



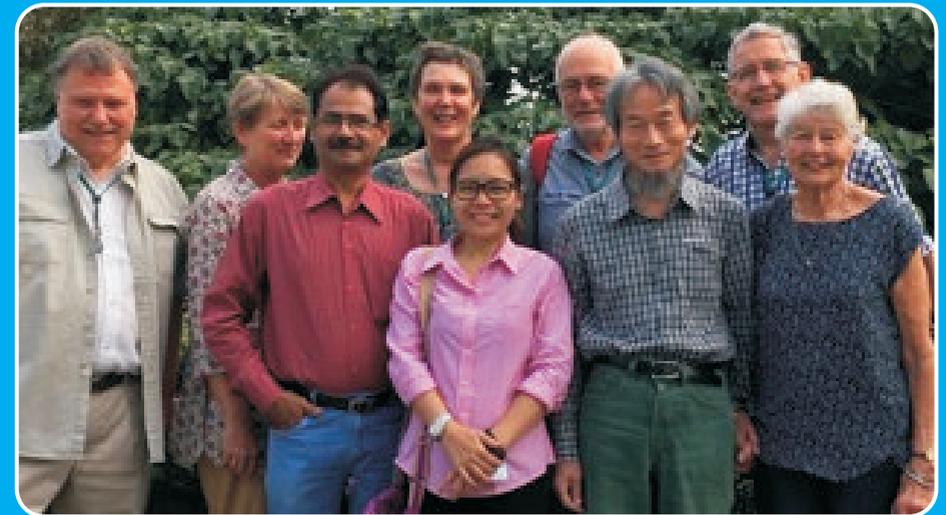
Clerk : Patricia Macgregor, email : [fwcc.awps.p@quaker.org.nz](mailto:fwcc.awps.p@quaker.org.nz)  
 Secretary : Ronis Chapman, email: [ronisc@fwccawps.org](mailto:ronisc@fwccawps.org)  
 Treasurer : Harold Wilkinson, email: [treasurer@fwccawps.org](mailto:treasurer@fwccawps.org)  
 Website: <http://www.fwccawps.org>; Facebook Fwcc-Awps



*Quaker Meeting House, Palmerston North, New Zealand*

**March 2017**

**Issue No. 103**



*AWPS Committee and supporters in Hong Kong October 2016*

*Printed in India at:*



**HORIZON PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS**

*(An International Christian Printing, Publishing, Import and Export House)*

Block, C-4/6, 11th Floor, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007, India

Mobile: 09711598202, 09212415516, 09811412569

E-mail: [vishwasnath@rediffmail.com](mailto:vishwasnath@rediffmail.com), [horizonprinterspublishers@yahoo.com](mailto:horizonprinterspublishers@yahoo.com)

### **Abbreviations:**

FRC - Friends Rural Center, Rasuliya, Hoshangabad

AIFG - All India Friends Gathering

BYM - Bundelkhand Yearly Meeting, Chhattarpur

BhYM - Bhopal Yearly Meeting, Bhopal

GFCI - General Friends Conference India

MIYM - Mid India Yearly Meeting, Itarsi

MRMM - Marble Rock Monthly Meeting

FWCC - Friends World Committee for Consultation

AWPS - Asia West Pacific Section (FWCC)

AYM - Australia Yearly Meeting

A/NZYM - Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting

PYM - Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

IFWG - India Friends Working group (PYM)

HMMK - Hariwar Monthly Meeting Karnataka

## **The Ecology of the heart**

*The spiritual life itself is an experiment. It is not a path of certainty. It is a voyage of discovery, needing humility; a willingness to be open and a recognition of our limitations. It is not a straight line, but has many twists and turns. Its authenticity is tested out in the experience of everyday life and may be both challenged and affirmed by those people one meets when undertaking.*

Harvey Gillman *Words* The Friend Publication Limited 2016

## **Crossing Cultures – Sharing stories**

Your Section Committee has been working hard over the last 6 months. We met in Hong Kong in October 2016 and thought and talked about ways we can strengthen our ties, share our spiritual journeys and build a community of Quakers in the Asia West Pacific Section. Stories are being collected and put on the website. A number of the stories in this newsletter are now on the website.

<http://fwccawps.org/category/crossing-cultures-sharing-stories/>

Please send your stories to: [ronisc@fwccawps.org](mailto:ronisc@fwccawps.org)

The Committee will meet again in 2017 and a Section Gathering is being planned for 2018.

## **My visit as AWPS Clerk and as a guest to Quakers in South Korea October 2016**

The Committee of the Asia West Pacific Section (AWPS) of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) have just held their first face to face meeting in Hong Kong so being in that geographical area it was appropriate, following this meeting, to communicate with and also to visit the two Monthly Meetings in South Korea.

To my delight it was made possible for me to meet with Friends from both Seoul and Daejeon Monthly Meetings.

I arrived at Incheon airport and was met by two Friends from Seoul Meeting, Haeng Woo Lee a long-time friend and Han Gyeol a new friend, one of many I was to meet and be cared for during my weeks stay in South Korea.

I was taken to the Seoul Meeting House, a long drive from the airport, where I was staying and making it my home base, sleeping Korean-custom on a mattress pad on the heated floor and being looked after by Mrs Kim who lives in the flat downstairs.

More Friends and more care, as on the second day after a long bus ride through Seoul, I joined a small group of Friends to drive south and up into the Mountains to experience two nights in a Temple. What peace and beauty in the mountains surrounding us. Numerous

Temples seem to nestle in the mountains and after walking further up and up through the woods bedecked with brilliant autumn colours of reds, oranges and yellows, lots of ginkgo trees and an abundance of wild fruiting persimmons, we visited another Temple. Sitting on the ground in the woods, the sun filtering through the trees was a fulfilling time for quiet worship. Another Temple we visited had pagoda stones and



*Daejon Meeting*

stupa a thousand years old, how difficult it was to even conceive that time in history, it was at this Temple we were invited by one of the monks to join him in a tea ceremony, one of three we experienced during our Temple stay. Walking around the grounds of all the temples, anticipating the history, revering all the different Buddha, learning about their varying smiles, seeing and hearing the magnificent, ancient bells with enormous wooden hammers ringing each morning, 4.30 and evening, 6.30 is an experience never to be forgotten.

Meals were eaten in silence, difficult, vegan, Korean food, breakfast at 6am, lunch, 11.30am and dinner, 5.30. Our rooms were 2m X 2m with a sleeping mat on a heated floor, a quilt cover plus an unresisting pillow!



*Seoul Meeting*

On our return north, we met with Daejeon Friends, joining the small group for Worship followed by an evening meal.

I enjoy Korean cuisine but here I was introduced to an even greater variety and challenged to remove flesh from a very bony fish with metal chopsticks, this really had me stumped!

Back in Seoul, after a visit to a market and another long bus ride, to be shown the oldest Catholic church in Korea and to learn the history of its struggle for

existence, a Protest Centre for people's rights, based at another church and finally ending the day climbing the 1000 plus steps to the top of Namsan one of the seven "mountains" of Seoul, viewing the city at night, hearing the sounds of a protest march, which totally disrupted the transport system for the evening and made our journey back to the Meeting House a challenging one.

Sunday, with my quilt and mat stored away, I shared Meeting for Worship with 17 Friends from Seoul meeting which was followed by a shared meal and then Meeting for Business. The major matter under consideration being, I gathered, how to get financial assistance to the village people in North Korea who had become homeless due to the recent tsunami disaster. How to get relief to those that it was to be for?

Later in the evening I talked to a group of young adult Friends about the Quaker Testimonies, and had the most amazing Friend translator, phrase by long phrase, not word by word, even the hand movements that I had been using included.

So, my visit came to an end but the care continued for the next morning due to fly back to New Zealand, yet another Friend came at 6.30 am to walk with me about a km down a very busy road to catch the airport bus.

I give my ever-grateful thanks and appreciation for the gracious and generous hospitality, the care and friendship that was shared with me during my visit to South Korea.

Patricia Macgregor

### Three Generations March - A Hopeful story from the United States

By Ginna Wilcox and family

The phone finally rang. After traveling three hours on a bus, I had not been able to reach my family because of the volume of people in Washington, D.C., and was anxious to hear where they were. But instead of sharing their location, the first thing my daughter said was, "CNN wants us in their studio tonight." What?



*Ginna Wilcox, Kate Clarke and Brianna Clarke*

My daughter Katharine Clark, her daughter, my oldest grandchild, Brianna Clark, and I had decided immediately after the U.S. presidential election that we had to *do something*. The **Women's March** on Washington on January 21, the day

after inauguration, seemed like the perfect place to start. Together with my husband, David Moore, and my other granddaughter, Grace Ethier, who lives and works in Washington, we had decided to march in peaceful protest.

We are a fortunate family in many, many ways. My mother Laura Wilcox Whyte was an inspiration to me and my two daughters. She spoke out against injustice as far back as I can remember, and passed the gift of “speak truth to power” on to her family. My Quaker daughters and grandchildren carry this concern for justice. It felt important to be part of a non-violent protest in attempt to dissuade the new administration from their path of destruction. We went to the march to stand for equality, dignity, respect, and kindness.

On the morning of the march, the *New York Times* ran a piece online about some folks planning to attend the march and included an interview with me, Katherine, and Brianna. CNN picked up that story and amazingly, despite the crowds, noise, chants and speeches, contacted Brianna and asked us to appear that evening on *Out Front* with Erin Burnett.

We were a little nervous. We didn't know what they would ask or what we would say. Still, we managed to speak to some of the issues. I spoke about the importance of passing activism through the generations and how human rights are a core value of community. Katherine expressed concerns about the Trump appointments to the Supreme Court and stated government should not run as a business but, “by the people and for the people”, as the Constitution and the bill of rights intends. Brianna spoke of white privilege, our obligation to address inequities between white people and people of color, and the importance of lifting up those who are silenced by our society. It was an astonishing experience.

I believe a global sense of unity emerged that day. In my observation, it was a day when Love and Light gave Hope. Never have I felt surrounded by so much generosity and wholeness of Spirit. It was truly amazing! From Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles, in small towns and big cities, across every continent, in nations around the world, we marched in solidarity! Women's rights are Human Rights and we need to care for one another.

I felt unity on a personal level also. As I marched hand in hand with my daughter and granddaughters, I felt the presence of my mother, and thought of my family's next generation. I marched with my past, my present, and my future. We, as a family, are here to stay. We will not give up.

***GINNA WILCOX is a long time Quaker who currently lives in Philadelphia, U.S.A. She recently spent a year as Resident Friend in Auckland, New Zealand, with her husband Davie Moore.***

## FWCC Secretaries meet in The Hague

The FWCC secretaries met for a week's retreat in The Hague in November 2016. Unfortunately Churchill Malimo from the African Section was unable to attend in person. One of the main agenda items was to think about ways we can work together as one sustainable global organization. Outcomes from this meeting will be followed up at the next Central Executive Committee (CEC) Meeting. The CEC are meeting in Rwanda in April this year after attending the Africa Section Meeting. Please hold the CEC members in the light as they gather to consider future plans for the world family of Friends. Simon Lamb from Ireland Yearly Meeting will serve as Clerk of the CEC for the first time at this meeting.

### FWCC Secretaries

***Robin Mohr, Secretary Section of the Americas, Marisa Johnson, Secretary Europe and Middle East Section, Gretchen Castle, FWCC General Secretary, Ronis Chapman, Secretary Asia West Pacific Section.***



### Singapore Worship group

Ours is a small and intimate group comprising people with diverse interests such as art and textiles, history, travel, environmental protection, animal protection, social justice, conscious living and transforming the workplace into a more life-affirming place. One of our members, Sara Rivers, spent seven years at Pendle Hill, a Quaker study center in Pennsylvania, teaching gardening as a spiritual discipline. Jane Palmer, who recently reconnected with the group says: *I feel drawn back to Meeting for need of positive, helpful analysis, trying to understand what is happening in the world now.*

Interesting tidbit: Eric Holttum, one of the earlier known Quakers in Singapore became the director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site) in 1925 and became the first head of department for the Department of Biological Sciences at the National University of Singapore.

If you're travelling to Singapore, contact Vadivu at [vadivu@joyworks.sg](mailto:vadivu@joyworks.sg), or David at [dauidly110@gmail.com](mailto:dauidly110@gmail.com) so you can drop by. And if you know Friends living in Singapore or those who may be keen, would love for you to share with them about us. Thank you!

## Japan Yearly Meeting 2016 – Epistle

親愛なる世界の友へ

キリスト友会日本年会総会は、2017年用9日20日「賜物を分かち合う」(コリントの信徒への手紙 12:12~27)をテーマに、土浦月会会堂において57名の出席のもとに開催された。

今年は、韓国からBae HyunDuckとHan Gyeolと、オーストラリアからSejin Pakを迎え、共に語り合うことができたことは大きな喜びであった。

「海外フレンズとの交流」のテーマでは、日本から4人が参加した韓国大田の修養会について報告があり、これから韓国と日本の両国のクエーカーの絆を強く築きたいとの思いを話した。招待客Bae HyunDuckからソウル月会の歴史と活動現況についてお話があり、海軍基地建設反対の抗議と生命平和活動の連帯のための「三步一拝」の意思表示などの実践等に関心が向けられ、話し合いが深められた。ペルー世界大会には日本年会から参加できなかったが、書簡と事前学習資料から学び合った。

「ビジョンのわかちあい」においてはヤングフレンズから、10年歩みと友だちや会員の方々とかかわる喜びが話され、感動と共に支え合いの気持ちを強くした。また、フレンズセンターにかかわってこられた先人の方々への思いとともに、長い歴史をもつ建物の老朽化と維持管理の困難さについて説明があった。さらに、活用方法についていくつかの提言があり、祈りの中で叡智が与えられることを望む。

事務会では2016年度活動状況および決算報告、ならびに2017年度の活動計画および予算を検討し承認した。また、富士霊園墓所使用規定の改正を承認した。

総会后、行われた新渡戸稲造記念講演は、大阪月会会員のジェリー・ヨコタが「平和の証～ネルソン・マンデラに学ぶ」と題して話した。

2017年1月20日

キリスト友会日本年会

代表書記 山本幸子

To Friends Worldwide,

The Japan Yearly Meeting was held on the theme of "Sharing spiritual gifts"(Corinthians 12: 12-27), on 19-20<sup>th</sup> Eleventh Month, 2016 at the Tsuchiura Monthly Meeting with 57 members attending. This year we had a great pleasure to have with us, Bae HyunDuck and Han Gyeol from Korea and Sejin Pak from Australia.

In the theme of "Connecting with Friends overseas", there was a report on the Korea Daejeon Retreat that 4 members from Japan Yearly Meeting participated. The necessity to build the bonds between the Korean and Japanese Quakers was expressed. Bae HyunDuck spoke about the history of the Seoul Monthly Meeting and the current situation of the activities. Discussion was focused on activities such as protest against the construction of the naval base and indication of the intention of "three step worship" for solidarity of life peace activities. We could not participate in the FWCC World Conference in Peru from the Japan Yearly Meeting, but we learned from the letter and preliminary learning materials.

In "Sharing Vision", Young Friends talked about the ten-year history and the joy of involvement among Friends and members, strengthening supportive feelings with excitement. Also, along with the thoughts of Friends who have been involved in the Friends Center, there was explanation about the difficulties of aging and maintenance of long-standing buildings. In addition, there are several recommendations on how to utilize the facility, we hope that wisdom will be given in our prayers.

The Meeting for Business examined and approved the Yearly Meeting report of 2016 and the activity plan and budget for 2017. We also approved amendments to the usage regulations of Fuji cemetery.

After the Yearly Meeting session, Nitobe Memorial Lecture was given by Gerry Yokota, Osaka Monthly Meeting member, entitled "Witness for Peace - Learning from Nelson Mandela".

In Peace and Friendship,

Sachiko Yamamoto  
Clerk, Japan Yearly Meeting

## **The world is about to change (the Australian Quaker world at least!)...**

As of **WEDNESDAY 1/3/2017** the web address we have been using for the last few years, [www.quakers.org.au](http://www.quakers.org.au), will lead you to a web page specially designed for inquirers and other people wanting information about Quakers.

The menu at the top of that page will have a link **Australia YM site** that will go to our existing website where you will find all the information you have been used to. (You might want to bookmark this new location so you can go directly to it in the future.)

Later, the existing website will change to have the address [www.quakersaustralia.info](http://www.quakersaustralia.info).

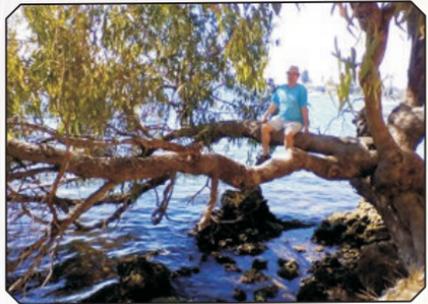
Please be patient if the new site doesn't work straight away; remember we are working on it as fast as possible!

### **Australian Yearly Meeting Earthcare Committee**

The Quaker Earthcare Committee in Australia has been mindful of the many different ways Friends already engage at personal and community levels in promoting positive environmental outcomes. Rather than trying to reproduce or coordinate these efforts, the committee has been piloting exploring our felt connections with locality. Being Western Australian based, this has involved travelling "upriver" along the Swan/Avon system, meeting once every two months, from river mouth to eventual source. We reflect on our physical, spiritual and artistic relationship with country this way. The committee also



*Childey Point earthcarers*



*Adrian Glamorgan - Tree moment*

produces an Earthcare Invitation several times a year, encouraging people to Pray, Read, Act and Celebrate (PRAC). If you'd like to be on the email list, write to Jacqui Schultz, AYM secretary – [ymsecretary@quakers.org.au](mailto:ymsecretary@quakers.org.au)

### **Where We Worship – Stories gathered by Virginia Jealous, Australia Yearly Meeting.**

The meeting houses in which Friends in the Australia West Pacific Section worship are as varied as the places where we live. Here's a snapshot-in-words of some of the locations where we worship in the region. And please share your own for the next edition of the newsletter!

#### **Bohol, Philippines**

I worship with two other Quakers in the residence of one of us. It's a 25 year-old house mostly made of cement with galvanized iron roofing. There are several trees and plants in its surroundings. It's a 36-square meter house built on a 280-square meter lot, with glass jalousie windows secured by iron grills, wooden door, and fenced with cement and iron grills, too. Just right for a tropical climate, it's very simple. But since it is located on a hill, it is usually peaceful, except that

the houses around it are clustered to each other closely because this is part of a socialized housing project. When there are visitors, we usually choose to worship elsewhere at an office or at a garden resort that serves organic food.

Marj Angalot

### **Denmark, Western Australia**

The Sanctuary' is a community meeting place beside the river. It's shaped like a hexagon, is made of mud bricks and has an earth roof with native plants growing on top. There are glass doors, and light reflects onto the walls and floor tiles. In the angle of one wall there is a wood stove for winter fires. It blends into the landscape and is very peaceful. We are a core group of four. Once a month we are joined by Friends from Albany, 50kms away, when we worship and share lunch together.

Virginia Jealous

### **Canberra, Australian Capital Territory**

Just five minutes on my bike gets me to Canberra Friends Meeting House. My children grew up in this meeting so there are many memories for me attached to this place. The meeting room is a hexagon (now I know this is the same as Denmark WA) and although it is in an inner city suburb, is surrounded by trees and a garden recently built by local Friends. Canberra is blessed with native birds and I love listening to them during worship time.

Thirty or 40 Quakers gather each Sunday morning - sometimes more. Canberra is the capital of Australia and we often have visitors that remind us of the world wide family of Friends and the web of friendship that connects us.

Ronis Chapman

### **Bhopal, India**

We gather together for worship every Sunday in newly constructed meeting house. The old building was sold to Friends in Bhopal in 1939 by the then NAWAB (King of Bhopal ) at very nominal cost. Even before purchase we have been worshipping in that building since long. It is located in Pari Bazar – means Fairy's Market. Before independence this place was well secured because only Ladies and on fixed day women from the Nawab family used to come at this place for purchases. Now it is not so. Some old historical buildings are still around our meeting one of them is Golghar means round house.

About 100 people can participate in the meeting but 25 to 40 people gather for worship every Sunday. Mostly we have programmed worship meetings but on the first Sunday of the month we hold open worship meeting where who so ever

is moved by the spirit leads the meeting by singing, praying or sharing his/her witness. We have one monthly meeting at Raisen . We visit Raisen once in a year where Lunch is provided by Raisen MM. We celebrate Christmas, Easter joyfully and always have Lunch together.

Ronald Titus

### **Palmerston North, Aotearoa / New Zealand**

My home place of Worship is a Meeting House set on a small piece of land with a small space of lawn, fruit trees and two lovely birches. It is built from concrete blocks, simple, not lined on the inside but with big windows so that the trees outside can be seen as the breeze blows through them. The sun shines onto a plain wooden floor bringing warmth and instils calmness to the small group who worship together, mostly in silence.

Patricia Macgregor

### **Canberra, Australian Capital Territory**

Like Ronis, I usually worship in the Canberra Meeting House in Australia. We are fortunate to have our own building where we can meet comfortably. We built the building to be a useful resource to others in our community. There are some meditation groups who use it. Sometimes the building is used by an organisation who teaches English to new-comers to Australia. A group who supports the families of people who are in prison meet there. We have several rooms that can be used at the same time.

We are always pleased to see our building being used, especially when people comment that it is a lovely place to meet in, and how they find that it helps their meetings run well. Many people in Canberra know about Quakers because they see or use our Meeting House. Maybe they read our signs that introduce Quakerism as they cycle past.

Michael Searle

### **Hong Kong**

A forest of buildings, tall and dense. Think 'urban'. A place of peace, a pre-school, with soft mats, and order. People: from near and far. Language: English, but Chinese too. Visitors: welcomed, and we'll be friends with you. A meeting: growing, healing, bonding, seeking more truth on our journey together and journeys individually. Communicating: not just Sundays, but all days - with WhatsApp.

A future: how to be Quaker in China, how to seek more of being Quaker in China. Change: the speed of change, the effects of change on society. Let us know if you plan to visit Hong Kong. See: [www.friends-hk.org](http://www.friends-hk.org) for more details.

John Leighton

## **A STATEMENT OF CONCERN ON THE SPATE OF KILLINGS AND REIMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY IN OUR COUNTRY**

“Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31).

“THOU SHALL NOT KILL”. (Exodus 20:13)

“Anyone who kills you thinks he is offering service to God...because they have not known the Father”. (John 16:2)

We, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in the Philippines, hereby express our deep concern on the spate of killings and the intent to reimpose death penalty in our country which we vehemently oppose.

In the midst of all these, we strongly support the legitimate efforts of our national government in its Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign and we call for the Mainstreaming of Rehabilitation instead of treating drug dependents as incorrigible criminals. We also laud its moves for Peace Talks with insurgent forces, initiatives to address Labor, Agrarian, Social Welfare, Education, and Environment issues and challenges, with particular attention for the poor.

But we cannot countenance the reimposition of death penalty in our country's judicial system. The United Nations emphasized the “harsh reality” that the death penalty discriminates. "Study after study proves that if you are poor, minority or mentally disabled, you are at higher risk regardless of guilt or innocence. The right to life—broadly understood as a right to be free from deadly violence, maiming, torture, and starvation—is paramount. The special status of life is reflected in the Ten Commandments. The Koran teaches that if anyone saves a life, it shall be as though he had saved the lives of all mankind. In the Jewish tradition, he who saves one soul, it's as if he saved the entire world. The Catholic Church extends this right to the unborn.

“Going deeper and beyond the Golden Rule that behooves us to 'do unto others what we want others do unto us', there are really no 'others', so whatever you seem to do to another you actually do to yourself. For in our fundamental oneness as humanity in the parenthood of one God, you and I are indeed one, identical with each other through our identity ultimately with the Ground of all being. Then how could I ever want to harm or do violence to myself? All beings desire their own well-being. I

must therefore wish for you what I wish for myself, since we are one”.

We firmly believe in the futility of the methods of outward domination, and of the appeal to force. For not through antagonism, but through co-operation in its widest sense, will the best be achieved for each and all. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law”. (Galatians 5:22-23)

“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me”.

Marjorie Anglot, Boni Quirog, Ludwig Quirog.  
January 2017

## Christmas Flowers for Auckland Prisoners

Being a Conscientious Objector (CO) in World War I was not easy. One of those imprisoned here in New Zealand was the clerk of the Auckland Monthly Meeting because the Meeting published a pamphlet. Those from Auckland Monthly Meeting, who had been imprisoned, took their concern to the meeting about the conditions for the inmates within the prisons. Fortunately, Mt Eden Prison is close to the Meeting House in Mt Eden.

Over the years Friends have done a variety of things trying to alleviate the conditions within Mt Eden. The only one we still do is each Christmas Eve a posy of flowers for each sentenced and convicted inmate are put together and given to the prisoners within that prison.

In late November 2016, Northern Monthly Meeting were shocked when we heard that the gift of posies would not be accepted.



*Auckland Quakers preparing flowers*

After asking Corrections to reconsider and been told no gifts can enter the New Zealand prisons, which we knew as over the years these posies have been the only

flowers allowed into any New Zealand prison.

The media were told of this. The first article to appear was on the front-page of a national paper on the Sunday before Christmas. Papers and radio throughout the country and various social media ran with the story too.

Corrections changed their minds.

On the morning of 24 December Friends put together 450 posies for the sentenced and convicted inmates in Mt Eden Prison. That night one of the TV channels had a news item on their 6 o'clock news.

As a meeting, we were grateful for the help given to us by so many including the prison chaplains, the media and those who came to help with the flowers. But what a way for Quakers, COs in World War I and our concern for prison reform to get publicity.

Linley Gregory

## **British Quakers stand alongside victims of racist policies**

□ A statement from Meeting for Sufferings held at Friends House, Quakers' central offices in London, on March 4, 2017. Meeting for Sufferings is Britain Yearly Meeting's representative body.

□ *"We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity" (Margaret Fell, writing to Charles II in 1660). Quakers in Britain see these values now under growing threat around the world, not least from recent developments in the United States of America.*

*"We condemn all acts of government which set people against one another; which discriminate against people because of who they are or where they were born. We reject policies which condone suspicion and hatred; which turn away those who need and depend upon our help. We were not put on Earth for this, but to be a people of God, to live in harmony with each other.*

*"There can be no peace without justice; no love without trust; and no unity without equality. Our faith urges us to welcome the stranger as our equal and friend, feed those who are hungry and shelter those who are homeless, needy and frightened.*

*"Alongside Quakers in the USA, and their American Friends Service Committee, we stand with those whose lives are blighted by racist, discriminatory policies and those whose faith is denigrated by*

*association with a tiny violent minority. We pray for the courage and steadfastness that will be needed as we uphold our testimony of equality, justice, peace, sustainability and truth. For us, prayer is inseparable from action.*

*“Humanity needs leaders of integrity and conscience, ready to be held to account by individuals and institutions, national and international. We pray for those in positions of power. We call on them, as public servants, to work with all of good faith to build the world we seek, to fertilise the soil in which the tender shoots of peace, love and unity may flourish.”*

## **A Hearty Welcome!!!**

“A Hearty Welcome” said the sign draped over the school buildings to greet us as we arrived at Sohagpur Friends Girls School.

Michael Searle and I visited the school on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

We attended a school assembly and were delighted with the dancing and singing of the students.

After the assembly we met with the teachers. The girls had been given the day off school and we met with about 15 teachers – men and women. I asked them what they liked about the school and most of the teachers rose to their feet and told us something they appreciated. The teachers were very positive about their experience of the school, saying the staff are friendly, it is a good place to work, there is a good relationship between teachers and management and the girls are happy.

Then we were told of the difficult reality of the financial situation. Government funding does not support the payment of new teachers – so only those who have been teaching for a long time are paid by the government. These teachers will be paid till they retire.

The group of teachers and administrators we met are all very committed to the school and to the students. However all the teachers are aware of the financial difficulties.

An equally warm welcome was extended to us on our visit to Itarsi Friends girls school on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Again we were



**Sohagpur Friends Girls School teachers**

beautifully entertained by the girls who danced and a group of boys performed a

very funny skit based on the dreadful shortage of cash currently happening in India. Even the smallest children thought this very funny. We did not meet with the teachers at this school, however had the pleasure of meeting with the Governing Board. Board members told us they no longer receive funding from Compassion International because the Indian Government did not approve of the organization.

This withdrawal of funds has occurred all over India and was reported in a recent article in The Guardian:

*An international Christian charity has said nearly 150,000 Indian children will be worse off if restrictions on foreign funding force it to cease its operations in the country next month.*

*The group, which funds charities that operate more than 500 child development projects in the country, says it has had \$3.5m of aid blocked each month since March, when it was placed on list of organisations requiring “prior permission” to bring in funds from overseas.*

*It is scheduled to pull out of India by 15 March, at which point many of its child development centres – which have already scaled back services such as a free meals programme – will shut.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/03/christian-charity-set-to-withdraw-from-india-after-funding-blocked>



*Itarsi Friends Girls School students*

In the afternoon we visited the nearby Itarsi Boys school and met with the staff. The school is very proud of their sporting achievements. We met a young boy who loves sport and is able to play at a state level because of the encouragement of the school. We were pleased to visit the school and met the teachers. It is obviously very difficult for them to keep their spirits up when they know the school is lacking in funds.



*Itarsi Friends Boyes School Teachers*

A hearty welcome was indeed extended to us in November last year. Many Friends in our Section already contribute funds to the schools and Friends in India are grateful for this support. Donations can be sent to the AWPS treasurer who will forward any money collected to India.

Ronis Chapman

## **The Quaker Settlement, Whanganui, New Zealand**

<http://www.quakersettlement.co.nz/>

**Jeff Dean and Annette Morris**

**“Robin Hill”, Benridge Bank, West Rainton Durham DH4 6NN.**

7-20 pm on a balmy New Zealand Monday evening. People arrive in ones and twos and slowly the hexagonal Quiet Room fills with Settlers who sit in silence until the Clerk of the week welcomes all. So begins the weekly Management Meeting at the Quaker Settlement which, alongside the Sunday Shared meal, provides a key community focus.

The Settlement was started 40 years ago by 4 Quaker couples who wanted to set up a New Zealand Woodbrooke. The Settlement now has 16 Houses plus accommodation for guests, a communal kitchen, library, a dining /meeting room and the Quiet room, where a Meeting for Worship is held daily. There are around 27 Settlers of all ages from 3 months to over 90 years.

The community has developed in many ways. It still provides weekend seminars, mainly for Quakers, but in addition the facilities are hired out to other groups. There are Bed and Breakfast facilities, again mainly for visiting Quakers and there are 20 acres of land maintained along broadly permaculture lines. Remarkably there are no paid staff. On occasion Settlers with the requisite skills can tender for work such as painting that would otherwise have to go to an outside contractor. In essence the whole operation is undertaken as a service to the Society of Friends by the Settlers. Given that the Settlers all have full lives outside the Settlement this is some achievement.



*Gardening at the Quaker Settlement,  
Whanganui New Zealand.*

About two thirds of the people living at the Settlement identify themselves as Quaker; the others, to quote one Settler, are “Quaker compatible”.

First and foremost the Settlement is about community living. While each individual or family has their own house which is completely self-contained (it is community not communal living). If a person was not geared to sharing and social interaction on a pretty intense scale, life at the Settlement would be hard, and not for them . The whole is underpinned by Quaker spirituality reflected in the way people interact, the way the land is managed and the way business is conducted. There is opportunity for a great deal of physical labour – 20 acres do not look after themselves even when 10 of them have been developed by the Settlers over the years as native bush. In addition the whole needs to be administered and managed which requires a good deal of brain work and planning. This can be challenging given the completely flat structure.

Of course it is a human enterprise and there are faults: sometimes obvious things do not get done or get done in way that is inefficient. Some proposals for minor change (from within the Settler group) can meet with resistance. Equally the vision which created the place and the long term vision which is being developed for the future are mind blowing and beautiful.

It was an honour and a privilege to be Resident Friends at the Settlement– a life changing and life enhancing experience. Certainly one of us (Jeff) having come from a life in business where time is seen as of the essence and tasks have to be completed with optimum “efficiency” and focus, struggled in the early days. It was one of the younger members of the community who set him straight. Henry is 3 years old and most afternoons would seek us both out, spade in hand, to help us work on the land. Productivity dropped, of course it did, 3 years olds need time and attention but together we explored digging, soil, worms, insects, birds, seed planting, manure, compost, and storytelling. We all 3 learned so much and surprisingly the work still got completed.

## 5 Habits to Heal the Heart of Democracy

*Parker Palmer writes for the Global Oneness Project  
For the whole article that includes a study guide go to:*

*The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions. Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up—ever—trusting our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy?? —Terry Tempest Williams*

### **Habit 5: A capacity to create community.**

*Without a community, it is nearly impossible to achieve voice: it takes a village to raise a Rosa Parks. Without a community, it is nearly impossible to exercise the "power of one" in a way that allows power to multiply: it took a village to translate Rosa Parks's act of personal integrity into social change. In a mass society like ours, community rarely comes ready-made. But creating community in the places where we live and work does not mean abandoning other parts of our lives to become full-time organizers. The steady companionship of two or three kindred spirits can help us find the courage we need to speak and act as citizens. There are many ways to plant and cultivate the seeds of community in our personal and local lives. We must all become gardeners of community if we want democracy to flourish.*

## Friends Rural Centre, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh India.

The Governing Board of Friend's Rural Centre ask for your prayerful support. The staff and board members work hard to maintain this Quaker presence in mid India that has been there for over one hundred years. Rasulia has been operating as a farm for many years. Nalini Titus is the Director and she says to us: "We know that many Friends around the world support the work of Rasulia. Please hold us in the light as we are currently looking at plans for Rasulia over the next few years.



*A chaff cutter turning grass into cattle feed.  
Friends Rural Centre*



*Nalini Titus, Director, Friends Rural Centre Hoshangabad*

## **From the AWPS Treasurer – building community among Asian Pacific Friends**

Help AWPS in our important role as a gardener of community! We depend on donations from Friends to keep our Section going. We are strongly focused on our new direction – “Crossing Cultures – Sharing Stories” which will require all of us to participate by contributing resources to fulfill this objective.

The easiest way to donate is by doing a bank transfer to our Australian bank account.

Bank: Westpac  
A/c name: Friends World Committee  
BSB: 035 041  
Account: 154444  
SWIFT code: WPACAU2S

You can also donate via PayPal – use the email address:  
[treasurer@fwccawps.org](mailto:treasurer@fwccawps.org)

This newsletter is published on the AWPS website. If you would be pleased to access the newsletter online, you can cancel your paper copy.

To do this send an email to: [ronisc@fwccawps.org](mailto:ronisc@fwccawps.org)

**Ronis Chapman**  
**Secretary**

Friends World Committee for Consultation - Asia West Pacific Section  
PO Box 6063 O'Connor  
ACT Australia 2602  
M: +61 402 745 548  
[ronisc@fwccawps.org](mailto:ronisc@fwccawps.org)  
<http://fwccawps.org>