

3/96

State of Society
Jacksonville Meeting

(1995)

Discovering our limitations and accepting God's will and caring one for another seem to have been our themes this year. Several of our loved ones experienced serious illness and we often found ourselves focused individually. Sharing, caring, and "holding in the Light" were frequent concerns.

Through our hardships Friends continued to be a source of strength, comfort, and love. It seems we have a lot of difficulties for so small a group. Perhaps it seems so only because we are opened by our own cares to the burdens of others.

As a meeting, we also faced redefining our scope. Feeling strong and healthy we formed committees, established weekly First Day School, hired a baby-sitter, bought a telephone listing, discussed finding a larger meeting place, and continued weekly discussion groups. Recognizing and accepting our limitations became necessary. We now find ourselves with biweekly, well-defined discussion groups, monthly First Day School, and with a thankfulness that our meeting place is inexpensive.

Within this clarified reality, we find ourselves successful. We added Queries before Meeting for Business and Worship Sharing at the end of Meeting for Worship. Our monthly First Day School has completed the Woolman curriculum. Our committees have helped individuals focus more clearly on their personal interests. Our discussion group is a wonderful exploration of the Bible in Quaker terms led by Noel and Daisy Palmer.

Friends remain active in their own concerns as well. Our banner was carried in the Martin Luther King Day parade, participation was made in the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice Walk for the Earth, a peace quilt was completed, and work continues on Peace Camp and a house in Massachusetts.

Our children remain interested in many things. They have been learning to sail with Pat Murphy's assistance and are getting to know each other better at potluck. We will miss Tanya and Tiffany in their transfer to Gainesville. Ben and ShawnaKim completed their Quaker religious badges for Scouting. Halden shows skill in entertaining William, and William is trying to learn to sit quietly.

Debbie Rasmussen will retire as Clerk in June. A nominating committee has been formed to find her successor.

We added five members this year and lost three through transfer within SEYM. We have enough money for our concerns and our phone line is open.

by location in minutes