

Letters to the Editor

To: June-Etta Chenard,
Editor of *The Canadian Friend*,

I am writing with regards to a very strange letter I received today. It is from one Licia Kuenning of Farmington, Maine and starts, "The message in the box below was given to me by Christ, and I was told to publish it." It also says the letter is not being published by CF, neither as an article nor as a paid advertisement.

I am curious to know why its publication has been prevented and why such an opportunity is not being acted upon to open a dialogue about the definition of prophecy, the idea of a living word and the role of living prophets. Whether the prophesy itself is to be believed or not is of less consequence (and for readers to discern) than the importance of supporting both freedom of speech and not shying away from a controversial, and highly topical, piece of writing.

Perhaps I have misunderstood the situation or there is protocol that I don't understand. I hope you can let me know sometime soon.

With love,
Jaya Karsemeyer,
Toronto Monthly Meeting



Dear Ms. Chenard,

I am sending you a copy of the letter I have sent to Licia Kuenning. If only it were possible to make heaven on earth!
Shirley Steele

Dear Licia,

Thank you for your communication dated March 15, 2006. In reading it, I recognise your very sincere efforts to have Christ's message to you published by *The Canadian Friend*. You have, of course, a right to ask for this. They, however, have a right to refuse. As I am not a member at the Montreal Meeting, my influence in this matter would be negligible. However, in case they have not yet returned your cheque, I will enquire about this.

Respectfully,
Shirley Steele
Montreal Mnthly Meeting



Dear June Etta Chenard,

I thought Friends would be interested to know how I have responded to Licia Kuenning, with whom many of them have had contact in recent months. Here is my letter to her.

In the Light,
Beverly Shepard

Friend Licia,

I am writing to you as clerk of Canadian Yearly Meeting in the hope that we can clear up a few points that remain unanswered between you and Friends in Canada.

First, you are quite right to expect an explanation for the rejection of your paid ad containing your prophecy. The business manager who returned your cheque would have provided one at the time but

felt that perhaps someone other than he would be more appropriate as the correspondent. It is not the case that *The Canadian Friend* should or does accept any advertisement simply on the basis that the advertiser is willing to pay. *The CF*, our main publication, is certainly read outside of our Yearly Meeting. Everything which is published in it, even paid ads, will be seen as reflecting the policies and ideals of the magazine and thus of CYM. Thus, every potential ad is carefully considered to discern whether in fact it does reflect CYM faithfully. The editor and business manager of *The Canadian Friend* brought your ad to numerous other Friends and laboured with them about whether to print it. In their prayerfully-considered opinion, your ad did not meet that simple but important criterion, and so the decision was made not to publish it.

(I was not part of that deliberation, but I have talked to a number of Friends who have received your prophecy in the mail, and they have said (among other things) that the idea of death being an "evil" is contrary to their beliefs. Certainly I would say that it is contrary to Christ's teachings.)

Second, you accused me in your letter of asking you to make a case for wanting to publish your prophecy, which was inappropriate as it amounted to asking you to defend your leading. Please understand that I did not ask that. I suggested you had not made a case for me to rescind a decision made after due

deliberation among a number of Friends, namely that we would not distribute our YM directory outside of the Yearly Meeting. In fact, I wrote to Monthly Meetings across the country explaining this situation and asking that they not share the directory outside our Yearly Meeting, with you or anyone else, and in that letter I mentioned that you had a prophecy you wished to make known and that anyone who wished to know it could contact me and I would put you in touch with that person.

Third, I think you should know that the postal mailing you did among Canadian Friends has not, from everything I have heard from other Friends, received a very sympathetic hearing, probably because you began it with an excoriation of various Friends who are known and trusted in our Yearly Meeting. You made false accusations in some cases and in others denounced actions which had been performed faithfully and in accord with our own witness. This is not a likely way to influence Canadian Friends positively toward your message.

I have written to you because I, along with several other Friends in CYM, felt that there was unfinished business between us (CYM and you), but I have no wish to continue this correspondence further. Please do not respond to this letter, or if you do, do not expect a further response from me or the staff of *The Canadian Friend*.
in peace,

*Beverly Shepard,
Hamilton Monthly Meeting, and
Clerk, Canadian Yearly Meeting*



On 8 April 2006 there was a meeting of the eight members of the Home Mission and Advancement Committee, which has oversight of *The Canadian Friend (CF)*. At this time, worship and a deep discussion took place on the issue of Licia Kuenning and her ad which was not accepted for the *CF*.

We feel that we communicated adequately with Licia, even though she did not like the response.

Home Mission and Advancement Committee, Canadian Yearly Meeting

[EDITOR'S NOTE: LICIA KUENNING'S CHEQUE HAS BEEN RETURNED BY THE CANADIAN FRIEND BUSINESS MANAGER, THOUGH THIS DID TAKE AWHILE. THE BUSINESS MANAGER WORKS ONLY A FEW HOURS A WEEK.]



I am writing to you in protest of the ad for the army you say that it is a something you enjoy but people are being killed and injured. Also the Government is supposed to represent the Country but if you say that it is from the Government of Canada then it is like saying it is from the whole of Canada which it is not.

Hope you can email me soon at this email abruhn@vcn.bc.ca

A young Canadian Quaker

*Anya Bruhn,
Richmond B.C.*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS LETTER IS A

COPY OF A MESSAGE SENT TO THE GENERAL E-MAIL ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WEBSITE BY A NINE-YEAR-OLD YOUNG FRIEND.)



Dear Editor,

Having lived in Denmark during World War II, I feel the article [March, 2006, *The Canadian Friend*] about the Danish Jews needs some fine-tuning. Admittedly, I was only a small child then, especially at the beginning of that war, but my father was actively involved in the resistance to the occupation, beginning with helping [people] escape to Sweden. Danish Jews were comparatively small in numbers, which made organising that escape feasible; also, Sweden was just across a narrow gap of water and due to the black-out, the Danish coastline was in darkness during the night. Even then, some Jews were captured due to betrayal by Danes.

When the Nazi's invaded Denmark, there was no resistance, as Denmark had no military. I don't think the royal family would have had a chance to get out, even if they had wanted to. The invasion came with little warning. Denmark expected to remain neutral, as Sweden actually did (although it allowed the country to be used as a corridor for the Nazi's to invade and later to terrorize Norway).

It was during the occupation that King Christian would ride his horse in Copenhagen, daily, as a silent symbol of opposition. His government did not go into exile, but comparing what they did with what the leaders of other countries did, is (as most comparisons) odious, as their circumstances were

quite different. According to my father, Danes may well have been too easily compliant and ready to toe the imposed line, at least initially.

The occupation in Denmark was far less harsh than elsewhere, the carrot being used rather than the stick. Danish men were not forced into slave labour in Germany as the Dutch were. The Nazis paid well for what they wanted there, instead of bringing the occupied population to a state of starvation in short order. In Holland, government officials, academics and writers who were known to be opposed to Nazi policies were shot in the first few days after the country capitulated in the face of the destruction by fire-bombing of most of Rotterdam, and I doubt that its by then departed leaders would have lasted any longer.

The Jewish population of the Netherlands was always considerable. Even if they had wanted to, the Dutch could not have organised an escape [for large numbers of Jews], as a look at the map will show: where would one escape to, with the surrounding countries all under Nazi rule and a coast line that was militarised from one end to the other? The only thing that could be done was for the Dutch to hide them, which many did, at great cost; but there, too, there was betrayal as well as courage and self sacrifice.

War is a time of horror and confusion, with most guide posts gone in a moral landscape that has suddenly become unrecognisable. People have to make crucial choices

I Wonder

By Stewart Netherton

*Could it be that I'm a Quaker, it's rather hard to tell
Been meeting with some Friends now and things are going well
It's something like a year or so but doesn't seem that long
Since first I met these people who have carried me along
The way they have walked for years of silence and of peace
Of waiting quietly on the Lord, their vision to increase.*

*I'm not quite sure I'm like them or if they're more like me
For all our thoughts and hopes and prayers have similarity
Which might suggest that somehow we have walked this way together
Without our having knowledge of how or when or whether
Our separate paths would meet like this because our destination
Was just the same and had been ever since our first creation.*

*'Tis said He works mysteriously His wonders to perform
That it should take this many years and all these twists and turns
To finally discover the cure for my concerns that god was always so remote
Concealed in pomp and creeds and lavish ceremonies and lost in tangled weeds
Of great complex theologies that just confound the mind.*

*But now among these Friends of mine what is it that I find?
That God is in simplicity, in peaceful turn of mind
In quiet waiting silence, in which shared truths occurred
And so it well could be that the thought's not so absurd
Maybe I am a Quaker, maybe I've found the Word.*

*(This poem was submitted by Ed Abbott)
Stewart Netherton is a member of Simcoe-Muskoka Monthly Meeting*

in a state of tumult and trying to second-guess them in hindsight is unlikely to give a true picture. It can be as misleading to ascribe noble motivations to some as it is to ascribe less admirable ones to others under such circumstances. Often they are mixed and contain more shades of gray than black or white. All we can do is to hope and pray

that we will never be confronted with such horrendous choices and that, if we are, we can ourselves have 20/20 vision in the moment itself and muster the courage to lay down our lives and comfort when this is required.

*Ellen Pye,
Vancouver Monthly Meeting*