

The Iowa Friend

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

April 2002

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

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Spiritual Life

Minutes from Mardi Gras

by Spencer Thury, pastor at Riverside Friends

First of all I give all the praise and glory to Jesus Christ. Although I had pneumonia for two weeks in middle January, and my energy was very low, our team from Riverside Friends along with Jenny Meyer from Woolson Friends joined with 100 others, and eventually 1000 others to minister to the lost at the Mardi gras celebration in New Orleans.

My wife Mary had been encouraging me to take it easy and not to play the banjo this year. Every year the music is what attracts people for the team to minister too. Few responded to the music this year. Other musicians reported the same. The only captive audience I managed all week was attaining a spot across from a line of port-a-potties with the team and baton-twirler Jenny Meyer. We sang and proclaimed the gospel to people who were stuck in line with nothing to read or while waiting for a friend to come out.

I provided leadership in directing team members to where they could be used like following someone who was in trouble or encouraging a soul winner to keep encouraged. The team did fantastic with passing out gospel tracts, entering into conversations and even literally rescuing those in need. Paul Martin pulled a passed-out man from the railroad tracks as the trolley was coming close. Diane Martin ministered to numerous women who had been abandoned by their boyfriends when they had passed out from alcohol. They were left on the street alone.

One woman briskly passed us in tears. Her husband had become violent in a bar on Bourbon Street and she was left to find her way back to the Hilton a few miles away with every "shadow" seeming to follow her. Paul & Diane walked with her. "You don't understand what this means to me. I own 5 jewelry stores, but if I don't get back it won't mean a thing." She said. Diane replied, "We're Christians, and we love you, and we have come to help in any way we can." What would have happened to some of those ladies if a bold Christian had not been there?

We had signs 2 feet wide on a six-foot sticks that read, "Know God, Know Peace", and "There is Hope". People would yell at us saying, "there is no hope, you dope!" or "we do dope because there is no hope!"

I spent the trip rather low key. Simply proclaiming Jesus through

praise songs. Another team told me they were singing contemporary choruses, and many people standing in a beer line would sing along while at the same time being drunk. Choruses are more popular than I thought, but it still remains the gospel of Jesus Christ that changes lives.

Sunday night I talked with a self-proclaimed, poor example of a Buddhist. His main concern was to allow a person to die with dignity. I told him my testimony about being a witch and seeing hell. I told him the dilemma I had. Christianity restores dignity because Jesus died for them so that they no longer have to fear death, but am also aware that hell awaits those without Jesus. I mentioned that all world religions had some form of detention for the unruly and he agreed. He soon left.

Relieving the pain so that one can die peacefully, only to spend an eternity in hell is no comfort to me and shouldn't be to anyone.

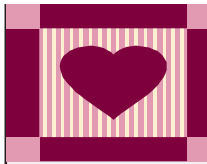
I talked with a "born-again" currently poor quality, drug-dealer, Bret about the need for accountability to stay clean for his daughter's sake. I read Bible verses, which warn of the false hope the wicked have for salvation. He realized his need and prayed with us.

I saw a young man wearing a Black Sabbath T-shirt and asked him if he had ever heard of Jeff Van Holt, a former band member, now a Christian? I told him of the Ozzy Osborne concert I had seen and his seething attitude towards us as fans. Then I went into my testimony about whose fan I am now and how Jesus has changed my life. He was from Wales, dating a girl in Chicago, but at Mardi gras by himself. I didn't ask why.

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Spencer Thury shares that he came to Christ because Jesus is more powerful than satan, light dispells darkness and truth disassembles falsehood!



FRIENDLY FLASHES

The March-April ADVOCATE gives us a year end financial report for USFWI. Actual income exceeded the budget (PTL) but seven projects did not meet their goal. Christian Service and two Keys to the Kingdom were short. Funds marked "use as needed" were divided between three projects resulting in most projects coming very close to goal. Thank you to each person and Society who gave to all USFWI and Iowa projects. Please continue to pray for USFWI and Iowa projects and support them as God allows you and your Society.

The 2002 Peace and Christian Social Concern project goal is \$2500.00. This is to be divided between the American Friends Service Committee Emergency and Material Assistance Program and the Friends Committee on National Legislation Educational Fund.

Iowa Yearly Meeting's own Karen Bauer serves as the International P&CSC Secretary. If you need up-dated information contact her. Her E-mail address is in the ADVOCATE.

Remember Iowa has a scholarship fund available to IAYM women who want to attend a Christian conference or retreat. This is good assistance for those ladies on fixed incomes who would like to attend Spring Conference, YM Banquet, or Fall Retreat. Your president should have a copy of the application form. Feel free to make copies as needed. Remember to give the Board 30 days to review the application. Send the application to: Sherry Kernen, 31391 250th St., Glidden, Iowa, 51443.

As I listen to the birds singing signaling the return of Spring, I encourage you to slip away from the day's activities and busyness and go for a quiet walk where you can hear the birds sing their songs of praise. You'll be refreshed and recharged. Happy Spring!

NOTE: *The Eliza Armstrong Cox information needs to be sent to Margaret Good this year!*



Julie Hansen, WPU Librarian, receives 2 books by Lewis Savage from Kevin Mortimer. Quaker historian, Tom Hamm has also requested books for the Earlham Library.



Ramallah

One of the Quakers oldest missions is still very much alive in Ramallah, Palestine. The Ramallah Friends Schools had their beginnings in 1869 for the girls, and 1901 for the boys. There are two campuses about a mile apart, and education for K-12 is provided. The classes are now mixed with boys and girls, and the size of enrollment currently stands at 907 students between both schools.

The current director is Colin South. Colin and Kathy South are the FUM field representatives. There are always needs for more workers whether it is teacher assistants, a visiting artist in residence—sharing a creative arts skill, or experienced teachers. The teachers and director are recruited by FUM. Short-term assignments are available as well.

The schools' purpose is to serve local Palestinian residents in giving their children a good education. These Quaker schools are a model of co-existence, cooperation and cross-cultural understanding. Teaching tracks are both in Arabic and English.

In Iowa we have cancellations of school for such reasons as snow days or support your local team as they go to the state tournaments. In Ramallah cancellations are made because it is unsafe to travel to and from school because of military fighting. The climate is very tense. In the latest letter I received there was fighting very near the school. The Souths had resorted to sleeping with earplugs.

There are excellent means to keep informed about the work in Ramallah Friends Schools.

1. There is a quarterly newsletter called Friends Schools Newsletter distributed through Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374-1980. Just contact them and ask to be added to the mailing list.
2. For those with Internet access Colin South's letters are archived in date order at: www.mattsouth.net/ramallah.
3. The South's are excellent at responding to e-mails and have a frequent updating letter by e-mail. I have now received these letters for about 2 months, and they are really good at getting to the heart of their concerns and the issues of the area and the school. Their e-mail address is csouth@palnet.com and they would be glad to add you to their list to receive these pertinent updates.
4. Their current mailing address is:
P.O. Box 18601, Jerusalem 91184, ISRAEL

Tuition is charged but scholarships are very important as the current political battles of the area severely restrict what local people can afford. The Sponsor-A-Student program welcomes gifts of any size. To sponsor a student for a full year ranges between \$1,200 and \$1,725 depending on the grade level of the student.

Please send your funds to FUM through Bob Watson, Treasurer, Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board, 803 Minnesota St., Glidden, Iowa 51443. Be sure to designate the intended mission to receive your gift.

*- submitted by Donna Hoeksema
IAYM Missions Board*

GOD'S KINGDOM

Expanding

If you ever have the chance to take a mission trip with Charlie Sander, Jerry Phillips, Charlie Hourihan, Malia Senio, Jackie Omahen, Jennifer Stam, or Keith and Nancy Smith, DO IT! Along with Joyce and myself, and with the help of our churches in LeGrand, Motor, West Branch, College Avenue, Grace Community and Salem we were able to travel to Jamaica in February.

Our task initially was to tear down and rebuild a chicken coup at the Lyndale Girls School. We were also hoping to purchase and deliver two new sewing machines to the Happy Grove High School. Not only were we able to build the new chicken house used for fresh meat for the girls, but also to tutor and mentor at two area public schools. We then traveled to the Swift Purscell Boys School where we put a wall in an existing chicken house, rebuilt a table in the library, inventoried and cataloged the library, put two coats of paint in their infirmary, held a computer training for the staff and cleaned out the wood working shop.

Later in the trip we traveled to Port Antonio to purchase new Singer sewing machines. With the help of several USFW groups and our own funds, we purchased five new machines; three for Happy Grove, one for Swift's and one for Lyndale School. This day involved six hours of riding which gave us a total travel distance from Montego Bay to Hector's River. In our measure of distance, it was approximately 120 miles which involved the entire length of the north shore.

What an opportunity to see and visit our Friends in Jamaica as well as make new friends amongst ourselves. We worshipped at Quaker Hill and helped lead worship at Highgate Friends and Swift-Purscell's mid-week Bible study. We tried to be an encouragement to Dwaine, Becky and Sarita Williams as they end their tour of service through FUM to the Friends Education Council in Jamaica Yearly Meeting.

It was a wonderful trip, with wonderful people that left us all feeling somewhat tired but with a sense that we had accomplished much in the expansion of God's greater Kingdom in Jamaica.

- Submitted by Ron Bryan, pastor of LeGrand Friends



The Jamaica work team tears down the chicken coup at the Lyndale Girls Home. Some of the tin was salvaged and used for the new coup.



MEETING MOMENTS

Prayer changes things! - A number from the Motor congregation attended the Union Thanksgiving service held November 18, 2001, at the Rosemont Catholic Church. This service was sponsored by the Southeast Warren ministerial Association.

The Motor Christmas program was held during the Sunday School hour on December 16, 2001. After the program our pastor and his wife, Keith and Nancy Smith served us a delicious meal. This has become an annual custom.

Lynn Blanchard spoke at the December 30th worship service, introducing the small group study sessions to be held during the winter months. Mary Glenn Hadley was a guest at the service. After worship and a carry-in dinner, she held a book signing for her new book, "Come Pray", which had been chosen as the resource for the winter small groups.

Carol Gilbert, a representative of Quakerdale, also spoke at the December 30th worship service. She told of the ongoing work at Quakerdale and the lives that are being transformed.

Keith and Nancy Smith were part of a 10-member mission work team that spent 10 days in Jamaica. See details in Ron Bryan's report in this issue of the Iowa Friend. Ric Garrison spoke at meeting for worship in lieu of Keith's absence.

Our small group sessions have been well attended. One group meets for supper on Wednesdays, and the other on Thursday afternoons. About 12 people participate in each.



Valton Friends M & C seek God's guidance for their future in the larger community and for new pastoral leadership.

Perspective

"The mission of the church... is the sum total of the life and work of each member. When a person joins a church, a congregation increases its mission; when a person leaves a church, a congregation decreases its mission. Ultimately the mission of the church is realized in the larger community where the membership live. How the church functions during its gathered times has great impact on the aroma received in the larger community"

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." - Jesus

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I talked with John who ran a booth called "Viking Rune Reading" whom after seeing our sign said boldly that Jesus did not come to bring peace but a sword, so we were foolishly contradicting ourselves. For two hours we discussed literary genre. John tried to discuss the Bible's errancy, of which I asked for specific examples, and waited and waited and waited... I shared my testimony about how I knew Jesus to be real, the Bible to be accurate and trustworthy, and finished where we started: "Know God, know peace". I found peace in Jesus. He finished with the peace he found in Odin and Thor who have more grace than Christianity if we die in our sins we go to hell. We are saved by grace, I said, and not by good work of our own. How would you ever know if you are good enough otherwise?

During the talk with John the Viking, another tarot card reader told some street kids to leave our cross alone as they were trying to turn it upside down. I knew our words were getting through since they were trying to defend us. They usually hated Christians who carry large crosses. The cross Jeff carried was from the center of a huge Oak tree, very heavy and no wheel, but no one mocked it.

I gave all those we had conversations with my business card with email, and encouraged them to email me more of their questions and literature about why they believe what they do. This gives opportunity for follow up.

I stopped to get a decaf coffee and a football player from LSU asked me if I spoke in tongues, and if I would do it for him. If you think this is a strange way to start a conversation, you don't know Mardi gras. He read the Bible every night that he received from his uncle, but here he was drinking and being perverted with his friends.

One young lady said she didn't believe Jesus ever existed, since she could not see him. How do you know if George Washington ever existed?" I asked.

Most people in the world are ignorant, either by choice, or because their pastors refuse to speak of the holiness of God, and the need for righteousness in Jesus. Jesus still suffers from our sin. It breaks his heart, and he being a timeless God, took even those sins with him when he died on the cross. Therefore the message to us hasn't changed: He is a timeless, changeless God, and if we repent even our sins can be wiped away, and we too can have the refreshment that comes only from turning to Jesus. Many try to cover their empty hearts by uncovering themselves and dampening the volume of their conscience through drugs and alcohol. But God desires to cover us with His grace, forgiveness, love, and the power of His Spirit.

God bless,
Pastor Spencer

REACHING IRREGULARS AND NEW COMERS



Marshalltown First Friends began a new outreach program this year. The program is called **G.R.O.W.** or "**God Rewards Our Work.**" The concept is simple. Once a month members meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. They are divided into teams of two and sent out to visit members, people who have visited the church a time or two, members who are not longer attending or potential members that are friends of the church. While the visitation teams are making their visits, other volunteers stay at the church and write letters or make phone calls. Everyone tries to meet back at the church by shortly after 8:00 to share briefly about the visits and to close in prayer. We dismiss by 8:30 p.m.

GROW is an outreach plan developed by Jerry Tidwell. We purchased his video training materials from LIFEWAY (800-376-1140) for \$134.95. A book and participant's manual may be purchased to go with the video. The **GROW** team started meeting once a month in June. During the summer months we used our time to view the training videos. In September we began our once a month visitation day. Many of the participants also had training through our Prayer Ministry class, which was offered during the Sunday School hour. Anyone, however, can participate.

We hope to add a Daytime **GROW** team soon. This team will meet a different day of the month. They will visit nursing homes and hospitals, which prefer afternoon visits rather than evening visits. Also, people can participate in Daytime **GROW**, for those that don't like to go out at night.

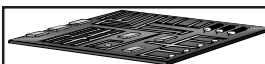
The program requires a good coordinator who plans ahead of time who we will visit and often makes phone calls to see if a visit would be welcome. We are fortunate to have Charlene Martin as our coordinator and she puts in many hours ahead of time to make sure we have visits lined up and a list of people to write or call.

GROW has brought several new families into the church; motivated some members who had become irregular in attendance to attend more regularly; encouraged members who were discouraged, bereaved and lonely; improved relationships within the church and increased caring among members. **GROW** team members have learned to care about others and reach out to new attenders without waiting for the pastor to do something. They often write or visit people at other times during the month, also. Members feel more bonded and involved with one another. **GROW** truly does live up to its name. When we are faithful to obey Jesus' command to "Go," God Does Reward Our Work.

- by Charlotte Stangeland

IAYM Staff Email
Addresses

Kevin: mortimer@kdsi.net
Ric: camqhi@adiis.net
Daneta: iaym@kdsi.net



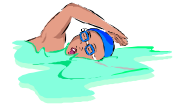
STEWARD CHIP




2002 IAYM BUDGET - \$ 142,138
YEAR-TO-DATE Received - \$ 34,360; Budgeted - \$35,534

GOD HAS A GREAT ADVENTURE FOR YOU!



"As servants of Christ, each of us is called into His service.
Come and experience what God has for you this summer at CQH!" - Ric Garrison



LITTLE FRY Grades 1-2 (and a parent or adult friend)		June 1-2	\$25.00 a person
HIGH SCHOOL Grades 9-12		June 9-14	\$175
WEEKENDER Grades 9-12		June 14-16	\$75
FOX Grades 5-6		June 16-21	\$175
FRY Grades 3-4		June 21-23	\$115
JR. HIGH BOYS Grades 7-8		June 23-28	\$175
JR. HIGH GIRLS Grades 7-8		June 30- July 5	\$175
DRAMA/SPORTS CAMP Grades 3-5		July 8-12	\$150
DRAMA/SPORTS CAMP Grades 6-8		July 22-26	\$150



CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS  THE GREAT ADVENTURE!

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*Smyrna Friends take time out from
Cantata practice.*



REVIVAL

I started praying for Revival, to sweep across this earth,
I started with my children, on the day of their birth.

I prayed for my husband, for his soul to be on fire,
And despite all earthly pleasures, God would be his one desire.

I prayed for our parents, and for brothers and sister too,
And for all of our unsaved loved ones, that their lives would be
made new.

I prayed for our church, its families, and our pastor,
that each and every one would be touched by the hand of the
Master.

I prayed for our schools, the boards, and those that teach,
and those that know the Father, with boldness, our children
they'd reach.

I prayed for our nation, our freedom and each one that leads,
that all would see through example, that it's God this country
needs.

And after years of praying, I asked Jesus when Revival would
start,

He said "My child, I've watched you grow and seen changes in
your heart.

Not only have you prayed, but you've spent time in my word
too,

while you were praying for Revival, Revival began in you!"

- written by Marnie DuChane, HCNP Friends



VITAL SIGNS

BIRTHS: Chad and Wendy Goodhue are the parents of a son, Scott, born October 26, 2001. Scott's grandparents, Mike and Julyn Goodhue, are members of the Motor congregation.

Jon and Karen Mosher are the parents of a son, Jacob Jay, born December 15, 2001. Jacob's grandparents, Jay and Charlotte Mosher, and his great-grandmother, Clara Mosher, are members of the Motor congregation.

Chad and Nicole Smith are the parents of a daughter, Maybelle Rose, born February 28, 2002. Maybelle's grandparents are Keith and Nancy Smith, the Motor pastoral couple. Her great-grandparents are Ival and Geraldine Smith, members of the Motor congregation.

DEATHS: Hazel McCormick, as long time member of the Motor congregation, died February 4, 2002. Two sons, Leland and Ivan, and their families survive her.

Isaiah "Ike" Pemberton, 80, died March 5, 2002 in Conrad, Iowa. His funeral was held March 9 at Marshalltown First Friends with Pastor Phil King officiating. Ike, a long time member of First Friends, has spent the last several years at Oakview Health Center. He will be remembered as a person who was passionate for his Lord and frequently would speak in open worship.

Clarence Mason, 89, died January 25, 2002 in Marshalltown. Clarence had been a member of the Bangor-Liberty Friends Church. Clarence valued being a student of the Bible and had been along time member of the Gideons. He had also been a frequent helper and builder in the early years of Camp Quaker Heights.

Dorothy Hibbs, 81, passed away February 26, 2002. Dorothy joined First Friends Church in Marshalltown on October 12, 1950. Services were held March 1, 2002 in Marshalltown. Her husband, Leonard, passed away several years ago.

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa