

# A Parable of Stones into Fruit

*Told by The Children's Friend – Leon Kanagis – in Meeting for Worship, October 5, 1986, Florida Avenue Meeting, Washington, D.C. as adapted and written down, with permission.*

by Chuck Kleymeyer

When we are out, looking around us, we see that there are so many stones that lie about. Stones along the roadside; among

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the roots of the forest trees; on the bottoms of the streams. All different shapes, sizes, and colors.

A stone can be lifted and thrown through an oak door ... or window glass. It can be cracked against another stone ... or aimed at a person.

But what is it that *we* would do with a stone?

We take up a stone, and we rub it, and we scrape it, and we work on it – as long as it may take to turn it into a pile of dust.

Then we search for a seed, and we plant the seed in the pile of dust. We sprinkle a little water on it, and we wait.

The seed sprouts ... and it quickly dies.

We plant another seed, and we water it. We make sure that it gets plenty of sunlight.

The seed sprouts, and it dies.

Again we plant a seed. We give it

water and sunlight. And we wonder how it's going to do this time.

Once again the seed sprouts ... and dies.

This doesn't deter us. We keep planting seeds, and nurturing them, and one after another they die.

One day there is ample organic matter from all the seeds that have sprouted and died. We carefully gather this organic matter, and we grind it up, and we mix it with the dust of the stone.

Again we plant a seed and give it water and light.

This time it grows and takes root.

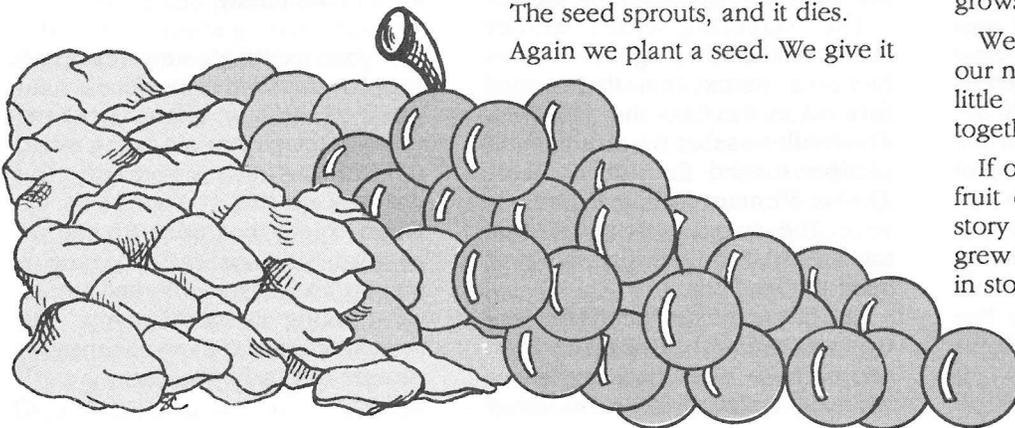
We plant another seed. And another. Nearly all sprout and grow ... and each one eventually dies and is transformed into soil.

Finally, we have soil enough for a tree. The tree sends down roots and grows. One day it bears fruit.

We share the fruit with our friends, our neighbors, and those who have little or nothing. And we enjoy it together. Quietly.

If our companions ask where the fruit came from, we tell them the story of how it fell from a tree ... that grew from a seed ... that was planted in stone.

There are many stones that lie around us. Q



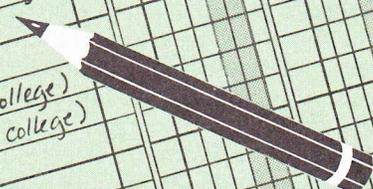
# QUAKER Life

March 1989

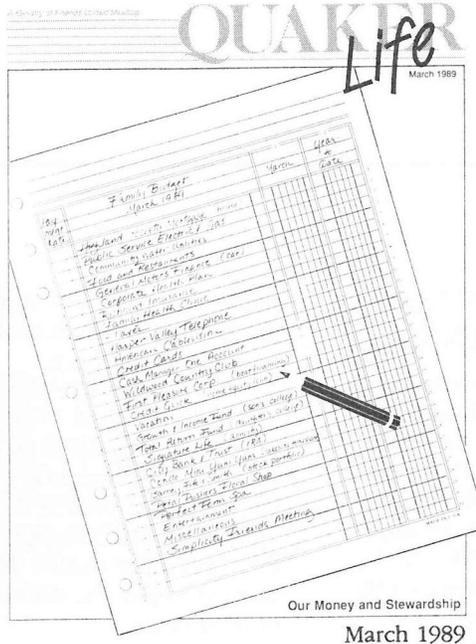
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March 1989

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Highland Society Mortgage (house)  
Public Service Electric & Gas  
Community Water Utilities  
Food and Restaurants  
General Motors Finance (car)  
Corporate Health Plan  
Richland Insurance  
Family Health Clinic  
- Taxes -  
Harper Valley Telephone  
American Cablevision  
Credit Cards  
Cash Manager One Account  
Wildwood Country Club  
First Pleasure Corp. (boat financing)  
Credit Quick (home equity loan)  
Vacation  
Growth & Income Fund (son's college)  
Total Return Fund (daughter's college)  
Signature Life (annuity)  
City Bank & Trust (IRA)  
Condo Mini Yum Yum (lakeside timeshare)  
Barney, Fife & Smith (stock portfolio)  
Petal Pushers Floral Shop  
Perfect Form Spa  
Entertainment  
Miscellaneous  
Simplicity Friends Meeting



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**QUAKER LIFE**

A religious magazine published ten times annually (January-February and July-August issues combined) under the auspices of Friends United Meeting (Quakers). ISSN 0033-5061. Deadline for copy and advertising—six weeks preceding date of publication. Address all correspondence to Quaker Life, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374; (317) 962-7573. All editorials, articles and columns represent the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Friends United Meeting or its constituent bodies.

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 Effective January 1, 1989

**PER YEAR**, \$14 (including Canada and Mexico); foreign, \$18.

**THREE YEARS**, \$35 (including Canada and Mexico); foreign, \$45.

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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Send your change immediately to Quaker Life, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374.

Quaker Life (U.S.P.S.—451-420). Second Class Postage Paid at Richmond, IN 47374.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Quaker Life, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374.

Series XXX Number 2

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Cover Design: Susanna Combs