

# Among Friends

No 107: Summer 2007

Published by the Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation

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## Finding the Prophetic Voice for our Time

**Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.**

*1 Corinthians 14:1, NRSV*

**It is love, then, that you should strive for. Set your hearts on spiritual gifts, especially the gift of proclaiming God's message.**

*1 Corinthians 14:1 TEV-Good News for Modern Man*

Welcome and greetings from Europe and Middle East Section to Friends from around the world travelling to Dublin, Ireland, for the 22nd Triennial of Friends World Committee for Consultation which will take place 11 – 19 August. And thank you to the Irish Friends and the World Office team who have been working so hard for many months now to prepare for our arrival.

The Triennial is the business meeting for the Friends World Committee for Consultation. Every three years, the representatives named by their yearly



meetings gather for nine days not only to conduct business but also to grow in the life of Christ and the Holy Spirit by discovering together their common spiritual ground.

The work of the gathering is not only the administrative business of FWCC, but also the exchanges and communication among Friends worldwide about the work of Friends in the world and our joy in living our faith. It is a time to learn about each other and the challenges and successes of other yearly meetings. All the work arises out of worship and worship sharing discussion groups.

In Dublin we shall celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of FWCC. In 1937, after years of concerned work to reconnect a fragmented Quaker world, the Second World Conference of Friends created the FWCC "to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over."

### Inside this issue:

Church & Peace	2
Invitation to Spring Gathering	4
News from Yearly Meetings and Groups	5
News in Brief	7
Woodbrooke	11
Diary	12

*(Continued on page 2)*

## FWCC contd from page 1

Today, Friends from yearly meetings and groups in 75 nations continue this work.

The world office is based at Friends House in London, England. It serves four main roles:

- Organise world gatherings, including triennial meetings and consultations of Quakers world-wide.
- Support and maintain contact with the work of the four cooperating, autonomous FWCC Sections serving Africa, the Americas, Asia & the West Pacific, and Europe & the Middle East, and the Quaker United Nations Offices in New York and Geneva.
- Coordinate the International Membership programme, which joins isolated Friends and worship groups to the wider Quaker community.
- Promote an understanding of the world-wide character of the Society of Friends, through staff travel, conferences, correspondence and publications, and through ecumenical and interfaith work on behalf of Friends.

### Staying in touch

Friends not attending the Triennial can still keep up with events through the FWCC web-site – <http://fwccworld.org/triennial/live.shtml> there is a blog-page and there will be regular updates, photos and video posted throughout the week.

# Church and Peace Internat

## held at Corrymeela, Northern Ireland, June 2007

This year the AGM was combined with an International Conference. There were more than 100 participants, with some eight Quakers amongst them. France YM, German YM, Switzerland YM and Britain YM (Quaker Peace and Social Witness) and FWCC-EMES are members, as well as a number of individual Friends. C&P brings together peace activists from the traditional Peace Churches (Mennonites, Quakers and Brethren), Roman Catholic as well as Protestant communities, Fellowship of Reconciliation and Pax Christi groups from all over Europe, to share and learn from their experiences.

These encounters offer opportunities for a real exchange of experience between the participants. We benefited from the lessons learned by the long-term involvement of the Corrymeela Community in reconciliation in Northern Ireland. We were given a very impressive and moving personal account from Norman Kember of his experience as a hostage while in Iraq as a member of the Christian Peace Maker Team. Alejandro Zorzin, a Mennonite theologian spoke on the theme and presented us with a biblical view of security and vulnerability based on Isaiah 32.

Most revealing however were the visits we paid to some peace-building projects in the torn city of Belfast itself. We saw with our own eyes the very high walls which separate catholic and protestant neighbourhoods... The paintings of the “provisional armies” fighting one another for decades... One project was in a Methodist Church that actually was wedged into one of these separation walls, right in between the catholics and the protestants. Another was situated in a protestant neighbourhood of about 2500 inhabitants, with an unemployment rate of 65% (!!), in every street two or three people who had been killed during “the troubles” and some 400 maimed for life. The people involved in the project have already been working for years to educate and empower people to set up small businesses, get professional training and find employment, across

# International Conference

the boundaries between the communities.

The experiences people in Belfast shared with us were particularly recognizable for the sizeable group of participants from Serbia, Bosnia, Kosovo and other parts of former Yugoslavia.

*Kees Nieuwerth, FWCC EMES Representative*

For the first time Church and Peace adopted the practice of writing and sending an “epistle”

## Conference Message:

At the Corrymeela Community Centre in Northern Ireland more than 100 participants from some 13 different nations and many different church traditions and faith communities gathered for the 2007 International Conference of Church and Peace.

The theme of our conference was:

“Not by might, nor by power...but by my Spirit (Zech. 4:6) – security involves vulnerability”.

During our meeting we explored pathways to true security and visited church-related cross-community peacebuilding projects in the torn and broken Northern Irish society. These visits proved to be a real sign of hope!

## What have we learned?

- that security is a gift of God which calls for a way of life in solidarity with all people and that requires the acceptance of some level of vulnerability;
- that we live on God’s earth and are entrusted with responsible stewardship;
- that in our world a child under the age of five dies from hunger and malnutrition every five seconds;
- that 1000 people are killed every week by small arms, most of which are owned by civilians;
- that 95 % of the victims of war and armed conflict nowadays are civilians;
- that we have lived uncritically with a false

sense of security, and having been aware of the suffering have done too little to relieve it;

- that in a divided society suffering from violent conflict, true peace requires the transformation of relationship. This takes courage, the sharing of stories and the investment of our time and resources;
- that these conflict situations are deeply rooted in history and people’s emotions;
- that true security calls for breaking down both the inward or emotional and the outward or physical walls that separate us;
- that in the midst of conflict situations we are called to follow a vision that takes us beyond the “enemy experience” with its fear and feelings of insecurity and enables us to meet each other as fellow human beings;
- that in so doing we may be messengers of God’s peace and will be strengthened by the knowledge that we do his will;
- that true security requires us to work towards creating justice locally, nationally and internationally, so that in the words of the Psalmist “Peace and Justice have embraced” (*Psalm 85: v.10*);
- that real security can come about only if we follow the call of Jesus to love our neighbours and even our enemies;
- that we can allow ourselves to be vulnerable in the living presence of God;
- that we need to continue to call on all Christians, churches and people of goodwill to devote themselves to working for true peace. “Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give.” (John 14.:v.27).

Adopted unanimously by the participants of the Church and Peace International conference at Corrymeela, 16 June 2007.

# A special invitation to all Friends in Europe and the Middle East

**Joint FWCC EMES/EMEYF Gathering, 20 – 24 March 2008 in Vienna**

**This is a unique opportunity for Friends of all ages to meet others from across the region for four days of worship and learning, reflection on the theme, building friendships and ongoing links.**

This gathering in 2008 is a joint venture between Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation and Europe and Middle East Young Friends and replaces their separate meetings usually held at this same time of year. There will be the usual places reserved for nominated representatives of Yearly Meetings and groups who have some business to conduct but it also includes open places which can be applied for by any Friend. Children will be welcome with their parent.

We do not wish anyone to be excluded on grounds of cost, language, age or disability. In order to be able to plan carefully we need bookings well in advance. The children's programme, for instance, needs to be tailored to the particular ages and language groups represented. So we are asking for all registration forms to be in by 31 October at the latest. The number of places is limited to a maximum of 150 including children. Nominated representatives of Yearly Meetings and groups will have guaranteed places. Open places will be allocated to ensure a fair distribution and Friends informed of the outcome in November.

Those Friends who would need bursary assistance in order to attend are encouraged first to seek the support of their local meeting or Yearly Meeting in the first instance. However EMEYF and EMES do have some funds available so please do not be discouraged from applying if necessary.

We should also be very pleased to hear from any-one who might be able to contribute towards funds for bursaries.

Your planning group comprises EMEYF representatives: Sophie Buxton (Britain YM) and John Fitzgerald (Ireland YM); members of

Vienna worship group, Ewald Eichler and Jalka, and representatives of EMES, Martine Kuipers (Netherlands YM) and Julia Ryberg (Sweden YM and EMES Ministry and Outreach Coordinator), and Bronwyn Harwood, Executive Secretary. Martine Kuipers of Netherlands Yearly Meeting has volunteered to act as registrations secretary. Please do help her by completing forms and getting them in on time. She is the contact person for any matters relating to gathering bookings. Other more general enquiries for EMES should come to Bronwyn Harwood and for EMEYF to Matt Loffman.

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## News from Yearly Meetings and Groups

May and June are the months when the majority of the European Yearly Meetings take place. We do not have space in Among Friends to include all the epistles we receive from meetings in Europe and the Middle East. However in this edition, which coincides with the FWCC Triennial, we include the very first epistle from one of the newest recognised Quaker groups in Europe.

### EMES Central Europe Gathering Poznan, May 25th to 28th, 2007

*A note from Tony and Moira Fitt, Visiting Friends:*

This was a first in two respects: It was the first official Quaker meeting in Poland and the first time that the Central Europe Gathering included a Woodbrooke on-the-Road event. It was attended by 23 participants, including 3 from Poland, 3 from Hungary, 4 from Austria, 1 each from Germany, Serbia, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, the Czech Republic, the Ukraine and 6 from Britain.

Friday evening and all of Saturday were devoted to a presentation of Quaker fundamentals. Julia Ryberg provided challenging and stimulating quotations, (which were displayed throughout the weekend) from a wide variety of sources and gave us the opportunity to share our experience in small worship-sharing groups. The climax of the programme was a public lecture on Quakerism, at which Julia's presentation was translated by Maia Maura into Polish for the benefit of 13 extra Polish participants, (attracted by local publicity, ) some of whom stayed to worship with us. This part of the programme was warmly received by first-timers and experienced Friends alike.

*....and a foot-note from local organiser Bradius Maurus:*

Part of the purpose of this Meeting in Poznan was to stir up local public interest. A remarkable number of members of the public came to the Open Talk, and several returned for events on Sunday and Monday. We had been prepared for none, so the outcome was very encouraging.

It was a challenge but also a great source of satisfaction that we were able to plan this Meeting



*Friends from across Europe gather at Poznan. Photo: Ewald Eichler*

and carry it through to a satisfactory conclusion. And we agree with Beth Allen's comment in the Swarthmore Lecture book with which we were presented by Tony Fitt: "Working with Friends is such fun!"

### Message to Friends around the world from Annual Gathering of the Latvian Recognised Meeting

Greetings to friends everywhere!

We assembled for our First Annual Gathering which hopefully evolve into steady tradition, in Liepaja from 3rd to 6th of May, 2007.

The theme of this Annual Gathering was attuned to the FWCC Triennial „Finding Prophetic Voices of Our Time”. There were 17 participants in this Annual Gathering, nine Latvians and other friends from Germany, Denmark, Austria, Great Britain, Norway and Hungary.

At the very beginning Ute Caspers presented genesis of Triennial and its further developments. Following the public readings from Triennial publication brochure we examined our perception of the Triennial theme „Finding Prophetic Voices of Our Time” which every participant could deepen in group discussions.

Friends were presented with a narrative by friends Hans Aaen about the life of the Danish theologian and philosopher of 19th century – Sören Kirkegaard

## News from Yearly Meetings and Groups

and those circumstances which affected his formation as one of the founders of existentialism philosophy. As many of us were not closely familiar with his work, further discussion formed a challenge.

We have started every morning with a joint meditation on the beach of Baltic sea where fierce morning sun and rhythmic breath of the sea on to white sands tuned us in for a spiritual growth towards understanding and distinguishing of prophetic voices.

We ended every day with a social evening where got to know each other through music, dance, songs and games.

In group discussions we talked about following aspects of prophetic manifestations thus gaining deeper understanding of prophetic voice which we hope to maintain in our joint Quaker journey:

- What does it mean to be a prophet nowadays?
- How big courage is needed to be a prophet and how do we perceive public reaction towards prophetic thoughts?
- What do we understand with terms „Divine Love” and „Perfection” – both of which we are trying to reach?
- How are we able to distinguish between prophetic voices and individual views?
- When and how to present the truth?
- How to distinguish true prophet from the false one?
- What is our understanding about parents’ prophetic role?

We are very grateful for our finding and hope you find your experience equally stimulating!

*On behalf of Latvian Recognised Meeting,*

*Inese Ansule, Clerk*

*Liepaja, Latvia*

*6 May, 2007*

### Some reflections from the German Yearly Meeting Representatives to FWCC-EMES.

A German Friend recently spoke of what we owe to those who have simply kept meetings going in lean times; and to those, not in the limelight, who have given faithful service simply by building up and maintaining those procedures and structures that enable meetings to go on functioning. We have heard of the unexpected joy a Berlin Friend has found in the service of establishing good working relationships with the architects and builders employed to renovate our Berlin premises in Planckstrasse. Other Friends are busy looking at ways of making work with children and young people more effective, and yet others of improving our Internet pages. A group is revising the “Ordnung des Zusammenlebens”; procedures to do with meetings and membership. Consideration is being given to ethical investments of our funds. The literature committee is trying to streamline library procedures ( even Friends can be guilty of borrowing books and not returning them!). Ways of archiving our historical documents are being investigated.

But how do we fill these structures with life? Are we, the 260 members, today creating anything worth putting in future archives? Attendance at local meetings continues to be low. But at regional and national levels a lot is going on. 2007 has so far seen, in addition to regular meetings, a Border Meeting on “the inner light”, a seminar on Quaker history and identity, the Peace Committee’s public meetings on “Safety”, and a retreat. Still to come are a family gathering in Hirschluch, a Border meeting, and a further seminar.

The Peace Committee organised a vigil in front of the British embassy in Berlin to protest against the modernisation of weapons at Faslane, Scotland. A Quaker stand in the “Market place” at the 4-day Lutheran Church Congress in Cologne attracted large numbers of enquirers. The little team of Friends there were amazed when vast crowds of people attended an advertised meeting for worship.



*Photos: Welmoud Verhagen*

“Light” has been a recurring theme: Friends here rejoice as we see that our newly renovated premises in Berlin (in continuous use since 1925, and recently bought by the YM) are to be light, bright and welcoming. This place has an important international history. Come and experience with us how it fills up with new life!

*Janet Kreysa, Björn Rohde-Liebenau*

### **Amari Play Centre, Ramallah—summer camp**

Muna Khleifi reports that a successful children’s camp was held during the first three weeks of July and that the work of the volunteers was much appreciated. We have photos but no report as yet. The work and the heat have left the whole team exhausted so it may be a little while before they can turn their attention to a written report. The Staff team and local volunteers from Friends School Ramallah were joined by three student volunteers recruited and funded by FWCC EMES. Welmoud and Steph are students in the Department of Peace Studies at Bradford University and Anne Grethe is studying pedagogy Trondheim University in Norway. We have Welmoud to thank for the

photographs. Our thanks too to all the Friends in the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Britain for their help in funding this special initiative.

### **Friends International Centre Ramallah**

We have heard that Kathy Bergen, FICR Coordinator, who has been away in the USA for several weeks recovering after surgery, is expected back on 21 August and the Centre should be fully back in action for the autumn. She can be contacted on [ficr@palnet.com](mailto:ficr@palnet.com)



## News of Quakers in Sweden from the Swedish FWCC-EMES Representatives

Our Yearly meeting gathering was held in May and we had the theme Women, Men and Quakers. We were about 40 members gathered and we had 7 guests from other Quaker YMs and some children as well. All in all we are now 104 members in Sweden YM.

We have regular meeting for worship in seven cities in Sweden, in Stockholm twice a week but in most of the places 2 – 4 times a month because of long distances.

Sometimes we arrange “Meeting for all ages” at the Quaker house in Stockholm where the children are welcome to participate the whole hour. During the silence we have some program like drawing, painting and working with clay and of course the adults are also welcome to take part. We might listen to music now and then.

This summer we will have a summer camp for all ages at Svartbäcken, our retreat centre.

We also enjoyed a Summer music evening with songs, guitar and violin music which raised €120 to support the work of EMES/FWCC. I hope we will soon find more ways to support EMES/FWCC.

*Karin Ern*

*Note from the Executive Secretary*

Other fundraising efforts reported to us so far include two events in Finland, a special meal for the North of Finland Worship Group and a sale at the Yearly Meeting, and an “International meal”, with a Middle Eastern flavour, in Edinburgh:

This money is needed to help support the ongoing work of the Section: organising events including gatherings and the annual peace and service consultation, producing newsletters, providing administrative support for projects such as the Amari Camp Play Centre and Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. A proportion of funds raised in the section also goes to help the work of FWCC World Office.

At the Annual Meeting of FWCC-EMES in April we set ourselves a target for 2007 of €14,000 to be raised. There is still a long way to go.

## News in Brief

### News from the FWCC-EMES office

Ben Miller Williams who has been assisting the Treasurer and Executive Secretary with finance and administrative work for the past two and a half years is moving on. He will be leaving at the end of August to take up work in the music production business in London. We thank him for all his patient support and wish him well for the future.

Bronwyn Harwood will be retiring as Executive Secretary following the EMES/EMEYF Gathering in March 2008. It is hoped that the new Executive Secretary (selection will take place at the end of September 2007) will be able to take up post at the beginning of January 2008 to give a three month overlap.

### News from the EMES Ministry & Outreach Development Programme

Five exciting months of the 15-month development programme have already passed, and we are finding important themes about tradition, identity, leadership and learning needs among Friends. This autumn, the on-line learning project will be underway. About 10 Friends speaking that many languages have agreed to participate in creating an on-line course for Friends and enquirers in Europe. Also this autumn, about 15 Friends, including the EMES-appointed Visiting Friends, will attend a residential gathering in Sweden to explore the Quaker tradition of travelling in the ministry and its implications for Quakers in Europe and the Middle East today. Bronwyn Harwood and Julia Ryberg will hold an interest group about the Ministry & Outreach programme during the Triennial in Dublin. Input about the programme will be included in the 2008 EMES/EMEYF Gathering in Vienna. Travels to Moscow and Tbilisi, in co-operation with Woodbrooke, have been included in Julia's work thus far.

### Quaker Voluntary Action

Quaker Voluntary Action (QVA) is developing its Work and Worship programme – and invites you to take part. This initiative brings together Friends

## News in Brief

– from near and far – to live and work together for a few days, in a group of up to about twelve people, to undertake a piece of work that is worth doing and engage in spiritual reflection. We have found that this experience has a powerful impact on those who take part.

“For me it was a most satisfying mix of Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Work and Meeting for Eating.”

We run these ‘working retreats’ at Swarthmoor Hall in Cumbria, UK – arguably the ‘foundation place’ of Quakerism – and also with local Meetings or Quaker groups who have a job that is doable by volunteers and is worth doing. The retreats we’ve run attract the young – and the not so young – and age, infirmity or just plain inability to be practical – are not really bars to being involved. We invite you to take part – either by attending a retreat or by suggesting a project. A list of retreats is set out below.

For those who may be interested we will be recruiting a part-time co-ordinator in September to take our Work and Worship programme forward.

More widely, QVA seeks to find and develop new ways of Quaker Service that meet the needs of our time – Work and Worship is an example of this. We are looking for new Trustees for this work.

### **QVA Work and Worship Programme: 2007-2008**

*Note: Further retreats may be arranged for 2008*

2007

- Swarthmoor Hall: Cumbria UK: 7th – 12th October
- Airton: Yorkshire UK: 27th – 28th October

2008

- Swarthmoor Hall: Cumbria UK: 11th-16th May and 5th – 10th October
- Congenies: France: Date to be confirmed

Contact: Martin Smith (July-August 2007 only)  
0044 (0) 1484 687139 martin.smith@bamfordtaggs.co.uk or (after August) Jane Rosenberg 0044(0) 1273 452689 mail@qva.org.uk

### **Quaker Council for European Affairs Programme Assistants**

Duration: 1 year. Location: Brussels.

QCEA is looking for two individuals to work as Programme Assistant(s) from January 2008. This is an opportunity to

- work on one of QCEA’s programme areas: human rights, economic justice and peace-building
- to assist in the day to day tasks of QCEA and Quaker House
- to gain work experience in an international Quaker setting

You need to have an understanding of and interest in European institutions; commitment to the advancement of Quaker concerns at the European level; sympathy with the Quaker approach; willingness to undertake routine and domestic tasks; good working knowledge of English. A reasonable knowledge of French or Dutch will be helpful though not essential. Knowledge of other European languages would be very welcome.

Accommodation and living allowance provided.

For more details and an application form please see our website at <http://www.quaker.org/qcea/pa/index.html> or contact Martina Weitsch, QCEA, Square Ambiorix 50, B-1000 Brussels. Email: [mweitsch@qcea.org](mailto:mweitsch@qcea.org).

Deadline for applications: 21 September 2007.

Interviews will take place on 7 November 2007. Candidates invited for interview will need to arrive in Brussels the day before.

If we need to have two rounds of interviews, the first will be by phone and will be on 10th or 11th October 2007.

## News in Brief

### **American Friends Service Committee 2007 Olive Harvest Delegation to Israel/ Palestine**

AFSC announces their 2007 Olive Harvest delegation to Israel/Palestine. The delegation will take place October 27 - November 10, 2007. This year, the AFSC is again working with Interfaith Peace Builders to provide a first hand look at the realities of daily life in Israel/Palestine. In addition to helping with the olive harvest, delegates will also meet Palestinian and Israeli activists and peacemakers to hear and discuss many different perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and hopes for the future.

Learn more about the 2007 Olive Harvest Delegation - <http://www.afsc.org/israel-palestine/2007-Olive-Harvest-Delegation.htm>

### **Quaker United Nations Office Geneva**

#### **Attention former Geneva Summer School Participants**

Did you attend the Geneva Summer School? Do you know someone who did?

Why not join the Geneva Summer School Alumni Association and get back in touch with the participants you met? It could also provide an opportunity for former students established in their careers to provide career advice and help to more recent participants.

*For more information please contact:*

*Helen Bradford  
Friends House  
173 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BJ  
UK*

*Or email: [helenb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:helenb@quaker.org.uk)*

### **Celebrating the Mother/Daughter bond**

A weekend course facilitated by Inge and Karin Herrebut, took place in Woodbrooke last April. The weekend was fully booked with many on the waitinglist. It proved to be very succesful and lively, so there will be another possibility to celebrate this special bond between Mothers and Daughters on January 4-6th 2008. A good beginning of the year....  
More information: Woodbrooke, Birmingham.

### **Two FWCC-EMES Publications**

Meeting the Spirit. (re-print now available)  
An introduction to Quaker beliefs and practices.  
Particularly suitable for new enquirers.

Friendly Advice on Quaker Ways (NEW in 2007)  
A more detailed look at Quaker organisation and practice which is relevant for both long-standing and newly-emerging Quaker groups in Europe and the Middle East.

Copies are available (cost €5 or £3) from the FWCC- EMES office.

# News from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

## An update from Julia Ryberg...

This spring and summer have found me balancing roles as Woodbrooke's European Project Co-ordinator, Woodbrooke Associate Tutor and EMES Ministry & Outreach Co-ordinator in a number of exciting hybrid events.

Bronwyn Harwood and I spent a few days with Friends in Moscow 19 – 23 April, and during part of that visit I facilitated a Woodbrooke-on-the-Road focusing on the Spiritual Basis for Quaker process. Poznan, Poland was the venue for the Central European Gathering of Friends in late May, attended by over 20 participants from 11 European countries.

During part of the gathering, I enjoyed offering a Woodbrooke-on-the-Road event and public lecture on Quaker Spirituality. June 30 – July 1 found me in Tbilisi, Georgia, visiting the group of Friends there with Peter Dyson and Sergei Grushko (Friends House Moscow) and facilitating a mini-Woodbrooke-workshop on fundamentals of Quakerism for about 15 people, some entirely new to Quakerism. Hopefully it served as an appetiser for more contact with Woodbrooke in the future.

Work is also in progress for a new kind of fellowship among Friends in Europe. Woodbrooke and EMES are cooperating in an exploratory on-line learning

project that I will facilitate over the next year or so. In the first step, about 10 Friends representing that many languages will work together this autumn to devise a modest introductory on-line course especially serving the needs of Friends and enquirers in Europe. In the second step, the group is doubled and the course will be run during the spring of 2008. In the third step, the course will be adapted, translated and delivered in a variety of European languages. We hope that the on-line medium for learning and fellowship can become a valuable complement to face-to-face interaction for enquirers and isolated Friends, as well as for new Quaker groups and established ones across Europe.

Translating in a Quaker Context and an English-Scandinavian Gathering are scheduled to be held at Woodbrooke in the summer of 2008 (see Looking ahead below). Upcoming events at Woodbrooke in the interim that may interest Friends around Europe include the retreat for seasoned Friends, The Seasons of my Friendship (25 – 27 September), and the New Year's retreat Resting on the Journey (30 December – 2 January) using an indoor labyrinth as a resource for reflection.

## Stay with Friends when you come to the UK!

Did you know that you can visit Woodbrooke as a residential guest without attending a course? Bed & breakfast, half board and full board are offered. Use the Centre as a base for a visit to the Midlands, or as a tranquil space in which to take time out for a personal retreat. Woodbrooke is easily accessed by air, road and rail. Please visit [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk) for more information on staying with us.



## Thinking of attending a course?

Catchpool Fund bursaries are readily available if financial help is needed. Call +44 (0)121 472 5171 or visit our website to request a brochure. Contact Julia Ryberg, European Project Co-ordinator, for information on the Catchpool Fund at [julia.ryberg@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:julia.ryberg@woodbrooke.org.uk) or +46 (0) 175-715 30. See [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk) for general information.

## Diary Dates 2007

### 10 – 19 August 22<sup>nd</sup> FWCC Triennial

Website: [www.fwccworld.org](http://www.fwccworld.org)

### 28 – 31 August France Yearly Meeting, Conqueyrac (Gard). Clerk: Axel Jensen.

Email: [axena.jensen@wanadoo.fr](mailto:axena.jensen@wanadoo.fr)

Website: <http://quaker.chez-alice.fr>

### 14 – 16 September Border Meeting,

Jugendakademie Walberberg, (between Cologne and Bonn). Contact Janet Kreysa. Email: [kreysa@t-online.de](mailto:kreysa@t-online.de)

### 25 – 28 October German Yearly Meeting,

Quäkerbüro, Planckstraße 20, 10117 Berlin, Germany. Email: [buer@quaeker.org](mailto:buer@quaeker.org)

**9 – 11 November FWCC-EMES Peace and Service Consultation**, Brussels. Contact Bronwyn Harwood, [emes@fwcc.quaker.org](mailto:emes@fwcc.quaker.org)

**16 – 18 November Europe and Middle East Young Friends**, Quaker House, Brussels, contact Matt Loffman, [emeyf@qcea.org](mailto:emeyf@qcea.org)

### 20 – 24 March 2008 EMEYF/EMES Joint

**Gathering**, Vienna. Contact Martine Kuipers for more information; see inside this issue for details.

**Among Friends** is the newsletter of Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation. We want Among Friends to reflect the diversity of Quaker life and experience across the Section and welcome articles, photos and news of forthcoming events.

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FWCC-EMES, 1 Cluny Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4SW, UK [emes@fwcc.quaker.org](mailto:emes@fwcc.quaker.org)

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will consider an annual donation of around 12 Euros or £8.

If you wish to make a bank transfer, please use the details below:

From outside the UK:

Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1 2HB, UK

IBAN: GB11 CPBK 0800 5150 0732 10

BIC: CPBKGB22

It is also essential that you quote the following details

Account Name: FWCC-EMES

Account Number: 20180696

Sort Code: 08-60-01

For holders of UK bank accounts please send cheques or CAF vouchers in GBP to the EMES office. Scottish Charity number: SC 036528

**Deadline for Among Friends 108:  
1 November 2007**