

**Friends United Meeting**  
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# Friends United Meeting Field Staff Updates

Spring 2010

New reusable  
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Read more from our Field Staff and all our projects around the world in the May/June 2010 issue of *Quaker Life* magazine!



Joyce Ajlouny and family

I am often asked by friends and relatives about the reasons I remain living a strenuous life, under military occupation when we have, as Palestinian-Americans, the possibility of living a “better” and safer life in the United States. I respond by asking those who question me what, in their opinion, constitutes a “better” life. Most normally agree that a good life is one that is *meaningful* and with a clear *purpose*. I have contemplated the question of my purpose for a while now. Some of my obvious and more commonly stated purposes have included: to be a good mother, to effect change around me, to be satisfied and happy, to make a difference, to follow my calling. While these are all profound and legitimate, I finally settled on one purpose (at least for now) that seems to sum-up a lot for me: *to be true to my values by being an example for others*. Working for Friends United Meeting and in the leadership capacity at the Ramallah Friends Schools (RFS) is a superb place for me to try and inspire others to act according to our shared values. With over 1,170 students and 130 staff members, and thousands of parents and alumni, serving the RFS community is providing me with the opportunity to serve my community in ways that I only imagined in my dreams. — Joyce Ajlouny



Sam and Becky Barber and family

As I write, we have just completed our first year of service in Belize. As a family, we have been blessed as we have adjusted to our new life and our ministry at Belize Friends School. We have each embraced these adjustments a little differently. We consider this year a learning year. We have tried not to make any drastic changes as we learn the culture, the working of the school and of the greater educational environment. With each new day, we see how God has prepared us for this time and this purpose. It is affirming to see how God has ordered our steps. We recognize that these adjustments have occurred through the ongoing prayers of our Friends. We believe that we see answers to prayer each and every day. We have been blessed and encouraged by the new and renewed interest in the Friends ministry in Belize.

— Sam and Becky Barber

## Invite Field Staff to your Meeting!

Field staff will be in the U.S. this summer and are available to speak at your meeting. Contact [kims@fum.org](mailto:kims@fum.org) or call (765) 962-7573 to schedule a date.

### Sam & Becky Barber

- June 8–19 — Western Yearly Meeting area
- June 20–27 — Indiana Yearly Meeting area
- July 24–August 4 — Iowa Yearly Meeting area

### Eden Grace

- August 7–12 — New England Yearly Meeting annual sessions
- September 19–October 16 — Locations not yet decided

### Joyce Ajlouny

Joyce did deputation work earlier this year, but will be back in the U.S. this summer to get her oldest son situated in college and may do limited speaking engagements.

### Ann Riggs

Mid-July to mid-August — attending Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Aug 2-8) and about 10 days in the Indiana, Western and Wilmington Yearly Meeting areas.



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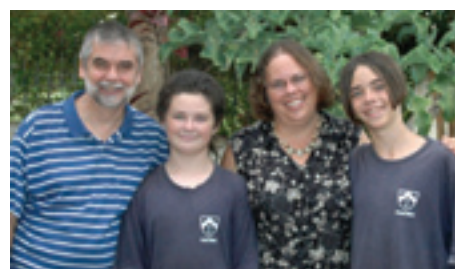
**Thank you for responding to Christ's call to take the Good News to all nations by "Tuning In" to FUM's global ministries through prayer, financial support and receiving updates from our Field Staff and mission sites. If you know someone who has a heart for missions and would be blessed by knowing more about FUM's global ministries, please share what you know and encourage them to sign up on our mailing list. We would love to share the news of what Friends are doing in the Caribbean, East Africa, Palestine and North America!**

On a Saturday morning in February 2010 I was sitting on the steps of the chapel at Friends Theological College (FTC). One of the students came to join me and to share, "The students are so happy with the new things you've brought to campus recently. I want a picture of me with my principal to have years from now in my ministry." A nearby student joined in: "You look like a mother and son talking there, so friendly. Can we daughters be in the picture, too?" Being principal at FTC is very much like being a parent of a very large family. Some call me *Momi*, echoing the biblical usage of those who teach and mentor addressing those who learn as spiritual sons and daughters, as for instance in Proverbs 1-7 and *1 Timothy 1:2*. My own daughter, Emma, about the same age as many FTC students, is both so much like these African sons and daughters and so different. Likewise, in my life in Kenya I find the spiritual experiences of Friends are both surprisingly similar to those of Friends at home and surprisingly different, being deeply shaped by local life experiences and perspectives. The students here pray for me frequently. I think I have never enjoyed so many prayers being offered on my behalf. Most often they ask that the Lord will grant me wisdom. Surely, as principal at FTC I need true wisdom, for "Wisdom is a fountain of life to one who has it." (*Proverbs 16.22a*) — Ann Riggs



Ann Riggs and FTC students

Receiving short-term mission teams is always a highlight of my work, and this year I coordinated the non-African delegates to the pan-African Quaker youth triennial conference. As much as hosting team visits is demanding, I always feel energized by the interaction with people who are experiencing Africa for the first time, and feel a deep assurance that God is using my gifts to help visitors have the best experience possible. Like all of the field staff, my stipend and expenses are covered by designated contributions toward my ministry account. As I have been in Kenya over five years, support has fallen off (people always want to give to a new thing — it's hard to keep up sustained support over time!). I am so grateful to the households who have set up automatic monthly contributions toward my support. If another two dozen households could do the same, my ministry account could be stabilized! Please continue to pray for me and my family (husband, Jim, and sons, Jesse and Isaiah) as we seek to live in accordance with God's will and minister in the African context. — Eden Grace



Eden Grace and family

One of the ways we can be good stewards of God's resources is by using this new, reusable ecoEnvelope™. Please detach the portion below with your donation and make sure the FUM address shows through the window. Thank you!

  
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**Tune in to the ministries of FUM — the channel that energizes and equips Friends through the power of the Holy Spirit to respond to Christ's call to take the Good News to all nations!**

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**I want to support the work of FUM with my gift of:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for **Eden Grace** and her work at the Africa Ministries Office.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for **Ann Riggs** and her work at Friends Theological College.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for **Sam & Becky Barber** and their work at Belize Friends Boys School.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for **Joyce Ajlouny** and her work at the Ramallah Friends Schools.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to use for **all FUM Field Staff**.