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LADY BORTON

Kara Newell, pictured above with a woman in Vietnam, will retire at the end of this year as AFSC executive director. In the following, she reflects on her seven years in the AFSC. —Ed.

A CONFESSION: patience has never been one of my virtues. As a school girl, I could hardly wait for summer to end so I could go back to school and be with my friends. When I carried each of my children, I was impatient for their birth. Unopened gifts under the Christmas tree made me sleepless. The first time I baked bread, I spent an inordinate amount of time checking on it to be sure it was rising properly! While I'm not anxious to know everything about the afterlife from experience, I do often wonder what it will be like. I love beginnings, but I'm often ready for the end as well. I enjoyed teaching because each term had a beginning and an ending. I found it energizing to start fresh with a new class, new challenges, and new material.

There is a new beginning in store for me very soon. At the end of this year, I will be retiring—leav-

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Doctors witness Iraqis' needs

Five U.S. doctors visited medical schools, centers, and clinics in Iraq. The delegation about which AFSC staff member Carl Maugeri writes, was one of five this year sponsored by AFSC in which professionals from the United States investigated conditions in Iraq. Their combined reports point to a generation of Iraqi children growing up with poor health care and little education. For information on this and other AFSC work in the Middle East, visit: www.afsc.org/iraqhome.htm.

By Carl Maugeri

THE SUN IS SETTING over the old city section of ancient Basra, and the tan brick of the buildings captures the changing hues of desert twilight—the rose and salmon reds melding into soft purple and finally charcoal. The heat of the day is gone.

We walk along narrow streets bordering what was once a canal crossed by now-ruined Venetian-style bridges. The intricate decorative carvings of Ottoman architecture strain above passages now filled with old tires and concrete debris. A stream of sewage runs by. Old city contains mosques, a thriving Chaldean church, and a



BILL PIERRE

U.S. medical professionals visited patients of all ages in Iraqi hospitals.

small Jewish quarter. It is just above Basra that the two rivers that traverse Iraq, the Tigris and Euphrates, join as one waterway leading to the Persian Gulf.

In many ways, this battered city is a microcosm for all we have observed in Iraq these two weeks: a once thriving society, rich in culture and diversity, crumbling under an economy devastated by war and economic sanctions.

Our delegation consists of three AFSC staffers: Bill Pierre, Bahiya Cabral, and myself; and six medical specialists: doctors Kwasi Dgubatey, Steve Wall, Ramona Sunderwirth, Richard Garfield, Chris Hansen, and Leila Richards.

The goal of this delegation,

AFSC's fifth within the last year, is to examine the UN's Oil for Food program. Oil for Food is touted as a humanitarian measure to ease the most severe malnutrition problems of Iraqis. The program's authors admit it was never meant to solve the impact of sanctions, which has left the majority of Iraqis living on the edge of starvation.

This delegation is especially interested in the embargo's effect on medical education and training, and so we spend most of our time visiting hospitals and medical schools. However, our interaction with Iraqis has the greatest impact.

There is an understated sense of indignity among the Iraqis, even

Continued on page 3



BILL PIERRE

Faces of Iraqi children

Literacy skills would help Haitians find jobs

MANY ADULTS in Haiti can't read or write, which hinders them in countless daily tasks and limits their ability to work their way out of poverty. To address this need, the AFSC is starting the *Alfabetisasyon* Literacy Campaign in the Grand'Anse region, where we also have development projects. The campaign will teach reading and writing skills so people will be able to read newspa-

pers, conduct business, write letters to friends, read instructions on medicine bottles, and decipher the ballot at election time. This would mean people could find jobs in an area where subsistence-level farming rarely makes ends meet.

Most families cannot afford to buy needed supplies for literacy training. That's where you can help.

AFSC's Emergency & Material Assistance Program (EMAP) is collecting Writing Kits for Haiti, which will

contain notebooks, pencils, a sharpener, erasers, and ball point pens. Donations are also needed to pay for shipping costs and related supplies such as backpacks. The campaign will make good fundraising projects for schools and community groups, as well as for individuals.

For more information, contact EMAP at (215) 241-7041, or e-mail: jerb@afsc.org, or visit our web site at www.afsc.org/ematasst.htm.

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Galvanizing the religious community against the death penalty

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME you heard a sermon preached against the death penalty? What does your religious tradition say about the death penalty? I like to start workshops on the death penalty by asking participants those two questions. They often respond by saying they have never heard a sermon on the death penalty and can only guess at their religion's stand on the issue. Recently, a minister told me that it's not a matter of the death penalty being controversial. Rather, for most people it isn't even on their radar screen. As a result it has not become an issue the religious community feels compelled to exert a lot of time and energy on.

If you are not a family member or friend of a murder victim or perpetrator, you may think the death penalty doesn't affect you. As a society, we expend a lot of energy to make sure people are not affected or inconvenienced by this practice. Consider the fact that most executions occur late at night, and the use of lethal injection gives the impression of a sanitized, medical procedure.

What's more, people feel removed from the death penalty because it has not been consistently raised as a great moral dilemma. In 1996, the American Friends Service Committee and several individuals from other religious communities created the Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty Project to challenge the religious community to be more visible and vocal in opposition to the death penalty. When we started the project we found that in most abolition groups, people of faith play significant roles in the struggle for abolition, but often outside their religion's official structure. Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, noted that many clergy thank her for giving them *Dead Man Walking* as a way of talking about the death penalty.

The Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty Project helps the religious community tackle this issue—and has seen some substantial successes. In Nebraska last January, we worked closely with others against the scheduled execution of Randy Reeves. People of faith petitioned

the Nebraska Board of Pardons, held press conferences and daily vigils, and spurred religious leaders to call for a stay of execution. With fewer than thirty hours till his scheduled execution, Reeves received a stay. These activities helped lay the foundation for a legislative effort that nearly resulted in Nebraska becoming the first state to enact a death-penalty moratorium. The legislature *did* fund a study to examine the fairness of Nebraska's application of the death penalty.

In New Mexico, the Religious Organizing Project worked with the New Mexico Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty on legislative measures. Earlier this year repeal legislation passed New Mexico's House and Senate committees before finally meeting defeat. Several bishops in New Mexico were part of a public education effort beforehand and, as a result, chose the death penalty as the focus of study during next year's Lenten season. In Massachusetts, twenty-one key religious leaders presented anti-death penalty

testimony before the state legislature, which had a significant impact in preventing reinstatement of the death penalty.

More than one hundred clergy in New Jersey attended a conference to educate themselves about the death penalty. Since then, several have developed programs for their local congregations. In less than a year, the Religious Organizing Project has distributed nearly 10,000 copies of *The Death Penalty: The Religious Community Calls for Abolition*, a collection of statements by religious groups opposing capital punishment.

At the same time, the Roman Catholic Church has significantly increased its voice and work for abolishing the death penalty. Last Christmas, one key theme of the Pope's mass was a call to end the death penalty. Earlier this year, while visiting Missouri, the Pope asked the governor to commute the death sentence of an inmate, and the governor did. During the Easter season, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral letter opposing the death penalty.

These developments during the last two years show how the religious community is elevating its voice and work on this issue. Indeed it is critical for the religious community to make abolition of state-sanctioned execution a moral imperative. I hope that as we continue our work against the death penalty and as the issue reaches people's radar screens, the question won't be whether they've ever heard a sermon on the death penalty, but how many times. Furthermore, the ultimate question will be how many people of faith are working for abolition. It will be at that point that ending the death penalty can become a reality.



Pat Clark, National Representative
AFSC Criminal Justice Program

What you can do

- ✓ Write to someone on death row.
- ✓ Adopt a death row inmate; write letters, remember birthdays, etc.
- ✓ Pray for victims of violence, death row inmates, and their family members.
- ✓ Contact your legislators to express your opposition to the death penalty.
- ✓ Host a program about the death penalty in your congregation.
- ✓ Circulate petitions calling for a moratorium on the death penalty.
- ✓ Monitor capital case trials.
- ✓ Contact **The Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty Project**, AFSC Criminal Justice Program, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, tele: (215) 241-7130 or (215) 241-7119, e-mail: pclark@afsc.org.
- ✓ Visit the web site at www.envisioning.org.

ONE VOICE

by Kara Newell

Endings and Beginnings

Continued from page 1

ing my post as executive director of the AFSC to pursue fulltime "work" as a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and volunteer. Obviously, this is also an ending for me, too, as well as a new beginning for the AFSC, as it seeks a new staff leader.

My years at the AFSC have been rich and full. Perhaps the greatest gift for me has been the opportunity to work with a wise board and an incredibly gifted, dedicated, and creative staff from around the world. We all share the vision and desire that we can create a world in which the kind of work we do to bring peace and justice will no longer be needed. It means we are idealistic in the extreme, at the same time that we are hard-headed realists when it comes to doing the work as well as we know how.

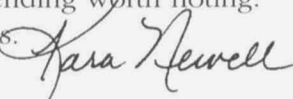
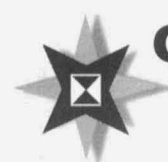
But the AFSC is more than its board and its staff. There are literally thousands of volunteers, committee, corporation members, donors, and

friends of the AFSC who make the work happen, who pray for peace and justice, and who do much of the work alongside the staff. This great crowd has not only breadth but depth in time, the AFSC having been founded in 1917.

I leave the AFSC with my vision intact for peace and justice in the world, knowing I am only one among the huge crowd who share the vision. AFSC will carry on very well, with my profound thanks for the privilege of having sojournd here for a season, and with my prayers for even greater success in the programs and initiatives that continue.

My last word is to you, the reader of *Quaker Service Bulletin*. Thank you for your support of and interest in the American Friends Service Committee. Without your partnership, there would be neither beginning nor ending worth noting.

Farewell and God bless.

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Slavery flourishes in Mauritania, former slave tells



*Even when the master is blind
and a beggar, a slave is his
property until the end.
He laughs for his master,
he cries for him,
and he is his shadow.*

~Boubacar Ould Messaoud

By Sunanda Ghosh

FOR MANY PEOPLE, it is hard to believe the practice of slavery still exists. After meeting Boubacar Ould Messaoud, it is hard to forget.

Boubacar is the leading anti-slavery activist in the northwest African country of Mauritania, where human beings are still quietly being born into lifelong slavery. It is estimated that at least 100,000 people are still held as property, and another 300,000 freed slaves still serve their masters. Boubacar estimates that nearly 43 percent of the inhabitants remain in a slave or slave-like relationship with the Arab Berber population, approximately 30 percent of Mauritania's 2.3 million people.

This past June, Boubacar was

invited by the American Friends Service Committee's Africa Peace Education Program to the United States for a three-week, seven-city speaking tour, to gain support for his anti-slavery movement.

In New York City, Boubacar addressed the annual National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Conference—a gathering of more than three hundred of the nation's leading African American newspapers. That day, Boubacar spoke at the prayer breakfast, joining Percy Sutton, a prominent African American businessman in New York, and Dorothy Leavell, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Boubacar spoke passionately of his own experience of being born into slavery, through his slave mother.

"Women are the ones who suf-

fer the most...the serious victims are the children and mothers," he said. Since there are no slave markets in Mauritania, slave women are used as breeders to bring slaves into the world and are considered the "lynch pins" that hold the system in place.

Boubacar also noted the dangers of the popular movement of "buying" slaves by outsiders to gain their freedom. "The act of buying back slaves does not condemn slavery but only creates a cycle where slave owners profit," he said. He warned the audience of repercussions of this action.

"We were just like you..." Boubacar said, as he spoke of the similarities between the system of slavery in the United States and Mauritania. He said he knew the African American community could sympathize with his cause.

Manifesto demands peace for Angola

Angolans themselves hold the key to healing the deep rifts that have torn their country, according to Daniel Ntoni-Nzinga. He is AFSC's Quaker International Affairs Representative (QIAR) for Southern Africa, a Baptist minister, and a profound believer in the power of nonviolent action.

To move people toward this new vision, he is one of those now promoting the Manifesto for Peace in Angola, where forty years of civil war continue to this day. The Manifesto is being circulated by the Angolan Group of Reflection for Peace and is backed by religious leaders, individuals, and a range of civic organizations.

It currently has more than one thousand signatures and calls upon

Angolans to build a consensus for peace based on "a patriotic vision of social justice and national equity." It asks leaders and Angolans on all sides to establish safe conditions for all Angolans to enter a dialogue for peace. It calls for an immediate cease-fire among warring factions within Angola, the opening of the country for humanitarian relief efforts, and use of money from military budgets to fund peace initiatives.

The Manifesto represents "a surge of hope for Angola's future," said Kara Newell, AFSC executive director. "The Angolan Manifesto is a challenge to all of us to seek peace and justice outside the confines of government and ideology, and to have greater faith in civil society."

Doctors' visit to Iraq

Continued from page 1

as they welcome us: What is the basis for the continuing animosity from the West, they ask? Why the heavy heel upon our necks, why the continued sacrifice of the elderly, and, most poignantly, what is the purpose for the deaths of 500,000 children under the age of five?

Yet, just as apparent is the geniality of the Iraqi people in shops, restaurants, and on the streets, even toward Americans visiting their country while U.S. bombs fall on military and nonmilitary targets alike.

The walk through old city caps a day of hard travel and many stirring impressions.

Earlier this day, we passed through the city of Nassariya and saw the ruins of a bridge, which have become something of a monument. Several hundred people, no one knows for sure how many, hid under this bridge during the Gulf War bombing, unaware that bridges were prime targets.

A direct missile hit destroyed most of the bridge, killing all under it and changing this city forever. While massive efforts went into repairing the country's bridges after

the war, this bridge was left as is, a stark reminder. It is forbidden in Iraq to take photos of bridges, but this one nonetheless leaves an indelible picture in my mind.

One of the most hopeful signs is the many people working to heal the country.

Hassan, a man in his early twenties, an engineer working for the Middle East Council of Churches, is in many ways representative of the hope of Iraq. Proud of his role in creating a water treatment plant, Hassan is young, educated, and socially conscious, resolute but not angry, determined to use his skills to rebuild his country. His quiet, understated humor is also a great resource. When our twelve-year-old Oldsmobile breaks down between Baghdad and Mosul in the north, Hassan, in the back seat, shakes his head and mutters, "Ah, these American cars. . ."

Perhaps the strongest and most lasting impression, as I sort through the many contradictory and disturbing images of this trip, is the ease with which our Iraqi hosts seem able to forgive. One of our guides, Mazin, works with the Iraqi chapter of the



Delegation (l. to r.): Bill Pierre, Leila Richards, Ramona Sunderwirth, Steve Wall, Carl Maugeri, Bahiya Cabral, Kwasi Dgubatey, Chris Hansen, Richard Garfield

International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent. He and I talk easily about our families, our concerns as fathers, even our careers and hopes for the future. It is a conversation I could have with an old college friend. When I mention that I wanted to take home a tape of Iraqi folk music, Mazin takes me to a store and finds just the right recording.

It is only later that he mentions he was a soldier stationed in Baghdad during the Gulf War. He recalls being one of the first soldiers to arrive at a bunker where hundreds of Iraqi civilians were incinerated when U.S. "boring missiles" penetrated the

underground shelter. He found a scene of unspeakable horror. His only comment to me is that he decided never to carry a gun again, but instead to work for change through the Red Crescent.

His life has followed a route much closer to the worst of what warring people can do to each other than has mine. Yet here, on a Basra street corner at dusk, not far from long lines of mothers with children at feeding and rehydration centers, near the haunts of begging street children, between the violated waters of Iraq's great rivers, is the most certain statement of peace that I have ever heard.

Friends & Native Americans What is the next step?

Story and photos by Melissa Kay Elliott



Pat Kutzner

THE HISTORY OF FRIENDS and Native Americans goes back to the arrival of English Quakers in North America in the 1600s and continues today. In the beginning, Quakers developed friendships and peaceful relations with the Indian nations they encountered, treating them with fairness and respect. Throughout the following centuries, these relationships took many forms, some good and some misguided and damaging, in retrospect. The one constant, however, has been commitment and connection between Friends and Native peoples.

This year that thread was strengthened when Friends from all branches gathered to examine this rich history, review current work, listen to Native American speakers, and initiate future directions. Such a gathering had not been held since 1979. The American Friends Service Committee



Lenny Foster

helped organize this year's gathering with Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs, and Friends from Alaska, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Maryland. It was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with approximately seventy participants.

The imperative emerged to expand knowledge on Native American issues among Friends, to re-energize Friends' commitment to Native Americans, and to undertake future actions in partnership with Indian people. The plenary statement reads, in part:

We ... have come together out of a sense of urgency about rising attacks on Native American sovereignty, jurisdiction, and treaty rights. The hostility of some in Congress, the courts, state and local governments, corporate institutions, and individual communities reflects a disturbing backlash against all tribes. At this time, we are called to act decisively to reawaken the long-standing alliance

Susan Day Dean

between Friends and Native Americans.

In these four days, we have been humbled, inspired, and challenged.... We have been blessed by the wisdom of Native American elders, activists, and colleagues. We emerge mindful of the complexities of our shared history and the current dilemmas facing Indian nations. We acknowledge that at times Friends' actions have caused unintended suffering.... We find a lesson of caution for Friends to take a collaborative approach, supporting rather than directing the leadings of Native communities.

We call upon Quakers to reaffirm the historic commitment of the Society of Friends to seek justice with Native Americans.... Our first responsibility is to educate ourselves and to seek the leading of the Spirit for right action. We welcome the support of our Native American brothers and sisters.

We believe that, at this moment, Friends have a healing role to play in promoting communications, working to educate non-Native communities, and advocating in support of Native peoples based on our Testimonies.

We call upon Friends everywhere to join us in this endeavor.



Vic Yellowhawk White

**Gathering of Friends on Indian Affairs
May 2, 1999**



David Nagle



Aura Kenagis



PHOTOS: TERRY FOSS



Lloyd Benedict



Environmental Task Force staff member David Arquette



Cecilia Mitchell harvests some of her herbs.



A grove of fledgling black

AKWE A time Mohawks keep and the env

By Willie Colón Reyes

CECILIA MITCHELL walks and counting off the medicinal migraines. Primrose helps with knotweed, she says, is especially cholesterol.

Cecilia is Mohawk and lives on which spans the St. Lawrence River, backyard, which ends on the banks of medicine garden five tiers high. "One time," she says.

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AKWESASNE

A time of action

Mohawks keeping their culture— and the environment—alive

By Willie Colón Reyes

CECILIA MITCHELL walks among the dozen or so varieties of herbs she grows, counting off the medicinal benefits of each as she goes. Licorice, that's for migraines. Primrose helps with skin problems and stimulates hair growth. And knotweed, she says, is especially important. It's good for arthritis and lowering cholesterol.

Cecilia is Mohawk and lives on the 27,000-acre Mohawk territory of Akwesasne, which spans the St. Lawrence River, in between New York State and Canada. In her backyard, which ends on the banks of the St. Regis River, Cecilia has built a community medicine garden five tiers high. "One level for each of the five nations of the beginning time," she says.

Akwesasne (pronounced "ag-weh-SAWS-nee") is known as St. Regis Mohawk Reservation to the outside world. *Akwesasne* means "land where the partridge drums," and the outside culture that changed its name has also devastated its environment with industrial pollution from factories upstream.

Now, the land, air, and water — and Mohawk culture — are being kept alive by projects such as Cecilia's lovingly tended garden, as well as several community vegetable gardens, a fish hatchery, and a project to cultivate black ash trees, the traditional source of wood splints for basket making. All the projects are under the auspices of the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment. This is an AFSC-supported effort to clean up the environment through collective action. It also provides community education about the hazards and development of a land-based economy. Through its efforts, the task force is working with the people of Akwesasne to keep their heritage alive.

For example, some crops in the community vegetable gardens have not been grown on Akwesasne land for generations. A chunk of one ten-acre plot is tended by five families, who have planted rows of Boston Marrow squash, tomatoes, potatoes, a variety of traditional Mohawk beans, and blue corn.

The carefully nurtured groves of fledgling black ash trees are another example of bringing back what was taken away. Once plentiful at Akwesasne, black ash trees had all but disappeared. AFSC and the task force are working to bring them back.

"Look! Look!" exclaims Marita Skidders as she gives a tour of the trees growing on the other side of the dirt and gravel road that runs in front of her house. "This one has seeds. And so does that one over there," she says, pointing to clusters of index-finger-length green pods hanging from thin, fragile-looking branches.

The seeds will be gathered and planted in raised beds until big enough to be transplanted. They are a sign that, with luck and persistence, black ash trees will flourish once more at Akwesasne.

Helping a species flourish is also the idea behind the fish hatcheries overseen by Lloyd Benedict. The complex arrangement of tanks and machine-dug ponds is, unfortunately, a necessity for growing healthy yellow perch, which used to be an important source of protein for Mohawk people. While the St. Lawrence River looks clean enough to the untrained eye, chemical waste has made free-swimming fish too toxic to eat.

For Cecilia Mitchell, all this hard work makes perfect sense: "We have so much here: the fish, the trees, the plants, the medicines. We need to learn to use what we have."



Lloyd Benedict



Environmental Task Force staff member David Arquette



Cecilia Mitchell harvests some of her herbs.



A grove of fledgling black ash trees is a sign of renewal.



Florence David (l.) shows a basket to Hop



Tending a commun



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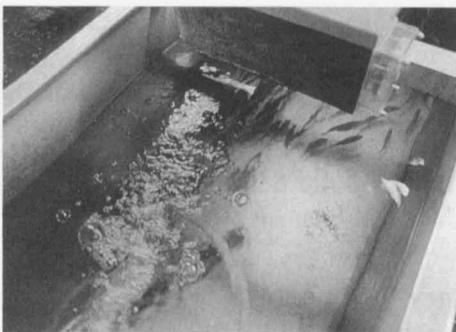
Florence David (L.) shows a basket to Hope Wallis, AFSC.



Tending a community garden



Marita Skidders, a clan mother



One of the smaller hatchery tanks

Emergency Responses



Unpacking a shipment of AFSC relief supplies in Macedonia

The Balkans

Auctioning off deviled eggs, taking pledges for sinking a basketball or correctly working math problems—these were a few ways people raised money for AFSC's work in the Balkans. Since April 1, an incredible outpouring of generosity enabled us to send more than \$1.5 million in goods to Macedonia to help Kosovar refugees.

Many of the donations were items such as pillows, shoes, children's vitamins, diapers, fleece pullovers, socks, soap, and toothbrushes. Equally stunning were the 40,000 "Kits for Kosovo" that people all over the country compiled and sent to the AFSC. The kits contained soap and towels, antibiotic ointment, and bandages. In the AFSC's tradition of favoring neither side in a conflict, shipments went to Albanian refugees, Roma people, and Serbians who were effected.

Many contributions came with typed and handwritten stories about how people collected the items, what the experience had meant to them, and their best wishes for the refugees. "Our kits were sent to Kosovo along with our prayers and hopes—hope that pain would be eased and spirits would be lifted," wrote Anne G. Frye from New Garden Friends Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina. "During our work on the project, we were conscious of God's presence and his blessings. Our community of faith was bound together more closely.... We set out to help others, but received priceless gifts ourselves."

The AFSC also received donations of money totaling more than \$1.6 million. Funds will help with immediate relief and also with reconstruction and reconciliation. As people begin to rebuild their homes and look for work, the money will help purchase school supplies, establish trauma centers for women and educational co-ops, and start businesses. In the long run, the AFSC is planning projects in which people will work together across ethnic lines.

Turkey

The AFSC sent two forty-foot containers of relief supplies from its warehouse in Macedonia, so the materials arrived within days of the massive earthquake. This included shoes, emergency hygiene kits, clothing, and blankets. More than \$175,000 was raised. An AFSC assessment team recently visited the area to determine where assistance would have the most impact. An initial project will involve installing hot showers and heaters in tent communities before winter.

North Carolina

Money has been pledged and emergency supplies are being sent to hundreds of victims in flood-ravaged areas of North Carolina, following Hurricane Floyd's sweep. Farm laborers in the lowland agricultural part of the state were especially hard-hit, and the AFSC is supporting efforts of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee to help these individuals, who have least access to other major disaster relief services.

The AFSC is working with the North Carolina Friends Disaster Service (FDS) and local Friends churches. Peggie Baxter, AFSC Material Assistance Program Director in High Point, North Carolina, is coordinating the emergency response. Hygiene kits, cleaning supplies, bedding, toys, and clothing are being shipped by truck, van, and church-school buses to those who need help. Quaker meetings statewide and Guilford College students assembled the hygiene kits. New Hope Friends Church handled distribution in the eastern part of the state.

To contribute, contact Hurricane Floyd Relief, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, or call toll-free 1-888-588-2372, ext. 1.

RESOURCES

Witness for Humanity

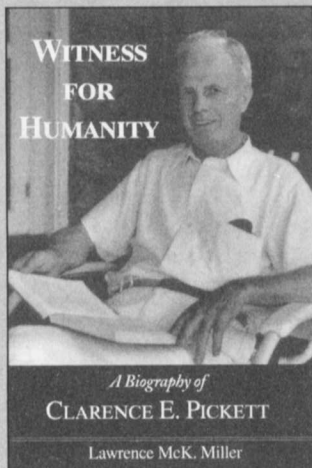
A Biography of Clarence E. Pickett

Clarence E. Pickett, executive secretary of the AFSC for 22 years, was a man of deep faith expressed in creative action. As head of the Service Committee during the Great Depression and World War II, he is remembered with reverence by many, and as a legend to those younger.

This Quaker from a farming community in Kansas became a professor of biblical literature at Earlham College before joining the AFSC in 1929. As an advocate of the social gospel, he became friends with Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and interacted with many U.S. and United Nations leaders. He was part of the emissary of Friends who visited the Gestapo in 1938 to intercede for German Jews.

Author Lawrence McK. Miller writes about Pickett from firsthand experience: as a conscientious objector during WWII he worked in Civilian Public Service camps administered by the AFSC during Clarence Pickett's tenure. He later held many positions at the AFSC, including international service and administration.

This 416-page, hardcover book costs \$20 and is published by Pendle Hill. It may be ordered from AFSC by using the form below.



The report compares the cost-effectiveness of JROTC to nonmilitary educational programs by examining two major areas: salaries, including fringe benefits; and related costs, such as insurance, facilities renovation, transportation, and JROTC's requirement for multiple supervisors. *Trading Books for Soldiers* includes information on JROTC salaries (acquired under the Freedom of Information Act), case studies from local school districts, a primer on components of JROTC costs, and tips for investigating a school district's spending on JROTC.

Cost is \$3/copy, or \$2/copy for orders of ten or more. Order from National Youth & Militarism Program, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Phila., PA 19102; telephone: (215) 241-7176; fax: (215) 241-7177; e-mail: youthmil@afsc.org.

For more information on the Youth & Militarism Program, including a monthly newsletter, go to this web site: www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm.

Six Years of NAFTA

This report is the first of its kind to be developed by maquila workers themselves. It describes how working conditions have worsened in *maquiladoras* ("border assembly plants") in the six years since the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect. The report details how border sweatshops intentionally undermine unions, labor rights, and health benefits guaranteed by Mexico's labor code. It also tells how companies push workers to work longer and harder for lower pay.

The news is not all grim. Significant gains from major companies (Delphi, Alcoa, GE, and Lucent Technologies) include decreasing use of pregnancy tests as a condition of employment, an illegal but widespread practice. This came as a result of pressure from *Comité Fronterizo de Obreras* (or CFO, the Border Committee of Women Workers) and Human Rights Watch.

The report is issued by CFO in cooperation with the AFSC. Cost is \$3.50, including shipping and handling. To get a copy, contact Luis Perez, Mexico-U.S. Border Program, telephone: (215) 241-7119; fax: (215) 241-7119; e-mail: lperez@afsc.org.

Trading Books for Soldiers

The true cost to local school districts for hosting Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs is far more—sometimes more than double that estimated by the U.S. Department of Defense. This new report, published by AFSC's Youth & Militarism Program, shows exactly how the hidden costs add up, how you can compute them for yourself, and how to present this to your school district.

To place an order or get an AFSC publications catalog, contact Literature Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Phila., PA 19102, or call toll free 1-888-588-AFSC; (215) 241-7048; FAX: (215) 241-7275. Make checks payable to AFSC, Literature Resources.

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Fall '99

Additional Resources

Literature Resources Catalog of the AFSC

1999-2000 edition lists resources published by AFSC programs; books of analysis, advocacy, and opinion; and curriculum materials. **Free**

U.S. Campaign to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (video) Contact the AFSC Youth & Militarism Program, listed above. **\$7**

Fostering Friendships: A Study Guide on Iraq and One Million Postcards (video)

For elementary students. Challenges stereotypes of Iraqis, provides historical information, an overview of the 1991 Gulf War, the effects of economic sanctions, and a bibliography. Video documents children's campaign to send one million postcards to the U.S. president. Price includes both. **\$25**

Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty

Study packet includes articles, a booklet of statements opposing the death penalty by many denominations, ways to connect with the national campaign. **Free**

The Maquiladora Reader

A comprehensive guide to cross-border activism in the post-NAFTA era. **\$14.95, call for discounts on five or more copies.**

Donors' tour to visit programs at U.S.-Mexico border and Honduras

AFSC is offering supporters a firsthand opportunity to visit our U.S.-Mexico border programs and COMAL, which comprises a network of 28 community groups in Honduras. The ten-day tour will take place March 24 through April 2, 2000. It will begin with a visit to U.S.-Mexico border communities to learn about the lives and efforts of women workers as they organize for decent working conditions and labor rights in the workplace, protect their health and that of their families, and work together to prevent and reverse environmental damage to their communities. The tour will acquaint participants with the work of CFO (*Comité Fronterizo de Obreras*, or Border Committee of Women Workers). This independent, worker-controlled organization reaches workers at local, national, binational, and international levels for organizing, educating, and advocating for policy change.

Donor tours such as this provide a variety of experiences and make lasting impressions on participants. Meg Skinner, who recently visited AFSC's Mozambique program in rural Manica Province this year, said, "It was meaningful to meet and get to know the AFSC staff and to see how committed they are, and the importance of supporting local initiatives, wisdom, and customs."

To learn more about how you could take part in one of these life-changing trips, contact Eloise Chevrier, AFSC Donor Tour Coordinator, 59 E. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL 60605, telephone: (312) 427-2533, or send e-mail to eec@aol.com.



This is the joint display by Mexican maquiladora workers who were part of an AFSC exchange tour and the Iowa Faith and Labor Coalition in a Labor Day parade in Des Moines, Iowa.

Maquiladora workers join Iowa parade

An AFSC exchange brought eight women activists to the United States to share common interests and strategies with U.S. unions, faith-based groups, and others. They met with former Levi's workers in San Antonio, Texas, and steel and tire workers in Des Moines; and gave public presentations in Denver and Boulder, Colorado, and Austin, Texas.

The Mexican women are members of *Comité Fronterizo de Obreras* (Border Committee of Women Workers), AFSC's partner in cross-border work. Workers in the United States and Mexico are facing similar layoffs, sweatshop conditions, low-wage contracts, job insecurity, and weakening of unions.

This exchange was a first step in AFSC regional-national programs' expanding work in building a binational network of workers. It is a starting point for AFSC-wide dialogue and collaboration across the Mexico-U.S. border.

Markers & Milestones

Goodbye, hello, to regional directors in Baltimore, Seattle

AFSC recently said goodbye to two regional directors and welcomed new ones in their stead. Virden Seybold retired in December 1998 as director of the Middle Atlantic Region (MAR), based in Baltimore, Maryland. He came to AFSC in 1976 as director of the Syracuse, New York, area office and became regional director in 1986. Sandra Rappeport is the new MAR director. She has fifteen years of nonprofit administrative and management experience.

In AFSC's Pacific Northwest Region, based in Seattle, Washington, Judith Kolokoff retired in September after nearly six years as regional director. Susan Segall, the new director, served in AFSC's national Peace Education Division for nearly eight years, first as assistant director and most recently as interim director of the division.

New Immigrant and Refugee Issues coordinator

Janna Shadduck-Hernandez is the new national representative for Immigrant and Refugee Issues in AFSC's Community Relations Division. Janna's past work includes directing programs that address the educational, cultural, and occupational needs of refugees.

She has also collaborated with refugee communities in the United States to establish transnational programs in the refugees' countries of origin. In her new position, Janna is charged with supporting a network of AFSC programs that address migration and immigration issues, raising public awareness of immigration issues, and building support for immigrants rights.



Janna Shadduck-Hernandez

Meet this year's Jim Bristol Fellow

The Jim Bristol Memorial Youth and Militarism Fellow for 1999 is Shannon McManimon, a recent graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and a former intern in the AFSC's Middle East Program in Chicago, Illinois. The fellowship provides a one-year stipend for a young person to join the staff of the Youth and Militarism Program, deepening her/his organizing skills and contributing to the program's work. Thus far, Shannon has helped promote and update the program's web site, conducted research for the program's publications, and worked on the issue of child soldiers.



Shannon McManimon

New Middle East QIAR takes on effort to build understanding

Lilian Peters is the new Middle East Quaker International Affairs Representative (QIAR). She will be based in Amman, Jordan. The QIAR program encourages dialogue on peace and justice issues and helps build trust across lines of political division. Lilian has worked as the Middle East project officer at Pax Christi-The Netherlands and as project officer at the International Dialogues Foundation, which encourages informal meetings among parties who are in conflict with each other. She will continue as a board member for both organizations.

New peace program coordinator

Sonia Tuma is the first coordinator of the Peacebuilding and Demilitarization Program, a new initiative of the Peace Education Division in the Philadelphia office. Sonia comes from a position as program coordinator of the Middle East program in Pasadena, California. In her new role, she will serve as AFSC's liaison with national and international groups and coalitions working on demilitarization issues. She will also speak on behalf of the Service Committee about peacebuilding efforts.



Youth network

Young people from nine countries and 28 AFSC youth programs gathered in Newtown, Pennsylvania, to establish plans for AFSC's new Youth Concentration Network. Through sharing support and experiences, they hope to strengthen their leadership skills, form partnerships, and bring a global perspective to change on behalf of youth.

King holiday in New Hampshire spells victory for AFSC staff

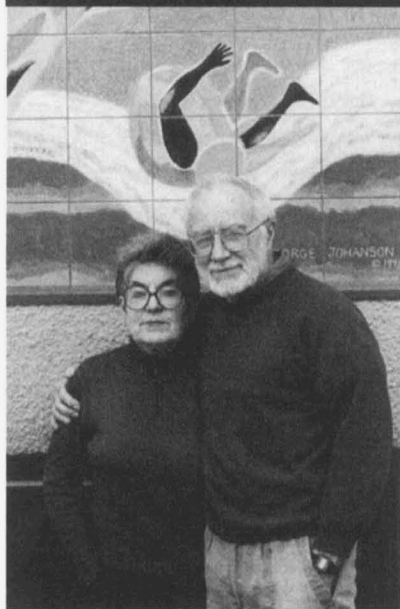
A twenty-year effort to establish a holiday in New Hampshire honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., ended in victory this year when the state's House of Representatives added his name to New Hampshire's Civil Rights Day.

AFSC was deeply involved in this campaign. In 1988, Arnie Alpert, AFSC staff in New Hampshire, became communications coordinator of the Martin Luther King Day Committee. The AFSC office then became the center of efforts that involved African American community leaders, civil rights groups, unions, and politicians.

The New Hampshire AFL-CIO recently bestowed its social justice award on Arnie for this work and other efforts. In Arnie's acceptance remarks, he said: "We still need King's revolution of values that looks uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth and the unequal distribution of power. . . . And in this global era, we need to pressure not only our government, but also power centers where the rules of the global economy are being dictated."

The AFSC is one of the islands of sanity and compassion in the world today....

George and Phyllis Johanson, AFSC donors



Phyllis and George Johanson

George and Phyllis Johanson met in a Quaker work camp in Mexico in the early 1950s. They have been supporters of the American Friends Service Committee ever since. As part of their financial planning for retirement, the Johansons funded a gift annuity with AFSC, giving them a generous income tax deduction, an annuity rate higher than a bank CD, and fixed-income payments for the rest of their lives.

An AFSC gift annuity—it's simple, it's dependable, and it helps promote a more compassionate world. We would be happy to give you more information.

One sentence in your will by your attorney can help make the world more compassionate: "I give and bequeath to the American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry Street, Phila., PA 19102, the sum of \$_____ to be used for general purposes."

For information contact: Mike Valoris at 1-888-588-2372, ext.3
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E-mail: GiftPlanning@afsc.org or mail coupon to AFSC

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N. Korea cardiologists consult with U.S. doctors

By Melissa Kay Elliott

PERHAPS it is appropriate that these five doctors came from North Korea to the United States to study cardiology, because building peace is, after all, a study in healing the human heart.

Their delegation was sponsored by the AFSC as part of an effort to help people in both countries build relationships across political boundaries. Professional exchanges are known to be one of the best ways to do this, because sharing common interests has the power to diminish other differences.

The North Korean cardiologists visited medical centers in the north-eastern United States, talking with U.S. doctors and watching procedures. The tour was coordinated by Karin Lee and John Feffer, AFSC's East Asian Quaker International Af-

fairs Representatives (QIARs). It is their job to work with others in the region to build trust across lines of division in East Asia, as well as create opportunities to improve U.S.-North Korean relations.

In two weeks the North Korean cardiologists visited seven hospitals and two medical organizations in New York City; Boston, Massachusetts; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Washington, D.C. They made the most of the strenuous pace, said Karin Lee, because they focused intensely and worked hard to get as much out of their time here as possible. "Through it all, they were resourceful, energetic, adaptable, and gracious."

Several hospitals prepared lectures, slide shows, and other presentations. Topics covered prevention, rehabilitation, and technical as-



The five cardiologists from North Korea stand with John Feffer and Karin Lee, the AFSC staff members who coordinated the tour, in the middle.

pects of cardiac medicine. The hospitals were generous with gifts of medical equipment and medications. At one point, a Korean American doctor presented a package of medical supplies, saying, "There is a group of us who have been gathering such equipment to give to North Koreans. We have never found a way in which we could make such a gift. Thank you for this opportunity."

Several strong connections were made between the doctors and their hosts. Karin Lee was impressed by the generous give-and-take. "Before

working on this study tour, I was remotely aware of the professional tradition of sharing medical knowledge over international boundaries in the face of differences in resources and wealth. By the end, I was moved by how deeply many doctors hold this commitment."

The North Koreans are particularly interested in finding further study opportunities in the United States, among other hopes to exchange information with their U.S. colleagues. The AFSC will explore these possibilities in coming months.

Beth Binford's bargains produce profit, excitement

By M'Annette Ruddell

ALTHOUGH SHE RETIRED from AFSC in 1994, former director of publications Beth Binford still devotes much of her life to the organization. She coordinates sales of second-hand goods, with proceeds going to AFSC and its programs.

The sales, known as "Recycle Days," rely on a partnership of donors, volunteers, and buyers. Donors contribute household goods, clothing, furniture, books, electronic equipment, and other useful items; volunteers prepare for the sales; and buyers eagerly snatch up the welcome bargains, often waiting outside

the doors for the sales to begin. Especially helpful are residents of Crosslands and Kendal-at-Longwood, Quaker retirement centers located in Chester County, Pennsylvania, where regular sales are held, appreciated by residents and staff alike.

In 1998, sales totaled nearly \$30,000, largely due to Beth's commitment to volunteerism, good stewardship of the earth's resources, and her desire to assist AFSC's work.

At AFSC headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, volunteers join Beth on the last Thursday of each month, unpacking boxes and bags of donated goods. Flea-market

items are assigned prices. The best things are sold by silent auction. Every December, a special holiday sale offers wonderful shopping, with bargains ranging from old lace-edged tablecloths to leather slippers and art books—and everything in between!

For Beth Binford, retirement means keeping active and caring about day-to-day issues faced by communities with which AFSC works. She remains a valuable part of the AFSC family, and we salute her creative fundraising efforts.

For more information, contact M'Annette Ruddell at AFSC, telephone: (215) 241-7086, or e-mail: mr Ruddell@afsc.org.



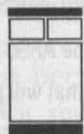
Gifts with Heart and Hope

For those on your holiday list who "have everything," consider giving them meaningful gifts that can't be found in a shopping mall—support for AFSC programs. Choose from the five exciting projects below or select our useful 2000 wall calendar.

Balkans

Recent events of violence and upheaval dislocated hundreds of thousands of people, who are now trying to reestablish their homes.

Your gift of \$250 provides mattresses and bedding for one family.



West Virginia/U.S.

AFSC offers classes to low-income Head Start parents who want to get their high school diplomas. Your gift of \$75 buys three literacy kits—book bags containing notebooks, pens and pencils, and a dictionary.



North Korea

Recovery from famine is still a struggle. AFSC is supplying farmers with seeds to revive their fields and their depleted food supplies. Your gift of \$35 purchases 25 lbs. of seed.



Haiti

Creole pigs, hardy enough to survive the hot climate, provide families with meat and a major source of income to pay school fees, buy farm tools, or finance family celebrations. Your gift of \$100 buys two pigs and pig feed.



Pasadena/U.S.

Books are in short supply here, so AFSC identifies community volunteers who take a supply of books to elementary classrooms and read with the students. Your gift of \$150 equips one classroom with a set of books.



AFSC's 2000 Calendar

Always a useful and welcome gift, this calendar features photos of AFSC's projects in action, inspiring quotations, and plenty of room for notes. \$12 each, including postage.

You may give the suggested amount or buy a "share" of any project.

Bedding for Balkan families	\$ _____
Literacy kits for W.Va. adults	\$ _____
Seed for North Korea farmers	\$ _____
Pigs and feed for Haiti families	\$ _____
Books for Pasadena school kids	\$ _____

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