

# Friendship Times

## Friendship Friends Meeting

### Calendar

Sun, April 30	9 am – Extended Meeting for Worship 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, May 7	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns and House and Grounds Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, May 14	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, May 21	10:30 am Meeting for Worship a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Tues, May 23	Deadline for June Newsletter
Sun, May 28	9 am Deeping the Life of the Meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, June 4	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns and House and Grounds Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship

Weekly Meeting for Worship 10:30 am each First Day,. Child care is available for Worship and Business Meetings.

### Weekly events

Tuesday, 12:00–4:30 PM: Quiet Tuesday at the Meetinghouse

Midweek Meeting for Worship, on Wednesday at 7 pm, in the Prayer Room, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford

Bible Study at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday

Men's group meets at 6:30 pm at the Meetinghouse every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

### From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, May 23.

### Month's Query

Query #5      *Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance?*

### May birthday

Herold, Sierra (Granddaughter of Anne Cassebaum)      5/3/98

Minutes
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2017-29. Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting, held on the afternoon of Fourth Month 9, 2017, at the meeting house. The meeting opened near the appointed hour with a period of waiting worship.

2017-31. Fifth Month Meeting for Business. The meeting approved postponing the Fifth Month meeting for business until the third First day of the month.

2017-32. Application for Membership. The clerk read a letter from Ash-Leigh Brown requesting membership in this meeting. Friends heard this request with joy. Betty Poynton, Darlene Stanley, Kembra Howdeshell and Judy Harvey volunteered and were appointed to serve of Ash-Leigh's clearness committee for membership.

2017-33. Friendship Meeting Corporation.

Explanation for the consideration of a revision of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Friendship Friends Meeting as a Corporation

For the past six months a working group of the directors of the corporation has been considering revisions to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Corporation. *A two-page informational document, detailing the background, the concerns, and the guidelines for the*

*revision, was circulated to members and attenders prior to the March Business Meeting.*

In the past six months, members of Friendship Friends Meeting, a religious organization, have become aware of confusion between the use of two labels for our organization, namely Friendship Friends Meeting and Friendship Friends Meeting Inc. Currently our checking and savings accounts, mutual fund, property insurance, and our IRS employer identification number are identified with Friendship Friends Meeting while the deeds for our properties list ownership by Friendship Friends Meeting Inc. The articles of incorporation, which were filed with the State of North Carolina in 1997, stated that the name of the corporation is Friendship Friends Meeting, Inc. while our bylaws state that the name of the corporation shall be Friendship Friends Meeting.

In addition, some who have looked at the bylaws consider that it could be interpreted that the corporation consists of only the eight members of the board, namely the directors. Its only stated activity is to meet once a year. The current directors, serving as an ad hoc committee to consider the confusion, have reviewed meeting records from 1996 and 1997, encompassing the time period Friendship Meeting discussed and implemented incorporation. At that time the members of Friendship Friends Meeting recorded our intention to incorporate to avoid individual liability in the event of an accident. All usual business of the Meeting is approved by those persons attending monthly meetings for business, not by the

Board of Directors. However, we recognize that the bylaws may not specifically state that the Meeting and the Corporation are essentially the same body and that the relationship needs clarification.

On November 22, 2016, Jim Fernandes, Susan Carlyle, and Ray Treadway talked by conference call with attorney Robert Saunders, a colleague of Ed Winslow of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP. The following points emerged from the 25-minute conversation.

- 1) We should be incorporated for liability issues.
- 2) It is clear that our intention, from the time of our incorporation, was that the Meeting and the corporation were the same entity, not separate. A church does not need to have "Inc." in its name. It would help to eliminate the confusion if we were to change the name of our corporation to Friendship Friends Meeting
- 3) We should amend our articles of incorporation to change our name as well as make clear that all members of Friendship Meeting are members of the corporation.
- 4) We do not need the 501-(c)(3) determination letter, since we are a religious organization. We should be able to qualify for North Carolina State sales tax refunds without the 501-(c)(3) letter. In reapplying, we will need to send our bylaws and as well as a letter which explains that we are a church organization, in place of the 501-(c)(3) determination letter.

On February 7, 2017, the present Board of Directors met. We discussed and agreed upon some basic guidelines in carrying out

our work. We consulted with meetings both within and outside of our Yearly Meeting and learned what had worked for them.

- First, both the bylaws and articles of incorporation should reflect that the name of our corporation is Friendship Friends Meeting.
- Second, our bylaws and articles of incorporation are intended to translate the policies and procedures of Friendship Friends Meeting, as well as Quaker terms, into wording which is appropriate for and understandable by the state of North Carolina. We do not need to spell out in detail all of our procedures. The wording of these documents should allow for some flexibility in how the business of the Meeting is carried out. In doing business, the Meeting will follow the provisions of the Handbook, which can be changed from time to time.
- Third, we agreed that the corporation would have members but would not have directors. All reference to directors will be eliminated from the revised bylaws and articles of incorporation. Consequently we will no longer use the terms of *president* and *secretary* but rather we will use the terms *clerk*, *recording clerk*, and *treasurer*.
  - Fourth, members of the corporation will be the same as the members of the meeting. We decided not to make further distinctions about whether or not this would include sojourning members but we were clear that this designation would not include "inactive members." We noted the need for the Meeting to resolve several issues

surrounding the current designation of “lost and inactive members” as soon as possible. We agreed that a quorum necessary to carry out the business of the corporation (meeting) will be 10% of the membership.

On April 3, 2017, three members, namely Susan Carlyle, Jim Fernandes, and Ray Treadway, talked with attorney Bob Saunders by conference call. As a result of our discussion with the attorney, we are clear to present draft versions of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws for a first reading at the April Meeting for Business.

It is our intention to follow the presentation at the April Business Meeting with a formal consideration for approval at the May Monthly Meeting for Business. Friends are encouraged to the proposed revision of the Articles and the proposed revision of the bylaws as we move forward. After final approval, the revised Articles of Incorporation with the revised Bylaws will be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State of North Carolina.

The corporation’s board is recommending changes on advice of legal counsel, in light of contemporary banking regulations, and some confusion between the identity of the monthly meeting itself and the corporation. The new documents have been distributed to the mailing list of members and attenders of the meeting. These documents will be brought to meeting for business again next month for decision. Between now and then Ray Treadway, Jim Fernandes, Jim Hood, and

Susan Carlyle will be available for discussion and questions about the recommended changes.

#### 2017-34. Peace & Social Concerns Committee.

Peace and Social Concerns has felt many challenges this year as political tensions in our country have heated to an extreme level, attacks on minority ethnic and religious groups have increased, and there are many issues of war and conflict around the world that cry out for peaceful solutions. The issues have led to additional meeting members becoming active with Peace and Social Concerns around several issues.

In January an Open Meeting with Worship & Ministry provided an opportunity for attenders to share their fears, feelings and concerns about the election results. This led to a request for new communications means to provide specific information for more people to become involved with events inside and outside the meeting. One committee member is working with our meeting's newsletter George Fox, and another member is developing a website to highlight information that supports P&SC concerns.

Friendship Meeting felt led to sponsor a Syrian refugee family of four who arrived in July, 2016 and is related to another Syrian family that had been resettled by the Guilford College community. A special task force was developed and affiliated with P&SC and was clerked by Rachel Knight with assistance from Aleks Babic, Kembra Howdeshell, Bonnie Parsons, and others. The Alhafyan family has struggled with English acquisition, transportation,

and some health issues for the children, but the husband was able to find a job with an Arabic speaking garage, the wife is learning how to use the bus, and they are moving toward economic self-sufficiency. A Friendship graduation party for the family is being held in late March, commemorating their progress in acculturation. This project has also led to extended contacts with New Garden Meeting, AFSC, and other community groups involved in refugee advocacy.

A P&SC forum on Islam offered in May of 2016 in cooperation with New Garden Meeting has led to additional activities in support of local Muslim communities which are experiencing increased hostility. The Turkish community also invited Friendship to a special meal at their community center. Governmental attacks on immigrants and on Islam have prompted some P&SC members to participate in additional community based advocacy groups and report back to the committee. Contacts are being developed with a third local Muslim group which is largely Middle Eastern, to determine how we can be supportive of them. Plans to assist in providing a Ramadan meal for refugees around the end of May are being developed.

Additional P&SC forums have included:

- In the fall, a forum on transgender rights and appropriate language was hosted by P&SC.
- In January a forum presented by AFSC with P&SC support focused on special issues facing undocumented people.

- In March, P&SC hosted a forum on immigration that included recognition of the Rodriguez family who came to the US and Friendship Meeting in 1987 as part of the sanctuary movement.
- In April, P&SC hosts a forum in cooperation with New Garden Meeting with an internationally known peace movement speaker from Germany.

P&SC continues to work on how to best reach out to young people in opposition to the militarization of our country and the lure of military service as a career choice. This has included a Facebook page and efforts to disseminate antiwar literature at schools. There has been resistance from school systems to efforts to promote anti militarism activities on campus. A new strategy that P&SC is exploring is to refocus these efforts toward promoting careers in peacemaking on school campuses.

P&SC continues to collect food to distribute through the First Friends food pantry, and P&SC also developed a minute of support for the protestors at Standing Rock, trying to protect sacred Indian lands. A family in the broader community with many economic challenges received an array of gifts during the Christmas season. P&SC budget disbursements are made at the end of the program year in late spring.

P&SC looks forward to a time when we have access to Wi-Fi and equipment to offer more sophisticated forums for Friendship education activities. P&SC

strives to serve as a support system for Meeting members and attenders who are active in an array of community activities that support peace and justice causes.

Friends accepted this report. Friends expressed a desire that future annual reports of this committee include a list of organizations receiving financial support through Peace & Social Concerns Committee's annual budget.

2017-35. Ramadan Dinner. Lisa Ross proposed that the meeting sponsor one ceremonial meal during Ramadan at a local mosque. It would cost approximately \$500 to serve the meal to local refugees. List Ross agreed to write a description of this proposal for the *Friendship Times* monthly newsletter. (See page 11)

Friends approved designating \$200 from the Special Uses Fund, to be combined with a \$300 appropriation from the Peace & Social Concerns Committee budget, to sponsor a meal for refugee families during Ramadan at the Islamic Center of Greensboro. Individual Friends wishing to support this effort are encouraged to make earmarked donations to the Special Uses Fund.

2017-36. Ad Hoc Refugee Support Committee.

Our refugee family was invited by our support team to a graduation ceremony at the Jerusalem Market Restaurant on March 23, 2017. They have been living in Greensboro now for eight months and we wanted to acknowledge all of their achievements and growth during this time. Our family is very close to being

completely independent at this time. Samir has a job at a body shop that he enjoys very much, worked very hard to get his driving license and now is proudly driving his own car. Tawfika is attending English classes three days a week at Grace Methodist Church where Waed is very happy and content at her daycare. Bonnie is reinforcing the English lessons that Tawfika is learning at school. Ammar is attending Doris Henderson NewComers School and becoming more proficient in English every day. All of their legal papers, food stamps and Medicaid are in order and Samir is banking independently.

Samir's future goal is to attend night English classes at UNCG and eventually open his own body shop. We learned that he was the owner of his own shop in Syria and wants to continue with this career path. Tawfika's goal is to learn English so that she can communicate with her friends.

Walid explained to the family that our role in the future was to continue to be their friends and to support them with some of the doctor and dentist appointments for their family, and only give financial aid if there was an emergency. Samir stated that we were his family and he wanted us in his life and expressed his gratitude for everything Friendship Meeting has done for his family. He explained that his family doesn't need any more material things or any financial help from us in the future.

The Ad Hoc Refugee Support Committee has decided to continue at this time since support is still needed for doctor and dentist appointments. Our committee consists of Kembra Howdeshell, Lisa Ross,

Bonnie Parsons, Rachel Knight and Walid Mosarsaa. Raleigh Bailey has agreed to provide information to our committee whenever it is needed

We want to acknowledge and thank the Friendship Meeting for all of the support you have given to our refugee family. Together, we have all made a huge difference in this family's life.

#### 2017-37. Treasurer's Report.

Income in March 2017 totaled \$4,380.69 with \$1,050.00 to the General Fund and \$3,330.69 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in March 2017 totaled \$447.81. General Fund expenses totaled \$173.00 which included: Operating Expenses of \$153.00 primarily for Religious Education; no Supporting Contributions; and Meeting House Expenses of \$274.81 primarily for utilities.

2017-38. Property Fund Disbursement - Refrigerator. Stephen Holland requested that the \$700 expense for the meeting's new refrigerator be paid out of the Property Fund. (This requires the approval of meeting for business - see Handbook.). Friends approved this request. Individuals are encouraged to make special donations earmarked for the Property Fund if so led.

2017-39. Need for Landline Telephone. The Treasurer raised the question of whether or not the meeting house still needs a landline telephone. \$900 is budgeted for this expense this year. The meeting referred

this question to an ad hoc committee made up of a representative from House & Grounds, Communications, and Peace & Social Concerns committees. We hope for a report in Sixth Month. Raleigh Bailey agreed to facilitate the process of seeing that individuals are named to serve and a date is set to meet.

2017-40. Emergency Assistance Fund. A concern was raised about the definition of eligibility for the Emergency Assistance fund, of the definition of an emergency, and about the procedures

2017-41. 1. Update: Contacted members per procedure approved 3/12/17

A. Letter A: requesting status update:

Active to Inactive:

Benjamin and Sue Hebner, Harvey Lineberry, Mike Scott, Rebecca Valla, Zachary Wortman.

Letter B: Requesting status update:

Inactive

Angela Bailey, Jessica Bailey, Rob Bailey, David Barron, Teresa Sebastian Gingles, Judy Heitfield, Beyond Joy, Megan Keiser, Tommy Magrinat, Aaron Phillips, Stephen Phillips, Daniel Rhodes, Daniel Washburn, Jeremy Washburn, Timothy Washburn, and Kristie Bailey.

Note: All inactive members will be mailed a holiday letter in December 2017 requesting that they be back in touch with the meeting.

**Response: 4/3/17:** Kristie Bailey feels very connected to Friendship and wishes to be listed as an inactive member of the meeting.

2. Request MM to approve laying down the memberships of Terry Austin, Walt Denny, Holly Green, & Wenceslao Orizabal as the meeting has no addresses to contact these members

3. Request MM to approve laying down of membership of Sarah Sebastian Holeman at her request.

4. Handbook Revision: Page 10-Sojourning members to Membership.

C&C approved the following statement for inclusion in the Handbook. C&C requests MM approval.

“At any time a sojourning member can request his or her home meeting to approve a letter of transfer to FFM. The letter from the home meeting will be brought to Meeting for Business for approval. Once approved, the clerk will inform the home meeting of membership at FFM. If the person has already been welcomed by the meeting previously, no further action is required”

5. Ongoing Concerns

Joan Tillotson had surgery 3/27/17. Returned to Whittier 3/30/17. She is doing well and would appreciate cards, visits and phone calls. Phone number at Whittier: 336 852 7986

2017-42. Membership Actions. Meeting for business approved the termination of

membership for the following individuals, whom the meeting no longer has any means of contacting: Terry Austin, Walt Denny, Holly Green, & Wenceslao Orizabal. Meeting for business approved the request of Sarah Sebastian Holeman that her membership in Friendship Friends Meeting be discontinued.

2017-43. Handbook Revision. Meeting for business approved including the following text in the meeting Handbook in the section on Sojourning Members:

At any time a sojourning member can request their meeting to approve a letter of transfer to FFM. The letter from the home meeting will be brought to Meeting for Business for approval. Once approved, the clerk will inform the home meeting of membership at FFM. If the person has already been welcomed by the meeting previously, no further action is required.

2017-44. Fundraising Committee.

2017-45. Reimbursement for gift by the clerk. The clerk reported that the attorney assisting with the recommended changes to the meeting corporation has given two pro bono consultations to the meeting. In appreciation, the clerk sent the attorney the gift of an edible arrangement. Meeting approved reimbursing the clerk approximately \$82 for this gift, to be paid out of the Special Uses Fund.

2017-46. Closing Minute. No further business appearing, and hearts being generally clear, the meeting adjourned, purposing to meet again at the appointed time in Fifth Month, if consistent with the Divine Will.



**Clerks' Corner**

A newsletter feature where every month or so something will be submitted for the benefit of our members' continuing education on Quaker history, thoughts and practices.

"A meeting's faithfulness depends in great measure on the faithfulness of its members. A meeting's discernment and sensitivity, its ability to preserve unity even when there is diversity of opinion, is made possible because of its members are dwelling in the unity before the meeting even gathers for worship or business. A meeting's health is maintained if at least a core of the participants are well practiced in true waiting (which is not the same as just being silent), and the meeting is strengthened as the members, individually and together, practice living the life behind the words we have been discussion.

Our "purpose" in centering is to move into an altered state of consciousness in which we become aware of the ordering, orienting power of the Spirit. We don't worship in order to receive messages, or otherwise accomplish our own agenda, but to realign our will, understanding, and values with God's." - from *A Language for the Inward Landscape* by Brian Drayton and William Taber, Jr. pgs 92-93.

Each month our responses to the query of the month will appear in the newsletter. The responses were created at several Meeting workshops this year.

4. *Do we assume our rightful share in the expenses of our Meeting? Do we regard our time, our talents, and our possessions as given us in trust, and do we use them freely for the needs of others?*

As participants in the meeting, most members assume their rightful shares in the expenses of the meeting. We are also aware of each other's needs and share our own bounty as led. We frequently make the meetinghouse available to outside groups.

We are clear as a Meeting that in our committee work and through other commitments, that we consider our time, talents and possessions as given us in trust. This includes our work with a refugee family, the Pathways shelter, and the emergency assistance fund within our meeting.

**A Time to Celebrate**

In the spring of 2007 Friendship Meeting sponsored a family of four from Myanmar, known formerly as Burma-parents Zaw Zaw Aung and Tuza Khine and their two daughters, Pyu Pyu Han and Wai May. The parents escaped Burma after Zaw Zaw was targeted as an enemy of the government because of his efforts to speak out for justice. As a refugee family they lived in Malaysia as best they could. Their children were not permitted to attend school. After several years as refugees they were accepted by the United Nations Refugee program in Malaysia as refugees for the United States. The family finally reached Greensboro with sponsorship by Friendship Friends Meeting. Pyu Pyu entered the Newcomers School mid-year

and was placed in seventh grade. Wai May was placed in fourth grade at regular elementary school. Both children needed not only to learn how to speak English but also needed to learn the basic skills of phonics, reading and writing and catch up on knowledge of the world they had missed out on by not ever having been in school. Pyu Pyu's continuous and persistent study helped her gradually become a fluent English speaker and writer by the time she entered Page High School. Upon high school graduation, Pyu Pyu began taking classes at Guilford Technical Community College where her sister Wai May is currently a student. After two successful years at GTCC, Pyu Pyu transferred to Guilford College as a regular student. With some scholarship help and work study she pursued and completed a degree in Biology with a minor in Business and another in Integrated Science.

Friendship Friends Meeting is so very proud of the persistence and courage Pyu Pyu demonstrated by achieving her goal to become a college graduate. Her graduation ceremony will take place on May 20th and all of those who know the family feel that it would be fitting to celebrate Pyu Pyu's remarkable achievement. Should anyone at Friendship wish to send congratulations to Pyu Pyu, a card for everyone at Friendship to sign will be posted on the bulletin board. A donation could also be made that would assist Pyu Pyu as she seeks out job opportunities to make her transition from school to the working world. The donation can be sent to the treasurer earmarked for Pyu Pyu Han or you can get in contact with Judy Reece ([divots63jc@gmail.com](mailto:divots63jc@gmail.com) Phone 336 817

2000) or Bonnie Parsons ([24peas@gmail.com](mailto:24peas@gmail.com) Phone 336-852-4257).



Graduation dinner Tawfika and Samir



Graduation dinner – Waed  
Photos by Bonnie Parsons

The month of Ramadan is approaching at the end of May. The Islamic Center of Greensboro (the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mosque) plans to host the Iftar (meal to break the fast at sundown) each day of the holiday. They like to provide food for their refugee members. At the last meeting for business, the meeting agreed to sponsor this meal on one day. We feel that this would help build relationships with our Muslim neighbors as well as support refugees in our community. We will make a contribution of \$500 to Mosque members who can purchase and prepare the meal. Individual Friends are encouraged to donate earmarked funds to the Special Uses Fund to be combined with a \$300 dollar appropriation from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee budget. Friends are invited to share the meal at the mosque. The date will be on a Saturday in June TBD.

From Lisa Ross



The large dogwood in the Meetinghouse back yard says its spring, as do our iris flowers in the front



Photos by Dave

In June, the Friends Association for Higher Education will be visiting Greensboro. Our member institution, Guilford College, is hosting our 2017 conference, from June 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.

Our theme this year is "Global Education, Global Quakerism," to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends World Committee for Consultation gathering at Guilford. It was a watershed moment for the school, serving as the impetus that contributed to its integration in 1962 and the admittance of the school's first African students.

Participants from Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the U.S. will present a program that considers the role of Friends and Friends testimonies in higher education and in our increasingly global world.

We hope you'll join us! For more information, please visit the [conference website](#).

From Deborah Shaw and Wess Daniels

At NCYM C this 7th month The Discipline Revision Committee will be bringing this section 7 draft : Beginnings for 1st approval.

#### Section 7 - The Beginnings Submission Draft

Friends began as a religious movement in England in the 1640s, a time of great religious and political ferment. Early Friends experienced the Light of Christ as an inward and spiritual power that reordered their lives. This revelation found fertile ground in scattered groups of religious seekers throughout the country, igniting explosive growth in numbers and a prophetic challenge to the established social order. These quotations express the powerful spiritual experiences of early Friends in their own words. George Fox (England, 1624-1691) And when all my hopes in them and in all men were gone, so that I had nothing outwardly to help me, nor could tell what to do, then, Oh, then, I heard a voice which said, 'There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition,' and when I heard it my heart did leap for joy. Then the Lord did let me see why there was none upon the earth that could speak to my condition, namely, that I might give him all the glory ... that Jesus Christ might have the pre-eminence ... and this I knew experimentally. [And continuing] ... My desires after the Lord grew stronger, and zeal in the pure knowledge of God and of Christ alone, without the help of any man, book, or writing. . . . And then the Lord did gently lead me along, and did let me see his love, which was endless and eternal . . . and that love let me see myself as I was without him. . . .<sup>1</sup> Yet I was under great temptations sometimes, and my inward sufferings were heavy; but I could find none to

open my condition to but the Lord alone, unto whom I cried night and day. I went back into Nottinghamshire, and there the Lord showed me that the natures of those things, which were hurtful without, were within, in the hearts and minds of wicked men. . . . I cried to the Lord, saying, "Why should I be thus, seeing I was never addicted to commit those evils?" and the Lord answered, "That it was needful I should have a sense of all conditions, how else should I speak to all conditions!" and in this I saw the infinite love of God. I saw, also, that there was an ocean of darkness and death; but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. In that also I saw the infinite love of God, and I had great openings.<sup>2</sup> So the keeper of the House of Correction [at Derby] was commanded to bring me up before the Commissioners and soldiers in the marketplace ... and there they ... asked me if I would not take up arms for the Commonwealth against the King. But I told them I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars, and I knew from whence all wars did arise, from the lust according to James's doctrine. Still they courted me to accept of their offer and thought that I did but compliment with them. But I told them I was come into the covenant of peace which was before wars and strifes were.<sup>3 4</sup>

Wisdom hath uttered forth her voice to you, but the eye and ear which is abroad, waiting upon the sound of words without you, is that which keeps you from your Teacher within you; and this is the reason that in all your seeking you have found nothing; such as your

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<sup>1</sup> (Journal, 1647)

<sup>2</sup> (Journal, 1647)

<sup>3</sup> (Journal, 1651)

<sup>4</sup> Sarah Blackborow (England, flor. 1650s – 1660s)

seeking is, such is your finding. . . . Therefore. . . . come out of the many things; there's but one thing needful <sup>5</sup>keep to it. . . . that into my Mother's house you may come, and into the chamber of her that conceived me, where you may embrace, and be embraced, of my dearly beloved one. <sup>6</sup> Love is his name, Love is his nature, Love is his life. <sup>7</sup> Be no more than God hath made thee. Give over thine own willing; give over thine own running; give over thine own desiring to know or to be anything, and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee, and be in thee, and breathe in thee, and act in thee, and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that, and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of life, which is his portion. And as thou takest up the cross to thyself, and sufferest that to overspread and become a yoke over thee, thou shalt become renewed, and enjoy life, and the everlasting inheritance in that. <sup>8</sup> The end of words (even of Christ's own directions in the days of His flesh) is to turn men to the holy life and power from whence the words came. <sup>9</sup> But some may desire to know what I have at last met with. I answer, "I have met with the Seed." Understand that word, and thou wilt be satisfied and inquire no further. I have met with my God, I have met with my Saviour, and he hast not been present with me without his salvation, but I have felt the healings dropped upon my soul from under his wings. I have met with the true knowledge, the knowledge of life ... I have met with the Seed's Father, and in the

Seed I have felt him my Father ... I have met with the Seed's faith, which hath done and doth that which the faith of man can never do. I have met with the true birth, with the birth which is heir of the Kingdom ... I have met with the true peace, the true righteousness, the true holiness, the true rest of the soul, the everlasting habitation which the redeemed dwell in; and I know all these to be true, ... and am capable of no doubt, dispute, or reasoning in my mind about them. <sup>10</sup> Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another; and not laying accusations one against another; but praying for one another, and helping one another up with a tender hand. <sup>11</sup> The Lord of Heaven and earth we found to be near at hand, and, as we waited upon him in pure silence, our minds out of all things, his heavenly presence appeared in our assemblies, when there was no language, tongue or speech from any creature. The Kingdom of Heaven did gather us and catch us all, as in a net, and His heavenly power at one time drew many hundreds to land. We came to know a place to stand in and what to wait in; and the Lord appeared daily to us, to our astonishment, amazement and great admiration, insomuch that we often said one unto another with great joy of heart: 'What, is the Kingdom of God come to be with men?' . . . And from that day forward, our hearts were knit unto the Lord and one unto another in true and fervent love, in the covenant of Life

<sup>5</sup> [see Luke 10:40-42],

<sup>6</sup> [see Song of Sol. 3:1-4]

<sup>7</sup> (quoted in *Hidden in Plain Sight*, p. 52) Isaac Penington (England, 1616–1679)

<sup>8</sup> (*Some Directions to the Panting Soul*, 1661)

<sup>9</sup> (*Works*, 1784, Vol. 3, p. 378)

<sup>10</sup> (*An account of his Spiritual Travel*, 1667. quoted in *Friends Intelligencer and Journal*, v. 57, p.22, 1/13/1900)

<sup>11</sup> (*Letters*, Letter LII, 1667) Francis Howgill (England, 1618-1669)

with God.<sup>12</sup> Oh! The joy that filled my soul in the first meeting ever held in our house at Chalfont. To this day I have a fresh remembrance of it. It was then the Lord enabled me to worship him in that which was undoubtedly his own, and give up my whole strength, yea, to swim in the life which overcame me that day. . . for I could say, 'This is it which I have longed and waited for, and feared I never should have experienced.'<sup>13</sup> The Seed, or Grace of God, is small in its first Appearance, even as the Morning Light; but as it is given Heed to, and obeyed, it will increase in Brightness, till it shine in the Soul, like the Sun in the Firmament at its Noon-day Height<sup>14</sup> Not by strength of arguments or by a particular disquisition of each doctrine, and convincement of my understanding thereby, came [I] to receive and bear witness of the Truth, but by being secretly reached by [the] Life. For, when I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power among them, which touched my heart; and as I gave way unto it I found the evil weakening in me and the good raised up; and so I became thus knit and united unto them, hungering more and more after the increase of this power and life whereby I might feel myself perfectly redeemed; and indeed this is the surest way to become a Christian; to whom afterwards the knowledge and understanding of principles will not be wanting, but will grow up so much as is needful as the natural fruit of

<sup>12</sup> (1663, quoted in Quaker Faith and Practice, 1908. Francis Howgill's Testimony, in the preface to Edward Burrough's Works, 1672) Mary Penington (England, 1623-1682)

<sup>13</sup> (Experiences in the Life of Mary Penington, p. 45) Elizabeth Bathurst (England, c. 1655-1685)

<sup>14</sup> . (Truth's Vindication, Page 3 of 5 Robert Barclay (Scotland, 1648-1690)

this good root, and such a knowledge will not be barren nor unfruitful. <sup>15</sup>And so [George Fox] went on, and said, "That Christ was the Light of the world, and lighteth every man that cometh into the world; and that by this light they might be gathered to God," &c. I stood up in my pew, and wondered at his doctrine, for I had never heard such before. And then he went on, and opened the scriptures, and said, "The scriptures were the prophets' words, and Christ's and the apostles' words, and what, as they spoke, they enjoyed and possessed, and had it from the Lord": and said, "Then what had any to do with the scriptures, but as they came to the Spirit that gave them forth? You will say, 'Christ saith this, and the apostles say this;' but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of the Light, and hast thou walked in the Light, and what thou speakest, is it inwardly from God?" &c. This opened me so, that it cut me to the heart; and then I saw clearly we were all wrong. So I sat down in my pew again, and cried bitterly: and I cried in my spirit to the Lord, "We are all thieves; we are all thieves; we have taken the scriptures in words, and know nothing of them in ourselves"<sup>16</sup> We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity; it is our desire that others' feet may walk in the same, and do deny and bear our testimony against all strife and wars and contentions ....<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> (Quaker Faith and Practice, 19:21) Margaret Fell (England, 1614-1702)

<sup>16</sup> ." ("The testimony of Margaret Fox concerning her late husband," from The Journal of George Fox, 1694.)

<sup>17</sup> ("A Declaration and an Information from Us, the People Called Quakers ...," 1660, reprinted in Wallace, T.H.S., A Sincere and constant Love: An Introduction to the work of Margaret Fell, Friends United Press, 1992, p. 54.

Then Mary Dyer was brought forth, and with a band of soldiers led through the town, the drums being beaten before and behind her, and so continued that none might hear her speak all the way to the place of execution, which was about a mile. Thus guarded, she came to the gallows, and being gone up the ladder, some said to her, that, if she would return [home] she might come down and save her life. To which she replied, "Nay, I cannot, for in obedience to the will of the Lord I came, and in His will I abide faithful to death." ... Then one mentioned she should have said, she had been in Paradise. To which she answered, "Yea, I have been in Paradise these several days." Thus Mary Dyer departed this life, a constant and faithful martyr of Christ, having been twice led to death, which the first time she expected with an entire resignation of mind to the will of God, and now suffered with Christian fortitude, being raised above the fear of death through a blessed hope and glorious assurance of eternal life and immortality.<sup>18 19</sup> True godliness don't turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavours to mend it; not hide their candle under a bushel, but set it upon a table in a candlestick<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> . (Besse, Joseph, A Collection of the sufferings of the people called Quakers, 1753, vol. 2, pp. 206-207) William Penn (England, 1644-1718)

<sup>19</sup> Mary Dyer (England, 1611-1660) [Boston Common, 1660:]

<sup>20</sup> . (No Cross, No Crown, ch. 5, section 12, 1682)

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