

**Pacific Yearly Meeting  
68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session Minutes and Reports**

**PLENARY V**

Plenary V opened with singing worship by Young Adult Friends at 3:16 p.m.

**Epistle Reading**

D.J. Bloom read the epistle of the “86<sup>th</sup> General Session of the Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba.” The writers of the epistle rejoiced in the love and peace of the Spirit. They reported the opening of the Cuban Quaker Institute of Peace (ICCP).

**Young Adult Friends**

YAFs guiding the presentation from the facing bench were Robert Allen (Berkeley), Cody Lowry (Orange Grove), Annie Gholson (Orange Grove), Elena Anderson-Williams (Palo Alto), Kylin Navarro (Berkeley), Dorothy Henderson (Grass Valley), Sally Kingsland (Strawberry Creek), and Keenan Lorenzato (Davis). Kylin and Elena, YAF co-clerks, introduced the presentation with questions and shared that they want to speak as people who love us and recognize that of God in us.

- Another friend, who does not wish his name entered into the minutes, shared his story of conviction. This began during a specific event when he was about 10, seeing angels in his grandmother’s hospital room after she had a stroke. Seeing the angels he did not need to have faith but knew the spiritual realm was real. His fuller story is attached below. (Attachment 1)
- Sally Kingsland (Strawberry Creek) began by acknowledging the Miwok people’s ongoing connection to this land. She shared her story of a leading to come here from Australia. Gradually the leading became stronger and through much trepidation the call to move was answered. The result was amazing, painful and joyful spiritual growth. Her fuller story is attached below. (Attachment 2)
- Dorothy Henderson (Grass Valley) shared her response to two queries of Thomas Kelly’s sent by the YAF co-clerks. Years ago, she realized she wanted to walk with Jesus. This became part of her life, and it was not easy. Through this walking she discovered the bubbling spring of Spirit, a different life, and became a full Quaker. Her fuller story is attached below. (Attachment 3)

The Young Adult Friends concluded their presentation and began the worship with singing. Several attenders spoke out of the silence.

Reading of the minutes of Plenary V was deferred to Plenary VI.

With closing worship, Plenary V ended at 4:39 p.m.

**Pacific Yearly Meeting**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session Minutes and Reports**

**Attachment 1. Friend**, who does not wish his name entered into the minutes.

We heard a Friend share the Friend's testimony of belief. The Friend's conviction came at a young age, when a grandmother had a stroke and angels made their presence known in her final hours. The ministry then led forward to an experience of conviction.

Following a leading this Friend opened the bible and landed on a charged piece of scripture- "Whoever loves mother or father more than me is not worthy of me." Friend was convicted, and as such called to live a life of devotion.

This Friend lifted up John 15-15 from which Friends get their name, stating that the Friend is in the process of conversion, wrestling with the charge of being a good friend to Jesus.

**Pacific Yearly Meeting**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session Minutes and Reports**

**Attachment 2. Sally Kingsland.**

My husband and two small children were living a relatively comfortable and stable life in Australia with jobs, friends, family and access to nature. We were blessed with a wonderful parenting community that we had helped to establish when our first child was born. I had the regular support I needed for my body to keep me mostly pain-free.

However, I was longing for more. Although I was a committed Friend I did not find my spiritual needs met at my local Meeting for Worship so did not attend. I yearned to sit at the feet of deeply faithful Friends in order to learn. Two American Quaker women had been a spiritual lifeline for me for many years helping me to believe that the Society of Friends could be what I hoped and believed it could be despite what I saw around me.

The idea of moving away had been coming up over several years and it was becoming stronger and more formed. There was much that we did not like about the idea of moving to the USA as we would give up a lot of our quality of life. As we thought about the idea more, and made some initial enquiries, my husband updated his LinkedIn profile and he was headhunted for a job in Silicon Valley less than 24 hours later. Still, we did not become clear that we were to move until we sat with the actual job offer after five interviews and some months had passed. It became obvious to us as we sat with the offer that a door was open and that walking away from it would be walking away from God.

We had a house to renovate, jobs to extract ourselves from and children's lives to rearrange but we got to work and left 10 weeks later taking a few friends by surprise on the way. It was an extremely intense time for three months before leaving and three months after arriving. Despite the trepidation, doubt and tears, I carried a quiet confidence that came from trusting that I was following Divine Will. The journey has been exciting and also very, very hard. There are many facets of life in the USA which give me much pain including our separation from nature living in a big city and the extreme inequity that leaves so many people destitute.

Upon arriving we were immediately showered with more blessings and opportunities than we could have imagined. Quaker community experiences, a massive spiritual growth spurt that left me with growing pains and even better care for body than what I had been so afraid to leave behind in Australia. Even my relationships with my parenting friends in Australia have deepened since we left.

I am so grateful for the gifts we have been given, strengthened in my faith and trusting that I will be led wherever I need to be next.

**Pacific Yearly Meeting  
68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session Minutes and Reports**

**Attachment 3. Dorothy Henderson**

I became a member of Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting in 1984, after attending from 1980.

I have been having conversations with God (pretty much one-sided) since I was 9.

A few years ago I found myself wanting to know Jesus.

Sixteen months ago I knew I wanted to walk with Jesus – with Quakers.

Jesus said, “It won’t be easy.”

For the past sixteen months I have been walking with Jesus and he has offered me disciplines – several. The two that have challenged/exercised me the most have been to stop drinking (alcohol) and to stop micromanaging my husband Doug’s life. In my talk to Yearly Meeting at the Young Adult Friends panel I shared my struggle to replace my relationship with alcohol with my relationship with Jesus – a struggle that has been resolved joyfully. I also spoke of the profound teaching that has happened regarding my letting go of trying to manage my husband’s life. Learning to trust Doug is really learning to trust God. And it is my own life that I have let go of micromanaging. It is my life that I am willing to surrender to Christ. I am finally becoming a Quaker.