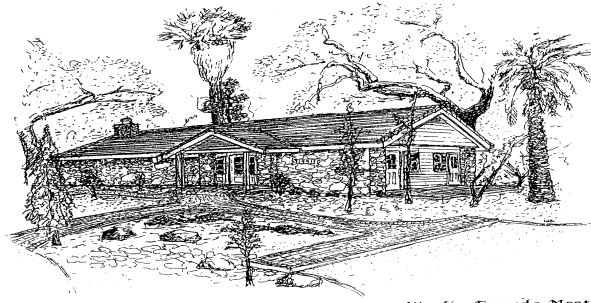


## Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296  
Visalia, CA 93291

## Newsletter

December, 2008



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

peace

Friends oppose all war as inconsistent with God's will. As every person is a child of God, we recognize God's Light also in our adversaries. Violence and injustice deny this reality and violate the teachings of Jesus and other prophets.

Friends challenge their governments and take personal risks in the cause of peace. We urge one another to refuse to participate in war as soldiers, or as arms manufacturers. We seek ways to support those who refrain from paying taxes that support war. We work to end violence within our own borders, our homes, our streets, and our communities. We support international order, justice, and understanding.

Become an instrument of peace. At every opportunity, be peacemakers in your homes, workplaces and communities. Steep yourself in the power of the universal Spirit. Examine your actions for the seeds of violence, degradation and destructiveness. Overcome the emotions that lie at the root of violence and nurture instead a spirit of reconciliation and love. Come to know the oneness of all creation and oppose the destruction of the natural world.

Do I live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars?

How do I nourish peace within myself as I work for peace in the world?

Do I confront violence wherever it occurs, even when my personal relationships are involved?

Where there is distrust, injustice, or hatred, how am I an instrument of reconciliation and love?

*What are we doing to remove the causes of war and destruction of the planet, and to bring about lasting peace?*

*Do we reach out to all parties in a conflict with courage and love?*

**Meeting for Business**  
**12-14-08**

**Present:** Greg Seastrom (Clerk), John & Shirley Dackawich, Joanne and David Dudley, Joy and Bob Marshall, Graciela Martinez, Bill and Beth Lovett, Patti Howard, Cayman Howard, Heather Howard, David Roberts, Ginger Curtis-Ruehling, Dana and Sundara Etheridge-Powell, Luis and Melissa Alberti – Araujo, Bill and Jeannie Warner

Greg began with readings from the Daily Readings on Love, Law and Organization and Advice and Queries from Faith and Practice on Peace.

Meeting began in silence.

Greg began meeting with review of the agenda. Opportunities for education and donations are located in the folders on the back counter.

**Announcements (in back folder on counter)**

- **Linda Luke Announcement**
- **Re-Define Christmas Announcement**
- **El Salvador Project Announcement**

**Membership Request** – Greg has received two letters for membership. He read letters from Ginger Curtis and Alexandra von Wrede. A clearness committee will be established by the Ministry and Oversight Committee.

**Imagine U Request** – Greg received a letter from Angela Huerta regarding Imagine U's request for sponsorship to the Museum's Cirque de Visalia Program on January 3rd. **There was proposal that the Meeting sponsor the program for \$100. There was consensus on the matter.**

**SVPC Co-Sponsorship Request** – Mike Brune will be presenting at the January 31st "Talk of the Town" at COS event talking on a variety of environmental topics. Bill Warner asked for a sponsorship for this event. **There was proposal that the Meeting sponsor the program for \$100. There was consensus on the matter.**

**Speech-to-Speech Request** – Greg read a letter requesting support of speech to speech program. This was forwarded by a Friend at the Sacramento Monthly Meeting.

**Santiago Family Request** – The Santiago family from Farmersville is an active Oaxceno family in the area. They have had another family in their community experience a catastrophic problem in housing and child care. The Santiago family is sponsoring this family. Graciela is asking that the Meeting work towards helping this family. There was a proposal that an account be set up so individuals could donate to sponsor this family.

Friends suggested that Graciela, Bob work together to establish a plan for distributing resources to this family. Ginger will assist in health care needs. There was a small collection taken that day. Friends will remind themselves that this family is in continual need. **Minute: The Visalia Friends will sponsor this family with the Meeting accepting donations on behalf of the Ramos family. Donations will be made out to Visalia Friends Meeting with the memo marked “Santiago/Ramos” family. This will be done on a monthly basis.**

**Robert Simons Announcement** – John Dackawich reported that our incarcerated Friend in Mississippi is working on a project to repeal the death penalty in Mississippi. John has requested a \$100 donation to assist with the project. John will distribute the funds once he knows exactly how to appropriately donate the funds. There was a request for more information on his request. There were also suggestions regarding support from other anti-death penalty organizations. **One Friend suggested an informal immediate cash donation be made today. We will forward information from the AFSC’s work to Robert as well.**

**Letter from Trudy** – Greg read a letter from Trudy Wischermann regarding her work on land resource practice and management. She is looking for a place to put to practice her work in this area. Please contact Greg or Trudy directly for more information.

**Wife Swap** - Greg read a letter from the casting producer from the television show “Wife Swap” requesting Quakers to participate in the show. There were chuckles at the prospect .... The letter is on the counter...

Respectfully Submitted,

David East  
Recording Clerk