

Call for Spiritual Uplift

Fall Interim Business Meeting
2 Tenth Month 2021

Dear Friend Phoebe,

For this afternoon, I've written an initial paragraph and slightly tweaked the rest without verbal changes.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Bob Allenson

For nine months talk among the people of the USA has centered on denial and insurrection. It is high time to discuss responsibility for change and the right use of our financial resources. I am proposing a movement, grounded in fasting and prayer, to accomplish this. By fasting, I do not mean trying to placate God or grab God's attention, rather to free up and focus our energy for a vital cause. And prayer is no sticky sentimental whine, rather asking God to empower us for tasks beyond ordinary human capability.

A recent event strikes me as emblematic of the crisis in which we are foundering. During the evacuation through the Kabul airport, what is called intelligence detected suspicious movements of a man loading packages into his car and then driving to a staging area close to the airport. A drone was sent to take out this target, killing a family including seven children. Too late we learned that this man had been stowing bottled water to meet his family's needs.

For times when the demons of war are set loose in our midst, passages from the Bible come to mind (from the Revised English Bible): Havoc and violence confront me, strife breaks out, discord arises. Therefore law becomes ineffective, and justice is defeated. ... Because you yourself have plundered many nations, because of the bloodshed and violence you inflicted on cities and all their inhabitants over the earth, now the rest of the world will plunder you. (Habakkuk 1,3f. and 2,8f.) Yet even now, says the Lord, turn back to me wholeheartedly with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts and not your garments, and turn back to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, long-suffering and ever constant, ready always to relent when he threatens disaster. (Joel 2,12f.) -- His disciples asked Jesus privately, 'Why could we not drive this demon out?' He said, 'This kind cannot be driven out except by prayer.' (Mark 9,28f.)

From biblical times and up to the Civil War, at critical moments a public 'day of fasting, humiliation and prayer' was declared. During my lifetime I recall isolated, individual acts of protest but no broad-gauge anti-war movement. Astonishingly we continue to squander our resources on feeding the insatiable wealth of profiteers from the military - industrial complex. Therefore I repent of my country's wrongheaded imperialism. I repent of my complicity in evading responsibility for devoting our resources to the needs of war and climate refugees worldwide. For only through global cooperation and mutual aid will life on earth as we know it survive.

I propose that Friends designate the 27th of November, the Saturday before the season of Advent, as a day of fasting and prayer, with the intention of healing individual ills and social conflicts, and seeking our way forward. Could SEYM petition other yearly meetings, Friends' agencies, and groups like the Poor Peoples' Campaign to unite on an upsurge into a worldwide focus on how we are ruining Planet A and inflicting grievous harm on each other, then resolve to turn about-face and march together toward freedom and peace?

War Department (1789) and Navy Department (1798) unified as
'National Military Establishment' 26Jul1947, renamed DoD 10Aug1949

-ACTIONS:

Young Evangelicals for Climate Action (YECA), Tori Goebel natl organizer
-Sep 25/26 DC Capitol Hill

Sierra Club

-Sep 29 Wed 3:30pm CDT Climate Emergency Mobilization Team

People vs. Fossil Fuels, incl Climate Hawks

-Oct 11-15 at White House: get Biden to cancel fossil fuel devs

Youth Climate Finance Alliance

-Oct 29 Fossil Free Future Day of Action

Womens' Earth & Climate Action Network (WECAN Intl) Osprey Orielle Lake, exec dir

-led 120+ orgs at U.N., 23Sep2021 with 8-step program against fossil fuel,
ag practices causing soil erosion, preserving oceans, food security,
indigenous people's treaties

-Nov __-__ will present demands at U.N. Climate Change Conf (COP 26)

Fuller, Richard, 1804-1876.

-Mercy remembered in wrath. A sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Fuller, on
Thursday, September 26, 1861, being the day of national fasting,
humiliation and prayer. Baltimore: published by Henry Taylor, 1861.
24 p.; 21 cm.

[same title, by John M. Mason, 1795; cf. William Ellery Channing, 1812]

[others in 1861, Union: Dreher Duffield Fugitt Pyne Stanton Wadsworth;

-Confederate: B M Palmer, H H Tucker]

[1865, after Lincoln's assassination: Farquhar, Howlett]