

EPISTLE FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA YEARLY MEETING (C&SAYM)

## **YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS GATHERING**

21 -28 JUNE 2013

We, 13 young adult Friends gathered in Kagisong (Place of Peace) Hotel and Conference Centre from Botswana, Lesotho and South Africa, under the theme ***'Silence, Action and Transformation'***.

We were able to deepen our Quaker roots through Meeting for Worship where we experienced the depth of silence and singing under the trees in the garden of Kagisong Hotel. We also learned and practiced Worship Sharing. Our Elders met with us to share their insights on the history of Quakers in Botswana.

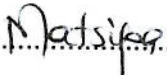
On First Day Young Friends gathered with other young children and adults in Meeting for Worship. We resumed Worship Sharing and had a fruitful discussion on Quaker Faith and Practice. On two evenings we watched selections from the DVD — A FORCE MORE POWERFUL, on Mahatma Gandhi's Salt March, how Danes opposed Hitler non-violently, and the Boycott in the Eastern Cape against Apartheid.

We were able to give and share our loving energies to the local Child Line Centre in Block Seven, through a three-day work camp where we worked in their vegetable garden under the guidance of centre gardener, Kagiso (Peace). The garden helps to feed the children at the centre and the local community may buy organic vegetables at an affordable price. We also brought clothes that we donated to the Kagisano Society Women's Shelter, which gives home and counselling to the women and children who caught in abusive relationships.

We were transformed through Worship Sharing, shaking hands with the children at the centre and learning from each other in the time that we were together. In giving our energy and time we were able to receive the skills in gardening from Kagiso.

We depart with gratitude and send our loving greetings to all Friends, young and not so young. We also would like to express our gratitude to the Eveline Cadbury Trust Fund, for enabling us to gather and deepen our Quaker Spirituality for the seven days we spent in Botswana. We thank God for the loving care and support we enjoyed from the Botswana Monthly Meeting Friends before and during the seven days we spent in the country. We thank one of our Elders, who was able to join us and give us guidance over three days of the Work camp and Worship.

We part with a sad but hopeful heart that we will make a difference in our local Meetings and communities through Silence, Knowledge, Action and Transformation.

Signed .......... Mamasole Matsipa (Clerk)