



Through a Visitor's Eyes . . .

adapted from a piece used by Farmington Friends Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting

Hello, I am a newcomer to your meeting.

You cannot know the reason why I am here this morning. It may be as simple as a move to your community, or as complicated as a personal crisis that leads me to seek strength from God. In any case, I am here. And I will probably remain here and come back to visit you next Sunday and the Sunday after that if you will do something for me.

Won't you please . . .

- SMILE AT ME AS I WALK IN YOUR DOOR. You are my first impression of this meeting, and this impression will probably stay with me for a long time.
- SPEAK TO ME AFTER MEETING. I know you want to see your friends, and settle that piece of committee business, but if you do not notice me, I may find it hard to believe that you truly care for the "stranger in your midst."
- TELL ME GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOUR MEETING. I want to believe that I have come to a place where people love each other, and where they believe they are doing something important.

- NOTICE ME EVEN IF I AM NOT A "FAMILY." I don't want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, a teenager, or an older person.
- TALK TO ME AGAIN THE SECOND WEEK WHEN I COME BACK, and the third and the fourth. I am still not part of your meeting family. Please don't feel that you have "done your duty" by me because you made a point of greeting me the first week I was here.
- INVITE ME TO BECOME PART OF SOME MEETING GROUP OR ACTIVITY. I need more than worship every Sunday. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed. I need to have people within the meeting who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.

If you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will come back . . . the second Sunday, the third, and maybe forever. I will worship with you. And I may work on your projects, teach First Day School, share my spiritual journey, and become an active member of your meeting. In so doing, I will find my life immeasurably enriched, and so will you.