

FROM THE FOUR NORDIC YEARLY MEETINGS

To Friends Everywhere

Friends from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden met for the third time for a joint Nordic Quaker gathering with yearly meetings at the Nordic Folk High School in historic Kungälv, 25th – 28th June, 2009. Guests from many other countries have also been with us.

We have been gathered around the theme: *Love for the Earth. Let your life speak!*

Per Ingvar Haukeland explained how deep ecology and the Quaker faith may combine and serve as inspiration and support in our work towards a nature friendly and sustainable society.

Our history, the present and the future have met here, and we have been reminded of the importance of safeguarding a future beyond our own through the presence of our youngest participants, the children.

Throughout our history, Quakers have been concerned to take care of all creation, from George Fox and John Woolman and up to Friends in our own time. From them we receive inspiration and leadings to meet the challenges of our own time. Our Quaker tradition obliges each one of us to take responsibility for how we live our lives and to be examples. Our inner conviction and insight, the experience of that of God in every one and in all creation, will be our motive power. In this we have a secure base.

Our guests and participants have moved us deeply with their testimonies, among other things we heard of the work of African Friends against violence and oppression and learned their promising greeting: MULEMBE (Live in Peace)!

Today we see a clear connection between several traditional areas which need our attention and effort: peace work, refugee questions and ecology. The Quaker testimonies will be our support.

The message and the challenges which we take home are best expressed in the words: *Love for the Earth. Let your life speak* – and: *Be the change that you seek – where you are!*

Hjerre F. Hviid

Heather Lundberg

Unni Sørsveen

Sue Frykman and

Denmark

Finland

Norway

Kerstin Backman

Sweden

This epistle is available in other Nordic languages and in English.

The children's epistle from the Nordic Yearly Meetings 2009

Love for the Earth – Let your life speak!

We went swimming, played in the field
and in the trees; we have eaten different food
from what we are used to, built with Lego,
played around, cuddled the cat
(which had a tick! Should we remove the tick?)
made drawings and cuttings and created a play.

Thus our lives have spoken during the
gathering of Yearly Meetings. That's how it is.

Silvia, Emilie, Karen Sofie, Thomas, Adrian,
James, Terho, Isak, Ingvild, Monica, Nina,
Mathilde, Ella, Bendik

Marit, Vidar, Maija, Ingebjørg
14 children, 4 adults