3,000 annually.

2 Bank Interest from a Term Deposit in 2005 was AUD2,900. This Bank Interest income would reduce if we spend our reserves.

3 Donations in 2005 have amounted to nearly AUD5000. This is much more than in the previous 2 years, but much of this increase has come from solicited donations, and it cannot be assumed they will continue.

Total income for 2005 will be approximately AUD10,900.

However, our basic income is only about AUD5,400 – the rest has come from donations, which have varied greatly from year to year. This is an area where Friends could increase income for the Section.

EXPENDITURE

(in Hong Kong and Australia)

Expenditure in Hong Kong for 2005 is not yet complete, and the figures that I have for 2004 are estimates. The expenditure for 2004 was estimated at over AUD9,000. (The figure for 2005 will probably rise but this will not be known until after the end of the year. Our major expense is AUD6,000, paid annually, to the Secretary as an honorarium. The remaining AUD3,000 is for office expenses, telephone, stationery etc.

SAVINGS ALREADY MADE

1 Newsletter expenditure is now much lower, because only three issues were produced in 2004, we have increased email circulation, and printing and posting were moved to Hong Kong where these costs are much lower

2 Travel. In the two years to the present, the Secretary has made only one visit - to Japan YM 2004, to discuss preparations for the Gathering. There has been no

REPORT ON THE FWCC ASIA-WEST PACIFIC SECTION GATHERING, AT SEOUL, KOREA, 3-8 NOVEMBER 2005

Around 60 Friends from Korea, Japan, India, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Aotearoa/New Zealand (A/NZ), Australia and USA gathered at the KwangLim Seminar House, north of Seoul, for the Gathering of the FWCC Asia-West Pacific Section. The theme of the Gathering was *"Building Peace and Living Our Quaker Testimonies in an Environment of Conflict"*. Each element of this theme was fully explored during our time together.

The nature of the environment of conflict, fear and distrust, both within our region and the wider world was brought home to us in the country reports from various yearly meetings. As well, the experience of Indian (along with African) Young Friends in being denied visas to participate in the World Gathering of Young Friends at Lancaster in August 2005, gave further recent evidence of the prevailing international climate of suspicion. This provided an uncomfortable reminder of the experience of Friends from these regions in attempting to participate in the 2004 Auckland Triennial. The problems faced by Quakers in countries where they are minorities in an (often very hostile) dominant culture, were vividly illustrated by presentations that explored the nature of these problems in India, Korea and Japan.

We were further reminded of the legacy of conflict through the setting for our Gathering. The complexities of the issues surrounding reunification in Korea were explored at length in an address by Jeong Se Hyun, the Chairman of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation. A more personal and concrete understanding of some of these issues was conveyed to us by a visit to the demilitarized zone. The human rights dimensions of the struggle for a democratic and just Korean society, were brought home by the presence of Professors Joon Park and Kim Nak Jung who collectively spent over three decades in prison, as a result of their impressive witness for these causes. We were also encouraged to think more widely as to the nature of human rights and the means by which they can be promoted at all levels, from the local to the international, in Helen Bayes' presentation on a "quick Quaker human rights stir fry".

Joon Park was with us for the whole of the Gathering and provided much of the interpretation from and into English, Japanese and Korean during various sessions of the Gathering. He also presented a very illuminating analysis of recent trends in Korean theology and its relationship and relevance to Quaker faith and practice

Professor Kim Nak Jung joined us on our visit to the demilitarized zone and was able to explain the manner of his remarkable crossing of the DMZ to North Korea carrying his proposals for Korean reunification to the North Korean leadership. Later on, in an evening keynote address, he outlined his experience in promoting Korean reunification and a vision through which the Korean experience may provide the basis for a new world culture of peace and harmony.

The nature in which Quakers are actively engaged in promoting peace, social justice and understanding, was outlined and explored in a number of sessions of the Gathering. Topsy Evans and Linley Gregory outlined the important work being conducted by QUNO in their Geneva and New York offices respectively. We heard about the work of the Alternatives to Violence project, in A/NZ and elsewhere from Linley Gregory, the A/NZ aided programme of training for a group of Indonesian police from Claire Gregory and the work of Quaker Service Australia from Ronis Chapman and Alan Clayton. A number of other initiatives for peace and social justice with which Quakers are closely associated, also gained our attention. These included a presentation from Joon Park on the emerging work of the Korean Non-Violent Peace Force such as its launch of a peace boat on the Han River estuary. Christina Gibb (Aotearoa NZ) provided a graphic portrayal of the work of the Christian Peacemaking Team in Hebron (Palestine).

Three themes were pursued in some detail in an interest group format. These were: *The nature of the environmental crisis and our responsibilities in relation to this* (Julian Stargardt and Seiichi Kondo), *Quaker Essentials* (Barbara Mountier) and I*ntervisitation* (Michael Corbett).

A recurring theme across a number of sessions of the Gathering, and also in home group discussions, involved the issue of Young Friends and their role in our Society. Epistles from the World Gathering of Young Friends in Lancaster and the follow-up Gathering at Kanamai in Kenya were read eloquently demonstrating the commitment, energy and compassion of Young Friends. Concern was expressed about our limitations in terms of being able to attract greater numbers of younger persons to Friends and in retaining those who do. It was recognized that we must seriously involve Young Friends in all areas of our activities and include them at all levels of our organizational structures including that of FWCC representative.

Within the Gathering itself, there was strong evidence of guidance from the Light in the bridging of difference and effecting reconciliation. All who were present at Sunday Meeting for Worship at the Seoul Meeting House were deeply moved by the strong and heartfelt reaching out between Japanese and Korean Friends in terms of past oppression and atrocity in a wondrous interchange of apology and forgiveness.

In a keynote address, Nancy Irving, the FWCC General Secretary spoke of the various flavors of Quakerism, referring to the different traditions of worship that exist across our re-

BHOPAL YEARLY MEETING

Since the last Section Gathering many things happened which have shaken the whole world community like 11th September, 7 July bomb blasts and natural disasters like the tsunami, Katrina and earthquakes killing thousands of people. We were hurt by these events. We prayed to God to give us understanding, strength and wisdom to work still harder to create an atmosphere for peace everywhere and stop exploitation of the earth. Our yearly Meeting collected donations for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Court cases of our Church properties are still pending in the court of Bhopal and we are expecting decisions very soon. Although we have obtained the permission to construct a new Worship Meeting House from Municipal Corporation Bhopal, but we did not start the work. If the decision in our favor by the court, we will have more space to construct the same.

We felt very sorry that our representatives could not attend the Triennial at Auckland and also Young Friends Gathering at Lancaster, England. Venues of such Gatherings may be decided by the organizers at the places where participants, particularly from Asia and Africa, can get a visa without any problem. All the members of our Yearly Meeting are working together to fulfill the objectives of our society.
Ronald Titus, Foreign Correspondent; Sunny Singh, Chairman

You can contribute $s to AWPS Newsletter

If you appreciate receiving the AWPS Newsletter, you may wish to contribute towards the cost of production. The annual cost is Aust$20.
Please send this, or its equivalent in your currency to your Treasurer. They can then make an annual remittance to AWPS Treasurer, Topsy Evans, PO Box 181, Glen Os-

5. To plan & start a fund raising campaign to ensure our financial health. This is especially important in view of the financial picture drawn for us by our Associate Treasurer. The need for fund raising is not just to guarantee the financial health of the section, but to carry on important work in such endeavors as support for meetings, to encourage inter-visitation efforts and hold Yearly Meetings in the Light when they are experiencing trouble.

6. Provide a focus point of information on how Friends in the Section can assist during natural disasters or with longer term projects.

7. Increased involvement with and input to the newly organized QUNO NY

8. Deepening our spiritual growth by practicing daily the fruits of the Spirit;

FURTHERING THE GROWTH OF THE SECTION.

I envision the work of AWPS to grow further. From the momentum gained from this gathering and new visions, we can redouble our efforts in enhancing a spirit of co-operation and a sense of belonging to the FWCC-AWPS family. Thus we will gain knowledge of each other, to help each other grow spiritually, and to carry out the Quaker testimonies and practices in the world.

I see the mission of the committee to carry on doing the pastoral, liaison work among our section's member Meetings, while giving encouragement to budding Friends groups in growth areas. Nestled in the biggest area of the whole FWCC family, from which future economic growth of the world is to come, why should we not be more adventurous and dare to think the unthinkable. God willing, we shall give it our best shot and await the best years to come!
Kenneth Co, Executive Secretary

our region. These flavors were sampled and tasted throughout each day's activities from the early morning meeting for worship to the evening's epilogue. The responsibility for hosting meeting for worship revolved between different Yearly Meetings and, as a result, we were exposed to the worship experience of the programmed, unprogrammed and evangelical traditions. A similar programme of hosting of evening epilogue saw an exploration of the cultural heritage of the countries represented at the Gathering in music (particularly song), movement and other forms of imagery and expression. This often provided opportunities for deep inward reflection. For instance, our Japanese Friends produced many dozens of origami cranes inviting us to place one on a specific area on a map of the world which attracted our prayers. The resultant ministry, which explained the reason for a particular choice, was poignant and moving.

In our periods of daily reflection and discussion in our home groups, we were able to explore themes in great depth. This spirit-led process of search and exploration helped foster a deeper understanding of the bases of our religious life and its relationship to our interaction with the world. It also led to new friendships and an appreciation of the constraints faced by many Friends in different Yearly Meetings within the Asia-West Pacific region. Other events, including the nightly music session preceding Epilogue and a very successful concert, also assisted in this process of bonding and deepening friendship.

The success of the Gathering owes so much to the enormous generosity of time, spirit and resources given by our Korean Friends from Seoul Monthly Meeting. While very small in number, our Korean Friends were superlative hosts. Any problem that arose was dealt with swiftly and with graciousness and understanding. Our hosts were also very keen to provide an introductory appreciation of Korean culture and society. The proceedings opened with a demonstration of Korean folk music and dancing. Later we were provided with opportunities to visit local sites of importance including the National Arboretum and a prominent local temple.

In a keynote address to the Gathering, Elizabeth Duke reminded us that we are not called upon to bear guilt for the past, but are called to take responsibility now. We are called to hope. The reports presented and deliberations of this Gathering, provided cautionary reminders of the difficulties and challenges for our life of the spirit and work in the world. The current political and social environment, both within our individual nations and internationally provides many challenges. However, we were also provided with heartening and affirming examples of progress in many areas of peace and social justice, giving us hope for the future. We leave Seoul with new ideas and fresh hope for building peace and living our Quaker testimonies in an environment of conflict.

AWPS Business Meeting Minutes November 2005

Minutes of the Meeting for Business to conduct Asia West Pacific Section business, held at Kwanglim Seminar House, Pochun city, Korea, 4, 5, 7 and 8 November.

Minute 1: We have given thanks for the lives of Friends who have died since our last meeting in January 2004, especially Tony Reynolds of Hong Kong MM.

Minute 2: We have received greetings from Indonesia Yearly Meeting and Hawai'i Monthly Meeting and the following individual Friends. In the Philippines, Christina Monteil and Andrew and Flora Braid; in Singapore from Lau Wau Hai and Ann Backus, from two Friends from Korea, currently in Germany, Chon Young Kim and Miss Lee; Mallika Aiyub GCFI India and from the Christian Peace Teams in Hebron. We are grateful for these greetings and agree to send greetings from this Gathering to them.

Minute 3: The Minutes of the business meeting held at Auckland 2004 have been circulated (AWPS Newsletter No 62).

Minute 4: Representation: The following affiliated Yearly Meetings and groups are represented at this meeting:- Aotearoa/New Zealand YM, Australia YM, Bundelkhand YM, Bhopal YM, General Conference of Friends in India MM, Mid-India Yearly Meeting, Hong Kong MM, Japan YM, Seoul MM.

Minute 5: We welcome Nancy Irving, General Secretary of FWCC to our meeting.

Minute 6: Appointments for this Gathering:

a) We ask Clare Gregory, Alan Clayton, Christopher Lall to be reporters for the Gathering.

INCORPORATING IDEAS GATHERED FROM WGYF

From General Secretary's report on WGYF, some ideas relating to AWPS are:--

l. Holding smaller scale gatherings between two sections;

The Triennial may be on its way out. In its stead, a series of smaller scale cross- sectional meetings might be held throughout different areas of the world. Some of these meetings might be sponsored by two sections together, such as Section of the Americas and AWPS or Section of Africa and AWPS.

2. Twinning of Yearly Meetings

3. Encourage Young Friends work in the FWCC family and in their YMs in our section.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

We need to consolidate what we have already achieved and take a bold step forward. Several areas for furthering the work of AWPS:-

1. Further use of the internet for delivery of the Newsletter, using PDF for faster delivery and less expense

2. Encourage closer relationships between AWPS and other non-affiliated Yearly Meetings by visitation and by invitation to participate in section gatherings

3. Encourage nascent Meetings in our section

4. Give moral and other support to Meetings in need:-- for instance to Nepal Yearly Meeting, and Indonesian Yearly Meeting (Friends Church) and others

We were glad to hear that the Indonesia Committee of Quaker Peace and Service in Aotearoa/New Zealand received a grant for some fifteen Indonesian police to study, train and then teach others methods of conflict resolution. This has been noted by the Indonesian Friends Church and provides a basis for us to move towards co-operation.

THE AWPS NEWSLETTER.

So far, the Newsletter has come out pretty punctually, and is well received. The task is handled by the two secretaries in tandem, which gives each person some breathing space as well as broadening the scope of articles. The plan is to gradually phase out sending hard copies and to phase in doing it via PDF versions on the internet. This should save both on the costs of printing and postage. Our Newsletter still serves a critical role of intra and inter sectional communications. We are committed to continuous improvement in the readability, interest and coverage of the newsletter and invite contributions from you all. Thus for some time to come, the tradition of Newsletter publishing should still continue.

TRAVELS ON BEHALF OF THE SECTION
I have represented the section thrice, twice to Birmingham, England (on WO business and so the expense was borne by FWCC) and once to JYM in Tokyo. On these occasions serious business was involved and handled quite satisfactorily.
We look to an expansion of inter-visitation to deepen our knowledge and concern for one another. Guidelines for intervisitation are now an integral part in our AWPS Handbook.

Having taken over this job mid term, we both look forward to continuing a little longer, to consolidate and also implement the recommendations from this Gathering.

b) We ask Ross Cooper, Patricia Macgregor, Mamoru Hitomi, Boon Yi Kwak and Jai Singh to prepare a draft epistle from the Gathering
c) We appoint Tom Coyner, Maxine Cooper and Kim Park Tae Shik to cover the media aspects of the Gathering.

Minute 7: Reports from YM's and groups.
We have heard from all the affiliated YM's and groups within the Section, mentioned in Minute 4. The reports (edited) will be published in the AWPS Newsletter. The Seoul MM report was very moving, in terms of their history, small size and challenges. The Gathering views as an act of courageous faith that they are hosting us, with the results being very beautiful. Overall, we are glad to learn more about the work and witness of Friends in the Section and accept these reports.

Minute 8: Clerk's Report: We have received a report from our Clerk, Dilawar Chetsingh. We accept this report.

Minute 9: Executive Secretary's Report: We have received a report from Kenneth Co Ching Po and Valerie Joy. The meeting appreciates the commitment and energy that has gone into this report. We accept this report.

Minute 10: International Finance Committee: We have heard from Helen Bayes (AYM), who has been appointed to the FWCC International Finance Committee. She explained the workings of this committee, which is a monitoring and advisory body to the Central Executive committee.

Minute 11: Treasurer's Report: The Associate Treasurer Topsy Evans recommended that the Section financial statement be referred to in two parts. The first showed the administration accounts and the second, the accounts relating to the conduct of the Gatherings. This will provide a clearer picture of our finances. She recommends that the present term deposit, (AUD $50,000) be retained, as a reserve and also because interest gained from it is a significant part of our income. A detailed Treasurer's Report will appear in the Newsletter. We accept this report.

Minute 12: Finances: The finances which were presented, show that the funds sent to Devdas Shrisunder in India in 2003 and then passed to Dilawar Chetsingh in 2004, have nearly been expended.
The Section's main account, held in Australia was presented, but the funds held in Hong Kong since early 2004, have yet to be finalized for 2004 and 2005. This can occur once the completed statements have been received. Estimates of the expenditure show that the annual expenditure in Hong Kong is over AUD $9,000, of which AUD$3,000 relates to the Secretary's expenses and the printing and postage of the Newsletter. The remaining recurrent expenditure of AUD$6,000 is the honorarium paid to the Secretary. In the years 2004 and 2005, the only expenditure for travel in the Section was for the Secretary's visit to Japan YM at which preliminary discussions were held on the preparations for the Gathering in Seoul.
If the work of the Section is to continue effectively, income must be increased, or expenditure reduced. Regretfully, the Section Committee took the step of recommending, with the Secretary's consent that the Secretary's honorarium be reduced to 50% of its present level from 1 January 2006. However, if our financial situation improves, this deficit would be paid upon the recommendation of the committee, when the accounts for the financial year are finalized.
The Gathering approved this proposal reluctantly, and immediately started planning ways to increase our income. An anonymous Hong Kong Friend has offered to contribute one quarter of the remaining 50% of the honorarium, in 2006 initially.

A group of interested Friends met to discuss means of raising funds for the Section. Their suggestions include:

- educating Friends about the work carried out by FWCC, its Asia-West Pacific Section and the two QUNO offices
- encouraging individual Friends, Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meetings to increase their giving to all four of these bodies
- suggesting to Yearly Meetings that they set aside a certain percentage of their income for the work of these bodies, which all work for Friends in the international area
- the careful and clear earmarking of funds intended for a particular group
- twinning of Yearly Meetings and/or Monthly Meetings in the region

COMMITTEE TEAM WORK.
One fundamental change the AWPS experienced after the 2003 Auckland Triennial, is the dramatic shift from sole (or nearly sole) to collective "servant-ship". For the last two years, there has been a concerted effort by various members of the AWPS Committee. We are most fortunate to have a very active Clerk who has been in the forefront of leading the section. We also have been blessed with two very capable treasurers who actually did more than their roles call for. I am personally indebted to the Associate Secretary, whose able leadership was instrumental in the development of the Gathering agenda.
The role of job sharing by the Executive and Associate Secretaries has allowed for further expansion of the work in the Section. We both have different styles, but agree on the need for the guidance of the Spirit in all of this work. The different countries can attract our specialist attention. Certainly, I have made more contact in Northern Asia, whilst Valerie has focused on Indian Friends. We consider that Indonesian Friends might require more contacts, and hope that our involvement there will expand. I am also grateful that Michael Corbett is providing such strong links with the Philippines Friends and others for their travel in the ministry. In all of this work, we encourage the team approach. The geographical area and population is enormous. Our messages of peace and our approach to the resolution of conflict are greatly needed.

HARDSHIPS EXPERIENCED IN AREAS OF THE SECTION.
There have been un-settling political struggles in Nepal. We know that the Nepalese Friends Church has experienced great difficulties under the civil strife between Maoist rebels and the government soldiers.
The effects of natural disasters struck in Sri Lanka & India have been in our prayers.
Another area of uncertainty is in Indonesia, where the Section hopes to develop stronger relationships.

Secretary's Report to the Section Gathering in Seoul 2005

I want very much to give thanks to our hosts the Korean Monthly Meeting. Their co-operation make this year's section gathering possible. I know the amount of hard work that took place, from seeing them hard at work at 10:30 p.m, when I visited Kwanglim in September. Their work in pre-Gathering translation, together with assistance from Japan, is helping us during this meeting, to have real understanding and dialogue.

Another group of unsung heroes are: my two support groups behind the scenes:--the international support group and the local support group. These experienced Friends provided me with much needed advice, timely suggestions as well as selfless support when most needed. I would like to specifically mention the names of (though not in any order of importance) Linley Gregory, Helen Bayes, Chris Lawson (in the international support group) and Julian Stargardt, Erik Floyd and David Bottomley (among my local support group), whose counsel and constant up-holding me, made all the difference during the critical initial phase of my assuming the position of Executive Secretary.

Furthermore, among my co-workers in the committee, I would like to specifically give thanks to Dilawar Chetsingh, our clerk, Valerie Joy the Associate secretary as well as Topsy Evans whose dedication to serving the section go far beyond the call of duty.

There is a saying that one grows into a new position. I have found this very true. For in the last two years, I have personally learned a tremendous amount spiritually as well as practically, about the "business" of our section. I treasure this experience for it has occupied a very important part in my daily life as a practicing Quaker For the opportunity to serve I am extremely grateful. For I love serving the AWPS!

- when writing reports on the Gathering, for distribution among Friends, the inclusion of personal anecdotes illustrating the deeper long term aspects of the Gathering will give a balanced impression of its value
- during Quaker Gatherings, such as Yearly Meetings, special fundraising events may be held for our Section
- most importantly, each Monthly Meeting or Yearly Meeting is asked to appoint a representative by the end of March 2006 to be part of a special Section fundraising committee, operating mainly by email.

The Gathering accepted these recommendations.

Minute 13: Constitution:
The constitution is being revised in the light of the changed FWCC constitution and also keeping in view the possibility of incorporation or registration of the Section in the future. After receipt of comments on the first draft from some YMs and individuals, a second draft was sent to YMs and groups in May 2005 and some further responses were received. We have considered the points raised and think that the draft needs further examination.

A working group comprising Julian Stargardt, Alan Clayton, Linley Gregory and Dilawar Chetsingh is asked to bring this document back to the Section Committee in time for its circulation to all YMs and MMs well before the August 2007 business meeting.

Minute 14: Handbook:
This working document underwent a process of revision with additional material included. It was agreed to by all YMs and groups. The revised draft was circulated to FWCC affiliated YMs and groups and was finalized in May 2005. Another revision is expected prior to the 2007 Meeting at the Triennial. Yearly Meetings and groups may submit suggested changes to the Secretaries before February 2007. We accept this report.

Minute 15: Legal Requirements: 2002, Minute 22 authorized the registration of AWPS with the appropriate government authorities in India,.

to enable the Section to open a bank account and operate from within India. This required amendments to the existing constitution (now being amended).
With the Executive Secretary's office moving to Hong Kong, the matter was not followed up in India. In Hong Kong, attempts to open a bank account failed, because AWPS did not then have the requisite legal status. In view of these difficulties, a bank account was opened in Australia, with some difficulty. We have an Australian Business Number (ABN), but no tax exemption, because Australian law requires that more than 50% of expenditure must be incurred in Australia. Topsy Evans reported she is attempting to change the financial year to the calendar year, making it easier to fit in with dates of Section meetings. She also reports that at this time, the Section will not find any advantage from legal incorporation, quite apart from the fact that the account in Hong Kong for 2004 has not been finalized.

Minute 16: Grievance Procedures:
While agreeing with the draft AWPS Constitution, Australia YM asked that consideration be given to inclusion of a grievance procedure. We ask Ronis Chapman and Alan Clayton AYM, Elizabeth Duke, A/NZ, Julian Stargardt HK MM, Kwak Boon Yi, Seoul MM, Naomi Kamimura Japan YM (stc) and Swarnlata Brown Bundelkhand YM to form a working group and report to the Section committee when finalized. This group will also develop guidelines for "Right Relationships" within Friends' Meetings.

Minute 17: International Travel Difficulties:
Following the Auckland Triennial, letters were sent to both the New Zealand and Australian Governments. In the case of New Zealand, Linley Gregory reported that a positive response was received from that Government, with some of Friends' practical suggestions already being implemented. The letter from the AYM Presiding Clerk, received only a routine answer, not sympathetic to the particular queries raised on the non-issuing of transit visas. Friends from many countries experience problems in obtaining visas and or passports for international travel. Whilst rejections can appear arbitrary, they may also be due to the applications being submitted rather late and with inadequate supporting documentation. In future, each applicant should ensure timely submissions with all requirements being met.

FWCC SONG by David Evans and Friends

Chorus:From ev'ry nation around the world,
From ev'ry culture we come in peace,
To view our world and banish conflict,
And find the joy, goodwill will bring.

1. Before our breakfast behind the centre
We climb the mountain to seek the view
The leaves are falling, the colours brilliant
Our souls refreshed, and inspired too.
From ev'ry nation, etc,

2. We run from breakfast straight to our home group
Each morn at nine just after soup
We share our stories – new friends for all
Our mighty leaders – right on the ball.
From ev'ry nation, etc,

3. Friends from Japan brought colored squares
With busy hands they did prepare
Around the world our cranes we laid
On trouble spots for peace we prayed.
From ev'ry nation, etc,

4. We went to Seoul on Sunday morning
To share in worship with new friends
The silence gives us time for healing
Space to trust what's deep within.
From ev'ry nation, etc,

5. We went to Seoul to eat some pizza
No rice or kimchi for our lunch
Home from Seoul back up the mountain
Kwanglin's home with this great bunch.
From ev'ry nation etc

6. We came to Seoul to meet our neighbours,
We came to Seoul to find new friends,
We go from Seoul with a new vision,
We go from Seoul goodwill to spread.
From ev'ry nation

examine the financial scenario of our own Section. The projected 6 year budget from 2002-2007, approved at the Bhopal Gathering in November, sees the accumulated funds or reserves reducing from NZ $52,462 in 2001 to NZ $9972 in 2007. Thanks to the economy exercised by our Secretaries or Treasurers, the actual figures have emerged better than the projection. However, clearly we all need to devote greater attention to ensuring the financial health of our Section.

The tightened conditions for opening bank accounts made it impossible for us as an unregistered body to open accounts in the name of the Section in India and Hong Kong. This led to a lengthy and interactive examination of our Section constitution and raises the question of whether we should register the Section with the consequences that would follow in complying with national laws.

Problems continue for those of us from developing countries, particularly younger Friends, in obtaining visas to enter countries with developed economies. After the sad Auckland Triennial experience in this regard, only a small percentage of representatives from AWPS and Africa Sections were able to obtain visas to enter the UK for the World Gathering of Young Friends.

However, there is also much to be thankful for. The Newsletter keeps us in touch with happenings and thinking in the Section. The new Section website, the expanding FWCC website and email all assist in this endeavor. We are thankful for occasional opportunities for intervisitation and personal contact. Meetings of the Central Executive Committee in the UK have proved to be a broadening experience for your Secretary and Clerk. The Clerk is also a member of the International Planning Committee for the Dublin Triennial in August 2007, for which much preliminary work has been done. We are thankful for all the support and information that we receive form the FWCC world office.

The recent reorganization of the QUNO New York committee to include a member from each of the other Sections, gives us an opportunity to be in closer touch with QUNO New York and to share our perceptions and concerns in the same way as we do with QUNO Geneva.
We give thanks for the outreach as well as involvement In projects of individual members, Yearly Meetings and groups. As a passage in 'this we can say' puts it "To live in the Spirit is to act in the belief that love is stronger than death; in the belief that if we act in goodwill toward another we overcome our fear of them and their fear of us. And in such action is the proclamation of peace"
Dilawar Chetsingh, Clerk

We thank Seoul MM Friends for their great co-operation in issuing invitation letters for visa applications.
In relation to the Triennial in Ireland, some people will require an Irish visa, and some people a UK visa in addition

Minute 18: Matters arising from the Minutes of the business meeting held at Auckland, Jan 2004.

Minute 1: Gael Howell has been appointed by FWCC to the International Nominating committee, until the 2007 Triennial.
Minute 16: Devdas Shrisunder did not wish to receive any honorarium as Executive Secretary. Hence, none was paid.
Minute 19: David Bottomley's name as Treasurer was brought forward by the Secretary and was approved by the Section committee before being reported to this Gathering.
Minute 27: The computer supplied to Davdas Shrisunder has been left with him for the time being, for use in his work as President of Friends Rural Centre, Vice President Friends Schools Governing Body and Chairman of the organizing committee of the next All India Friends Gathering. It will also be available for use at the 2008 Section Gathering.

Minute 19 Future AWPS Gathering:
The Governing Board of Friends Girls Higher Secondary Schools in Sohagpur Madhya Pradesh, central India have offered the venue for the Section Gathering in the first week of November 2008, when the school is on holiday. We received a report from the Chairman of the Governing Board, Arvind Swan. Travel to Sohagpur is by rail from Delhi to Bhopal, and 100kms by road. Domestic flights come from Delhi to Bhopal.

Minute 20 QUNO:
We have heard reports from our QUNO representatives to the Geneva and reconstituted New York committees. The Section Committee recommends to the Gathering that the service of Topsy Evans as QUNO Geneva Committee representative, be extended from 1/1/2006 to

31/12/08. We accept this decision.

Minute 21: Appointments
We re-appoint Kenneth Co to be Executive Secretary to serve until 31 December 2008.
We appoint Valerie Joy to be Associate Secretary to serve until 31 December 2008.
In view of the Section bank account being held in Australia, and as recommended by the Executive Secretary, we appoint Topsy Evans as Treasurer until 31 December 2008.
The Executive Secretary may bring before the Section committee the name of an Associate Treasurer, whose term will be co-terminus with his term.

Minute 22 : Nominations Committee
The Gathering decided to appoint a Nominations Committee. The following Friends, Maxine Cooper (AYM), Clare Gregory (A/NZ), Christopher Lall (Mid India), Yukiko Backes (JYM) and a Seoul MM Friend (to be appointed), were accepted by the Gathering. When the Nominations Committee is re-constituted, we ask that continuity be kept in mind, by possibly re-appointing some of the members.

Minute 23: Section Committee
We ask the Nominations Committee to make three appointments from amongst the current FWCC representatives, to serve on the Section Committee until the November 2008 Section Gathering.

Minute 24: Co-options
We co-opt the following Friends as additional Section representatives to FWCC (refer Minute 20, January 2004):
Topsy Evans AYM up to the end of her service as AYM Treasurer.
In addition, Topsy Evans is co-opted for the term of her service on the QUNO Geneva committee, up to 31.12 2008.
Linley Gregory Aotearoa/NZ YM for the term of her service on the QUNO NY Committee.

Minute 25 Human Rights:
The following draft minute was put before the Gathering. “The excuse of national security issues has been used to introduce legislation to reduce or remove legal rights.
In many countries, national legislation in the name of the “War on Terror” has radically reduced legal rights and protections.
We call on Meetings in the Section to speak out against any reduction of legal, civil and human rights whenever and wherever these may occur”

We agree to this minute. The minute shall be circulated to YMs and other meetings of the Section. We encourage their further action. The Section committee will forward this matter to FWCC, for bringing before the Triennial in 2007.

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Clerk’s Report

The theme of our last Section Gathering in Bhopal was ' Peace'. At Seoul we will be looking at a similar theme in a different way - building peace and living our Quaker testimony in an environment of conflict, whether in our countries, communities or personal lives. The three years since we met have seen a number of non - peaceful situations - in Nepal, Iraq, Indonesia, the treatment of women in many countries, economic exploitation, to mention just a few. We are challenged to do what we can and to continue to see that of God in every person.

The Auckland Triennial threw up great concern and discussion about the financial stability of FWCC and how to face the future. This has caused us to