

Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296

Visalia, CA 93291

Newsletter

April, 2009



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?

Visalia Friends Meeting

April 19, 2009

Members and Attenders Present: Bill Lovett, Beth Lovett, Angela Huerta, Greg Seastrom, Graciela Martinez, Joanne Dudley, Joy Marshall, Bob Marshall, John Dackawich, Shirley Dackawich, Patti Howard, David East, Klara East, Dan O'Connell, Ginger Curtis, Beth Lovett-Stone, Luis Araujo, Melissa Araujo-Alberti, Jessi Snyder, Alexandra Von Wrede,

Meeting for Worship for Business

The Meeting began with Clerk Greg Seastrom first read the agenda. He read from the Daily Readings from Quaker Spirituality on Wealth and Oppression by John Woolman. Also read was Faith and Practice Advice and Queries on Stewardship and Vocation.

The Meeting focused in silence.

Greg reviewed other Meeting Newsletters, Opportunities, and Friends Organizational News. All these are available on the back counter.

Calendar Events:

Crop Walk – Next Saturday April 25th; Peace Vigil – May 3, 1:00pm; College Park Quarterly Meeting 5/15-17 @ Ben Lomond Quaker Center; Friends General Conference 6-27/7-4 Blacksburg, VA; Pacific Yearly Meeting 7/27 – 8/1

Agenda Items:

New Members: The Meeting welcomed new members, Luis and Melissa Alberti-Araujo. Greg presented them with a copy of Faith and Practice and a copy of Testament and Devotion. Greg also presented Alexandra Von Wrede and Ginger Curtis with copies of A Testament and Devotion.

Graciela Martinez has requested consideration for membership. Her request will be forwarded to the Ministry and Oversight Committee and brought back to Meeting for seasoning.

Quarterly Meeting: The Quarterly Meeting will be held 5/15-17 at the Ben Lomond Center.

Crop Walk: Ginger Curtis is leading the Meeting's involvement in next week's Crop Walk. Please see her for further information.

Meeting History: Dan O'Connell is working on several local projects including Alternatives to Violence, Quaker Oaks Farm and a project to re-create Visalia Friends Meeting history. He is also working with Joy Marshall on Meeting History. He will provide us with an update as these projects progress.

State of the Meeting Report: Joy distributed a draft of the State of the Meeting report to be presented at Quarterly Meeting. Friends reviewed the draft written by the committee which included Trudy Wischemann (as primary author), Joy Marshall, Alexandra Von Wrede, Greg Seastrom, and Dan O'Connell. Greg read the summary to the Meeting. Friends made suggestions for changes. Joy Marshall made notes on changes to submit back to Greg for submission to CPQM. Friends agreed to accept the report with changes. Friends expressed thankfulness to the Committee on their work. Copies of the report will be available on the back counter. The Chronicle was read and amended. Jeannie Warner will work with Greg to amend details.

Retreat: The 2009 retreat date has been set for the first weekend in October (10-2, 3, 4.) The Retreat Committee will be led by Dan O'Connell, Klara East, Graciela Martinez, and Jessi Snyder. Klara will convene the committee.

Committee Reports: Unity with Nature will be convened. Buildings and Grounds reported that there was a large group of 60 people that stayed at the Meeting house. This exceeded our capacity and put a stress on our facilities. Next Sunday Building and Grounds will meet at 12:30.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Marshall reviewed the Treasurer's report prepared by David Dudley. Bob reviewed items and noted the tax increase was because of employee related costs. Bob answered brief questions regarding the report specifics. The Meeting received the report as written.

The Meeting ended with silence.

Respectfully submitted,

David East

Recording Clerk