

The *UN Declaration*: raising awareness

By Jennifer Preston

In November 2008, the Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee participated in several educational initiatives around the implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

First stop was San Francisco and the annual sessions of the “AAA” – the American Anthropological Association, a major professional gathering with more than 5,000 participants. I was a presenter on a Presidential Panel organized by the Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics, University of Lancaster, UK. This panel included Indigenous and human rights representatives who had played active roles in the *Declaration* process. We all spoke to our involvement and to the implementation of the *Declaration*. We also offered suggestions as to how this academic professional association could integrate the *Declaration* in meaningful ways to promote the rights in the *Declaration*.

I then traveled up the west coast to Victoria, BC. Over the course of a week, there was an open presentation at the University of Victoria; a one-day symposium, “*BC First Nations and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Does it apply in Canada? How do we use it?*”, which was skillfully organized by Aboriginal Neighbours, an organization of aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples who build bridges of respect and understanding between cultures through education and interaction; and finally there was a more intimate and personal “Soup & Stories” session with Friends in Victoria Meeting.

All four events enabled people to discuss and understand what the *Declaration* is, where it came from, and why it is critical. Most



DAVE FALKENBERG

The Presidential Session of the American Anthropological Association’s 2008 gathering. Panelists were (R-L): Les Malezer, Chair of the Global Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus during the year in New York, Miliani Trask, Indigenous co-coordinator for the Pacific region, and Willem van Genugten, Professor of International Law, Tilburg University. Panelists not pictured: Jennifer Preston, CFSC, and Craig Benjamin, Amnesty International.

importantly, participants left with ideas about how local communities can encourage the implementation of the *Declaration*. Human rights education leading to wide spread implementation is critical – from the grassroots to the international.

Participants included academics, professional service providers, community organizers, politicians, students, activists, as well as Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members who came to listen and learn. For the *Declaration* to have meaning and to effect real change, it has to be known. This is the first step of implementation.

To this end, the ad hoc coalition, in which CFSC is a partner, has produced a pocket-sized booklet of the *Declaration*. We have versions in both English and French and they are available by contacting the CFSC office. We encourage everyone to read it, share it, and engage with it.

Part of my presentations was how non-Indigenous non-governmental organizations had participated in the process and their relationships with the global Indigenous peoples’ caucus. Adoption of the *Declaration* by the UN is not an end point. It is important to ensure that human rights organizations and faith-based groups are supporting Indigenous initiatives and supporting the place of the *Declaration* in the larger scheme of international human rights law.

The *Declaration* needs to be taught in our schools. Policy makers at all levels need to know the rights affirmed in the *Declaration*, and work to ensure that current policies are in line, and change them when they are not. A recent example of this can be found in the joint submission CFSC did with Amnesty International (Canada) to the Province of Ontario with regard to the review of the Mining Act. This can be found at: <www.cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/

Continued on page 6

KEEPING UP WITH CFSC

The end of the world as we know it – Thank God!

June 17-20, 2009, KAIROS will host a national gathering (theme above) at the University of Waterloo to strengthen and inspire a growing ecumenical social justice movement in Canada. This gathering will bring together partners from around the world, the grassroots network, member churches, etc. It is also a chance for new folks to come and learn.

Living in a time of immense change, we are experiencing simultaneous food, fuel, and financial crises, with the greatest impact being felt by the most vulnerable. Change needs to

happen. The world as we know it must end – so that something new can come to life. There will be four one-day pre-event gatherings for youth and young adults (ages 18-30), anti-poverty activists, migrant justice activists, and those working on Indigenous rights.

Application info is available at: <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/get-involved/gathering/> or call 416-463-5312 x 246 for information.

News from DR Congo

Jane MacKay Wright (Toronto MM) is in Goma, D.R. Congo, with Christian Peacemaker Teams. Here is an excerpt from her second report:

“Last week Father Firmin drove us out to the Salesian technical school about 20 minutes from here. It is not only a school but a camp for the internally displaced, an orphanage, and a hospital. The place was hopping, and pretty sad. The priests there care for about 200 war orphans including many toddlers, and 4,000 (four thousand!) people who have had to flee their villages threatened by rebel armies.

“This camp too is sometimes raided: militias try to kidnap children to make them into soldiers, steal food and belongings, and abuse women. We toured the premises with an

articulate young doctor who showed us the cholera ward, which he proudly said had had over 200 cases who were now healing...”

Contact Gianne Broughton (gpasc@quaker.ca) if you wish to receive Jane’s reports. Jane received a CFSC Individual Grant to help her undertake this service.

Refugee Resources

The Canadian Council for Refugee’s released its “Annual Status Report 2008”. This report gives an overview of how the Canadian federal government has addressed refugee and immigration issues from November 2007 to October 2008.

This resource is recommended in your public education efforts on refugee and immigrant rights in Canada. The Annual Status Report is available at: <http://www.ccrweb.ca/documents/ASR2008en.pdf>

The CCR also wrote an exemplary letter to the Immigration Minister, Jason Kenney, in defence of the US war resisters as legitimate refugees, following his public comments that they were “bogus” claimants who should go home. The letter is available at:

<http://www.ccrweb.ca/documents/warresistersjan09.htm>

QUAKER CONCERN

Canadian Friends Service Committee/Secours Quaker Canadien

Quaker Concern is the newsletter of Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers). Published three-times a year, it features articles on CFSC projects and concerns of Friends. CFSC’s **Annual Report and Appeal** is sent to all donors in late autumn.

Canadian Friends Service Committee, founded in 1931, exists to unify and expand the concerns of Friends in Canada. Our work is carried out by three program committees (Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee, Quakers Fostering Justice, Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee) and a special project under our care (Quaker International Affairs Programme).

Donations are received with gratitude (donations to QIAP need to be so designated). We rely on the support of individuals to carry out our work. CFSC issues tax receipts for donations over \$10.

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New, Improved Summer Internship Program!

Last year, CFSC revised its Young Friend Internship in response to results from an evaluation to make it more accessible and of greater benefit.

This summer, CFSC is offering a four-month internship to coincide with the university year (May 1 – August 31). Interns receive a living allowance of \$850/month. CFSC will try to secure a billet (accommodation) with a Quaker family but this cannot be guaranteed. The summer internship includes attending Canadian Yearly Meeting sessions (in August, near Ottawa).

The purpose of the internship is to provide Young Friends and attenders

with the opportunity to engage in the work of CFSC and our partner organizations. Interns work both in the CFSC national office (four days a week) and on a local direct-service project (one day a week), such as a food bank. Intern’s special skills and interests will be taken into account in the selection of direct-service opportunities and in work assignments at CFSC. It is an excellent way to gain work experience in the charitable sector, with a faith-based perspective.

The application deadline is March 15th, 2009. To receive an application package, email cfsc-office@quaker.ca or call 416-920-5213.

Caring to care about women in Iraq

By Dale Dewar

“Women are dying in childbirth, not because we don’t know how to save them but because we don’t care.”

~Dr. Fathalla, Past President,
International Federation of
Gynecologists and Obstetricians

In Northern Iraq, 70% of deliveries occur at home with untrained birth attendants and the remainder occur in hospitals or birthing centres where the Caesarean section rate is 50%. Women say that they don’t want to go to the hospitals because they “get cut”. Pregnancy is a woman’s burden and women are replaceable. Obstetrical care is also the burden of women physicians—with less access to training, facilities and simple technologies. The official mortality rate is 38 per 100,000 but the deaths at home are rarely attributed to childbirth.

Into this environment, “Care to Care” is doing something. The quintessential partnership project—the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada and Canadian Friends Service Committee with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada and the Kurdistan Regional Government—has successfully completed one training session and has plans for four more. Each session will train up to 40 physicians and nurses in up-to-date skills for early recognition of obstetrical emergencies and interventions. In turn, some of these physicians and nurses will be trained to teach—and teach along side the Canadian instructors. It’s a “train the trainers” project.

The training curriculum is an award-winning intensive five-day course with hands-on workshops with models and equipment called “Advance Labour and Risk Management (ALARM)”. All Canadian physicians, including obstetricians, who do maternity care and deliveries, are expected to have passed this or a very similar course. The international course includes modules on woman’s rights and on the importance of gathering information about maternal deaths and “near misses”.

The instruction team of five

people—two obstetricians, two family doctors and one nurse—successfully delivered the course to 43 obstetricians and nurses in October 2008.

How did the “Care to Care” project get started? The Society of Rural Physicians became interested in Iraq through a chain of events

following the discovery that the UN sanctions of the 1990s forbade the exchange of medical information. An attempt was made to supply materials—books, periodicals and CDs—that would be accessible in a library in Iraq. This came to an end with the US invasion. In 2003, Toronto Monthly Meeting contacted myself (a rural physician) to ask how best they might spend the monies they had collected to support Iraqi people.

With two colleagues and my husband, Bill Curry, we used these and other raised funds to travel to Iraqi Kurdistan and deliver continuing medical education to more than 900 physicians in five locations in October 2003 and May 2004. We also spent time “shadowing” our Iraqi colleagues, going to their clinics, emergency wards and operating rooms, trying to “walk a mile” in the other’s shoes.

Each Iraqi physician completed an evaluation of the workshops that they attended. The Canadians learned that, while English was the language of medical instruction, everyday English was often poorly understood. For example, while the doctors knew what “menarche” was and could translate to everyday Kurdish or Arabic, they didn’t understand “first period” or



DALE DEWAR

Dale Dewar delivers a component of the award-winning Advance Labour and Risk Management (ALARM) training program to some of the 43 obstetricians and nurses who participated in the October 2008 training in Iraqi Kurdistan.

even “first menses”. The Canadians learned to speak more slowly and to avoid contractions and abbreviations in both speech and slide presentations.

When all of the workshop evaluations were compiled, it became clear that the most frequently requested material was that on women’s care, maternity and obstetrical care, fertility and sexual health. Two family physicians, Dale and Narmin Ibrahim, traveled to Iraq to test this conclusion and to secure a partnership with the Kurdistan Regional Government in 2006.

Rather than invent its own material, the Society negotiated with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada for use of the ALARM course. CFSC had followed the development of the “Care to Care” project and provided guidance. With the positive developments in these first workshops, CFSC accepted “Care to Care” as a project (with the support of Prairie Monthly Meeting) and then we worked together on an application to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to be a partner on the project. In March 2008, the “Care to Care” project was granted CIDA funding (which requires that CFSC/Care to Care raise matching

Continued on page 6

Reflections on John McKendy - Friend, Teacher, Peacemaker

By Vince Zelazny

John McKendy, a good Friend of us at CFSC, died suddenly and tragically on October 30, 2008, by the hand of a family member. A professor of Sociology at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, John was intensely interested in social justice and equality, which fed his critique of the criminal justice system and his interest in the welfare of prisoners and of those who imprison. John was a wonderful man, well known to many as a good father and friend, an inspiring teacher, and a prison volunteer.

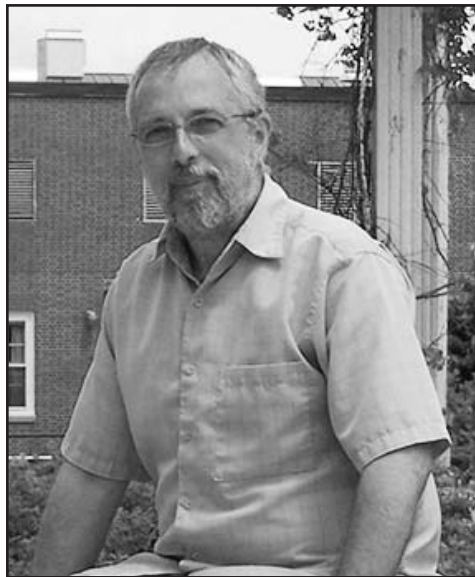
He also had a new-found passion for Africa, having travelled to Burundi twice to bring Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops to people there; he worked with the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams (a CFSC-supported project), helping to establish a woman's health centre as well.

John's research as a sociologist drew him to prison, where he would listen to the stories of men incarcerated for violence. Poverty and a history of sexual or physical abuse were the two common themes shared by large numbers of the inmates with whom he spoke. These concerns were important to John, and peace work in response to personal violence was a clear focus of John's love and work.

The Alternatives to Violence Project was one of the focal points of John's life that gave him an outlet to be among friends and in solidarity with the poor, the weak and the powerless. During our weekend AVP workshops at Dorchester Penitentiary near Sackville, NB, participants included men and women who worked at eradicating violence from our lives.

AVP was created by Quakers in New York State during the 1970s, but I believe that its central message of "transforming power" was captured well by Isaac Pennington, in the 17th century:

"The sum and substance of true religion does not consist of merely getting a notion of Christ's righteousness, but in



John McKendy, a New Brunswick Quaker, was an Associate Member of Quakers Fostering Justice program committee of CFSC. He received a CFSC Individual Grant to assist with his work in Burundi. CFSC offers our condolences to his family, friends and students.

feeling the power of endless life, receiving the power, and being changed by the power. And where Christ is, there is Christ's righteousness."

In relating his first experiences of AVP, John would describe the first time he sat face to face with a large, muscular prisoner, doing time for violence, who bore tattoos all over his arms—and John was not a large man and how, by following the simple instructions of the exercise, he and the man encountered each other simply as human beings, and move on from there.

One prisoner, Joe, progressed through AVP to become an experienced facilitator. His transformation into a self-possessed, communicative man inspired his fellow inmates. At John's memorial at the Dorchester chapel in mid November, Joe simply and eloquently eulogized his friend: "Meeting John McKendy was the best thing that ever happened to me".

An essential ingredient of every AVP workshop I shared with John was the fun we had. Exercises and occasions for discussion or sharing are regularly punctuated by games called "Light and

Livelies". "Bump tag" is an exuberant game of tag designed for small spaces with many participants. John was good at bump tag, where he displayed the lightness of his feet and his speed. I remember how he would bounce on his toes before darting in one direction or another in his trademark running shoes, smiling and laughing.

Here we are, friends and family, those of us left behind, seeking a meaning in this terrible tragedy. If John had a chance on loving a person, and he knowingly bore the risks that come with unconditional love, which are considerable as we have learned.

There is an apparent contradiction here for us to wrestle with—is loving others too much a fault? Each of us has our own threshold for risks we will bear for love. Some of those with the highest threshold are revered spiritual leaders, like Jesus of Nazareth, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr. I believe John knew what kinds of risks he took. It was sometimes difficult for those closest to him to accept his choices, but when his mind was made up, he would not be moved. His faithfulness to love is inspirational to many.

John's sudden departure leaves a huge hole in the Fredericton Worship Group and in AVP New Brunswick. However, the tragedy seems to be drawing us closer together. With the help of the Creator we will try to patch the hole by each of us, according to our measure, growing into it. But we can't replace John. In spite of his tragic death, we can take some comfort: John succeeded tremendously in life by his example of selfless sharing among the many people he touched; that love has multiplied, and we can now liberate it through our own lives, among our families, with our friends, and on into our communities.

Vince Zelazny is a board member of CFSC, serving on the Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) program committee, and is a member of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting.

Respite and solace for prisoners and their families

By Meredith Egan

Springhill, Nova Scotia is well-known as the home of icon Anne Murray; a productive source of geothermal heat (extracted from the abandoned coal mines), and Springhill Institution. On the outskirts of the town on the way to Springhill Institution is a home called “Spring House”. When you enter the back door, a sense of quiet calm, of welcome and safety pervade. In summer 2007, Vince Zelazny, John McKendy (both of New Brunswick MM) and myself visited Spring House where we shared a meal with Sr. Christina Doyle. We conversed about the house, St. Luke’s Renewal Centre inside the walls of Springhill Institution, and fundraisers held in snowy February in PEI.

In the early 1980s, Judy and Rev. Pierre Allard and Rev. Dr. Charles Taylor dreamed into being the Christian Council for Reconciliation (CCR). This charitable organization is responsible for running both St. Luke’s, and Spring House; Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) offers small annual grants to support this important work. The relationship between our organizations is nurtured carefully and is meaningful to us.

Spring House offers hospitality for families and friends of prisoners while visiting Springhill Institution. Because this prison, like many others, is in a fairly rural community, services for families are sparse and expensive. Often friends and families must travel long distances to maintain contact with those who are incarcerated; Spring House is often described by guests as “a home away from home”. It was staffed by the Sisters of St. Martha of Prince Edward Island until the recent retirement of Sr. Christina; currently the role of hostess has been taken up by Millie Munn, a volunteer with CCR. She and her husband, Walter, offer both spiritual nourishment and hospitality to all who visit.



St. Luke’s Renewal Centre is the only spiritual retreat house within the walls of a federal prison. Recently, the Moderator of The United Church of Canada visited the Centre. Pictured, during his visit are (front, L-R): St. Luke’s Facilitator Rev. Carol Smith; Steve, Kirk, Mel (all prisoners); (back, L-R) CCR President and institution Chaplain Rev. Lloyd Bruce; UCC Moderator Rev. David Giuliano; CCR Executive Director Peter Hoar; and Rev. Steven Morehouse.

St. Luke’s Renewal Centre is unique in Canada in that it is a spiritual retreat house maintained within the walls of a federal prison. Springhill Institution is a medium security prison with a rated capacity of 450 men. The Renewal Centre has six bedrooms and can accommodate up to five inmates for overnight programs. A wheelchair accessible washroom and ramp make the centre completely barrier-free.

The most popular room in the centre is the meditation room—an all glass room looking out over the hills of Cumberland County. The room is furnished with a very comfortable easy-chair, positioned so one can sit in the chair and gaze over the fence at the hills. Men speak of finding freedom for their spirit to imagine a new way of being.

Programs are offered to prisoners in a

setting where there is quietness, opportunity for reflection, and meaningful conversations with the Facilitator and resource people. There is also opportunity for reading and watching resource materials—and even cooking a meal. This “time away” is especially important for long-term prisoners as it allows them to remove themselves from the routine of the Institution for brief periods of time. In effect, it encourages the participant to step outside of the prison environment and outside of the prison persona he may have become. This enables contemplation—similar to the vision early Quakers had for prisons when they advocated for prison reform.

In this time, when the current Canadian government is encouraging more punitive measures in prison, it is an honour to support this important resource with its unique spiritual work. We hope this is a model for spiritual support that can be spread across Canada.

Meredith Egan is the Programme Coordinator for Quakers Fostering Justice, and a member of Vancouver MM. Much material for this article was cultivated from CCR’s Executive Director Peter Hoar, and their website, <www.CCRprisonministry.org>.

Comments about St. Luke’s:

“I have always had faith in God but until recently had never had to try to articulate or express what real faith is to others. I have learned how to do that.”

“It’s a good thing, that I don’t think anyone could ever get enough of. It’s a chance to talk, heal pain, and think clearly, away from the negativity and noise in the Units.”

“Each time I visit St. Luke’s, it affords me the opportunity to go still deeper into myself.”

DECLARATION

Continued from page 1

documents/OntarioMiningAct-October15JointSubmission.pdf>.

The organizers of the AAA panel were deeply pleased with the turn out and level of engagement by the participants. They plan to follow up with specific suggestions, including examining the code of ethics used by their membership, so as to use the *Declaration* as a standard in their work. There will a “report back” at next year’s gathering.

CFSC member Lynne Phillips (Victoria MM) reported from the Victoria Symposium that the “Aboriginal Neighbours members were delighted with the success of the conference and seem to be quite energized to carry out some of the suggestions as to how we could implement the *Declaration* in our local communities, starting with education of ourselves, our congregations, schools, and politicians”.

Victoria Tauli Corpuz, Chair of the

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, eloquently states:

The *Declaration* is an important instrument for indigenous peoples for their liberation from discrimination and oppression. Its implementation, however, will be an uphill struggle. Edmund Burke’s exhortation that the “price of freedom is eternal vigilance” very much applies to us, indigenous peoples, and to our supporters. Indeed, the price for our assertion to be recognized as distinct peoples, and to have our rights, as contained in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, protected, respected and fulfilled is eternal vigilance.¹

CFSC will continue vigilant work with our Indigenous partners to raise awareness of and engagement with the rights affirmed in the *UN Declaration*.

Jennifer Preston is Programme Coordinator of the Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee of CFSC and a member of Hamilton Meeting.

¹ “The Concept of Indigenous Peoples at the International Level: Origins, Development and Challenges” in Christian Erni, ed., *The Concept of Indigenous Peoples in Asia: A Resource Book* (Copenhagen/Chang Mai: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)/Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation, 2008) 77 at 97.

IRAQ

Continued from page 3

funds for the grant). The October 2008 visit was the first of five being funded with CIDA support.

You may wonder how we travel to this part of the world and our sense of safety. Until 2007, travel was by land through Turkey. Each trip required a lengthy and often frightening border crossing between Turkey and Northern Iraq. In 2008, we were able to fly directly into Erbil through Vienna. Regarding our safety, we were witness to a 200,000 person peaceable, non-violent demonstration

in Erbil in July 2008. The instructors are aware that the project could be aborted at any time should security become unstable. Crossing streets is probably the biggest threat to our lives.

Dale Dewar, a rural physician from Saskatchewan, is one of the core organisers of the “Care to Care” project, is a member of Prairie Meeting, and is currently the Presiding Clerk of Canadian Yearly Meeting (the national church of Quakers in Canada).

ISRAEL PALESTINE

Continued from page 7

Gianne Broughton is the program coordinator of the Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee and Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta is a member of Vancouver Monthly Meeting, which is a supporter of the

CFSC grant to the Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement. To read CFSC’s statement regarding the invasion of Gaza, please visit the “News and Events” area of the CFSC web site (www.cfsc.quaker.ca).

PLANNED GIVING KIT



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In general, CFSC spends bequests over five years so that there is immediate benefit of the gift. Leaving CFSC a bequest is a way to extend your commitment to peace and justice beyond your lifetime.

For more information, or to receive the Planned Giving Kit, contact Jennifer or Jane Orion at 416-920-5213, or cfsc-office@quaker.ca

Are there effective advocacy strategies to bring peace to Israel-Palestine?

By *Giianne Broughton with assistance of Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta*

The invasion of Gaza has ended. For people working for peace in the region, the invasion of Gaza, as the bombardment of Lebanon 18 months ago, could be seen as a failure of their advocacy. On the other hand, both events would certainly have been more devastating if there were no public outcry. The rocket attacks by Hamas and the overwhelmingly disproportionate response by Israel show that military or violent strategies do not bring peace. So, however discouraging in the moment, non-violent strategies are the only ones with final hope.

The primary goal of non-violent action is to bring about conditions where meaningful negotiations can take place. When the moral suasion of public statements does not change the power dynamics enough to create dialogue, material and physical action may be needed. Such action has to be chosen carefully, and accompanied by clear public communications so that the impact will be consistent with the goal of negotiating a just settlement. We would like to highlight KAIROS' recommendations of how economic advocacy can contribute to a resolution in this case (to read the document in full, visit: <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/rights-and-trade/focus-countries/palestine-israel/>).

KAIROS, a national social justice coalition made up of member churches (including Quakers), does not support any general boycott of Israeli products or any use of sanctions against Israel. Unlike anti-apartheid in South Africa, there has been no call from Israeli civil society for a boycott. A boycott could be seen as a statement against the right of the state of Israel to exist, or against Jewish business collectively. Neither KAIROS nor CFSC wish to make any such statement.

Recommended economic advocacy focuses on discouraging violence on either side and encouraging economic

activity consistent with the rights of both groups to self-determination. Specifically:

- Support economic development in and buy products from the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) such as such as Zaton olive oil, crafts from the Holy Land Handicraft Cooperative Society, tours from the Alternative Tourism Group (Ramallah), and videos from the International Middle East Media Centre;
- Not buy products made in Israeli settlements in the OPT, which requires research as they are not clearly labeled as such;
- Advocate with the Canadian Government to: limit the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement to within the pre-1967 borders of Israel; enforce a certification of origin so that products from Israeli settlements outside those borders do not enter Canada; and ensure that neither Israeli nor any Canadian policy impedes trade relationships between Canada and the OPT;
- Use socially responsible investment screens that exclude weapons manufacturers etc.;
- Take shareholder action to insist that Canadian companies doing business in Israel or the OPT not contribute to violence, occupation, or other human rights abuses. Such action should move from dialogue with the companies to filing shareholder proposals, and as a last resort, if necessary, divestment.

Keeping informed in a balanced way is also recommended. CFSC has contributed financially to the Canadian tour of Jeff Halper, director of Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHN), and is promoting Palestinian-made products. We also support organizations using creative non-violent direct action. ICAHD is one, and the Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement is another. Their International Middle East Media Centre (www.imemc.org) is a valuable

source of balanced reporting. Friends serving with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron have received CFSC individual grants.

A characteristic of non-violent movements is the empowerment of many voices, and ensuing diversity of actions. Our own support is apparently fragmented, as it is divided among different recipients. Jeff Halper's insistence that peace activists come to a shared re-framing of the basis of the conflict points to a way to re-gather the fragments to have a collective impact, because messages connected with diverse actions can be consistent. The key elements of his suggested re-framing are:

- This is a political conflict and both sides are equally accountable to international law and human rights;
- Palestinian and Arab positions do recognize the right of Israel to exist, within the 1949-1967 borders, and relinquishment of 78% of the historic territory of Palestine is generous;
- Israel is the more powerful party in the conflict with the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and the fifth largest production of arms. It has never signed a non-proliferation treaty or agreed to international inspection;
- Israel is the occupying power and is pursuing occupation as a pro-active policy;
- A search for a "win-win" rights-based agreement is possible and likely to succeed, and asserts the inadmissibility of attacks on civilians, whether as state or non-state terrorism;
- The credibility of the international community promoting human rights and democratic principles depends on upholding those principles in this case.

We hope that this article has offered readers some useful ideas to increase the impact of their own advocacy actions, whether as individuals, groups or Monthly Meetings.

FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to **Dale Dewar** and **Bill Curry** (both of Prairie MM) who were named this year's "Global Citizens" by the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC). Dale Dewar and Bill Curry are well known for the support they give to many vital causes locally and globally.

As a prominent rural physician in Saskatchewan, Dale has provided leadership to maternal health programming in Iraq (*see article in this QC*), as well as international programs of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, and is Past-President of Physicians for Global

Survival. A long time proponent of human ecology, Bill works tirelessly for justice and building the wider community into a just and peaceful context for raising children. Dale is a former CFSC board member and Clerk of QAAC; Bill is an Associate Member of QAAC. They are proof that global citizenship is the foundation of life-long empowerment.

John Sparling (Toronto MM), former CFSC board member, passed away in January. One of John's lasting legacies is his work on the "The Quaker Gray Jay", a sort of "people's history of Quakers in Canada" within

CFSC during our first 70 years. It was distributed to all Meetings in Canada and many Quaker libraries. John also served on the inter-church coalition, The Taskforce on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility. We give thanks for John's witness and offer our condolences to his wife, Brenda Gibson, and family.

Jane Orion Smith (Vancouver Island MM), General Secretary of CFSC, is attending a meeting of General Secretaries and Directors of Quaker Service Agencies in February in London, UK. A key focus of the meeting will be cooperation between agencies.

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