



The Iowa Friend

Iowa Yearly Meeting: Spreading Like Prairie Grass to Make the Love of Jesus Christ Known in the Heartland and Beyond

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Spiritual Life

A RIVER FLOWING...

by Mike Moyer

"The presiders of the representative boards serve as a coordinating body for the works of the Yearly Meeting. They will focus departmental programs and projects into a united movement..."

Two functions stand out for the elders of the Yearly Meeting: the functions of coordinating and focusing. With the vision of "Spreading like prairie grass to make the love of Jesus Christ known in the heartland and beyond" the Body of Representatives has set three priorities of mission: Strong Pastoral Leadership, Camp Quaker Heights, and Outreach Opportunities. The task of your BOC in the coming year is to flesh these priorities of mission and ministry out, to focus the resources and to coordinate the energy of IAYM toward these priorities.

E. Stanley Jones once noted the difference between a swamp and a river. A river, he noted has banks, and a swamp has none – it spreads over everything. Some people are rivers: they know where they want to go, and confine themselves to the banks that lead to that goal. But some people are swamps: they spread over everything; their minds are so open they cannot hold a conviction; they are everything and nothing. Paul would say: "This one thing I do." Swamp people say, "These forty things I dabble in." Paul left a mark; they leave a blur.

Organizations can be either a river or swamp also. Where is Iowa Yearly Meeting? The water in a river flows in a purposeful direction; the water in a swamp bogs down and stagnates. The elders that make up the Board on Coordination are committed to be responsible in their coordinating and focusing, to affect a river like movement.

The priorities of mission act as banks, which harness and unleash the power and focus the energy and resources of the Yearly Meeting. The BOC elders will give attention to maintaining these banks. To spread the resources too thin creates the danger of becoming a swamp. Our unity will gain momentum as our vision for what can be obtained together becomes greater than what we see being accomplished through going our own way. As we realize the fruition of these three priorities, as we realize the God's greater purposes for us, as we are faithful to go with God's current... the rate will increase and the breadth will widen!

"Bonded in Christ"

Marshalltown, January 4-5, 2002

The dream of Bill Griggs was and continues to be launching a bonding movement, this decade, of local church elders, pastors, recording candidates and sponsors to generate new and fresh life in our Friends Meetings and in their surrounding communities. "We need as Friends to know personally the Lord and the bond of fellowship with others. This in turn gives us strength and courage to live the life and do the work Christ sets before us," stated Bill.

The birth of the idea is as new and as old as the scriptures. While preparing a Thanksgiving message in November of 2000, Bill was delighted to find the story of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians as revealed in his letters. He sent Timothy to them saying he desired to see them face-to-face. His joy was in knowing these people who believed and shared their faith with others in the region.

The questions we pondered were: "Am I bonded in Christ with my fellow believers of Iowa Yearly Meeting? Will I give my full commitment to the building up of our Lord's Kingdom? As 2,500 members were added to our meetings from 1898 to 1901, how is God calling me to be a part of seeing new members join in the first decade of this century?"

Bill's faithfulness communicates to us that we are not alone in our answer to God's call. "Look for the ways God is leading you to new levels of bonded life and membership in our common purpose, and then step out to experience the blessings that come from pioneering new territory."

In the fashion of the early Christians Bill led the 48 participants in a concluding time of worship through waiting, prayer, song, and the admonition of the Holy Spirit to go, live, and witness to others about God's grace while experiencing the empowerment of being bonded together in Christ.



Bill Griggs with members of the Recording Committee and Nancy Maeder

QUAKER MEN BANQUET

Speaker - Steve Pedigo

February 23 - 5:00 P.M

At Iowa Yearly Meeting in August, Steve Pedigo shared with the Quaker Men Board a vision about a men's gathering. His vision is to have the men of Iowa Yearly Meeting join together with Friends men representing different yearly meetings across the country. A meeting on September 8, 2001 was held in Chicago at the Fellowship of Friends to discuss Steve's vision. From this meeting, "The Movement" was planned for March 8 & 9 at the Western Yearly Meeting House in Plainfield, IN. This movement desires to rekindle a passion for Christ, empowered by God in their Christian lives, and committed to actively serve God at home, at church, and in the community.

To learn about Steve's vision and to allow it to spread throughout the men in your meeting, you are invited to attend the Quaker Men banquet on February 23, 2002 at Grinnell Friends at 5:00 p.m. **The cost is \$10.00 and reservations should be made by February 15th.** To make reservations call Stan Bauer at (608) 985-7736 or e-mail stanbauer@yahoo.com. The offering that evening will go towards the new roof of the Chapel at camp.



Jim Jones, IAYM Quaker Men officer



Cuba Yearly Meeting

Brothers, A greeting with the love of Christ Jesus.

Last September we held General Board Meetings, and after a time of sharing and reflections on the relations between Cuba Yearly Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting we felt greatly blessed. Enriched by the history that we have read, and the Friends we have met along the way. Each day we thank God for the missionaries like Zenas L. Martin. He was the one to request that a mission be started in Cuba. Hence, the Gospel was brought by Friends to the Province of Oriente in Cuba.

The testimonies of your love brought back by our Pastor Maulio Ajo Berencen have been a great blessing to us. We wanted to express our desires, that the bridge that was once built may one day be strengthened. This is the desire of our hearts, and we know it is yours as well.

Peace to you. The Friends here send their greetings. Greet the Friends there by name. 3 John 15.

*God Bless,
Maria Armenia Yi Reyna
Clerk Cuba Yearly Meeting*



Missions

Iowa was very fortunate to have Kenyan missionary and head pastor of the Samburu Friends Mission, Isaya Bikokwa, visit and speak at many churches for 1 week the last week of October and into November. During that time, Alfred Waudo, chairman of the same mission was traveling in a different state as well.

Isaya, in the past, has done an excellent job of pastoring in the Turkana District of Kenya at Kalokol. He has a real heart to help people find the true meaning of life—eternal life with our God and Maker. Although Turkana is a desert and a very difficult environment to live in, Isaya spent over 15 years ministering there.

The Samburu Friends Mission is located in the Samburu District of the Rift Valley Province of Kenya. Since it's beginning in 1995 by Isaya, the staff has increased to 2 pastors, 1 nurse, 1 patient attendant, 1 driver, 2 watchmen, and 5 nursery school teachers.

The Samburu tribe is actually from the ethnic group of the Masai who are cattle-herders. The native religion believed that after God created the world, the people must talk to God through an invisible string stretched from heaven. A group of people was angry because God was not answering their prayers so they cut the string. This belief makes a natural avenue for the Christian pastors to reintroduce the true connection to God — through faith in his only Son, Jesus who paid the price for all of our sins.

Currently the mission has a medical dispensary, 2 primary/nursery schools, and gives pastoral leadership. A few of their future goals would be an ambulance, more meetinghouses, and staff housing needs.

The annual operating budget for the entire mission including salaries is only \$25,855. Funds can be funneled through Missions Board Treasurer, Bob Waton.

- submitted by Donna Hoeksema, IAYM Missions Board

EMERGING LEADERS CONFERENCE - 2002

March 22-24, we are sponsoring an invitational conference for emerging leaders in Richmond Indiana. The conference will be a time of encouragement, networking, and practical skill building for Friends who are exploring their call to ministry. There will be workshops in such areas as discipling others, prayer, leading people to Christ, starting small group ministries, as well as discerning one's own call. Friends of any age category who are emerging as leaders are welcome. Please suggest Friends to me to send a letter of invitation to whom:

- Show growing evidence of a personal relationship with Christ
- Is emerging as a leader but as yet is not well known beyond your meeting
- Show signs of being called & gifted for focused gospel ministry

Email names and addresses of such Friends to me at benr@fum.org. Include your name and meeting so we can tell the Friends we invite how we heard about them.

"In Bethlehem Inn"

- by Tom Palmer

This year marked the 9th year that Salem Friends have offered three evenings of entertainment and inspiration to the community. This year the members of Grace Community Friends assisted in putting on an immensely popular Christmas dinner theater written by the Quaker, John Carter.

The play is called "In Bethlehem Inn" and is available from Contemporary Drama Service, Box. 7710, Colorado Springs, CO, 80933. It takes the audience back to that first Christmas on the night Jesus was born. The Inn is crowded and as the meal is served there are constant interruptions, which are humorous and cause the audience to be involved. We serve a delicious meal of barley stew, specially made 7-grain bread, cheese, vegetables and "Quaker ale." When the innkeeper, his family and servants finally unravel all that has happened on this most miraculous night, they take their guests out to a live nativity scene where a moving worship experience is held. Then everyone comes back in for a delicious dessert.



We used the closing moments to ask our guests to consider their own spiritual journey. We hand out a Christmas tract and a response sheet telling us what they liked about the production. It also asks whether they would like to know more about God's love or to be in a follow-up Bible study. This year we served over 100 people each night and had 24 responses. The elders or pastors then follow up on these names.

This production requires an enormous amount of work in every area, involving the entire church. This year we prayed much about whether we should do it, because of the amount of work involved. Rather than advertising the ways we had in the past, we decided we would only do it if God would use our people as "evangelists" to bring unchurched family and friends. A special extra effort was made to undergird the whole experience in extended prayer. Little prayer cards were made to put on our tables at home. Many other churches would bring whole Sunday school classes in other years. This year we had none of that and we turned people away because of space problems.

We praise God for His faithfulness and the way He used His people. If you would like more information about how we use this drama for outreach, please contact - Salem Friends Church, Box 203, Salem, IA 52649.

A DREAM TO REALITY

The dream of a bright, safe playground for the children for a rural church, is that possible? It is if you have a group of dedicated, hard working young women and the help of the congregation. Several years back the vision was brought to Monthly Meeting to have a nice play ground for Bangor Liberty Friends Church. We had a slab for tennis, basketball and volleyball, but what about the little ones? It was given wholehearted approval.



A committee was formed consisting of Karen Hammers, Marie Fiscus and Linda Norman. They started fund raising, although they did the

brunt of the work, the whole church became involved in one-way or another. They made and sold pizzas, held a silent auction, wrote for grants and received many cash donations. They kept the dream in front of us.

Financially, the goal was achieved when Vi Gray gave a generous donation to the Quaker Men in appreciation of their roofing her home. The Quaker Men decided to put it towards the playground fund in memory of her husband, Leonard Gray, who enjoyed the children.

Soon the materials were ordered. When they arrived the men started putting it together. They came at different times— to mention names of all who helped would be impossible. Children helped and even some women pitched in. Many early evenings if you drove by you would see someone working. When finished we had a safe, well-constructed and colorful playground.

It was dedicated Sunday, October 14, 2001. We thank God for the young women with the dream, the generosity of our family and the many willing hands that brought this dream to fruition. Our prayer is that children will use it for many years.

From Bangor Liberty Bell, December 2001, Vol. 22, No.12

THANK YOU!

The Yearly Meeting Stewards Committee would like to thank all of the individuals and local congregations of Iowa Yearly Meeting who gave so generously during 2001. The contributions during December really made us smile as we praised the Lord and his people! We finished the fiscal year 2001 so that we could pay all of our obligations and have an excess of approximately \$ 5,100. We know that many of you gave sacrificially to make it possible. We praise the Lord Jesus Christ for blessing His church with the spiritual and material gifts necessary to bless others.



Erwin Lopez, Phil King and Ron Bryan stop by the IAYM Office to discuss the upcoming mission trips to Cuba and Jamaica.

MISSION MOVEMENT

Cuba

"I saw the face of Jesus in a humble little man whose feet stuck out of his shoes. This man was the gardener, but after we arrived, he worked with us on the church. I saw the face of Jesus in an old woman wearing rags for clothes. She came to the church fence to sell coffee beans to the Americans. I knew that I needed to buy some. I saw the face of Jesus in the kids that filled the church pews. I saw the face of Jesus in people who were willing to give, but didn't have. I immediately felt the presence of the Holy Spirit when stepping of the airplane in Holguin. I felt him as we sang praises together; the Cubans and the work team worshipping as one." Matthew 25:31-46

"God enabled us to endure and not grow weary. We demolished and salvaged two walls, cleaning up our messes as we carried on. By the time the two weeks were up we had left the holes for the new columns." Erwin Lopez, 2001

God has led Erwin to lead the 2002 15-member work team that is in Cuba continuing the work at the printing of this publication.

Venezuela

Please pray for the mission team: M.R. and Jane Whitehead, Don and Mary Humrichouse, Steve Heilskov, Terry Beare, Lyle, Martin and Holly Steiner, as they travel to Venezuela and assist Missionary Aviation Fellowship there. The volunteers will be building an addition onto an airplane hanger to provide a reception area for people flying in and out of the jungle. Dan and Tracy Whitehead serve as aviation missionaries in this Latin American country.

Jamaica

The Jamaica Work Team will take place February 18-27. Directors Ron & Joyce Bryan of LeGrand will lead a 10-member team in the rebuilding of a chicken coop at the Lyndale Girls Home. Raising chickens is an income-generating project for the homes. Minor projects include painting and tutoring along with a day trip to the Happy Grove School to bring supplies to the Home Economics Department.



Camp Quaker Heights

If I was asked to describe the year 2001 in one sentence it would be: "Gods people are incredible."

What would lead me to say this you ask? ***Your generosity in giving of your time and financial contributions to the Camp Quaker Heights Building for the Future Campaign.***

Because of the faithfulness of Iowa Yearly Meeting Churches, pastors, youth and individuals, much has been accomplished. Items of note:

- The Cheyl Cook memorial cabin completed
- The Pleasant Plain Quarter cabin completed
- The Norman memorial cabin 80% complete
- The Bernard White memorial cabin 80% complete
- RV area 65% complete
- Sewer lines 65% complete
- The Camp Board becomes a working committee of the BOC
- New sports area seeded and grass is growing
- Dishwasher installed in lodge kitchen.
- Ground has been prepared to pour foundation for the 5th cabin in the spring of 2002.

Of \$250,000 goal, \$238,000 is pledged or received. The goal of the Building for the Future Committee is to complete the campaign by the first of March. Thank you IAYM for your continued support of this important ministry.

- Ric Garrison, Associate Superintendent of Youth and Camp

CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS CORNER

While we have taken a break from the building and digging through the winter months, we do anxiously await Spring and the renewing energy, which seems to accompany this season.

We have plans to start hooking up the sewer system this spring, the Mary McDonald Memorial RV Area will be rocked and ready for campers to roll in, and we'll finish up the 3rd & 4th cabins for summer usage.

Our Capital Campaign is nearing its goal of \$250,000.00, providing further evidence we serve an Awesome God, and are blessed in Iowa Yearly Meeting with people that love Him.

We hope to push past this goal by Spring Body of Representative (to be held at Camp Quaker Heights, March 16, 2002.) If you have not yet been contacted by a member of the Capital Campaign Committee and wish to be a part, large or small, of this exciting phase of Camp Quaker Heights & Iowa Yearly Meeting, please take the first step and call Ric Garrison (641) 939-5977 or Wes Blanchard (515) 961-0725. Either of them will be happy to make arrangements to accommodate you.

Even now, we ask our pray warriors of Iowa Yearly Meeting to lift up Camp Quaker Heights and our staff of laborers for the Camping season. Thank you.

**SPRING BODY OF REPRESENTATIVES
CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS
MARCH 16, 2002 - 9:00 A.M.**



MEETING MOMENTS

Missionary Guest Day at Bear Creek Friends was held on Sunday, October 21. The Hoeksema family, of Lynnville, spoke about their mission work in Africa several years ago.

On October 28, church members traveled to the Panora Care Center to join Russell Johnson in celebrating his 97th birthday. On December 16, Mildred Standing was the guest of honor at an open house in her home, commemorating her 102nd birthday.

Isaiah Bikokwa spoke at our church on the evening of November 2. Area churches were invited to join us as we heard of his work at Samburu Friends Mission in Kenya.

The annual Thanksgiving Service was held at Bear Creek this year on Sunday evening, November 18. This event is sponsored by the Earlham Ministerial Association, and rotates among the churches each year.

We enjoyed our annual Christmas program during the morning service on December 23. With the help of our children, we experienced the story and prophecies of "The Christmas Nails". Our candlelight Christmas Eve Service was held the following evening.

Our best wishes to all in this new year!

An Old Fashioned Independence Day celebration was held at Valton Friends church grounds on July 4. The event was sponsored by the W.C.T.U. and attended by local people and many others who have ties with the Community.

As our mission project, the Sunday school offering taken the first Sunday of each month goes for the support of the Pedigos and their work in the Chicago Fellowship of Friends. The last Sunday evening of each month is set aside for a singspiration and friends join us. A larger event was planned for July, namely the "Concert Under the Stars" with other churches participating.

Pastor Kamwesa conducted five funeral services this past year. Three were members of our church, Ardith Stanley, Maurice Moon and Harvey Mortimer. He is also in charge of the Sunday morning and evening services, midweek services, a cottage prayer meeting and ministers at nursing homes.

Winneshiek Quarterly Meeting was held October 6 and 7 with our guests Bill and Esther Griggs sharing the Word and in music. The youth enjoyed a hayride.

As an alternative to Halloween, the youth put together an evening of fun and inspiration with a Haystack Supper followed by devotions and singing. Several came dressed as Bible characters and others guessed who they were.

Each month we observe a department of work in the church. November was Stewardship month and they planned and served the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, which has become an annual event.

The Social Concerns Committee made pumpkin pies and gave them in appreciation to several families. Now they are working on Christmas baskets.

The U.S.F.W. is busy constantly making quilts and doing other volunteer work.

Our oldest member, Winnie Gibbons, and resident of a Nursing Home, celebrated her 105th birthday on December 2. In lieu of gifts, quilts and teddy bears were donated to the children's department of the U.W. Hospital in Madison.

The children and youth decorated the Christmas tree during the Sunday school hour on December 9. Some brought ornaments and shared why they were special to them. Also during December, we enjoyed Christmas caroling and some they made.

We are preparing for other events, Christmas caroling, the Christmas program and a New Year's Eve Supper.

May Peace, Love and Joy given by God reign in your hearts as you celebrate Christmas and remain with you throughout the New Year.

Peace has made the news in this time of war in West Branch as organizers dedicated a peace pole in November. The community event drew a good crowd for a candlelight walk from the unprogrammed Friends meeting to West Branch Friends Church. Inscribed with the words, "Let Peace Prevail on Earth" in several languages, the pole was placed in the front lawn. Soups from around the world were served.

Friends Paul and Jon Hemingway will be joining others from Iowa in Banes, Cuba in February. Others are interested in the Jamaica work trip. We bless them and pray for the work they need to accomplish.

Sharon Treloar is serving as a half time interim pastor for us while we transition from ten years of pastoral care with Deborah Sues, take stock of our meeting and search for a permanent pastor. Sharon also serves the Springdale United Methodist Church, east of West Branch. Our church time is now 9 a.m. with Sunday School following at 10:30 a.m. The starting date for full time pastor is negotiable after May 1, 2002.

Our website is updated weekly. Please check us out at: www.ForMinistry.com/52358WBFC. Resumes can be mailed to Lisa Baum-Waters, 201 Linden Court, Iowa City, IA, 52245 or e-mail: Lisa-Baum-Waters@uiowa.edu

THIS YEAR

Mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend.
Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Keep a promise.
Find the time. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Think first of someone else.
Be kind and gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more.

Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a child.
Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
Speak your love. Speak it again.
Speak it still once again.

-Anonymous

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A BRAND NEW YEAR

When I was much younger, it truly seemed that life started again with the dawning of a new year on January 1. The mistakes of the past were in the past. There was new hope.

The afterglow of Christmas was still upon us. The relishing of "brand new" clothes or "brand new" toys might have played into my thoughts of a "brand new" life. That optimism and hope has its place. May we embrace it when we can.

Some of my change in thinking about the new year is not the lack of hope and optimism. I have watched toys and clothes come and go. "Brand new" things are forgotten in boxes or garage sale specials. I am now concerned more about relationships than purchases.

As I look at the past year, I see relationships which could be better – my own and those of others. No one can buy a "brand new" relationship. Only God can stir hearts to change.

May we be challenged to first develop a "brand new" relationship with Christ. Then may we pray for others, and be open to the Holy Spirit's leading us to develop "brand new" relationships that are prompted by love and concern for others. We need to rely on His power and not our own. The Lord, according to Revelations 21:5, says, "See, I am making everything new."

- Arlen Daleske

**Legislative Day
Thursday, March 7th
Des Moines**



VITAL SIGNS

DEATHS

Pauline Dawson, died Friday, November 30, 2001. Pauline was born November 16, 1916 in Albion, IA. She was a daughter of Kersey Daniel and Hazel (Cowgill) Packer. Pauline married Ed Dawson, April 7, 1940. She became a member with Ed of Marshalltown Friends Meeting in 1958. She served the meeting in various ways. Pauline was a very effective church historian helping to update our history for the Centennial celebration.

Rev. John D. Wagoner, 71, of Oskaloosa died Saturday, January 5, 2002, at the Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. His funeral service was held at the Central United Methodist Church in Oskaloosa with Rev. Lanny Tuttle and Rev. Kelly Kellum officiating. In 1964, he accepted a post as director of development at William Penn College, a position he held until his election as William Penn president in 1985. He retired in 1995. After retirement John wrote "A Continuing Purpose," a history of William Penn University from 1970 to the present. He is survived by his wife, Rose Wagoner of Oskaloosa; three sons and daughters-in-law, a daughter and son-in-law, and several others relatives.

Floyd Wheaton died Wednesday, January 9, 2002, at the Mahaska Hospital in Oskaloosa. Funeral services were January 12, at the Fremont United Methodist Church with Rev. Todd Holman officiating. He is survived by his wife, Arlene Wheaton of Fremont; two sons; two granddaughters; his mother; and a brother. Arlene was Iowa Yearly Meeting's Office Administrator for 18 years, retiring in 2000.

Ercil Craven, of Superior Nebraska died December 10, 2001. Ercil pastored churches in Kansas, Oklahoma and Iowa, retiring from the Buffalo Friends Church in 1973. He is survived by his wife, Lorene; one daughter; one son; 4 grandsons; 11 great grandchildren; 3 great-great grandchildren, two sisters and a host of other relatives and friends.

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa