

Ten Questions for Analyzing Witness

by Marshall Massey

Prepared for "*Exploring the Art of Prophetic Witness*",
a workshop at the 2006 Annual Session
of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Copyright © 1997, 2006 by Marshall Massey and the Environmental Projects Center.

- 1. *Who is addressed by this act of witness?***
Whose redemption is sought? Or who is being called or drawn toward repentance?
- 2. *What issue is the witness is testifying about?***
- 3. *What testimony does the witness have to present?***
In other words, what information and truth is the witness bringing forth concerning the issue? (And is the witness *speaking* this information and truth, or demonstrating it symbolically?)
- 4. *What makes the witness credible?***
Is there anything the witness *does* that adds to her own credibility? (E.g., making herself accountable in some way.)
- 5. *How does the witness make the wrongness easier to perceive?***
Are there elements in the witness's own attitude or behavior that contrast with the wrongdoing the witness is testifying against? — or with the feelings of the person who did the wrong?
If so, what are those elements? And what are their effects likely to be on the person who is being ministered to?
Does the witness point to anything *outside* herself, that provides this sort of contrast? If so, what does she point to?
- 6. *What does the witness do to make the interaction easier?***
Is there anything the witness does to build friendship, to show solidarity or compassion or support, or to indicate that a happy ending is available?

7. *What does the witness do to underscore the gravity of the situation?*
8. *What decision points does the witness give to the person she is ministering to?*
9. *How is the Judge in the conscience evoked?*
How is an awareness of that Judge awakened in the person who is being ministered to?
10. *How is the person being ministered to, brought to play the part of second witness, and testify against himself?*