

Friends Church Peace Team

On December 27, 2007, Kenya held a national election. On December 29, as it appeared that the counting of the ballots was being manipulated, “hot spots” in the country erupted in protest. Two months later, 1,133 people had been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced from their homes. Kenyans were deeply shocked by the events unfolding around them.



On January 14, the leaders of FUM, FWCC, Friends Church Kenya, USFW, Quaker Men and Quaker youth met to consider our response. A National Quaker Peace Conference was hastily called for the weekend of January 24–27. Sixty-two Friends leaders gathered in Kakamega, representing every yearly meeting, all the Friends “umbrella” organizations and all of the Quaker-related peace, mission and development organizations working in Kenya. An appointed Coordinating Committee named itself the **Friends Church Peace Team** (FCPT), intentionally relating themselves with the Christian Peacemaker Teams and Friends Peace Teams.

The first three months of FCPT’s work were focused on humanitarian aid and crisis intervention. The all-volunteer Peace Team quickly taught itself how to conduct large-scale feeding programs for those displaced from their homes, while organizing spiritual counseling, medical camps and trauma healing workshops. After the political situation stabilized, FCPT mediated the successful return of 4,000 displaced families and provided numerous workshops for healing, reconciliation and violence prevention.

It is now two years since the post-election violence, and the Team continues to carry out workshops for prevention of violence and reconciliation of hostile communities. Intensive work is also underway, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, George Fox University, United Society of Friends Women International and individuals, on a peace curriculum for use in schools at both primary and secondary levels.

FCPT is discerning its next work and hopes to be able to hire a coordinator to facilitate the long-term commitment of Friends for peace in Kenya. FCPT welcomes the prayers of all Friends for the faithful witness of peace in this time and place.

Travel to Kenya with FUM this Summer!

The USFWI/Quaker Men’s Triennial will be held in Mombasa, Kenya, July 1-4, 2010. FUM invites you to **EXTEND YOUR STAY** in Kenya, July 5-15, with options for a safari, work team, project partner visits and General Board meeting. Find out more at www.fum.org. **Registrations are encouraged by April 1.**

Allen Jay Featured in New Book

“He was the most deeply loved Friend of our generation.”

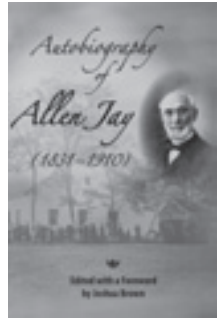
— Rufus Jones, 1910

The text of *Autobiography of Allen Jay* first appeared as a series of articles in *The American Friend* from 1908–09. It appeared in book form in 1910. One-hundred years later Friends United Press has made this title available again.

In his Introduction, historian Tom Hamm writes, “Allen Jay was one of the most remarkable Friends of the 19th century, indeed, perhaps one of the most remarkable Friends who ever lived. His life was full of paradoxes. Born with a cleft palate, he became one of the most admired and successful Quaker preachers of his time. A native of the Ohio frontier, he became widely traveled and admired around the globe. A peacemaker by nature, he nevertheless did not shrink from controversy when he saw a principle involved. Firmly committed to what he understood as historic Quakerism, he nevertheless helped lead perhaps the most dramatic, even revolutionary, change that it has ever experienced. And in the midst of controversy, he managed to retain the respect, even love, of almost everyone with whom he came into contact.”

Allen Jay was personally involved in everything from the Underground Railroad to the Civil War, from the painful separations of Friends to the growth of programmed worship and pastoral meetings. The *Richmond Declaration of Faith* was written in his living room, and he was instrumental in the organization of Friends mission work and the foundation of Five Years Meeting.

“If you want to understand Quakerism in the 1600s, you have to read *The Journal of George Fox*. If you want to understand Friends in the 1700s, you have to read *The Journal of John Woolman*. And if you want to understand the complex challenges and changes faced by Friends in the 1800s, you have to read *Autobiography of Allen Jay*.” — From the Foreword, by Joshua Brown



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