

FRIENDS IN SAN ANTONIO

7052 North Vandiver at Eisenhower

July 2017

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CHARTER FOR COMPASSION, FACILITATED BY CITIZENS OF SAN ANTONIO COMMITTED TO COMPASSION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR COMPASSIONATE CITIES

WHEREAS compassion is a purpose, principle, and unifying value that guides and compels people of all backgrounds, perspectives, creeds, and cultures to treat all human beings with justice, equity, and respect;

WHEREAS research demonstrates that practicing compassion produces positive benefits in all sectors of civic and community life, including safety, public health, and physical, mental, and spiritual well-being;

WHEREAS the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities is a global movement inspired by the Golden Rule, or Ethic of Reciprocity, which calls on each person to treat others as he or she wishes to be treated;

WHEREAS residents of the City of San Antonio and Bexar County demonstrate this ethic daily in their homes, schools, places of faith, businesses, community organizations and on our streets;

WHEREAS San Antonio continues to exemplify compassionate values in many forms, from its five-time NBA championship team, the Spurs, who play, mentor and lead with compassion, to its hosting of the largest Martin Luther King, Jr. March in the country and its welcoming and support of 35,000 evacuees who sought refuge after Hurricane Katrina, that show a living example of compassion to the world;

WHEREAS San Antonio and Bexar County continue to strive to advance the quality of life for all their residents and in all their communities, without partisanship, and with the conviction that people can and do have the capacity to improve their lives and make a positive difference in the lives of others;

WHEREAS San Antonio was founded in faith almost three hundred years ago by our foremothers and fathers, and the city continues that tradition today through its Faith-Based Initiative by exploring and actualizing collaboration across faith and civic lines to promote the greater good;

WHEREAS many expressions of compassion take place in our city on a daily basis facilitated by dedicated community organizations working to lift

Calendar

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

9. Sunday
Forum – Meredith, Water Issues of today,

13 Thursday
Midweek Meeting for Worship 6.15 pm (see below.)

16. Sunday.....
Meeting for Business, 11.30.

18, Tuesday
Mutual Support Group, Library , 7 pm. (See below.)

23, Sunday
Forum – Jim, Vocal Ministry in Meeting,

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

30, Sunday
Forum – James & Joni on FGC Gathering

up our neighbors by ensuring equality and promote the human potential of our community; WHEREAS the Charter for Compassion is active in nearly 50 countries with initiatives in hundreds of cities and communities, both large and small, including Austin, Dallas, Houston and our sister city of Monterrey, Mexico, each with their own unique way of expressing compassion and exploring the use of compassion as their overall strategic lens within complex urban growth and conflicted times;

This, followed by the proposed adoption of the charter by the city, led by mayor Nirenberg.



Personal News

Jim is back. He and Meredith have been on vacation and he has taught a two-week course on Contemplative Photography in National Parks to a group of students more accustomed to work in which answers are either right or wrong. Dimitri continues work at a gas station here and Janaki is at the beginning of marriage and active among Young Friends. We send our hopes for happiness to both, and hope to see them again soon.

Gloria may have returned home to Colombia by when you read this. Janet fractured her (own) ankle. She had surgery, while Friends have been so helpful in providing food for Ken., with Laura coordinating. And then Laura’s mother, in Houston, was taken into hospital and Laura rushed off; Joni took over. James changed a flat tire and Joni gathered pots for Karyn. Such good help!

June Business Meeting

Meeting for Business commenced with silent worship. Jim gave the report of the Peace and Social Service Committee. Meeting approved a minute affirming the importance of individuals in Spirit-led activism for peace and justice. And Meeting should discern what support and resources it is called on to provide. An attender has raised the issue of support for prisoners and their families, but is no seeking Meeting support.

The committee recommended that Meeting donate \$10,000 to FCNL over the next four years. This was approved.

Jim also gave the report of Ministry and Oversight, which contained no recommendations. Bill S gave the report of Property Committee. The water fountain is still under repair. Tree care is scheduled. Problems with the structure of the meetingroom are being considered, seeking the architect’s advice. A proposal that meeting provide space for Amnesty International concerts fundraising for refugees was approved.

Meeting closed in silence.

Mutual Support Group for Spirit-led Work and Activism

July 18, 7pm in the Meeting Library

Peace and Social Concerns Committee will offer a monthly meeting of a mutual support group for those who want to keep their work centered in Spirit. Friends who work in groups where strong feelings arise may find this a useful way to help them stay centered. Our process will be to spend a time of worship and then each person may speak about their work and the challenges they face. We will hold each person in the Light, and respond as requested.

Midweek Meeting for Worship

The Friends Meeting of San Antonio is happy to announce they will be adding a meeting for worship on the 2nd Thursday of the month. A bowl of soup and fellowship will begin at 6:15pm, with meeting for worship to follow at 7pm. Please mark your calendars for July 13, 2017 and August 10th..

Miscellany

Computers and printers are so useful, provided they don't have minds of their own (How's that, AI?) Last month they had all kinds of ideas of what should be printed for the paper edition of the newsletter. Ultimately, we compromised For Quakers, a dirty word, but we ceded no principle to them.

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On September 20, 2017, Amnesty International will hold 300 small concerts in 60 countries around the world, to engage young people here and around the world in our work to protect refugees.

We're partnering with an organization called Sofar Sounds, which has pioneered the model of having small, short concerts in people's homes or other unique spaces. Only 50-100 people attend the events, which feature established musicians and new, emerging artists. ----- AI

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John Woolman deeply believed seeking the presence of God daily was central to one's faith. He writes at one point about this in his journal: "attend with singleness of heart to this heavenly Instructor, which so opens and enlarges the mind as to cause men to love their neighbors as themselves."

In the course of his work, while drawing up a will for a person in which an enslaved person was to be passed from owner to heir, he felt the presence of God within prick his conscience and pierce his soul about the evil of this institution. He labored throughout his life with Friends to set at liberty those held in captivity. As early as 1762, he refused to purchase goods produced by slave labor. What do we now purchase?

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A standoff with North Korea. Originally, it started when that country was part of the world Communist threat. That is no more, at least not for us. But for them? Do they see themselves as the world Communist leader? Or are they afraid of being unseated? Do they intend to invade S. Korea?

How can we talk rather than threaten? Are threats self-destructive? Is there any possibility of a "normal" relationship between the two Koreas?

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Juneteenth – a day for remembrance. How many African-Americans died in the preceding two years, never becoming African-Americans? The words on the statue of Liberty meant nothing to them, before or after.

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What does "nonbinary" mean to you? To many LGBTQ folk it means they don't have to be either this or that.

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Quaker Pastor Gregg Koskela's "numberone reason that I choose to be a Quaker is that I want to join Christ in transforming this world, and as Quakers, we believe God is alive and vibrant in every part of this world.

Transforming people, working to reconcile creation, restore creation. God is at work breaking systems of injustice. I want God to enliven me. That's one of the reasons, the best reason, I think, why I choose to name Quakers as my own."

He had grown up in Evangelical Christian sects and attended George Fox (then) College.

From *Quakerspeak.com*

So, are new attenders drawn to Friends by our mode of worship or by our reputation for actions for peace and justice?

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In 1964 Friend Kenneth Boulding pointed out that societies were increasingly speedy in recovering from disaster. An example was that of Germany and Japan, which, 20 years after their incredibly destructive defeat in WWII, hardly showed any evidence of it. In his words:

“It is perhaps an optimistic feature of the present time that as well as great powers of destruction, we also have greatly increased powers of recuperation and recovery.”

Boulding, *The Meaning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, 1964

Let us hope that the 21st century will show evidence of this, though not of the destruction. But we note that after WWII the allies were much more forgiving and helpful than after WWI. (Due perhaps not to benevolence but to a need for allies against a hostile USSR?)

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The US is large enough (too large, surely?) for American Friends to be divided among a number of Yearly Meetings. Britain has just one (at one time London YM.) Ireland, meaning both Eire and Northern Ireland, has one. What will happen if Scotland become independent? Will the English, Welsh, and Scottish Friends find unity?

Each year at the Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) the Swarthmore Lecture is given. Cecile Nyiramana from Rwanda, who was prevented from coming to co-deliver the Swarthmore Lecture last year, will be attending YMG this summer.

The Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC) is making a significant contribution to YMG this year and has invited Friends from different Yearly Meetings to attend. Other guests include: Thuli Mbete, from South Africa; Emma Condori, from Bolivia; and Merryl Titus, from India. From how many of the YMs around the world will a Friend come?

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In the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Friend Margaret Fell’s place in the history of feminism is examined. She was not an advocate of women’s capacity to reason, but of their access to the “supernatural light of Christ within them.” Nor did she advocate equal education for women. But her arguments implied that women have the capacity to discern the truth, and moral virtue. Moreover they have strength of will. This created an implicit challenge to negative stereotypes of women and preceded the secular challenges of Mary Astell and Danaris Masham later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In another 100 years some Quakers were not all believers in a God, and we have for a long time advocated complete equality for women, as we now advocate equal rights for transgender men and women. Our discernment of the truth grows as the centuries pass.

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From AFSC: promoting a letter to representatives: Issa Amro, a prominent Palestinian human rights defender, is facing 18 charges in Israeli military court that could land him in an Israeli prison for up to three years. Amnesty International has called the charges “baseless and politically motivated.”

“As we recently marked 50 years of occupation, this letter explicitly expresses support for nonviolent protest as a means to oppose illegal settlements, and highlights the injustice of the military system and courts, citing Israel’s 99 percent conviction rate for Palestinians.” Support of Issa could help keep him out of jail and ensure that he can continue his important work.

The Book of Matthew

Thomas Moore, former monk, psychotherapist, and author of *Care of the Soul*, hopes to revive the gospels for an age of spirit (though not religion). Jesus, says Moore, “wanted to raise human awareness and behavior to another level.” His Gospel—The Book of Matthew attempts to transmit this “Jesus spirituality for everyone” in a new translation, *Gospel— The Book of Matthew: A New Translation with Commentary — Jesus Spirituality for Everyone*

In his commentary, Moore unmoors the Gospel from its historical and religious anchors, recasting Jesus into a timeless “spiritual poet,” God into “the secret ways of the cosmos,” and “The Holy Spirit” into “a holy spirit” (which, by the way, is quite correct as an alternate translation). Specific messianic hopes and apocalyptic fears in Roman-occupied Judea are eclipsed by a universal personal psychology.

Roob Pierson, *FJ* June 1

Gerrymandering

The Associated Press is out with a new analysis of the effects of gerrymandering, and their conclusions are not surprising: 49 percent of Americans went to the polls last year backing Republican candidates in House races throughout the country, yet the GOP controls 55 percent of the U.S. House of Representatives.

However, there was a sign of hope, a way that we can fix the problem. From the Arizona Daily Star: The results indicate Arizona has among the lowest measures of unequal representation among the states analyzed by The Associated Press. The reason, some say, is how the state draws its political districts every 10 years, relying on an independent redistricting commission.

That is right. Arizona, which has had an Independent Resistricting Commission since voters put reform in the ballot in 2000, shows almost no signs of unfair district lines.

Sanctuary Everywhere

The Trump Administration continues to threaten our fundamental values, and all we hold dear is still at risk—human rights and social justice, communities free from hate and violence, peace and dignity. Here at the American Friends Service Committee, we’ve already witnessed incredible success. We have faith—in the resistance, and in your power to make a real impact.

Our Sanctuary Everywhere movement is a direct response to the dangerous actions and policies of the Trump Administration. It builds on years of AFSC grassroots resistance. We’ve been busy since January, and demand for our work is in detention. We still have more work to do.

As part of Sanctuary Everywhere, AFSC’s Communities Against Islamophobia project engages and trains hundreds of allies to counter anti-Muslim narratives. Attendees first identify negative stereotypes about Muslims that permeate our culture and they learn new ways to talk about the issue to move more people to take action and become allies. We still have more work to do.

At the American Friends Service Committee, we are committed to nonviolent resistance and creating safer spaces for all people. This year, we’ve seen what success looks like. As part of our Sanctuary Everywhere movement, AFSC attorneys in New Jersey have provided free, high-quality representation to nearly 500 immigrants in detention since 2015. This project has succeeded in increasing the number of cases with positive outcomes—such as getting a stay of deportation or obtaining asylum—and decreasing the time immigrants spend. “ AFSC

Forums

Gretchen led our forum on Sanctuary. It was focused on actions Meeting, and our members, can take, with a list of actions. The easiest was surely allowing pro-sanctuary groups to use meetinghouse rooms for meetings, free. The most difficult must be for members to receive training for active resistance by civil disobedience or by offering sanctuary for immigrants in our homes.

It was pointed out that some actions were by Meeting and some by individual Friends and that, for these, Clearness Committees would be available. The object of the forum was to obtain Friends views (discernment?) and to pass these to Peace and Social Concerns Committee for consideration.

Imam Bethullah Colak, director of the Islamic Institute, spoke at the Forum on June 25. He gave the history of the Hizmet movement from simple tutoring centers in Turkey to a network of schools, universities, hospitals and social service centers in 160 countries. The Erdogan government became increasingly hostile in recent years and accused the Hizmet leader, Fethullah Gulen of undermining his authority. Imam Gulen had traveled to the U S for medical treatment and decided to live in exile in Pennsylvania.

Last July 15, a short-lived coup attempt was blamed on Gulen; many Turks have been imprisoned or lost their jobs. Immediately, 45,000 military officials, police officers, judges, governors and civil servants were arrested or suspended, The purge included 2,700 judges, 15,000 teachers, every university dean and 131 media outlets were closed. The Hizmet network has been shut down in all 160 countries, causing economic and social distress to all those involved. The San Antonio chapter, Raindrop House and Islamic Institute, has continued by raising private funds.

In closing, we discussed the September 20 International Peace Day in which Amnesty International is hosting concerts in 60 cities around the world. FMSA proposes to join with an event. Imam Colak suggested that the Islamic Institute has a group of singers; we may arrange for a joint concert, with the addition of Rudi Harst of Celebration Circle. Watch this space for further details.

Peace – the Judaic Way

Rabbi Michael Lerner says that, since the Six-Day War, “ I'm mourning what happened AFTER Israel won the 6 Days War, believing the subsequent Occupation not only as an ethical outrage but a course of behavior that will live in infamy in Jewish history not only because it has been destructive to Israel's security but also because it has been a "chillul haShem"--a desecration of God's name and an undermining of the spiritual legitimacy of Judaism itself to the extent that it has become a major cheerleader for a nation state with lots of Jews but less of Judaism's powerful and beautiful prophetic, ethical and spiritual foundations. ”

A Judaic route leading, perhaps, straight to us. AFSC urges us to get in touch with our congressmen “to help us get members of Congress to attend our briefing,” “No Way to Treat a Child,” on the condition of Palestinian children under military occupation. Surely a major obstacle to Mideast peace. That briefing, of course, was way back on June 8. It is sad that Rabbi Lerner's insistent focus on Palestine leads some Jews to believe he is against Israel. But the occupation of Palestine blackens Israel's name.

The World Wide Web

“Individuals are turning to the World Wide Web to seek fulfillment for a multitude of needs - to answer questions, buy books, find love, and even to discover meaning through spiritual living. So how do Quaker Meetings invite newcomers and seekers to explore Quaker thought and practice through the Internet? For this month's issue of Vital Friends, we [FGC] are lifting up

innovative ways to attract and nurture individuals and families who are new to the Quaker experience.

Discover the features of the Quaker Cloud by FGC, tell a Friend about the bookstore in Pennsylvania, help newcomers and seekers at your meeting understand Quaker thought and practice with a book from the Seekers' Shelf reading list [<https://quakerbooks.org/collections/seekers-shelf>], get ideas for your meeting's social media presence from our online resource as well as Kathleen Wooten of New England Yearly Meeting, check out the latest update about the FGC Gathering, and make sure you're the first to know about our brand new Faith & Play™ stories coming in June!"

[<https://www.fgcquaker.org/faith-and-play>]

Doesn't Matter

This poem was taken from upon a photograph of that young man standing facing tanks in Tiananmen square in Beijing. That was such a moving scene. We can remember that the "founding" referred to below was done in Quaker Philadelphia. So we are reminded that standing before tanks is our obligation, too:

"Doesn't matter what the press says
Doesn't matter what the politicians or the mobs say,
Doesn't matter if the whole country decides that something wrong is right,
The nation was founded on one principle above all else,
The requirement that we stand up for what we believe,
No matter the odds or the consequences.
When the mobs and the press and
the whole world tell you to move,
Your job is to plant yourself like a
tree beside the river of truth
and tell the whole world,
'NO, YOU MOVE!'"

But be sure you're by that river of truth.

Ban the Bomb?

"At the end of 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution to begin negotiations this year on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. The resolution was supported by an overwhelming 132 nations, and heralds an end to nearly twenty years of paralysis in multilateral nuclear disarmament efforts.

Unfortunately, the U.S. and other nuclear-allied nations are boycotting the process. The clear majority of the world's nations, however, are ready to definitively prohibit nuclear weapons. Biological weapons, chemical weapons, landmines and cluster munitions have all been explicitly and completely banned under international law. To date, nuclear weapons remain the only weapon of mass destruction not prohibited in a comprehensive and universal manner.

The Women's March to Ban the Bomb is a women-led initiative building on the momentum of movements at the forefront of the resistance, including the Women's March on Washington." **Peace Action**

Quaker United Nations Office – New York (QUNO)

"QUNO's mission is to help the United Nations fully carry out its responsibility to prevent violent conflict and build sustainable peace around the world. We work with diplomats,

UN officials and civil society groups to change the way the UN community thinks and acts at a policy level in New York, which then impacts the actions of the UN and others on the ground.”
QUNO – New York Mission Statement

According to the Friends Committee on National Legislation, prioritizing development would be 60 times less expensive than military intervention and the subsequent assistance required for helping nations rebuild.

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17 senators have introduced the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act -- legislation to shore up the U.S. capacity to prevent deadly conflict. At a time when President Trump has proposed cutting diplomacy and development funding by a third, this is big news. And this bill is a milestone in atrocities prevention work; the bipartisan list of original cosponsors reaffirms that atrocities prevention isn't a partisan issue

## **Ban the Shooting!**

At a humbler level: “One year ago, the Orlando shooting that killed 49 people shocked us all to our core.

In the aftermath, we swore that it wouldn't happen again -- that we'd get real, substantial gun reform passed. But since then, NO change has been made. We failed.

Thanks to the NRA's chokehold on Congress, extremist Republicans have refused to take any action to curb gun violence, and we've continued to see senseless acts of gun violence across the country.

We can't let another year go by of inaction. We MUST act now. Demand Congress take IMMEDIATE action to stop gun violence One year ago, President Obama said something that still sticks with us today:

‘Each time this happens, I am going to say we can actually do something about it.’

It's easy to feel hopeless. We're facing politicians entrenched in their ways, and organizations like the NRA with massive amounts of money.” CHC BOLD PAC (A Democratic Part PAC for Hispanics.)

We remember the time when a British Quaker nurse was in America on a lecture tour. She was in the home of a supporter and his son opened a drawer in which lay a gun. Thinking it was a toy, she drew it out and said, “Bang-bang!” The man had entered and was appalled. He protested. And she was appalled. “I couldn't live in a country with guns, loaded, around like that,” she said in England later.

## **Drought in eastern Africa.**

“May we look upon our treasure, the furniture of our houses, and our garments, and try to discover whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions.” John Woolman

I appeal to everyone living in the United States to reflect, repent, and reform. The United States is sucking up the resources of the entire world in order to satisfy the “American dream” of ever increasing consumption in a vain pursue for happiness. In order to obtain this “prosperity” the US must intimidate and militarily control as much of the world as it can. That this leads to poverty, suffering, conflicts, and wars in other countries is of little concern to the greedy American capitalist system. Any country that opposes United States dominance is considered “evil.” Resistance to the American empire is met with terror abroad and fear mongering in the US. In order to secure this unequitable use of the world's resources, each and every American gives the US government more than \$4000 per year to pay for current and past military spending. Each person in Burundi, now the poorest country in the world, has an average income of \$284 or 7% of what an American spends just on the military alone. Is this fair? Is this just?



Some say the world will end in fire, (global warming)  
Some say in ice. (nuclear winter after nuclear war)  
>From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favor fire.  
But if it had to perish twice,  
I think I know enough of hate  
To say that for destruction ice  
Is also great  
And would suffice.

Robert Frost

## Wilding

"As I write this, I'm looking out my office window here at Ploughshares Farm. In 2003, most of our fifty acres was pasture or crop land. Today it is primarily tall grass prairie and native Hoosier hardwoods. With help from various foresters and conservation folks, we have -- what I just learned thanks to this week's selection -- "rewilded" this "tamed" piece of Indiana.

Now I grew up a city boy so the idea of doing all this was, in Quaker parlance, "not a thought that would have occurred to me." Until, that is, until Nancy and I began building our home here. We began walking the land and both realized that we were called to steward it in the best sense of that word. And the best way to live up to that spiritual call was to restore -- or rewild -- it. Today we are blessed by an abundance of bunnies, butterflies, bald eagles, deer, wild turkey, and more. Hopefully the Earth is a bit better for all this work, too. I know my soul is." Brent Bill

Should we "rewild" our property? We are not farmers, dependent on the land for our survival.

## Timeless Quaker Wisdom\* in Plainsong

May 19 at 10:27pm·The last day of the "Quaker Wisdom School" [at Pendle Hill] was today. The whole week was so rich, so full! It will take awhile for me to process it all. I felt so lucky to be able to contribute to this endeavor and to work with Cynthia Bourgeault and Marcelle Martin. Composing and leading the chanting was an easy joy for me, and singing with a group of 60 participants who are so spiritually open was quite something! Cynthia's talks were so very enlightening .. on Benedictine rule and what it has to offer Quakers (and all of us) today for creative balance and depth in our daily lives, (without having to live in a monastery), on ways to cultivate our ability to "sink down to the Seed" and stay spiritually connected in the world, on the mystical stream within Christianity, its ultimate repression in the Church in the 17th century followed by a new outburst of it with the Quaker movement, etc., etc., etc. And Marcelle's stories of the spiritual experiences of many of the early Friends, and her deep analysis of the elements of their spiritual journeys that allowed them to suffer all manner of punishment for their witness in the world, while staying completely grounded in Love, were incredibly uplifting and inspiring. The outpouring of love I received from the participants as well as their acknowledgement of the value of my own gifts was truly heart opening for me, and served to provide a much needed spiritual renaissance in my own being. I am exceedingly grateful.

\*That wisdom is not entirely Quaker.

## Consensus or Shutting Up?

Fifty years ago, in Ann Arbor, the Meeting's High School group, meeting on Saturday evenings, and in which most were not Friends, were about to elect their Troika, their program arrangers. (The name, Troika, was borrowed from the current USSR.) One of the senior girls said she understood

Quakers did not vote but made decisions by consensus. She said, should the group do that? Suggested to consider it, she persuaded the group to name the Troika by consensus.

It took them some time, with a final decision that could have been reached much more quickly. Afterwards, two boys remarked on it. One said what a wonderful method it was. It was the first time, he said, that the juniors and seniors had ever listened to what the sophomores had to say. The other said what a terrible system it was. When the decision was eventually made, he didn't agree, but the only thing for him to do was to shut up. He would have preferred to be able to vote and be beaten.

Very cogent opinions. Not quite our seeking of truth. But we wonder how many of us feel they have to "shut up?"

## **Poverty: Shame or Way of Life?**

Poverty – a matter for shame? And perhaps anger? But what of a fisherman in the Maldives, living on an atoll? The life of the residents revolves around fishing and relaxing, sitting on coils of rope, next houses built of coral. Ismail Ahmed, 24, is dirt-poor. "This is a very fun, happy life," he said chewing on areca (betel) nuts, on the island of less than one square mile, and quoted in the *NY Times*. Without any residents of higher class to look down on him, why should he feel shame? He is doing what the islanders do.

Forty years ago, in Malaysia, Janet and Ken decided to visit an aboriginal village on the coast, where lived very skilled woodcarvers, carving figures from their myths. Knowing they were poor, their son Andrew didn't want to go. He knew Black poverty in America. But he was taken anyway.

The village had been earning some money from the woodcarvers and the government had built a track to the coastal settlement. Within a few minutes of arriving, young Andrew called out cheerfully to his dad as he disappeared off down a footpath on the back of an aborigine boy's bike. Had he expected to find rebellious anger, but found instead fun? When they left a couple of visits later, the headman gave them a small carving, saying he thought of them as "Friends of the Mah Meri people." Andrew jumped up and hugged him, a very unMah Meri thing to do.

## Query for July

In addition to attending Meeting for Worship, are you actively seeking and listening to spiritual guidance in your everyday life?

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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