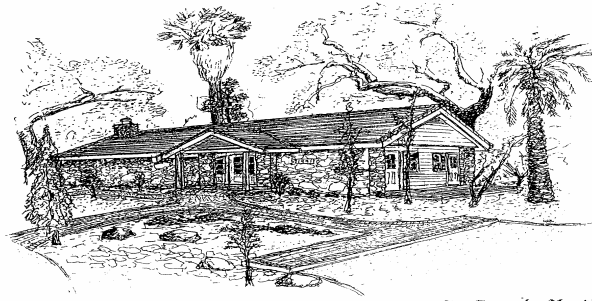


**Visalia Friends Meeting**  
17208 Ave 296 Visalia, CA 93291

## Newsletter

**September, 2008**



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

### simplicity

*Life is meant to be lived from a Center, a divine Center... a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time.*

thomas r. kelly, *testament of devotion*, 1941

A life centered in God will be directed toward keeping communication with God open and unencumbered. Simplicity is best achieved through a right ordering of priorities, maintaining humility of spirit, avoiding self-indulgence, resisting the accumulation of unnecessary possessions, and avoiding over-busy lives.

Elise Boulding writes in *My Part in the Quaker Adventure*,  
“*Simplicity, beauty, and happiness go together if they are a byproduct of a concern for something more important than ourselves.*”

Do I center my life in an awareness of God’s presence so that all things take their rightful place?

Do I live simply, and promote the right sharing of the world’s bounty?

Do I keep my life uncluttered with things and activities, avoiding commitments beyond my strength and light?

How do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work?

Do I recognize when I have enough?

*Is the life of our Meeting so ordered that it helps us to simplify our lives?*

† Some queries are intended for individuals.  
*Italicized* queries are intended for the Meeting collectively

## **Visalia Friends Meeting**

### **Meeting for Business**

**September 14, 2008**

**Members and Attendees Present:** Bill & Beth Lovett, Greg Seastrom, Joy Marshall, Bob Marshall, John Dackawich, Shirley Dackawich, Patti Howard, David & Klara East, Olga McAllister, Jessie Snyder, Graciela Martinez, David & Carolyn Chandler, Joanne and David Dudley, Jeannie Warner, Sandra Studervandt, Cherie Flint, David Warner, Heather Howard, Luis & Melissa Araujo, Dana Etheridge-Powell

The Meeting began with Clerk Greg Seastrom reading from the Daily Readings from Quaker Spirituality. Also, Faith and Practice Advice and Queries on *Simplicity*.

Greg Seastrom - Clerk, began the Meeting in silence. Greg reviewed the agenda and asked for cooperation with brevity towards our meeting for business as our celebration for Olga McAllister's birthday would follow.

Greg reviewed the various correspondences that the Meeting received throughout the month. These included Meeting Newsletters, Opportunities, and Friends Organizational News. He reviewed learning opportunities at the Ben Lomond Center All these are available on the back counter.

#### **Announcements:**

Quakerism 1 will be held 9/21 at approximately 12:30 pm. The Wednesday repeat class will not be held this month.

#### **Agenda Items:**

**Naming Committee:** Bill Lovett, Bob Marshall and Olga McAllister served on this committee. Bob Marshall reported that Joanne Dudley will serve as Convener and Beth Lovett, David Chandler and John Dackawich will serve as the Nominating Committee. Friends agreed to the Friends named to this committee. The Nominating Committee will report at the next Meeting for Business.

**Crop Walk:** Joy Marshall reported that the total raised for Crop Walk was \$10,525.65. Visalia Friends raised the largest amount for any local congregation in the amount of \$3,014. She also reported on the amounts raised by other local congregations.

**PYM Report:** Postponed until next month.

**Quarterly Meeting Representative:** David Chandler agreed to represent the Meeting at Quarterly Meeting in Sierra Friends Center in Nevada City.

**Future Items for discussion:** Quaker Quest, Immigration minute, FGC support letter

Klara East, Clerk of M&O will clerk October's Meeting for Business in Greg's absence.

The Meeting ended in silence.

Respectfully Submitted,

David East – Recording Clerk