

FRIENDS IN SAN ANTONIO

7052 North Vandiver at Eisenhower

October 2017

A Closer Walk with Gandhi

I saw the movie Gandhi when it first came out. It is still my favorite movie all these decades later because it changed my life. I saw it in a Chicago theater on a very busy crowded street. I remember when I stumbled out of the dark theater and the meditatively paced 3 hour movie, feeling overwhelmed and bombarded by the cacophony of traffic noises and neon flashing lights and commercial advertising.

Raised Quaker I had of course always been raised to admire Gandhi as a powerful non-violent activist who had freed his whole country through non-violent resistance. But I did not at that point know very many details of his life or his struggle. It certainly also helped to have the beauty of India on a gigantic screen to make his life seem very three dimensional to me. I felt a deep peacefulness as I watched the movie. The same peacefulness I experienced if I was in a Gathered Meeting for worship.

But what I was really struck by first was how the campaigns that he led against the British had so much moral power. Since the movie is long I had time to reflect on how it was that he picked just the right thing, how he made hard choices to fast or to risk arrest or assault? Slowly it dawned on me as scene after scene showed him in meditation, or prayer, or spinning prayer, that he was not "figuring it out", that he was listening to God and he was as Quakers believe, receiving answers.

As I walked down that raucous street afterwards, Gandhi taught me something about being Quaker. I was in my earlier 20's. Until that time going to Meeting was something which I did on Sunday. It was almost like God lived there in the Meeting house and I went to visit, and then went home for the rest of the week and lived the rest of my life.

It suddenly dawned on me as I reflected on the movie that there was this possibility to live my life from that deep centered place from whence the direction of the Divine came from. I was awe struck by the Majesty and Possibility that was there if one lived ones whole life, every minute in faithfulness - not just Sundays. I immediately decided that that was the life I really wanted.

I wish I could say that I have in fact successfully done that. But of course few of us are Gandhi or Mother Theresa. However, it has never

Calendar

1. SundayWorld Quaker Day
10:00 Worship;
Pot-luck lunch at 11.30 a.m..

8. Sunday
11.30 Forum – Judith Norman on Israel/ Palestine.

9, Monday . . .The Quaker Reformation, 7 pm. SOL Center, University Presbyterian.

12, Thurs, 6:16 Soup, 7:00 Mid-week Meeting

15. Sunday.....
9.00: Quaker Questions. Meeting for Business, 11. 30.

22, Sunday **Forum – Jim on "What Do We Do During Meeting for Worship?"**.

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

29, Sunday **Forum –A Non-theist Looks at Jesus, Gretchen**

left me that that is in fact my goal and my horizon line and I think that changed my whole life. I will often become aware that it has been a long time since I stopped to really hear God's voice or to center, and then I am pulled back to that effort because I do know it is the only true North on the compass.

When I had my daughter, I for practical reasons, took an almost 15 year break from activism...but as I started to wade back into it I simply began to do the activism that I had been taught before Gandhi. The kind where you think of strategies and implement them. Where you make allies and work with them. And sadly where you enumerate the reasons to be angry with your "opponent" and act on those. However, a series of events cast me out of that way of doing things and reminded me that there is another way of doing things that involves being faithful in our quest for justice and following that Inner Compass for direction and that is what I am trying to do now. I think it is a closer walk with Gandhi.

Posted by Lynn Fitz-Hugh.



Personal News

Janet is home, having physical and occupational therapy. Their car became worthless and they use delivery services. David B is now well again. Val thanks us for the prayers for her son, and dog, in Houston after she left for AVP work in Alaska. They are safe. Marian heard that her son, John, had died unexpectedly at his desk, much mourned by fellow-workers and parents of girls he had coached in Soccer. Did we tell you Colette was trying to find friends to worship with her under her cottonwood tree in Utah?

After Craig appealed for books for two jailed brothers, Andy and Carol B promised to send paperback novels. Keeping the vision of life in freedom alive for men confined in cells.

Margaret M, in Florida, says " We lost power, phones, computer, etc. for a few days," but are fine otherwise, though trees are down. Margaret E is fostering a large dog. Suzanne's mother has not been well and Suzanne has been spending time with her.

Catastrophe

Catastrophe. Catastrophe. Catastrophe Catastrophe. . . . !

Business Meeting(s)

The September meeting for business commenced with an advice of Benjamin Lloyd: God is at work in this moment. God's power is urgent and present tense, "is," not "was." . . . Quakers are called upon to live in the modern age, in the great confusing here and now. . . . We are a dynamic people relentlessly called by the Eternal Spirit to live fully in the world as it is and bring peace and relief.

The was no regular Meeting for Business in August. In early September at a specially called business meeting, a minute was approved to purchase a new heat pump for the A/C for the main wing. The treasurer assured Meeting that funds would be available.

After silent worship the clerk told Meeting of the arrangements for the multi-faith Concert for Peace on September 20, with several musical ensembles. The treasurer followed with a report saying that Meeting assets had improved in value and that monthly income is in sync with expenses.

Property Committee had a busy time, from a dirty but harmless insect infestation to dealing with a complicated set of bids for what eventually became installing new A/C equipment for

the main wing, which will earn a rebate from CPS. Bids for the roof decking on the meetingroom were also complicated, particularly with Harvey-induced extra costs of materials. Another bid is expected.

Damage to a toilet door proved slight. Etter Tree Care did its contractual work, and landscaping and cleaning services were satisfactory.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee report was first of current conditions for arriving refugees. As the RAICES Bond fund is inactive, the committee is investigating other programs. Meeting approved giving expiring HEB cards for homeless to the Catholic Worker House, which will use them more expeditiously.

The committee is seeking channels for hurricane relief. It is considering an Ann Arbor Meeting request that Friends Fiduciary Corporation exclude from investment any company which increase violence or Israeli military occupation and settlements in the Palestinian West Bank. This question will be discussed in the Forum on October 8, featuring Judith Norman's presentation of background issues.

Meeting closed in silence.

Harvey

On a Monday afternoon this message went out: "Here's an update, then, on the situation in Houston from Jane Houser of Liveoak Meeting:

Thanks to all who have inquired. At this point, the best way to help is to hold us in the light. At this point, our meeting house and the little house are undamaged. While some F/friends have some damage, as far as we know, no one's home is a total loss. Lidney Molnari, clerk, Bette Drexler, clerk of Care & Concern, are doing our best to keep track of our people who have left town, including our most vulnerable. While Rockport suffered a major wind impact, nearly everything in and around Houston is just rain. 20 inches at our house! Mayor Turner has set up a special fund to help Greater Houston residents. You can find out more at ghcf.org. The Red Cross is also active staffing shelters.

She also told me that Galveston seems to have little or no damage. Friends in Houston are worrying about those in Baton Rouge and New Orleans as the storm the weather people predict Harvey will hit there as well in the next days. Keep sending Light and Love - it really helps."

The Quaker Reformation

The Quaker Reformation: From the 1600s to the 21st Century. (SeeCalendar)

Val will cover the way Quakers perceived God leading them to pacifism, and their struggles for religious freedom, equality, abolition of slavery, prison reform and other applications of Quaker testimonies. All are welcome.

But there is a usual and standard fee of \$20 for entry. Scholarships available.

From AFSC:

Freshly sharpened pencils, colorful fall bulletin boards, neat rows of desks and chairs—these images come to mind when thinking of children eagerly anticipating the start of a new school year.

Many Palestinian children, however, faced a very different scene as they returned to school this year. Three schools in the West Bank had "been demolished or damaged by Israeli authorities in less than two weeks, just when children were meant to return to school from summer's holidays," reported the Norwegian Refugee Council, a humanitarian organization.

Children in the Bedouin community of Jabal Al Baba lost their only kindergarten; a

primary school was demolished in Jubfcfcfcfcfcfcbet Al Dhib; and solar panels that powered a primary school in Abu Nuwar were confiscated.

“It was heartbreaking to see children and their teachers turning up for their first day of school under the blazing sun, with no classrooms or anywhere to seek shelter in, while in the immediate vicinity the work to expand illegal settlements goes on uninterrupted,” said Itay Epshtain of NRC.

She urges us to press Israel to stop.

Concert for Peace – Inspiring

More than 60 women, men, children, one babe-in-arms, and one service dog formed an interfaith community on the eve of International Peace Day. We celebrated with songs – familiar and original – and poetry – challenging and composed on the spot from audience’s words.

Joni Mize welcomed our guests. Then Rudi Harst of Celebration Circle led off with songs of peace we could join and then those he had composed. That was followed by a poem written by Gretchen Haynes and read by Gary Whiting. Dana Clark of First Unitarians accompanied herself on an electric keyboard with original songs of peace. One ended “...the land belongs to the people who belong to the land.”

Joyous Windrider [Jimenez] asked us what words came up when we heard “Peace.” She wove these into a free-form spontaneous poem, followed by a thought-provoking poem of relationships. Then she was followed by the Merry Menno Peace Warblers of the Mennonite Church. Pastor John Garland explained that the original Boy Band had morphed into the present androgynous quintet by adding two women. As the sun faded behind them, they brought laughter to all with their blend of hymns, serious folk songs and popular tunes.

The final group represented the Raindrop Ensemble of the Islamic Institute, although none of the four was Muslim. Their songs were in Arabic, Urdu and other Middle Eastern languages and the rhythms were distinctly of that region. The evening ended with the whole audience joining in singing in two parts Dona Nobis Pacem – Give Us Peace.

But wait! The evening was not over. At least half of the guests lingered in the Community Room to enjoy a spread of fruit, cookies, crackers, coffee and juice. The conversations between members of the various faith traditions carried on another hour. We could follow the events with a colorful program spectacularly designed by Peggy Dial. It is true to say the even was a triumph of community building.

Gretchen September 21,

Forums

October 8th, P&SC Forum: Judith Norman from Trinity University will speak on the situation in Palestine, to give us background on the situation in the Occupied Territories. (Ann Arbor Meeting has requested that we join them and other meetings in asking Friends Fiduciary to avoid investing in companies that prolong the occupation or whose products contribute to violence there.)

October 22nd, M&O Forum: Jim will lead a forum on "What Do We Do During Meeting For Worship?" (This is the forum that was previously scheduled for August that had to be postponed due to the weather.)

And: starting Oct. 15th and the 3rd Sunday of each month, we will offer a Quaker Questions session at 9 AM. It is open to all, but with new attenders and other seekers especially invited. This month, we will look at "Who are Quakers?" and "What do Quakers believe?" as well as any other questions that arise. Val will facilitate it this month.

**Silent Retreat at Lebh Shomea **

This will be the fifth silent retreat at the coastal mission from Nov. 30 to Dec. 3. We will be joined by Bo Tep who begins each day with a period of worship on which we may reflect. We stay individually in small cottages scattered among the trees and are invited to wander along the extensive trails.

We gather for meals and a Meeting for Worship each evening and we are invited to the daily Celebration of the Eucharist. Apart from these periods of spoken words, we are encouraged to maintain the contemplative life.

You can reserve a place directly by calling 361-294-5369. Literature is available on the piano and for more information or to arrange car pooling, please contact David B [dear david1 4@ hotmail-com]

Fox's Leadings?

Is this what Fox heard, like Amos, sitting and walking through the English countryside four centuries ago? Amos 5:21-24:

“ . . . I despise your feasts and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and cereal offerings, I will not accept them, and the peace offerings of your fatted beasts I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

So, postFox we make no burnt offerings, we have no feastdays, we sing no songs nor do we offer the melody of harps. But let justice roll down from us like waters and our righteousness flow like an ever-flowing stream.

Miscellany

This November 2-5, hundreds of Quakers and friends will be gathering in Washington, DC for four days of lobbying, worship, fellowship, and community. We will visit our members of Congress to urge them not to give more money to the Pentagon and war profiteers at the expense of low and middle-income Americans.

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The draft – a way of getting men to fight wars they might not otherwise. But consider the young British draftees in Singapore 60 years ago. They found their way by chance to the little group of Quakers who met there weekly. There, they found friendship and hospitality. They began to attend meeting, up to eight of them. And when they went home three of them became Friends. The draft proved an odd way this time of persuading young men to adopt a peaceful way, not one of war. One of them became clerk to the Meeting in the oldest existing British meetinghouse.

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Words of Phil Gulley: “If we say that Jesus did not come to start a new religion but that he understood himself as a faithful Jew who went about saying yes to the presence and work of God whenever he encountered it—and it’s clear that he did this—then we begin to look at his message, and we ask ourselves, “What were his priorities?” And it’s clear: compassion, compassion, compassion.” . . .

When someone tells me they’re disillusioned by the modern church, I totally get it. I tell them, “I am, too.” The only reason I stay in it is because I’m fortunate enough to have found a

community of Quakers who are committed to being the church in their care for others, in their commitment to justice, and in their love for the underdog. If I didn't have that, I would probably not remain in the church.

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Lucy Duncan, of AFSC, says, “  
“Love is sanctuary, a safe haven and place to rest.” – Theodore Volgoff

What does “sanctuary” mean to you? When do you feel as though your heart can rest, as though you are in the place where the tensions and furor of the world is released, the place where you feel you can be your whole and most clear self?

For me this comes in meeting for worship, in the company of certain loved ones, when I walk near a creek or river. I had a conversation recently with an anti-racist activist I admire and felt the whole conversation offered sanctuary.”

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And now, would you like to see a Quaker Queen? Again? Friend Judi Dench stars as Queen Victoria, as she did in *Mrs. Brown*, this time straightforwardly as Queen Victoria.. And this time she befriends her Indian, Muslim, servant. It really happened though not perhaps exactly as in the movie. She was the queenly head of the British Empire at a time of its pre-eminence. So how was it that she befriended a Muslim Indian? She must have come to know his sterling qualities. Through his service to her?

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In London, thousands of protesters have been taking direct action to shut down one of the world's biggest arms fairs. The Defence and Security Equipment International, or DSEI, opened on Sept. 12, but the exhibition center where it is held was repeatedly blockaded during the week before it began, as activists took action to disrupt the preparations for the fair. Over a hundred people were first arrested, amid rumors that the setup of the fair was days behind schedule. This marks a major escalation on actions in previous years.

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Austin Tan Cerca held its 2nd Annual After Hours Shopping Party at Treasure City Thrift in Austin. It invited us, “Come by for elote en vaso, aguas frescas and great thrift store finds! 100% of sales from 6-8 pm go directly to Austin Tan Cerca! “

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Support Peace in Korea, says AFSC: We're concerned about escalating tensions between the U.S. and North Korea. But we're hopeful about the future and our ability to make an impact. The Administration and Congress have shown interest in our proposals to de-escalate and get off the road toward war, and we'd like to build on this momentum. In June, we hosted a conference in Washington, D.C. called “Off-Ramps to War” to discuss solutions and realistic proposals to engage North Korea and create a path toward peace.

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Isaac Singer invented the sewing machine in 1851. A century later, Ken remembers seeing an aborigine woman sitting cross-legged on her bamboo floor operating a sewing machine. How did Singer's invention find its way into the forests of the Malay peninsula? How did she learn to use it? How could she pay for it? Chinese upriver traders were probably responsible.

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This question comes via the internet: “As we reflect on and grieve the violence we must also ask a key question: What can you and I do to fight white supremacy in this country? ”What should Meeting do? What is possible? And also, why, after being so active in ending slavery, do Friends Meetings attract so few African Americans? Our silence differs greatly from the vocal participation in African-American churches. But there must surely be some for whom that mode of

worship does not fit?

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Psychologists have found that “six weeks of training in a form of meditation focused on compassion and kindness resulted in a increase of positive emotions and social connectedness and improved function of a nerve that helps to control heart rate.” Presumably we should show similar benefits. Nobody suggests that we should recruit new Friends by promising better heart rate. Most people don’t even know we practice a form of meditation. “Doing good things for other people” also helps.

“Turning Negative Thinkers Into Positive Ones,” NY Times April 4.

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The Holocaust Memorial Museum recites the history of people during the German occupation of Europe who took Jewish families into their homes and sheltered them from the brutal seizure of Jewish people and their subsequent disappearance.

Ken had as colleague one of those children. The family which took him gave him their name, which he kept until his death fifty years later. In Janet’s British Meeting there was another who had been saved to Britain.

Those saviors faced certain death if discovered. Would we have that kind of courage and love for our human brethren? Those European saviors deny the title of hero, saying it just had to be done and they were able. There are people with similar needs today. What risks are we taking for them?

Could we say, “It just had to be done?”

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In Steve Feldman’s book *Compartments*, the well-known dermatologist chronicles how well-trained medical doctors in his profession can’t “think outside the box” they were trained in, often maintaining incorrect ideas and practices even when presented with clear evidence to the contrary.

Are we in a Quaker “box?” Do we have “truths” to which we stick despite evidence to the contrary? Does nonviolence often fail? What evidence is there for the equality, or inequality, of all people? Can “white lies” be virtuous?

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Quakerbooks says, “As autumn’s colors become deeper and more varied, it’s impossible not to feel our deep connection with the rest of nature. Through October’s suggested titles, we hope to encourage you to sink down into nature’s natural rhythms, and meditate on the many cycles to be found in Life and in our individual journeys. Then, rooted in that deep centeredness, we wish you continued growth on your path, connecting with others and reaching new heights in Spirit. ”

## Quaker Involvement

Quakers, as a group or individually, were involved in the founding of the following organizations: American Civil Liberties Union (Allan Olmsted); Amnesty International (Peter Bennison); Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (Jim Bristol); CORE (Charlie Walker); Council on Adoptable Children (Peter & Joyce Forsyte, Janet & Ken Southwood); Doctors Without Borders (Friends in Canadian Yearly Meeting); Equal Rights Amendment (Alice Paul); Fellowship of Reconciliation (Henry Cadbury, Rufus Jones, Henry Hodgkin); Greenpeace (Irving Stowe); Grey Panthers (Polly Cuthbertson); International Peace Research Association (Hannah & Alan Newcombe); International Peace Research Institute (Elise Boulding); League of Women Voters (Alice Paul, Susan B. Anthony); NAACP (Hollingsworth Wood); National Peace Academy (Elise Boulding); OXFAM (Cecil Jackson-Cole); Peace Brigades International (George Willough-

by, Charlie Walker); Peace Council (Elise Boulding ); Peace Corps (Herbert Hoover); Peace Tax Fund (David Bassett); Psychologists for Social Responsibility (Elizabeth Foley); Sanctuary Movement (Jim Corbett); SANE (Robert Gilmore); Save the Children Foundation (Clarence Pickett); Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (John D. Wright); Southern Christian Leadership Conference (Bayard Rustin); Underground Railroad (Alaine Duncan); Urban League (Alice Brown Leach, Hollingsworth Wood ); Voluntary Service Overseas (Pierre Cerresole); War Resisters League (Jessie Hughan); Womens International League for Peace and Freedom (Jane Addams);

This list excludes all those Quaker Organizations already known to us, and others. It includes one just because you know the people involved. It is just a partial list of 217 *Twentieth Century Organizations founded by Quaker as individuals, in Quaker Groups or in other groups*. Published by Sally Rickerman perhaps two decades ago.

We can note here Roger Owens' *FJ* article pointing out that Thomas R. Kelly's, and Friends' mysticism, in the silent spiritual seeking, is not withdrawn from the world but leads to it, in the quest for equality and justice for all. Regardless of ethnicity, gender, nation, race and religion. All have that of God within them, which we must seek. What has God said through the Prophet Muhammad? Through the Hindu Vedas? Through the Pali Canon of Buddhism? Or the Torah? Or the shamanic beliefs of Africa and elsewhere? And how have we humans distorted it?

## **Intervention**

Do's and Don'ts for Bystander Intervention, from AFSC:

If you witness racist, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, anti-Trans, or other oppressive interpersonal violence and harassment, use these tips on how to intervene while considering the safety of everyone involved.

DO make your presence as a witness known.

Do take cues from the individual being harassed.

You can make suggestions, "Would you like to walk with me over here? Move to another train car? For him to leave you alone?," and then follow the lead.

Do follow up with the individual being harassed after the incident, to see if they need anything else.

Do keep both of you safe. Are there others nearby you can pull in to support? Working in a team is a good idea. Can you both move to a safer place?

DON'T call the police.

The police can cause a greater danger for the person being harassed.

Don't escalate the situation. The goal is to get the person being harassed to safety, not to incite further violence from the attacker.

Don't be silent, it is dangerous— If you find yourself too nervous to speak out, move closer to the person being harassed.

(Abbreviated 09/11/17)

SPLC also gives us its recommendations for fighting Hate:

1. Act, do something
2. Join Forces. Find allies.
3. Support the Victims, Show you care.
4. Speak Up. Let the world know where you stand.
5. Educate Yourself. To know more about hate
6. Create An Alternative, hold unity rallies
7. Pressure Political Leaders to take action.
8. Stay Engaged, keep active before another attack occurs.
9. Teach Acceptance from an early age, at home, in school.
10. Dig Deeper. Look inside yourself for causes.



Clearly SPLC's list of queries and advices.

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We have come across this quotation by George Bernard Shaw: "Poverty doesn't bring unhappiness; it brings degradation." Our testimony that there is that of God in all people requires us to seek it in poverty-stricken people as well as in others. All people are equal and degradation does not, for us, exist. Nor, in fact, does exaltation. All are equal. Every poor man is as valued as George Fox and Margaret Fell. We seek that of God in all, though we find it more in the insights of some.

A Birth – 2017 NWYM Epistle

"Isaiah 43:19a: 'I'm about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'"

"To All Friends Everywhere:

Earlier this year the leadership of Northwest Yearly Meeting decided that the best way forward was to split off a new yearly meeting for those local meetings who could not align with the current Northwest Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice statement on human sexuality. Local meetings who had written minutes or statements affirming same-sex relationships were given no option; any other local meeting could choose to join with those first four (West Hills Friends, Camas Friends, Eugene Friends, Klamath Falls Friends) or could go independent. The legal separation deadline, set by the Administrative Council, is June 30, 2018.

During this, our last annual sessions as an entire meeting, the departing local meetings and several interested individuals met in parallel business sessions to begin our work. Did we feel led to form a new yearly meeting or association? How will we begin? How will we know if we want to be a part if we don't know what it is?

It has been difficult. We need to make clear our desire to be radically inclusive, as Jesus was, without falling into the same exclusionary trap that caught Northwest Yearly Meeting.

We used small worship sharing groups to get to know one another. We listened deeply to a panel of four LGBTQ+ Friends who spoke movingly of their experiences in faith communities through their lives. We began to form committees to help us with our work, determined to make any new structure or work open and inviting to marginalized people, especially from sexual minorities, but also aware of racial, economic, and cultural minorities.

In an earlier informal meeting last spring, the gathered Friends stated their intent to be inclusive, acknowledging that Northwest Yearly Meeting had not been so in the past. This week we approved the following statement:

"We are led by the Spirit to commit ourselves to recognizing the full participation of LGBTQ+ people in all aspects of the life of the new yearly meeting."

We also were clear that we did want to move forward as a Quaker, Christ-centered yearly meeting. To that end we have approved the following Friends to serve:

Co-presiding Clerks: Cherice Bock and Eric Muhr, Assistant Clerk: Jon Kershner"

Thus are new Yearly Meetings born. How big will this one be? Will other Meetings, later, come into it? What torn emotions will there be? They will need the help of other sympathetic YMs. We may have our own views on the different sides in this division, but we need to know that both are sincere though following different principles.

Comparative studies

Quantitative studies of bellicosity of the Western civilization and the Confucian civilization of the East was pioneered by Friend Lewis Fry Richardson. His studies led him to the conclusion that the 'Confucian-Taoist- Buddhist religion of China stands out conspicuously as

being either itself a pacifier, or else associated with one' and that 'it seems probable that the comparative peacefulness of China prior to 1911 was the result of instruction, and in particular of Confucian instruction'.

That is a sad implication for Christian Europe. The most intense conflict in recorded Chinese history was the Second World War. Lewis was well-known, applying his mathematical skills in the service of his pacifist principles in particular, in understanding the basis of international conflict. For this reason, he is now considered the initiator, or co-initiator (as well as others such as Kenneth Boulding), of the scientific analysis of conflict.

And yet — “Qianlong, the greatest of the Manchu rulers of the Qing dynasty cobbled together a vast multiethnic Chinese empire through conquests and alliances, often after vicious battles.” (NYT, 6/19/17.) Many small, vicious, battles, no doubt. This is the difficulty of specific anecdotes compared with broad Comparative Studies.

Well, the first Chinese empire, the Qin, was equally brutal. But the Qin was a century or so before the birth of Confucius. Could he have been learning from its brutality?

What We Can't Do Alone

But are [these] two diverse aims inconsistent and exclusive? Is it not possible to have both aims united in a larger synthesis? May we not become efficient in fact just because we have succeeded in finding God? Can we not be flooded with the consciousness of God and at the same time perfect some form of organization that will be the effective body and instrument of that experience?

That is the goal of this search.

—Rufus Jones, *New Studies in Mystical Religion* (1909)

I am as convinced as ever of the invitation and challenge before us. In the 1650s, the Quaker movement came together when it seemed the world was coming apart—a time very much like our own. These times call for no less courage, resilience, and vision.

If we can rediscover, reclaim, and reinterpret the gifts our tradition offers to encourage faithfulness in the context of today's needs, Friends can make a precious contribution for the future of our planet. We have much to do to more fully take our place alongside all who are seeking and living a way of deep hope and love in a time of turmoil, separation, and fear in our world. Noah Merrill, *Friends Journal*.

Advice or Query

How can I speak up and take action in a loving way when I see and hear injustices?

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. See the Calendar above for times of midweek meetings.

Co-Clerks: Gretchen Haynes & Val Liveoak; e-mail: clerk@saquakers.org.

Newsletter Editor: Ken Southwood, (210)828-1513; e-mail: jksouthwood@grandecom.net

Website: <http://www.sanantonioquakers.org>

Donations may be made to Friends Meeting of San Antonio, 7052 N. Vandiver, San Antonio TX78209. Meeting telephone for meeting times or to ask for other information: (210) 945-8456