Sources of inspiration and the types of quotes

One of the Biblical passages from the “let your life speak” section of the Faith and Practice. 2 Corinthians 3, 1-6. Commend ourselves again or need letters of recommendation? You show you a letter from Christ.

Margaret Fell’s letters—where she can be quite fierce. Also Isaac Penington—letters to various Friends to whom he was a spiritual mentor. Not outrunning light and young green corn.

Not Quakers but... Allison Hawthorne Deming. Writing the Sacred into the Real. “Distorting clarity.” A series of questions with astonishment as the answer. When a thing is sacred it is safe from violation. Inspires ethical obligation and sacrifice. Mary Oliver. “The Summer Day.” Who made the world? (both poets “Google-able”)

Three authors: 1) Wendell Berry—Kingdom of God v kingdom of 2) Walter Wink -- image of sin as not only a personal experience and alienation but also something that our social institutions fall into. Used Biblical imagery re warring angels—spirit/angel of that institution. All human institutional institutions have a spirit, sanctioned by God as necessary for human support but have to be constantly redeemed because they slip into preserving their control, power and authority at the expense of those they are intended to support. 3) Martin Buber I am Thou. Introspection on relationships. Relating to things in the third person rather than the second or first person. Immediate relationship rather than alienated, manipulative, fear based relationship.

In meeting my thoughts often return to the book of Revelation—taken up to see the new Jerusalem. Thinking about cities. It has 12 gates—it was open by day and not shut by night. No temple, but the presence of God. And there is the River of the Water of Life running through it—the river that flows from the throne of God. An openness, institutional freedom from religious institutions, focused on peace and justice and healing.

Book of Revelation as a metaphor for the transformation that Fox talked about—Doug Gwynn’s work.

Hymn known as Dear Lord and Father of Mankind.

http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/d/e/dearlord.htm

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclote us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

With that deep hush subduing all
Our words and works that drown
The tender whisper of Thy call,
As noiseless let Thy blessing fall
As fell Thy manna down.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

Dances of Universal Peace and Quaker practice. Moving in silence is easiest for me and when I have trouble settling I imagine moving in dance. I get spoken messages that come through me, sometimes, but the most powerful are often through movement and in large groups. Sometimes when alone. Spirit moving through the group opens a conduit of movement for me. Danced.

Maraget Fell. Is a co-founder of Friends. Two quotes from several pages. One from beginning and one from end. Experience of being brought to tears. “we were all wrong...all thieves...taken scripture in words and none in selves.” Other is late in her life (wrote articulation of peace testimony a year before Fox
Being outside with the trees and being in meeting for worship with Friends. Two quotes have stayed with me. Book in elementary school to which I have returned, about once a year to sit with the same questions I sit with. And joy...is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” Vickie Austin in Madeline L’Engle’s  A Ring of Endless Light The other “When action proceeds with lives of prayer it fulfills neither the ego or the need to succeed but instead fulfills our desires to be faithful to the leadings of the Light.” Song with me this week.

Imani by Rachel Hazen

Thomas Merton retreats for liberation; anger. Debates re more direct action and longer term approach. Taking supplies into Vietnam. Out of the silence. Something from my Catholic roots to connect with Quakerism. Responsible for what groups do that I am part of. I find it important to start where people are coming from to open them to new ideas.

From Science to God, Peter Russel. 40 years ago I was sure that things called “spirituality” would have a scientific explanation and I have seen explanations of healing and guidance and inspiration connected to the scientific world. Current things inspire me more than older—Calvi’s presentation re channeling love, what facilitates love and healing energy. If you are meant to know something it can be received. Destiny of Souls, explore between life consciousness and lives past and lives future. It goes beyond what is in older writings. Gives me energy and faith that I can do it, too. Not for everyone. Different skill levels.

Howgill 19.08 Britain Yearly Meeting

[We] were reckoned, in the north part of England, even as the outcasts of Israel, and as men destitute of the great knowledge, which some seemed to enjoy; yet there was more sincerity and true love amongst us and desires after the living powerful presence of God than was among many in that day who ran into heaps and forms but left the cross behind them. God out of his everlasting love did appear unto us, according to the desire of our hearts, who longed after him; when we had turned aside from hireling-shepherds' tents, we found him whom our souls loved; and God, out of his great love and great mercy, sent one unto us, a man of God, one of ten thousand, to instruct us in the way of God more perfectly; which testimony reached unto all our consciences and entered into the inmost part of our hearts, which drove us to a narrow search, and to a diligent inquisition concerning our state, through the Light of Christ Jesus. The Lord of Heaven and earth we found to be near at
hand, and, as we waited upon him in pure silence, our minds out of all things, his heavenly presence appeared in our assemblies, when there was no language, tongue nor speech from any creature. The Kingdom of Heaven did gather us and catch us all, as in a net, and his heavenly power at one time drew many hundreds to land. We came to know a place to stand in and what to wait in; and the Lord appeared daily to us, to our astonishment, amazement and great admiration, insomuch that we often said one unto another with great joy of heart: 'What, is the Kingdom of God come to be with men? And will he take up his tabernacle among the sons of men, as he did of old? Shall we, that were reckoned as the outcasts of Israel, have this honour of glory communicated amongst us, which were but men of small parts and of little abilities, in respect of many others, as amongst men?' And from that day forward, our hearts were knit unto the Lord and one unto another in true and fervent love, in the covenant of Life with God; and that was a strong obligation or bond upon all our spirits, which united us one unto another. We met together in the unity of the Spirit, and of the bond of peace, treading down under our feet all reasoning about religion. And holy resolutions were kindled in our hearts as a fire which the Life kindled in us to serve the Lord while we had a being, and mightily did the Word of God grow amongst us, and the desires of many were after the Name of the Lord. O happy day! O blessed day! the memorial of which can never pass out of my mind. And thus the Lord, in short, did form us to be a people for his praise in our generation.

A couple of other queries—share or write in (qspiritt@gmail.com)

1. What quotes belong in Faith and Practice

2. what do we say to non-Friends through the quotes we include?

   By what is not?

3. can we include quotes from Non-Friends without being token?

4. How can we reflect the faith of some Friends in NPYM without including quotes form non-Friends?

5. What else inspires you?
Committee has a hard task describing us within the bounds of Quaker faith and practice. Open to continuing revelation more important than getting it exactly right at this one moment.

Former Faith and Practice (and two others used for reference) and NPYM: one of the things that when I was new found confusing but now I delight in and deeply appreciate is that there are sometimes quotes from other yearly meetings. Helps remind me with our kinship with one another. Also reminds me that we are a unique yearly meeting, we are ourselves.

These quotes usually illustrate something in Faith and Practice, not just free floating, right?

Had a conversation with people new to Friends and to this YM and they said a lot of what they learned has to do with the first generation of Friends and also what we experience here is how it’s lived now. No one tells us what happened in between. It may be important what happened in between. How did concepts evolve over time.

Same question. Playing with tree metaphor. Deep roots—Bible and Christian tradition that shaped the first generation. There are new roots into new tradition and it’s an infinitely growing tree putting out new branches and new leaves. Nourished and watered by the Spirit. Need to convey deep roots, evolution, continually active growth.

Quotes from non Friends. Most read widely and do draw inspiration from other sources. There are so many wonderful writings by Friends that this should be an adequate and sufficient source for quotes.

That would exclude Biblical sources

Would be good to show those outside that we do take inspiration from other sources. Show that we are in touch with the rest of the world.

“This Friend speaks my mind.”

Things I took from messages and that happened in my head—Scandanavian hymnals. A book would help me center and keep me from crying. I could settle into silence without bothering others.

http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&hs=gjw&ei=xzdiSsDtFl-
MtAPEqIVn&sa=X&oi=spell&resnum=0&ct=result&cd=1&q=kaerligheds+Greninger &spell=1