



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

ASIA WEST PACIFIC SECTION

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<p>What Binds All Humans Together?</p> <p>The Golden Rule</p>	<p><i>Hinduism</i> 'Never do to others what would pain you' <i>Panchatantra</i> 3.104</p>	<p><i>Buddhism</i> 'Hurt not others with that which hurts yourself.' <i>Udana</i> 5.18</p>	<p><i>Zoroastrianism</i> 'Do not to others what is not well for oneself.' <i>Shayast-na-shayast</i> 13.29</p>
<p><i>Jainism</i> 'One who neglects existence disregards their own existence' <i>Mahavira</i></p>	<p><i>Confucianism</i> 'Do not impose on others what you do not yourself desire.' <i>Analects</i> 12.2</p>	<p><i>Taoism</i> 'Regard your neighbour's loss or gain as your own loss or gain.' <i>Tai Shang</i> <i>Kan Ying Pien</i></p>	<p><i>Baha'I</i> 'Desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself.' <i>Baha'Ullah</i> 66</p>
<p><i>Judaism</i> 'What is hateful to you do not do to your neighbour.' <i>Talmud, Shabbat, 31a</i></p>	<p><i>Christianity</i> 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you'. <i>Matthew</i> 7.12</p>	<p><i>Islam</i> 'Do unto all people as you would they should do to you.' <i>Mishkat-el-Masabih</i></p>	<p><i>Sikhism</i> 'Treat others as you would be treated yourself.' <i>Adi Granth</i></p>

June 2007

Issue No 74

Editorial

Together with many Friends, I am seeking to prepare my heart, mind and spirit for the Dublin Triennial, August 11-19, and meeting with Friends from different viewpoints. *The Golden Rule* on p1 is an ethical stance, which is common to all of humanity. Gandhi said “You must be the change you want to see in the world” We must find the points of agreement, as we “find our prophetic voices” and prepare to go into the next era of FWCC practice and experience. The Section Meetings at Dublin will move AWPS forward: the agenda and some reports are enclosed.

Friends will participate in six working groups, (co-ordinated by Helen Bayes, AYM, Thomas Taylor, Lake Erie YM and Henry Apencha, Nairobi YM) to study six topics: Civil Liberties and Human Rights, HIV/AIDS, Young Friends, Outreach/Growth and Violence. Please hold all Friends at the Triennial in the Light, that ways will be found to further our involvement in all of these areas.

Did you know that FWCC is celebrating its 70th birthday this year? Could you talk in your Meetings about ways of marking this important milestone? Suggestions are QUNO, intervisitation, fund raising, social action or planning for the AWPS Gathering in Bhopal.

We give thanks for the lives of three significant AWPS Friends, Stephen Yang of China, Laurie Baker, India and Akio Watanabe of Japan Yearly Meeting and send sympathy to their families.

Valerie Joy

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Friends high school in Philadelphia, and later at a Quaker college in Ohio! This gives slight comfort to me because there hopefully will be some feeling of affinity between him and myself, because we do share some Quaker background.

Valerie Joy is preparing to leave for the Triennial and will be visiting African Friends on her way. She will then visit Palestine as a volunteer with the Christian Peacemaker Teams on her way home, being accompanied by *Christina Gibb*. She will stop in to India to visit with Dilawar Chetsingh, and to continue work towards the FWCC Asia-West Pacific Section gathering in Bhopal, India next year.

Sieneke Martin advises that the Nonviolent Peaceforce, a dynamic international, non-governmental organization that is building an unarmed civilian peacekeeping force, seeks a Communications Director. The position, based in Brussels, Belgium or New Delhi, India, has responsibility for all communications with special attention to communications with NP member organizations. The full job description can be found on the NVP website www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org.

Sachiko Yamamoto to visit AYM.

Brisbane and Canberra Meetings have invited Sachiko Yamamoto, our AWPS guest speaker for YM08, to visit on her way to Yearly Meeting. Valerie Joy, Brisbane LM, hopes Sachiko will be able to lead the children's meeting in crane Folding. Sachiko will then visit Canberra Friends, before continuing on to Yearly Meeting, 5 –12 January, in Melbourne.

Laurie Baker, who died on 1/4/07 aged 90, was a pioneer of low-cost and eco-friendly architecture. As his biographer Gautam Bhatia writes, although ‘Baker's work appears to emanate from the functional doctrines of the modernist movement, it is largely the outcome of his Quaker past’. In his life and work was manifest this ‘rigorous Quaker upbringing, with its emphasis on simplicity and austerity, its rejection of all ornament and luxury as sinful self-indulgence...’

Baker is best known for the thousands of buildings he built in Kerala, among them houses, anganwadis, churches, and at least one fishing village. He also designed the Centre for Development Studies in Thiruvananthapuram, where owing to the artfulness of Baker's designs, the costs were actually much less than budgeted — allowing the Centre to build a world-class library with the money saved. When Baker first came out to India in 1945, he met Mahatma Gandhi, in a chance encounter which seems to have made a great impact on his architecture, as Gandhi's ideologies were to influence him in all his life.

Updated Travelling Friends Directory:

The second edition for Friends wishing to do intervisitation in Australia, is now available from Topsy & David Evans, PO Box 181, Glen Osmond, SA, Australia5064, sales@quakers.org.au, for \$5.00. It will be on sale at the Triennial.

the running and administration of churches which until as late as 1952 had been largely in the hands of foreign missionaries who rightly or wrongly were seen as instruments of foreign governments.

In latter years the Chengdu Religious Affairs Committee commissioned a book on the history of churches in Sichuan and the author, a member of the Committee, became interested in Friends, interviewed Stephen extensively and was so impressed by Stephen's testimony to faith that he secured permission for Stephen and a few other elderly Friends in Chengdu to hold Meetings for Worship. It should be explained that in China churches and religious gatherings are very strictly regulated.

There are still reputed to be several hundred Chinese Friends whose faith and Meetings survive, I know not how, in North China and there are still a few isolated Friends in West China. Stephen was often described as "The Last Friend in China", while not literally true this is a tribute to Stephen's character and achievements and the esteem and love he is held in around the world by Friends and colleagues.

You can contribute \$s to AWPS Newsletter

If you appreciate receiving the AWPS Newsletter, you may wish to contribute towards the cost of production. Annual cost is AUD \$20. Please send this, or its equivalent in your currency to your Treasurer. This office bearer can then make an annual remittance to AWPS Treasurer, Topsy Evans, PO Box 181 Glen Osmond, SA 5064 Australia. Please also remember AWPS in your will—*Thanks*

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News of Friends: *Tony Noakes* from West Australia RM writes on the experience of studying the Triennial Booklet, "Finding our Prophetic Voice" What is a prophet? One suggestion: "Someone who tells you what you don't want to hear" "Caring for the earth" means more than thoughtfully looking after our own part of it. Injustice, poverty and unequal distribution of wealth are major causes of war and civil strife. They may directly harm the environment, as when rain forests are cut down to make land for poor farmers, or where impoverished Aboriginal communities accept nuclear waste dumps as relief from their poverty.

Kenneth Co: I have been invited to teach (as well as to do administration work) at a private international school in Shanghai. If everything works out well, then I'd have to assume duty in August 2007. I go into China with a sense of excitement and yet with trepidation and sense of being challenged. For even though Shanghai and Hong Kong are Chinese cities and yet under the "one country two systems", Beijing Government policy, there is a world of difference between them. The school that I go into has a big contingent of expatriate teachers the majority of whom are Christians, I was told. Moreover, the Principal of the school has some familiarity with Quakers and the Quaker way of life, having been educated in

Agenda for the AWPS meeting for worship for business during the Dublin Triennial, 11 - 19 August, 2007.

- 1 Remembrance of Friends who have died since November 2005.
- 2 Short reports from FWCC representatives of Yearly Meetings/groups
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes of the November 2005 meeting (Newsletter issue 68, Dec 05 - Jan 06):-
 - Secretary's honorarium (Minute 12)
 - Fundraising committee (Minute 12)
 - Handbook revision (Minute 14)
 - Opening of Account in Hong Kong (Minute 15)
 - Grievance procedure and Right Relationships (Minute 16)
 - Venue of the 2008 Section Gathering (Minute 19)
 - QUNO representatives (Minute 20)
 - Appointment of Associate Treasurer (Minute 21)
 - Appointment of General members of the Section Committee (Minute 23) and cooption of Associate Secretary
 - Human Rights minute (Minute 25)
- 4 Clerk's report
- 5 Secretary and Assoc. Sec's reports
- 6 Treasurer's report
- 7 International Finance Committee members report
- 8 QUNO Committees - members report
- 9 Website report
- 10 Historic Peace Churches conference
- 11 Revised AWPS constitution
- 12 Incorporation/registration of AWPS
- 13 Section Gathering Bhopal, 6 -12 Nov 2008:-
theme, CEC meeting alongside, approval of subsidies, visas
- 14 Young Friends programmes/workcamp
- 15 Appointment of Section Clerk
- 16 Term of Nominating Committee
- 17 Referring of forthcoming vacancies to the Nominating Committee
- 18 Cooptions to FWCC
- 19 Location of Section Gathering 2011

Treasurer's Report for the Section Business Meeting
at the Dublin Triennial, August 2007
for the period 1st January 2006 to 30th June 2007

The period since the last Section Business Meeting at the Seoul Gathering has been an eventful one.

At the time of that Gathering we were not clear that we could pay the Secretary's Honorarium at the prescribed rate. Our Secretary, Kenneth Co, graciously acceded to our request that this should be reduced to half the usual rate until it became possible to pay it in full. Friends rose to the occasion, and additional donations flowed in sufficiently for us to pay the Honorarium in full and to end both 2005 and 2006 financial years with positive bank balances. The audited financial statement for 2006 for the principal account held in Australia, is available and is being circulated to affiliated YMs. At the time of the Seoul Gathering it was impossible to present financial statements for the transactions in Hong Kong.

The financial statement for the account in Australia is reported in two parts – an Administration part and the Gathering Funds. This stops the inevitable distortion of our reporting of the Section's finances by the transactions concerned with holding the Gathering every three years. I hope this makes our financial situation easier to follow. Apart from enabling improved reporting, the establishment of a Gathering Fund makes available funds for expenditure required in advance of the Gathering, and also acts as a supplementary source of funds for the Gathering itself if needed.

Unfortunately it proved to be difficult to open a Section account in Hong Kong, so in 2006 and the first half of 2007 we continued the previous arrangement of using a private account to receive and disburse funds in Hong Kong. Funds were therefore sent from Australia to cover the Honorarium and other secretarial expenses to an account in a Hong Kong bank, held in the joint names of Kenneth Co, Secretary, and Julian Stargardt, the Associate Treasurer.

Do you have specialist knowledge of theology as it is applied to peace issues, including the Quaker Peace Testimony?

OR

Do you have specialist experience of working with justice and peace related issues in the field?

OR

Would you like to lead a discussion or worship group related to the above?

Application forms are with your Yearly Meeting Clerk, or you can request one to be forwarded to you by Kenneth Co:Kenneth@fwccawps.org
Completed applications then go via your Yearly Meeting or group by 20 July, and then are forwarded to Valerie Joy:Valerie@fwccawps.org by 30 August 07.

\$ Financial help is available to Friends \$, to attend this conference.

Obituary:

Stephen Yang died on Wednesday 18 April 2007 in Chengdu, China. Stephen was in his mid 90s. Stephen was a Friend, educated by Friends in Sichuan Province, China. Friends were active as missionaries in West China and helped establish a university, a medical school, primary and secondary schools in the region. These were centred on the region's principal city, Chengdu. Stephen became the first Chinese Dean of West China Union Medical College. Stephen was highly regarded in China and internationally for his research and pioneering work in medical science. In 1949 at the time of the Communist take over of China, Stephen and his family were in the USA where Stephen was a visiting scholar doing medical research. He received a letter from the new government inviting him to return to China to help re-build the country. In the true sense of the word a patriot, Stephen felt the call of duty and returned to China. In China Stephen continued his pioneering medical research work and rose to senior academic and administrative position.

During the Korean War he served as a doctor and pioneered techniques and apparatus to help persons with serious lung injuries and breathing problems. Although Stephen was widely respected and highly regarded for his pioneering medical work and his patriotism, he and his family, like so many others in China suffered cruelly during the Cultural Revolution. During this time of hardship international Friends' continuing interest and support of Stephen and his family helped mitigate and perhaps alleviate some of the worst depredations of those cruel times. With the end of the Cultural revolution Stephen was again able to meet with Friends from abroad and to travel. Stephen supported the amalgamation of churches under the Communists into the nationalised "Three Selves Church"* (Protestant) and the "Patriotic Catholic Association" (Roman Catholic). Although this led to individual churches having to subsume their identity into a homogenised whole, Stephen felt that it was right and proper that China should take over

worship twice a month in unprogrammed worship, with more than 10 Friends in attendance.

BongSoo Kwag, FWCC Representative

**‘Peace in Our Land’ Conference, Solo City (Java, Indonesia),
1-8th December, 2007**

The Anabaptist Churches, the Church of the Brethren and the Religious Society of Friends, known as the Historic Peace Churches (HPCs), are jointly sponsoring a conference—*Peace in Our Land: Historic Peace Churches in the Asian Context of Religious Pluralism, Poverty and Injustice*.

The conference falls under the World Council of Churches (WCC)’s program, the *Decade to Overcome Violence 2001-2010—Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace*. The WCC has requested from the HPCs a theological rationale to their addressing destructive conflict, violence and injustice. After two previous conferences in Europe and Africa, it is now the time for Asians to share their stories and experience.

We will meet at a critical time for our region listening to our calling to be ambassadors of reconciliation as we encounter a regional arms race, possible flash points, a misuse of religion—as well as ethnic and religious plurality—by political and religious leaders, human rights violations against women and minorities, economic and structural violence, corruption, vast swathes of poverty and disease as well as environmental destruction contributing to worrying changes in the global and regional climate.

We will listen to stories from the perspective of the victims of oppression and injustice. We will experience our different forms of worship, share our theologies and differing analyses of situations and events, as well as experiences and challenges in the field through workshops or ‘share and tell’ sessions. We will formulate an Epistle. Publications will eventually be prepared. There will be excursions to cultural sites.

100 persons will attend with 20 spaces allocated to Friends from FWCC-AWPS on a 6:4:10 ratio for Australia YM, YM of Aotearoa and the FWCC-AWPS respectively. We aim for gender balance. For further information see <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/dov/it3-e.html#dov> and <http://www.peacetheology.org>

Do you have a story to tell about your individual peace involvements or those of your Meeting, Church or religious tradition in general?

OR

In May 2007 Julian Stargardt informed us that according to Hong Kong law, the fact that the Secretary draws a regular and continuing Honorarium makes him an employee of the Section for legal purposes. This means that AWPS is liable to assume the financial and legal responsibilities of an employer in terms of paying insurance etc. It also requires AWPS to register urgently as an entity in Hong Kong. Once this is done a bank account can be opened in the name of the Section. To maintain a connection between the main and the Hong Kong accounts, Julian has been asked to register the Section as a branch of AWPS’s legal presence in Australia and to make the obligatory payments flowing from Kenneth being an employee in legal terms. The exact nature of this registration is still being worked out (end May 2007). There will be an update on this at the Business Meeting in Dublin.

The Section is very dependent on donations from YMs, MMs and individual Friends. About 30% of our income is derived from interest on some Term Deposits, but the rest must be raised from our membership.

The Committee has approved new wording in the Handbook to enable us carry out our work in the more restrictive financial climate in the world today. This can be seen on the website and copies will be available for distribution at the Section Business Meeting in Dublin.

There are several long term aims for work in the Section which must wait until we have sufficient income to fund them. Among these are the development of an interactive website to improve communication across the Section; the translation of Quaker documents into some of our major languages, and their placement on the website; and the establishment of a Travel Fund to promote intervisitation, to name only a few. Effective fundraising will be essential if we are to achieve any of these goals. An application for the funding needed to establish the website has been submitted but at the time of writing, no response has been received. Helen Bayes is looking at other ways to boost our fundraising, and a new part has been inserted

in the Handbook suggesting how Friends can leave money to the Section in their Will.

Our financial difficulties in 2005/6, together with the probable continuing expenses added as a result of the legal change in Hong Kong, have made me search for a way forward to minimise similar problems in future. I suggest that the Section appoint a small group of Friends to re-examine the system by which we recompense the Secretary for his or her work for the Section. Part of their brief would be to examine the legal and financial issues involved in the various countries in which we may appoint a Secretary, as well as our ability to pay the amounts involved.

Recommendations

1 That the Business Meeting approves the new form of financial reporting and accepts the financial statements for 2005 and 2006.

2 That the Section approves the emergency action taken to legitimise our activities in Hong Kong.

3 That Friends consider ways to increase our income to enable us to achieve some of the work we are called to do in the Section.

4 That the Section set up a small group of Friends commissioned to investigate the legal and financial implications of operating in the various countries in the Section

Topsy Evans
AWPS Treasurer

The Work of QUNO

The following is a short excerpt from an address by David Atwood. The full address is available from tevans@c130.aone.net.au

'Friends' long commitment to the development of international institutions of peace has meant the continuous backing for a Quaker presence in Geneva and New York nearly since the

basic principles of Quakerism. We have indicated our willingness to hold the first programme at Chhatapur.

Nowgong Friends face acute problems because of encroachments on the land of old graveyards. BMMS is trying to solve these problems. There is a lot of unemployment in our region. Some of our young boys and girls would like to join medical and para-medical courses. We have recently been informed about the Rachel Metcalf Trust which grants scholarships to Quakers and others for nursing and similar courses, and will ascertain whether this can come to the help of some of our youth.

Jai Raj Brown, FWCC representative

MID INDIA YEARLY MEETING (MIYM)

Greetings and good wishes for the 22nd Triennial in Dublin from Mid India Friends.

2008 will be a glorious year for MIYM, as it is going to complete 100 years of its spiritual journey. The overseas missionaries and Indian Friends who witnessed and implemented numerous plans and projects together will be remembered. The valuable contribution they made will tell the story of the Religious Society of Friends in that part of central India. Missionaries such as Rachel Metcalf came in the pre-independence era with a vision and firm determination to serve Indian Friends and others like good neighbours. They were active in many fields - education, medical, agriculture, technical education, religious and social work. It will be the occasion for Indian Friends to meditate and share the achievements and failures of the last 100 years, to ponder over the paths we are now traversing, and to look forward with inspiration and confidence.

Christopher B. Lall, FWCC representative

Report from Seoul MM

A new Clerk, Boon Yi Kwak has been appointed; the new recording clerk is Heung Leul Kim; Treasurer is Ye Ri Choi. A Peace and Social Service committee comprises Hang Woo Lee, BongSoo Kwag, Boon Yi Kwak and Chul Kun Oh.

The Meeting has provided financial support to a land mines victim, living close to the border of the DMZ. He was blinded, whilst cutting trees in the mountains near the DMZ.

A Study Group at Seoul Meeting house, led by Heung Leul Kim reads books related to Quakerism, followed by discussion and reflection. An AVP workshop was held in conjunction with other NGOs in Seoul over 3 days, with 35 people in attendance. 3 Friends from Seoul MM and 5 from Doe Jon Preparative Meeting took part.

One or two Seoul Friends visit Doe Jon meeting once a month regularly to support this new group, which is 2 hours away by car. The two meetings joined together in a summer retreat. Doe Jon Friends

Our younger Friends are our hope for the future. Archana Gour had the broadening experience of a year at Pendle Hill and exposure to American Quakers. Anuj Hamilton attended the 2006 QUNO Summer School at Geneva and returned enthusiastic about the windows it has opened. We look forward to a week's programme for Young Friends of all the YMs hoped to be held at Chhatarpur during the summer vacation.

We are glad to interact with a number of foreign Friends who pass through Madhya Pradesh and Delhi, and with Friends in India. In 2006 Dilawar Chetsingh was invited to attend Australia YM and visit Regional meetings. Mallika Aiyub continues as Secretary Friends Rural Centre, in the running of which all the YMs in India are involved. *Praveen Jadhav*, FWCC representative

Report from Japan YM

1. Seven Friends from Seoul Gathering attended the whole sessions of Japan Yearly Meeting on 12-13 November 2005 held at Mito Monthly Meeting. Nancy Irving (FWCC Secretary), Valerie Joy, Helen Bayes, Michael Corbett, Ross & Maxine Cooper (Australia YM), and Barbara Mountier (Aotearoa/NZ YM) calmly joined us through personal or group interpretation. Their presence gave us a chance to learn about the spirit and process of business sessions.
2. As part of the preparation for the Triennial, the study booklet was translated and has been used in each Monthly Meeting and Yearly Meeting Retreats.
3. We tried to start Fund Raising Campaign within Japan YM as it is such a tiny group in Japan. We appealed of it at the yearly meeting in November 2006 to collect donation in each meeting in May 2007 and take it to the Triennial in August.
4. May I also inform you that the date of Japan Yearly Meeting has been changed to Nov. 17 - 18 for this year with the location being in Shimotsuma, one and half hour train ride from Tokyo.
5. Akio Watanabe passed away on 28th May, 2007. He greatly served for the 17th Triennial Meeting, Tokyo, in 1988.

Mamoru Hitomi and Naomi Kamimura

BUNDELKHAND YEARLY MEETING(BMMS)

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. BMMS dates back about 110 years to work started in the Chhatarpur region of Madhya Pradesh by EFC,ER, Ohio. Two schools are being run in Chhatarpur and Nowgong, under the management of the respective Monthly Meetings.

We are keen to have training programmes and work camps, along with other YMs, for our youth, with the aim of imparting to them the

UN's inception through the Quaker United Nations Offices. In the 60 years of this work, these too have had to adapt in response to the needs and changes taking place in the world. Otherwise, QUNO's work would have become irrelevant long ago.

As Friends, we always have high hopes and high expectations. We are a passionate and impatient people. We want change for the better, and we want it sooner rather than later. We reject lovingly those factors which are preventing peaceful relations among people and prolong injustice. We expect a great deal and always have of this precious United Nations system, and rightfully so. But we are also small in number. The "presence" which we can have must necessarily be modest up against not only the mega-problems that we can see, but also up against the powerful institutions that make up the problem but also must be part of the solution. Choices have to be made. Limited resources and capacities have to be focused. Allies have to be found and nurtured. This has always been true in QUNO work. But it is especially true today when, as a result of globalization and the reality of hundreds of purpose-driven civil society organizations, we are only one of many. How can we still "pursue peace through the UN" in such circumstances?

In a very real sense, all of our programme work is "peace" related from the broad perspective that the current situation demands—whether it is our economics work seeking a fairer deal for developing countries in trade negotiations, or our human rights work seeking the strengthening and implementation of broad human rights principles or focusing on particularly neglected areas, such as women in prison, or our disarmament work, seen throughout the history of QUNO as fundamental to establishing durable peace. This broad approach to peace has enabled us to work on a range of fronts simultaneously—and, we hope, with mutually reinforcing effect.

But within these broad areas we must specialize. We cannot do everything. I would like to end with two short quotes from two

Quakers who have been very important in the “outward” work of Friends, particularly in Quaker international peace work.

The first comes from Sydney Bailey, who not only worked for a time at QUNO-NY but was actively engaged in many other dimensions of Quaker international work, including conflict mediation work. In his ever relevant Swarthmore Lecture of 1993 entitled “Peace is a Process,” he made the following reflection which I believe is terribly relevant to understanding Quaker work in pursuing peace at the United Nations:

“Friends often ask for an enhancement of the moral element in international decision-making, and they are quite right to do so. At the same time, we should recognize that for the harassed foreign minister or ambassador, the distinction between the pragmatic and the ethical is often blurred. The most effective Quakers in international affairs are not those who think of ministers and diplomats as knaves or fools, but those who enter with sympathy into the painful dilemmas and difficult choices which national decision-makers confront. Sometimes this becomes almost a pastoral role.”

The second is a reflection put in the form of a query, aimed at reminding all of us who are so busy seeking to change the world that this requires more than just action. Stephen Cary, who had a life-time of engagement in work for Friends, particularly with the American Friends Service Committee asks:

“In all our fervor—in all my fervor—to be doing, have I paid too little attention to the power that lies in being? Do we remember that it is the spirit of our service, the aura that surrounds it, the gentleness and the patience that marks it, the love made visible that compels it, that is the truly distinctive quality that lifts Quaker service above lobbying, above pressure, above coercion, that inspires the doubtful, and reaches to the heart of the adversary?”¹ Sydney D. Bailey, *Peace is a Process*, Swarthmore Lecture 1993, Quaker Home Service and Woodbrooke College, 1993, p. 110.¹ Stephen G. Cary, *The Intrepid Quaker: One Man’s Quest for Peace*, Pendle Hill Publications, 2003, 265-6.

Quaker United Nations Committee New York meeting 22 – 25 March 2007.

The main consideration during the committee meeting is to set the priorities for the staff in the office to follow.

There are several areas of work. The new area is the recently established Peace Building Commission. (Established at the UN summit meeting September 2005, to coordinate peace building activities in post-conflict situations.) As this body is still in its formative stage, the aim is for QUNO to explore how to support the structure of this body and also to help where possible re one of the two countries where it is planning to work.

As Burundi is one of the countries, Friends will be able to speak from the experiences of the work that Burundi YM and other Friends are doing there. There is real potential for this to be a project involving QUNO NY, QUNO Geneva, Burundi YM and other Friends service agencies.

We plan for the work to continue that is being done in the area of unattended conflicts which we are seeking to bring onto the agenda and into the activities of the United Nations. Conflicts such as Northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, along with the conflicts in the rest of the Great Lakes area. At the same time monitoring will continue on the conflict issues of interest to Friends in places such as Iraq, Sudan, Colombia, Cuba, North Korea and Israel-Palestine. Other topics on our agenda were the future of Quaker House, considering the results of an evaluation of the Programme Assistants role, plus hearing from the staff about their work.

It was very helpful to the committee to have David Atwood the Director of QUNO Geneva with us. We valued learning more of how he sees the QUNC G working. Having the exchange at our meetings between the two QUNC is of great value.

Linley Gregory, 2 April 2007

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF FRIENDS IN INDIA (GCFI)

During our 2006 annual meeting, among other subjects we spent some time on considering the place and role of Christianity in a multi-religious environment. Two members attended the All India Christian Association meeting in Hyderabad in February 2007 when various aspects of this subject were discussed.