

Visitation - Try it, you'll like it!

By Daphne Davey

This fall I tasted my first "visitation" experiences under the Visitation program of Home Mission and Advancement Committee. It left me with a very warm feeling towards those Friends and their friends with whom I visited. I experienced a sense of expansion and comfort similar to that enjoyed after a good-sized meal that has "hit the spot." My "nourishment" came from what I learned through sharing and listening, from worshipping together touching each other in the Spirit.

In October I spent a quiet weekend with Paige and Charlie Kennedy in a cottage at Caribou, NS. On Saturday evening they invited several neighbours to see my slide presentation on South-East Asia (sponsored by Canadian Friends Service Committee in 1999). One of these friends was involved in witness at Burnt Church recently.

Another, visiting from Ontario, was an articulate environmentalist. By hand-picking the audience, Paige and Charlie brought together a small group of people who would really appreciate the messages I shared from my deep experience of that trip.

Friends will be pleased to know that Charlie is progressing on the long road to healing from his leg injury, and finding the journey to recovery also one

of discovery as his daily routine has, at least temporarily, been turned on its head. Paige currently serves on the Religious Education Committee. I also caught a brief glimpse of their daughter Chloe, a Young Friend, between social engagements and homework. Paige, Charlie and I met for worship on Sunday morning, an all-too-rare opportunity for them as isolated Friends on the north shore of Nova Scotia.

In November I used a rain-check for a visit I had hoped to make a year ago, and spent the weekend with Friends of the South Shore Worship Group (under care of Halifax Monthly Meeting). My hosts were Les and Judie Camps who live in Chester Basin. On Saturday evening they arranged a pot-luck supper for a few Friends and friends to see my slide show again, an interested (and interesting) audience.

On Sunday, we attended Meeting at the home of Ray and Marjorie Dahn in Centre, Nova Scotia (their son, Doug, attends the Prince Edward Island Worship Group). I was interested to learn of the program this worship group has established: first, a half-hour of singing; then an hour of Meeting for Worship, followed by a short period of worship-sharing to encourage the bringing forth of ministry which did not

quite come to the surface during worship. This was followed by general discussion, however the wind blew. Pot-luck lunch, of course, completed the morning.

This visit was of particular interest to me, coming from a Worship Group of similar size to theirs. I was seeking ideas on how to maintain the interest of new attenders, ways in which they can learn more about Quakerism beyond reading books and pamphlets.

In secular circles, this kind of visitation would be called "networking." Of course, it is, but in the Quaker experience it has a much deeper strain. I am grateful, not only to my hosts who put themselves out when I invited myself to visit, but to all the Friends and their friends whom I met and who shared a brief few hours of their life's journey with me.

Daphne Davey is a member of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting, and Clerk of Home Mission and Advancement Committee. HMAc encourages Friends to apply for funding from its Visitation/Travelling in the Ministry program. Daphne Harker Davey, Tel: (902) 675-3501, Fax: (902) 675-2533, Email: ddavey@isn.net

Home Mission and Advancement Committee

Deadline for applications for grants and loans is April 1st, 2001.

Application forms are available from your Monthly Meetings or from the Canadian Yearly Meeting Office and should be submitted to:

HMAc, c/o Leigh Turina, 486 Glebeholme Blvd, 1st floor, Toronto ON M4C 1V2, email: dcoops@interlog.com

HMAc does not make grants or loan decision between meetings and will not consider applications received after the deadline until its next meeting in August.