

FRIENDS IN SAN ANTONIO

7052 North Vandiver at Eisenhower

October 2015

How Quakers Can Help to End Mass Incarceration

Lewis Webb: For me, mass incarceration is really over-incarceration. A system that has criminalized too many activities, and focused on a particular population to enforce that criminalization

Laura Magnani: So when I first started working on it in California at its low point—which was when Reagan was Governor of California—we were down to about 17,000 prisoners in the state prison. Now we have... we went as high as 170,000. The system we have now is based on violence. That is at the core. We give ourselves permission to be as violent to certain human beings as possible, up to and including death.

Targeting People of Color

Laura Magnani: It's pretty shocking to walk inside any jail or prison in the United States and see the demographics because it's very disproportionately people of color compared to the general population.

Farajii Muhammed: It's really a system that's designed to keep us in a state where we have no power. A system that's really designed to keep the poor, keep those who are not accessible to resources, the disadvantaged, the marginalized, the disenfranchised... and I think for Black people it goes as far back as the institution of slavery itself. It really puts the people in a place where they can't find themselves any real... there's no light at the end of the tunnel. They can't find themselves free.

The Impact of Incarceration

Lewis Webb: About a week ago, I was talking to a gentleman who came home after 44 years of incarceration, and I asked him, "What are you experiencing?" and I thought he would say, "Well, I can't get a job. I can't do this..." But he said, "I don't know how to cross the street." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "When I left, cars were not moving this fast."

The realities of spending 40-plus years, for many men and women, away from the world... I just don't know what they're going to do. And it's not an isolated case. We are incarcerating people, not just at high numbers, but for unbelievable periods of time.

Laura Magnani: I think there's a tendency often for white Quakers—of which I am one—to think it doesn't affect us in the same way as it might if we were people of color primarily, and if our own loved ones were

Calendar

4. Sunday
Potluck lunch at
11.30 a.m..

11. Sunday
No Forum –.

18. Sunday.....
Contemplative Sing-
ing, 9.00-9.45 am.
Meeting for Busi-
ness, 11.30.

25, Sunday
Forum – Varieties of
Meditative Practices:
Similarities and Dif-
ferences, Part 2, with
Gary Whiting .

28. Wednesday
Midweek Meeting,
7.00, Gary's home.

November
14.. Saturday,
9 am -1pm. Meeting-
house workparty.
Lunch provided.

inside. But because of the impact that it has on the economy, because of the way that its devastating our cities, because of the fact that the money spent on prisons, like the money spent on military, is draining funds from everything else we need to make us healthy. It is impacting all of us.

Impact on Families

Laura Magnani: I think another way that it's had a tremendous impact is on the families left behind. So people forget about the fact that when we incarcerate parents, children are also in effect doing time.

Lewis Webb: Mass incarceration has created single-parent homes and will continue to create them. I'm afraid for the women in my community. The men are being taken away. And therefore, our numbers as a people are going to go down. Some people call it genocide, I'm afraid that I'm not quite there yet, but if we don't fix it, this may prove to be a genocidal result. And so the impact is far reaching and frightening.

A New Paradigm

Laura Magnani: One of the definitions of sin is separation from God, and when we allow ourselves to separate ourselves from each other, we're creating divides. And we're creating greater broken-ness. That's what separation is, it's broken-ness. And so what we have to be talking about is wholeness. How can we bring people back in? What would it take to restore or to create for the first time a whole and healthy and inclusive society?

We need a new paradigm. That's what we need. And it needs to be a transformative justice paradigm that's based on wholeness and healing and not on punishment and revenge.

An Issue of Faith

Lewis Webb: It's really about, if you truly believe that God can be seen in all of us, then it's incumbent upon us to make life as whole for all of us as possible, and prisons don't do that. Criminalizing people, marginalizing people just doesn't do that. It's just not Quakers, all people of faith, all people of goodwill in my opinion have that responsibility... to mitigate if not eradicate those injustices.

Farajii Muhammed: It's a huge imbalance in the criminal justice system. It targets Blacks, it targets poor. It targets Latinos. It's a huge imbalance there. So our responsibility—our call to action with this whole system—is to bring true justice and real balance back into a system.

Time to Act

Lewis Webb: We as people of goodwill have allowed so much of this injustice to be done in our name that it's our responsibility to reverse it. We have entombed justice behind "get tough on crime" policies. Punish the sinner, however you want to phrase it, and if we don't remove that stone quickly, justice will die in that tomb.

It's going to take a hammer and a chisel. We're not going to be able to just roll the stone away this time. We're going to have to chisel at it piece by piece, and I'm urging every member of any community of faith to pick up his hammer and his chisel. If it's helping people re-enter society from prison, then chisel there. If it's really about organizing conferences, do your chiseling there. For Quakers and all of us who care, get to work.

From Quakerspeak.com/how-quakers-can-help-end-mass-incarceration/



Personal News

Val said, "I'm happy to be in my 2nd home, Suchitoto, El Salvador. Edward is here for the week with a guitar event, and any shingles seem to have been a light case. "Life is good!" She is back here now.

Ken says, "I'm dying under an avalanche of requests for support – and money – from

worthwhile causes, protecting elephants from ivory smugglers, protecting wolves in the West from ranchers, protecting Planned Parenthood, the election of a good guy in another state,, helping the Red Cross in ebola-plagued Africa, defeating the money of the Kochs and others, stopping the wasting of food, signing a petition for a woman in dire need of legal aid, aiding African farmers in conflicted areas, cleaning air, ending Guantanamo imprisonment, expressing an opinion on Joe Biden, wishing Bill a Happy Birthday with a thousand others,,” And so on.

And he got to be ninety last month. His advice? Just don't die. Keep at it long enough and you'll do it. And avoid sports. His best friend died in his late twenties of a head injury probably incurred on the rugby field. Of course, for better advice, you should speak to Ruth, Before long, she will be 100.

Beth is going to Helsinki to present at a seminar in October. The conference is called BILC (Bureau for International Language Coordination), and is basically allies getting together to talk about language teaching/assessment. "I'll give a 30-minute presentation on developing curriculum for advanced foreign language acquisition.

I've never been to Europe and am very excited. I hope to see the fjords and maybe even the northern lights!"

Good news! Dan has recovered well from his back surgery. He can feel his leg now and walk well. Ruth has continued her association with Brooklyn Friends School, which fosters "Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Civic Engagement." This year 41 graduates have gone on to universities and colleges. Margaret M, who stopped coming to meeting because of traffic, says, from Florida, " My son, James, lives about 8 or 10 ten miles away and I see him about once a week. I babysat his children a week ago and caught their colds, but I'm quite better now. . ."

Business Meeting

September Meeting for Business commenced with this advice from quakerjane.com:

"It only becomes imperative to discern God's will when we have an experience, some powerful experience, that we cannot explain, an experience through which we suspect (or fear) God may be trying to communicate with us."

Suzanne presented the Property Committee report, saying that the meetingroom A/C has been replaced and the wood floor is being dried out. As meetinghouse doors have been found unlocked, Meeting agreed that the locks should be changed. Failed lightbulbs in the walkway have been replaced. A workday is being arranged (see below) and tree limbs over the pathway will be trimmed.

Bill, our Treasurer, reported that our balance had increased due to an insurance payment for repairs which have not yet been paid for. If a repair is deemed unnecessary, some refund will be needed.

A report from RAICES speaks of a court decision which in effect lengthens the time that immigrant children may be held in for-profit detention centers from 3 to 20 days. And 1700 beds are now filled at Dilley and Karnes. Volunteers are being housed at the Mennonite house. There are problems with women and children leaving detention, who lack medical and legal assistance. David said that Gretchen's article will appear in the October issue of Friends Journal.

Meeting closed in silence.

Wales for Peace

Rhun Wmffre Dafydd sends this message: "Braf bod yn rhan o gynhadledd parterneihau @walesforpeace. Hynod o ddiddorof" Just to let you know of Welsh efforts for peace.

Britain Yearly Meeting uses Welsh for much of its communication. Llanfairpwll-gwyn-gyll is not the only place where Welsh is spoken. Or pronounced

peaceCENTER Birthday

The peaceCENTER will hold its 20th Birthday Party on Sunday, October 4, 3PM - 6PM, at the Whitley Center, Oblate School of Theology (enter to the right of the main building; it's on the right.)

Birthday refreshments will be served. It is free and open to the public, but they would love a donation to honor the peaceCENTER.

Baylor Professor Robert Darden, author of *“Nothing but Love in God’s Water: Black Sacred Music from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement,”* will speak about his newest book, which explores how songs and singers helped African Americans challenge and overcome slavery, subjugation, and suppression.

Immigrants

Hannah Graf Evans, of FCNL, asks us, “How are we called to welcome the stranger? In these times, with a record number of refugees around the world, welcoming the stranger is no longer just an ideal—it must be the reality that we practice.

Spurred by the Syrian refugee crisis, in the coming weeks the House and Senate will both hold hearings on refugees. This is a chance for members to consider not only how the U.S. can respond and help in these circumstances but also the importance of openness for immigration and refugee policies in the long term.

The rhetoric around the hearings is already dangerously Islamophobic, and it could be used to foster fear and cultivate anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, and anti-Muslim sentiment to stop the resettlement of Syrian refugees.

As invaders and occupiers in Iraq—and as a nation of immigrants and refugees—the U.S. has a special responsibility to people affected by ongoing violence in Iraq, Syria, and neighboring countries. The years of U.S. economic and military warfare in Iraq destabilized the region and contribute to the violence in Syria today.”

She urges us to call on Congress and the administration to welcome them and search to solve the crisis that drives them.

Our fair raised over \$1,000 to support detained families, and FMSA volunteers help.

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Shan Cretin, of AFSC, says, “we have the perfect opportunity to raise peace and justice issues in a compelling way. Take the case of detention bed quotas, a misguided law that stipulates a high level of immigrants detained, often in for-profit prisons. When our volunteers first approached candidates about bed quotas, both Democrats and Republican candidates said they hadn’t heard of them. Now, after months of questions, a few have come out to join us in opposition to the immigrant detention policy, including Hillary Clinton. Furthermore, a number of news stories about the bed quota policy and our courageous bird-dogging volunteers have appeared in main-stream and social media.”

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The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.: Leviticus 19:34.

Blessed?

We’re told, a company in Florida is selling a “Christian” AR-15 assault rifle with a Crusader’s cross etched on one side and Psalm 144:1 on the other -- "Blessed be the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle."

Named “The Crusader,” the gun also features a three setting trigger control labeled

Peace, War, and God Wills It.

Could there really be anything less Christian than this? Or even anti-Christian?

Strip Mine

There is a Mexican-owned strip coal mine that is attempting to start operations near Eagle Pass. The coal is too low grade to be used in the U.S., so it will go through Eagle Pass about 7 miles into Mexico where it will fuel two of the dirtiest coal burning plants in the region. Pollution from Carbon I and II has been tracked to Big Bend and Chicago. The water and air impacts could be enormous, and the historic preservation process was never completed, yet Texas seems to want to fast-track the permitting process.

Maverick County is one of the ten poorest in the U.S., with a 97% minority population. The city and county are unified in opposition to the coal mine- City Council, County Commissioners, State Representative, educators, hospital district and pastors. Yet, no one seems to be able to slow it down. A mine representative said at a meeting that “little people” could never stop the mine owner.

The best bet is to seek a TRO to stop the construction process before historic sites are destroyed and slow everything down. Unfortunately, there are no funds for an attorney.

From Jonathan Hook

History

In the Spring issue of *Quaker History* an article says, “Friends . . . have been pioneers in attending to victims of famine, war, and poverty, and in addressing civil rights,, social and spiritual equality, prison reform, mental health, opposition to slavery, aid to minorities and conflict resolution.”

We hope all this is true, but it is a statement which can lead us to pride, surely unQuakerly. How many of us can now claim to be a pioneer in any one of these? Historically, those Friends are our mentors and we cannot claim any credit for their actions, merely the hope that we can follow their leads.

Funeral Consumers

The Funeral Consumers Alliance contracts with Funeral Homes to provide cremation and burial services for members. There is a list of services offered.

For cremation, the price includes pickup of deceased from a home, necessary permits, container, transportation and charges by the crematorium. For burial, members purchase the casket and arrange for a religious service at the gravesite. Price does not include the casket, viewing, use of chapel, nor a procession to the cemetery.

Membership provides necessary services in other cities. For more information, go to www.funeraladviceatx.org.

Miscellany

States with weak gun violence prevention laws and higher rates of gun ownership have the highest gun death rates in the nation, according to a Violence Policy Center analysis. States with the lowest gun death rates have lower rates of gun ownership and some of the strongest gun violence prevention laws. And, unhappily, we can know that police officers can never be sure that a suspected perp is not armed as they can in other nations.

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Under a newspaper photo of troops and demonstrators, a caption; “Tensions escalated

Sunday at Al Aqsa Mosque: compound in Jerusalem, which houses sites holy to Muslims and to Jews.” We can be thankful that we have no special holy sites. All places are equally holy. We would be sorry to see some historical sites disappear, but if such is the case our worship will be unaffected. Why is the protection of holy sites worthy of violence?

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The new leader of Britain’s Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, is a unilateral disarmer, He is opposed to the UK’s membership in NATO, which he regards as a Cold War organization; he would discontinue Britain’s nuclear deterrent, and has said he would abolish the British army, like Costa Rica.. What chance is there that he will become the UK’s next prime minister? And what would be the result?

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We did not know that mathematics played any part in the origins of Christianity. But in Israel, at a revered Christian site, there is the “Church of Multiplication.” Unhappily, we became aware of this only because it had been attacked, a messianic Jewish organization being suspected.

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Heaven forbid that any of us should ever become a loved one! Loved ones are mostly dead, often killed in some nasty way.

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There has been a great outcry over the refusal by a Kentucky County Clerk’s refusal to issue marriage licences to same-sex couples. She was jailed for contempt of court and outbursts have arisen.

Quakers also have asserted the authority of God’s law above those of humans, in directing their behavior, and have been jailed for it. Widespread outbursts were unlikely, though, as the Quakers were not asserting something widely supported. And Quakers accepted that they should be jailed according to human law, that God’s law had no place in a human court.

In one obvious case, conscientious objectors were granted, by human law, the right to refuse military service. The distinction between human and divine law has thus been affirmed.

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There is widespread concern over the status and condition of women in the world.

So what do we make of this description of an American subculture in the Express-News today, Sunday -- "Booze, drugs, and women" These are the words of an ex-prison detainee, returning to encourage current detainees to improve themselves and gain a normal adult life when they leave. His words refer to the culture of the gang he was in before we went into detention. Women as equivalent to booze. Or drugs.

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AFSC says:: “For-profit prisons put profits ahead of the needs of our communities, taxpayers, prisoners, and even prison employees. Yet many states and the federal government continue to allow private corporations to manage their prisons.

The truth is: for-profit prison corporations are counting on people being incarcerated for their profits. And that’s not something that we can stand by idly and accept.”

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Arthur Waskow writes, “. . . ancient rabbis taught, ‘When Caesar stamps his image on a coin, all the coins come out identical. When the Holy One stamps the Divine Image on a ‘coin,’ each ‘coin’ [each human being] is unique. . . Each face . . . is the face of God.’”

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“Instead of asking, ‘What can I get out of this situation?’ Or ‘How can I get out of this situation?’ the bodhisattva asks, ‘What can I contribute to make this situation better?’ Today we can understand the bodhisattva path as a spiritual archetype that offers a new vision of human

possibility.” David R. Loy, *Tikkun*, Spring issue. Here is a message about Buddhists from Jews, to Quakers.

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Sarah was Jewish, and lived in Europe when the Nazis started collecting Jews for extinction:

“We fled to the Ural mountains to escape the Nazi killers, although they captured a number of my family members,’ Sarah recalls.

‘After that, I worked hard on a collective farm in the freezing cold as we barely survived. The people there hated us as Jews and called us names. We had to hide often to keep from being killed.’”

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“Peace *n*. In international affairs, a period of cheating between two periods of fighting.” . . . .  
Ambrose Bierce’s definition.

Not ours.

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It’s regrettable that the United Nations is not an organization representing the peoples of the world but one representing the governments of the world. Ron Prosor, Israel’s ambassador to the UN, published an article in the *NY Times* emphasizing that committees and councils of the UN routinely accuse Israel of infractions while ignoring those of their own members. The UN commission on the Status of Women “effectively” (Prosor) singled out just Israel while ignoring female genital mutilation in Sudan and the stoning of women in Iran. Israel is not without blame for many of its actions, but the UN is clearly not an unbiased place to consider the blame of its member governments. With mostly new nations, it is no longer the same kind of organization which created the state of Israel in 1948, though that then overrode the expectations (rights?) of Arab residents. The UN had not at that time declared support for such rights of the Palestinians for their own state.

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David Zarembka tells us that 93% of the graduates of Friends School in Ramallah, Palestine, enter four-year colleges and universities. That is remarkable. But schooling there is not cheap. More scholarships are needed.

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Sarah A. Topol, in an article in last December’s *Harper’s*, cites the *New York Times* as saying that Al Qaeda in the Maghreb (south Mediterranean coast) received \$91.5 million in ransoms between 2008 and 2013. The USA refused to allow payment of ransoms, a hard rule for those American families with early kidnaped members. But, she says, Tuareg elders and at least one drug lord ultimately decided that Americans were worthless, since this decision by the US government.

This decision would surely be supported by Friends as it prevents further violent kidnappings of Americans for ransom. They just do not pay off. Though, for those first few, it was like choosing their death.

Country

When the US Civil War began, Robert E. Lee, then an officer in the US army, deserted to join the Confederate state of Virginia, his home and the Confederate army, even though he did not wish the Union to be broken. A clear example of “My state, right or wrong .” Such loyalty to one’s home renders wars much worse, leading, for instance, Germans to serve in Hitler’s army, Britons to fight in Sudan, South Africa, and India, to deprive other races of their right to rule themselves.

Another man, seen in Ken Burn’s “The Civil War,” says to a northerner, when asked why he fought the north, “Because you’re down here!” This is more understandable, though earlier the

north had not been "down there." There are jungle-dwelling tribes across the world whose ancestral lands are being occupied by ranchers, for instance, in Brazil, or by roads and settlers or plantations in Indonesia, who are surely right to resist that encroachment by whatever means they have available.

Such wars must be settled by the rule of justice. But wars which are fought by soldiers, for "my country, right or wrong," as soldiers must, having relinquished their right to say no, are resistant to any call for justice. They must be fought to the end. From their induction soldiers are trained to obey orders, however stupid or unreasonable. They may still think, but not if it interferes with obeying orders.

Life, Liberty and

David Rothkopf, in an article in Foreign Policy, takes up the question of changing human rights as technology develops. The constitution, he says, allows for such changes. But in protecting the use of arms, "Madison & Co. could not possibly have foreseen . . . modern assault weapons, and how the Second Amendment applies in a world . . . without militias." In the modern world he argues for a universal right to access to the Internet and to electricity. Without this, people are effectively cut off from modern life and cannot participate fully in today's world.

We sympathize with his point about arms, but is the internet necessary for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? Electricity and the Internet were not necessary for Madison & Co., and in today's world there are "primitive" people living in jungles for whom these qualities seem to depend on moving farther into the jungle away from modern intrusions. Such people need our protection, not least to preserve their environment from pollution and encroachment. But might they need the information provided by the Internet to choose how to protect themselves?

And, for "life" they need modern medicine without which they die at unnecessarily low ages. Until then they live full and rewarding lives by standards that go back millennia. Resolving such dilemmas may be an important task of this century.

Our Bodies – And the Earth

(NaturalNews) "A Seattle architect named Katrina Spade has proposed a new solution for urban food production: convert the recently deceased into nutritious compost to feed the food crops.

The project is called the Urban Death Project, and it describes the process of turning dead humans into food as follows:

The Urban Death Project is a compost-based renewal system. At the heart of the project is a three-story core, within which bodies and high-carbon materials are placed. Over the span of a few months, with the help of aerobic decomposition and microbial activity, the bodies decompose fully, leaving a rich compost. The Urban Death Project is not simply a system for turning our bodies into soil-building material. It is also a space for the contemplation of our place in the natural world, and a ritual to help us say goodbye to our loved ones by connecting us with the cycles of nature.

Here is a way of being useful even in our death? Embalming fluids are extremely toxic to the planet. But. . . nearly all dead bodies in modern society are too toxic to recycle into food

Learn more: at:

http://www.naturalnews.com/049082_Urban_Death_Project_composting_human_bodies_food_crops.html##ixzz3Xt9xKfbt

Friends Meetings frequently had burial grounds adjacent a century and a half ago. But perhaps we are not immediately about to have composting grounds. Those old cemeteries provided a peaceful haven for urban wildlife and for walking through, though, perhaps, peacefully haunted.

Borders

All around the world there are groups contained within national borders they did not choose and want to be rid of. Tom Friedman refers to Middle Eastern nations with straight borders with no reference to ethnicity or religion. It may often be because of some western imperialist's matter of convenience, e.g., western New Guinea within the old Dutch East Indies, or of a nation's expansion of its borders to include neighboring peoples, e.g., Scotland.

What is to be done about these unhappy people? The nation within whose borders they fall does not normally accept their desire for exclusion. Indonesia, for instance, insisted on the inclusion of western New Guinea even though people there were racially, culturally and religiously different, just because the Dutch had included them.

Who are these people? Irish and Scots in the UK; Kashmiris and Assamese in India; Moros in the Philippines; New Guineans in Indonesia; Tibetans and Uighurs in China; Southern Sudanese (who have succeeded) in Sudan; Kurds in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran; Sunnis in Syria; Crimeans and Russian Ukrainians in Ukraine, Basques in Spain and France, Corsicans in France,, Sardinians in Italy;, Chechens in Russia, Hausa and Fulani Muslims in NE Nigeria,. How many more? Minority Tutsis, in the DR Congo, fled there from oppression in Rwanda. What is it that makes Libya a nation? Where will the refugees who fled across national borders end up?

We would be sorry to see Scotland break its ties to England. But if this is the Scots' choice, we would like to see the divorce be a good peaceful example for others.

Reconciliation

We see in *Friends Journal*, that David Zarembka describes an instance in Kenya in which Friends Peace Teams, through Friends Churches there, was able to defuse a situation of continuing threat of violence. A group of hunter-gatherers on Mount Elgon had been compulsorily settled onto plots of land by the post-independence government, using land seized from white settlers. The small tribe objected that certain cronies of the government got bigger plots, and some of them concluded that they had to use violence to be heard. The kind of violence available to such a small group is terrorism, and their attacks produced counterattacks by the Kenyan army, with a resultant chaos, refugees, and deaths. The terrorists had been quelled but there were rumors that they were reorganizing. This is where Friends Peace Teams stepped in. A group of African Friends, though in fear and trembling, asked to meet the terrorist leaders, who turned out also to be wary of the meeting. But as a result, after sitting and listening to the terrorists wishes, the Friends' Healing and Reconciling Our Communities process and AVP were used and the terrorists were successfully reintegrated peacefully into their communities. A happy result, though David does not mention whether the original land problems were resolved.

A Driving Force

When the first nuclear bomb was detonated, Robert Oppenheimer, physicist director, said, "now the physicist has known sin." Ralph Steinhardt, whose father worked in the project, quotes this, searching for humanity in such inhumane work. Ken was an English patriot during WWII, joining the RAF to become a pilot and being diverted to loading bombs on planes during a hiatus in his training. Realizing recently that bombs he loaded were dropped on Dresden during some of the worst air raids, much worse than those the Luftwaffe had inflicted on his home city, Plymouth, he thinks "now the patriot has known sin."

In war a driving force is "kill or be killed." Humane men, and now, perhaps, women, have to perform inhumane tasks to protect their community from the inhumanity of the enemy. Quakers have said "No" to this inhumanity but have not succeeded in preventing war, except in

more limited engagements like that described by David Zarembka We must continue, supporting the work of the American Friends Service Committee, Quaker Voluntary Service, Friends Committee on National Legislation,, Friends Peace Teams, and other local or unaffiliated efforts.

Many patriots have known sin.

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Just try to imagine yourself. You have lost your job and are looking for something, anything, having failed to find any good opening.. You are walking down the road in rough workclothes, old and worn. Cars are driving by. And the face you present to the world is black. You wear a black mask which hides who you really are. Your black skin defines who you are. Your skin, your hands, your legs, are black, different from the white skin of the drivers of the cars and other walkers passing by. You are a what, not a who.

How many of you, we wonder, have problems imagining this? And how many experience it daily?

### **Benediction**

May God protect and  
shield thee, and all  
demons run from thee.  
God in compassion be thy  
friend, cull from thee  
all unkind things and sufferings  
and all thy sadness end.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Mark H*

## Query for October

What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and our principles to the community around us? Does our Meeting's ministry of outreach lead Friends to share their spiritual experiences with others?

Meeting for Worship is held on Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by refreshments and a Forum discussion at 11.30, usually lasting until about 12.45. Children are invited to join worship for the first fifteen minutes, after which they may go to join with the Young Friends program. Child care is available during Forum.

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