



Friends Theological College Trains Pastors in Samburu



In November, a team of teachers from Friends Theological College visited the provisional satellite campus at Samburu Friends Mission to teach two courses for pastors in training: “Introduction to Quaker Theology,” and “Introduction to Christian Theology.” Both courses were primarily facilitated by Mark Yabwesa, a lecturer from the Nairobi satellite campus. This new theological training cohort included seventeen students from ten separate Samburu congregations.

Yabwesa reported to Robert Wafula, Principal at FTC, that his experience teaching in Samburu was the best experience he had ever had as a teacher. “I actually had three classes in one,” he remarked. “Among the seventeen students, there were some who understood the English language well, others

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Update on Belize Friends School

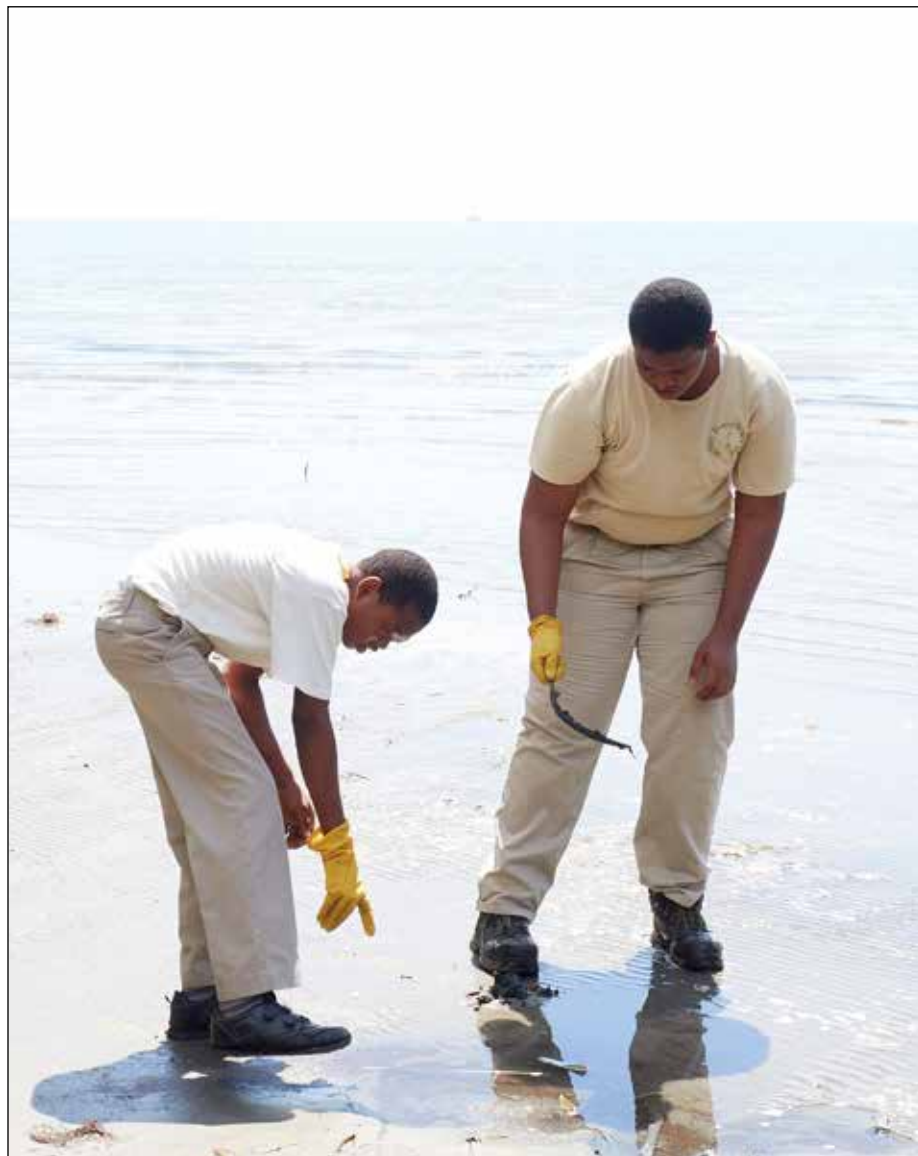
With deep gratitude and joy, Friends United Meeting can announce that Friends have raised \$40,259.68 for the Belize Friends School! Several months ago, the School faced a looming financial shortfall and we sent out an appeal for \$37,500 to keep the School open for the remainder of the academic year. Your amazing response will allow us to move into the next fiscal year with a head start as we work on raising the \$67,000 needed to fund the School through the 2020–2021 academic year.

Belize Friends Ministries Director Nikki Holland writes, “I am frequently brought to tears by stories I’m hearing of various projects, fundraisers, and campaigns that Friends in the USA are doing for our School. I am astonished by the level of support from Friends that we feel here in Belize, and being assured of funding through this school year is allowing us to concentrate fully on caring for our students and preparing them to sit their exams in the Spring. We are looking forward now to figuring out how we can fund the 2020–2021 school year, and I am confident that God, and Friends will do it! And, I hope, we will do it without an emergency!”

Nikki and FUM Global Ministries Director Eden Grace are exploring various ways to ensure the long-term sustainability of Belize Friends Ministries. They are searching for grant opportunities to help support the school—they have one application pending, and will hear back from that organization in September. Other developing income streams include renting out the School’s bus, selling concessions from our canteen, and renting out space on the roof for an internet tower. They are also pursuing renting space within the new facility to other organizations.

FUM is grateful for ongoing fundraising work on behalf of the school, including an upcoming fundraiser at Deep River Friends Meeting (North Carolina Fellowship of Friends). We’re also pleased to report that the Christian Outreach Board of Western Yearly Meeting has chosen the Belize Friends School as their 2020 Special Project. Last year, Western’s Special Project fundraising raised \$19,000 for Girl-Child Education, and in 2018 they raised nearly \$20,000 for ministries in Tanzania, so we are prayerfully confident that they will meet or exceed their \$15,000 goal this year.

General Secretary Kelly Kellum says, “Nikki Holland is providing great leadership as Friends United Meeting is serving one of the most vulnerable communities in Belize City. We are blessed by the continuing generosity of Friends who sacrificially give to support this ministry.” Please continue to pray for Nikki and for Belize Friends Ministries as we seek, together, to discern God’s way forward.



Belize Friends School students on a service trip to clean trash from the ocean shore also find crabs, mollusks, and other forms of shore life.

Maurine Waudu Appointed Joint Triennial Coordinator



Friends United Meeting has appointed Maurine Waudu to the staff of the Africa Ministries Office in the capacity of Triennial Conference Coordinator. Maurine is a member of Nairobi Yearly Meeting and a highly-experienced professional event planner. She will work on a seven-month contract to ensure that all aspects of the July 2020 Joint FUM/USFWI/QMI Triennial are well organized. She began her work on February 3rd, 2020, and has already proved invaluable to the Kisumu-based staff team as they carry out

the complex work of hosting an international conference.

The theme for the 2020 Triennial in Kisumu, Kenya, is three words: Come. Abide. Go. Each of the three Triennial hosts has taken responsibility for one segment of the tripartite theme:

1. The Quaker Men International program will revolve around Christ's invitation in Matt. 4:19, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
2. The Friends United Meeting program is guided by John 15:4, "Abide in me, and I will abide in you."
3. The program of the United Society of Friends Women International will focus on Matthew 28:19, "Go and make disciples of all nations."

Come. Abide. Go. Are you willing to travel along? More information, and online registration, can be found at fumtriennial.org. Also check out pre- and post- Triennial travel options for service, learning, fellowship, and fun.

POSITION OPEN

Klamath Falls Friends Church, an open and affirming meeting within the Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends, seeks a full-time pastor to journey with us, plan and present weekly messages to guide our theologically diverse meeting, and fulfill general administrative responsibilities for our small church community (60–75 members). For more detailed job information or to query regarding application materials, please contact klamathfallsfriendschurch@gmail.com.

Cultivating Generous Congregations



Friends United Meeting is excited to be partnering with Everence Financial Services to host a Cultivating Generous Congregations (CGC) seminar at Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond, Indiana, on May 1st and 2nd, 2020. CGC is a dynamic program that will transform the stewardship ministries of your Church and Meeting. The seminar offers practical skills, along with a biblical grounding, that will help congregational leaders

- Rethink their roles in church finance
- Become better stewards of their member's gifts and donations
- Awaken a deeper spirit of generosity within their communities

FUM General Secretary Kelly Kellum says of the program, "What excites me about this seminar is that participants do not attend alone, but come as a team of three or four members from their Church or Meeting. As pastors and stewardship leaders learn through the presentations, they will be given opportunities to design their own congregational plans for creating cultures of generosity." The team should include three of the following: Senior Clergy, Treasurer, Stewardship/Finance Committee member, and another active leader in the Meeting.

FUM's ministry partners at Everence have worked closely with Lake Institute to offer this seminar at an affordable cost. Lake Institute developed Cultivating Generous Congregations based on extensive research that is updated annually. Part of the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the Institute is committed to having a practical impact with this seminar.

According to Kellum, "CGC is one of the most effective programs I am aware of that will impact the stewardship life of a congregation. Generous congregations will strengthen Meetings and Churches, and this will unleash new ministries among Friends, which contributes to the expansion of God's kingdom."

Colin Saxton, Stewardship Consultant with Everence, will be the facilitator. Before you take this course, you should

- Believe in your Church or Meeting's capacity for greater generosity
- Have a desire to become more comfortable with money
- Be willing to rethink and redefine giving in your local faith community
- Understand giving to include service, social networks, and the sharing of ideas and professional expertise

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. on May 1, and the event concludes at 4:00 p.m. on May 2. All the conference events will take place in the FUM office building, and rooms will be available next door at the Quaker Hill Conference Center. For more information about how your congregation can be enriched by this experience, or to register a group, contact North American Ministries Coordinator Ben Snyder at bens@fum.org.

Quaker Archive Launched at FTC

Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya, is hosting the first Quaker history archive in Africa. The new Africa Quaker Archive at FTC is a collaborative project of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative, East Africa Steering Circle (QREC-EA) and Friends Theological College (FTC). Members of these two organizations have combined to form the Africa Quaker Archive Working Circle. The archive will be housed at the Edith Ratcliff Library at FTC Kaimosi.

Leading for the Africa Quaker Archive rose at a QREC Sunday School teacher training at Friends Theological College in January 2019. The facilitators told the story of East African Friend, elder, and minister, Priscilla Makhino, to demonstrate the “Faith & Play” style of storytelling. When the twenty-six East African participants heard a piece of their own history for the first time, a deep yearning to know more took hold! They wanted to have the resources to share stories of Quaker faith from earlier generations of African Friends with their Sunday School classes, and to document stories of faith and witness in a form that can be passed along to future generations.

Creating the Archive is a vital and time-critical work that will gather and preserve key pieces of contemporary Quaker history. It combines recording and transcribing oral histories with the collection of personal documents and institutional records going back to 1902, when Quakerism came to East Africa. This is a multi-year project with a scope that will cover all of Africa, and it will serve an international community. A digital collection will make materials and oral histories available to Friends and scholars around the world. Some of the stories of faith and witness among East African Friends will be shared in translation with Friends around the world as religious education resources.

The Africa Quaker Archive Working Circle invited Mary Crauderueff, Curator of Quaker Collections at Haverford College, as the first Visiting Quaker Archivist to guide cataloging of materials, train others to continue this work, and consult on future directions for the project. At the Archive’s convocation event, Crauderueff expressed her excitement about the project, saying, “This archive will not only help preserve Quaker history in Africa but will equip FTC as the centre of reference in Africa.” She is looking forward to archiving available records such as minutes, diaries, sermons, newsletters, membership lists, and so forth.

The Africa Quaker Archive Working Circle was supported by the Thomas H. and Mary Williams Shoemaker Fund and the Friends Historical Association for seed funding to begin this work, and Haverford College has supported Mary Crauderueff’s participation. The Africa Quaker Archive will be pleased to accept donations of documents, photographs, letters, or personal journals related to Friends in Africa. These can be brought to, or sent with representatives to, the FUM/USFWI/QMI Triennial in Kisumu, Kenya in July 2020.

For questions about the Africa Quaker Archive, please contact Beth Collea at bethcollea@aol.com.



“FCNL gave me my voice when I was finding my faith, finding my role in the Religious Society of Friends, and finding my role in activism. I hope that the money that I will one day contribute to FCNL from my 401(k) can help give someone else a voice.”

~ Katie Breslin, Richmond, IN

Join Katie in making FCNL a beneficiary of your IRA or 401(k). For more info or to let us know you've made this decision, please contact Mary Comfort Ferrell (202) 903-2539 or marycomfort@fcnl.org



Friends Committee on
National Legislation

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who understood Kiswahili well but no English, but there were also those who neither understood English nor Kiswahili.” Yabwesa handled this challenge by introducing translation partners within the class. “At 3pm, I divided students into groups where they discussed the material covered in class. They did this in their local language with the help of those who understand English well. When they came back to class, everyone’s teeth were out with joy because now we were all on the same page.”

While in Samburu, the team from FTC attended Lorian Friends Church for worship. The message was brought by Pastor Martin Simiyu, FTC Campus Minister. Yabwesa was also able to attend a Samburu traditional wedding and an initiation ceremony. Some prospective students were unable to enroll in this cohort because of their participation in the ceremonies, while others were herding cattle in faraway locations, so both Friends in Samburu and staff from FTC are looking forward to their enrollment in the next cohort.

Financial support for this satellite experience is provided through the USFWI Sarrin Fund, which covers most of the tuition costs for pastoralist students (Turkana, Samburu, Maasai) and pays half of tuition for other Friends students at the college.



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