Young Friends Ministry in Turkana
By Lomuria

Since independence, education has been the background of every successful Kenyan tribe, but the pastoral communities of the Maasai, Samburu and Turkana lagged behind in climbing the ladder. Modern education was later introduced into Turkana through missionaries in search of people to spread the good news, i.e., able to read the Bible and translate accurately.

The missionaries who sacrificed to come to Africa, Kenya and the most hard and hostile district of Turkana became a blessing to the Turkana community. The Turkana have benefited and are now able to teach others the way to the truth. Ministry is therefore on the move. Bravo! To the Quaker missionaries who came to Turkana and gave a lot in terms of resources and energy, may the Almighty Father bless you, wherever you are.

Currently the Quaker ministry is alive in Turkana due to a few of the youth taught by these missionaries. Your resources have played a role in our spiritual and physical life as Quakers. The youth are therefore becoming the prime target for the enhancement of Quaker ministry in Turkana.

The male youth only assist where they can but sometimes a responsibility arises they can’t fit due to their education level. To be able to work in Kenya, you need to have a secondary certificate but most of these Quaker youth have only finished primary level. Sometimes these same youths go to different denominations looking for assistance and at last do not come back. The Friends ministry therefore keeps on losing more and more youth to other churches.

A few of the male youth currently assisting the program are those who were assisted by the Kenyan Quaker Men’s Association to a higher level of education, and six young girls are being helped by USFW-International. The male youth are currently not assisted by any organization, hence they are getting fewer and fewer in the ministry.

Lomuria is one of the young Quakers in Lodwar Friends Church and is YFP-Presiding Clerk.

Graduation at Friends Theological College

March 29, 2003 was an historic day in the lives of nineteen Kenyan Friends pastors because a cake had been baked and dedicated in their honor for graduation from Friends Theological College (FTC). In Kenya, a cake declares an historic event. A day is blessed when God sends a shower upon Kenya and graduation was doubly blessed—the shower came but God delayed the rain until after the ceremony.

Fifteen students completed the three-year Diploma of Theology and four students received a one-year Certificate in Biblical Studies. The graduating class represented seven different yearly meetings and one non-Quaker student, and was composed of fourteen men and five women.

Dr. Patrick Nugent and Mary Kay Rehard officiated over their first graduation as Co-Principals of FTC. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Richard and Sandy Davis, administrators of FTC from 1997 to 2002. They had honored a promise to return for graduation after leaving in 2002. Professor George Kinoti, Executive Director of the African Institute for Scientific Research and Development, was the graduation guest speaker.

A crowd of approximately five hundred family members, friends, church and community leaders gathered to witness and celebrate this special occasion. May God richly bless the ministries of these pastors as they serve Him in East Africa.

Friends United Meeting

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Quaker Life June 2003
Samburu and Turkana

The words Samburu and Turkana bring to my mind vibrant women in colorful necklaces living in a harsh, arid desert. These are brave people. The men live a nomadic life to find grazing for the sheep.

I've watched women and children dig a hole in a dry riverbed to find a little water. They bathed and drank from the small puddle along with sheep and cattle. Several weeks ago, I (Retha McCutchen) saw the difference a well makes to one of these communities. The hand-pumped well was used from dawn to dusk, providing clean, life-giving water to families and animals. In addition to the ample supply, another major difference was water running off into a trough for animals to drink rather than sharing it with people.

Being present in person, one is faced with the great need in both Turkana and Samburu. We were confronted with the fact that giving through FUM has declined over the past year, while the local mission budgets have not declined. Our goal is to raise $2,000 per month each for Samburu and Turkana. Currently, we are not reaching these goals.

This is an urgent need. Please prayerfully consider a regular contribution to help sustain this outreach. Contributions can be made by check, visa and on our website www.fum.org.

Mary Kay Rehard and Patrick Nugent—Principals, Friends Theological College, Kenya

We had a fun visit from the Bob Carter family, Friends from Indiana who worked at Lugulu Hospital for many years. Dr. Bob Carter was our graduation speaker and over 800 Kenyans poured into campus to hear him. His talk will be the first in the Hill of Vision pamphlet series, from Kaimosi Friends Press, which has been recently revived. Copies will be available this summer when we are traveling, especially at the USFWI Triennial in Greensboro, NC.

With approval from FUM, we've acquired three shortwave radios, so that we can communicate more easily and regularly with Isaiah Bikokwa in Samburu and John Moru in Turkana. They are beyond the mobile phone network. Donations are being accepted for this purchase.
Evangelism

We invite people everywhere to know the joy and power of life in Christ. Through publications and the Internet, we support the outreach work of our member Yearly Meetings and we help connect inquirers to existing meetings for worship. We encourage the formation of new worship groups with a program of communications and mentoring. We support local Friends in discerning God's call to new mission outreach.

Leadership Training

For Friends, leadership is always understood in the context of the gathered community that comes together in unity to discern the will of God. Leadership, therefore, requires both servanthood and bold obedience to Jesus, our living Teacher and Lord. Friends United Meeting brings leadership groups together to learn from each other and for training. In projects around the world Friends United Meeting equips children, youth and adults with skills for leadership, discernment of good and evil, and the spiritual depth to speak to the condition of people with compassion and truth. Friends United Meeting encourages and trains Christian leaders to work with love, integrity and accountability for the Kingdom of God.

Global Partnership

Friends from the United States began overseas missionary work over 100 years ago. Friends in East Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean now outnumber North American Friends. As a faithful international community, we seek to model the body of Christ. We recognize that we are dependent on each other and need to receive each other's gifts. We work together to celebrate the Kingdom of God among us in genuine global partnership.

Communication

Evangelism, Leadership Training and Global Partnership require a program of effective communication. Friends United Meeting is committed to

- to proclaim Friends' vision to seekers, and to connect those who respond to the community of faith by professional and inspired use of the media and the internet;
- to lay out the discipleship implications of our faith and mentor strong faith communities by publishing books, pamphlets and curricula in print and other media;
- to promote genuine global partnership by creating international versions of our periodicals and providing accessible and cost-effective materials for leadership training.

After approving the four priorities, the Board also agreed to phase in a new staffing structure over the next year. Two significant changes are envisioned. The first is to implement the concept of global partnership under a new Global Ministries Depart-
God Is In Control
By John Epur Lomuria, Turkana Friends Mission

The Friends church in Kenya held a conference in Malava Yearly Meeting April 21-25, 2004. This was a most encouraging meeting.

The main speaker, Oliver Kisaka, spoke from Jeremiah 29:11 on “Plans to bring about the future you hope for.” It inspired me to write about the plans of God for the Kenyan church and me.

I remembered being from a poor family and a minor tribe in Kenya, and I remembered all the good things the Lord has done for me since childhood. It's worthy to say God is in control.

My earthly father died before my birth to this world, but due to God's control, I didn't die during the dry spell of weather that followed my birth. There was no milk, blood or any kind of soft food for an infant, but God did provide. I was fed the bone marrow of the animals that died in the drought.

In 1979, our uncles snatched our animals from us and we were left to die of hunger, but God took over as He always does for the desperate. We came into the town of Lodwar as beggars and for four years we lived through thick and thin until at last God opened a way by showing us the Quaker church in Lodwar town. Isaac Ewalan who was an Evangelist at that time started visiting us and invited my Mum to worship in the Quaker church pastored by Missionary Herman Jaiika Otioko.

Life forced me to look for a place to feed myself, hence I found myself in a Muslim Pre-School called Madrasa. The Sheik in charge introduced me to Hotel Mombassa where I ate every lunch and dinner for a period of one year. They taught me their worship procedures and Arabic alphabets until I realized I was in the wrong place. I recalled the kind of life I was leading and realized that God is life.

My brother William came to pick me up and took me to the Cherangani hills where he had secured a job for me as a herd's boy. Two years latter the spirit of schooling came into me and the cry of a lonely mother haunted me all that period. I loved my mother so that I cried every afternoon. At last my brother accepted to take me back to my mother. The first day I stepped into my mother's house made a drastic change in my life because I found that she was now a fully changed woman. She had prayed for the life of her children most of the time. This was in 1983.

When I was confirmed a Quaker, I was ignorant and innocent of many things in Quaker faith and practice but then the Holy Spirit started working in me. My life style changed miraculously. I had no one to share this life with other than my mother, Paullina, who encouraged me to love God and trust in him alone.

Later, I was seeking how to go to school. A message from Pastor Herman came in. I ran like a gazelle, my heart beating like jukebox. I removed the balance of money my brother had given me and went to see the pastor. What he said still trains me of whom the Quakers are—“As I was in a meeting with other Quakers,” he started. “Among them were a group called Quaker Men. One who heard your sad story has accepted to take you through school.”

Because of the Quakers, I was able to attend school. I found employment, and now I have become the source of survival for my family. God's plan is always perfect. He, the almighty, promises that when the doors seem closed, raise up your eyes to Jesus and he will open a way in your life.

A typical young man in Turkana. He carries his walking stick and a small stool to sit on or to use as a pillow.

Jamaica Yearly Meeting

Nine people were Recorded at the 2003 Jamaica Yearly Meeting Sessions: Adolphus Blake, Angella Beharie, Osborne Grapine, Horace Hall, Dennis Henry, Kenneth Johnson, Theresa Reid, Walter Reynolds and Adrian Robinson.

At the 2004 Yearly Meeting Sessions, special recognition for 20 years or more of dedicated service in ministry was given to: Isaiah Campbell, Osborne Grapine, Horace Hall, Dennis Henry, Florence Passley, Walter Reynolds and Lloyd Webley. Also, the first Faith and Practice of Jamaica Yearly meeting was approved.
Ramallah Students Attend Model U.N.
John Hishmeh

Last year, Osama Sabbah and Rasha Ali, 12th grade students from the Ramallah Friends School, proposed to the school administration that they be sent to Amman, Jordan as school representatives at the yearly Model United Nations (MUN) conference. It was approved as a pilot project with the understanding that if the trip proved beneficial, the school would opt to participate each semester.

Osama and Rasha were the only students from Palestine at a conference of more than 300 students. Osama represented Australia in Economic and Social Council and Rasha represented the United Kingdom in General Assembly B.

Since the pilot project was deemed a success, the Ramallah Friends School principal has approved students to participate in both MUN conferences. Every semester a group from the school will attend a MUN conference either in Cairo or Amman. The Cairo MUN will be held next in April.

The conference models the actual United Nations very closely, with different general assemblies, an economic and social assembly, a Security Council and an International Court of Justice. In each, the students adopt a country to represent in their respective forums. They make speeches and debate resolutions on the topics designated for their particular assembly. The issues include discussions about underdeveloped countries, child labor, procedures for dealing with countries who violate POW rights, arms trade, oil crisis, international banking regulations, espionage, the AIDS epidemic, the Israeli security fence and much more.

Participants not only learned about the function and nature of the U.N., but also about the various world issues at hand. Students typically spend two months researching and preparing for the conference and need to know in detail every aspect of the country they represent.

Above: Rasha speaks for the United Kingdom.
Left: Osama in a debate.

AFSC Sends Funds to Alleviate Famine in Turkana, Kenya

The American Friends Service Committee announced December 13 that $5,000 is being sent to Kenya to alleviate suffering from a drought described as a national emergency by the government of Kenya. John Moru, pastor of the Turkana Friends Mission, traveled in the U.S. in November, telling Friends about the effect of the drought on the nomadic Turkana people.

Ben Richmond, acting General Secretary of Friends United Meeting, described the grant as “a welcome Christmas present” for people "suffering in disastrous circumstances." Ben Richmond initiated the request for funds after attending a conference in Nairobi this past August. In visits following the conference, he observed that Friends churches in the Nairobi area were giving to the point of sacrifice to help the drought victims in the Turkana region. Urged by African Friends, he requested assistance from AFSC upon his return.

Mary Ellen McNish, Executive Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, facilitated the emergency grant. The funds will be managed by Africa Quaker Vision (AQUAVIS), an agency based in Nairobi, Kenya, and will be disbursed by the Turkana Friends Mission and the Samburu Friends Mission. The Global Ministries department of FUM will oversee the funds through AQUAVIS, who will report on the disbursement at regular intervals.

“The purpose of the funds to be received from AFSC will be to help alleviate the worst effects of the drought in the Samburu and Turkana areas where people’s livestock has been dying and where people have few resources,” McNish said.

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Africa Ministries Holds Retreat

Twenty-three Friends gathered from the various FUM projects in Kenya for a time of prayer, biblical reflection, fellowship, visioning and recommitment on February 25-27 at St. Mary’s Pastoral Centre in Nakuru, Kenya.

The program on Friday evening began with personal sharing of their spiritual gifts and challenges. The weekend continued with in-depth sharing from each of the project sites about the joys and challenges of ministry. The four core priorities of FUM were explored as they relate to the Kenyan context and their specific projects. The newly-opened Africa Ministries Office in Kisumu, Kenya received considerable affirmation of its role as a facilitator and energizer of the ministries of Friends in Africa. At the closing of the weekend, all committed to pray daily for each other’s work, according to a weekly cycle.

John Lomuria (left) of Turkana Friends Mission and Samson Ababu (right) of Aquavis share the joy of meeting together.

Evangelism in Turkana
By Trish Edwards-Konic

When John Moru was in the United States last fall, I had the chance to interview him. What an inspiration he is! The Spirit of the Living God flows through him and falls on all those around him. In our culture, he inspires faith to grow and blossom. In the semi-arid land of Turkana, he also waters faith and inspires it to grow and blossom.

When Turkana Friends open a new mission field, they go to place where people are traditionally a herding culture, moving from place to place. The first things they do is to provide water through a water bore, open a school and health facility, then provide a meetinghouse where the people can learn about the Living God.

I noticed right away that what John and the others are doing is building little towns in the middle of the semi-arid land—a place where people are assured there is water available, education and health care. But most importantly, they bring the word of God as a Friend, as a Quaker.

I asked him, “How do people come to know that? How do they give up their old understanding of God and come to this new understanding?” What follows is our conversation.

John: We normally do evangelism and most of the time, like now; I have a book you have written, On Becoming Friends. I use that to teach them.

Trish: No kidding! Well, that blesses my heart, John, to know my words are in Turkana.

John: I use that book, a book of music and the Bible. So I compare them, make posters of material from how I want the threads to be presented and teach them. I have classes. This is how we make them to be strong in Christian fellowship and in our meeting.

I have my curriculum. The first lesson is “Choosing the Way,” then, “Dependence,” and “Being Born Again.” Then I begin to teach them “Quaker Faith and Practice.” Then “Giving” and “What Are the Works of the Holy Spirit?” and then “Prayer.” I finish with “Quaker History Now.”

Trish: So, “Quaker History Now,” does that take them outside of Turkana?

John: Yes, where the church begins and who began it, and how they spread it where. They should know how the church came to be in America and how did the Quaker church come to be in Kenya. It came to Kenya in 1902. Now we are the people who bring the Quaker faith to our culture.

Trish: So they begin to understand that you who live in Turkana and I who live in the United States are brothers and sisters. To me, that’s one of the most amazing things about the Christian faith—that we can be brothers and sisters with so many people all over the world. For those in Turkana, people who have just herded in a small area, to get that vision of how they’re connected with people in Kenya and Uganda and the United States and England and Russia and Cuba and Ramallah.

To assist John Moru and other Turkana pastors to bring the Living God to remote areas, send your donations to FUM and mark them for “Turkana.”

At left, men work on a new water bore hole in Turkana.
The Ngikoko Friends women’s group in Turkana, Kenya, has a group plot upon which they have built two semi-permanent, two-room houses and one mud house for people to rent. This business enterprise helps to support their families.

FUM Welcomes Tuloi and Uganda Yearly Meetings to Full Membership

A highlight of the 2005 Triennial sessions was the welcoming into full membership of Tuloi Yearly Meeting in Kenya and Uganda Yearly Meeting. John Muhanji, FUM Africa Ministries Representative, received these memberships on behalf of the absent yearly meeting representatives. The presiding clerk of Friends United Meeting, Brent McKinney, will present plaques to Tuloi Yearly Meeting and Uganda Yearly Meeting at the General Board/Africa Meeting in January 2006.

Triennial Photos

Thanks to Jan McVey and Pat Watson for providing the photographs of the Triennial sessions printed in this issue.
Boys Dorm Catches Fire

On a cool Sunday morning, all Chavakali High School students and teachers were attending their Sunday worship service in the dining hall. This was a special day since the Christian union fellowship was having a weekend Christian challenge and all the students were attending the lively worship.

At 10 am an alarm was raised by a staff member not in worship that a fire was burning in one of the hostels (dorms) called Annex, which accommodates 74 students. Everyone rushed outside to see which house was on fire and all got involved in putting out the fire that had taken up the whole building.

It took the effort of the teachers and the students to put out the fire, but nothing could be salvaged from the building. All personal belongings of the students plus their beds and bedding were destroyed. Fortunately, nobody was hurt and the fire did not spread to other buildings, although the Annex is sandwiched between two other hostels which could have easily caught fire.

Chavakali High School is a Quaker boys’ school founded in 1959 in western Kenya in Chavakali Yearly Meeting with the help of American Quakers and the Kenyan spirit of “Harambee” (pulling resources together). The 1991 World Gathering of Young Friends was held at the school and Eden and James Grace attended the gathering during their honeymoon.

The school has a capacity of 1,140 students and has registered 274 students for their final exams which qualify them for university entry. The school is among the best schools in the district and province. The school has been identified among the five schools in Kenya by NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development) to be one of the pilot schools for e-Learning programmes in Africa.

John Muhanji, FUM Africa Ministries Representative, is a former student of the school. He visited the school after the incident and prayed with the school administration. He met with Mr. Lanziva, the school principal, who believes it was God who saved the situation; it would have been a disaster if it had happened at night when all were sleeping.

The principal requests Friends to pray for them and to encourage them. You can send your encouragement note to Mr. Lanziva, Principal, Chavakali High School, P. O. Box 144 - 50300, Maragoli, Kenya.

FUM Projects Bear Fruit in Turkana

Members of Friends United Meeting’s African Ministries staff traveled to the Turkana Friends Mission September 16-19, 2005. While there, they toured several projects that have been funded through FUM over the last few years. They witnessed the Christian commitment and vibrant spirituality of the Turkana people, many of whom live in extremely difficult conditions. It is clear that FUM’s ministry in partnership with the Friends in Turkana is bringing life-giving water, health, education and spiritual transformation to a thirsty people. Praise God for the work of the Holy Spirit in Turkana!
Turkana Friends Mission Receives Visit
By John Muhanj, FUM Africa Ministries Representative

Traveling to Turkana Friends Mission in the Northwest of Kenya bordering Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia was one of the most exciting and exhausting trips we took this year as the Africa Ministries Office. The trip was from September 16-19 and those travelling included: John Muhanj, FUM Africa Ministries Representative; Eden Grace, FUM Africa Ministries field staff; Patricia Shrock, FTC Volunteer Teacher; Herman Jaika Otioko, FUM Mission Consultant and his wife, Ruth.

The first American missionaries, Ersal and Dorothy Kindel, opened this extraordinary mission in the hottest part of Kenya. The call that sent them to Turkana was a call no person can resist when it strikes. When this mission was established in the early 1970s, there was no proper road from Kitale to Lodwar, so they went through Uganda, then back to Kenya in Turkana. One of the early Kenyan missionaries in the area, Herman Jaika Otioko, traveled to Turkana with us and said the weather was fair during those days. He remembers that at Kalokol, where the first mission centre was established, Lake Turkana was 100 metres from the centre. But now the lake is more than 4km away from the centre. What used to be occupied by the lake is now a very dry land with thorny trees and sand.

As we visited different mission centres in Turkana, I saw only women and children with very few old men. Many of the men have gone far in search of pasture for their animals, but the children remain to take care of the goats and sheep. Seeing the children and their mothers reminded me of how I was brought up. My father was a traveling minister who traveled and planted churches in Tanzania, Zanzibar, Uganda and most parts of Kenya from the mid-1960s until his death in 1983. When he was gone in ministry, I saw him less often but my mother was there for us all. She had problems looking for food for us. I saw the same condition in the Turkana children. They saw their father less often as I did. The women are traveling long distances in search of water and food.

The trip caused me to ask myself: “Who am I to live a good life while the people in Turkana are suffering? Were we not created in the same image of God?” These are the questions I cannot answer. But I feel more humbled before God and I remembered Psalm 121:1-2: “I lift up my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” It is true when Turkanaans look up to the hills, there is totally no hope. The hills are very dry and rocky. Therefore, hope is only in the Lord.

All the churches are far from each other and the Turkana Friends Mission is doing a great job in coordinating them. I have great respect for John Moru and all the pastors who are doing a tremendous work of spreading the gospel to the people who are spiritually and physically poor. I commend the mission team for proper management of any little funds they get from FUM. They have demonstrated the capability and have been rated by myself as the best church managed team in the Quaker church in Africa.

The Turkana situation reminds me that God encourages us in all our tribulations by teaching us from his word that it is He who permits trials to come. He encourages us further by reminding us that He is in control of trials in 2 Corinthians 1:8: “we were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life.” Paul was weighed down like a beast of burden with a load too heavy to bear. But God knew just how much Paul could take and kept the situation in control. I believe God will do likewise for the Turkana Friends Mission pastors in their ministry.

In Turkana, the pastors are suffering, the people are suffering, the animals are suffering and everything living is suffering. This mission needs your prayers and mine to stand with them in every kind of support.
Living in Virtue, Declaring Against War: The Spiritual Roots of the Peace Testimony
By Steve Smith
Pendle Hill Pamphlet (378), 2005

Smith has written a clear, concise summary of Friends' efforts to be faithful to the God of love who is known to them through the language of the heart. Having been raised in a Quaker home and looking back on responses to violence in his life, he considers the early records of the Quaker Peace Testimony and how they expressed the struggle to realize inner transformation before attempting to change the world.

"Viewed in the context of its historical origins," he writes, "the Quaker Peace Testimony is coherent and compelling—a spring of insight into healing and transformation." George Fox's first refusal to join the army in 1651 was based on personal faith, without claiming to speak for others. Hence he wrote in his journal, "I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars..." Later statements gradually assumed a more corporate flavor, as responses to divisions in the movement and persecution from the authorities who suspected them of harboring subversive motives.

Smith reminds us once again that the original Peace Testimony was not an ideological statement of pacifism or absolute rejection of all forms of violence. The early Friends, in fact, accepted "the right of a nation's rulers to wield weapons in defense of a just cause." At the same time, however, the Friends stood apart from many of their contemporaries as exemplars of "a new covenant of light and peace in which the sword would no longer be necessary."

Smith draws a careful distinction between testimonies and principles. He maintains to give a personal testimony is to report on one's own experience. Such statements are not abstractions, but the record of lives lived. This distinction is important because the appeal of abstract value statements is still very appealing in our time as we crave the apparent security of a universal principle of integrity.

Principles are top-heavy by nature, beginning with a mental judgment and concluding with confirming action. Contrast this with Friends' testimonies that are not so much judgments of the mind as "voices of the heart." In the experience of Friends as a religious movement, lives well lived are affirmed by the belief that Truth must first be lived before it can be declared. "Let your lives speak," wrote Fox. Or, as William Penn observed about the early Friends, "[They] were changed themselves... before they went about to change others."

Keith R. Maddock
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Is God calling you to International Service?

Are you an active member of a Quaker Meeting or Friends Church?
Do you have skills, experience or knowledge that you wish to share?
Are you prepared to learn, change your perspective on life and accept challenges?
Have you discussed this possibility with your family and with your church/meeting?

If your answers to all these questions is YES, then maybe you should be talking to GLOBAL MINISTRIES.

Contact Terri Johns at Friends United Meeting Global Ministries:
email terrij@fum.org or phone (765) 962-7573

- Looking for experienced teachers or recent graduates with youth work experience for placement at Friends School, Palestine.
- Openings for experienced administrators, doctors, nurses and pastors interested in church planting available in Kenya, Jamaica and Belize within the next two years.

A Turkana (Kenya) child collects water from a new well.
Graves Named Interim FUM General Secretary

Sylvia Graves has answered the call as Interim General Secretary of Friends United Meeting beginning March 6, 2006. She follows Retha McCutchen who retired February 28, 2006 after 11 years of service.

Sylvia was recorded as a Minister of the Gospel by Western Yearly Meeting in 1997 and has led retreats and workshops as well as filled the pulpit in many meetings of Western Yearly Meeting. For many years she has been the Director of the 5th and 6th grade camp at Quaker Haven near Syracuse, Indiana.

An elementary school principal for many years, she retired in June 2005, which allows her the freedom to pursue new interests. She and her husband Dale have recently returned from serving on an FUM workteam to Belize. She has attended all but one FUM Triennial in the past 25 years, including the 2002 Triennial in Kenya.

Help Build a Classroom in Turkana

The Friends United Meeting Vacation Bible School Project for 2006 is to build a classroom for Lokoyo, Turkana. The project goal is $10,000.

Turkana Friends Mission began in 1970 under the leadership of Ersal and Dorothy Kindel, assisted by two students from Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya. Turkana, located in northern Kenya on the south edge of the Sahara desert, is a region familiar with hot temperatures, harsh winds, frequent droughts and limited resources for development.

Nomadic Turkana move as often as every three to six months in search of water for themselves and their animals so providing education is challenging. The Turkana Friends Mission discovered the best way to help these nomadic people is to provide wells with clean water so they can settle in one region.

The next step is to build schools and churches. The government requires a building to be in place before they provide a teacher. In Lokoyo, many of the children sit on the hot, dusty sand under a tree for school. The sun beats down upon them and the sand burns through their clothing. When the wind blows, the dust and sand blow in their faces and onto their slates, making it difficult to concentrate on their studies.

Lokoyo needs another classroom for their many students. Can you help reach the goal of $10,000 to provide another classroom for some of the students of Lokoyo primary school?

Choose to make this a mission project for your Vacation Bible School, First Day School or your church mission program.

Several of Sylvia’s relatives have been active in FUM mission work through the years and West Newton Friends, where she is a member, is very mission minded. Her main responsibility will be to maintain communication and support for field staff and their projects.

Her vision during her tenure would be “to join hands across theological and journey differences to do the work of the church rather than doing the work for the organization. The organization needs to support the ministries of our believers.”

Married 38 years to Dale Graves, they are the parents of two grown children: a son, Eric and a daughter, Maria.
Located in sub-Saharan northern Kenya, Turkana is a land of harsh climate, nomadic people and joy in new faith. Sitting under a tree in the cooler sand, these women and children listen as the Gospel message is shared.
Youth Raises Over $11,000 for Turkana

Dustin King exceeded his second goal of $10,000 with a new total of $11,444.77! In the last Quaker Life, it was reported he had surpassed his original goal of $2,000 and had raised it to cover five months' expense for Turkana Friends Mission, Kenya, Africa.

Needing a senior project at his high school, he selected the Turkana Friends Mission. "Even though the project is finished," Dustin said, "the effects of project will go on for a long time." Traveling to local Friends meetings in North Carolina, he found a warm welcome and generous response to his presentation.

Jesus' words that "if you do it to the least of these, you do it to me" have taken on a fuller understanding for Dustin and have become the bedrock of his ministry. Through his project, he was able to put into practice these words as he visualized the Turkanan people as being like Jesus to him.

Laid upon the foundation of the generations of Friends before him, Dustin is proud to be a Quaker and follow in their tradition. He realized "how important Quakers are to these people" as they build communities and a nation.

Changing Faces
By Terri Johns

At the close of this school year, we are saying goodbye to three field staff.

Andy, Lisa and Spencer Stout have taken a leave of absence from Belize due to a back injury Andy sustained while in Jamaica two years ago. He has undergone surgery and is doing very well, but has been advised to remain in the U.S. for the time being. He has taken a position at White's Family Services in Wabash, Indiana, where he is a Clinical Supervisor in the Wabash foster care office. Andy and Lisa felt strongly about their responsibility to be a good role model for the children in Jamaica and in Belize, and they did this very well. We will miss their gentle leadership.

Joshua Lilande has concluded his term of service at Ramallah Friends School. Joshua spent the first semester teaching in the Boy's School and the second semester helping with the Girl's School as Friend in Residence. As the first Kenyan Field Staff, FUM has learned much about international placement and we look forward to working with another Kenyan in the future. Joshua has been a great help in understanding the differences in educational systems. He will be missed.

Dustin learned three things about developing a project: how to communicate and present effectively, that follow-up is required for success and if you work hard, it pays off in a big way.

North Carolina Friends Meetings that participated in Dustin's senior project are: Asheboro, Bethel, Cedar Square, Holly Spring, Poplar Ridge, Randleman, Rocky River USFW and Hopewell. In addition, a donation was made from the Lindley-Murray Fund by Friends from Monroe, New York. Donations are still coming in to FUM from Quakers in other yearly meetings as well as his own.

See the earlier report in the May/June issue of Quaker Life magazine.

2006 VBS Mission Project: Help Build a Classroom in Turkana

Money is coming in! How are you helping to reach the $10,000 goal? For more information, contact Terri Johns at (765) 962-7573 or terrij@fum.org.

Tim, Lisa and Paul Lowe have resigned their positions at Ramallah Friends School. Tim served as a teacher for the Boys School. Lisa was the Administrative Assistant to the Director in the fall and then stayed home to educate their son, Paul. We appreciate their sense of humor and their love for the people of Ramallah. We are saddened by their resignation, but wish them well in their future endeavors.

Each of these field staff has brought their gifts to share with the missions of Friends United Meeting. Just as we have been blessed by their gifts, we send them forth with our blessing as they carry out the good work God has given each one of them.
Join the Chain of Prayer

Chain of Prayer is in full swing. Has your meeting signed up?

“Give Thanks for our Blessings,” this year’s Chain of Prayer theme, is a great opportunity for your meeting to become more familiar with the work of Friends United Meeting. The theme is based on Psalm 105:1—“Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”

Join us this year for one day as we hold each other in the light and offer thanks for the many blessings God has given through the ministries of FUM. Registration forms can be found on the website at www.fum.org/naministries/2007ChainofPrayer.htm or phone Terri Johns at (765) 962-7573. Sign up today and we’ll send you a packet of materials to help you organize your day.

Terrell Awarded Fellowship

Katie Terrell, Marketing Associate for Quaker Life and Friends United Press, is the recipient of the 2006-07 Tom Mullen Ministry of Writing Fellowship at Earlham School of Religion. Katie began her studies at ESR in the fall of 2005 as a full-time student pursuing an M.Div degree with an emphasis in Writing. For her Fellowship project, she will continue working on “Heading East in the Trunk of a Car,” a series of creative, nonfiction essays, written in her words “not to encourage people to quit their jobs and move into the trunks of their cars, but to show how God can transform lives when we acknowledge that God is enough.”

Order FOCUS for Your Meeting

If your meeting hasn’t received FOCUS in the past, you’re missing one of the best ways for Friends United Meeting to share up-to-the-minute news and information with you. (FOCUS can be used as a bulletin insert or table flyer.) And, best of all, it’s free. Beginning in January, FOCUS is going to feature a different yearly meeting each month. What a great way to get a glimpse of what is happening among FUM Friends around the world! You won’t want to miss a single month. Fill out the coupon on page 6 and get your meeting FOCUSed on FUM this year.

Quaker Hill Bookstore to Close

Quaker Hill Bookstore will close its retail store March 1, 2007. Due to the increasing market competition, the Friends United Meeting General Board approved at the October meeting to keep available for sale only items that are unique to Friends United Meeting. Books published by Friends United Press, Quaker art prints and other limited items will be available via catalog, phone and internet orders. Curriculum, other than what is available through Friends United Press, will no longer be available, beginning with spring 2007 materials.

Call or visit the Richmond store now to shop. Discounts and inventory reduction sales have begun.

Contact the bookstore: (765) 962-7575; toll-free (800) 537-8838; email bookstore@fum.org; fax (765) 966-1293.

Turkana VBS Project Update

The Friends United Meeting 2006 Vacation Bible School Project was to build a classroom for Lokoyo, Turkana. $9,558.62 was collected—thank you for your generous gifts to the children of Turkana!
In February 2007 representatives from 24 of the 29 FUM member yearly meetings gathered in Kenya for an historic General Board meeting.

Fifteen member yearly meetings in Kenya and one in Uganda include approximately 2,000 monthly meetings.
RFS 8th Graders Adopt Turkana and Amari
By Trish Edwards-Konic

For the first time in many years, two specific Quaker classes have been added to the Ethics track in the Ramallah Friends School curriculum. Starting in the past school year, juniors took "Quaker Faith and Practice" and 8th graders took "Quaker History."

The Quaker History course was rescheduled until the final term so I could help with the early history. I developed three PowerPoint presentations for the first three lessons. We (Joyce Aljouny and I) started off with the work of FUM, focusing on Quaker schools worldwide. It was moving to watch the students see the conditions of students in Turkana as they tried to study. They all wanted to adopt it as a service project and raise funds for desks.

At their Open Day, they collected donations and sold mechanical pencils to raise money for the students in Turkana. They had prepared several nice posters explaining the schools in Turkana and how they hoped to help.

Then Joyce took over full time and taught the history of Ramallah Friends School and the influence of Quakers in the Middle East. The students decided to add another project—this time the Friends Play Center at the Amari Refugee Camp.

On a Sunday morning, students arrived at Amari to interact with the preschoolers and to hand out gifts they had purchased from the donations. At first they remained in two groups. The preschoolers sang some songs and showed off they knew the alphabet and could count to ten.

Then paper and colors were handed out and the 8th graders joined the preschoolers as they drew. Face painting started and there was much laughter and joy in the room.

Each preschooler received a wrapped gift—coloring books for the girls and a car game for the boys.

One 8th grade boy said to me as we were waiting for rides, "They need us to come." Several girls said, "Let's make this a yearly class project." Overall, the feeling was positive and very supportive. There is much hope for these young people with compassionate hearts.

Note: The PowerPoint presentations will be available to download from the Friends United Press Shopping Center in time for fall classes—www.fum.org/shop/.

Recent Events at Ramallah Friends Schools

The annual Music Day performances by Ramallah Friends Girls School (grades 1-6) were held this year at the state-of-the-art Ramallah Cultural Arts Center to a packed house of parents, relatives and friends who thoroughly enjoyed the song and dance students had put hours of hard work in to perfecting.

This year's annual English Day at Ramallah Friends Girls School rolled over in to two days of skits and readings and were of the same high quality you would find in any good school in the US, exceptional considering English is the second language for these students!

Open Day (combination Field Day/Science Fair) at the Friends Boys School began with tennis tournaments, basketball and gymnastics. Art exhibits focusing on Palestinian art and Science projects were on display. The day ended with Debka (traditional Palestinian folk) dancing.

Hope for the future was evident as 81 students graduated from Ramallah Friends Schools in Palestine on May 27, 2007. The ceremony was in Arabic except for one speech by one of the valedictorians, but you knew all along, this was graduation! The smiles were big, the parents and teachers were proud, the joy was mixed with tears as the chapter of their Friends school education concluded and the future opened up before them. Congratulations!
Turkana Friends Mission Church Dedicated

By John Muhanji, FUM Africa Ministries Representative

What a day it was under the scorching sun of Lodwar, Turkana, at the dedication of the Turkana Friends Mission Church on March 18, 2007. It was very hot and one would think the sun and earth had somehow moved closer together. Those who have visited Turkana will bear witness that the weather is extremely hot and dry, both day and night.

As a person who loves a suit and a tie, especially when presiding over such an important occasion like the church dedication, you can imagine what happened to me in the midst of all this abnormal heat. I was very well dressed for the occasion and as we were taking breakfast, I realized that I was wet everywhere. I asked one of the leaders I came with, "Who poured water on my suit?" and everybody broke into laughter—I had not realized that it was sweat from the morning heat of Turkana. You can guess what happened: I went back to the room and changed into different attire. I felt sad that I was not in the suit, but at the same time I was happy that the lighter clothing helped me better tolerate the sun.

Despite that scorching sun, many members from various Quaker churches arrived in Matatus for the occasion. The scorching sun did not discourage anybody from attending the church ceremony. However, in the early hours of the morning something unusual happened on the hill where the Lodwar church was built. There was a cold fog that covered the church and the near hills for about 30 minutes and then disappeared. This was a sign of God's blessings on the church even before we started the ceremony. The procession began from the old church with praise songs and proceeded to the planting of trees, where I represented FUM by planting a tree in the church compound. We then proceeded to the official opening of the church and the cutting of the tape; this was done by the Presiding Clerk of East Africa Yearly Meeting North, John Walukhu. I read Psalm 24:7-10.

In this new church I experienced one of the most spiritually rich and blessed services I have ever felt. I was equally touched by the many church choirs from various Turkana Friends Mission churches. They presented sweet, moving, spiritual
songs. Even the newly opened village meeting. Katapakori, brought one of the best church choirs mixed with both adults and young people in their Turkana dress. It was beautiful and challenging to see how a meeting—which has no church building and still meets under a tree—can come and bless a newly built, beautiful church in Lodwar. I was humbled by their dedication and their honesty in serving God truthfully, which was demonstrated through their vigorous singing with joy. Many other churches, including Lokoyo Friends, Kalokol Friends and Lodwar Friends, plus USFW Lodwar, presented very classical and moving songs during this great day. I felt the presence of God in worship and everybody was in the same spirit.

Many other people attended the ceremony, including the area member of Parliament, Hon. David Ewec Eshuro, and other local leaders in Lodwar. In his speech, Ethuro thanked God for enabling the Friends Church in Turkana to operate and initiate so many projects for the community. He has stood with the Friends Church since before he became an MP. He participated in the first fundraising that made the foundation of the church and also participated in the roofing. He remembered and commended Herman Otumbo and his successor, John Moru, for the good work they have done and are still doing for Turkana. He commended the Friends Mission management for their honesty and transparency, which enabled them to finish one of the best churches in Turkana with very few resources. He pledged to buy at least 20 benches for the church with other leaders who accompanied him.

The church was filled beyond capacity during this occasion; we thought the church was big enough, but we were proved wrong because many other people stood and watched the service from outside the church. More than 700 people attended the dedication ceremony, both Quakers and non-Quakers. I felt so good to be part of the grand opening of this house of God. Both the chairman of the Turkana Friends Mission and the building committee appreciated the good work FUM did which enabled them to finish. The cost of the construction to date is 1.2 million Kenya shillings, with FUM contributing 420,000 Kenya shillings. What a blessing! The entire town of Lodwar is proud of Friends Church.

I delivered the sermon of the day from the book of II Chronicles 6:14-36, stressing that we must be obedient to God's word. We must continue wholeheartedly in His way (vs.14-15). The message also reminded members that this new church will be a house of prayer for all nations, a house that promotes knowing God, knowing forgiveness, serving God and developing men and women of integrity. Many people gave their lives to God and were prayed for. We prayed that any prayers through this church should bring rains in the area, and many other blessings as Solomon prayed when dedicating the Jerusalem Temple.

The service ended with a cake cutting by Presiding Clerk North John Waluku and myself. As we prepared to travel back on Monday morning, a miracle of God happened—it rained in the morning just before we left for western Kenya. Praise God that He indeed heard our prayers and this changed the weather drastically from hot to warm and slightly cool. This was the first time I had ever seen rain in Turkana. God is great and amazing—we entered Lodwar with dust and heat, but left with rains and cool weather.

We witnessed the real showers of blessings in the land known as the land of heat, day and night, when God opened the heavens and released showers of rain blessings.
Kaimosi Hospital Medical Shipment Scheduled

Nearly a year-and-a-half ago John Muhanj and Sylvia Graves began researching how to get medical supplies and equipment to Kenya in an inexpensive manner. Sylvia came across an organization called World Medical Relief, based out of Michigan (www.worldmedicalrelief.org). This non-profit organization is a clearing house for used medical equipment and overstock of new medical supplies. Medical supplies are donated by hospitals, doctor's offices and medical suppliers to be used in overseas hospitals and medical offices. The items are free for any organization who wants to ship these kinds of supplies to other countries. The only cost is for shipping.

In our case, it costs about $18,000 to ship the materials from Michigan to Mombasa, then overland to Kaimosi. That's a mere $18,000 for a 40-foot container — roughly the size of a semi-trailer — full of medical supplies (x-ray machines, hospital beds, hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment). The container is packed with equipment and supplies and they make every effort to fill all the little spaces with supplies (bandages, blankets, etc.) that can be used by the hospital. Kaimosi hospital board members and staff created a wish list of medical equipment and supplies. This was sent to World Medical Relief, who assured us they would do their best to fill all those wishes.

Thanks to your donations, this shipment was scheduled to leave Michigan in mid to late February and should arrive in Kaimosi in the spring. We'll let you know when the shipment arrives in Kenya. There will be much to celebrate!

Friends Theological College Receives Affiliate Status

There has been much work toward getting Friends Theological College accredited by ACTEA (Accrediting Council of Theological Education in Africa.) We are pleased to announce that affiliate status has been achieved, which means FTC is now recognized as a stand-alone college, no longer under the wings of St. Paul's University. That doesn't mean we are fully accredited, just that we are now free to begin our self study for the development of an improvement plan. Because our FTC faculty has had to improve their credentials, they now deserve to be compensated more. Also, there are still capital improvements that will have to be made to the college to maintain the progress toward full accreditation. Those include the addition of more classrooms and the expansion of the library and the technology that allows global connections. With the help of our donors, we would like to increase our monthly donations to FTC from $2,000 to $3,000. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can partner with Friends Theological College as the college continues to grow and equip ministers for the cause of Christ.

Bio-Sand Water Filters in Turkana

Because of the generous donations of a monthly meeting in North Carolina Yearly Meeting, several bio-sand water filters were installed in the desert land of Turkana, Kenya. Bio-sand water filters are not wells, but they are a magnificent way to provide clean drinking water out of contaminated water. Water is poured into a bio-sand water filter. The water trickles through layers of sand and rock which filters out the impurities. The clear, clean water then comes out a spigot at the bottom of the filter. No electricity involved. It is based on gravity, and once the filter is in place, it lasts for many years with no maintenance. The cost of one of these filters is about $60, plus the time to build it and train people in its use.

Drought has caused the death of many children and adults as well as numerous animals in Turkana, and recent flooding lends its own problems to clean water supply. Lack of clean water means illness that often leads to death. While we cannot make it rain in Turkana, we can offer a system that provides the water of life.

Other bio-sand water filters are needed in Kenya as are wells where water is non-existent. Please give generously to the African Water Project fund.

Top: Prior to bio-sand water filters, this young man would have to dig deep in to the sand, then climb out with small amounts of dirty water. Above: Life in this Turkana village is much improved with clean water from the new bio-sand water filter. Photos courtesy of Del Livingston
Turkana Friends Mission: Achievements and Needs

By John Moru

Turkana Friends Mission was started in 1970 by Ersal and Dorothy Kindel and two students from Friends Theological College. Turkana, located in the northern part of Kenya, is a region familiar with hot temperatures, harsh winds, frequent droughts and limited resources for development.

Achievements of the Mission in 2009:

- We mobilized the members to make contributions to support the construction of a meetinghouse.
- Leadership development — we worked on training the locals to take responsibility of Friend's church leadership in terms of Quaker faith and practice procedures.
- Scholarship to promote girl-child education — six girls are currently in the sponsorship program and more than 20 girls have benefited from these programs since 1997.
- Literacy education within the pastoral.
- Lokoyo hand pump was repaired and it is in use by the community and school children.
- The board committees met as was scheduled throughout the year.
- We supported two students at Friends Theological College.
- Sent representatives to conferences and meetings.

Needs of the Mission in 2010:

- Most of our village meetings worship under the trees — we need a structure.
- Our pastors do not have housing in the working areas — we need housing.
- Our old vehicle is grounded — we need mobility for our director who coordinates mission work.
- Many widows who have boy-children have been crying to us to support their children and offer a higher level of education — we need sponsorship for boys.
- We need to increase evangelism in the pastoral program.
- The community requests new nurseries to be opened.
- Water is life — all new areas and stations need water and schools.
- Our primary school needs a boarding facility — a dormitory for girls and boys to increase the enrollment in the schools.
- Vulnerable children who are bright are missing out on the opportunity to exercise their gifts and talents because of the lack of education.
- Women and youth groups need to be trained in self-reliance through Turkana Friends Mission.
- Currently we have five units of rental housing and we need 15 more — these are income generating and help pay for staff salaries while creating a self-sustaining mission.
- Health facilities for the needs of our members — mobile clinics or dispensaries in remote areas.

John Moru is pastor at Turkana Friends Mission.
FUM Summer Mission Project Provides Clean Water for the People in Kenya

You are invited to participate in this year's Summer Mission Project: Water of Life.

Earlier this year, a six-year-old from North Carolina asked his relatives to donate to this year's Summer Mission Project to provide clean water for the people of Kenya rather than give him gifts. The result: nearly $2,000 in birthday donations raised for Water of Life! That is one-fifth of our $10,000 goal!

John Lomuria, a young adult Friend from Turkana, visited the FUM staff in Richmond, Indiana, in April. He spoke of the need for bio-sand water filters in the Turkana desert area. Even though there was flooding and too much rain in Turkana the first half of this year, there was still a great need to be able to filter the water to make it drinkable. Rain is typically uncommon in the desert region of Turkana, however, so there is also need for shallow wells to collect rain water and deeper boreholes to bring water from below the surface. This water, too, needs to be passed through a bio-sand water filter in order to be drinkable.

Friends United Meeting is working with contractors to bring clean water to villages in Kenya. From bio-sand water filters that purify the dirty water, to boreholes that bring the clean, fresh water up from beneath the earth's surface, we want to bring clean water to the people of Kenya.

This year's Summer Mission Project goal is to raise $10,000 to give the water of life to people in Kenya. It costs roughly $60 for a bio-sand water filter and about $2,500 for a borehole in western Kenya.

Water is life. Will you give life to the people of Kenya?

2010 Yearly Meeting Dates — East Africa

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Water Reached in Turkana

John Moru, pastor-in-charge of Turkana Friends Mission in northern Kenya, has sent news that water has been reached in the well-drilling efforts financed by donors in response to the 2010 FUM Summer Mission Project. After more than three times the $10,000 goal was raised by FUM meetings and individuals, research was conducted by FUM staff with volunteers Ron Bryan and Lloyd Stangeland to study the feasibility and likely success of a well in Katapakori, a village in the hot, dry desert area of Turkana.

Having a well in such a village can be a blessing in many ways. Nomadic people who follow their animals to grazing lands are more likely to find community near a village where there is water, and subsequently have access to schools, churches and health facilities. Children can come to school more regularly because they don’t have to walk many miles to fetch water for the family. Katapakori is one such place where John Moru and his team have established a Friends church. The well will be fenced to prevent damage from animals, yet will be open for the village people to fill their water jugs.

“Water of Life” was the theme of the 2010 FUM Summer Mission Project. Several bio-sand water filters have also been purchased with your donations. Also in two Turkana villages, the molds and supplies to produce them have been donated for a micro-enterprise so that people now have jobs and income from the sale of the filters. The filters are made of concrete, stand about 40 inches tall and contain a metal plate and three layers of gravel and sand. When dirty water is poured through the filters, clean water comes out and is safe for drinking. When water is obtained from a lake or river and poured through the filters, waterborne illnesses are drastically reduced. There are filters in Katapakori, but they will be used much more frequently now that there is water to pour through them. Thank you for bringing the water of life to Turkana!

FTC is Transforming Lives
By Pastor Obed Oduya, FTC student

Friends Theological College in western Kenya is one of the best theological colleges in the world. The college has qualified lecturers and tutors. The principal, Ann Riggs, is a highly educated person; she has improved the integrity of the college by initiating income generating projects such as a greenhouse, poultry-keeping, making briquettes, etc. The college produces effective ministers of the gospel. It accommodates students from various countries and not just Quakers — there is room for students from other denominations as well. When you join the college while spiritually down, you will end up a spiritually filled person, able to help others be transformed in their physical and spiritual life. Therefore, the ministers who have gone through Friends Theological College are able to participate in improving the spiritual, political, economic and social life in Kenya and other parts of the world.
2012 Chain of Prayer
January 1–May 27

The theme for the 2011-14 Triennium of Friends United Meeting is: A Great People to Be Gathered. Friends United Meeting spans the world and is the people of North America, Cuba, Jamaica, Belize, Ramallah, Kenya and Uganda. One way Friends United Meeting can be gathered from all corners of the globe is through prayer.

In 1652, the founder of Quakerism, George Fox, "came near a very great hill, called Pendle Hill, and I was moved of the Lord to go up to the top of it [where] the Lord let me see in what places he had a great people to be gathered."

Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

This year we challenge you to think about how you can be part of this great people called Friends United Meeting. When your meeting signs up for the Chain of Prayer you are assigned a day to pray and a partner meeting for whom to pray. Make A Great People to Be Gathered a theme in your meeting and consider these options for your day in the Chain of Prayer:

• Make it a priority to gather into fellowship with God and Friends around the world to pray for the ministries of your own meeting, a partner meeting and those of Friends United Meeting.
• Invite Friends to sign up for individual or small group prayer times or organize a special prayer meeting on your day in the Chain of Prayer.
• Consider inviting an FUM staff member to come to your meeting and share what A Great People to Be Gathered means to him/her.
• Learn more about how your support of the ministries of Friends United Meeting helps gather people into fellowships around the globe (use Quaker Life magazine as a guide or call the FUM-Richmond office for PowerPoint presentations and more information).
• Take up a special collection to help continue this good work.

Friends are challenged to prayerfully envision the members, ministries and resources of Friends United Meeting as part of a fresh movement of God's Spirit in which we are gathered together, generously open to the Holy Spirit, to do the Lord's work. Join us for the 2012 Chain of Prayer!

Summer Mission Project

Pennies for Postage, Bikes for Boys in Belize, Water of Life, Kids for Kids … these have been FUM's Summer Mission Projects for the past four years and you have made each project a success! Nearly 2,000 pounds of books were shipped internationally with the $7,000 you raised for Pennies for Postage. With the $17,000 you raised for Bikes for Boys in Belize, each student received a bicycle, helmet, chain and lock, and we still had enough to buy computers for the school! Over $26,000 came in for the Water of Life project, which purchased bio-sand water filters and dug wells for Friends communities in Kenya. In October 2011 we passed the $20,000 mark of funds you raised for Kids for Kids, enabling Friends Theological College to buy dairy goats, build pens and purchase food for the animals in order to kick-start a student-initiative project that will assist students in raising their own tuition funds. What is the 2012 Summer Mission Project? Stay tuned to find out!

FUM Monthly Budget Goals

Adopt-a-Nurse — $2,000
Africa Ministries Office — $3,125
Eden Grace (includes all ministry expenses) — $9,381
Samburu Friends Mission — $2,000
Turkana Friends Mission — $2,000
A Small Loaf Feeding a Multitude

By Eden Grace, FUM Africa Ministries Field Staff

I wanted to share a story of one woman who visited Nakiria Primary School in Turkana and heard stories of the hardship Turkana women and girls have as they fetch and carry water to their village. She remembered her own childhood in rural Kansas, where her work had been carrying water. She felt again the burden of that labor and experienced a deep sense of solidarity with the local girls. She saw the unused 5,000 liter water tank sitting under a tree near the school. The tank was donated by well-wishers but it was useless because it was not installed. As she reflected on this problem, she knew what God was calling her to do.

Our visitor inquired as to how much it would cost to install the water tank and put it into use. The pastor said “200”. As soon as our visitor returned home to the US, wrote a check for $200 and sent it with instructions that the water tank under the tree at Nakiria should be installed as soon as possible.

Clearly there was some misunderstanding between the pastor and the donor. Yet our visitor was called by God to give her $200, and it became the small loaf that would feed multitudes.

When the gift was received, our office had to decide what to do. We found that there was just enough money remaining in a general-purpose FUM water projects fund to supplement the $200, to install the one tank and to purchase and install a second tank.

Once the tanks were installed, the government committed to filling each of them with potable water once a month.

Seeing that Nakira Primary School had acquired a reliable supply of potable water, a local member of Parliament donated the money to build a girls’ dormitory housing 120 students, enabling girls to continue their schooling beyond 3rd grade, when most of drop-outs have occurred.

Right after that, an international NGO saw the girls’ dormitory under construction, with a good source of water and decided to build toilets for the girls and to train them in hygiene and sanitation.

What will happen next? How many more feasts of goodness will be multiplied from that one small loaf? Truly, God does pour out blessings on those who are faithful with even the little they have.

Behold, Lord,
An empty vessel
that needs to be filled.
My Lord, fill it.
I am weak in the faith;
Strengthen me.
I am cold in love;
Warm me and make me fervent
That my love may go out to my neighbor.

— Martin Luther

Eden Grace gives a new ventilator to Lugulu Hospital.
Update on Turkana Friends Mission (TFM)

By John Moru

Kalokol Youth Polytechnic has been revived by Turkana county government, which has completed fencing and renovation of buildings. An agreement between TFM and Kalokol Youth Polytechnic has been developed for both parts to sign.

The constituency development funds for Loima Sub County assisted Friends School Lokoyo in constructing two permanent classrooms. Now the school at Lokoyo has eight classrooms, a great benefit to the community of Lokoyo where there had been donated by CDF a four room building intended to become a dispensary, although medicine and a nurse have yet to be acquired.

Katapokori has placed the mud on the church building and finished the office to include a door that we acquired from the mission office in Lodwar, when we purchased the metal doors for the TFM office. They have also bought approximately 10 plastic chairs.

Katilu has made concrete blocks for putting walls onto their pillars and they are organizing for fundraising for the construction and a cement foundation.

Kanamkem, a new village meeting, opened in Lodwar 29/9/2012. It is situated on the western side of Nawaorong Women’s Lodge. On the 25th of May 2014, Kshs 110,000 for purchasing a church plot was raised.

The Eukurri Friends Women Group in Kalokol and the Kitumunae Friends Women Group in Lodwar received small business training grants of Kshs 403,000 and Kshs 401,500 respectively from Right Sharing World Resources. Lochush and Katilu women groups are seeking training funds from the government.

In spite of animals that have moved to look for pasture, the water pump at Katapokori is still working. Drought and famine have struck, spreading malnutrition among both children and adults.

FTC ongoing students Tracy and Etienne are finding their studies rewarding, although raising tuition funding remains a challenge. FTC has afforded them time to complete their studies.
Cuba Yearly Meeting Celebrates 114 years of Cuban Quakerism

On November 14, 1900, the steamship “Olinda” landed in the port town of Gibara, in northeast Cuba, and five Friends alighted (three Americans and two Mexicans). According to legend, the first act on Cuban soil was to sing “What a Friend we have in Jesus” in English. Every year on November 14, Cuban Friends celebrate this anniversary with a sunrise worship at the seashore (including singing the song in Spanish) and a special service focusing on missions in the evening.

This year, Friends United Meeting organized a small group of visitors to celebrate together with Cuban Friends. The five Friends, including Eden Grace, FUM Global Ministries Director, at the request of their Cuban hosts, sang the song in English. The evening service included a dramatic retelling of the early missionary story by the youth of the church, a sermon by Eden Grace, many special songs and poems from children and adults and an enormous birthday cake.

Violence Interrupted

Kakuma Refugee Camp, in the remote desert region of Turkana in northwestern Kenya, is over-crowded and underserviced. Nearly 200,000 people are essentially imprisoned in the camp, without the freedom to leave and seek work or education in Kenya. Even at the best of times, life is hard in a camp that houses displaced and traumatized people from all over the African continent.

In late October and early November, serious inter-communal violence erupted inside the camp. Stories conflicted and details were hard to obtain, but news sources indicated that two different Southern Sudanese communities — the Nuer and the Dinka — imported the current civil conflict from South Sudan into the camp. However, the refugees from the Great Lakes countries (Rwanda, Burundi and Congo) were perceived to be allied with the Dinka and were therefore being targeted in this chaotic situation.

The Friends Church in the camp is primarily Congolese. Pastor Etienne Mogombe reported that most of the members took shelter in a police station and a church in Kakuma town (outside the camp). As the refugees were not legally allowed to leave the camp, several Friends — including children — were arrested.

Getry Agizah and Peter Serete of the Friends Church Peace Team made an emergency trip to Kakuma to hold listening sessions and AVP workshops with the various factions in the camp. They hope their efforts would interrupt the violence and address the underlying grievances.

The ongoing work of Friends Church Peace Team can be supported through donations at www.fum.org/donate.
A Second New Motorcycle for Samburu

After having received sufficient funds in October 2014, to purchase a motorcycle for Samburu Mission, additional gifts have allowed the purchase of a second bike just two months later! This second, smaller unit will be used primarily by the medical staff of the mission to make home visits and do health promotion outreach activities. Both motorcycles will be available to the pastoral staff for visitation and evangelism, as well. Praise God for the provision of not one, but two new motorcycles!

Tent Evangelism

Pictured above, John Moru and Grace Losike alongside their tent during an evangelism camp at Kaituko, a remote location in Turkana district in northwest Kenya. The Turkana Friends Mission team showed the film, Jesus, in the local language, and carried out a revival for the nomadic people in that area while giving support and encouragement to the new village meeting that had recently been planted in Kaituko.

Friends Theological College Satellite Campus in Samburu

Quakerism is growing in Samburu, Kenya. The mission is planting several new churches every year. However, there are only two Samburu Friends with a theological education and two missionaries who currently serve in Samburu, leaving many churches without a trained pastor. More than a dozen Samburu Quakers have expressed the call to train for pastoral ministry, but they don’t have the educational background to be admitted to an accredited program at Friends Theological College (FTC), nor do they have the money or time necessary to study in Kaimosi. How can theological education adapt to better serve this kind of emerging community?

FTC has partnered with Samburu Friends Mission to offer a satellite program that meets the needs of the Samburu students. One intensive course at a time is taught in Lolitulele, Samburu, by a visiting faculty member from Kaimosi. The language of instruction is Swahili, with translation into the Samburu language for those who need it. Costs are kept as low as possible, with simple food and lodging provided by Lolitulele Friends. Every student receives a scholarship from the John Sarrin Scholarship Fund. Yet finances are still an obstacle, and sessions have had to be cancelled due to a lack of funds.

In late 2014, Friends United Meeting received a special grant from the John Sarrin Fund of the United Society of Friends Women International (USFWI) to fully underwrite the costs of the FTC Samburu program for four years. This wonderful gift should equip a cohort of approximately a dozen men and women for pastoral ministry, to serve the growing number of churches in Samburu.
FUM News

FUM-North America Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Dates

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>29 July - 1 August</td>
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<td>New England</td>
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Informal singing at New England Yearly Meeting

Water is Life

Whether it's the cleansing water of John's baptism in the Jordan, the prophetic water of righteousness in Amos' vision, the salvific water of liberation in the parting of the Red Sea, the living water in Jesus' self-revelation at the well or the justice-laden water flowing through the new heaven and new earth, water is a symbol of life. Water is a symbol of God's Life and a symbol of the life God intends for all creation.

Maybe it's as simple as the fact that our bodies are 60% water, that water covers 71% of the surface of our planet and that it is the one thing we absolutely can't live without.

Maybe there's something in the fact that, wherever Friends go with the saving message of Jesus Christ, the first priority of new Christians is access to safe water. If water represents abundant life in its most profound sense, then unsafe and unjust water represents the death wrought by oppression, poverty and ecosystem destruction.

Whatever the reason, water is powerful. It's a powerful physical element. It's a powerful spiritual metaphor.

The World Health Organization estimated in the year 2000, one out of every six people on the planet lacked access to a reliable source of clean water. Every minute of every day, a child dies of a water-related disease. Water is a gift from God, is a basic human right and is under threat in our world today.

Christians care about water because God cares about water; because water really is Life.

Read more about Water is Life in the July issue of CONNECTIONS, available by mail or email upon request.

General Board/North America Highlights

The FUM General Board/North America-Caribbean met in Richmond, Indiana, on April 23-25, 2015, clerked by Cliff Loesch of Great Plains Yearly Meeting. Among the many important discussions and decisions, the Board:

- Approved an FUM General Fund budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st that reflects new hiring in both the Richmond and Kisumu offices;
- Approved a set of ministry objectives and fundraising goals for the Global Ministries activities for the coming fiscal year;
- Engaged deeply with the mid-term report of the Belize Discernment and Planning Task Force, as that group is seeking God's guidance in expanding the Friends ministry in Belize to possibly include church planting, adult education, AVP, a larger school and other forms of community-based ministry;
- Approved the date and location of the next FUM Triennial — July 11-17, 2017 in Wichita, Kansas, hosted by Great Plains Yearly Meeting on the campus of Friends University;
- Learned about the various ways that FUM's partnership with Everence can help local meetings/churches and Friends organizations with matters such as health insurance and retirement savings for employees;
- Approved legal name changes for the two campuses of Ramallah Friends School;
- Approved plans to hold a meeting of the General Board/North America-Caribbean in Cuba in June 2016;
- Heard a substantive report on the work of the General Board/Africa; and
- Enjoyed a time of deep sharing about the pressing spiritual needs of North American Friends, in order to help discern how FUM is called to engage more substantively in North American ministries.
Bware Yearly Meeting Makes History

During their annual conference held August 12-16, 2015, Bware Yearly Meeting in southwestern Kenya took the historic step of appointing the first-ever woman Presiding Clerk of any yearly meeting in East Africa.

Monica Makungu Dalizu, age 53, has been serving as the Vice Presiding Clerk of Bware Yearly Meeting for the last three years and had also served a three-year term as the Yearly Meeting Recording Clerk. She is currently also the Recording Clerk for Friends Church Kenya (the national umbrella organization for the 18 yearly meetings in Kenya).

She was born in Vihiga and grew up in the Lumakanda Settlement Scheme, an area in which the government assisted farmers to resettle on land formerly held by Brits. She trained as a primary school teacher with a diploma in Special Education and currently holds the position of Deputy Head Teacher at Edemba Primary School in Migori. She and her husband, Abisai Dalizu, are blessed with six children.

The Quaker movement in Africa has been characterized by its commitment to the dignity and rights of women, despite strong cultural forces to the contrary. Friends provided educational opportunities for girls at a time when the colonial authorities and other mission societies were only educating boys. Friends challenged some of the food-related taboos that contributed to poor maternal and newborn health and empowered women to serve in pastoral ministry. Today, Quaker women are disproportionately represented in civil service and public life, due to their access to education and an ethos of empowerment.

The United Society of Friends Women (USFW) movement is particularly strong in East Africa, where women organize numerous spiritual and community development activities. USFW has provided important opportunities for women to exercise leadership at all levels. USFW office bearers and their programs are commonly held in the highest regard in terms of integrity and effectiveness.

Yet challenges to women in leadership and public ministry remain. Women pastors still encounter cultural taboos against performing some of their regular duties, such as weddings and funerals. Women make up only a small percentage of the student body at Friends Theological College. And until now, no yearly meeting had appointed a woman to one of the three main leadership positions: Presiding Clerk, General Secretary and General Superintendent. The groundbreaking significance of Monica Makungu Dalizu’s appointment as Presiding Clerk of Bware Yearly Meeting cannot be overstated, and all Friends are encouraged to hold her in prayer as she takes up her new office.

Living Letter Opportunity

Friends Lugulu Mission Hospital, a general hospital in western Kenya, is requesting medical volunteers to serve for as little as two weeks or as much as a year. The hospital would welcome general-practice doctors, nurses and physicians assistants, as well as specialists such as chaplains, surgeons, physical therapists, etc.

To learn more about Kenyan Quakers’ health care ministries, read the August issue of CONNECTIONS, available at fum.org/resources.

For more information, contact Eden Grace at edeng@fum.org.

New Collaboration with AFSC

FUM is pleased to announce a new collaborative project between Friends Church Peace Team (FCPT), the FUM Africa Ministries Office and the Alternatives to Violence Program Kenya Trust. This 18-month project, which is funded by the American Friends Service Committee’s “Kenya Peaceful Youth and Communities Programme”, will introduce Help Increase the Peace Project (HIIPP) into Kenyan secondary schools. HIIPP is the youth version of Alternatives to Violence (AVP), and it will function as an extra-curricular “peace club” to complement the classroom-based peace curriculum developed by FUM. The AFSC funding will also support FCPT to work with Samburu Friends Mission in developing a peace program in the embattled Baragoi region of Samburu County.
FTC 2015 Commencement
By Robert J. Wafula

The Friends Theological College (FTC) 2015 commencement took place on Saturday, 24 October 2015. This year, 19 students graduated from FTC: four received Bachelor of Theology degrees, six received Diplomas in Theology and nine (including five from Lugulu Campus) received Certificates in Pastoral Ministry.

The Honorable Dr. Wilber Otichillo, the member of Kenya's National Parliament from Emuhaya Constituency, was the guest speaker. He is an environmentalist and has held a variety of governmental and non-governmental positions, which included serving as Director General for the Regional Center for the United Nations Economic Community for African Institutions (UNECA) and dealing specifically with capacity building among nations to prevent poverty and hunger in Africa. His message focused on contemporary issues related to the Ten Commandments of God, calling upon the Kaimosi community, in particular, to be God's stewards of the Kaimosi natural forest, to foster parental responsibility in educating their children to eliminate ignorance and to fight against corruption.

The graduation ceremony was preceded by a gathering of the FTC Alumni Association the previous day that had recently elected new proactive officials.

Lokoyo borehole repair

The Friends borehole at Lokoyo, in Turkana County, Kenya, is located among a grove of desert-hardy trees on the banks of a dry riverbed. Like the trees, the people of this area dig down through the dry sand to tap the underground water. And like the people, the trees find it to be much easier to access that water via a borehole! Every 10 years or so, it becomes necessary to dismantle the hand pump, pull out the culverts and remove the encroaching tree roots from the well.

Turkana Friends Mission has hired a contractor to do this work, with help from the FUM Water Ministries Fund. The mission has also assisted the community to form a Water Users Association that will have responsibility for the use of the pump for both people and animals and will carry out routine maintenance on the pump to keep it in good condition in this sandy environment.

SEEDS Project signs new lease

After three years without planting a crop, the SEEDS Project has identified new land and signed a lease for planting in 2016. The SEEDS Project began in 2010 as a joint venture between Kenyan and American farmers to grow commercial seed maize for Kenya Seed Company. The profits from the crop are designated to support the education ministries of Kenyan Friends, including the salary of the Kenyan National Education Secretary and the implementation of a peace curriculum in all Friends primary and secondary schools.

Several obstacles had prevented the project from growing a crop in the last two years and discouragement was mounting. This new land is 80 acres, which is smaller than ideal, but it is located in an advantageous location in the Cherangani area, and the owner is prepared to make more acreage available in future years.
Visit Unites Remote Kenyan Friends

Samburu and Turkana are both considered “remote” areas in Kenya. Their people are nomadic, their land is arid or semi-arid, and both communities are much poorer than the national average. There are vibrant Friends communities in each area, yet they are isolated from each other and from the rest of Kenyan Quakerism by formidable hurdles of transportation and culture. The isolation can at times feel quite discouraging.

Recently, a grant from Western Yearly Meeting provided an opportunity for the Director of Turkana Friends Mission, John Moru, to visit Samburu and spend a week in consultation with Samburu Friends. He mentored his colleague, Sammy Letoole (Director of Samburu Friends Mission), met with Samburu Friends leaders and visited among its members. He led reflection regarding governance and management structures, and assisted with future planning. It is anticipated that soon, Sammy will be able to pay a return visit, and these two isolated communities can continue to be knit together in mutual encouragement.

Nairobi Campus Launch

The Nairobi campus of Friends Theological College has launched with its first cohort of new students. Through the diligent work of the Nairobi team and Pastor Simon Makokha, the beginning of classes has been very successful. The campus held their orientation in the first full week of January 2016, with classes beginning the following week. Students have already taken introductory courses in Quakerism and Christian theology. The Nairobi campus currently offers a certificate in Pastoral Ministry, with classes offered daily from 5-8pm. Although attendance is currently below projected enrollment, the new campus has experienced an excellent start. Please hold FTC and the new Nairobi campus in prayer as they continue in the expansion of their ministry.

AMO Staff Member Departs

FUM announces that Judith Ngoya is no longer a member of the Africa Ministries Office staff. Judith joined FUM in mid-2006 as an administrative assistant, and over the years developed a significant ministry in the area of leadership training as she completed her master's degree in Christian Leadership. Her contribution will be greatly missed.
New Construction in Turkana

Exciting new construction has begun in Turkana, Kenya, to include a new Turkana Friends Mission administration building and two new churches built entirely with funds raised from local church members. In Lokoyo, a new administration building and meetinghouse will be constructed, and in Katilu, a new meetinghouse will be built. In all instances, local churches are doing this amazing work for themselves.