

Visalia Friends Meeting

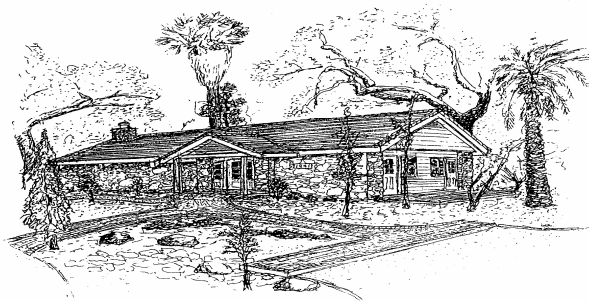
17208 Ave 296

Visalia, CA 93291

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Newsletter August, 2007



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 8-12-07

Present: David East, David Chandler, , Graciela Martinez, Bill Warner, Olga McCallister, Bill & Beth Lovett, John & Shirley Dackawich, Greg Seastrom. Patti Howard, Greg Seastrom, Bob & Joy Marshall, Nolan Marshall, Erin Marshall, Trudy Wisemann

Meeting began in silent worship

PYM Junior Yearly Meeting – Erin and Nolan Marshall reported on events from Junior Yearly Meeting. There were team building activities and workshops dealing with racism. Information was given about the Woolman Semester and fun was had by all. JYM also interacted with many Young Friends. Erin represented JYM as clerk.

PYM – Bill Lovett reported that attendance was down. Yearly Meeting is considering developing two paid staff positions, a registrar and youth coordinator. The Alternative Violence Program has had a great impact on prisoners across the State of California. This was a jubilee year for PYM. The Unity with Nature committee has published a book. The clerk at PYM was asked to host Representative Committee Meeting next March. Mark had questions regarding the date as he thought it was for the following year. There was unity in accepting the invitation to host the meeting.

Ministry and Oversight:

Greg reported on behalf of M&O. There is fee negotiating for facilitator Jackie Ryle. Her regular fees amount to \$750. David suggested that the Meeting authorize M&O and Greg and Bob to negotiate for an amount equal to or less than that amount. There was unity in this decision.

Health Care for All: Bob reported from the rally held in Los Angeles Saturday August 11th. Bob said it was a terrific event. There was positive feeling that SB 840, (The California Health Insurance Reliability Act) , will eventually be passed. Many notable speakers were present. An estimated 3000 people were at the rally. Bob asked that the Meeting actively support SB 840 as a moral imperative. **The Meeting has asked that the support be reflected as an official minute.**

Budget Report: Bob reported on the budget. The SCE project is still being held. Special accounts were reviewed, including the Bolivia Link, Retreat, Ryan Johnson, AVP and Freeze Relief.

Naming Committee: Trudy reviewed the process of Naming Committee and how the Nominating Committee was derived. She reviewed the process of nominating from Faith and Practice. The Nominating Committee brought forward Bob Marshall, Dick Hannigan, Patti Howard, Beth Lovett. There was unity in that decision. Bob Marshall will convene the committee.

Outreach Committee: Graciela reviewed the billboard content. David suggested biblical references. “You shall not oppress the undocumented workers who are in your land” Deuteronomy 24:14. After much discussion, it was decided that “undocumented workers” be replaced with “sojourner” – the original Bible quote – for the bill board sign.

Meeting ended in silence

Respectfully submitted,
David East
Recording Clerk