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## Front Matter -- Quaker Religious Thought, no. 110

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Cumulative No. 110

May 2008

# QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

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*Sponsored by the Quaker Theological Discussion Group*

(<http://theo-discuss.quaker.org/>)

The purpose of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group is to explore the meaning and implications of our Quaker faith and religious experience through discussion and publication. This search for unity in the claim of truth upon us concerns both the content and application of our faith.

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## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue leads off with an essay by Cherice Bock, exploring some of the primary differences between leading Christian positions on peace over the last century. Ironically, despite the clear teachings of Jesus on the subject, not all Christians have agreed on matters of violence and nonviolence. On that score, Bock clarifies the position of Fox, Barclay, and early Friends on the matter and places it in relief against other approaches. Just as early Friends confronted such doctrines as Just War and unquestioning submission to authorities on the basis of Divine Right of Kings doctrine, Friends today must also bear witness to the truth we have received in faithfulness to Christ and in service to the world.

Bock's work is especially timely, as Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is planning a major ecumenical conference January 13-17, 2009, "Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace." The time is indeed ripe for gathering anew the energies of Friends, Mennonites, Brethren, and others, since the New Call to Peacemaking movement sponsored a dozen or so regional conferences and three national conferences between 1975 and 1982. I hear moving reports of those endeavors from Ralph Beebe (Cherice's grandfather), who participated in those ventures along with others, and whose booklet, *Waging Peace* (with John Lamoreau, Newberg: Barclay Press, 1980), continues to serve as a helpful guide to historic and biblical bases for Christian pacifism. We need to reach the world with the Gospel of Peace, but we also need to reach the church!

The QTDG book review for this year features an engagement of Carole Spencer's new book, *Holiness: The Soul of Quakerism*. As a revision of her Birmingham doctoral work with Ben Pink Dandelion, this new book by Spencer will likely do for a historical and theological understanding of the Quaker movement as rooted in holiness and personal transformation what Rufus Jones and Hugh Barbour did for mystical and biblical understandings of Quakerism, respectively. This is especially significant for global Quakerism, as near 80% of Friends around the world, especially in Africa and Latin America, are rooted squarely in holiness Quaker traditions. That being the case, the three reviews by Stephen Angell, Margery Post Abbott, and Jim Le Shana engage the work from a diverse set of perspectives, and yet they all concur on one thing: the judgment that this is a *very* important work! These reviews and the author's response were delivered at the San

Diego QTDG meetings last November, and it will be interesting to see how further discussions develop.

Less happily, I received the news on March 5th that Dean Freiday had passed away the night before in a care center not far from his beloved home in Manasquan, New Jersey. Dean, of course, contributed *so* much to the work of Quakers and ecumenical life in America; we are all indebted to his generous and thoughtful labors of love! As editor or co-editor of *Quaker Religious Thought* from 1978-1989 and as a frequent participant in Quaker Theological Discussion Group, Dean played really important roles in the theological life of American Quakerism over the last half century, and his cheerful and encouraging presence will be deeply missed! Dean's enduring book-length contributions to Friends include his paraphrasing of *Barclay's Apology in Modern English, Nothing Without Christ, Speaking as a Friend, Approaches to the Bible in Seventeenth-Century England, The Day of the Lord: Eschatology in Quaker Perspective* (ed. with Fritz Eichenberg), and a co-editing with Arthur Roberts of Robert Barclay's *A Catechism and Confession of Faith*. Dean also contributed ten articles to *Quaker Religious Thought* and twenty or so articles to *Friends Journal, Quaker Life, Friends Quarterly, Quaker History, The Anglican Theological Review, The Ecumenical Review*, and other journals and venues. A full bibliography will soon be posted on the QRT website and distributed at our next QTDG meetings.

As a Quaker representative on the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ for several decades, and as a Quaker representative to the Fifth Gathering of the World Council of Churches in Santiago de Compostela in 1993, Dean Freiday served as an active member of the Friends General Conference Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee for five decades. He also co-founded the Institute for Catholic and Quaker Studies along with Father Donald S. Nesti, C.S.Sp. and published several important volumes via that organization. In addition to the tributes in this volume by Michael Birkel and Arthur Roberts, a Minute of Appreciation for Dean Freiday on behalf of the FGC Interfaith Relations Committee can be found online at: [http://www.fgcquaker.org/circ/freiday\\_appreciation.html](http://www.fgcquaker.org/circ/freiday_appreciation.html).

As one who benefited greatly from Dean's encouragement and support over the years, I feel personally indebted to Dean on so many levels. As a student at ESR in 1980, Dean sent me a copy of his book manuscript, *Nothing without Christ*, to review as he finalized it for publication. Shortly after beginning my teaching at Fox, Dean

volunteered me for the NCCC Faith and Order Consultation on The Apostolic Character of the Church's Peace Witness. He even picked me up at the Newark, NJ airport in 1991 and took me to the meetings at Douglaston, New York, where the contributors to *The Churches' Peace Witness* (Eerdmans 1994) read and responded to each other's essays. This led to my being drawn into the following conference on The Fragmentation of the Church and its Unity in Peacemaking, held at Notre Dame in 1995, and being asked to serve on the Faith and Order Commission several years later.

Our family is also deeply indebted to Dean Freiday, as both of my sabbaticals and a year of serving as a visiting professor at Yale Divinity School were punctuated by visits from Dean and his generous hospitality. Our trip to Pendle Hill and Haverford in 1996 was graced by Dean's showing us around the Smithsonian in Washington DC, even extending hospitality at Gail Freiday Crockett's home, Dean and Sandy's daughter. At the end of our visit to Yale, Dean and Sandy drove up to spend the day together with us on my birthday in May 1999, where he exhorted us to come to Manasquan for a visit. That trip finally materialized in 2004, on a sabbatical at Princeton Theological Seminary. Of course, it was a privilege to teach his Sunday school class a couple of times and to attend the meeting for worship at Manasquan Friends Meeting.

With this history of personal connection, I felt led to attend his memorial service at Manasquan Friends Meeting on April 12th. In addition to sharing personal greetings and reflections, I was privileged to read the tribute and poem written by Arthur Roberts, published below. The Friends at Manasquan were very appreciative; many had known generally of his contributions, but Arthur's essay gave some of the larger picture, which reminds us all of his many and diverse contributions. His given name was Vanderveer Deane Freiday; Sandy came to know him as "Jim;" to the rest of us, he is "Dean." Dean is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sandy, his two children, Gail and Will, and two grandsons, Scott and Drew Crockett. To all of us, though, he has been a generous teacher, supportive friend, and a helpful guide.

Just before I left for New Jersey, my wife Carla stopped me to say how much Dean Freiday had changed her life. "How so?" I asked. She went on to share how that it was Arthur Roberts' requiring her History and Doctrine of Friends class at George Fox College to read *Barclay's Apology in Modern English* that impacted her understanding of the essential message of Friends. She had known it from experience, but the accessible work of Barclay, delivered by Dean Freiday's thoughtful

paraphrase, made the central Christian truths of which Friends have been called to testify, accessible and compelling. As just one of many thousands for whom this experience was true, I shared that with the Friends at Manasquan Meeting; as I spoke, heads nodded.

During the sharing at Manasquan Friends Meeting, Dean's love for good food—almost a sacramental treasuring of table fellowship—was mentioned by several. This brought to mind several lucid memories about his appreciation for both quality and value. When Dean picked me up in his Ford Fiesta at the Newark airport in 1991, he commented on the gas mileage and the economic service of the car: "You can't beat it!" he exclaimed. When we roomed together at the Motel 6 in South Bend, Indiana in 1995, where the price was to his delight the lowest in town, "You can't beat it!" was again the friendly imprimatur. Dean introduced me at that Notre Dame conference to Jeffrey Gros (Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops) around a breakfast at Shoney's; when Dean pointed out the selection of fresh fruit and other good foods at the breakfast buffet, he declared to us both, "You can't beat it!" When he and Sandy treated Carla and me to lunch twice at Lahiere's restaurant in Princeton (Einstein's favorite restaurant), he commented on the quality of the food: "You can't beat it!" When I tried to return the favor after Meeting in Manasquan, Dean chose the Dim Sum Chinese restaurant, extolling the value of good food reasonably priced: "You can't beat it!"

We shall miss Dean Freiday; yet for his life and many contributions we are extremely grateful. When I think of his generosity of spirit and the way his life exemplified the goodness of God and the love of Christ, I find myself now saying: "You can't beat it!"

—*Paul Anderson*  
Editor

PS—Archives of Dean Freiday's contributions are being managed by the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College; notes and letters in appreciation for Dean Freiday can be sent to Sandy, who has moved to the Tall Oaks at Reston, Virginia, in care of her daughter at the following address:

Esther (Sandy) Freiday  
c/o Gail Freiday Crockett  
11262 Center Harbor Road  
Reston, VA. 20194-1319

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**\*More information later\***

**...and...**

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