



**We were born to make manifest
The glory of God that is within us.
It's not just in some of us;
It's in everyone.**

**And as we let our own light shine,
We unconsciously give other people
Permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our own fear,
Our presence automatically liberates others.**

Marianne Williamson

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This newsletter is posted on this website. You may wish to print off additional copies for Friends. If you are willing to receive your AWPS Newsletter on line please advise Kenneth Co, kennethco@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER NO 69, March/April, 2006

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Editorial

As this Newsletter goes to press, South Korea very well may have its first Lady Prime Minister. Of itself, a rather amazing news, because only decades ago, Korean women still had to fall behind ten paces when they went out with their husbands to show deference! But what's more is the fact that this lady:--Han Myeong-sook ° is no other than wife of our dear Joon Park!

Following this impressive news, there are also great news items in this issue, ranging from our financial health report, fund raising effort that is being launched, news about the inter-visitation efforts of our clerk Dilawar, as well as other important news about our section and about the Quaker world at large.

With the closing of section gathering in Seoul ending last year, things have begun to slacken a bit.

Whatever the cause, we need to stay the course; we need to take up

our crosses and feel the calling! This is what are called to do.

◦

May the joy of Quaker way of life be manifested in your daily living!

◦

Finally I would like to share this prayer with you all:

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FRIDAY PRAYER

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Let us pray

◦

O God, our source of unconditional love

Our source of breath and life

Our source of understanding what we cannot understand

◦

Please send your Holy Spirit to work among us today

To open our hearts and minds

So that our words and actions may be witness

To the love you give us so freely

Let us remember that we are reflections of the love you give us

◦

Please help us to be mindful that our differences

Are nothing in your eyes and that we are here today

To do your work on earth.

◦

Help us remember to be grateful

For all you give us,

For giving us each other

For giving us our faith no matter what it looks like

For giving us this day

News From Around the Section and the World

First Korean lady Prime Minister. April 19th, 2006.

It is official that Han Myeong-sook(wife of Park Sung-jun, lovingly called Joon) an Attender of Seoul Monthly Meeting has been elected Prime Minister of The Republic of South Korea. She takes office after the former PM resigned over mis-handling of domestic problem. Han was Minister for the environment as well as Minister in charge of Gender Equality under former Presidents.

Besides her charming appearance and I am sure her personality, I was impressed by her simple replies when she was grilled by her interrogators about influence peddling when her son was transferred from army mine sweeping unit to be a Clerical job for the Secretary of the Army.

The Parks spent couple of years at Pendle Hill, Quaker study center in Philadelphia, where Joon, joined by his wife and son, was Friend in Residence In offering congratulations to Joon, on behalf of the section, I wrote:--

Dear Joon,

We have been watching with great interest the process of your Hon wife's getting chosen to be the next Prime Minister and the only Lady Prime Minister in the entire Korean history. While we are all proud of her achievement, we also understand the tremendous responsibility rested upon her shoulders and by the same token on yours, since man and wife is one body.

We know that your family will be very busy and that great will be the expectations on her performance.

May we ask that the Light of Christ be present in your lives and that you will be indefatigable in working towards a peaceful Korea. Your visions for Korean unification can be taken one step forward.

May God richly bless you and your whole family during these historic times!

In loving Friendship,

o

In January of 2007, Joon will join the Australian Year Meeting in Hobart as their invited guest from FWCC.

◦
22ND FWCC TRIANNIAL.

The 22nd Triennial to be held in Dublin Ireland will be held from 11th to 19th August, 2007.

The theme is: Finding the Prophetic Voice for Our Time, with the text from 1 Corinthians, Chapt 14 v. 1):--"It is love, then, that you should strive for, Set your hearts on spiritual gifts, especially the gift of proclaiming ° God's message."

Invitation for observers have been sent to Yearly Meetings. We urge you to put in your application early, since positions are limited and it usually is run on first come first served principle.

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Quakers Worldwide Conference.

A conference called Quakers Worldwide has been planned by BYM; to be held in September 8 th to 10th, 2006. Organised by the Quaker World Relations Committee of Britain Yearly Meeting, the conference 's objective is to give a flavour of different Quaker witnesses throughout the world. Opportunities to worship in programmed way conducted be Friends from Kenya and workshops of various kinds will be held. The speakers will include John Punshon, Nancy Irving, Anna Seifert, Kenneth Co and others.

◦
Ferguson Quaker Fellowship

The Fellowship attainable at Woodbrooke, is offered to an applicant. The aim of the fellowship is to enrich Quaker understanding of spiritual aspects of global, social, moral or political issues and to spread Quaker insights more widely.

Deadline for application is 19th May, 2006.

◦
Vacancies at QUNO Geneva and New York.

See articles in this Newsletter elsewhere. May we add that Geneva QUNO is also looking for an Assistant in the office. Interested Friends should look up the web page of QUNO Geneva for more information.

Young Friends article

Australian Young Friends met both before and during Australia Yearly Meeting held in Brisbane in January this year. ° Australian Young Friends are involved in many of the activities of the YM, including issues around child protection, sexual abuse and misconduct and the fun and singing throughout the week. ° This year, many of us are particularly excited about International Quakerism. ° With six Australians at the WGYF in Lancaster, one at the WGYF in Kenya, and one YF at the section gathering in Korea, we are feeling excited about strengthening connections within the region.

One of the ideas that came out of all this international Quakerism is to have an AWPS YF gathering. ° We hope this will happen at the same time as the next section gathering, in Buphal 2008. ° At this stage, we are looking to make contact with each YM in the section, so would love to hear from at least one Young Friend in each YM. °° We would like input from all YFs in the section and in the next few months will be making contact with YFs throughout the AWPS.

IF you are interested in being involved in organising, or willing to be an initial contact person for your YM, please contact:

Emily Chapman-Searle, em8smem@yahoo.com

Or Hannah Chapman-Searle hanspan333@yahoo.com.au

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The first Korean Female Prime Minister Han Myung Sook (1944-) Inspired by the pacifism and simplicity of Quakerism

On April 19 2006, the Korea National Assembly approved the nomination of Han Myung-sook as the country's first female Prime Minister. Han, a 62-year old MP of the ruling Uri Party, gained 182 votes out of a total of 264 votes cast. Han served as Minister of the Environment from 2003 to 2004 under the current President Roh Moo-hyun's administration. She also served as the first Minister of Gender Equality from 2001 to

2003 under the then President Kim Dae-jung.

Han has been elected to the National Assembly as MP twice, in 2000 by proportional representation and again in 2004 by election in my constituency. I met her at a local tube station while she was campaigning and of course voted for her. Before joining politics, she devoted herself to pro-democracy and feminist movements.

In the 1960's Han studied French Literature at University, and during that period she met her future husband Mr Joon S. Park (1941-) who was to awaken her social awareness and became her mentor. At that time Korea was ruled by military dictatorship, and Park, also a university student was a Marxist and activist for democracy. After falling in love they married in 1967, but after six months of marriage Park was arrested for his involvement in the democratization movement. Park spent the next 13 years in prison where he was severely tortured by the Korean CIA. While in prison Park became a Christian

While deprived of her husband by the military dictatorship, Han was a social activist in the Korean Christian Academy and also completed a Master's course in Theology. However, she too was jailed for two and a half years, from 1979 to 1981, for her role in the Academy as a promotor of democracy in Korean society. Han was brutally tortured in prison and today her body still bears the scars and side effects of torture.

Husband and wife were both released from prison in late 1981 and they started a belated 'new honeymoon.' Han devoted herself to the promotion of women's rights in Korea. She served as the president of Womenlink Korea, a feminist civilian organization, for many years. Having recognized her contribution to the democratic development of Korean society, in 1998 the first Korean Nobel Peace Prize laureate President Kim Dae Jung awarded her the National Medal of Honor.

From 1997 Han and Park studied as visiting scholars at the New York Union Theological

Seminary and at that time they discovered Pendle Hill Quaker Study Center. From August 1998 they became resident students of Pendle Hill, Han for one year, while Park stayed for three years. At Pendle Hill, they liked silent meeting for worship every morning. While studying Quakerism, Han particularly appreciated the elements of pacifism, plain life and simplicity. In 2000 Park became a member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, and on his return to Seoul he transferred his membership to Seoul Monthly Meeting.

Han herself is not a member of Seoul Monthly Meeting but an attender. She likes Quakerism more than any other religious thinking, respects Quakers and is very happy that her husband has Quaker membership. She has said that when she retires from politics she will also apply for membership of the Society of Friends. However, ironically it would not be possible for her to do her current work in Korea as a Quaker. There are three kinds of Christians in Korea: fundamental Christians, more fundamental Christians and most fundamental Christians. Quakers are not yet officially recognized in Korea as a religious sect and some Christians still consider Quakers to be heretics, as in 17th century England. When I was in England British Quakers would sometimes ask me "How many Quakers are there in Korea?" When I said "ten!" they would ask "you mean ten thousand?" But my answer was always same, "No just ten, and so ten percent of Korean Quakers are now in England, me!"

Park returned to Korea in July 2000, and after ten years study in England I myself also returned to Korea at about that time, a member of Hardshaw East Monthly Meeting. Despite our age gap, Park and I became very close F/friends, and one weekend I stayed overnight at Park's house and another weekend vice versa. When I stayed at Park's house I met Han for the first time. Although she was an MP and very busy, she welcomed me kindly and cooked a very nice evening meal.

When my English wife and our children came to Korea in 2001, Han and Park visited our humble house to welcome my family from England, and we had a very nice time together.

In 2002, as Minister of Gender Equality, Han helped my wife with some practical queries about settling down in Korean society.

Han, despite her unbearable suffering in the past, has always kept optimism, a nice smile and serene beauty. I admire Han's indomitable spirit and strong affection for things around her. She was born in Pyongyang, the current capital of North Korea. This is very symbolic for a peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula in the future. I hope that Han may be the first female president of a peaceful and unified Korea. Ham Sok Hon, a Korean Quaker who was a famous activist for democracy in Korea, said, "Peace is a peremptory command from God and history. Take the way of peace or the way of destruction of all humanity, We have to take the way of peace."

Kim Sungsoo is author of Biography of a Korean Quaker Ham Sok Hon and, although he now works and lives in Korea, he still maintains membership of Hardshaw East Monthly Meeting of British Yearly Meeting, due to his special affection for and memory of the late Ingle Wright of that meeting and England.

Fund raising for the Section's Plans

One of the decisions of the AWPS Gathering in Seoul (in Minute 12) was to form a Section Fundraising Committee and ask each YM and MM to nominate someone to join it. The Treasurer, Topsy Evans, has agreed to be an ex officio member of the committee.

Several names have already come forward and we hope to start discussing soon how we can do this important task. The section's financial position needs to be stronger so that our essential activities and plans can be assured.

We need a stable financial base to cover expenses relating to the role of the Executive Secretary, the newsletter, the website, gatherings, youth activities, participation in Triennials, informative publications, and translations of important Quaker materials. The committee will work mainly by email. As a first step, I hope we will look at the major fund-raising campaign being undertaken by the Section of the Americas.

We have received some very helpful comments from that Section's Executive Secretary, Margaret Fraser, and these will help us learn from their experience. We can also start sharing ideas about the particular needs and characteristics of our region. If you are interested in being involved, please let your YM or MM Clerk know. Also I am sure the Committee will be very pleased to receive ideas and comments from anyone who has experience of seeking donations for the very worthwhile work of non-government organisations.

You can contact me by email < baymor@cyberone.com.au > or by writing to POBox 6213, O'Connor, ACT, Australia 2602.
Helen Bayes

**Evangelical Friends from Burundi arriving in Brisbane
On March 21st, 2006 Michael Corbett wrote:--**

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About three weeks ago, one family of eleven African refugees from Burundi arrived at Brisbane Meeting House. Such an arrival did not go unnoticed. The father is a Pastor with Evangelical Friends, fled Burundi due to ethnic cleansing. He lived in refugee camps in Tanzania for some time, then were granted visas to settle in Brisbane.

Friends rallied to assist them as all they had were the clothes they could carry, and it was through this connection that led us to another family of eight; all in the Brisbane area, some of whom may be Friends. I know that there is another family in Adelaide and another in Perth.

One of our Friends was talking to a government worker, who said that they could trace refugees by religion, but could not find them under Quakers, hence my writing to Nancy Irving, the General Secretary of FWCC, asking what they call themselves and Nancy emailed the world!

So we have a strong possibility of having an Evangelical Friends Church in Brisbane. We/they can cope with one family in an Un-programmed Meeting, but over 30 would not be easy. Whether they would affiliate themselves with us is way into the future.

Changes at the Quaker United Nations Office New York: Director and Representative Recruitment

Dear Friends,

The past year has seen great change at the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) New York. A new QUNO committee has been established with members coming from both the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends World Committee for Consultation. This move represents a strong desire to better include the diverse perspectives of Friends from around the world. The committee has already met twice and begun to work with staff in identifying program priorities for QUNO New York.

In addition to the establishment of the new committee, QUNO has undergone some significant personnel changes. Jack Patterson and his wife, Lori Heninger, served as Quaker Representatives to the UN from autumn of 1998 onwards. Lori left in July 2004 to join the staff of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children as Sr. Program Coordinator. Since 1998, Jack has worked on a range of QUNO program areas including work to prevent armed conflict within the UN system. These efforts culminated in the Global Conference of From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Violent Conflict and Build Peace held in July 2005.

Following the great success of the July conference, Jack was asked to take on a special one-year project for the American Friends Service

Committee to explore Quaker responses to the use of force in humanitarian intervention. This project builds on Jack's work within the UN system and offers an important opportunity to hear from Friends on this challenging issue. For the coming year, Jack will be working from his home in New Jersey and will be making numerous visits to consult with and gather input from Friends.

With Jack's departure, the American Friends Service Committee is recruiting for the position of Director and Representative, Quaker United Nations Office. QUNO reflects the historic concern of Friends for developing and strengthening international institutions of peace. The American Friends Service Committee, which administers QUNO on behalf of Friends World Committee for Consultation, is seeking an individual to represent the Friends World Committee for Consultation and the American Friends Service Committee at the UN. The Director will be a member of the Religious Society of Friends and will oversee and direct all aspects of QUNO and Quaker House. As the official representative, the Director will be responsible for promoting and communicating Quaker perspectives and values regarding matters before the UN. Interested candidates should consult www.afsc.org/jobs for more information on the position and application deadline

In Peace,

Sarah Clarke
Acting Director

Indonesian visit up-date

Dear Friends,

I forgot to write to you after my previous visit to Indonesia in Feb. My main purpose was to convene a small group to develop a methodology for the evaluation of the Indonesian Police's involvement in the Masters Course in Conflict Resolution at Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta. I also visited Jakarta and on the Sunday. Spent time at Abi's church and afterwards had lunch with him and colleagues including Tomona.

I was asked to speak during the service. During lunch Tomona told me that the General Board had set up a Social Department, and we discussed some funding options.

Tomona said that next time I visit he would like to get me to speak to the current ministry students (about 15?).

I took with me about 30 pamphlets produced by NZA Friends Introducing Quakers in NZ, plus some other material.

I felt that there was a warm reception for me, and that they would welcome the opportunity to meet with any visiting Quakers from outside Indonesia who were passing through. My pitch was that there are different streams within the wider Quakers family but that it is important to talk and meet and explore the similarities.

In Yogya Arifah gave me some copies of

NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE - PEOPLES STORIES FROM INDONESIAN CONFLICTS

This has been produced with the assistance of Helen Clarke (SEAQIAR) and is worth reading.

Email to Arifah and Widi and ask for copies to be sent to you.

Arifah Rahmawati: E-mail Address(es):arifah.rahmawati@csp-s-ugm.or.id

Widi (Komang) Widiani: E-mail Address(es):widiani76@yahoo.co.uk

I met Jacqui Chagnon from AFSC in Yogya. Patricia DeBoer from AFSC is planning to meet in April in Auckland on the end of a holiday here, and I have welcomed their contact.

I am planning to be in Indonesia in August.

In peace,
Robert

Section Finances°

The 2004 accounts are limited, in that USD8,000 used to pay the Secretary's honorarium, and to produce the Newsletters etc in Hong Kong was sent directly to the account there from FWCC and so does not appear in this annual Statement. ° The remainder of the Sections' funds held by FWCC was sent to Australia from Aotearoa/New Zealand, after the Triennial in Auckland. ° All very circuitous, but this system avoided some international transfers and their attendant charges. ° The end result was that no income was received here in Australia until we were finally able to open an account to receive the Auckland funds, in September 2004. °° So these accounts do not reflect the work carried out before September 2004.

°
AUD 2546.56 was carried forward at the end of 2004.

°
The 2005 accounts have been divided into two parts - one showing Income and Expenditure for the administrative work of the Section, and the other the conduct of the Gathering in Seoul, South Korea.

°
It is clear that the administrative side of the Section relies heavily on donations, both

from Yearly Meetings and also individual Friends and other groups of Friends such as Monthly Meetings. °° In these accounts, contributions are shown from Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meetings and the General Conference of Friends in India. ° Contributions from Japan and Bhopal Yearly Meetings were made during the Gathering. These will appear in the 2006 accounts.

Another major source of funds comes from interest on some long term deposits - this totalled AUD2,685 in 2005.

The final amounts shown for each part of the 2005 accounts do not reflect the true state of our funds, as considerable payments were made and received after 1.1.06. The surplus from the Gathering will be invested in a term deposit to form a float to fund some necessary renovations at the Sohagpur Girls School in India, preparatory to holding the Gathering there in November 2008.

The payments for the Secretary's reduced honorarium and the production of the March 2006 Newsletter will expend the administration fund almost completely, so we will be relying on donations from Yearly Meetings and Friends in the near future. ° This will be particularly important if we are to pay the Secretary's deferred honorarium (see the Minutes from the Gathering Business Meeting, in which it was agreed to pay this at half the usual rate until we can improve the Sections' finances enough to pay in full, including arrears. ° We will need approximately AUD10,000 for administration for this coming year.

In summary,

- * accounts are presented in a way which separates the administrative side of the Section's accounts from those concerned with the Gatherings

- * we aim to retain reserves in our long term deposits, to increase our income

- * we rely on donations to fund the work of the Section.

Eleanor Evans
Treasurer, AWPS



The first Korean Female Prime Minister Han Myung Sook

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