

**Visalia Friends Meeting**

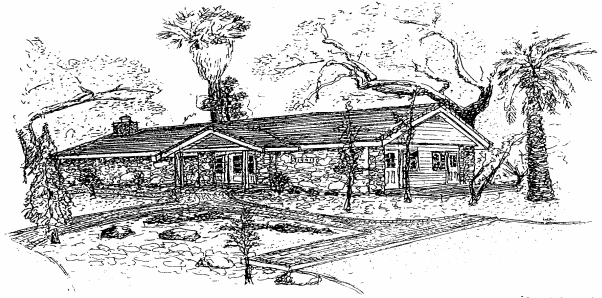
17208 Ave 296  
Visalia, CA 93291

## Visalia Friends Meeting

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## Newsletter

August, 2007



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

### Social and Civic responsibility

In the words of William Penn, *“True godliness don’t draw men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it.”* Elsewhere he commented: *“It is a reproach to religion and government to suffer so much poverty and excess.”*

Poverty within a wealthy society is unjust, cruel, and often linked to skin color, gender, and language. We must examine our own privilege and role in the economic order that deepens this disparity. Friends should be alert to oppression and injustice, and persistent in working against them.

We value our part in shaping the laws of our country. Our task is to see that laws serve God’s purposes and build a just social order. Our first allegiance should be to God, and if this conflicts with any compulsion of the state, we serve our country best by remaining true to our higher loyalty.

If, by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law that is contrary to God’s law, we must proceed with care. Before acting, Friends should pray for further guidance and speak with the Meeting, family members, and all those who might be affected by the decision. If a decision involves disobedience to the law, we should make the grounds of our action clear to all concerned and be prepared to suffer any penalties without evasion. As a community, we must care for those who suffer for conscience’s sake.

- *What am I doing to carry my share of responsibility for the government of our community, nation, and world?*
- *Am I persistent in my efforts to promote constructive change?*
- *How do we attend to the suffering of others in our local community, in our state and nation, and in the world community?*
- *Do we try to understand the causes of suffering, and do we address them as a Meeting?*
- *How do we, individually and as a Meeting, support the organizations that work to bring the testimonies of Friends into reality in our society?*

## Visalia Friends Meeting

### Meeting for Business

**September 9, 2007**

**Members and Attenders Present:** Joann and David Dudley, John and Shirley Dackowich, Attison, David Chandler, Klara East, Bill Lovett, Olga MacCallister, Patty Howard, Jesse Synder, Mark Koenig, Dick Hannigan,

#### **Calendar Items**

The visioning session for Quaker Oaks Farm with Jackie Ryles will be on Sat., September 22. This is the opportunity for the Meeting to share their vision for the land. The session begins at 10:00 A.M.

The final decision on accepting the Lovett land for Quaker Oaks Farm is at the October Meeting for Business, October 14.

Fall Quarterly Meeting Oct. 20, Visalia Friends Center

**M&O Committee:** There was not a formal meeting of M&O this month because there were too few members present. Next meeting will be Sunday, October 7.

Klara reported on PYM. PYM has passed an interim minute on Friends position on global climate change. The August issue of Scientific American magazine has a recommended article on global climate change. Klara brought the issue of nuclear power to PYM's Unity with Nature committee because of the presentations being given by Karen Street.

David Chandler is continuing to investigate the truth about 9-11.

Respectfully submitted,

Klara East

M&O Clerk