

Visalia Friends Meeting
17208 Ave 296 Visalia, CA 93292

Newsletter

July, 2008



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

integrity and personal conduct

Integrity has always been a goal of Friends. It is essential to trust, to all communication between people and between people and God. Integrity grounds our beliefs, thoughts, and actions in our spiritual center and makes us whole.

Friends believe that we are called to speak the truth. A single standard of truth requires us to conduct ourselves in ways that are honest, direct, and plain, and to make our choices, both large and small, in accord with the urgings of the Spirit. It follows that we object to taking an oath, which presupposes a variable standard of truth. Be true to your word.

... let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay.

james 5:12
king james version

From early days Friends have opposed gambling and practices based on chance. These activities profit from the inevitable loss of others, promote greed, and conflict with good stewardship. Public lotteries have not furthered their purported benefit to the public good. All addictions are of concern. As the use of alcohol and tobacco all too often entail serious risks to self and others, Friends who serve alcohol at home should be diligent in offering alternatives. Alcohol should not be served at Meeting gatherings.

Find recreation that brings you joy and energy. Be aware of how your choices affect yourself and others.

- How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives?
- Do I act on my principles even when this entails difficult consequences?
- Am I honest and truthful in all that I say and do, even when a compromise might be easier or more popular?
- Am I reflective about the ways I gain my wealth and income and sensitive to their impacts on others?
- Is my life so filled with the Spirit that I am free from the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, and of excesses of any kind?
- *Do we, in our Meeting, hold ourselves accountable to one another as do members of a healthy family?*

Visalia Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

July 13, 2008

Members and Attenders Present: Bill & Beth Lovett, Greg Seastrom, Joy Marshall, Bob Marshall, John Dackawich, Shirley Dackawich, Patti Howard, David & Klara East, Olga McAllister, Dan O'Connell, David and Joanne Dudley, Dave Roberts, Graciela Martinez, Sandra Studervandt, David Roberts,

The Meeting began with Clerk Greg Seastrom in silence. He read from the Daily Readings from Quaker Spirituality. Also, Faith and Practice: Advice and Queries on *Integrity*.

Greg also reviewed other Meeting Newsletters, Opportunities for education or service, and Friends Organizational News. All these are available on the back counter in appropriate folders.

Announcements:

- July's Quakerism I is July 27th
- Memorial for Verna Curtis on August 24th
- Meeting House Work Day August 9th 8:00 – 12:00 * Sign up in lobby – we have lot's of work to do.
- Quakerism I: August 4th
- Pacific Yearly Meeting – July 28th – Aug. 2nd

Agenda Items:

Membership Request: Klara reported as Clerk of M&O. The Clearness Committee has recommended to the Meeting that Dan O'Connell receive membership to the Visalia Monthly Meeting. This item will season for one month.

Report on Friends General Conference: David and Klara reported on their visit to FGC's annual gathering. There were several significant memories, including Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech to FGC from 50 years ago. There were several workshops, interest group meetings on the gathering's theme, "Courageously Faithful." One Friend suggested that the Meeting draft a letter to Pacific Yearly Meeting join Friend's General Conference. More information was given about FGC and questions were clarified. **Minute: There was approval that our Meeting send a letter to PYM supporting affiliation with FGC.** Joy Marshall will draft a letter and the Clerk will review the letter on behalf of the Meeting.

Committee Reports: Greg led the Meeting and reviewed processes of silent worship, leading, concern, opening, action on the following topics: Our Children, Quaker Oaks Farm, Peace Making, Social Justice, Harmony with Nature, Outreach.

Friends asked that two issues be addressed specifically on the agenda. Another Friend suggested that the process be used for retreat planning. Friends also agreed. Agenda items were added by the clerk.

Hiroshima Day: There are several potential proposals for displays of posters or demonstrations. None have been decided. One Friend suggested that the Meeting support and join the commemorative through personal action as well as group activity. Several ideas came forward. Park demonstrations, candlelight vigils, etc. were suggested. It was suggested that any activity be coordinated with South Valley Peace Center. A committee was established to work with South Valley Peace Center and coordinate specific public activities. There was a suggestion that a vigil be held on August 6th at 8:15 am. The committee is Graciela Martinez, Dan O'Connell, Bill Lovett.

The Meeting ended in silence.

Respectfully submitted,

David East

Recording Clerk