

Appendix D: Representative Reports

American Friends Service Committee Corporation

American Friends Service Committee – Southeast Regional Office, Executive Committee

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William Penn House

World Gathering of Young Friends

AFSC Corporation

The American Friends Service Committee's annual corporation meeting is a mixture of information, inspiration and input. Staff and board leaders report to the group and corporation members share their perspectives.

SAYMA's representatives to the AFSC Corporation meeting in November 2005 were Sallie Prugh of Columbia Monthly Meeting and Carol Lamm of Berea Monthly Meeting. A number of other SAYMA Friends were present as board members or representing programs of AFSC-SERO (South East Region Office)

We learned that AFSC's Eyes Wide Open exhibit continued to move hearts for another year as it traveled across the country. The exhibit reminds viewers of the true costs of war through informational exhibits, shoes representing Iraqi civilian casualties and pairs of boots representing every U.S. soldier killed in the current Iraq war. Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq and who emerged as a compelling voice for peace when she went to Crawford, Texas to confront President Bush about the war, made her first public speech at the Eyes Wide Open exhibit when it was in Los Angeles. As a mature peace and justice organization, AFSC has played a key role in coalitions opposing the war. Besides having a solid organizational base from which to help with coordination, AFSC has brought the wisdom of experience in framing messages, commitment to nonviolence, network-building and consensus decision-making.

With the theme "No Human Being Is Illegal," AFSC continues to work at the local and national level in the U.S. on the issue of immigration. This is another area in which AFSC's experience, expertise and work over decades is a gift to coalitions.

One area of service that has changed over the decades is AFSC's response to disasters. AFSC is famous for its relief work after World War II. Many Friends may not realize that this work was funded primarily by the U.S. government. By the 1960s the government had begun attaching so many strings, in particular the requirement of loyalty oaths, that the AFSC board decided not to accept government funds any more. This decision changed AFSC's role in direct disaster relief. Since then, AFSC has worked through local partner organizations, often focusing its disaster response on longer-term rebuilding efforts. In the case of the December 2004 tsunami, AFSC had relationships in Indonesia's Aceh province from 35 years of peace-building efforts. AFSC was able to funnel assistance quickly and efficiently through local organizations. This assistance continues today in the rebuilding work. AFSC has been able to respond similarly effectively after the recent earthquake. In contrast, after a devastating earthquake in Pakistan, AFSC was unable to respond because it had no local partnerships on which to build.

In the case of Hurricane Katrina, AFSC had strong relationships in the Houston area and was able to move quickly to support Interfaith Ministries for Houston's Operation Compassion. Before it was clear that government funding would cover costs of emergency food in Houston, AFSC's board had committed over \$1,350,000. Of this total, \$100,000 was for the Quaker to Quaker Project, which provided grants to Friends meetings, yearly meetings and Quaker college groups for service projects. Subsequently SERO filed a six-member assessment team which visited the area and found itself giving voice to communities that were being systematically excluded from relief programs. The assessment team made recommendations for medium-term and long-term follow-up to respond further to the divisions and oppression laid bare by the natural disaster and response.

AFSC-SERO

Report to SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2006, from the SAYMA representative to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Southeastern Regional Office (SERO) Executive Committee.

AFSC Southeast Region continues to work for peace, migrant rights, social and economic justice, and emergency assistance, based in 9 states: Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Response to Hurricane Katrina:

SERO was swept into the response to Hurricane Katrina, rapidly sending an 8-person needs assessment team into the area. Members of the team set out to do fact-finding but immediately found themselves advocating for neglected and desperate families, such as emergency shelter residents who looked Hispanic and were therefore threatened by police with eviction and deportation. As well as these emergency responses, SERO is starting longer-term action including community organizing focused on economic and racial justice in rebuilding of the coastal area; as well as a project for Friends and other volunteers to assist local residents in repairing their communities. The program will involve 5 new community organizers/social advocates, based in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Peacebuilding programs:

Africa Peace Education Program

APEP reaches out to grassroots organizations, student organizations, schools, and faith-based organizations to help people learn about and take action on crucial issues facing Africa: issues such as international debt, the arms trade, HIV/AIDS, and environmental depletion. The program has been especially successful in developing youth leadership, ready to sustain lively connections with communities in Africa. College students and returning exchange participants organize local activities in support of peacebuilding and justice for Africa. Tejan Muata is Program Director for APEP, based in Atlanta.

Middle East Peace Education Program

MEPEP promotes involvement of individuals and communities in peace building and humanitarian response to conflict in the Middle East, with a particular focus on Israel and Palestine, as well as the invasion/occupation of Iraq. MEPEP has been arranging local "Visiting the Olives" meetings where groups learn about Palestinian Olive Oil as way to understand the struggle for survival of Palestinian communities and the search for peace. The program sells the oil as well as other fair trade goods from the region. MEPEP organized a number of tours by speakers with direct experience of promoting peace and justice in the region, as well as promoting the Atlanta-Ramallah Sister City Project. MEPEP continues to work with a range of organizations on strategies to promote U.S. constructive military withdrawal from Iraq. Samir Moukaddam is Program Director of MEPEP, based in Atlanta.

Emergency and Material Assistance Program

EMAP organizes large numbers of volunteers to provide humanitarian aid in response to natural disasters and urgent needs. This year, EMAP had a crucial role in providing hygiene kits in the Gulf Coast area, as well as continuing to collect health and school supplies for international use and use within the region, and distribution of clothing and blankets to a range of anti-poverty programs in the South East. A new initiative this year has been to link EMAP with migrant farm workers. Provision of expanded hygiene kits (including such items as work gloves) is a form of solidarity with these marginalized groups. Peggie Baxter is Program Director of EMAP, based in High Point, North Carolina.

Programs for Migrant Rights and Economic Justice:

American Friends Immigrant Services

AFIS protects the human rights of migrants both through legal representation and by supporting immigrants, especially Haitians and Hispanics, who want to organize around policies directly affecting them. The community social advocacy work includes training sessions for migrant workers about their rights, participation in radio broadcasts, and meetings with workers as they wait to be hired for day jobs. AFIS works closely with immigrant rights coalitions in Florida and has been advocating around education and health insurance for immigrant children, transportation safety and prevention of worker abuses. Angie Kemp is the staff attorney at AFIS, based in Miami.

Project Voice

In North Carolina, Project Voice is strengthening the organizations and networks of recent migrant communities, as well as reaching out to non-migrants to create better understanding and joint action for human rights. Project Voice has been organizing resistance to anti-immigrant proposals at community and state levels, as well as holding peace vigils and rallies to respond to the fear and divisiveness being created by anti-immigrant groups. Antonio Vasquez is the Program Director for Project Voice, based in Charlotte, North Carolina.

ORITA Peace and Justice Program

ORITA brings together a number of activities in North Carolina that build the skills of emerging community leaders, youth activists and grassroots community groups, especially focusing on sustainable livelihoods and on policies for equitable economic development. ORITA has been working with Highpoint University to develop curricula as well as running training programs and round table discussions on issues such as world poverty, management of non-profits, advocacy for change, and grant writing. A new development this year was preparation, alongside Chapel Hill Friends, of the “*What’s Next Guide*” to enable young people to consider a wide range of realistic work opportunities, with the goal of meeting young people’s aspirations to widen their experiences. This Guide will be circulated in other regions as part of AFSC’s youth and militarism activities (downloadable: www.afsc.org/southeast/documents/choices.pdf). ORITA continues to promote use of the *Eyes Wide Open* exhibit and is enabling returned Africa exchange students to raise awareness in their communities. Ann Lennon is Program Director of ORITA, based in High Point, North Carolina.

Looking ahead, AFSC SERO will be enhancing its role in peace building, through recruiting a Peace Education Coordinator. SERO is also placing even greater emphasis on volunteers implementing its work, through all the programs in the region.

AFSC SERO wants to deepen its connections with our Meetings, and is requesting that each Meeting and Worship Group in SAYMA appoints a contact person for AFSC regional office. This person would receive the newsletter and would mention AFSC’s activities to Friends. If there are AFSC events or speakers being planned in your area, the person would be the initial contact point for AFSC to consult and pass information. If your Meeting is able to appoint someone as the contact person, please pass their name and details to AFSC South East Regional Office:

Contact details:

Betti Knott, Regional Director
92 Piedmont Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Email: BKnott@afsc.org
Phone: 404-586-0460 x 12
SAYMA Rep: Ginny Baumann

Friends Committee on National Legislation

I was privileged to attend the Annual Meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) on November 11-13, 2005, in Washington, D.C., as a representative from SAYMA. FCNL educates and lobbies on national issues on behalf of SAYMA and our monthly meetings. The theme for annual meeting this year was Proclaiming Our Prophetic Witness.

FCNL's Annual Meeting generated a tremendous amount of energy and hope about the possibility for putting Quaker faith into action. About 250 Friends from more than 25 states came together for three days of worship, conversation, listening, and focus on what the FCNL community has accomplished in the last year and what our hopes are for 2006.

Our Thursday evening presenter, Rep. Lynn Woolsey (CA), stated "It's all about the grassroots" and inspired us to take action locally to influence our congressional representatives. She congratulated FCNL as being one of the most influential and principled advocates in the peace community. Each day that Congress is in session, Rep. Woolsey presents a resolution for peace and against war.

This has been a year of field activity for FCNL with an emphasis on involving more Friends on the local level in the work of FCNL. Friends from different geographic areas of the country met together to discuss plans to strengthen the network of FCNL contact in meetings, churches, retirement communities, colleges, and among young adults. Thirty-six young adults attended annual meeting this year, the largest group ever. At least one young adult from SAYMA attended. Several young adults have joined standing committees and are helping FCNL consider further ways to strengthen involvement of young adults in FCNL.

We heard first hand reports from Iraq Senior Fellow Mary Trotocaud and former staff member Sarah Warren about FCNL's Iraq Peace Campaign. Following that report, Iraq Program Director Robin Aura Kanageis led a discussion about how Friends might work to encourage meetings and churches to support the Iraq STEP proposal emphasizing troop withdrawal and the importance of reaching out to other faith communities.

Friends toured the newly renovated, green FCNL building on Capitol Hill. It is a model of environmentally friendly architecture that puts into practice the importance of energy conservation and reduction of oil dependence. FCNL is now a visible witness to Congress of ecological soundness and innovation, located across the street from the Senate Hart Building. If you have an opportunity, come visit FCNL in the newly renovated building.

I have attended FCNL annual meetings for over 10 years, and every year is inspirational. However, this year the worship level was especially deep. After Joe Volk's reflections on Saturday night concerning FCNL's work and the challenges ahead, the large assembly of Friends entered into spontaneous silent worship out of which came spirit-led messages. The program throughout the annual meeting was all excellent, but this experience Saturday night was the highlight.

Thank you for allowing me to represent SAYMA at FCNL.

Peace, carol nickle

FCOR - Friends Committee on Outworld Relations

Annual Report to SAYMA

Since June 2005, FCOR has been inactive. This is regarded as a phase that, hopefully, will give way to resumed activity in the coming year. The FCOR Annual Report to SAYMA of June 2005 put forth a call to Friends to heed the emergence of two events: 1) the increasingly recognized presence of extraterrestrial (ET) visitors, and 2) the emergence of Zero Point Energy, discovered and proclaimed by Nicola Tesla over a century ago, also used by the ET visitors to power their craft. FCOR acknowledged that the visitation phenomenon, while declared as having great importance, had not raised great interest and activity among Friends. The phenomenon of Zero Point Energy (ZPE) became a part of FCOR's area of interest because the technology was being clandestinely developed and concealed from the public for military applications, rather than offered as a badly-needed energy alternative. To FCOR, ZPE stood out as a much higher priority, and still does. It was also

seen as something that, once brought into the open, would cause Friends to pay attention, not only to ZPE, but also to the reality of being visited by civilization(s) from elsewhere.

FCOR remains steadfast in proclaiming the truth of both ET visitation, and also the validity of ZPE and its potential to solve our energy crisis with neither energy waste nor pollution, creating electricity from an infinite source.

Beginning in the spring of 2005, a group of three Friends sought to build a small “motionless electromagnetic generator” (MEG) to access and convert to electricity the ZPE that exists in the space all around us. A model of a small working laboratory-size unit, intended for demonstration, was portrayed on the Web, along with performance data and circuit diagrams, and the trio sought to duplicate this. A first prototype was completed in the fall of 2005, but did not perform as expected: some small details apparently remained to be included. At this writing, a second effort is well under way. The outcome is sought of seeing the MEG put out a multiple of the electric current fed into it: a performance figure of 5X has been reported by other builders. With success, a MEG could emerge that can be demonstrated by FCOR among various Friends groups to make them aware of the possibilities of ZPE, and the shortsightedness of cleaving to fossil and nuclear fuels.

It is the ongoing hope of FCOR that success in building a working MEG will awaken Friends to the technological and spiritual significance of obtaining and using ZPE, and also of forming a relationship with the visitors who have actually been visiting us for centuries.

In the Light,
J. Philip Neal
Coordinator, FCOR
227 Edgewood Rd, Asheville, NC 28804

Telephone 828-664-0550
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Friends General Conference (FGC)

FGC provides resources and opportunities that educate and invite members and attenders to experience, individually and corporately, God's living presence, and to discern and follow God's leadings. FGC reaches out to seekers and to other religious bodies inside and outside the wider Religious Society of Friends.

Exciting new developments at FGC:

1. 2006 Gathering

Few Friends have escaped the news that this first ever western Gathering has proven more popular than we had ever dreamed. We are excited by the ways we have found to expand the size of this Gathering. Although we initially anticipated a maximum registration of 1200, we knew we needed alternate plans when we received two-thirds of the registrations within five days! (Usually the half way mark is in mid-April.) We are sorry that many Friends will not be able to share this experience, but are so grateful for the enthusiastic response. We encourage SAYMA Friends who will be attending the Gathering to be especially patient and tender with the very large number of first timers and the unusually tight accommodations and facilities. Let's remember to hold each other in the Light and seek that of God in all we encounter.

2. QuakerFinder

Thousands of seekers and Friends are regularly using FGC's QuakerFinder website to find nearby Quaker meetings. Now those who are many miles from the nearest meeting may use the site to find similarly isolated neighbors for worship. The new secure registration option for isolated Friends was added to QuakerFinder in January 2006 and already more than 200 Friends have registered to find others. To learn more about this exciting new service, go to <http://www.quakerfinder.org/isolated/>

3. Youth Ministries

Spirit is alive and moving in a powerful and dynamic way through our High School and young adult Friends! FGC, through its new Youth Ministry Committee, wants to spread the good news that by building a true intergenerational community we feel the Religious Society of Friends will be nourished and invigorated in a way that could be breathtaking. Faithfully building authentic and deep intergenerational ties may require nothing short of a cultural shift in the Religious Society of Friends--the rewards could be tremendous. We are delighted to have Emily Stewart serving as our staff person for Youth Ministries, and the committee is beginning to put this powerful calling into concrete program recommendations to be considered by FGC. Stay tuned!

4. Advancement and Outreach Materials

Check out the website for Tools for Local Meeting Outreach, Pamphlets for Newcomers, Meetinghouse signs and many other resources.

5. Quaker Books

Don't forget about the FGC bookstore. Quakerbooks of FGC carries hundreds of titles of interest to Friends and fellow seekers. You can browse these titles and place your order using a state of the art shopping cart system and secure ordering from the bookstore's website at Quakerbooks.Org. Not only are all your favorite (and soon to be favorite) Quaker selections available here; you can also order *any* book from Quakerbooks of FGC.

6. New Conference Coordinator

We are very pleased to introduce Traci Hjelt Sullivan as FGC's new Conference Coordinator. This FGC position holds the major responsibility for the FGC Annual Gathering and other small conferences. Traci is a member of Santa Cruz Monthly Meeting (where she served as clerk) and comes to FGC after thirteen years as Co-Director of the Ben Lomond Quaker Center in California. We are thrilled that she is able to overlap with Liz Perch, the outgoing Conference Coordinator, who has served FGC wonderfully for the past ten years. Liz is moving to Georgia with her family after the 2006 Gathering.

7. New job openings

Do you yearn to work for and with Friends? FGC's service to meetings and Friends is growing and we expect to hire for three full-time positions in the next several months, in addition to offering a one-year publications internship. The new openings are for a Youth Ministries Coordinator, a Major Gifts/Planned Giving Manager, and a Conference Associate, as well as the Publications Intern. You can learn about all these positions, and even download the job descriptions, at the FGC website. Please pass this along to others who may be interested.

We are delighted to have two special FGC guests with us this year. Deborah Fisch, Traveling Ministries Program Coordinator, is leading a workshop. Liz Oppenheimer is serving as FGC's Yearly Meeting Visitor to SAYMA this year. Please welcome them both and ask them about their experiences with FGC.

These are just the highlights of the dynamic work and vision of FGC. It is a both a pleasure and an honor to serve as your representatives to this organization, and we welcome your questions, comments and suggestions for ways FGC can nurture SAYMA Friends. While we serve as appointed representatives to FGC, there are other SAYMA Friends who have been called by FGC to serve in valued capacities. They include John Geary, Tom Kenworthy, Christina Vanregenmorter, and Robin Wells. Apologies if we have missed someone!

Elaine Ruscetta, Julia Sibley-Jones, Penelope Wright

FLGBTQC

Report to SAYMA, June 2006

There has been much regional activity on the part of members of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns this year. One event has already taken place. Annie Black and Cookeville Friends arranged a presentation of Peterson Toscano doing his one-man performance, "Doin' Time at the Homonomo Halfway House" in late April. This is a hilarious and sometimes poignant piece based on Peterson's experiences trying to get "straightened out" in such a facility located in Memphis.

We are most excited about the event being planned for next February 16-19, the first-ever FLGBTQC Midwinter Gathering to be held in North Carolina (or anywhere in the Southeast between northern Virginia and Florida). Presently four of us SAYMA people, all from Asheville MM, are on the planning committee- Katherine Kowal, Jim Cavener, Alan Robinson, and Gary Briggs. Others are from Greensboro, High Point and Chapel Hill. Last fall we faced our first challenge, securing a conference site. We were quickly denied use of the Quaker Lake facility southeast of Greensboro, which is owned by NCYM-FUM. This prompted some anger within Piedmont Friends Fellowship, which has been using this site for retreats for many years. Protest letters were sent by Charlotte MM and Chapel Hill Young Friends, and the PFF representative body responded by inviting ALL Friends to their spring retreat, choosing the theme "Facing Discrimination: Living Our Lives with Integrity". Cheryl Bridges, who is on our committee and has been recorded as a minister by New Garden Friends, was invited to give a keynote presentation, which emphasized the great variety of ways people might be "different" from the crowd and subsequently experience marginalization and discrimination; she led the group in gathering examples of how people's lives can be damaged by such discrimination. Several of us were invited to serve in a follow-up panel discussion.

We found and secured an excellent site for our gathering conveniently located about 25 minutes from the Piedmont Triad airport. The Summit is on several hundred acres with a lake and a river; until recently it was owned by the Episcopal Diocese, which hosted several LGBT events there before. We found many excellent Friends willing to serve as speakers or panelists. We presently plan a plenary session led by Max Carter, director of Friends Center and Quaker Studies at Guilford College, a panel of speakers from each yearly meeting in this region, one worship in the manner of semi-programmed Friends a la New Garden, and breakout sessions around topics such as the paths individuals have taken to arrive at their own Quaker practice. Fireside chats, folk dancing, and field trips to local Friends historical sites are also in the works. The theme, "Many Voices, One Spirit" is intended to celebrate the diversity of Quakers in North Carolina and also their long history of courageous work toward equal and just treatment of all people.

FWCC Annual Meeting of the Section of the Americas

3rd Month, 2006 CHIQUIMULA, GUATEMALA

Tim Lamm and Sallie Prugh attended the Annual Meeting as representatives from SAYMA. Carol Lamm attended as an observer. Rachel Weir was one of the bilingual interpreters.

We arrived in Rio Hondo, a small town about 1 hour north of Chiquimula, which had a hotel large enough to accommodate 200 Quakers, on Thursday, March 16. There was an orientation for new representatives, and in the evening we were bused to Chiquimula for dinner and worship at the *Embajadores* Friends Church. The courtyard of the church was festively decorated, and we were welcomed by local Friends and live music to a buffet dinner featuring *tamalitos* made by the women of the church. The worship service included many hymns to familiar gospel music and ended with a fun activity based on "Simon says."

Business meeting was held each morning from 8:00 – 11:00 AM, after delicious breakfast served by the pool. The proceedings were conducted in both Spanish and English. Rachel Weir served as an interpreter with skill and grace. Items of particular interest were the discussion of the financial crisis of the organization and the campaign to raise money for an endowment. This campaign is going very well, and they hope to have sufficient pledges and gifts to reach their goal of \$2.5 million in the next year. To inspire the gathered Quakers, one of the members of the *Embajadores* Church talked about how they had raised money to build their new church with the help of every member of their monthly meeting, whether the gifts were large or small. Every Saturday

morning the women would meet in the courtyard in front of the construction and make tortillas to sell to the townspeople. They built the church one tortilla at a time.

There is Peace Issues Working Group, which was instructed at the last Annual Meeting to write a minute on torture to bring to this gathering. The following minute was approved:

In 1976, FWCC in a minute of concern addressed the grave anxiety created by the increase in the use of torture and imprisonment by government and anti-government groups around the world. Today, FWCC Section of the Americas feels led to minute our deepest concern at the continued inhumane treatment of prisoners. Increasingly, we are seeing a legitimacy attached to the use of injustice and brutality that is reflected in an escalation in the use of torture in our prisons, the holding of prisoners without access to courts for as many as three years, the establishment of secret prisons, and the institutionalized training in techniques of torture in places such as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly the School of the Americas). The Geneva Convention, which once seemed to have attained the status of settled law worldwide, is being violated, and the perpetrators of inhumane treatment are not being held accountable.

As Friends, we believe in the sacredness of each person. It is the belief in a divinely mandated call to honor the inherent worth of each individual that has allowed Friends to persevere in lengthy struggles against the great evils of the past and present—slavery, religious persecution and oppression of those at the margins of society. At great cost, Friends have witnessed prophetically against injustice for more than 350 years. We now call on Friends everywhere to raise our voices once again against a malevolent darkness that is spreading throughout our world – to join together with all people of faith and conscience in calling on our governments to banish forever the use of torture in any form.

The committee also passed along a letter from Debra Fisch, Clerk of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, requesting that the Section of the Americas “hold a consultation of Friends to consider how Friends might work with other peace churches to provide alternative service in the event of a military draft.” Some Friends felt that it was not appropriate issue for this Section to address, since it dealt with only one country in the Section. However, a representative from Bolivia told of the requirement in his country of military service before young people can be admitted to the university or get many types of jobs. Many Bolivian Quaker youth are rejecting their parents’ stand on the peace testimony, because that is the only way they can “get ahead”.

Each meeting for business began with worship. One day there was singing and a sermon about spiritual gifts from the representative from Jamaica who is a pastor. The next day was silent worship, but with the only messages being passages from the Bible. The last meeting for worship was silent worship, but with 200 people including pastors, and because it was our last time together in that place, there were many messages.

Each day there was a period of worship-sharing around the theme of spiritual gifts. These groups were bilingual, and there was an interpreter in each group. Not everyone was acquainted with worship-sharing, but everyone participated and got a great deal from it.

Regional groups got together to plan regional gatherings. The Southeast Region will be meeting September 22-24 in the Greensboro, North Carolina area. Tim Lamm is helping plan this meeting. The theme will likely be maintaining the Peace Testimony in view of the Iraq war and possible draft.

Each evening we rode buses into Chiquimula. One night we heard Duduzile Mtshazo, Clerk of the FWCC, who is from South Africa, talk about her life and how she came to be a Quaker, and how it has supported her through times of trial.

Another evening we scattered to one of 8 Quaker churches in and around Chiquimula. This was a remarkable experience. These were small churches, most with evangelical fervor and amazing, gracious warmth. In some churches the men sat on one side and the women on the other. The music was vibrant. A favorite memory for Sallie is sitting on the curb after the service was over, talking to a group of children about the different ways we worship. They were very interested. They also talked about school and sports. For Tim is was lining up with the visitors in front of the pulpit and getting a hug from every member of the congregation.

The Quakers in Chiquimula took beautiful care of us. The arrangements were wonderful; they were warm and friendly. They were as happy to see a group of Quakers from other countries as we were to see them. The only thing that was less than perfect were the black bean sandwiches in our boxed suppers.

Before the conference, Tim and Carol Lamm spent three days in Antigua sightseeing and learning about the Quatemala Scholarship/Loan Program. After the meeting, Sallie Prugh took a study tour led by the Scholarship/Loan Program and traveled through Guatemala for eight days. On the tour were 21 other people who had been at the annual meeting, which gave Sallie additional time to learn more about the organization and about the varieties of Quaker experience. Rachel Weir traveled to El Salvador and has written a report about her experiences.

For more information about the Guatemala conference and FWCC, see the display at this Yearly Meeting and the web site, www.fwccamericas.org. The next FWCC Section of the Americas Annual Meeting will be in Providence, Rhode Island, March 15–18, 2007. The FWCC Triennial gathering of Friends from all over the world will be held August 10–19, 2007 in Dublin, Republic of Ireland.

Submitted by Sallie Prugh and Tim Lamm

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Annual Report to SAYMA 2006

Quaker Earthcare Witness Vision & Witness statement

WE ARE CALLED to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God.

WE WORK to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth's ecological integrity.

WE PROMOTE these Truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the Earth.

QEWS meets twice a year in the Fall and in the Spring. Within its structure are both standing Committees including Outreach & Publications and Interest Groups including QNL (QEWS for National Legislation); Sustainability, Faith & Action; and Ann Kriebel / San Luis. Publications produces the bi-monthly Befriending Creation and Quaker Ecological Bulletin as well as multiple books and pamphlets on an about Earthcare. Outreach works toward getting the Earthcare message out in a variety of manners. Visitation and outreach to yearly meetings is one of its tasks. QNL represents QEWS at FCNL in promoting and encouraging Earthcare as worthy of lobbying at the national legislative level. Sustainability: Faith & Action has several projects that it is currently working on. Men 4 Men is an outreach campaign to help men take control of their reproductive responsibility. Over population is of great concern for the stain it puts on all of the earth's systems. This program will provide supplemental funding for men getting vasectomies, a procedure that is less invasive than tubal ligation . Another project is focused on reducing the ecological footprint of QEWS as an example to other organizations. One of the ways it accomplishes this is the greening of its meetings, by donating compact fluorescent light bulbs to the meeting facility where we meet and promoting the planting of trees to offset the carbon costs of transportation to the meeting.

Other items being worked on:

- Working with other organizations encouraging all religious publications to be printed on recycled paper.
- Long standing efforts of organize for UN NGO status to be able to participate more fully within the international sustainability community.
- National efforts at encouraging economic policies to reflect actual cost to the earth.

Perhaps the most profound change that has occurred this year is the total redesign of the QEWS website. This is an ongoing project and the new site will be added to over the next year by many exciting features. Come visit us at www.quakerearthcare.org.

A current goal is to find greater channels of communication throughout the larger Quaker community, between individual meetings and the central QEW organization. Surveys are being conducted to collect this information.

- Action Item: We need to find a contact representative from every MM.

Quaker House – Fayetteville

Quaker House, based in Fayetteville, NC, provides aid for military personnel, counseling, and informs military members of their rights. Quaker House helps

military members with discharge, those who are AWOL or UA, and those who have become conscientious objectors. Quaker House is affiliated with the GI Rights network, which provides information to servicemembers about military discharges, grievance and complaint procedures, and other civil rights.

Unfortunately, as SAYMA Rep, I have not been able to attend very many of the Quaker House board meetings this year, but I present this report based on some of the board meeting minutes.

GI Rights Hotline Counseling, from various board meeting minutes:

March 2006 was the most active month ever, with over 270 calls to the GI Rights hotline, a 18% increase relative to the previous most active month. The greatest proportion of calls concerned AWOL cases. In addition, each month this year has seen the highest number of calls for that month.

The GI Rights hotline has experienced a steady, almost linear growth in calls since its inception in 1994. Factors that appear to contribute to the increased traffic include the availability and increased use of the website, word of mouth referrals, and the level of dissatisfaction among military personnel.

The volume of calls during 2005 was about 20% higher than the previous year. The current volume is about 2.5 times as high as it was four years ago. Six of the months in (2005) set records for numbers of calls. Quaker House presently answers about 20% of the calls in the system. We also answer calls six days a week, which is more than any other group or individual serving the hotline.

Based on the evidence of hotline calls (from January 2006), the military, especially the Army, appears to be attempting to do too much with too few (in the opinion of the Quaker House Counselors) . . . Although the military has the option of discharging a soldier due to “failure to adapt” (as decided by the military), such designations are being made at a higher level of rank than before, **and thus are more difficult to obtain**. This change may explain a higher frequency of cases in which military personnel have instead decided to go AWOL.

March Peace Rally In Fayetteville, NC

Quaker House has, since 2004, hosted a peace rally on the anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War. This past year, the rally was hosted on March 18. Expenses this year, for the March 18, 2006 rally, came to about \$6000 for portapotties, fees, etc. Designated donations to Quaker House, in support of the rally came to about \$11,000. The exact amount left over, considering everything, was \$2804.33. Rowan Park already has been reserved for March 17, 2007. Quaker House will serve as the official umbrella of future annual peace rallies at Rowan Park (in Fayetteville)

Financials

The board (in May) reviewed the proposed budget for 2005-2006, which planned for a total operating amount of \$104,779, and expected income of \$108,959. In light of the steady increase of Hotline call traffic, and the strain this load is putting on our present GI counselors, the board APPROVED increasing the operating expense amount by \$12,000 to \$116,779, in order to prepare for the training and hiring of a new GI Hotline counselor, most likely on a part-time basis in the beginning.

In addition, Quaker House is mounting a capital campaign for the Fayetteville property, which runs to the end of the fiscal year. The goal for the campaign will be in the range \$50,000 to \$75,000. A major item will be the rewiring of the house, which will require replastering and repainting of the interior. The walls are of plaster and lathe construction. Chcuk Fager notes that contributions to Quaker House this fiscal year as of April 1 (ending June 30, 2006) already have met \$96.8% of the budget as of yesterday. The fact that we have met our budget means that the special appeal will not be competing with our operations budget.

Right Sharing of World Resources

Report to SAYMA 2006

Right Sharing of World Resources, the Quaker organization devoted to "supporting grassroots projects for economic development and offering educational materials for the study of the lives of the poor, the lives of the rich, and the spiritual meaning of both" entered its thirty-ninth year, and its seventh year as an independent Quaker organization.

The economic development work continues to grow, through the continued support of microenterprise development and network building with local groups and field staff in both India and Africa.

At our Spring 2006 Board Meeting, we were blessed to receive a visit from John Muhanji from Kenya Yearly Meeting. John is affiliated with Aquavis (Africa Quaker Vision), a non-profit development and community organization that serves as field staff for Right Sharing of World Resources in Africa, making site visits and spreading the word about Right Sharing in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. John Muhanji was able to provide the board with first hand accounts of how the work we do builds true economic and social strength within the communities where funds are granted.

As Right Sharing of World Resources continues to grow and evolve, we remain committed to both parts of our mission – to support microenterprise development and to offer North American Friends materials and opportunities to examine the meaning of simplicity in our lives and our use of God's resources. It is this educational part of our mission that we strive to continue building in the coming year through partnerships with other Quaker organizations, encouraging involvement of Friends at the Yearly and Monthly Meeting level, and the continued building of our curriculum for Monthly Meetings and individual study. Along these lines, we have welcomed a new field representative – Jackie Speicher. Jackie is a wonderful facilitator, and is available as a resource for Meetings and other Quaker gatherings.

Right Sharing of World Resources appreciates the support of SAYMA, monthly meetings, and individual Friends, and welcomes everyone to share in the joy of our work and spiritual discernment.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Walker, Asheville Friends Meeting, Board Member, Right Sharing of World Resources

William Penn House

Three major initiatives were begun or increased in FY 2005-06:

1. The former Washington Quaker Workcamps was incorporated into the house's programs, providing workcamp opportunities to youth from around the nation.
2. Teachers of Peace seminars were and continue to be offered to teachers across the country.
3. William Penn House's Quaker Youth Seminars have been expanded to develop Quaker leadership among our youth.

William Penn House continues to work for change. It hosts training for the Emerson Congressional Hunger Fellows. It develops individualized seminars for college, adult and youth groups, utilizing a network of capitol hill staff and Non Governmental Organization experts. It provides service work programs for Friends schools and others. It hosts groups lobbying on important issues. William Penn House works with Friends Committee on

National Legislation to present an annual young adult lobbying weekend, and hosts FCNL committees throughout the year.

In October (13-16), 2006, young Friends are invited to a seminar on equality and racism co-sponsored by the AFSC Help Increase the Peace Program: the "I Have a Dream... Youth Seminar."

November 2-5, 2006, WPH will offer: Teachers of Peace: Educating for Peace and Social Change, a seminar for those who teach middle junior and senior high school-aged students.

William Penn House offers sleeping accommodations and daily breakfast for individuals and groups of up to 30 people. Friends from SAYMA are encouraged to bring groups of young Friends, individual Friends, and families to the house for any purpose, whether educational, recreational or social change. Optional Quaker worship begins every day at WPH, followed by breakfast. With adequate notice, staff can develop a curriculum for youth study or training. Staff are always available to answer questions on any subject. Go to www.WmPennHouse.org for more information.

Submitted by Errol Hess
WPH Representative

World Gathering of Young Friends

Dear Friends:

Thank you for sending us to the World Gathering of Young Friends last August. As you probably could have guessed, it was a very eye-opening experience. There were people there from every walk of life and from all of the many diverse experiences of Quakerism (some of which hadn't even occurred to us). We found connections and understanding both in our commonalities and in our differences.

We both came to the Gathering with our fairly liberal, unprogrammed background, having no understanding of other forms of Quaker worship and spirituality, but searching to understand them. As the week progressed, we learned that understanding them was not the key, but rather uniting with our desire to connect with one another. By sharing in such diverse methods of worship, we saw the power of others experiencing God in new ways. We found community not in our underlying similarities but in our freshly affirmed respect for each other's journeys.

Although it has been almost a year since the gathering, we still feel profoundly connected to the community that we found there, and will be for years to come. We feel supported in our personal journeys and excited about the prospects inspired by our experiences there. In this connection, we wish to worship with our Quaker neighbors and expand our community of Friends.

Thank you again for granting us this incredible opportunity. Let us now continue to see what love can do.

Peace,
Elaine Ruscetta
Galen Labotka