

Friends Peace Center buildings. They lived in the dormitory at the work site and rarely got back to their homes in this period. Each one, we learned in our own AVP workshop, has dreams and aspirations for serving in the world.

The Kakamega Friends Church has hundreds of parishioners, holding several services a week, including a youth service where hundreds of kids sang, danced and clapped their appreciation for God's gifts and each other. On the church grounds is a huge orphanage, which is supported by a partnership with New England Yearly Meeting. The young pastor there, Joseph Shamala, has a great vision for uniting the work of Kenyan yearly meetings and expanding the Friends Peace Center into a large regional retreat facility that can fund its own programs and staff.

On a personal note, the AGLI partnership arranged for robust care of our family and the rest of the work camp team, with generous meals, comfortable sleeping accommodations, and two weekend "out trips" as a break from our steady construction of the building. They organized the building project adeptly, making good use of the twenty pairs of willing hands on our team. While there were no mechanical devices used on the project, our strength of numbers still made fairly quick work out of the hauling of bricks, stone, and mortar and the assembly of the masonry walls of the structure.



Building the walls of Friends Peace Center with willing hands.

I could go on for hours about specific experiences, but check out the web site named above for more observations, and be sure to ask one of the Amoses about it when you see us.

The building we worked on is a large, six room structure which is now almost half complete. It will probably be finished by future work camps, but you can still have a part in promoting peace-building skills in Kenya by contributing toward the \$10,000 that will finish this building. The Amos family will match all contributions made in the 4th quarter of 2007, up to \$1,000. So double the effect of your gift, by sending a tax-deductible donation to **Friends Peace Teams / AGLI**, with "Amos/Lubao Peace Center" in the memo line. The address is 1001 Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63104. Thank you all for your support of this effective ministry of peace.

Project Lakota Update

By Greg Woods

This summer Candy and I went up to the Lakota Nation in late July and early August. Due to other conflicts, I could only be there for four days, but Candy and five other people were there for about two weeks. Again we camped near Lake Oglala, but due to some construction on the dam happening this summer, the lake was not there. We were all disappointed about this, especially the two children of Candy's friend, Beatrice, who were all excited about swimming. They even had their swimsuits on the last leg of the car trip in anticipated of being able to take a swim immediately upon arrival. We wished we had a lake many times, especially on the day when the temperature rose to 105 degrees.

One day I visited several Lakota friends across the reservation. The whole trip all across the reservation took me eight hours and I drove over 250 miles, because it is about the size of Connecticut. One friend told me that she has to choose between paying her telephone bill and buying food for her grandchildren. Another told me that she has been waiting 18 years for a tribal house. These stories are common on the reservation, especially with the small amount the government spends there continues to dwindle as federal funding gets cut to fund tax cuts and the continuing armed interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

After I left to attend Illinois Yearly Meeting, Candy and the others started on resealing the logs on the One Feather family cabin. They worked a lot with Partnership for Housing by working on a small house that used to be their office, getting it ready to be used by a family and helping to put the finishing touches on the Casey family Self-Help home. They also added a new subfloor in Minerva Blacksmith's trailer and tiled the floor in the kitchen, hallways, bath-

room and living room which originally had big gaping holes, patched two roofs for two elder women homeowners, and helped an elder man who lives in a very small one-room place by building a shade outside (like most, he had no air conditioning), and a small table with a place to hang a few pots and pans outside.

Our work on the Lakota Nation is different from other groups, especially other religious groups. Other groups go in and say they are going to build this and that and other religious groups go in and set up Vacation Bible Schools for the children. Instead we come and ask what needs to be done. We try to plan ahead and let everyone know what we are planning to do, but sometimes plans change and other projects come up. We would love to build more log homes, like the one we built for Gerald, but sometimes we have enough money just to make minor repairs to houses. These repairs are necessary for Lakota families to continue living in them through the winter. People still get sick and die there, especially the young and elderly from inadequate housing during the winter.

Candy and I have spent seven years raising money to help the Lakota, while we stayed busy with our personal lives and careers. When Project Lakota started, I was barely 16 and in May of this year, I graduated from college with a degree in Peace & Global Studies. For some of the past seven years, Candy dedicated herself to fulltime volunteer work with Project Lakota, the Joint Service Project, and Katrina but now she is back to fulltime (and more) teaching. Even with that, we are still dedicated and will continue this project for a long time – as long as grass grows.

Feel free to contact Candy (314-623-7829 or candyboydwrite@yahoo.com) or me (woodsgr@earlham.edu or 765-994-6113). Also visit our website <http://iym.quaker.org/projectlakota>

Meeting Reports

Downers Grove

By Sue Styer

Last April, Downers Grove Friends Meeting held an on-site retreat on The Quaker Peace Testimony, led by Lonnie Valentine from Earlham School of Religion. *The Peaceable Kingdom* by Edward Hicks (1780-1849) led into Lonnie Valentine's presentation.

We welcomed Susan Gilmore from Mountain View Monthly Meeting in Denver, CO. We welcomed her at the Memorial Day Weekend picnic. In addition, the two meeting chefs (Jesse Davison, newly returned from South Africa, and Sam Ostergaard) were our grillmeisters. We also welcomed new member Tom Fairbank this fall. Tom is a newly-minted junior high social studies teacher.

Our Peace, Social and Environmental Concerns committee organized a Sustainable Living Fair on June 9 at the College of DuPage. A few hundred people filtered through during the day. We had an informational table on conscientious objection and the peace testimony.

Mark Forsythe departed this world late June 5 while under the care of hospice. Gerald Bodmer passed away recently. Longtime member Joe Matt, recently retired to Iowa with his wife Barbara, also passed away this summer. We remember their spirits and hold their families in the Light.

We reached a conclusion on the remaining design features for our new meetinghouse and turned a final concept over to the architects and our builder. We are hoping to break ground in early 2008.

Anne Jones started writing a song about cicadas during the last cicada eruption 17 years ago and finished it this summer during the outbreak we

had this summer. It's been incubating along with the bugs. Here is it:

*Red-eyed bug, up high in the Maple tree
Red-eyed bug, alone you will never be
With your thousand friends, you sing a song that
never ends,
You climb up the tree and mate,
Only to die- but wait!
Your children live underground,
Seventeen years till the next time around
When we'll say "Wow", cicadas are great!*

Lake Forest

By Pam Kuhn

Exciting things are happening at Lake Forest Friends Meeting. We have just completed a two-year listening project concerning finances. About 35 Friends (half of our community) were interviewed and mused on various aspects of finances at the Meeting. We have now summarized these and are starting to think about how to use them to strengthen our meeting. The most difficult question was "How do we discern which organizations to support financially and how much to give to them?" Answers to this and other questions will hopefully help to give the Finance Committee direction and help the meeting as a whole to be more involved with the process. The process of meeting individually with Friends was a joy and energizing for all.

The other project that we have been working on for some time is the question of how we can support individual ministry at Lake Forest Friends Meeting. Last spring our Ministry and Counsel Committee seasoned this and brought it to the meeting requesting an ad hoc committee be formed to look at it further. At the time of this writing the ad hoc committee is working on this question and hopes to be reporting shortly to the

meeting.

Three Friends, two relatively new, one seasoned, have come together calling themselves Outreach Advocates. They have made observations about what it feels like to be a newcomer at the meeting. Things that we just didn't notice: like our signs are being overgrown with buckthorn and the need to help new people get involved in projects as a way of getting involved quickly. Just hearing these observations has helped us to be more intentional in trying to help people adjust to our community.

We are looking forward to welcoming Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends to our meetinghouse on March 1 for the Spring Continuing Committee.

Peoria-Galesburg Meeting

By Elke Narkiewicz

Peoria-Galesburg Meeting continues to meet every First Day morning at the Narkiewicz home at 504 North 2nd Street in Monmouth, IL. Business Meeting is second First Day. We have been using Marsha Holliday's guide book *Exploring Quakerism* every 3rd or 4th First Day to explore a topic using a worship sharing format. We have enjoyed the consistent participation of Nora Vera-Godwin from Keokuk, Iowa, for the worship sharing. This has been an enriching practice for our small meeting, and we are getting to know each other more deeply.

Outreach continues to be of great focus. We are listed in surrounding newspapers, publish information about each worship-sharing, inviting interested seekers to join us. Area colleges have our information for students. We are in the process of making a sign for our meeting which we will leave up year-round. This will hopefully help newcomers feel more at ease in finding us and help our community know we're here. We have two new attenders: Ellie Beach and Patti Sweeter, who have each been involved with Friends in the past. It is with joy that we share their presence each First Day.

Several of us attended the fall Blue River Quarterly in southern Illinois and enjoyed fellowship with Friends and enriching connections with each other.

South Bend

By Denise Thompson-Slaughter

For International Day of Prayer for Peace, the Young Friends in South Bend Meeting made "Pinwheels for Peace," with peaceful sayings written on the blades. These were displayed in the raised flowerbed (really an old horse-watering trough) outside the Charles Martin Center, although they mysteriously disappeared after the first day. The children are now looking forward, as are many of the adults, to our annual outing to a corn-maze and to our November retreat.

South Bend Friends agreed this spring to move Meeting for Business until after Meeting for Worship to prevent time constraints from affecting our deliberations. This is part of a general move to having a second-hour slot for activities, rather than scheduling events at 9:00 AM, when many Friends found it difficult to attend. So far, the "second hour," with Friends bringing a bag lunch, seems to be working well. We are also exploring the feasibility of starting a worship-group, under the care of South Bend Friends, in Goshen.

South Bend Friends have many reasons to celebrate this year. Most exciting is that we have a new infant in the meeting for the first time in probably a dozen years! James Louis Bradley Cobb was born on September 10th to attenders Catherine Pellegrino and Chris Cobb. The women of the meeting held a non-material baby shower for Catherine at the end of August, compiling for her a group-made book of readings, writings, and art about children and motherhood. Also in September, long-time Friends