Report to North Pacific Yearly Meeting 2014

This year Friends Peace Teams will celebrate its 20th Anniversary with the activity PeaceQuest 2014 in Baltimore at Stony Run Meeting and Friends School on June 20-22. We hope to have colleagues from Africa, Latin America, and Asia West Pacific join us as well as activities focused on personal, local and international Peacemaking. SCYMers are invited. See www.peacequest2014.org

Africa (AGLI)
During the past year, the African Great Lakes Initiative was heavily involved in violence prevention for the elections in Kenya, training 1200 citizen reporters and more than 500 election observers all connected to a Call-in Center. When the election was completed, the Kenyan program had successfully dealt with issues of community violence and lynching. In Rwanda the Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) program has purchased an HROC center. There are now five Children's Peace Libraries, work on nutrition and peacebuilding with women, and workshops for handicapped individuals and their families. The secondary school scholarship program was increased to 30 students. In Burundi, there was a workcamp to build a hostel for a women's group, continuation of a program to deal with trauma in schools with the teachers, their students, and the parents. HROC workshops were conducted for members of "Peace Villages" where ex-combatants, returning refugees, and displaced people are mixed together. HROC-Burundi also responded with a relief program for 70 families after the flooding in Bujumbura in February. The Kamenge Clinic in Burundi has received authority to start dispensing anti-retroviral drugs and has started working on a program with women who have experience rape or gender violence. The HROC program was put in abeyance due to the rebel group M23 invading Goma and the surrounding area. A relief program was developed for 50 families after the rebel occupation ended. AGLI has also extended the HROC program to northern Uganda, South Kivu in the Congo, and with immigrants communities in the United States and started Alternatives to Violence (AVP) in the Kakauma refugee camp in northeast Kenya.

Latin America (PLA)
Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) has continued to expand its work in Colombia, now having three active regions and strong outreach to two others. The major focus of both the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Community Based Trauma Healing work is with victims and some perpetrators of the ongoing civil war there, and also with internally displaced communities. The work in Honduras focuses on poor women and youth in the northern region of the country, with outreach also to indigenous groups struggling to protect their lands from mining companies. There are two centers of AVP work in Honduras now. In Guatemala, the absence of the international volunteer (due to medical concerns) who has coordinated work has been felt in a decrease of workshops, but new efforts to develop more independent, local leadership have been increased. A possible collaboration with the AFSC Latin America office, now in Guatemala is expected to widen the work. In El Salvador, a part-time Salvadoran Coordinator has been hired, and considerable outreach to Evangelical Friends Churches and Schools has been done in the last year. Work in the rural areas around Suchitoto and recently with campesinas (rural women) in cooperation with the Co-Madres (Families of the Disappeared) also has increased. Currently significant energy is being spent on bringing colleagues from each program to the US for PeaceQuest 2014 and speaking engagements and then taking them on to the AVP International Gathering in Dublin Ireland in July.

Asia West-Pacific (AWP)
This year we welcomed many more Friends from Australia and Aotearoa (NZ) yearly meetings. We have begun work with First Nations leaders in Australia to see if FPT visitations might be useful in their communities. We also welcomed a new group of teams working locally with Palestinians and Israelis offering AVP workshops who wished to extend their community building work with long term relationships in the manner of FPT. Peacebuilding in Indonesia is thriving with regular visits including AVP workshops, ongoing preschools, and scholarships for their teachers learning developmental play and other skills at local universities. The new guest house at Peace Place Pati regularly welcomes Friends and other peace workers. Though an Islamic community their decisions are based on group discernment in the manner of Friends, a huge step. The innovative ceramic water filters using silver and local materials are now working better and better, and produced locally. The filters are on track to meet the established standards for drinking water of the World Health Organ-
zation. We are returning this Spring to Nepal with AVP workshops supporting an active community of facilitators. Embracing peace building in new ways gets stronger and stronger daily throughout Asia West Pacific thanks to hard-working FPTers.

Your representative, Ann Dusseau

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