



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

God's Kingdom Emerges

- by Linda Burnett, Editor of Friendly Flashes

Spring is a time of hope and renewal; a time of getting into the garden to see what survived the winter. Mother's Day and Memorial Day will always be connected with the garden for me. We picked violets for our May baskets, lilacs for Mother's Day and peonys and iris for Memorial Day. Only the real thing would do as our gifts of love on these special days.

In April, I could hardly wait to grab the rake and go uncover my garden. Last year I had planted several new hostas and was anxious to see if they had survived. I planted them with care, watered and watched over them all summer. In the gray months of winter I had pleasure imagining how they would add to my garden. As the days passed I watched the violets pop up, the iris, peonys, daylilies and my old hostas. Each evening after work I would walk in the garden, checking the spots where they had been planted. They appeared to have vanished! My search uncovered mums I had forgotten about sending up their first leaves. My clematis began their climb up the lattice and the sweetpeas followed, but no hostas. Last week the climbing roses I had declared dead last year suddenly shot up new canes and appear to be quite healthy!



As I continue to search for my hostas, I was reminded of the parable of the sower and the seed. I chose good soil and healthy plants but there appeared to be no life. How often do we feel the same way when we plant the seeds of friendship or Christian love, tenderly care for it and see no results from our efforts? We fret and wonder what could have happened. We expect certain things to happen as a result of our "sowing", because we do not see the hope for growth or change in the person or situation. We wait and wait, sometimes declaring the waiting useless and the cause hopeless, but then God steps in and like my "dead" roses or my new hostas (just now peeking through) life springs forth, in His time not ours.

Are our actions in vain then? Just like the parable someone must sow the seed, but we can only plant a thought, an idea, God is the one who produces the fruit. The actions of our lives, the words of our mouths produce results, some intentional some accidental, but we have an impact on those around

us that may lie dormant for years before producing fruit. My garden is a result of the love of flowers that my mother, my grandmother and a dear neighbor shared with me. The flowers they loved are now a part of my garden, just as the life lessons they imparted are now blooming in my life.

Mother's Day and Memorial Day go together for me, rich with memories of the love and the lessons planted in me by those who have gone home, and the time left to be spent with those still with me, still sowing their seeds in my life.

We leave behind a legacy; in the fabric of our lives and in the gardens we plant in those around us. 2 Chronicles 31:21 says "And in every work begun in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandment, to seek God, and do it with all our hearts, the work will prosper". We are in service in God's house and He will bless the work of our hands.

May our Gardens, those planted in soil and those planted in the lives of those around us be a blessing. Let us give thanks this month for those God used to bless us and those He will bless through us.



FUM Triennial Representatives: (back) Dale Dorrell, Kevin Mortimer, Keith Mardock, Tom Palmer. (front) Margaret Stoltzfus, Ann Lee Nichols, Karen Bauer, Stan Bauer . Not present; Bob Watson and Nancy English

**Friends United Meeting exists to serve the yearly meetings in "gathering people into fellowships where Jesus Christ is known, loved and obeyed as teacher & Lord."
IAYM exists to serve the monthly meetings in "making the love of Jesus Christ known in the heartland & beyond."**



Meeting for Worship

Have you Prepared?

While sitting in Meeting one first day, I asked myself what I had done to prepare myself for Worship. Had I taken any time to quiet my mind and lay aside the events of a busy week?

It occurred to me that it had taken nearly two hours traveling to get to the particular Meeting House where I was sitting. Had I used any of that time to prepare for Worship? I couldn't remember. I began retracing the drive. I was certain that 50% of the time had been devoted purely to staying on course as I motored over those winding ribbons of macadam. Maybe 5% of the time was spent fiddling with the radio, as stations faded into static. The remainder of the drive time I attributed to what my mother would have called "just plain gawking" at the scenery.

Now, sitting quietly on a well-worn bench I began to recall the neat, trim houses, weathered barns, leafless trees and endless, empty fields that had caught my notice along the way. What did Quakers who traveled this same landscape two centuries ago have weighing on their hearts? As they traveled to Meeting, did they prepare themselves? I had not doubt that they had come to Meeting prepared for Worship. By doing so, the concerns they laid before Meeting had brought an end to slavery, initiated prison reform, promoted the equality of women and put in place many other social reforms. For a moment I was worshipping with "yesterday" Friends Woolman, Fry, Mott and others, sensing that same Spirit that had lighted their way.

A crackle from the fire in the stove brought me back to the moment. As I looked around the Meeting room, I had not doubt that the Friends gathered in Worship had prepared themselves just like Friends of old. I was sure they had taken time on their journeys this morning to prayerfully consider the concerns they carry. Worship deepened.

A movement by one of the children on the facing bench took my mind to the future. What concerns will these young Friends face? Will they have time to prepare their hearts and minds for Worship in this increasingly busy world? I have not doubt that they too will make the world a better place as they mind the Light. I thanked God for blessings past, for present joys and for the hope of life to come. At last, I sensed that I was prepared for Worship. I settled in and without a word, opened my concern to the Light. Strength flowed from every bench. Worship was good.

- Lamar Matthew, Baltimore Yearly Meeting

"The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world." John's prologue 1:1-18

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." - Jesus John 15:5



Missions

Members of the Lynnville Friends and Fairfield Friends churches joined together this past February on a mission trip to Mission, Texas. The main project of this mission was to construct an all steel, 24X40 foot storage shed that would be used to warehouse donations until it is possible to distribute the items to their destinations. The warehouse was built at the Melody Lane Christian Renewal Center. This is a station that provides a base for not only mission teams like the Friends group but also for missionaries coming back to the U.S. for various reasons such as renewing their visas, receiving mail, or having a little R & R before going back to the mission field.



With the total 24 folks who were involved in this trip it was possible to not only complete the storage shed project but also many other jobs. Some of the team went into Mexico to dig and pour footings for a new parsonage being built beside a church. Several folks did taping and mudding of sheetrock in that church. Some of the people did painting in a church in Mission, Texas. One group of men repaired the doors to a church in Mission that had been damaged by vandals. There were several projects at Melody Lane, too. An older woman there had water damage due to a leak in the water heater, so several of the team worked at getting her belongings rearranged so that they could remove the soaked carpets from her home. Two ladies from the Fairfield church took upon the mission of cooking for our group for the week. And others worked at washing windows and re-staining the deck of one of the workers there at Melody Lane.

In addition to the work done, the group was able to take a day to just tour the Reynosa, Mexico area. They saw churches, parsonages, and clinics that had been past projects of other mission teams and individuals. They visited an orphanage while there, too.

A week from the day the group left Iowa they began their trip back home taking with them tired bodies and memories to hold in their hearts. Being able to be used, in however a small way, to meet needs and to share the love that God has for all His children was a blessing to all who went.

"We are all pencils in the hand of a writing God, who is sending love letters to the world"



-Mother Teresa



A VISION OF GOD

The reason for failure in the spiritual realm is that we look to men rather than God. The early church trembled when Martin Luther saw God. The “great awakening” sprang into being when Jonathan Edwards saw God. Scotland fell on its knees when John Knox saw God. The world became the parish of one man when John Wesley saw God. Thousands of orphans were fed when George Muller saw God.

It is said that when Da Vinci finished painting the “Last Supper,” he invited a friend to view it for the first time. An “Oh” and “Ah” greeted this great artist. The friend was looking at the details of the objects in the painting, the cup, the table, and all the other items in the painting.

Da Vinci reached for his brush and dipped it into the paint and with one bold stroke wiped out the cup. To this astonished friend, “you were not looking at the Master’s face, look at the Master’s face,” Da Vinci responded. The friend almost missed the glory of the painting by looking only at the cup and the items on the table.

Today in the presence of the wonderful gift of God, we need to “look at the Master’s face.”

During our meetings for worship do we see, God or man? What do we see God wanting our monthly meetings to be about? Is that vision such that we might change the environment in which we live?

“Now we see but a poor reflection; then we will see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” - Paul, 1 Corinthians 3:12

Is it not time that we get a new vision of God – of God in all His glory?

- Keith Haisch, Bangor Liberty Friends Church



Pastoral couples take time out for retreat in Branson, Missouri. “Rest Stops Along the Journey” was a time of spiritual renewal and relaxation with David Robinson, President of Houston Graduate School of Theology.



Camp Quaker Heights

As we continue this spring “Building for the Future” at Camp Quaker Heights, I am reminded of the beautiful song “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place”. From the first moment I drive in “I can feel His mighty power and His grace.” Building a new cabin beneath the trees and listening to the breeze “I can hear the brush of angel’s wings”. In the fellowship with other volunteers, “I see glory on each face”. Yes, “Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place”.

What a joy it is to think about the hundred of girls, boys and adults whose lives will be touched by the Spirit of God as they come to camp this year. We are truly building for the future. I want to thank all of our volunteers, contributors and prayers for your part in this vital ministry of Iowa Yearly Meeting. May the Lord continue to bless each of our efforts as we build for the future at Camp Quaker Heights.

- Lloyd McDonald

CAMP SONGS

by Cindy Norman, Lynnville Friends



When I was a teenager, one of my favorite songs was “They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love”.

As a teen I considered these words to be powerful and possible. As an adult I came to question the possible part. I had “grown up” now and knew that as human beings we would never “be one or love one another” like the song indicated. In the last few months I have been challenged by God’s spirit to take back my “childish” thoughts and once again believe in the thought that “love and unity” are a possibility.

God has placed in me a new “hope” for the possibility of letting the world know about Him through our love for each other. In fact I want to get real bold and personal and say that God wants our communities to know God through the way we love each other.

How? This will only be possible through Him. As the Bible states so adequately – There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understand, no one who seeks God. Myron, my husband puts it this way “We are all jerks!” I like the simplicity of that statement.

But God in His infinite love provided us with salvation through the sending of His Son Jesus to the world. He sacrificed His Son for us in order that we might be able to come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. And here is the clincher for me – not just to provide a home in heaven when we die – but the possibility of becoming more and more like Jesus. And in becoming more like Jesus we will be able to “love as He has loved.”

When our young people see authentic, biblical, love within God’s family, they’ll believe. Like the song says...”And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

“For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:17



MESQUAKIE FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

I used to think shepherding was a small task until I learned the sheep don't always want to go where you are leading them. Every once in a while I get to share some of these problems with others who are also called to be shepherds. First of all we want sheep to be clean when they come to join our flock. My advice is don't attempt to clean them until they realize for themselves that being dirty is unpleasant and not pleasing to the Chief Shepherd. When they are willing to be cleaned He will supply every need they have, even water. The second thing is we want the flock to grow fat. They will not grow if the shepherd is too lazy to give them something to eat or worse, he keeps his ears closed to their cries.

Please help us to care for our Indian people who feel rejected by family when they feel the cleansing affect of accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is impossible to explain who the real enemy is unless God teaches us how to shepherd.

- Victor White



50 to 60 children from the settlement attend mid-week activities each Wednesday.



Iowa Yearly Meeting supports Mesquakie at \$12,000 a year through our mission board and have in the past years built a basketball court and multipurpose building.



OPEN WORSHIP

Margaret Fell described her first impressions of George Fox when he came to Swarthmoor Hall in 1652. The morning after accepting hospitality in the Fell home, George Fox came into the Ulverston steeplehouse, while the people were singing before the sermon. He rose and asked for permission to speak. He said, "He is not a Jew who that is one outwardly, neither is he circumcised outwardly but he is a Jew, that is one inwardly, and that is circumcised of the heart." Then he continued: "Christ was the Light of the world and enlightens every person that comes into the world; and that by this light they might be gathered to God...The Scriptures were the words of the prophets and Christ and the apostles; and what they spoke was what they enjoyed and possessed and had received from the Lord. Then what had any to do with the Scriptures, but as they came to the Spirit that gave them forth. You will say, Christ said this and the apostles say this; but what can you say? Are you a child of the Light, have you walked in the Light, and is what you speak inwardly from God?"

Margaret Fell said, this opened me so that it cut me to the heart; and then I saw clearly, we were all wrong. So I sat me down in my pew again, and cried bitterly and I cried in my spirit to the Lord, "We are all thieves, we are all thieves, we have taken the Scriptures in words and know nothing of them in ourselves." I saw it was the truth, and I could not deny it; and I did as the apostle said, I received the truth in the love of it. And it was opened to be so clear that I had never a tittle in my heart against it; but I desired the Lord, that I might be kept in it, and then I desired no greater portion.

- Edited from #20,
Christian Faith & Practice of the Society of Friends



Apartment available to a Retired Missionary or Minister

Quakerdale has constructed on it's New Providence campus, a duplex, one apartment of which is to be available for rental to a retired minister or missionary. The occupant and rental to be determined by a committee of the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel. The expected income of the tenant will be taken into account in determining the rent, not to exceed 20% of expected income.

Total cost of the apartment was \$40,000, of which \$15,000 has been paid by the Yearly Meeting. There are no interest or taxes due or to be paid by the Yearly Meeting. Quakerdale will receive the rent payment which will be used for general maintenance as needed. The occupant will pay utilities as determined by supplier of services.

Once the apartment has been rented to a retired missionary or minister, it will not be available for a new occupant until it is no longer wanted by the tenant or spouse or they become unable to care for their own needs.

Contact the Iowa Yearly Meeting Office, (641) 673-9717 or Michelle Herman at Quakerdale (641) 497-5294 for more information.



MEETING MOMENTS

Extending Concerns into Community – We, at West Branch, desire as a Meeting to hold Jesus Christ as our focus. This draws us nearer to one another and we seek to extend our concerns into community.

Judy, works for the Department of Human Services. This is not only stressful, but at times dangerous as she works to right the wrongs of abuse. She brought her concerns to our Friends Women's Group and we support her with prayer and encouragement. Gwen, as a Child Life Specialist, consults with families also. She values the teaching she received in the Quaker faith, especially concerning equality, since she is called to serve all races and ethnic groups. She often prays with the children. Jackie, discovering a woman recently widowed, who seemed to be unable to adjust to the grief, gave hours of her time to comfort her. We again responded with prayer and encouraging notes.

In these ways and more, we are seeking to yield fruit in a wider area. The last Sunday of the month we bring food for the Crisis Center. The children gather the gifts and bring them forward for the blessing.

The rummage sale each year provides needful items at an affordable price for many. The Cajun Food Fest, with Ed as coordinator and chef, adds fellowship with the community and added funds from the freewill offering, for the Love Fund used to help those in emergencies. Other funds contributed to the Teen Center in West Branch.

As they left for Australia, Deborah and Time took with them our letter from the meeting. We, in turn, received communications from the Beverly Friends opening new contacts with friends in far away places.

John 4:35 (We must) "open our eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest—may the sower and the reaper be glad together."

We have been blessed in having been led by a spiritual pastor, Sharon Treloar, during the interim of seeking a full time minister. The endless hours spent by the Ministry and Counsel in the search is greatly appreciated by all.

Proverbs 8:34,35 – "Blessed are the ones who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord."

Continued Blessings and Progress - We continue to receive the Lord's blessings as we see progress on the new home for our congregation at Middle River Friends.

Paul and Kim Albritton and children Bonnie and Cole were welcomed into the church on September 9, 2001 as new members.

A large delegation of men from Middle River and the surrounding area attended Promise Keepers September 21 & 22 in Kansas City. The following Sunday, the congregation was blessed as they shared from their hearts the blessings received at the conference. On November 16 & 17 women

from the church attended the Women of Faith Conference. Excitement filled the church as they shared the blessings they received from the meetings in the service the following Sunday.

Come Home to Carlisle on September 22 was again a success for the church as we were able to share God's love with many who stopped by our booth for refreshments.

Middle River Fall Festival was held October 30th. The children were delightful in their costumes and they along with the adults enjoyed an evening of games, prizes, hayrack rides, and lots of good food.

The Christmas season kicked off with our Indian Christmas Heart mission fund drive. We were pleased to meet our goal in sending \$600. In addition the church decorating and caroling parties were enjoyed by all. On December 16, music filled the air as the Christmas cantata "A Family Christmas" was presented by the choir during morning service and again in the evening at the children's program. A beautiful Christmas Eve service brought honor to the Christ Child.

The youth group accompanied by Jennifer Phillips, youth pastor, and Lyle and Becky Kolosik attended "Acquire the Fire" in January. They had a wonderful time praising the Lord.

February 17 was an exciting day for us as music, voices and prayers were raised at our first meeting in the new building. It was a beautiful day and there was executive lawn chair seating in the unfinished sanctuary for everyone. After Pastor Ralph's sermon, the congregation was split into three groups, given tours of the new facility by members of the building committee and afforded a chance to ask questions. The air was filled with wonder as we saw for the first time the plentiful spaces and sunlight pouring all around. Everyone smiled and nodded their heads in anticipation of the future God has in store for our congregation. As the tours concluded, all returned to the sanctuary for a message from Marvin Hoeksema who spoke of how the Lord had lead us to the start of this project, the three years it had taken us to get to this point, and how this day had been made possible by the miraculous giving of the church body. He closed his message stating that we had given the project what we could, and that God would continue to show us the way to finish the building. God has and continues to bless Middle River in this endeavor. We concluded an exciting morning by returning to the present church for a potluck dinner served by the Building Committee.



John Mann, Sturgeon Bay Friends and Bunni Cooper, Hesper Friends, provide music for worship at Winneshiek Quarterly Meeting.

The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

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VITAL SIGNS

MARRIAGE

Tona Blacksmith and Doug Wasson were united in marriage on December 29, 2001 at Middle River Evangelical Friends Church.

DEATHS

Mary Jane McKee, 72, of Carlisle passed away January 22, 2002 at Mercy Hospice in Johnston, Iowa. Services were held at Middle River Friends on January 24, 2002 with burial at Banta Cemetery near Corydon, Iowa. She is survived by two sons, Richard of Las Vegas, NV and Stephen of Sterling, OK.; four daughters, Dixie Jones and Sheryl Barnes both of Des Moines, Rebecca Reid and Tona Wasson both of Carlisle; two brothers; 21 grandchildren; and 36 great-grandchildren. Her husbands Tony Blacksmith and E. Kenneth McKee preceded her in death. Mary was a member of Middle River Friends Church.

Maxine Voss, 80, of Postville Iowa died April 25, 2002 after a brief illness. Services were held at Stuart Friends Church with Pastor David Martinson officiating. She is survived by a daughter, Phyllis White of Postville, and son, Larry Voss of Stuart, four sisters and two brothers.

Craig Henry Van Arkel, 50, of Grinnell died suddenly Friday, May 10, 2002 at his home. Funeral services were held at First Friends Church in Grinnell on May 15, 2002 with Pastor Todd Follette and Pastor Keith Briggs officiating. Craig was a nationally recognized sheep breeder and judge, served 11 years on the board of directors of the United Sullfolk sheep Association, served 13 years on the Malcom Farmers Co-op and served 14 years as a field supervisor for the Farm Progress Show. He is survived by his wife, Deborah, two daughters, Emily and Thea, his parents, James and Doris Van Arkel of Malcom, 2 brothers, 1 sister, aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives and many friends.

Consider how nonchalantly you greet each day, and how you may take your most precious relationships for granted, as if these persons were going to remain in your unbroken circle forever. Oh, dear friends, prize your time together, and invest it with meaning and joy. Time is a gift, the night cometh."

- The Wilmington Friend

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Bob Carter, medical missionary to Zambia, shares with Riverside, HC-NP and Salem Friends on the success of the Jesus film in reaching the Zambia community.



Stuart Friends held Revival Services May 4 & 5 with Superintendent, Kevin Mortimer speaking on "The Greater Kingdom." Pastor Don and Mary Porter greet people following Saturday night worship.

FUM Triennials - July 10-15
IAYM - July 31 - August 3