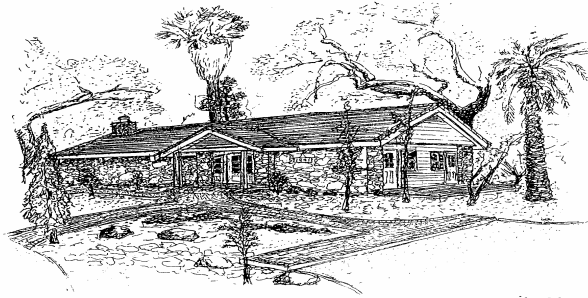


Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296
Visalia, CA 93291

Newsletter

April 9, 2006



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

Stewardship and Vocation

John Woolman said, “*As Christians all we possess are the gifts of God... To turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of Universal Love becomes the business of our lives.*” The principle of stewardship applies to all we have and are. As individuals, we are called to use our time, our various abilities, our strength, our money, and our material possessions with care, managing them wisely and sharing them generously.

From the indwelling Seed of God, we discover our particular gifts and discern the service to which we are called. In making choices about occupation or education, consider the way that offers the fullest opportunity to develop your individual abilities and contribute to the world community while providing for yourself and your family. In daily work, manifest a spirit of justice and understanding, and thus give a living witness to the truth.

Be ready to limit engagements, to withdraw for a time, or even to retire from an activity that inhibits your ability to follow a higher call. Try to discern the right moment to accept new responsibilities as well as to relinquish responsibility that can pass to others. Be open to your calling in different stages of life. Meetings need the strength and vigor of young people as well as the experience and wisdom of elders. Although they may not be able to contribute great financial support, their energy and insight invigorate the community. As people begin careers and families, they may need the spiritual and experienced help of the Meeting. Later, when families are growing up and careers are established, greater participation in the Meeting and greater financial support may become possible. Welcome the approach of old age, your own and others’, as an opportunity for wisdom and greater attachment to the Light. Meetings should be ready with material and spiritual support for those suffering from unemployment or facing difficult vocational decisions.

- How have I been faithful to the leadings of the Spirit in choosing work or vocation?
- What am I doing with my talents, time, money, and possessions? Am I sharing them according to the Light I am given?
- Is my conduct at the workplace consistent with my life as a Friend?
- How does my daily work enhance my spiritual life?
- *How does the Meeting help and support members who are in job transitions?*

Meeting for Business

Present: Olga McCallister, David & Klara East, David Chandler, Greg Seastrom, Bill & Beth Lovett, Bob & Joy Marshall, Joanne Dudley, Charlene Roberts- Caudle, Patti Howard, John & Shirley Dackawich. Sandra Sturdervant, Dick Hannigan, Julie Sinistore

Meeting began in silent worship

Mail & News: Fresno Meeting will be sending newsletter via email, please contact them if you'd like to receive a copy, PYM registration now and is available on-line,

Miscellaneous:

Bill Lovett: Sandra Sturdervant is willing to have the Migrant photo exhibit displayed for an extended time in the solarium. Bill asked the meeting to allow Sandra to keep the exhibit up until she needed them for other exhibits.

M&O:

1. Health and welfare of meeting – all are good.
2. Retreat items – to talk about how Quakers can live in a world in which resources are being depleted and how Quakers can responded in a responsive manner. Klara will report.
3. Need a written policy for sexual misconduct at meeting related activities and the needed insurance policy coverage. Cost might be up to \$75 per year. There are other legal issues to explore. Greg forwarded these to Sharlene to investigate the need for background checks, etc. Bill expressed the liability that might occur if something should happen. Sharlene also stated that other meetings are addressing this issue as well.
4. A master calendar should be developed and will be addressed in the next M & O meeting.
5. Sharlene presented cloth bags to be used for shopping as a means for recycling. Sharlene has a source and ordering information for potentially ordering more bags. She forwarded the ordering information to David. Olga also suggested energy savings by using “solar” clothes dryers (clothes lines). We will discuss next month.

Quaker Bolivia Link: Fresno meeting would like to present on the 4/30 here after meeting.

Quarterly Meeting Representative: If you are planning to go to Ben Lomand for Quarterly meeting, see David for info on representation.

State of the Meeting: A meeting will take place on April 23rd after worship to prepare the State of the Meeting report to present to Quarterly Meeting. David East will take minutes and prepare a report.

Retreat Report: Klara announce that both Mark and Trudy have made suggestions for Retreat themes. Klara read Mark's proposal regarding a theme of how Quakers can live in a world with increasing depleting natural resources (peak oil). Klara asked the meeting what their response was to Mark's proposal. Klara asked if there was a need for fun and relaxation as well as serious contemplation. Meeting suggested there be time for both. Sharlene suggested that there be a time for personal growth that comes from the retreat. There was further discussion on this theme. Retreat should focus on personal dimension as well as a global dimension. What should Friends be doing now in light of this looming crisis affecting the planet? There was an affirmation of unity from the meeting regarding this theme.

Outreach Committee: Sign is painted. Bill has hardware completed but still needs installation. There are still some details regarding installation. Bill will contact help as needed.

Help will be needed to assist in setup on the 15th for the Easter Potluck.

Meeting ended in silence