

February 2018

Dear Friends,

At North Pacific Yearly Meeting 2017 Joyce Zerwekh, Betsey Kenworthy, Joe Snyder, and eric maya joy facilitated an interest group titled "Exploring Root Causes of Crises Facing Humanity Today, and Gifts Friends Have to Offer for Healing." Subsequently we came to unity around fear being a significant and perhaps the #1 root cause.

We also discovered that the newly approved NPYM Faith and Practice document contains a new section titled "Be Not Afraid" that speaks directly and clearly to the topic of fear and guides us through exploring with queries relating to fear and some of it's implications.

We decided to compose this introductory letter and send it out to all monthly meetings within NPYM and perhaps all meetings in the Pacific Northwest and encourage all monthly meetings to explore the topic of fear, in the manner of Friends (worship sharing, threshing sessions, ...), using this new section with it's queries, as a guide.

It is our hope that in doing this we will be able to help each other learn and grow as we work through, better understand, and release individual and collective destructive fears. In the process of releasing we become clear to move beyond fear thereby opening and allowing more effective action to emerge.

This is essential for us as Friends and humanity as a whole to live openly in the Light and move effectively toward peace and restore a healthy environment within which humanity and all life can thrive.

It is essential for the survival of humanity to move beyond fear; both the inner fear we self create and fear that is projected upon us for the purpose of control and manipulation.

Printing the attached two-page pdf, one page on each side of a sheet of paper, and folding the paper in half results in a pamphlet, "Be Not Afraid." This then is easily distributed in your meeting to help in your meeting processing of this topic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, in exploring,

eric maya joy

interest group initiator
Olympia Monthly Meeting
gfs@oro.net, 530.477.1277

p.s. If you would like help in initiating this exploration in your meeting, and/or help in actually facilitating discussion, you are welcome to contact me, eric, or Joe Snyder [joe's contact info].

Also, the Western Friend is providing space on their website for pdf summations of what arises out of your Monthly Meeting addressing this topic. We can all then help each other learn and grow with input from your Monthly Meeting's or Worship Group's explorations.

Western Friend submission email address: editor@westernfriend.org

Western Friend viewing web address: <https://westernfriend.org/media/be-not-afraid-invitation>