

OEF FELLOWSHIPS REPORT -- Fellowships being one of the ways we encourage face-to-face interaction amongst the Members of this little Order, so wide in its geographical breadth.

In this year of 2014-15 **we are maturing into our realization of Fellowship possibilities.** We encourage those who are more isolated to look around for OFS, TSSF, OFR colleagues, but even Fellowships can include or interact with those groups whenever possible -- and some do.

It is marvelous that we now have **2-person Fellowships in New Zealand (The Kiwi Fellowship) and Japan,** both of which we now hold in our imagination as the Pacific Region of the OEF. We're also 2-personed in **Eastern Canada.**

Here in the United States we have several Fellowships that meet with some regularity. Moving from East to West, **The Northeast Fellowship** has met in Massachusetts and Connecticut, drawing from Maine to New Jersey, and includes overnights. **The NYC Metro Fellowship** as a subset has some history of gatherings, but not a lot this year.

One day, we anticipate an upstate New York Fellowship that would gather folks from Ithaca, Rochester, & Syracuse.

In the Southeast, we have 1 active Fellowship calling themselves **The Piedmont Fellowship.** They met in the northeast corner of Georgia for an overnight retreat, with more frequent lunch or tea gatherings in and around Atlanta. Down in Florida, **The Tropical Twist Troubadours** had at least one gathering during the past year.

In the country's midsection the Mid-Atlantic Fellowship gathered in Lexington, KY, changed its name to the **Mariposa** (Spanish for Butterfly) **Fellowship** and draws from Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky & Tennessee, and is open to others. As butterflies change things for the better around them with the flap of their wings, those gathered directed contributions to the Heifer Project and to the Kiva Micro-lending Program.

Northwest of them is **the Great Lakes Lighthouse Fellowship** reaching west to North Dakota and centering on Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. We watch to see what will emerge in the Chicago and St. Louis areas.

The Texas Bluebonnets gathered this year in Waco. Look for more such! They have a history of working at this gathering thing. We pray for future gatherings of our Arizona colleagues.

Way west, **The Juniper Fellowship**, which extends from Washington to Northern California did not succeed in gathering in these last 12 months, but have an early October gathering planned in Eugene, OR. A subset of the Juniper Fellowship is **the Golden Gate Fellowship** which this year participated with the Bay Area All-Franciscan Family Gathering at which Brother CJ Boylan was one of 3 Presenters and we got to say a brief word about who we are as the OEF.

As Fellowships Coordinator, I receive reports from 2 Active and 1 less active Associates of the Order.

For the coming year, I would hope that we might include on our website a place to offer **Fellowship Reports** directly from those who gather -- who was there, something of how they spent the time and any shared missions or ministries. Also part of our life is **Rendezvous Reports**, when a traveling member of OEF uses the occasion to meet with someone along the way or in or near the destination place.

And some there are among us who are doing Skype interactions.

TO BE A FRANCISCAN ORDER SCATTERED ACROSS THE EARTH, WE NEED AS MUCH
FACE-TO-FACE AND SOUL-TO-SOUL AS WE CAN GET. - michael v.