

Thank you

By Margaret Slavin

Dear Friends in Canadian Yearly Meeting — from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, to St. John's, Newfoundland,

“Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.”
(#1 in *Advices and Queries*)

A prompting sent me to you, to 62 visits and 141 beds. At times you may have found me an odd package, a woman following a leading, with no agenda other than to encourage you (plead with you) to follow yours! The quilts and paintings and poems and parables you shared continue to awe me and give me hope that Spirit moves among us still, with passion and with grace.

My prayer is that we can remain open to these intimate promptings of love and truth, acknowledge and act on them, gladly entering the discipline of our powerful traditions — corporate discernment, expectant worship, and testifying to one another and the larger world. All we are called to do is to remain faithful “in the smallest concerns of life,” in the words of my favorite passage (#108) from the blue book, *Christian faith and practice in the experience of the Society of Friends*, so that when “greater matters” present themselves, we have

a chance of responding with some semblance of “the Will of God” — or however you yourself name the central mystery. Let us cherish the children, and cherish the child within each one of us as adults. We open channels for Spirit when we open ourselves to colour, movement and sound, and when we take passionate risks building circles of friendship.

Thank you for your hospitality, for all the good food, the vegetables from your gardens, the spe-

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cial breakfasts, Quaker guys making waffles, and Quaker women and men who measure apple juice into their muesli or, oh, that special cut (or was it uncut) Scottish oatmeal! Thank you for comfy couches and spare room beds, and for folk who gave up their regular bed to accommodate a travelling Friend. Thank you for supporting the travels with funds and hugs and rides and prayers.

I'm home now in Ontario to stay but look forward to seeing many of you again this summer in

Winnipeg.

The pamphlet of poetry has been confirmed for 2007. I will continue to collect poetry until the time of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) gathering this year. You can send it to me by mail at 206 Perry Street, Peterborough ON K9J 2J2, or by e-mail at: <writeaway@nexicom.net>.

The postcard project for the children will be kept open-ended by the Religious Education Committee for another year or more, to give kids and teens who haven't had a chance to make a postcard time to do so if they wish. [Make a postcard with an image on one side and on the other, whatever you want to say to introduce yourself to other Quaker kids. Send it to me and I'll put it into the scrapbook and bring it to CYM.]

At this point, the journals are still on the quaker.ca site, and I expect to make them available in a paper version soon.

The memory of our visits together is carried in my heart — a privilege and opening beyond words for the internal journey now, not the one on the bus!

Blessings,
Margaret
May 20, 2006 ☺

Margaret Slavin is a member of Wooler Monthly Meeting.