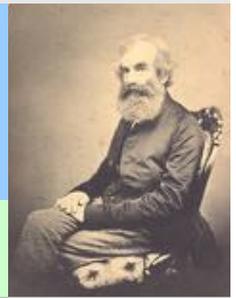


# Earthcare Invitation

## Travelling Friends



*James Backhouse, (1794 to 1869); nurseryman and Quaker missionary, along with George Washington Walker, sailed from England to witness and report on the conditions of the 'Colonies and Settlements of New Holland, Van Dieman's Land and South Africa' between 1830 and 1841.*

### P ray



Adrian Glamorgan in Tokyo park

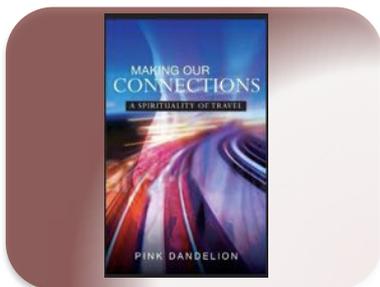
To be human often means to travel, and we have diverse choices to take ourselves to distant lands, or find we are welcoming guests from far off places. We discern whether or not to travel, auditing the costs to our selves, families, communities, and planet – the triple bottom line of financial, social and environmental costs – and we open to the mystery of any spiritual benefits.

We hold in mind our privilege in choosing travel, grateful for the opportunities it offers for bringing freshness and new perspectives to our Meetings, for helping redress isolation, and encouraging openness in our listening.

Amidst our gratitude and mindfulness, we hold in the light those who are travelling in struggle and strife, forced to move in ways not of their choosing, in response to dangerous and difficult provocation. We open to ways of supporting them.

*In times of busyness, whether from social or other upheavals we invite you to consider daily practice that also connects with our precious earth: Listening to the Spirit.*

### R ead



For a Quaker pondering on the topic of travel, from British author, Ben Pink Dandelion – who loves his topic – we recommend this book:

[Making Our Connections: A Spirituality of Travel](#) by Pink Dandelion (SCM Press, 2013) - Travelling less or travelling differently.

Here's a taster:-

"I don't present travel, then, as an environmental evil (although we need to be very mindful of its impact), but as an obvious strategy of our desire to engage. The challenge, I suggest, is how we balance our spiritual motivations with the ease and delights of travel...."

## Quaker Quote

We are familiar with the three-point plan for what we consume in our living: reduce, re-use, recycle. Well, there is a similar three-point plan to consider for energy use: avoid, reduce, offset."

from Lainie and David Shorthouse, Canberra RM, 2017

## Act



FWCC Secretaries gather in Rwanda, 2017. L-R: Robin Mohr, Section of the Americas; Ronis Chapman, Asia-West Pacific Section; Marisa Johnson, Europe and Middle East Section; Gretchen Castle, World Office; and Churchill Malimo, Africa Section.

Action consideration: How do we budget our travel, individually and as Meetings? A conscious travel budget for each year discerns how we define the "right" amount of travel (allowing for unexpected happenings, like we do with a financial budget). This includes, amongst other things,

- Carbon offsets (such as with ngo **Greenfleet**), and
- **Dollar for Refill** through your Quaker Meeting.

Planning and cooperation with others can help (car pooling, combining journeys with other travellers and other activities, perhaps making a longer trip to better connect with Friends). Consider your yearly donations in conjunction with your travel plan, and audit your activities according to inner guidance. If stuck, then a Quaker clearness meeting may help your discernment, and resolve the struggle.

Consider how your meeting can connect with distant friends other than by travel, such as by sharing newsletters, using phone and internet (Zoom meetings perhaps), and even sharing online worship (as with Woodbrook and Silver Wattle).

## Celebrate



Peace Boat, visiting Australia in recent weeks, received a great welcome from peace groups at each arrival point.

An inspiration for peace and the end of nuclear weapons arrived in Australian ports recently with Peace Boat. The EcoShip they are developing for launch in 2020 promises 40% cut on CO2 emissions and so much more – an essential advancement in a fuel hungry cruise ship industry. Read about it at [eco-shop-pb.com](http://eco-shop-pb.com). The philosophy and aim of Peace Boat is to provide a floating community for spinning webs of connection around the world for peace. They cruise to significant events, and on this voyage brought *hibakusha* – atomic bomb survivors of Nagasaki and Hiroshima – to meet with many across the world, to build understanding and empathy across different cultures, and also to advance the aim of ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

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Australian Friends are involved in *earthcare* in many ways: individually, in our Meeting Houses, and in activities throughout the wider community. See more of a Quaker view of *earthcare* at

[www.quakersaustralia.org.au](http://www.quakersaustralia.org.au)

Please be in touch with us at [earthcare@quakers.org.au](mailto:earthcare@quakers.org.au)