Dear Friends and Family,

It's been a long time since we sent you a chatty newsletter sharing about some of the more ordinary events and influences in our lives and ministry. Here it is!

MEDIA

If you are looking for something good to read over the holidays, here are some recent reads about Africa that might interest you:

*Nine Hills to Nambonkaha, by Sarah Erdman.* A Middlebury grad turned Peace Corps volunteer reflects on relationships and challenges at her post in the northern Muslim region of Ivory Coast prior to the civil war. Many of her observations ring familiar in East Africa.

*The Eye of the Elephant, by Delia & Mark Owens.* Americans engaged in lion research become key players in the struggle against poaching of elephants and other wildlife in northeastern Zambia. Filled with bush lore, the authors live an extreme safari life, camping in the wilderness of a river flood basin. Corruption and violence almost defeat them; their creative response to the conflict and tireless, intensive efforts at fighting poverty are fascinating if controversial.

*Last Orders at Harrod’s, by Michael Holman.* A British author effectively portrays life in Kibera slum, Nairobi (where Lindi School is located). With humor and insight, he illustrates the resourcefulness of Kenyans and the many challenges faced by Africans living in urban poverty.

*The End of Poverty, by Jeffrey Sachs.* A controversial look at global inequities, international aid and development measures. His analysis of current problems and proposed solutions for poverty across the Southern Hemisphere are worth considering, although many agree that the implementation of his approaches may not be effective due to rampant corruption.

*The Next Christendom, by Philip Jenkins.* Jenkins teaches at Penn State, and has amassed vast amounts of statistical information to prove a very basic point: Christianity is the fastest-growing movement of any kind in the history of the world, and its future is not in America or Europe, but the Global South—Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The book is not number-heavy, but very readable, almost journalistic in style. It is a crucial reminder that American Christians are not, by any stretch of the imagination, at the center of the Christian world.

*Africa. National Geographic, Sept 2005, Special Issue.* We would love to secure several spare copies of this issue for the college library, if anyone knows someone who can part with theirs! The coverage of Kenya, Zambia, Congo is particularly fascinating, and the photos compelling—an excellent look at the disparities and contemporary challenges facing Africans. Advertised in this issue.
is a NG DVD series about Africa which would be an enormously helpful addition to the FTC library.

If you have a copy of the DVD of *The Constant Gardener* you could loan us, we'd love to see the film! We understand it won't be available in Kenya in theaters or shops for some time yet. Two of our Nairobi friends appear in it—Keith Pearson as the British High Commissioner and John Sibi-Okumu as the Minister of Health. John Sibi-Okumu has just published his own script, *Role Play: A Journey into the Kenyan Psyche*, and the recent staging of it at the French Cultural Centre was standing room only.

**THE REFERENDUM**

On Monday 21 November, Kenyans will have the historic opportunity to **vote on the proposed new constitution**. Six people have lost their lives and many more have been injured in campaign violence leading up to the vote—4 have died in Kisumu, 2 in Mombasa. The „civic education‰ in September and October was overshadowed by rallies and political maneuvering by members of parliament who may be presidential hopefuls in the next major election. Opposition leaders have seemed to suggest that the referendum on the constitution is more a vote of confidence in the current government. We hope and trust that peace, reason and unity will prevail, during the voting and especially afterwards.

**NEWS FROM KAIMOSI**

On 29 October 2005, FTC held its **commencement exercises, with 28 graduates**—the largest number ever. Diploma graduates were 17; certificate were 11. **Dr. Miriam Were** was the guest of honor with her husband, Humphreys. After the graduation, everyone joined in a **groundbreaking ceremony for the new meeting house** (a multi-purpose worship space). The offering brought $200 toward the new library. Those who attended said it was the most colorful graduation ever.

**Several students lost family members** and traveled to attend **funerals** in October and November. **Some students became ill** during this period, as well. The college has worked out guidelines for student medical treatment options. Unfortunately Kaimosi Friends Hospital is not yet able to meet our needs; there is enormous need within the mission and in the surrounding villages, so we pray that one day the hospital's board will bring effective and reliable health care to our area.

The librarians continue to catalog **new acquisitions received from Theological Book Network** in September; the books are being enjoyed by students and faculty with great happiness and gratitude.

In early November, Patrick had the opportunity to chat with **Larry Palmer, father of Eden Grace in Kisumu**, on the ham radio. Larry and his wife were preparing to enjoy a visit with the Graces this month. (Are there any other Quaker ham operators out there?)
Patrick and Mary Kay will celebrate Thanksgiving with two FTC faculty members, Pat Shrock, and Drs. Ray Downing and Jan Armstrong. We hope that a good time will be had by all at Quaker House Kaimosi, the guest house. Construction on the meeting house is expected to begin in December. Final negotiations are underway to select the architect who will supervise the work.

NEWS FROM ELDORET
Patrick and Mary Kay made a visit to Eldoret in early November to check in with the International Programs Office at Moi University and to search for housing in town. We did not locate an apartment, but we feel we made many useful contacts and many new friends. From this visit, we discovered how our lives and ministry will be enriched by meeting many new and interesting people working in Eldoret. In a short time, we've met members of the Moi University, Catholic, Protestant Missionary, and Asian (Indian/Pakistani) communities. We look forward to six rich years of fellowship and collaboration with others engaged in service there.

On our drive to Nairobi from Eldoret, we had the chance to briefly visit Pat Barnett's home at the AIC mission near Eldama Ravine. Pat's ministry is providing X-ray machines to mission hospitals, including upkeep and maintenance. She serves both Lugulu and Kaimosi Friends Hospitals. Her workshop was extremely impressive; 10 machines in various states of disassembly and repair! We also saw her sister, Helen, and had a look around Sunrise Acres, the missionary retreat which Helen hosts.

NEWS FROM NAIROBI
Patrick and Mary Kay spent a busy week in Nairobi, attended Friends International Centre (FIC) Ngong Road unprogrammed worship on one Sunday and the programmed meeting the following. Friends in Kenya undergo a process of adult religious education prior to being welcomed as full members, and on Sunday 13 November, we attended the service where many new members were accepted at FIC Village Meeting. Recent FTC graduate John Kidake Bulimo had been the instructor for this group.

Patrick had a promising visit to the Kenya Commission for Higher Education regarding accreditation and the development of a degree program by 2010, among other college errands.

We wish to express our thanks to Donald and Ruth Thomas, members of FIC unprogrammed meeting, who have provided us with hospitality on most of our visits to Nairobi over the past 3 years. Ruth is originally from Danville, Indiana, and Donald from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, but they have lived in Kenya since the 50s. Staying in their home means wonderful meals, fellowship and sharing about common Quaker interests—especially around ecology, inter-religious relations and peacebuilding, help with vehicle misadventures, learning about cultural activities in Nairobi, following political developments in Kenya, locating needed shops and resources for the college, meeting their many
fascinating friends, and feeling nurtured and cared for. Donald and Ruth have made an extraordinary in-kind financial contribution to our ministry, saving us tens of thousands of shillings on the cost of accommodation in Nairobi. But even more, they've provided gentle guidance, shared their combined century of wisdom on living and traveling in Africa, and encouraged us through many challenges in our work. The Thomases have a gift for hospitality, and they have even welcomed our visitors into their home and circle of friends. We have them to thank for locating Turi, the school our children attend. We're grateful for all they've provided for our family, and for the generous people they are.

While in Nairobi, we met several new couples and spent a weekend with one of them, **Yumiko Yokozeki and Paul Gifford**. Yumiko is a 1981 graduate of Earlham College whom Patrick met on an Earlham faculty trip to Japan in 2001. She works for the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA). Paul is professor of African Christianity at the University of London, currently on sabbatical. We met through the Thomases, at the unprogrammed meeting in Nairobi, and were glad to find how many things we had in common! We also had the chance to catch up with **Terry Charlton, SJ**, at Loyola House. A Hoosier, Terry taught at our alma mater, Xavier in Cincinnati. We were fascinated to hear him reflect on the challenges of young Kenyan men considering a vocation to become a Jesuit, his work with the new Jesuit high school St. Aloysius Gonzaga that serves AIDS orphans in Kibera, and his work with Christian Life Communities—a movement that shares Jesuit spirituality with lay people throughout Kenya.

During our summer deputation we failed on one major count—we had resolved to take in some live music or a concert while in the USA. But happily, we made up for it when we went to the **Hootenanny** concert in Nairobi. A band of (currently) 8 expats that started in 1967 (!) played a range of music, from Irish and Celtic folk songs to 1960s and 70s dance and folk music—Eagles, Beatles, John Denver, among others. They played with verve—especially the harmonica player! We enjoyed clapping and singing along, watching the fans cut loose on the dance floor. Every now and then it’s good for us to get out and appreciate a dose of our own culture and heritage and this was a fun way to do it! We only wished our girls were there to do some Irish step dancing.

**NEWS ABOUT THE GIRLS**

**Emma and Eliza have just completed exams** for the Christmas Term. While sprinting, **Emma had a painful knee episode** that required a special trip to Kijabe Hospital. We were grateful to see an orthopedic doctor there who established that she had no tearing or instability in her knee; it’s common in adolescents. So she is taking it a bit easy on sports and doing some physical therapy to strengthen the muscles around the knee, treating it with ice and ibuprofen when it’s especially painful. We appreciated the listening and comforting ear of Dr. Ray Downing as we decided where to take Emma for examination and treatment.

Both girls played in the orchestra and Emma sang in the Senior School Chorus at the **Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate St. Andrew,s School-Turi, s**
75th anniversary. We were grateful to be able to attend the historic event at St. Andrew's Church in Nairobi. Most impressive were the logistics of transporting the whole school community—children, teachers, kitchen staff, stools, musical instruments and stands (and the requisite tea and cake which accompanies every significant Turi event!). We thank God that nearly 500 children and 100 staff traveled safely to Nairobi and back in several buses, eight hours round-trip over the rough roads.

We will enjoy a respite from camping at second VISO this term, staying with the Baskerville family. Rev. Baskerville is the new Turi chaplain, and they kindly offered us their guest banda, so we can leave tents at home, hoping to be a bit warmer and dryer than usual.

PRAYER CONCERNS

We give thanks to God for the help we received for Emma's knee at Kijabe Hospital; for the hospitality and friendship of Donald and Ruth Thomas in Nairobi; for a successful graduation and the contributions of Dr. and Mr. Were; for many new friends in Eldoret; for the ministry of Pat Barnett in providing X-ray machines to both Friends mission hospitals in Kenya; for the safe travels and wonderful celebration of the 75th anniversary for the Turi school community; for the hospitality of the Yokozeki/Giffords in Nairobi and the Baskerville family at Turi during VISO.

We ask God to cover the following concerns with the Holy Spirit:

- For Kaimosi Friends Hospital—we pray that the staff and their board will improve their services and provide effective, reliable health care to the large, needy Tiriki catchment area.
- For Emma—we pray that her right knee will continue to strengthen and improve, with the help of school staff.
- For housing in Eldoret—we continue to search for a small apartment for Mary Kay.
- For hiring an Academic Dean or Deputy Principal—the search is underway, with advertising and accepting applications. We pray that the FTC board will consider candidates wisely and select someone who will make significant contributions to campus life.
- For our supporter and dear friend, Linda Coppock—Linda is having brain surgery to remove a tumor this month. We pray for her complete recovery, as well as strength and courage for her entire family in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Richmond, Indiana.
- For our visit to Njoro Friends Church—on Sun. 4 Dec. we'll bring the message to Friends in Njoro (near Turi). FTC graduate, Edwin Wafula, is the pastor there.
- For enduring peace in Kenya—we pray that following the constitutional referendum there are many concerns about building unity among the ethnicities and political parties; we pray that the entire government and
especially the president will act with wisdom, strength and selflessness during this tense time.

- **For all FUM Field Staff and the central office** we pray that Friends, generosity will enable the central office and Field Staff ministry accounts to be supported at a level that will keep us all out of deficit spending; that we will all find ways of sharing the holidays with colleagues and friends in the field, and that our family members in home areas will appreciate one another in ways that ease the sadness of separation.

We trust that all our American readers will enjoy wonderful Thanksgiving celebrations with friends and family. We pray that the love and fellowship you’ve shared will find expression in the wider world, to cover and uplift those who are lonely, ill, or suffering in any way during this holiday season. As the year comes to a close, Friends United Meeting has many fiscal needs—like many other charitable organizations. **As your resources are stretched with rising fuel costs for vehicles and home heating during winter, please remember our ministry in prayer and know that your financial support is needed now more than ever, for our ministry to continue serving Friends in East Africa.**

Best wishes and happy holidays,

Mary Kay and Patrick

*Jesus said: Happy are they who hear the word of God and obey it. ~Luke 11:27-28*

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