

# Book Reviews...Book Reviews...Book Reviews

description of the meeting at which the editors came together to “sift through the submissions” and make their selections, we are left in the dark as to the rest of the process.

Despite my quibbles with some of the contributions and the editing, there is good and powerful stuff in this book. In addition to providing a voice to encourage Young Friends to

articulate their belief in and experiences with Quakerism, the book consciously attempts to capture the full diversity of the Quaker community, from Evangelical to Liberal, from African to North American. Those contributions containing a powerful insight or heart-felt cry from an articulate teen demonstrate that the editors have done us all a

service. Although in some ways a less consistent book, *Whispers* deserves a place on the shelf beside *Who do we think we are?* and other better-known collections of Quaker writings. ☞

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*Becoming Peacemakers* by Meredith Egan and Marc Forget (Deep Humanity Institute, 2004). Based

on the authors' years of experience, this book is for educators, parents and students interested in changing the way conflict and violence are addressed in the school environment. It aims to foster a restorative approach to behaviour, transgressions and discipline. (117 pp; \$30.00)

*Crash* by Jerry Spinelli (Random

House Children's Books, 1996). This comical novel for young readers tells the story of the evolution of the relationship between Crash Coogan, a seventh-grade football sensation/bully who has been mowing down everything in his path since the time he could walk, and Penn Webb, his conscientious, vegetable-eating Quaker neighbour. (162 pp; \$7.95)

***Creeds and Quakers*** by Robert Griswold (Pendle Hill Pamphlet #377, 2005). Quaker spiritual authority lies not in belief systems – in creeds – but in direct communion between individual Friends and the Divine Spirit. While early Friends’ refusal to formulate a creed threatened existing religious practice and brought them great persecution, this historic witness against creeds is not fully appreciated by Friends today and may be in danger of being lost. (35 pp; \$6.40)

***Engaging Scripture: Reading the Bible with Early Friends*** by Michael L. Birkel (Friends United Press, 2005). To “engage scripture” is to encounter the presence of God. This book invites us to engage Scripture experientially as early Friends did, seeing in the words of the Bible the language of the inner life. (123 pp; \$19.20)

***Fellowships, Conferences and Associations: The Limits of the Liberal Quaker Reinvention of Meeting Polity*** by Elizabeth Cazden (Beacon Hill Friends House, Quaker Issues, 2004, reprinted from *The Bible, The Church and the Future of Friends*). The author discusses the efficacy of different Quaker models of polity, that is, how meetings govern themselves and what decisions may properly be taken by a local meeting rather than by action of the Yearly Meeting. (36 pp; \$6.40)

***Friends’ Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis*** edited by Nancy Irving, Vicki Hain Poorman, Margaret Fraser (2005 FWCC, Philadelphia, 2005). This is a moving record of views of Quakers presented at a Quaker Peace Conference in January 2003 after the traumas of 9/11 and the Iraq War. The five panels included presentations by Canadian Quakers Rick

McCutcheon, beyond joy, and Jane Orion Smith. (184 pp; \$28.80)

***Inheritors of the Joyful Gospel*** by Helen Rowlands (Canadian Quaker Pamphlet Series # 62, Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture, 2005). In this lecture, Helen Rowlands explores the origins and purposes of Quaker books of Faith and Practice. She describes some of the issues faced by Britain Yearly Meeting as it went about revising its Book of Discipline. (35 pp; \$4.50)

***Living in Virtue, Declaring Against War: The Spiritual Roots of the Peace Testimony*** by Steve Smith (Pendle Hill Pamphlet # 378, 2005). Born in an era of profound spiritual awakening, the Quaker Peace Testimony remains a radical challenge today – to live Jesus’ message of love, forgiveness and reconciliation. This is the author’s story of his personal discovery and conviction in the Light. (40 pp; \$6.40)

***Living Truth: A Spiritual Portrait of Pierre Ceresole*** by Keith R. Maddock (Pendle Hill Pamphlet # 379, 2005). The author describes the spiritual growth of a passionate, poetic, solitary seeker of Truth, Swiss activist Pierre Ceresole (1879-1945), who urges us “to set aside our theories and our fears, to take up the tools that are needed to create a more humane, just and peaceful world.” (35 pp; \$6.40)

***No Extraordinary Power: Prayer, Stillness and Activism*** by Helen Stevens (Quaker Books, Swarthmore Lecture, 2005). Drawing from her experience as a peace activist and a member of the Iona Community, Helen Stevens sets out to find how prayer can work to achieve the unexpected within ourselves and in the

world. (111 pp; \$22.50)

***The Quiet Rebels*** by Margaret Hope Bacon (Pendle Hill, 1999). This well-researched book documents the significant role that Quakers have played in U.S. history. It is well indexed, has a good bibliography and features many photographs showing Quakers at work around the world. (249 pp; \$19.20)

***Twelve Quakers and God*** by Quaker Quest (Quaker Quest Pamphlet 1, 2004). In 2003, members of the Quaker Quest team of Britain Yearly Meeting agreed to share their experience of the Divine. This pamphlet expresses what twelve Quakers at the start of the twenty-first century understand to be at the heart of their faith. (32 pp; \$6.25)

***Twelve Quakers and Pacifism*** by Quaker Quest (Quaker Quest Pamphlet 3, 2005). The twelve Quakers who have written these pieces are of differing ages and backgrounds, and their views on pacifism differ too. (32 pp; \$6.25)

***Twelve Quakers and Worship*** by Quaker Quest (Quaker Quest Pamphlet 2, 2004). The worship of Quakers is simple, waiting together in silence and stillness. This pamphlet records the personal worship experience of twelve Friends. (32 pp; \$6.25)

***Whispers of Faith: Young Friends share their experiences of Quakerism*** edited by W. Geoffrey Black, P. Zion Klos, Claire Reddy, Milam Smith, Rachel Stacy (QUIP, 2005). This book is a collection of inspiring, deeply felt writing by Young Friends. It contains their views on worship, testimonies, communities, spiritual journeys and “walking on water.” (160 pp; \$19.20) ☞