



The Quaking Post

"Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness"



Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2002

Religious Education Resources

Mary Snyder will be our guest...

Mary Snyder, author of *Jesus, Who Was He?*, and *Opening Doors to Quaker Religious Education*, will be our special guest at BYM in 2002! She will share her insights and experience with Friends through afternoon workshops and demonstration lessons within JYM children's groupings. We are very pleased to be able to offer this opportunity for First Day school teachers, and other interested Friends, to learn about Mary's centered and thoughtful approach to religious education.

Workshops will focus on strengthening monthly meetings through education, teaching methods centered on *lectio divina* (divine reading) and how simple it can be to teach first day school. Friends will learn about Mary's technique of storytelling, using her hand crafted wooden figures, followed by artistic responses to allow Friends of all ages to internalize the story.

Quaker Cottage Industries is Mary's home based business that produces wooden figures that come in sets to go with several Bible and Quaker stories. They were created with the intent of, "inviting adults, teens and children to enter significant stories through play". The simple figures are used to act out stories as they are told.

Mary's books, and wooden figures, are available from the FGC bookstore (800-966-4556). All will be available at BYM! Consider sending a Friend from your monthly meeting religious education committee to BYM in 2002, they will be sure to bring back many useful ideas to spark your first day school program!

How do I use The Bible to teach Quaker values in FDS?

by

Marsha Holliday

As a staff member working in religious education for Baltimore Yearly Meeting and later for Friends General Conference (FGC), I was frequently asked how to teach the Bible in First Day School. In answer to those questions, I have written *Quaker Values, a Curriculum for Upper Elementary School Children*, which will soon be published by FGC. This curriculum is intended for children in 4th to 6th grades. It is also appropriate for intergenerational religious education. This curriculum uses Bible, Quaker, and contemporary stories to present our guiding principles that grow out of Friends experience of "that of God in everyone". These principles are grounded in Christian and Hebrew literature and underpin Quaker faith and practice.

The Bible is a rich and relevant source of Quaker values. It is a collection of stories of people who tried to live according to their experience of God and, like us, frequently failed. That makes their experiences relevant to us. Moreover, Quaker values are found in story-form throughout the Bible. As children relate well to stories, that makes the Bible a rich source of learning experiences for them.

The stories in this curriculum are followed-up with artistic and dramatic activities, projects, games, and journaling exercises. The use of Quaker and Bible stories in conjunction with contemporary stories will help children see that similar ideas can be found in all three genres. This

comparative approach intends to make both Quaker and Bible stories more meaningful to children and encourage their insights into the roots and history of Quaker values.

As Quaker values are abstract, interpreting them to children who are on the brink of, or have recently begun, abstract thinking is an exciting educational experience for children, parents, and teachers. Quaker Values, a Curriculum for Upper Elementary School Children provides a framework for this educational adventure.

Book & Video Reviews

Peace Begins With You, by Katherine Scholes, illustrated by Robert Ingpen (Sierra Club, 1994)

A simple, clear explanation of how and why peace has a place in everyone's lives. The illustrations are charming, and add to the meaning of the text. It is a good a springboard for both discussion and activities. This children's book is compelling for elementary aged children.

I Am Quaker, by Felice Blanc (Rosen Publishing Group/Powerkids Press, 1999)

This is a fresh look at defining Quakers! The text is in large print and consists of simple, clear explanations of the history of Quakers and what we believe in an appropriate manner for 4-8 year olds. It is part of a series called Religions of the World. Other religions in the series include Baha i, Baptist, Latter-day Saint, Lutheran, and Rastafarian.

Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type, by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000)

What will happen when the cows learn to type, and start making demands of Farmer Brown? Find out as this hilarious tale unfolds. The illustrations are lively, eye catching images. This book is a terrific "what if" scenario for problem solving, and conflict resolution lessons for elementary aged children.

Standing in the Light, Dear America Series, VHS video, (Scholastic, 1999)

This 30 minute video shows the story of Catherine Carey Logan in Pennsylvania, in 1763. As a Quaker teenager, Catherine's life is quiet and simple. The Lenape Indians kidnap Caty, and her brother, in retaliation

for vicious attacks by white settlers. Will Caty reject, or accept the Lenape way of life the Indian family invites her to share? Caty's story, as well as the other's in the series, are inspired by the diaries of real girls. This work of historical fiction will inspire authentic discussion of valuing diversity. It is best suited for middle and high school ages, and can also be found in book format form Scholastic Books.

From Monthly Meetings....

Deer Creek Monthly Meeting, Darlington, MD

Our meeting is on the small side, but lively just the same! On an average Sunday around 20 adults, and a dozen children (aged 1-11) gather for FDS and worship. We begin with a song and brief period of silent worship with everyone together, before the children head to their rooms for FDS. At that time, the adults have a FDS lesson followed by a longer period of silent worship. Over the last 3 years, a process for planning FDS has evolved that works very well for us. I believe it has created an awareness of the needs of Friends of all ages. There is also a renewed sense of openness, and support for spiritual growth in all of its forms.

First, the RE committee decided to focus our FDS planning around themes - like many schools use in their planning. We wanted to have a flow to the lessons, more than just seasonal changes. We extended the themes to all age groups. The idea of families returning home with a common idea from meeting seemed important. A theme may be a testimony, a book of the Bible, or some aspect of Quaker history. For example, if the theme for the month is Quaker personalities, everyone may learn about John Woolman. Or the youngest children may learn about George Fox, while elementary aged children learn about William Penn, and the adults have an in-depth study of Margaret Fell. The possibilities are endless, and can be tailored to the groups needs.

Our process includes an RE committee lead adult FDS session where we review the themes that were focused on in the past year. We ask for feedback on the year as a whole and on We discuss both adult and children's FDS. Then, we ask for ideas for the coming year. Any new ideas are welcome. The last step, is to hand out index cards for written comments. This both gives

friends time for reflection, and offers a way for quieter Friends to share their ideas. As our children grow, we plan to include them in this process! Next, the RE Committee meets to plan for the coming year using the comments given earlier. We sketch out the themes for the year, then break into small teams to plan specific lessons for the different age groups. I believe that this inclusive process is helping our meeting family blossom spiritually!

Submitted by Sarah Buchanan-Wollaston

And from State College...

War and Peace in a First Day School Class: A Case Study

Larry Greenleaf & Bob Lumley-Sapanski teach the 8th & 9th grade FDS class at State College (PA) Meeting. Although their kids are several years away from having to face draft registration, Larry and Bob decided early this year that it was time to raise the issues of military service, war, peace, and conscientious objection. Their segment on these topics lasted five weeks. "We started by showing a movie, *'Full Metal Jacket,'*" Larry said. The film, by the late Stanley Kubrick, has two main sections: the first takes place in boot camp, the second in combat in Vietnam. The class watched the first part, about boot camp. "We thought it was a more realistic view of what happens there than the 'Be all you can be' army recruiting spots the kids see on TV," Larry said. The next week, they talked with the kids about the film, and the issues it raised.

They followed up with another film, the PBS documentary about COs in World War II, "*The Good War and those Who Refused to Fight It.*"

For the final session, Larry and Bob took advantage of an opportunity, when a regional staff member from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting came to speak at the meeting's adult forum. They asked him to come talk about being a Vietnam era CO, and the resources available to young men who want to declare themselves COs when they register with Selective Service. For this closing session, they also brought in the high school class. Larry feels the response of the class to these presentations was positive and attentive. While the class has now moved on to other topics, Larry says they might return to these issues. "We might be forced to, by events."

RESOURCES:

DRAFT & CO Issues:

For First Day School discussions of draft registration and CO issues, here are some websites with information that can be easily printed out:

New England Yearly Meeting has a page on Registration/CO issues, including lots of links:

<http://www.neym.org/pscn013.htm>

Quaker House has an update, "Feeling a Draft" on the bill now in Congress to re-institute the draft:

<http://quakerhouse.org/draft.htm>

The Center for Conscience and War has a list of "Questions for the Conscientious Objector" (with good material for finding your own answers) at:

http://www.nisbco.org/What_Do_I.htm

The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) has another set of Questions & Answers About Draft Registration:

<http://www.objector.org/conscription/draft-registration.htm>

CASE STUDIES OF CO AND PEACE WITNESS:

PBS has a fine and detailed site about its documentary "*The Good war and Those Who Refused to Fight It.*" This offers an excellent case study of conscientious objectors, many of whom were Quakers. Besides excerpts, the site includes ordering information to get video copies:

<http://www.pbs.org/itvs/thegoodwar/story.html>

A story of a Quaker family caught in the bloody Irish Rebellion of 1798:

"Divine Protection Through Extraordinary Dangers" by Dinah Goff:

<http://quaker.org/quest/Goff-01.htm>

William Rotch, describes how a Quaker pacifist took on both sides in the American Revolution, without arms: <http://quaker.org/quest/rotch01-intro.htm>

The Quaking Post is a publication of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Religious Education Committee. Every reader is invited to suggest or write contributions for upcoming issues. Please address comments and contributions to Margo Inglis Lehman at MargoL222@aol.com. Any Friend may join this mailing list by calling 800/962-4766 (toll free) or 301/774-7663.

The Quaking Post
Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage BLK-RT
STD MAIL
PAID
Sandy Spring, MD
Permit No. 112

What's Inside?

- ✓ Mary Snyder comes to Yearly Meeting !
- ✓ A new curriculum from Marsha Holliday
- ✓ Book & Movie Reviews
- ✓ Intergenerational FDS at Deer Creek MM
- ✓ War & Peace at State College MM
- ✓ Resources for discussion of Draft & CO issues

BYM RE curriculum subcommittee

This subcommittee was formed with the intent of taking a good look at Quaker Religious Education materials that are currently available, and using the best to create a curriculum cycle for all ages. A curriculum cycle is a way to organize subjects that are taught to make sure that all of the most important topics are included over the course of the cycle. We considered many aspects of what Friends may need in planning for the religious education of their members and attenders. Under consideration are group size, cycle length, topics to include, remaining flexible, and ease of use. Our long term goal is to write a curriculum cycle that will be offered to monthly meetings as a guideline to help in planning first day school for all ages. We decided to begin our work by finding all the RE materials we can, and sort them by age and topic. We will meet again the first weekend in June with lists of available material to review and organize. If you are interested in our work, you may contact Sarah Buchanan-Wollaston at buchwoll@juno.com.

Quaker curriculum and other materials are available from these sources!

Friends General Conference Bookstore - 800-966-4556

Pendle Hill Bookstore - 800-742-3150

Quaker Hill Bookstore - 800-537-8838