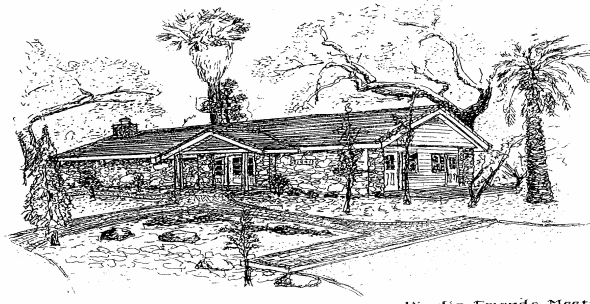


Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296
Visalia, CA 93291

Newsletter

February, 2007



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

Meeting for Worship

The heart of the Religious Society of Friends is the Meeting for Worship. In direct communion with God, we offer ourselves for God's will. Our daily lives are linked with the Meeting for Worship, the Meeting for Worship with our daily lives.

Come regularly to Meeting for Worship, even when you are angry, tired, or spiritually cold. Bring your joys and your hurts, and the needs of other people. Accept and support each other in the community where God dwells among us. As you do so, you may find the grace of prayer.

At times the Spirit may prompt you to speak in Meeting. Wait patiently to know that the sense and the time are right. When you are sure, have confidence that the words will be given to you. Listen to the ministry of others with an open spirit. If it is not God's word for you, it may be for others. After a message has been given, allow time to ponder its meaning and to let the Meeting return to silent worship. In speech and in silence, each person contributes to the Meeting.

- *Do I come to Meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship?*
- *In both silent and vocal ministry, do I respond to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, without pre-arrangement and in simplicity and truth?*
- *Am I careful not to speak at undue length or beyond personal spiritual experience?*
- *Do we meet in expectant waiting for the promptings of the Divine Spirit?*
- *Are we drawn together in a living silence by the power of God in our midst?*

Present: David & Joanne Dudley, Bob & Joy Marshall, Bill and Beth Lovett, David & Klara East, Trudy Wischemann, Graciela Martinez, John & Shirley Dackawich, Dick Hannigan, Patti Howard, Mark Koenig, Olga McAllister

Meeting began in silence

David distributed new correspondence for those interested

Correction of last month's Newsletter: Heifer Project donations were a combination of several holiday activities not just wreath sales.

Local Freeze Relief Aid: Dick Hannigan reported that from our informal fund raising we were able to provide 300 pounds of rice, 300 pounds of beans, 150 pounds of Masa, 50 pounds of vegetables and several packs of diapers, and 75 blankets to an indigenous church in Tonyville. Dick Hannigan, Graciela Martinez, Jessie Snyder worked on this project. Great job!

Treasurer's report: Bob reviewed 1st quarter's finances Oct 1 to 12/31. Bob also reviewed special expenses on page two. Please see attached.

Building and Grounds; Work day next Saturday 2/17 from 8:00 – 12:00.

Ramala Friends School donation information can be found at <http://www.palfriends.org> .

M&O: Klara reported on past projects that have not been finished. Archiving project, no members needing special support, a central calendar, a frame with M&O members names, phone tree. M&O gave special permission for the Meeting to allow the SCE group to use the billboard, Graciela will be working on billboard outreach, children's needs, Beth and Klara were thinking about renting a house on the coast. State of the meeting report with events will be compiled by David East, recording clerk.

State of the Meeting: David would like to call a special meeting on March 18th for reflection on the state of the Meeting.

Quaker Oaks Farm: Trudy met with Greg about next threshing session on Quaker Oaks Farm. There will be a Threshing Session February 25th after Meeting for Worship.

Fresno Friends News: Lowell Barnett from Fresno Meeting spoke with Olga regarding the Fresno Meeting. Lowell is concerned that the history of the Meeting is not being communicated with newer Meeting members. Olga urged that newer members attend the 5th Sunday at the Lohan's in Reedley. She urged us to make an effort to renew the spirit of the foundation and origins of our Meetings. Trudy suggested that maybe a portrait of Meeting founders may be posted in the entry hall. David reminded us that much of this information is on the website, but would like to formalize a recording of the Meeting's history.

PYM: Klara reminded us that PYM is in late July and encouraged us to attend both PYM and Quarterly Meeting. Many members have not had a chance of attending these larger meetings.
Meeting ended in silence