

FRIENDS IN SAN ANTONIO

7052 North Vandiver at Eisenhower

April 2015

Responding to Deadly Violence in a Refugee Camp

Peter Serete, Friends Church Peace Teams

“We ran from death and graves in Congo. It’s very sad and scary these graves are following us here in the camp.

God should help us as we restore peace. I have learnt a lot to do with alternatives ways of dealing with violence.” An AVP Participant

Kakuma is a small town located in the desert in northwestern Kenya. The Kenyan government picked the area for use as a refugee camp. When we started working in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, it had 120,000 refugees. Most of the refugees at the camp are very poor; indeed, most have virtually nothing. Many children have been separated from their families. Since camp life is marked by the breakdown of values that ordinarily govern human relationships, women face sexual abuse and rape. To be a refugee is to be in dire straits— psychologically, mentally, materially and spiritually. In such circumstances, the temptation to give up is very real.

The largest group at Kakuma are Sudanese who fled the civil war in Sudan between the Muslim north and the south, where Christianity and traditional African religions predominate. Other groups include Somalis, Ethiopians, Eritreans, Ugandans, Congolese and Burundians. A Congolese refugee from South Kivu, Etienne Paul, a pastor, started a Quaker Church in the refugee camp and it is through his church that we were able to initiate peacemaking work in the refugee camp.

Stage I

Introducing a peace program in this situation was not easy. As a first step Friends Church Peace Teams and AGLI introduced the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) to the camp.

. . . . “I realized lots of things are inherent in life – change, birth, death, conflict, illness, accidents, violence, calamities, and losses of all kinds. I have learnt through sharing and listening to people in the same situation that these events don’t have to be the cause of ongoing suffering, trauma, denial and regrets that cause grief and sadness.

Like everything else we can replace these bad experiences with others which can change enemies to friends and violence to peace.” Kebede-

Calendar

5. Sunday
Potluck lunch at 11.15 a.m.. Easter egg hunt for all ages!

12. Sunday
Forum – Youth Mentoring: Teaching Responsible Actions Concepts Knowledge & Skills, Kwanza Jenkins.
Walk Against Genocide 2.00-4.00 pm (see below.)

19. Sunday.....
Contemplative Singing, 9.00-9.45 am.
Forum – Reflections on Buddhist Centering and Stewardship, with Bo Tep.

26, Sunday
Meeting for Business, 11.30. Forum –. None.

29. Wednesday
Midweek Meeting, 7.00, Gary’s home.



Shuba.

“We did many workshops – two AVP basics, one advanced, one training of trainers and five basic apprentice workshops in the refugee camp. A significant turning point and transformation was noticed in the camp.” . . . Zinabu Eyob Ragaw.

Stage II

: Then starting in December 2013, tens of thousands of new refugees from the fighting in South Sudan entered the camp. This triggered more violence in the camp between the two tribal groups fighting in South Sudan– the Dinka and Nuer. We mobilized our trained facilitators and did AVP workshops with 120 members of the new Sudanese arrivals and their leaders. The training helped the participants to improve their communication reducing misunderstanding among them. They were equipped with alternative ways of dealing with violence, experienced individual transformation and each shared the same skills and knowledge with at least two members of their family spreading the nonviolence communication to more than 240.

Stage III

: Fresh conflict erupted again in the Kakuma Refugee Camp between refugees from Burundi/Congo and the Sudanese. A Burundian motorbike driver hit a Sudanese boy who suffered minor injuries on his mouth. The accident angered the Sudanese who attacked the Burundian as a mob and killed him in cold blood. The Congolese, Burundians and Ugandans started fighting the Sudanese. As soon as Getry Agizah and I heard about this violence from our citizen reporters in the refugee camp, we immediately travelled to Kakuma to respond to the crisis. the conflict was complex and Congolese and Burundians refugees fled the camp in fear of revenge from the Sudanese community.

The AGLI., Peace Teams, Friends Church-Kakuma, and our trained facilitators worked closely with South Sudanese community leaders. We encouraged people to know that they have to live together in a good, peaceful manner and support each other – especially when they are living in such difficult circumstances. One of the interventions was to gather all the 350 participants we had trained previously in a one-day debriefing and listening sessions to help them spread messages of PEACE and the need to bring more Dinka and Nuer to attend AVP basic trainings. We did ten listening sessions with the refugees and four Alternative to Violence basic workshops. During our intervention we covered:

- (1) how to view conflict and definition of conflict situations,
- (2) how we can speak about our emotions and also be aware of other emotions surrounding us,
- (3) positive responses towards our emotional needs,
- (4) nonviolent communication,
- (5) awareness of trauma and its consequences from the past to the present,
- (6) healing from the post-traumatic lifestyle,
- (7) web of healing others,
- (8) discovering “Who am I? as an exercise in self-assessment,
- (9) the damage I can be in a society,
- (10) building a new society of forgiveness and peaceful existence, and
- (11) learning the power of forgiveness in our lives.

Stage IV –Way forward:

Trauma healing training is a factor to consider this year we are planning to introduce basic HROC trainings, healing companions, and community celebration which will bring together Sudanese, Congolese, Burundians, Ethiopians, and Somalis. the training will target traumatized victims and perpetrators that were identified during the listening sessions. Peace is a group effort

and we are hoping to continue transforming the lives of those seeking true peace.

Personal News

Judith Rosenberg, president of the board of Austin tan Cerca la Frontera, died on International Women's Day in March. She will be sadly missed. She had devoted much of her time for several years to helping exploited women down on the frontier. She was part of AFSC's work before the Austin office closed due to low resources.

Judith's Memorial will be held Saturday, April 18 at St. George's Episcopal Church (4301 North IH35, Austin 78722) @ 5:00 pm followed by a potluck dinner @ 7:00 pm in Kleberg Hall, which is next to St. George's. In lieu of flowers and to honor Judith, contributions may be made to Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera at 3707 East MLK Blvd., Austin, TX 78721 or online at www.atcf.org.

Suzanne's mother has been visiting with us. Her health has improved and she expects to return to Kentucky soon. We reported last month that David organized the one-day retreat. That was wrong. It was organized by M&O, with shared member responsibilities.

There are Friends or attenders who are suddenly absent from meeting for quite some time. We miss them and we hope that we can let them know of this. Otherwise they may think their absence has gone unnoticed.

Lindsay posted this in Facebook:

"Today's news being almost too much to bear, let me focus on gratitude:

- 1) I'm thankful that my sister, brother-in-law, nieces, and nephew are safe following the explosion in the East Village;
- 2) I'm thankful for the French villagers opening their homes and volunteering their time to ease the pain of mourning strangers after an (unfathomably) deliberate airplane crash;
- 3) I'm thankful that, despite the wreck we are making of this planet, spring still bursts forth undeterred, every creature fulfilling its obligation to endure;
- 4) I'm thankful that my dear 4-year-old niece (a NYC baby) has announced her intention to study 'nature science.'

Cheers to the good that's still in the world, y'all. There is hope in this."

Events

The monthly calendar differs this month. On the third Sunday, the 19th, Bo Tep will return to us to lead a forum on "Reflections on Buddhist Centering and Stewardship" And on the second Sunday Kwanza Jenkins, executive director of TRACKS TRAINING. will lead a forum on "Youth Mentoring: Teaching Responsible Actions, Concepts, Knowledge, & Skills." He will be accompanied by Sheldon Crippen, development director, and board members Chala McDonald, Ronald Green, Karen Sanchez, and Randy McKnight.

AND come to the **WALK AGAINST GENOCIDE**: This year the Walk will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. There will be speakers, activities, and music. Organizations who support conflict resolution, peace-building, and genocide awareness/prevention will have tables to help us learn how to get involved. We will walk with survivors of genocide in support of those still suffering. Sunday, April 12, 2015, 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, 12500 NW Military Highway. Admission to the Holocaust Museum will be free from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

More info at <http://WalkAgainstGenocideSA.org>.

AND next month you can be part of the **First Ever SPICE of Life Quaker Fair**, Saturday May 16, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, (Rain date: May 23)

Proceeds will go to the **Bond & Travel Fund for Central American Refugees**.

Sign up now to:

ABC (Clean your attic, basement, cupboard): find those yard sale items somebody else needs.

Make yummy Baked Goods

Bring Books

Bring gently used toys and stuffed animals

Sell organic herb & vegetable plants and farmers' market vegetables.

If you have art, handicrafts, t-shirts, or other goods to sell, you may set up a display and donate 10% of the proceeds to Meeting. You may have a display table for your organization.

Bring all but baked goods to Meeting during April. Any items still on hand at 1:00 will be donated to Goodwill.

Contact Karen at spice.farm@yahoo.com for your contributions by May 1.

Peace Center

The PeaceCENTER has sent us this message about events in April:

Saturday, April 11, 10AM-5PM: The peace CENTER will have a booth at the San Antonio Book Festival the Central Library, a free day-long celebration of books, writers, readers and libraries. We'll have peaceCENTER books for sale (including our latest, Sr. Martha Ann Kirk's **Iraqi Women of Three Generations** and people on hand to chat with you about Compassionate San Antonio. Find out more at <http://www.saplf.org/festival/>

Sunday, April 12, 2-4PM: The peaceCENTER will have a table at the **San Antonio Walk Against Genocide**, in the little wooded grove next to the tennis courts at the Barshop Jewish Community Center at 12500 NW Military Hwy. The actual walk starts at 3 and it's just around the block, so don't hold back if you're not a walker. This year the event will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Tina Karagulian will share two reconciliation stories: one her grandmother passed down after her second deportation march during the Armenian genocide (originally published in the peaceCENTER anthology "Insights on the Journey"), and one in which Tina experienced an unexpected reconciliation at an inter-cultural event. Both stories include Turkish people who chose to act from the heart. Find out more at <http://walkagainstgenocidesa.org/>

Share Musical Instruments

Generous donors have shared musical instruments with refugees at the Center for Refugee Services is at 8703 Wurzbach, You can go and have fun there on Saturdays, drumming and playing other instruments. Mar Gutierrez begins the drum circle at 5.30 pm. Bring your own drum! "We'll create music and a music making community that includes a rainbow of people from around the world. We end about 7:00 pm." Bring your own instrument for this.

They need tax-deductible donations of instruments especially guitars, a keyboard or two, drums and percussion instruments They can make small repairs themselves.

For more information about CRS go to the website www.sarefugees.org. And if you have an instrument to donate, let them know at danapiano@rocketmail.com.

March Business Meeting

March Meeting for Business commenced with words of George Fox:

"Be patterns, be examples in all countries, island, nations, wherever you go, so that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone." (a favorite Quaker saying of Fox.)

Meeting opened in silence and proceeded to the report, "State of the Meeting." In this, Ministry and Oversight spoke of aging membership, but of their active leadership. We experienced difficulties in filling committee positions. Positively, we have for the third year held silent retreats for those who wished to come. We have aligned with other faith-based groups to obtain fair treatment for families being detained, and this has energized us. Our meetinghouse now makes a wider contribution, being used by several other groups. We have experienced joy and trial, the Spirit indeed moving among us. The report was approved with amendments and will be presented to South Central Yearly Meeting.

The treasurer's report was given by our clerk, there being nothing unusual, the beginning of the year being a time for large expenses. The Nominating Committee gave its final report, which was approved. The Property Committee report gave details about the plant sale in the parking lot by Karen, which was approved. There will be no Spring workday but volunteers will pull weeds in the courtyard. Drainage problems are being dealt with and Dan has installed a stone and cedar bench near the parking. Another bench, donated by a member, will be set in the children's garden.

Addressing a concern that children attended rarely, the committee found that some parents do not see children to be considered important here. Children's ideas as to what might be done were noted. Friends are asked to bring mindfulness, awareness and playfulness in how we interact with our youthful Friends.

A Friend brought a concern that we should not use disposable plates. And our clerk brought a concern as to whether the meetinghouse should be linked to the internet. This was referred to the Property Committee.

Meeting closed in silence.

Writing to Persuade

Gretchen led a forum in March on how to write in a way that will persuade the readers. This, she says, is totally different from Free Writing that we did last year. To persuade, you must: Know your audience [a single person – Senator, President] or a group. Know your purpose and keep it in focus at all times [no interesting digressions here]. Put your message [statement of purpose] up front, and make it personal to the audience. Cover the Five W's of journalism: who, what, when, where, why [as these apply to your purpose]. The first and last paragraphs are most important, to grab attention and reinforce your purpose. Keep your sentences concise, your paragraphs short and snappy.

Prepared by Gretchen Haynes for FMSA

Letter from Women of Karnes

"In the name of the mothers, residents of the Center for Detentions in Karnes City, we are writing this petition whereby we ask to be set free with our children. There are mothers here who have been locked in this place for as long as 10 months.

We also have mothers, that because they have had a previous deportation, are not granted a bond. They are granting a bond to their children, but they are not allowing an out to the mothers. This is the motive that we have taken the initiative of uniting ourselves and initiating a Hunger Strike, so that you can see and feel our desperation.

We have come to this country, with our children, seeking refugee status and we are being treated like delinquents. We are not delinquents nor do we pose any threat to this country.

During this Hunger Strike, no mother will work in the center of detention or send our children to school. We will not use any of the services provided by this place until we have been heard and our freedom has been approved.

All of the mothers demand that you give us a solution. Included amongst us are mothers whom this is the first time they have been in this country.

Asylum Officials have conducted Creditable Fear Interviews and determined them to be Positive. Even after having a result of positive, we are still detained because we are not able to pay the elevated bond and in some cases we are not given the opportunity to pay the bond.

You should know that this is only the beginning and we will not stop until we achieve our objectives. This strike will continue until every one of us is freed.

The conditions, in which our children find themselves, are not good. Our children are not eating well and every day they are losing weight. Their health is deteriorating. We know that any mother would do what we are doing for their children.

We deserve to be treated with some dignity and that our rights, to the immigration process, be respected.

There are some mothers that lost their appeal for Asylum and were forced to sign deportation papers. We believe that this is unjust because they have come to this country asking for Asylum because they are in danger in their country. And now they are being deported back to the place where they could even lose their life.

This petition is signed by all the mothers, of this center, in detention.”
More information about developments inside here: <http://raicetexas.org/pages/fast>

Islamic Peace

As you know, Carol wrote letters for the Meeting to Imams of esjids (mosques) assuring them of our friendship. We have received an appreciative letter from Michael Martin, Community Representative of the **Islamic Center**. In it, he thanks us for our understanding that Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance; that there is no compulsion in religion, but that it is every person's choice. He assures us of the Muslims' prayers that there will be peace and understanding throughout the world.

Miscellany

What about this? Someofus.org has this message:

“PepsiCo uses the honest "Quaker man" image to sell breakfast cereals and snacks around the world. It tells people it's a brand they can trust. But PepsiCo's approach on palm oil is anything but honest.

The company claims to be against deforestation. But its policies mean the palm oil used in Quaker products might be contributing to deforestation and human rights abuses.”

That “honest Quaker man” image comes from the time when Quakers were suspected, denied university education, and went into business following their testimony of truth-telling. Their businesses flourished and we attained that image.

Do we still merit it?

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Quetzalcoatl was born in what is now Mexico in the year Ce Akatl – May 13, 895. He was revered for generations for his purity of spirit and for his penance, beloved by his vassals. He brought a monotheistic religion of love for all mankind. He has been called the Meso-American Nahuatl Cosmic Christ, a feature of universalistic religion.

From Altigracia Moreno, cited by *Connections* of the Village at Incarnate Word.

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What a debt we owe to those brave people who go to Africa to fight ebola or HIV. (ebola is not dignified here by a capital letter.)

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Between the early 15th and early 18th centuries trials of accused witches in Britain resulted in fewer than 500 executions. Of these, ten, of twelve accused, in 1612, the “Pendle Witches,” were from the area around Pendle Hill. We don’t normally remember Pendle Hill in such terms. The accusations seem to have resulted from competition between two families trying to make a living from healing, begging, and extortion. Pendle was part of the parish of Whalley, an area too large for preaching the doctrines of the Church of England: the upsurge of witchcraft in Lancashire is attributed to its too wide parishes. (George Fox might have had other explanations.) The dissolution of Whalley Abbey in 1537 had left a moral vacuum.

Forty years after the trial George Fox was “moved of the Lord to go up to the top of” Pendle Hill. He “saw the countryside alive with men, all moving to one place”

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With Citizens United in the lead, recent court decisions have amplified the free speech rights of the rich and powerful. The present Supreme Court seems to support this. Laurence Tribe, a Harvard law professor, has said, according to the *NY Times*, that First Amendment arguments have not done well there for “students, prisoners, pacifists, and whistle blowers.”

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Jon Watts tells us, “Today, as some Christians claim that their religion justifies their refusing service to LGBTQ customers, Quaker Kody Hersh lifts up the Jesus who stood with those on the margins of society.”

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Kate Gould of FCNL tells us, “Huge news: we have a breakthrough! Negotiators just announced outlines of a deal over Iran's nuclear program!

I can't thank you enough for all your work to make this possible. From tens of thousands of calls and emails, to hundreds of letters to the editor, to our lobby day last fall, you've told Congress again and again that diplomacy works.

But I need you to tell them (at least) one more time. Urge your members of Congress to speak out in favor of this deal, and tell them to oppose legislation that would endanger it.”

We have not seen the deal. We hope it does all to be expected.

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Greg McKeown, in the *Harvard Business Review*, has advocated Friends Clearness Committee procedures for personnel problems, calling it a “fascinating listening innovation.” Saying “Powerful listening is one of the rarest executive practices today,” he describes a clearness committee, saying it is a particularly powerful way to listen and to “engage” employees. Do we engage Friends with problems in this way? Our purpose is to help Friends with a problem, not to engage them in Meeting work. Though, does it work in this way?

His article, in November of last year, was headed by a picture of a small dog’s head with bright, alert, eyes and large, cocked, ears.

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A new threst! To Quaking Aspens. We remember seeing one in Michigan. When breezes touch it the leaves flutter and the tree becomes alive with little points of changing leaf surfaces, light and dark. They differ from other trees in having a flat stem which allows the leaves to twist in the wind. And now the trees are threatened by climate change. They particularly grow in more northern areas and on hills in Utah and as the temperature increases and the soil dries, it is predicted that they will die off.

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We wonder, under all that Shiite-Sunni conflict in the Middle East, how many buried ethnic differences there are. The Kurds kept their language and identity. So did the Shiite Iranis.

But, a graduate student from Lebanon once said that, while she spoke Arabic, she was really Phoenician. The Arabs from the peninsula ran over other nations and made them all speak Arabic. So now they're all "Arabs." Much "religious" violence stems from something else entirely.

## Survival

Edward Hicks, in his painting, "The Peaceable Kingdom," showed the lion sitting with the lambs. A lovely picture. Yet – did the lion eat grass, like the lambs? Our world has been constructed differently from his vision. Even much of nature's beauty and variety has been created, evolutionarily, by predation – the grace and speed both of a gazelle and of its enemy, the cheetah, the beauty of a tiger's stripes, a turtle shell, the streamlined line of the shark, the soaring and plummeting of a hawk, the fierce beauty of a panther, the armor of an armadillo. Even the beauties of floral colors and forms are competing for visits by bees. All this is part of our world.

And how much have we, the Religious Society of Friends, been shaped by our early adversity? Our forerunners were barred from university, but valued education. They adopted distinctive costume, surely flaunting their oppositional identity. But later, they wore ordinary clothes and hats, thereby becoming invisible. Is our very ordinariness a disguise? Their opposition to war got them in trouble but they did not drop it.

For thirty years after the English Civil War, meetings of more than 5 and meetinghouses within 5 miles of town were banned. Seekers then met in silence in private homes. When some of these homes were later purchased for meetinghouses, the names remained, e.g., Sarah Sawyers Meetinghouse, Widow Webbs Meetinghouse. So, rejecting church buildings, they met in private houses. Is this when the word "meetinghouse" started?

Early Friends, necessarily in business occupations, founded prominently successful chocolate and biscuit companies and banks which still exist, though no longer Quaker. The king stopped the Puritans here, in New England, from executing us. Our arrival in this country was an avoidance of repression in England. So, though we would most likely have arrived later anyway, Pennsylvania would not, then, exist.

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Quakers' rebellious plainness has not meant solemnity. An affluent Quaker merchant at Saffron Walden, in England, perhaps two centuries ago, received a letter from the Anglican vicar seeking funds for replacing the church tower with a steeple. The Quaker is described as replying:

"How canst thou expect me, a Quaker, to contribute to the cost of building thy steeple? - but I do not mind giving thee three hundred pounds towards the cost of demolishing thy tower."

License

Matt Trewhella, pastor of a non-incorporated church (not, we think, Quaker), strongly questions the morality and necessity for couples to be required to get a marriage license in order to marry. He says "We should not need the State's permission to marry nor should we grovel before state officials to seek it. What if you apply and the State says 'no'? When you marry with a marriage license, you place yourself under a body of law which is immoral By issuing marriage licenses, the State is saying, "You don't need your parents permission, you need our permission"

He argues that marriage is God-created, not state-created.

A Louisiana JP once refused a license to an interracial couple and this has been declared illegal. But on what grounds can a license be refused? There are privileges and rights granted to married couples, as gay couples have recently been emphasizing. So a marriage certificate is needed. Yet heterosexual couples without certificates can be considered to be in a "common-law" marriage in Texas and some other states when they have fulfilled certain requirements.

Why should not couples be able, without a license first, to marry before a legally

recognized person and assembly such as our clerk and then obtain a legal marriage certificate? The license is a peculiar state requirement, but perhaps this is not pernicious enough to be worth resisting? A couple could marry in Meeting in the sight of God without any license, but it would not be legally recognized. So Mr. Trehella's question is valid.

Islam and Jesus

“I think it can safely be shown that Islamic culture presents us with what in quantity and quality are the richest images of Jesus in any non-Christian culture. No other world religion known to me has devoted so much loving attention to both the Jesus of history and to the Christ of eternity. This tradition is one that we need to highlight in these dangerous, narrow-minded days. The moral of the story seems quite clear: that one religion will often act as the hinterland of another, will lean upon another to complement its own witness. There can be no more salient example of this interdependence than the case of Islam and Jesus Christ. And for the Christian in particular, a love of Jesus may also mean, I think, an interest in how and why he was loved and cherished by another religion.”

Mona Seddiqi, senior lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Glasgow University.

Book Musings - Winter 2015

QuakerPress just published a wonderful biography, "*Bayard Rustin The Invisible Activist*," ostensibly for young people, though it is really for all ages. It talks of his tireless work for social change with Martin Luther King, and acknowledges his Quakerism and sexuality that is often overlooked in other books. It is very well illustrated, too. It is a great read thanks to the collaboration of its three knowledgeable and skilled authors.

Next to mention is a veritable plethora of titles from Douglas Gwyn. His book "*Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation*" is already a popular study group booklet and looks at how Quakers can respond creatively to climate change and other ecological issues. Then he has a HUGE book, 512 pages long, looking at [our] **Pendle Hill** as a special Quaker Community, *Personality and Place: The Life and Times of Pendle Hill*. Then there is a second edition of his very important and much requested, *Apocalypse of the Word: The Life and Message of George Fox 1624- 16 91*, as well as a reprint of our own *Conversation with Christ: Quaker Meditations on The Gospel of John*.

“Talking of reprints, we have just reprinted *Worship in Song: a Friends Hymnal*, as well as the Quaker Quest “Newcomer Cards” which many meetings prefer to the tracts and leaflets given out to attenders:- *How Quaker Meetings Work, Quakers and Prayer, Quaker Testimonies, What Do Quakers Believe, You are Welcome Here*, and lastly *Quaker Worship* - they are all 25 cents each.”

Paths of Faith in the Landscape of Science: Three Quakers Check their Compass looks at Quaker belief and science. Expensive, but topical and interesting is Michael Birkel's interaction with Muslim scholars and the Koran in *Qur'an in Conversation*.

Philip Gulley's book *Living the Quaker Way* is now out in paperback, written in his amusing yet profound style it is a particularly good introductory book.

For children – *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans* is just out in paperback at just \$8.99 and is a must have (we still have a few in hardback for meeting libraries).

Quakerbooks also has many new and interesting Bargain Books including *Kingdom to Commune: Protestant Pacifist Culture Between World War I and the Vietnam Era* by Patricia Appelbaum (at \$5.00), which has a lot of Quaker content, or National Geographic's, *Freedom in My Heart: Voices from the United States National Slavery Museum* edited by Cynthia Jacobs is well

illustrated and explores many previously unknown or little known lives, it is excellent value at \$12.00.

With permission of Graham Garner

God's Work

Decades ago, Scott Keyes was a beloved and modest winter visitor here from Illinois. He was a satiric poet, e.g.:

About those people who do God's work,
I've often wondered but I've never known
How they can do it. I've always had
So much trouble just doing my own!

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And a different writer, with a different message, perhaps for Scott:

Out of clutter, find simplicity,  
From discord, find harmony.  
In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

Albert Einstein

### **This Month's Query**

As Nature begins its yearly cycle of regeneration, how are we working to nurture ourselves, and our relationships with family, friends, and community

Meeting for Worship is held on Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by refreshments and a Forum discussion at 11.30, usually lasting until about 12.45. Children are invited to join worship for the first fifteen minutes, after which they may go to join with the Young Friends program. Child care is available during Forum.

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