

From the Seoul Monthly Meeting Webpage:

http://www2.gol.com/users/quakers/korea_quakers.htm

Want to explore your spiritual journey in the company of others? Try a Quaker Meeting for Worship.

Let the guest sojourning here know that in this meeting our life is simple. What we cannot afford we do not offer, but what good cheer we can give...we give gladly.

We make no strife for appearance sake

Know also, Friend, that we live a life of labour, therefore, if at times we separate ourselves from you, do you occupy yourself according to your heart's desire.

We will not defer to you in opinion or ask you to defer to us. What you think, you shall say, if you wish, without giving offense. What we think, we also say, believing that truth has many aspects, and that love is large enough to encompass them all.

So, while you tarry here with us we would have you enjoy the blessing of a home, health, love and freedom, and we pray that you may find the final blessing of life.

Peace

If undelivered please return to
Kenneth Co
FWCCAWPS
2nd floor, 213A Prince Edward Rd
Hong Kong, SAR, China

Editorial

Dear Friends everywhere,

I hope you liked the invitation to Meeting taken from Seoul Monthly Meeting's web page on our front page. If I was finding out about Quakers for the first time, I would be intrigued to go along and find out more.

In our section we have been troubled to learn about the natural disaster of an earthquake near Yogyakarta, and the civil unrest in East Timor and the continuing violence in Nepal and Sri Lanka. Pray for all who are working to remedy these situations and for all of us that generosity and love may rule in our hearts. On p. 4, you can learn of one way to make a contribution to the victims in the area of Yogyakarta through our Friends at CSPS (Center for Security and Peace Studies, Yogyakarta).

Recently, our Section has been represented by Dilawar Chetsingh and Kenneth Co at the Central Executive Meeting at Woodbrooke in May, by Topsy Evans at Geneva QUNO and Linley Gregory at QUNO NY.

The Section Nominations Committee has put forward three names to serve as Committee members until the next Section Gathering in 2008.

We also welcome Julian Stargardt of Hong Kong MM, who has been appointed as Associate Treasurer— working closely with our Treasurer Topsy Evans. People often request information on AWPS contacts, including Meetings throughout our Section. It is now simple to access this through the internet, by going to our website at www.fwccawps.org and click on to Contact List.

Yearly Meetings to be celebrated are Aotearoa/New Zealand in early July and General Conference of Friends in India in September. Please hold Friends in the Light in both of these places.

In Love and Peace, *Valerie Joy*, Associate Sectary, AWPS.

This evening as I write, I hear some loud crashes. Looking out from the balcony, I can just see where a boy is pushing a large square tank (a water tank, maybe) off a roof. They have found a source of good money: 500 shekels from one afternoon's work, we were told. Palestinian Authority funds are still cut off by the US-led international boycott. A quarter of the population depend on these funds. Many families have had no pay since February. People are desperate - any income helps.

Who is putting stumbling blocks in the way of these children, turning some of them from enchanting two-year-olds into tough, street kids a few years later? And are we too part of the problem, living in the midst of them, but not acting effectively to channel all their energy, and initiative in constructive directions? We think of our peacemaking work in terms of the wider conflict - the Israeli Occupation, and violence by settlers and soldiers against the Palestinians. But there is also peacemaking work to be done right here on our doorstep among this exploding population of children. Christina Gibb,

First steps in establishing CPT in Australasia

On 18 and 19 April 2006, meetings took place in Sydney, Australia with a view to establishing CPT in our region. This would eventually mean that trained volunteers, like Christina Gibb would be available to serve in areas of severe violent conflict in our part of the world. However, there is a lot of work to be done in preparation, including fund raising, awareness raising and finding volunteers who are available to serve in existing CPT bases. To look at Christina's website, go to <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/hebron.htm>

The pictures, which are excellent take a little time to appear, so be patient with them. Christina's email is cgibb@ihug.co.nz Watch this space for further updates on CPT Australasia.

Often we are told about soldiers invading people's homes at night. The family is herded into one room while the soldiers either trash the contents of the house, or search for arms, or spend the night on the roof, or make themselves at home inside for several hours. The soldiers have been doing this more often, we have heard, since the Hamas victory in the elections, as they are afraid that even if there were no arms last week, or ever before, there might be now.

There have always been Palestinian street boys who harass us internationals as we come and go from our apartment and up to the market and shops. Everything from calling out for a shekel - or a dollar - , to cries of 'Welcome - f...k you', to blocking our way, grabbing at bottoms, even muggings, taking cameras or cell phones. Recently this seems to have got worse. We realised we needed to take a positive initiative towards them to turn things round.. An opportunity arose last week when there was a Christian Peacemaking Team delegation staying here, and so there were fourteen of us, instead of three. We all went along to the park - the one big open space in the Old City - gathering up a following of children, as we went. Then the CPTers spread out and each started different games with a group of them.

There must have been 70 or more children there, and we - and they - all enjoyed it immensely. There have been noticeably more genuine smiles and friendliness since.

Our street - once the lively chicken market - is cut off just past our door by a barrier fence and concrete wall. It is a dead end where few people other than ourselves and our visitors come now. The rooftops opposite are permanently occupied by the Israeli army, and those houses are empty. For some time, boys have been salvaging copper from ancient abandoned TV sets, which they smash up in the street near our door. Then it started to escalate: they stripped wiring from the outsides of the empty buildings. Next they were on the roofs pulling down aerials and iron pipes.

Two days ago we came home to find them throwing the heavy metal window frames, which they had wrenched out of the empty houses, down into the street. The soldiers on duty on the roof were looking on. The boys told us: 'The soldiers said we can take anything we like'. Our neighbour remonstrated with them, and said she would tell the owner of the house, but one boy asked 'If they want the stuff why don't they come and live here?' The owners, who moved out when the army took over, cannot easily come into the Old City, and don't have access to their houses. Palestinian police cannot operate in this Army controlled area, and Israeli police do not come in here either.

Report to AWPS re Central Executive Committee (CEC) Meeting

The annual CEC meeting took place from 23-25 May at Woodbrooke, UK. Prior to that event, there was a sharing section for the 4 section executive secretaries and the FWCC General Secretary . At the CEC meetings, some very important issues were thrashed out and decisions were made; I will touch on those that have some bearing on our Section.

1. The work of the International Finance Committee has been found most helpful and so it will be made permanent.
2. Under review is the work of another committee- the International Membership Committee. It has been suggested that the IMC become a Monthly Meeting, with power invested in the members of the IMC itself. This proposal will be submitted for rectification during the Triennial.
3. It was recognized that all the sections, plus the World Office are suffering from under-funding. Spearheaded by the Section of The Americas, whose fund raising effort is half way, the W.O. will also look into forming a Fund Raising subcommittee.
4. For increasing the efficiency of communication between Sections, means of facilitating communication was explored including the use of SKYPE, VOIP and blogs.
5. There will be a World Conference in the year 2012. In order to avoid visa problems for representatives, the venues will be in South America and also Africa; details will be worked out and approval sought at the Triennial.
6. In future, the CEC will be meeting at the various section gatherings. FWCC reps will hold meetings once every three years. Upcoming Section Gatherings are AWPS Mid India 2008; Section of The Americas, Seattle 2009; EMES 2011.
7. Calculating numbers of Members: there are many ways of counting members, found in the different sections. Each has to

adapt to their existing situation. At the Section secretaries meeting, it was discussed that the WO should initially request membership information from YMs (except in The Americas). The Sections will provide back-up information. Categories agreed upon are:

- Members
 - People who regularly attend or participate in the Meeting
 - Children under 18 years
8. QUNO: There is an effort underway to seek closer co-ordination between the two QUNOs. Henceforth, all nominations will be handled by the Nominations Committee in consultation with the sections.
9. A new Mission statement for FWCC is being prepared and finalized.
10. A set of criteria that must be met before FWCC takes up fresh work in the future, was agreed upon.

Kenneth Co, Executive Secretary AWPS

ahoy – a hand for Yogya

The earthquake which shook the area near Yogyakarta on 25 May has been responded to by the Center for Security and Peace Studies (CSPS) at Gadjah Mada University with a program named **ahoy**. CSPS has been supported by Aotearoa/NZ Friends for many years, and also to a lesser extent by Australia YM.

The main focus of **ahoy** is to put people at the center of reconstruction, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are genuinely met. **ahoy** will try to minimize the classic problems related to aid provision such as dependency, conflict over utilities, ineffective distribution and bureaucracy.

ahoy assesses local capacities and implements programs such as public kitchens, health provision, economic subsistence, revitalizing schools, trauma healing and physical reconstruction, thus enabling local communities the tools to re-create their own futures.

ahoy will initiate programs in remote villages where no assistance has been provided. They will receive waterproof tents, food, medicine, electricity generators and sanitation facilities. 1\$USD can make a massive difference

Christina Gibb reports

Children under occupation in the Old City in Hebron

A two-year-old boy runs down a slope to greet us. We call 'Marhaba, habibi' - 'Hi, little one' - and he takes my hand, kisses it and touches it to his forehead, then runs back home again. When we visit families we meet many lively, engaging and intelligent children - all the more now it is the long summer holidays.

Every day during school term we are out on the street in Hebron seeing that the children are getting to school safely. They have so much to contend with, which has become normal for them.

We see them threading their way between concrete blocks and army vehicles at intersections. Little kindergarten kids, with their small bright coloured school bags, dwarfed by army personnel carriers, jeeps and humvees. We see them stopped to go through a cabin with a metal detector. The boys emerge with their belts in their hands, as the buckles set the alarm beeping. The girls, supported by their teachers, have often protested and said they will not go through. Once, the soldiers stopped every child and searched their bags there, as well as making them go through the cabin, so that there was a build-up of 70 boys waiting - and finally getting through late for school.

We see their teachers detained to have their IDs checked for half an hour, or even an hour, although the soldiers recognize them, as they go through every day at the same time.

On Shabbat (Saturday) when the Israeli settler children have no school, settler boys and girls are on the 'settler-only' street. The Palestinian children have to cross this street and run the gauntlet of settler stones thrown at them. Up the street on Tel Rumeida, old established Palestinian families live next to settlers, who moved in in the last 25 years. Settlers habitually throw rubbish into their Palestinian neighbours' backyards, cut down, break or poison their grape vines, stop their access to their homes with razor wire, and turn the walk home from school into a daily hazard.

One little girl we met last week was afraid to go home because a soldier had chased her with his gun pointed at her. A boy was beaten up by settlers who wrongly accused him of stealing an air pump. A 7-year-old boy had been in hospital with bad bruising and a broken arm after a beating by settlers. He still has nightmares four months later.

News of Friends cont...

Gerry Guiton, of AYM, is Vice Chairman of a Steering Committee of the World Council of Church's Decade to Overcome Violence Program. Gerry attended a planning meeting in Dec 2005 in Denpasar, Indonesia to plan a week long conference in 2007, possibly in Java. We look forward to more news and possible collaboration with FWCC. Gerry may be contacted at gguiton@hotmail.com

Gerry Guiton has also recently published a book entitled "*The Growth and Development of Quaker Testimony, 1652-1661 and 1960-1994: Conflict, Non-Violence and Conciliation*" Gerry reports he wrote this for Friends and those involved in mediation, facilitation and third-party intervention, and those engaged in community, industrial, school, church and family dispute resolution. More information, go to www.allbookstores.com/author/Gerard_Guiton.html

Arun Massey from Dharwad KA, South India continues to work with needy women training them in tailoring and other skills. Together with Shobba Massey and their team, they continue their work with children, people living with HIV/AIDS and older girls, who are taught craft. If you would like to learn more, email Arun at arunmassey@yahoo.com

Ronis Chapman will lead a small group of Canberra Friends to meet with Seoul Friends this September, to renew and deepen friendships made at the Seoul AWPS Gathering last November.

Kim Sung Soo (Stephen) of Seoul MM has been involved in writing and publishing works to Ham Sok Hon, to celebrate the centenary of his birth. Stephen also works for a Korean agency which aims to redress corruption in all levels of that society.

in the lives of many, as it can cover 3 meals, or two sanitation kits, or two basic medication packs. CSPA has performed and facilitated numerous training, research and interventions in post conflict and post emergency settings, so has the necessary experience in organizing aid programs.

The progress as well as the amount and sources of donations received by this program are reported through http://www.geocities.com/a_hand_for_yogya and are open for public review. International donations should be made to:
Bank: BNI; Office: UGM YOGYA; Account Number: 0102911076;
Account name: ARUIFAH RAHMAWATI; Swift Code: BNINID-JAXXX

As my prayer grew even more devout and inward
I found that I had less and less to say
Finally, I became completely quiet.

I became what is an even greater contrast to speaking,
I became a listener.

I used to think that praying meant speaking.
I learnt, however,
That praying is not merely being quiet,
But it is listening.

This is it: praying does not mean hearing oneself speak,
Praying means becoming quiet and waiting
Until one hears God.

Soren Kierkegaard

Section Finances:

I must apologize that only the explanation of the 2004 and 2005 financial statements appeared in the last Section Newsletter. Copies have been sent to all affiliated groups in the section, so your Treasurer should have them anyway. If not, please ask and I'll send them to you direct.

So far this year we have received donations from several individual friends, and GCFI, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Japan and Australia Yearly Meetings, so our incoming finances are relatively healthy. We have also been promised a contribution from Seoul MM. We hope that we can pay the full Honorarium to our Secretary, which is the aim, before the end of the year. However, this is within reach if we continue to receive donations. If you are sending a donation as an individual, it saves money if you can combine it with another donation, perhaps from your Yearly Meeting, or another Friend, to save bank charges. For instance, to convert a USD cheque and deposit it in our AUD account, costs AUD 15!!!

The Australian Financial Year is not the same as our Financial Year, and it has proved too difficult to obtain permission to make them coincide, so Tax Returns have been submitted for 2004 and 2005. We hope there will be no tax payable for either year. The 2006 Tax Return will be prepared after the beginning of July, and again it is hoped that the Section's secretarial expenses will offset our tax liability.

As I write this (mid-June) we are hopeful of a successful end to the saga involved in opening a Section account in Hong Kong. Julian Stargardt (Associate Treasurer) and Kenneth Co (Secretary) have had a long and frustrating time of it, and when the account is opened, will have done a difficult and worthwhile task for the Section.

Topsy Evans AWPS Treasurer

News of Friends

Aletia Dundas from Australia Yearly Meeting has been appointed as one of three Program Assistants to assist QUNO Geneva staff members. Aletia is waiting to hear from the Swiss authorities if she can be granted a work visa in order to take up the appointment.

Topsy Evans attended the QUNO Geneva Committee in London in mid May as co-clerk. Topsy is also to contribute to a review of the Peace and Disarmament Program of QUNO Geneva.

Ronald Kreager Right Sharing of World Resources and Cincinnati Meeting in the US writes that *Arturo Araya*, also from Cincinnati moved to Schenzhen to join the Shenzhen Symphony. From there *Arturo* will have ease of access to Hong Kong MM.

John Vanhalriata, Superintendent of Friends Churches in Nepal has an email address— efcn@wlink.com.np Friends in Nepal together with all Nepalese folk suffer greatly from the instability in their country. We hope that some Friends from Nepal will join us at the next Section Gathering in Mid India in November 2008.

Stephanie Ramamurthy in London, gathers material for the Newsletter, Quaker South Asia Interest Group, QSAIG— which is an informal grouping in Britain Yearly Meeting. Stephanie's email is stephram@onetel.com. We are glad to share information with QSAIG.

Archana Gour has had a very full year's study at Pendle Hill in the US. The India Friends Working Group of Philadelphia YM is encouraging Archana to travel among US Friends this summer, 2006, including to FGC Gathering, to share her knowledge of India and her experience of working with children in rural areas and with the environment. She does so on behalf of and to advance the work of India Friends Working Group, along with Friend Viv Hawkins.

Comforted by Friends in Seoul, but...

AWPS Gathering in Seoul offered me the first visit to Korea and it had a special meaning for me. I had felt guilty for Japan's colonization on that country for 40 years and brutal treatment on the people in Japan, Korea and other Asian countries. I lived in that situation in my boyhood and had some sense of discrimination on them even as a schoolboy during that time. Some Friends showed hesitation to attend this gathering, being afraid of accusation of it when we saw the theme of this gathering, "Building Peace and Living our Quaker Testimony in an Environment of Conflict".

But I tried to be in the conflict myself in Seoul. However, I was kindly welcomed by everyone and everywhere, as if nothing were between Korea and Japan in the past. I felt I was comforted by Friends there. But one evening when I was talking among Friends, a Korean Friend talked to me in fluent Japanese. He was born in Showa 5th, which meant he was born in 1930. I said I was also born in the same year. Since then conversation continued among us in Japanese. He said they studied at school in Japanese until the end of WWII and were not allowed to speak in their own language, even at home.

After the liberation from Japan in 1945, the US army came in and rushed down nearby to the south end of the country, and then the US army pushed them back to the north. Again the Chinese army pushed down the US army, and at last the 38th Line was settled. Korean people had to live in the battle fields four times in a few years. He told me about it just as a past story, but I felt it unbearably deep in him. I thought it was the same as in the other Seoul Friends who were so kind and generous.

On Sunday afternoon when we visited the DMZ, we saw the coast of North Korea over the river. We heard innumerable mines were scattered inside the barbed wire on both sides, but I found they wanted the unification of North and South so much. It looked like a miracle indeed, But I do hope as a tiny friend of them, they will reach peaceful unification— like the fall of the Berlin wall and shout with full joy some day.

Mamoru Hitomi, Mito MM, Japan YM

International Finance Committee

At the Auckland Triennial it was decided to set up an International Finance Committee to try to make the financial management of the FWCC World Office simpler and more understandable to Friends.

I am a member of this Committee, as is Helen Bayes (Australia YM) who has undertaken the task of looking after fundraising activities in our Section. Of course, since the Committee meets by telephone every few months, and the office bearers are either in UK or US, Helen and I have had some late night telephone calls! It is good having two Friends from this Section on the Committee, because we can both speak on the particular aspects of FWCC work which are important to us in this part of the world, and are sometimes different from those in the other part of FWCC.

The staff of the World Office have made great strides in rationalizing the funds they manage, some of which have restrictions placed upon their use, and some which are easier to use for general activities. Unfortunately there is still not enough money to employ an Associate Secretary for FWCC, but that is one of the aims, because Nancy Irving is facing an enormous task by herself.

Topsy Evans

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 AUD \$20.

Please send this, or its equivalent in your currency to your Treasurer. This office bearer can then make an annual remittance to AWPS Treasurer, Topsy Evans, PO Box 181 Glen Osmond, SA 5064 Australia—*Thanks*

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