

# CONNECTIONS

in Friends United Meeting



April 2020

## New Summer Mission Focus



If you're thinking ahead to Vacation Bible School, or programming for Quaker camps, or other summer activities, keep in mind that our summer focus this year will be the Turkana Friends Mission. Turkana Friends Mission is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, and we're looking forward to giving you materials on the history of the mission and how God has used it to bring hope and peace to the Turkana region.

We are organizing the Summer Mission Project differently this year than in the past.

As in previous years, we will be offering basic information on the ministry we've chosen, as well as curriculum ideas and book suggestions for Children's Messages or Sunday School. But unlike past years, we are setting no fundraising goal, nor are we earmarking funds for a specific project of the ministry. We hope that if, in the past, your Meeting/Church has gathered around a barbecue or bake sale for missions, you will continue to do so. If you send FUM a check memoed "Turkana Friends Mission," we will happily receive it, and send those funds on to Turkana.

However, with our new annual Global Ministries appeal—the Global Impact Fund—scheduled to run in early summer, we did not want to find ourselves with two competing fundraising requests. Yet we realized, from past responses, that many Meetings/Churches value the information and curriculum contained in our Summer Mission packet, regardless of the fundraising component.

So we will be transforming Summer Mission Project into Summer Mission Focus—a name that puts the emphasis on information and education, rather than fundraising. Check your mail for your Turkana packet in May. Let us know if you didn't receive a packet, but would like one. As always, we are interested to hear how you make use of the materials—please write to us at [julier@fum.org](mailto:julier@fum.org) to let us know.

Interested in seeing the Turkana Friends Mission for yourself? Travel to Turkana is one of our many post-Triennial2020 options. Check out all our available options at [www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/triennial-travel](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/triennial-travel).

# Leadership Transitions in Samburu

Sammy Letoole, Director of Samburu Friends Mission, has been appointed to the position of Director of Special Programmes for Samburu County, a senior leadership role within the government. In this capacity, he is responsible for all peace, violence reduction, disaster relief, and emergency response in the vast Samburu County. Samburu Friends are proud of Sammy for this promotion, and



*Members of the new Board for Samburu Friends Mission.*

have prayed over him that he would exercise wise and humble leadership in order to bear witness to Christ wherever he goes.

Of course this will mean changes in the leadership of Samburu Friends Mission. Sammy was appointed Director of Samburu Friends

Mission in 2013, upon the retirement of the founder of the mission, Isaiah Bikokwa. Sammy was the first Samburu to lead the mission, and under his directorship the Friends movement in Samburu experienced rapid growth.

The Samburu Friends Mission Board, at its meeting on 8 February 2020, appointed Daniel Lentirangoi of Lorumoki Friends Church to serve as acting administrator for a one year period, while the Board carries out the search process for a new director. Daniel is a recent graduate of Laikipia University with a teaching degree (specializations in History and Christian Religious Education), and hopes to enroll in the Bachelors of Theology programme at Friends Theological College later in 2020.

A new Mission Board was installed in September 2019, and began its work by expressing gratitude for the service of the outgoing Board members, who had served since 2013—the first Mission Board composed of Samburu people. On 9 February 2020, in a celebratory worship service at Loltulelei Friends Church, the old members were appreciated with gifts, and the new members were prayed over by the church members.

FUM invites all Friends to pray for Samburu Friends Mission and its new leadership, that they may indeed bear compelling witness to the living Christ throughout Samburu County.

# Genuine Spiritual Partnership

Dear Friends,

I recently returned from a busy but wonderful trip to Kenya. Several highlights from my trip included visits with Yearly Meeting leaders, working with our staff and the Logistics Committee on Triennial preparations, and attending the first meeting of the African Missions Committee. Additionally, it was a blessing to be on the campus of Friends Theological College for the General Board meetings of FUM. Just following those meetings, Richard Sitati (assistant presiding clerk of the FUM General Board) and I hosted a retreat for the leaders of our African ministries and project partners. I continue to be inspired by the transforming work God is doing through Turkana Friends Mission, Samburu Friends Mission, Friends Church Peace Teams, Lugulu Friends Hospital, Lindi Friends School, and Friends Theological College. This

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Thanks to a gift from Western Yearly Meeting, Financial Manager Kira Young was able to travel to Kenya to meet with Friends at the Africa Ministries Office and Friends Theological College. She says that she felt welcomed everywhere she went, greeted by Friends with open arms and hearts. Meeting directly with FUM staff in Kisumu brought much needed insight on how to continue to move FUM toward greater financial sustainability.

work would not be possible without the dedicated support and prayers offered by members of the FUM community.

The retreat focused on the initiative to help FUM's ministries move toward financial sustainability. Edgar Ala, a member of Nairobi Yearly Meeting and member of the Quaker Investment Corporation, led a segment on ministry and business. I led a conversation on General Board sustainability policies. Financial Manager Kira Young provided instruction on how to develop and manage a budget. Africa Ministries Office Programme Officer Shawn McConaughy talked about the importance of telling transformative stories to engage donors.

The mission of Friends United Meeting is to “energize and equip Friends through the power of the Holy Spirit to gather people into fellowships where Jesus Christ is known, loved, and obeyed as Teacher and Lord.” To encourage long-term financial dependence is not a strong model of energizing and equipping Friends. Rather, FUM is committing itself to support the development of long-term financial sustainability in all of our ministries. This will mean coming alongside project partner leaders to help these ministries become increasingly self-sustaining over time. This absolutely does not imply a diminishing of our spiritual partnership with any given ministry. Rather, we believe that a genuine spiritual partnership is one in which neither party is fully dependent on the other.

—Kelly Kellum, General Secretary, Friends United Meeting

## The Journal of George Fox

edited by Rufus Jones

George Fox's record of his life and ministry is a Christian classic. Its pages chronicle not only Fox's spiritual travail and subsequent consolation when he heard a voice that said, “There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition,” but his years of ministry and gathering of a people for Christ who became known as the Society of Friends. The edition available in our online bookstore includes a glossary of words and phrases most commonly used by George Fox. Check us out at [bookstore.friendsunitedmeeting.org](http://bookstore.friendsunitedmeeting.org).



\$30.00  
608 pages, paperback  
Friends United Press, 2006



## FUM Ships Cargo Container of Books to Friends Theological College

Friends United Meeting regularly receives donations of theological, Quaker, and biblical books for the library at Friends Theological College, a fully-accredited Quaker study center in Kaimosi, Kenya, serving all Friends in east and central Africa. Whenever any of the FUM staff are traveling to Kenya, we carry books in our suitcases. But over the last couple of years, we have received more donated books than we could ever transport that way, and we realized that it's time to put together a shipping container.

We're often asked why it is of essential importance that we ship books to Kenya, when most graduate students these days can find all the resources they need on the internet. The reality is that FTC, in a rural location in western Kenya, does not have reliable internet access. A few years ago, the college installed solar power to the whole campus, thus providing a source of electricity that could support computers. FUM then supplied twenty donated laptop computers for the library. But without internet, students cannot use them for online research.

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In order to maintain our status as an accredited college, we must demonstrate a certain number of book acquisitions per year. Until the infrastructure reaches Kaimosi that would allow for use of electronic books, the shipping of Quaker and other religious books is essential to the success of the college.

On February 27, we were able to begin shipment of 11,108 books to FTC. After several months' collection and cataloguing of books at the Richmond office, 360 12"x12"x16" boxes were loaded out of our warehouse area into a moving van on the first step of their way to Atlanta, Georgia. From there, they will travel by sea to Kenya, and, we hope, will arrive in Kaimosi at about the same time as Friends gather for the 2020 FUM/QMI/USFWI Triennial. One service option for the Triennial, both before and after, is to help shelve these books.



The books in this shipment come from a variety of sources, including the entire personal libraries of a few retired pastors, a large number of books selected by the owner of Vintage Quaker Books as being especially relevant to Quaker theological education in Africa, and the remnants of Rufus Jones's personal collection. In cataloging and packing the boxes, we discovered some real gems of Quaker literature—for example, a 1736 edition of *Barclay's Apology* and several complete sets of the fourteen-volume collection entitled *The Friends Library*, first published in 1837. Friends in some countries may be thoroughly accustomed to seeing antiquarian books like these in their meetinghouses, but for African Friends, who are hungry for early Quaker literature, these will be a precious treasure in the collection of Friends Theological College. During her recent visit to FTC, Haverford's Curator of Quaker Collections, Mary Craudereuff, began training the library staff in how to care for antique volumes such as these, and there is enormous excitement on campus for the arrival of these special books.

Of course, not every book in the container is one-of-a-kind. For instance, there are at least twenty-seven copies of *Barclay's Apology*, in various editions.

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But these duplicates also serve a very important purpose. As FTC has expanded in recent years, and now has six satellite campuses, each of which needs to equip a full library for its students, the demand for multiple copies of fundamental texts is very high. In addition, in a context in which students do not buy their own books, any book that is being used as a classroom textbook must be available in enough copies for each student to read their assignments on time. All of these copies of *Barclay* will be well used!

In cases in which none of the FTC libraries need a particular book, these items will be sold for a nominal price at the FTC bookstore. The proceeds from these sales will be used to purchase theological books by African authors, which don't typically come in donated containers, but which are essential for the contextual education of FTC students, and are required by the accrediting agency.

No book is ever wasted in Africa. Books are hard to come by, and the FTC community is eagerly anticipating the arrival of this precious shipment.

—Eden Grace, Global Ministries Director, Friends United Meeting



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