



BeFriending Creation

Newsletter of Quaker Earthcare Witness

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Gathering-bound cyclists to witness for Earth restored

by Louis Cox

FRRIENDS General Conference (FGC) is offering several initiatives to support Friends who want to travel more ecologically to the 2008 Gathering, June 20–28.

In addition to assisting those who want to car-pool or ride to the Gathering by bus or train, FGC is sponsoring an eight-day, 250-mile intergenerational “EarthQuaker Roadtrip” from the Pendle Hill Quaker retreat and study center (near Philadelphia) to Johnstown, Pa., for those who want to witness through bicycling that a sustainable future will require radical changes in the way we all do business. Roadtrip coordinators say they “hope that it will provide a witness to the ways that living our testimonies requires some effort, but rewards us with excitement, hope, community, and joy.”

Other Friends have pedaled their way to Gatherings in the past, including former QEW Steering Committee Clerk Kim Carlyle* and his wife Susan, who several years ago bicycled from their home in western North Carolina to that

*Kim Carlyle gave another plug for muscle-powered travel when he offered a “Peaceful Pedal Cab” service at the 2005 Gathering in Johnstown as an alternative to the gasoline and electric-powered golf carts that the Gathering typically offers to those needing special assistance getting around at Gathering sites.

Other Friends who choose to use bicycles for more than recreation have been celebrated in other issues of BeFriending Creation. We find hope in the growing number of people who act on the conviction that reducing reliance on fossil fuels for transportation, particularly private automobiles, can lead not only to healthier bodies but a healthier, more peaceful planet.



Planned route of group's nine-day, 250-mile bike trek from Philadelphia to Johnstown, Pa., June 20–June 28, 2008

year's Gathering in in the upper Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. FGC also has offered bicycling workshops at a number of Gatherings. But this is the first time that FGC has officially supported a group of bicyclists attending the Gathering.

The 2008 EarthQuaker Roadtrip will utilize the triangle model of worship, service, and play. The forty or so participants will begin and end each day in group worship, participating in service projects in

the communities they travel through, sharing meals and discussions with Quakers en route, and biking an average of 30 miles a day. They will camp and stay in Quaker meetinghouses. A support vehicle (hopefully biodiesel-powered) will carry gear. Friends of all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate for any portion of the trip.

(A word to the wise: Start training now to be able to get over those Appalachian hills.)

Friends are invited to congregate by rail in Philadelphia, with bicycles in tow. After the Gathering, bicyclists will be able to return to Philadelphia by Amtrak. However, individuals will be responsible for making their own

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reservations and purchasing their own tickets. Train reservations <www.amtrak.com> should be made as soon as registration for the Gathering is confirmed. Bicyclists returning to Philadelphia and other destinations also can travel by Greyhound Bus, which has service to Johnstown. Schedule and routing information is available on-line at <www.greyhound.com>.*

THE EarthQuaker Roadtrip will begin with an evening event promoting Friends' testimony for Stewardship of the Earth (recently adopted by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting), at Pendle Hill on June 19, 2008, with participants staying overnight at Pendle Hill. The following morning the bicyclists will travel mostly on a state-sponsored bicycle route through southern Pennsylvania, essentially along Route 30. The route includes miles of Pennsylvania's "rails-to-trails." The route connects such towns as Downingtown, Caln, Gap, Lancaster, and Chambers-burg (coincidentally the location of several Quaker Meeting Houses, all members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Caln Quarter)

Advisory Committee members include: Carl Magruder, Co-Clerk, Pendle Hill Student; Emma Churchman, Co-Clerk, Pendle Hill Student; Andrew Anderson, Clerk, Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia; Cookie Caldwell, High School Coordinator, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; Sadie Forsythe, Young Adult Friends,

**However, bicycles must be boxed for bus travel. Bicycle boxes are available from Greyhound Courier Express at selected terminals for \$10 each. The bikes will be shipped as freight and charged according to the weight of the bike, plus a 40-percent oversize charge and a service charge.*

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; Hollister Knowlton, Clerk, Quaker Earthcare Witness; Pat McBee, Clerk, Friends Center Capital Campaign; Russ Nelson, FGC Bicycle Workshop Facilitator; Kristina Keefe-Perry, FGC Traveling Ministries, Friends Center Capital Campaign Project; Emily Stewart, Youth Ministries Coordinator, FGC; Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Conference Coordinator, FGC; and Darlene Walker, Director of Admissions, Pendle Hill

Besides FGC, other potential co-sponsors for monetary and in-kind donations include: Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia (Arch Street), Pendle Hill,, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and a to-be-determined bicycle shop.

As an in-kind co-sponsor for this trip, FGC hopefully will cover the trip under their liability umbrella, and will provide release forms for all participants to sign. FGC is also being asked to undertake the majority of the marketing for the trip, including promotion in its advance and regular Summer Gathering programs, as well as detailed trip information on its website. The FGC Youth Ministries Coordinator is being asked to assist with recruiting Young Adult Friends to participate in the trip. Finally, FGC is being asked to receive grant monies and pay major expenses, such as the stipend for the logistics coordinator.

QEW will offer in-kind co-sponsorship by providing literature on Earth stewardship to distribute en route, promoting the trip on their website, and offering an interest group on the bike trip at the Earthcare Center during the 2008 FGC Gathering.

The EarthQuaker Roadtrip also will be promoted through various Quaker publications and by flyers distributed to Monthly Meetings. Following the Gathering, articles

about the Roadtrip will be submitted to *BeFriending Creation* and other Quaker periodicals.

To sign up for the Earth-Quaker Roadtrip or other forms of eco-travel to the 2008 Gathering (train, bus, carpooling), go to <www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/2008/travel>. or write to FGC, 1216 Arch St, #2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107; telephone 215/561-1700.

Early leadings for an EarthQuaker Roadtrip

IN 2007, Carl Magruder, a.k.a. the EarthQuaker, felt called to facilitate a workshop for FGC's Summer Gathering. When asked what his workshop would consist of, Carl responded spontaneously, "We will travel to New Orleans by rail several weeks before Gathering, bringing our bicycles with us. We will then witness the confluence of social injustice/racism and ecological devastation exacerbated by global warming. We will engage in grassroots service projects, and then travel the Adventure Cycling Organization's "Underground Railroad Route" northward, visiting historic sites, doing service and recreating as we have opportunity to do so, eventually arriving at Gathering rooted and grounded in love." In fact, this unseasoned, un-researched vision was a true leading, but for various reasons it did not come to fruition.

A year later, the resources, partnerships, geography, and clearness have come together. A transformative experience of lived testimony will occur this summer, traveling by human powered vehicle across southern Pennsylvania on the way to the "Courageously Faithful" FGC Gathering.

Do you feel you're a *part* of Quaker Earthcare Witness?

IS QEW its Steering Committee? Or is it something much more?

Recently I had an e-mail exchange with a fellow QEW Steering Committee member, who surprised me with the statement, "QEW is the Steering Committee."

It has long been my thinking that Quaker Earthcare Witness is much more than the 40 to 50

people who serve at any one time on its Steering Committee (which in some other organizations would be, I suppose, its board of directors). Indeed, the one-page flyer I use wherever I travel, says, "If you are a Friend who carries a deep concern for the human-Earth relationship, then you are a Quaker Earthcare witness!"

The understanding I have may have come from a message that Bill Howenstine, one of QEW's founders (who thankfully is still active on the Steering Committee) delivered in worship some time ago. He spoke of *all* of us in the room as being Quaker Earthcare witnesses. My heart soared at that notion.

In 2003, the Steering Committee approved the current QEW Vision & Witness statement, which appears on the masthead of this newsletter and on all our correspondence. However, what we didn't define is our *mission*. A mission statement makes clear what an organization *is* as well as what it is seeking to accomplish. And that could be why this Friend and I have different views of just what QEW is.

When I describe Quaker Earthcare Witness to someone, I

say, "QEW is a network of and resource and support for Friends throughout the Americas who have a deep concern for the earth and for healing the human-Earth relationship."

But those are my words, and now I am curious about what *you* say when you are describing QEW.

Does it feel to you that it is just a group of 40 to 50 individuals who feel personally called to do this work?

Does it appear to be a group of 40 to 50 people, including representatives drawn from 18 Yearly Meetings, who are actively bringing the work and concerns of the

members of those Yearly Meetings into the work of the Steering Committee?

Or is it something different?

Does each of you reading this issue of *BeFriending Creation* feel that you are also QEW?

And if not, how can we change that, so that you *know* that you are a Quaker Earthcare witness and that you, too are QEW?

One of my dreams—one I mention a lot, but which we don't yet have the capacity to bring about—is that QEW's website will someday contain a searchable database of all Friends engaged in this work, and that one could search that database by Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meeting, or individual or topic and find Minutes approved by Monthly and Yearly Meetings; articles written by Friends on the issues we care about; descriptions of projects in which Friends are engaged; and

bios of individual Friends; and more. We called it, at one point, a "registry of gifts." Might it be a way that we could finally connect with all of you doing this work? What do you think?

For Friends to attempt the mighty task of transforming our human-Earth relationship we need to do this *corporately*, and with a sense of true community. Each of us must take on our part of the task, while at the same time knowing that we are in this together.

Would you write to me and tell me how *you* think we Friends can do this? And how you would define the mission and structure of a QEW that could make that happen? ❖

Steering Committee to meet in Chicago April 24–27, 2008

AS HAS BEEN the custom over the past several years, the April Steering Committee meeting is a time for committees, interest groups, and projects to get their major face-to-face work completed. Although some programming is planned (this year Louis and Ruah will share about their winter's journey on the Peace for Earth Walk), much open discussion is expected. Be prepared to learn more about the basics of QEW's work through participating in the meetings.

All Friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. Registration forms are on the QEW website <www.quakerearthcare.org> or from the QEW office at 802/658-0308.

Friends are encouraged to travel by bus or train as an example for others of a more ecologically friendly mode of travel. The QEW office has information to help participants locate transportation.



Hollister Knowlton

Seeing our limitations as ways to help the earth

ON a June day in 1980, my family and I were on an automobile trip from Denver, Colo., to Los Angeles. I was thirteen on that day. As we approached LA, my parents said that just over the mountains we would be able to see the Pacific Ocean. Well, what I saw was smog. It was the first time I can remember being aware of environmental issues.

Two years ago, as I became clerk of the Earthcare Witness Committee of Ft. Lauderdale (Fla.) Monthly Meeting (before moving to Colorado), my concern for the environment was awakened. As our committee discussed ways to make the rest of the Meeting more aware of environmental issues, I recognized that one of my limitations benefited the environment:

I was born with mild cerebral palsy (CP), non-progressive brain damage. My CP affects my speech, coordination, and balance. I tried driving three different times in my late teens and early 20s. Each time at the end of the six hours of on-the-road instruction I was very far from being coordinated enough to drive. After the third attempt, I decided to stop trying to drive and ride the bus or to walk where I needed to go.

It has taken much work and struggle to accept my mild yet real limitations. I have needed to learn to feel all my feelings and not just the pretty ones. After much work, a genuine joy became mine. I still struggle at times, wishing my body would work in different ways, but most days I just live life. I can focus better now on the positive side, such as the fact that my using the

bus instead of driving is better for the earth.

Being a reference librarian in a public library is another way I help the environment. Libraries have changed. Now libraries are much more than books. Often the checkout rates for DVDs rival those for books. We can save many trees and other natural



resources by borrowing books, DVDs, magazines, audio books, and more from the library. Most libraries obtain (for free or a nominal fee) items from other libraries around the country and even the world through interlibrary loan (ILL). Within just a few weeks a

person can obtain books, movies, etc., from other libraries (both public and academic). Other often hidden resources are electronic databases. These databases can often be accessed via the Internet from home, using a library card number. They often offer full-text articles from newspapers and journals. Libraries subscribe to these because they are more cost-effective than subscribing to individual magazines, newspapers, and journals. A librarian will be happy to tell you about using ILL or databases.

Working to save the environment can seem like a long journey filled with inadequate little baby steps. Working together we can combine our little steps into longer strides and find hope. Will you join me and possibly ride the bus on occasion or check out resources at a local library?

—Dawn Howard
Mountain View (Colo.)
Friends Meeting

Powell House Earthcare Witness Series, April 11–13, 2008 *Eco-spirituality & Action* with Angela Manno

THIS WORKSHOP is based on the 8-week course Angela taught for New York Quarter, out of which the New York Yearly Meeting Earthcare Minute emerged (*BeFriending Creation* January–February, 2008; July–August 2007). This workshop will explore an emerging global spirituality—an eco-spirituality—that has exciting implications for the Religious Society of Friends. Through reading, audio visual presentations, guided meditation, worship sharing and reference to established Friends testimonies, we will gain a new sense of our identity within the cosmos and the Earth Community, and begin to envision how Friends can work together corporately to restore the earth. To learn more

about Angela and this workshop, go to: <www.powellhouse.org/cgi/pohocalendar.cgi#26>.

Grow your environmental consciousness and that of others in your Meeting! If you bring one person from your meeting with you, Powell House will reduce the price to \$175 per person. If three of you come from one Meeting, the cost is \$150 per person. Four people, \$125 per person and five people, \$100 per person.

The children's program is led by Katherine Wood. Childcare is available with three weeks' notice.

To register, call or write Powell House, 524 Pitt Hall Rd., Old Chatham NY 12136; telephone 518/794-8811; <www.powellhouse.org>; <info@powellhouse.org>. ♦

Small steps add up when greening your home

by **Barbara Williamson**
QEW Steering Committee

NOT long after the first of the year, I received a letter from a Friend who attended my Monthly Meeting until she and her husband moved to the Shenandoah Valley. She too felt I could do better than the three-minute shower. She also told me about a handy shower head that, in addition to reducing the amount of water used, lets you adjust the amount of water flowing out without a change in water temperature. No more wasted water as you wash your hair.

I have just a few more suggestions to make....

During warm weather (we've just had our February warm spell so I have spring fever) have a yard sale. Get rid of all those things you don't want or need anymore by having a yard sale, re-gifting, donating to a non-profit that will reuse or resale, or help your child/grandchild/younger sibling decorate their first apartment. You help others save money and reduce the amount of "stuff" going into landfills. People who have large yard sales that are well planned can make \$500 to \$2,000 and donations to non-profits can be counted as non-profit donations (just remember to keep that receipt).

Try eBay for more expensive items that you can easily ship. The website <www.yardsalequeen.com> gives tips on how to throw a successful yard sale and advice on how to shop at a yard sale. Many communities have a Free Cycle e-mail list that provides a way for you to give away stuff you don't want and lets you find stuff you need—for free. And lets you be a thrifty shopper!

Don't forget your computer.

Turn off your computer, monitor and printer when not in use and turn off the power strip (make sure you buy the best power strip you can afford). Get rid of your screen saver and use the sleep mode instead. Do your printing once a



day—or week—and only print what you really need. If you are in the market for a new computer, remember that laptops are 90 per-

If 35 percent of the U.S. population followed the tips in this series, their CO₂ savings would equal the United States' original emissions reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol.

cent more efficient than desktop models. Go with an inkjet printer. Today's inkjets can produce high quality copies and are more energy-efficient than laser printers. Reuse floppies. If you have a home office, the website <www.ns.ec.gc.ca/udo/office/office.html> gives you advice on making your office green. Don't forget to recycle your old equipment.

As I am writing this section, I am in the process of having a new water heater installed. Sooner or later, most appliances have to be replaced, and that's the time to invest in one that is energy-efficient. Energy-efficient appliances cost more than regular appliances but are worth the investment be-

cause they will reduce your home energy costs. As you start your search for your new appliance find out what is available and what new features are available.

There are two labels that will help you identify energy-efficient products—the EnergyGuide label and the Energy Star logo. The EnergyGuide label makes it easy for you to compare the energy efficiency of different brands and models of appliances, so you can buy the most efficient product for your needs. The Energy Star logo is a stamp of exceptional efficiency. The web site <www.energystar.gov/products/appliances.shtml> tells you about Energy Star appliances. By entering your zip code, you can find where to find Energy Star appliances at www.energystar.gov/stores/storelocator.asp.

When selecting a new appliance, make sure you check on the cost associated with installation. These costs can add a lot to the cost of the appliance. Checking with the service department about these fees may also help you discover unexpected requirements and/or fees.

HERE are some good books that will help you learn more about making your home more energy efficient:

- The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices* by the Union of Concerned Scientists.
- The Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*, 7th edition, by Alex Wilson et al.
- Save Energy, Save Money* by Alvin Ubell.

Found any interesting, new, or unique ways to make your home more energy-efficient? Let me know and I'll pass them along to other *BeFriending Creation* readers.

Twilight in the Saudi desert?

by Louis Cox

HOW is that people who live in known earthquake, tornado, hurricane, or other high-risk zones are able continue with their normal lives and plans for the future? *Maybe it's because a sense of urgency is hard to maintain when experts are unable to set an exact date or place for the next calamity—even for one that is considered inevitable.*

There seems to be a similar pattern of denial regarding the approaching peak of global petroleum production. Writers like Richard Heinberg (*The Party's Over* and *Powerdown*) and James Howard Kunstler (*The Long Emergency*) have described in almost seismic terms the inevitable shift to a post-peak-oil society. How much pain, suffering, and violence this will involve depends on the foresight behind what we do today.

Yet we see millions of people, particularly North Americans, who are still choosing gas-guzzling vehicles and huge homes in suburbs, and are otherwise leading very petroleum-dependent lifestyles. They may have heard talk about “peak oil,” but *most don't behave as if they believe it is likely to affect their personal lives anytime soon.*

That's partly because geologists have been offering a wide range of estimates of how much longer the world's petroleum reserves can continue powering our fossil-energy-craving civilization. This apparent lack of consensus has allowed most people to toss yet another gloomy prediction into the mental closet reserved for things to worry about much later.

But would such public denial continue if a more precise time-frame for the onset of “peak oil” could be established? One expert, Matthew R. Simmons, seems to make a very strong case for stating that the mo-



mentous peak of global petroleum production is imminent—if it hasn't already arrived.

Simmons, the author of *Twilight in the Desert: the Coming Oil Shock and the World Economy* (John Wiley & Sons, 2005) is an investment banker who specializes in deciphering the arcane data coming from the petroleum industry. As a member of the National Petroleum Council, Simmons is privy to many reports about Saudi Arabia—which sits on the world's largest proven oil reserves.

From insightful analysis of the technical papers of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) on Saudi oil, he deduced that *the official Saudi claims for reserves and production capacity have been greatly overstated.* Further, political and financial pressures on the Saudis to maximize output to keep up with growing world demand have led to the mismanagement of their oil fields, *greatly reducing the amount of oil that is likely to be recovered.*

In summary, Simmons notes,

❖ Only a handful of super-giant oilfields have ever been discovered in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East. They represent a very significant portion of all Middle East oil, and *they are all very “mature,”* in oil industry terms.

❖ All mature oilfields inevitably peak and decline. Applying sophisticated technology to increase the rate of extraction only speeds up the decline in output.

❖ There do not seem to be many giant oilfields left to be discovered in Saudi Arabia or the Middle East, despite intensive exploration in recent years.

❖ Non-OPEC oil, excluding the former Soviet Union, seems to be peaking, or has already peaked. (U.S. production peaked in 1970.)

❖ Most important, because other regions' oil reserves are small by comparison, *if Saudi Arabia's oil production has indeed peaked, that means in effect that world oil production has already peaked.* Sharply rising oil prices will tend to confirm this over the next few years.

Because of the interactions among market demand, oil prices, and incentives for oil exploration and development, Simmons anticipates more of a plateau of production than a sharp peak, which means it may take another decade or two for a real energy crunch to be felt worldwide.

This means *there may still be time* for the industrialized world to begin a major realignment toward renewable sources of energy. However, *there is no combination of renewable energy resources that can do more than a small fraction of the work that concentrates like coal, oil, and natural gas are capable of doing.* The new energy regime we are entering will require more than greater energy efficiency and conservation. *We will soon be forced to find ways to meet our needs with much lower levels of consumption.*

IT is here that the vision of Quaker Earthcare Witness shines light on the path to a more peaceful and healthier post-petroleum world: Whether we are concerned about of peak oil, global warming, or economic meltdown, *lasting resolutions ultimately depend on learning to live with simplicity and integrity, guided by ecological principles and the recognition that we are all part of one family of life on this planet.* ❖

Federal rebates: a potential corporate witness for the earth?

by Hollister Knowlton
QEW Steering Committee Clerk

A Friend in my weekday worship group recently asked whether we'd considered how we might use the \$600 rebates that recently were approved by Congress. Most Friends would prefer to see our government fund education, healthcare, and those in need, rather than give money to citizens to buy more "stuff." *But what, she asked, if Friends used these rebates as a corporate witness for the earth?*

1. What if we used them to lower our individual ecological footprints? For example, through:

- Energy conservation at home?
- Purchasing an Energy Star™ appliance to replace an old one?

Our rebates can be votes for the earth



- Replacing any remaining incandescent bulbs in our homes with compact fluorescent lights?

- Purchasing small heaters to heat only the spaces we are using in order to leave our thermostats at 55 degrees all the time?

2. What if we pooled some or all of our rebates to help make our Meeting-houses more energy efficient via:

- Insulating the attic, sealing the basement windows, or installing Energy Star™ windows?

- Purchasing a commercial-grade dishwasher that would enable abandoning disposables once and for all?

- Purchasing reusable plates,

utensils, and glassware or mugs at a thrift store? Or fabric to make cloth napkins for the Meeting?

3. Might we find a way to pool our rebates with other Meetings to have an even larger ecological impact? For example, we could:

- Donate to the Corporate Campaign of Friends Center in Philadelphia to support their current green building renovation project (see article below).

- Make group contributions to the QEW Mini-grant Fund (see page 11), which could significantly increase the amount of matching funds that Meetings could receive to undertake projects to lower their ecological footprints.

- Pass the money on directly to QEW to help strengthen its Earthcare ministry within the Religious Society of Friends.

Or is there something still bigger that we could accomplish, individually and corporately? Send us your ideas? Tell us what you and your Meeting decide to do! ❖

Friends Center's 'green' renovation project begins in earnest

THESE ARE EXCITING TIMES at Friends Center as we prepare to launch the most extensive components of the renovation project. The equity partners (AFSC, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting) have approved the final project plans and financing and have authorized completing the final construction contracts. The worksite along 15th street is prepared and drilling of seven deep standing-column geothermal wells will begin any day. We have chosen Clemens Construction, a highly respected local company, as the general contractor.

This geothermal heating and cooling system is the centerpiece of Friends Center's efforts to become fossil-fuel-free. Within a few

weeks, the interior renovation will be in full swing—including transition to an open floor plan and a strategy for natural lighting. Friend Center's tenants are geared-up to do their part in what Vince Muller

Did you know? Friends Center's geothermal wells will keep 182 tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere every year?

and others have described as an "intricate ballet" during which all partners, Friends Center staff, the contractors, and the tenants must be in sync so that the renovation can move smoothly from floor to floor and from office building to meetinghouse.

Friends Center's renovation project is a bold environmental

witness on peace, equality, simplicity, and integrity. Now this witness is gaining recognition in the Philadelphia area and beyond. The Philadelphia City Paper declared, "The question of who will lead Philadelphia into the environmentally friendly, energy-efficient 21st century might finally have an answer... the Quakers."

—Adrien Finckel
Capital Campaign Assistant
Friends Center
1501 Cherry St.
Philadelphia PA 19102
(215)241-7098

To learn more about Friends Center's "green" renovation project, see the November-December 2005 issue of *BeFriending Creation*.

Bali ballyhoo: *Suckered again at UN Climate Convention Conference*

by Mary Gilbert
QEW Steering Committee

DELEGATES from 187 countries, as well as the UN Secretary General and six heads of state, met in Bali December 3–14, 2007, to get to work on an international agreement to head off the worst impacts of global climate change. The world wants something in place before the Kyoto Protocol agreement ends in 2012.

I didn't get to Bali, but I was at a November (United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) meeting for NGOs in Washington, D.C., that included aspects of what UNEP would be bringing to the Bali conference.

UNEP is fully committed to market-based solutions to climate change. Several presentations dealt with strategies for convincing reluctant corporations that real and dependable profits can be made through bringing investment to LDC's (Least Developed Countries). The idea is that encouraging competition will turn loose all sorts of creativity that will amaze us with how well climate and poverty problems can be solved.

UNEP's big success story is about how a Montreal agreement led to a turn-around in damage to the ozone layer, which is now well on its way to recovery. There are features of how that was done that are *not* part of business as usual (money made available to ensure the ability to comply, etc.), and one can see that it worked well.

In a speech he made in Bali, UNEP head Achim Steiner, said:

❖ "We will continue to devise and define smart market mechanisms to meet the sustainable energy challenge."

❖ "UNEP will be taking for-

ward its partnerships with the multi-trillion dollar finance and investment community in order to accelerate the transition to a more climate-friendly but also profitable global economy."

❖ "Under the UN Nairobi Framework, UNEP and UNDP are already assisting developing countries to gain greater access to the carbon market."



So how did the Bali conference go? The United States exercised its usual total intransigence for the full two weeks of the Conference, until the last few minutes of the extra day that was added because business wasn't concluded. Paula Dobriansky, who led the U.S. delegation, was booed loudly, basically by the whole world. Delegates were photographed hiding their grieving and angry faces. On the final Friday, things were deadlocked and the meeting went on into the wee hours of Saturday. At 3 a.m., the meetings broke so that ministers could consult with their capitals (and maybe sleep), to resume at 10 a.m.

A component of the deadlock was that the European Union wanted the outcome document to state an intention to reduce carbon emissions by 25 to 40 percent, while the U.S. refused to allow language even alluding to future re-

duction goals. On Saturday afternoon the U.S. agreed to the mention of such goals, although without any specifications. Cheering filled the room.

Reports on the Bali Conference vary a lot. The UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) evaluation was very positive, saying there was a "UN Breakthrough on climate change." Some Earth-lovers were thrilled that on the last day of the extended meeting, the U.S. actually inched a step away from the unmovability it had shown up to that point and joined the international consensus on one small point.

On the other hand, British commentator George Monbiot said, "We've been suckered again by the U.S. So far the Bali deal is worse than Kyoto. America will keep on wrecking climate talks as long as those with vested interests in oil and gas fund its political system."

The "Bali Road Map" calls for two more years of talks to prepare for the successor to the Kyoto Protocol. Germany has committed to a 40-percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and has said that if the U.S. doesn't come to a planned Major Economies Meeting in Paris with binding reduction targets of at least 25 to 40 percent *it shouldn't bother to come, and the meeting will be cancelled.*

IT is clear that we in North America have a serious task: We must bring our governments into the world community. Through discernment each of us will approach the task differently, which is fine because many strategies are needed. Private lifestyle changes are also our responsibility, but systemic problems need systemic solutions. Let's pray about what we can do, and let's do it. ❖

QEW receives UN accreditation!

AFTER A LENGTHY and frustrating application process, Quaker Earthcare Witness has received DPI (Department of Public Information) accreditation at the United Nations.

What does this mean? It means we will have three year-round badges to attend UN events, one for our "CEO" and one each for a Representative and an Alternate. The new badges will be issued to specific persons and are not transferable.

Other interested QEW members can attend CSD (Commission on Sustainable Development) sessions, always held the first two weeks in May, immediately after our Steering Committee meeting at the end of April. For those sessions we send in a list of whoever will be representing us. *Please inform the office if you are interested in being considered for this responsibility.*

QEW has approved a statement of public policy and a set of guidelines for our representatives to the UN. These serve as a job description of the expectations and responsibilities involved in attending UN sessions of any kind on behalf of QEW.

Why does QEW want this representation?

We are part of a world community, addressing worldwide problems and working toward a worldwide transformation of consciousness about how we live on this earth. Attending CSD sessions for the last eight years has been transformational for me. I've met people from around the world who hold Earth-values dear and are working full-time on restoring our planet's health.

Here in the United States, perhaps to a lesser extent in

Canada, we are exposed to a limited and managed stream of information. What's really going on in the rest of the world is only glimpsed, unless we diligently seek it out. I see the main purpose of our having representatives at the UN as bringing back an international perspective to QEW and to our home communities. Another purpose is to connect with fellow Earth-lovers, to network and contribute to discussions with people from other organizations. We have an opportunity to help others think things through, and perhaps contribute an idea that gets included in a written or spoken statement.

A third purpose is to speak directly with Delegates from different countries. For instance, I was able to link up the ambassador from Tuvalu, a small island state in Melanesia, with the developers of a small, inexpensive, tidal power technology. I am hoping that when the U.S. has a new administration it will be possible to lobby U.S. Delegates with positive results. *Be aware, though, that the opportunity to influence Delegates is very limited.*

THE ABILITY to attend UN functions year-round will yield more information and provide more opportunities to link up with allies, such as the members of the Earth Values Caucus whose approach is entirely parallel with QEW's. (More on the Earth Values Caucus another time.)

Our DPI accreditation will facilitate an enhanced two-way flow of information and ideas between QEW and international colleagues. Let us pray that we can be effective. ❖

—Mary Gilbert

Global warming by the numbers

GLOBAL WARMING is the most serious environmental threat of our time. As these facts show, affordable options are available.

45%—The increase in world's solar generating capacity in 2005.

2—The rank of China as global producer of solar cells, behind Japan (U.S. ranks 4th).

\$1.5 billion—The amount the U.S. government spends a year on renewable energy research.

\$1 billion—ExxonMobil's daily revenue.

\$2 billion—The amount that GE Energy Financial Services invested in wind, solar, biomass and geothermal energy in 2007.

\$200 billion—The amount that China has committed to invest in renewable energy sources over the next 15 years.

0.74%—The projected cost of smart cap-and-trade climate policy on U.S. economic output in 2030.

100%—Projected growth of the U.S. economy by 2030.

53—The number of U.S. senators supporting cap and trade legislation.

0—The number of bills passed by the U.S. Congress to cap and reduce America's global warming pollution.

Sources: World Watch Institute, Earth Policy Institute, Department of Energy, CNN, GE Energy Financial Services, Reuters, Upcoming Report: *Climate Policy and the U.S. Economy*. Environmental Defense, 2008

The 2007–2008 Peace for Earth walk from Vancouver, B.C. to San Diego by Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox has brought to light many things that Friends and Friends meetings/churches are doing to care for the earth. They have also left a trail of Friends who have been inspired by the Walk to change to more Earth-friendly lifestyles:

HERE IS A SUMMARY of things that Eugene Friends Church has been doing to “green up.”

❖ We recycled most of the lumber from the demolished building for use as fire blocking, handrails and smaller concrete forms. This was extremely labor-intensive, and some of the carpenters objected to working with such well-seasoned wood because it is harder to drive a nail into. It also created aesthetic controversies within the church.... Realistically though, we could not really afford to spend more than we did. We used high R-value Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs) for most of the exterior wall construction.... While there are eco-problems with the manufacture of all of these materials, the energy saving is high and the construction costs are comparable to our Northwest standard wood frame.

❖ We installed an on-demand water heating system. Unfortunately, this has turned out to be much less efficient than we had hoped for, partly because of the way it was plumbed.... We may need to install booster heaters nearer to the point of use. The on-demand system will then kick in only after a considerable amount of hot water has been demanded.

❖ We are using natural gas for cooking and heating. It is not always competitive with electricity around here, but is expected to be more so in the future. The Church Stewards are considering placing photovoltaic panels on the huge expanse of the south-facing sanctuary roof. We will not be the first building in the community to do so, but may be the first church. It is not likely to directly power our

building, but would be sold to the grid under a utility-sponsored program....

❖ Prior to the building of the fellowship hall, we banned styrofoam cups. We began using paper for coffee cups ... because our dishwashing had been done by hand and we could not assure that all volunteers would use bleach in the final rinse. Now we have melamine dishes that are washed in the new dishwasher. We need to buy enough washable dishes to supply a larger event, such as a Sunday-morning potluck, or a Thanksgiving banquet.

❖ I wrote a “Green Paper” not long ago. It regarded mostly how to deal with kitchen waste in all its forms, and more particularly, some suggestions as to how to satisfy the “busy” people’s concerns and the radically “green” people’s concerns. It suggested compromises to aesthetics and convenience so that we might possibly rise above the “do nothing” stage. It focused on Green Leadership taking the initiative to do part of the extra “green work,” rather than simply grumbling about the futility of trying to deal with the “busy” people.

—Dick Lakin
Eugene (Ore.) Friends Church

I WANTED YOU TO KNOW that you really changed my life. I have been shopping at the local natural foods store ever since you left, buying Fair Trade whenever I can. I also now carry my small nylon bag in my purse, so I don’t have to use a paper or plastic one when I’m out and about. I am so much more conscious of so many things about food, ecological issues, etc.

Thank you so much for your stewardship and concern, which is affecting others like me, I’m sure, as you walk along.

Sakre Edson
Eugene (Ore.) Friends Meeting

IT WAS GOOD TO MEET Ruah and Louis at the Kenworthy home in Battle Ground, Wash., and to see and hear their message from John Woolman a few days later at the Multnomah Friends Meeting-house in Portland, Ore. Now we are traveling with them in spirit as they continue on their way, and their spirit strengthens us in our daily journey here at home.

—Jane Wulff
Multnomah Friends Meeting
Portland, Ore.

The following are from an Internet dialog with a few Canadian Friends from Meetings visited during the Peace for Earth walk.

OUR PETERBOROUGH Allowed Meeting (PAM) under the care of Wooler, will be hosting four study sessions based on Louis and Ruah’s *Walking in the Light* booklet, starting in March. We have some funding from Greening Sacred Spaces to help with these sessions (printing booklets, etc.) and will be inviting others in the Peterborough community to join with us in the adventure.

—Ruth Kuchinad
Peterborough, Ont.

WE IN VICTORIA are using the *Walking in the Light* pamphlet for a study series. Recommend it to all!

—Arnold Ranneris
Vancouver Is. MM, Victoria, B.C.

[*Walking in the Light can be downloaded from www.peaceforearth.org.]*

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ferences if certain issues are pursued; however we've tried to focus on our commonalities, recognizing that it's most important to open the channels of communication, which we've managed to do, speaking our truth with love and respect, as John Woolman did.

One of the stereotypes that we've heard from unprogrammed Friends is that Evangelical Friends are narrowly fundamentalist in their approach to the Bible and other issues. *We have not found this to be true.* We have seen a wide range of views, as well as involvement in many humanitarian and environmental projects.

Many of the Northwest Friends we've met seem to recognize that the guidance of the Spirit goes hand in hand with discerning what the Scriptures mean for us today. We have met a number who share our enthusiasm for a new translation of the Bible, *The Message*, from Navpress, that seems to capture the prophetic voice in contemporary language (e.g., Matthew 5:48, rendered in many versions as "Be ye perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect," becomes, "In a word, what I'm saying is *grow up*."

.... Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you."

Some Evangelical Friends have shared their stereotypes of unprogrammed Friends, as well. One is that unprogrammed Friends don't have a place for the Bible in their thinking and are only concerned about social issues. But we find a wide range of views among unprogrammed Friends, and we know many who are seeking guidance of the Spirit through the aid of individual and group Bible study.

The fact is, the different branches of Quakerism are part of the same tree, but some Friends try to deny that essential unity. Wouldn't we all bear better fruit if we sought Truth together, instead of thinking of our branch as the whole tree?

So, let us exorcise these stereotypes and begin afresh. Let us take time to "listen in tongues" and, in the manner of John Woolman, open a dialog with Friends who many see things differently from us. Let us find our common interests and concerns and build relationships that can later withstand exploring differences. If we can't do this among Friends how can we promote peace and an earth restored to the rest of the world? ❖

Quaker Earthcare Witness Mini-grants\$ available

QEW HAS MINI-GRANTS available for Friends Meetings and churches who want to enhance their relationship with the earth. We can make five matching grants of \$200 each to help with projects consistent with the QEW Vision & Witness statement. (See masthead on this page.)

You will need to include a signed letter from your treasurer, stating the cost of your project and that your Meeting or church can match the \$200 QEW grant for



the specified project. If you are awarded a mini-grant, you are required to send a report on the progress of the project by September 15, 2008. Digital or printed photographs are appreciated.

The application deadline is May 1, 2008, and funds will be available by July 1, 2008. For more information, contact the QEW office at 802/658-0308, visit <www.quakerearthcare.org>, or e-mail Ruth Hamilton at <Ruth@ArtsCanHeal.com>.

BeFriending Creation

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We publish **BeFriending Creation** to promote the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness, stimulate discussion and action, share insights, practical ideas, and news of our actions, and encourage among Friends a sense of community and spiritual connection with all Creation. Opinions expressed are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of Quaker Earthcare Witness, or of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The editor is responsible for unsigned items. **Submission deadlines** are **February 7, April 7, June 7, August 7, October 7, and December 7.**

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VISION AND WITNESS

WE ARE CALLED to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. WE WORK to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth's ecological integrity. WE PROMOTE these truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth.

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BeFriending Creation

March–April 2008

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About those mini-grant\$ available from QEW for Meeting eco-projects... Needing some ideas? Well, how about installing an on-demand water heater? Or planting a butterfly garden? Or putting in a bicycle rack? Or upgrading the Meetinghouse furnace? Or installing more energy-efficient windows? Or trading out all the incandescent bulbs for compact fluorescents? Or planting trees for shade or as wind-breaks Or hiring someone to do an energy audit? Don't wait too long to decide. The application deadline is May 1, 2008. See page 11 for details.

Peace for Earth walkers weather Oregon, cross into California

by Ruah Swennerfelt & Louis Cox

WE crossed into sunny California in late January, enjoying rolling hills, spring flowers, incredible birds, and mostly warmer weather. People we meet are so amazed by the length of our journey, but even a 15-mile day feels easy when there’s such beauty surrounding us. We appreciate everyone’s support, prayers, and love.

We want to reflect now about some of our conversations about Earthcare with Friends whose theological perspectives, worship styles, and language differed from ours. Often when we told East Coast Quakers that we would be visiting with Evangelical Friends on the West Coast, they assumed we would be working very hard to communicate and develop relationships with those “other” Friends. The truth is that we have found kindred spirits on many levels among Evangelical and unaffiliated Friends of the Northwest. (And we have come to realize that the Peace for Earth Walk itself is a form of evangelism,



carrying the good news of redemption for God’s green Earth (even if we don’t always use those terms). We’ve found a willingness to explore ideas, with John Woolman’s message and care for the earth as common touch-points. We’ve made close friends and have felt comfortable everywhere.

The differences we’ve found are sometimes in the form of worship or in the role of the Bible in discerning Truth. But we’ve also found much comfort in all the forms of worship and in the serious discussions of living in right relationship. The Sunday morning services we attended began with uplifting music shared by talented Friends. The “sermons” seemed more like reflections and queries than exhortations. Various roles during Sunday worship were shared by many “ministers,” who were listed in the programs.

We do recognize that there can be significant dif-

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