

Journeys in the Spirit



Children

Sheet 24.A Gather

Saying a prayer for peace together

Copy and cut out the words of this prayer. Give one or more to each person to say or be helped with saying. Arrange everybody in the order of the words. Each word could be numbered – that might be easier to order. This will need practice but, as the words have a rhythm about them, you should find, after a few goes that it becomes like a song. It needs to be said or slightly sung in quite a low tone. This could be fun – something for the whole Meeting to do?

OM SAHANA VAVATU

SAHANA BHUNATTU

SAHA VIRYAM

KARAWAVAHAI

TEJASVINAVADITAMASTU

MA VIDVISHAVAHAI

OM SHANTI SHANTI SHANTI

OM

Use it again in the Reflect or closing part of your session. Everyone can recite it or just one person. Remember to read the translation as well.

Journeys in the Spirit



Children

Sheet 24.B

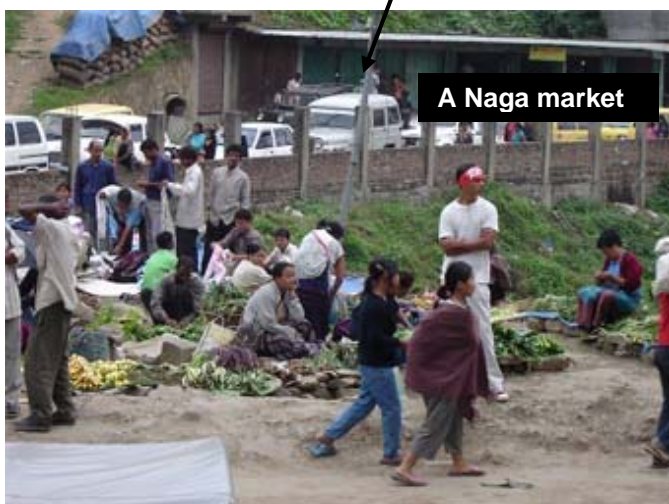
Engage

Nagaland, Nepal and India

Nepal



See Sheet 22.A of Journeys in the Spirit issue 22 for a nice picture of a globe



Journeys in the Spirit



Children

Sheet 24.C

Engage

A story of two women

This is a story of two women who live thousands of miles apart but still helped each other.

Radha lives in Nepal. She has two young children. Her husband was a soldier who wanted to help the poor people in Nepal. (Note: he was a Maoist). He had been taken prisoner and killed by the army of Nepal. All Radha had left was a piece of land to farm to feed her family. Her husband's family were cruel – they said it was all her fault. Her young son was very, very angry about his dad. He said that, when he grew up he would get his own back and kill people. Of course, underneath, he was very, very sad.

Radha didn't want to come to the meeting and talk but she did. It turned out very good that she did. In the group was a young woman called Thurka (pronounced 'Turka'). She was a peace person from the island of Sri Lanka – it is at the bottom of India, like a tear. She told her story. When she was much younger, her dad and her uncle had disappeared, they had been taken by the army in a war on her island (this war is still going on today) – she never saw them again. Still, she worked for peace. I suppose she didn't want anybody else to go through what she had. Thurka's story made Radha feel a big rush of hope. Maybe her children could get over their terrible sadness and not hurt other people? Maybe she could also try to help peace grow in Nepal?

What do you think?



Thurka

...sitting just out of the picture



Radha

...as she tells her story



Stuart Morton
Quaker worker

Journeys in the Spirit



Children

Sheet 24.D

Engage

A story of some fighters

It was going to be a special day and it might be hard to do. Forty people had come a long way from their home. Some of them were men who had been fighting each other and hurting people in Nagaland where they lived. Some Quakers were there to help find ways to stop fighting.

Everybody sat – people were nervous, even scared. Women and men needed to tell their stories. Everyone agreed to listen. There would be a little quiet after each person spoke. There was a special stone, a speaking stone – when a person wanted to speak, she or he had to hold the stone; when someone else held it everyone had to listen. Two men, V.S. Atem and Wangtin Naga, began to speak. They were brave – back in Nagaland they had been fighting, they had small armies. They told a long story. Their fathers and their grandfathers had been fighting in wars in Nagaland for more than 50 years. Now, they said, it should stop. They made a promise to help each other – some of the people in their armies wouldn't like this.

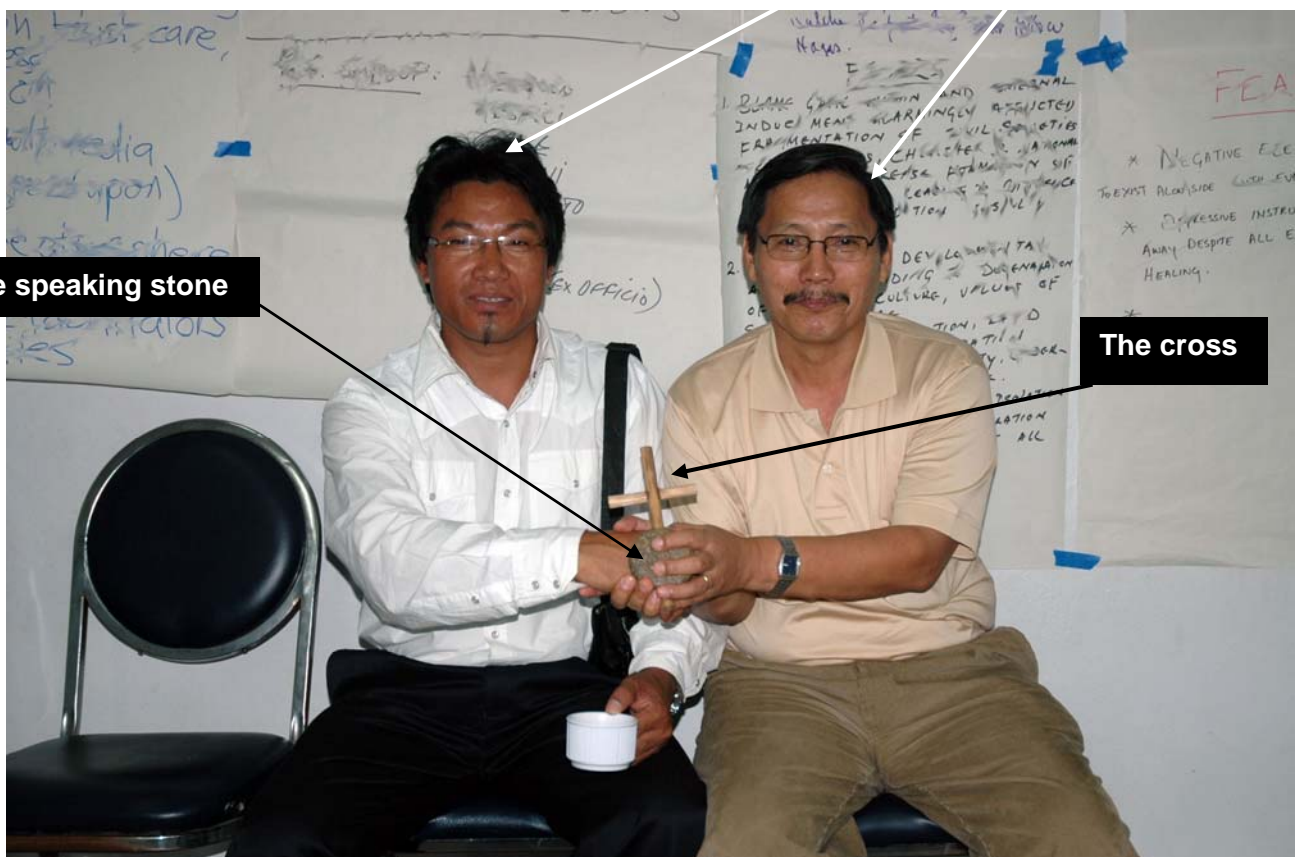
Everybody felt sad and happy at the same time.

On another day at this meeting something else very special happened. In the Bible Jesus washed the tired and dusty feet of his special friends, the disciples. This was to show that he was the same as them. He felt humble (little) and so did they. Some of the 40 people who had been listening and talking with each other washed each others feet as a sign of being peaceful with each other. (See the Bible : John Ch. 13 v 5, 14.)

Here are some questions to use to help conversation about this true story:

- I wonder which part of this story you like the most?
- I wonder which part of this story you think is the most important.
- I wonder, could you wash the feet of another person in the way they did?

Here is a picture of V.S. Atem and Wangtin Naga



The speaking stone

The cross

Journeys in the Spirit

Children

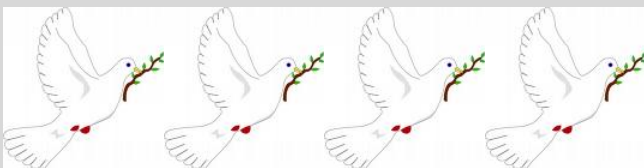


Sheet 24.E Engage and Respond Football, peace and prayers



In the training centre where we met in Nepal we held our own ceremony for the signing of the peace agreement for Nepal. As part of our programme at the end of each day we had a spiritual exploration session led by a different participant each time. So we had Hindu, Buddhist, Moslem, Christian, Quaker - and spiritual sessions that were not rooted in any religious faith. We found this to be a powerful bonding element throughout the time we spent together.

Could your Meeting host a multi- faith worship gathering for peace?



Making a living time line of working for peace.

Get a big ball of wool, 12 dove shapes cut from A4 card - on one write 1960, on another 1999. The doves represent the eight visits to Nagaland by Friends since 1999 and the four big meetings held in Thailand to help people from Nagaland meet in a safe place. In children's or big meeting, with children or everybody, ask someone born in or near 1960 to hold the 1960 dove and the start of the wool. Ask someone born in or near 1999 to hold their card and the wool quite a way after 1960. Now ask for children born in or near subsequent years to hold a dove and the wool in order of age. Ask one or more adults or older children to stand with them. Everyone must end up standing with another person. The youngest person should hold or be helped to hold the final, the 12th dove and, almost, the end of the wool. This final dove brings you right up to date. Quakers from our Yearly Meeting are visiting Nagaland between February 20th and March 1st 2009. Ask a child, maybe with an adult or older child, to think of and say a prayer to wish Naga people and their Quaker visitors lots of strength and love to bravely keep working for peace. Our prayer is one way of helping this long journey and conversation for peace. Look back to how long it has been going on.



Here are V.S. Atem and Wangtin Naga accepting the cup after the football match that their team won. The woman making the presentation is Lynda Williams, a Quaker

Journeys in the Spirit

Children



Sheet 24.F

Respond

A mask of ourselves

