

The Iowa Friend

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

September 2002

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The Fruit of Offering Dignity



Jeremiah raised his hands in praise as he gave glory to God and his son Jesus Christ, in the building of the medical dispensary. Jeremiah said that it looked like the birth of a baby without the mother being present. The medical dispensary had been built through the funding of a team of representatives from North Carolina, Iowa, Indiana and New England Yearly Meetings. Fundis (local construction experts) had jumped at the chance to go to work in a culture of unemployment nearing 80%. Much of the construction had taken place before the work team had arrived and Jeremiah had returned home from his extended stay in the hospital. He had been accidentally shot by some of his guards who were guarding the sheep and goats and didn't realize that it was Jeremiah who had "invaded" their 2000 acre grazing land. Now the work team was there and Jeremiah had returned to witness the improvements at the Friends Mission Station.

Missionary, Isaiah Bikokwa had reached out to Jeremiah in a visit to the area some three years earlier and had befriended Jeremiah a large landholder along with his best friend, Simon an equally wealthy landholder. In the course of getting to know each other Isaiah had asked, "When are you going to invite me to be with you?" "In what way?" replied Jeremiah. "In God's way!" stated Isaiah. "You are welcome to come amongst us," said Jeremiah.

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
Galatians 3:26-28 (Paul)

The challenge for Isaiah had been in befriending a person who had three wives and nineteen children. Polygamy is part of the Kenyan culture and rubs against the principles of Christianity. Tribalism was Jeremiah's greatest challenge as three major Kenyan tribes rival against each other for political clout and advantage. Through Christ, Isaiah was able to see beyond the practice of polygamy and Jeremiah was able to see beyond the difference in tribe for God to orchestrate a new work amongst the Kenyan people. The work had progressed from building a meeting house in 1999 to meet the spiritual needs of the Samburu people, to the meeting house being used to educate the boys and girls of the community addressing their equality and educational needs. And now a medical dispensary was being built to meet the immunization and short term medical needs. Aids, malaria and other diseases strike quickly at people of all ages. Through the faithful efforts of Isaiah and his staff, the Samburu people are coming off the worlds ways and putting their faith in Jesus Christ.

My thoughts go to the faithfulness of Joshua and Rahab as the Israelites inhabited the promised land (Joshua 2). Rahab, the prostitute was God's instrument in bringing the Israelites into the promised land. The fruit of giving dignity is part and parcel of our call to dignify "that of God" in other people and the call for all "to come off the worlds ways." It is this perspective that allows us to see the world as a mission field where God is calling us to join Him rather than an impossible place of evil that must be avoided at all costs.

In the final analysis we find our Lord's brother James inspired to write "*Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,*" and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not my faith alone. In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?" James 2:23-25

In this I see the coming together of Isaiah and Jeremiah in their pursuit to bring God glory and to bring the world off it's ways and into savings faith.

- Kevin Mortimer, General Superintendent



CIVIL WAR Quaker Preacher

**Pastor Spencer Thury
Riverside Friends, Mason City**

July 19-21, 2002, nearly a thousand people came to Mason City for a Civil War reenactment. I spent the weekend dressed as a Quaker Preacher from the 1860's. I have read all about revivals that took place at that time, and figured that the reenactors were aware of it too. So, I figured out a way to make the most of the opportunity.

I was set up to do a presentation called, "When did the abolitionist movement begin?" I loudly lectured on the historical events between John Brown's wickedly violent raid on Harper's Ferry and Benjamin Franklin's first abolitionist society in America in 1775. However, I proclaimed to the crowd that slavery took its biggest blow 1,500 years before the Civil War on the cross. Jesus died to set men free from the flesh, the devil, and to each other. "How can any man own another man, when we have all been set free by the blood of Jesus.....If you want to know the freedom that alone is in Jesus Christ, I will pray with you, whatever your dilemma!"

One of the professional performers "heckled" me from the crowd almost immediately. It was wonderful. Whenever I had to stop and look at my notes he would say something to keep the tempo moving. But I answered him, and wouldn't stop. He pulled out his gun and pointed it at me. I pulled out my big leather bound Bible, stood on a chair, and preached. He left.

I had many conversations with people differing from, "Is it okay to dress as a harlot for a reenactment if you are just play acting?" to temperance (not drinking), and the revivals among the confederacy. That evening I went out to follow up with those who had responded to the Lord. I was not prepared for what I would see and hear.

I approached one group of soldiers, who were drinking around the campfire, and some had their children with them. One man jumped right in with, "I have cerebral palsy. I have been an atheist and/or mad at God most of my life. But since I started going to reenactments I started rethinking it all. I think God has a plan for me. I think I read in the Bible that Jesus said that we, the handicapped, were his army. What did he mean by that?"

I knew Jesus never said that. I tried to explain it, but his friends contradicted what I said. He was turning to the Lord and I certainly did not want to stop that. I told him I would study it out and gave him my card to give me a call or e-mail, then I shared my story with them, since they had asked. When I did get back to my office, I found nothing close to saying that in the N.T. Maybe some cult teaches it. Evangelism can be heart-breaking.

So I walked down to find another group. I saw some teenagers I knew. They were being loud, and began to hide their beverages as I came up and sat down. One girl passed out drunk on the ground when I got there. I asked them if she had had enough to make her throw up, because I didn't want to see her drown in her vomit. They didn't answer. Through the

conversation I shared bits of my story, much like the other group. I shared my concern for their drinking and why I was there; to talk about Jesus. Some shared with me that they didn't go to church any more because people had been mean to them, others said church was boring.

I said it was rather disheartening that you would choose this lifestyle over one with the Lord. One girl said another girl might start stripping. The drunken girl started crying. Then a boy stumbled to the ground with a beer in his hand and spilled some of it where I was sitting. Another young man helped him to sit down so he could finish his beer without spilling it.

I decided I was done. I had shared my testimony, listened, offered advice and showed concern, but I did not pray with any of them. I wanted to leave before any girls stripped. I am sorry



to say that I was disgusted by the scene. I need to bring other Christians with me. And I learned to never let it get to you in such a way that you cannot offer prayer for people. We all know it takes time to get to a place where people are comfortable enough to pray with you. All the questions I ask and answer can take so long, that I run out of time to pray and ask people the big questions about inviting Jesus into their life. My heart is breaking in those grossly sinful situations but I don't know how to break through it some times.

I miss the Spirit's leading so often. Reader, please don't make the same mistakes I have in evangelism. Getting to the place of praying with people, let alone asking them to receive Jesus as Lord, is the toughest part of evangelism for me. The worst thing that they can say is no.

What hinders you when you try to share the Lord?

Lord help us all to:

- **See past the offensive actions of others so we can minister in Your power.**
- **Ask people if they want prayer even if we don't feel our witness is going anywhere.**
- **Take the time to finish what we started by presenting the complete Gospel in action and word.**

Amen



APPRECIATION RECIPIENTS 2002 Ministry Conference

DALE CHIDESTER of **Smyrna** Friends has been willing to help our church in any way he could. He has been a member for nearly fifty years. Dale has served on various committees, been chairman of Ministry and Counsel, Trustees, Secretary of Sunday School, and did the janitor work. If the church even needed a light bulb, he would replace it. He has recently had to enter a nursing home and Smyrna doesn't know how it can get along without him.

NADINE (MRS. PHIL) COLLINS - **Marshalltown** Monthly Meeting wishes to honor Nadine Collins for extending a helping hand to grieving parents of still-born babies. Through a program of Compassionate Friends, who meet monthly at First Friends, Nadine uses her talent of sewing to make lovely kimonos for tiny still-born babies. She makes them in a variety of colors and they provide attractive and suitable clothing for viewing at the memorial services. This act of serving the Lord by helping others has brought comfort for the parents and dignity for the precious child.

MILLIE GREGORY of **West Branch** Friends extends a helping hand to others in several communities through playing the piano at the retirement home in West Branch and at six different nursing homes in six different towns at least twice each month at each home. Sometimes she plays for church services. At other times she plays dinner music or for "Happy Hour". Sometimes she plays familiar hymns and the "old songs" and she is noted for being able to locate almost any kind of music. She is as faithful in volunteering as when she was employed in a regular job.

ARMETTA KEENEY "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine....Shine all over Ackworth...." This is the chorus that Armetta Keeney has taught to generations of children at **Ackworth** Friends Meeting during the Sunday school hour. And Armetta practices what she teaches. Her light shines as she volunteers at the nursing home three days a week, as she prepares and delivers meals to those who are ill, as she phones or visits the shut-ins, as she bakes pies for fundraisers, as she corresponds with church members who have moved away, as she drives the elderly to appointments, call a lonely neighbor, buys a coat for a needy child, or as she buys a ticket for a foreign missionary to come to the FUM conference, takes a pie or special treat to her many friends and neighbors, or arranges a beautiful bouquet for the Sunday morning service. Armetta doesn't put her light "under a bushel." No. She lets "it shine all over Ackworth" and beyond.

C.J. (DUKE) McCURRY of **Grinnell** First Friends goes back several years with Iowa Friends. He first began the association with Oak Grove Friends and served in the fifties as recreation director for high schoolers at Camp Quaker Heights. After working out-of-state for many years as a telephone company executive, he returned to Iowa in retirement and he and his wife rejoined with Friends as members in Grinnell. He quietly and humbly gives many rides to people needing them to hospitals and airports in Des Moines, and he is honored this year as marshal of the 4th of July parade in Grinnell for his service during WW II and the way he encourages and lifts the spirits of fellow veterans in the Grinnell area. He and his wife,

Lee, brighten any group with their cheerful smiles and friendliness.

CONNIE MINER of **LeGrand** Friends easily qualifies for a giving spirit in our community. She's everywhere helping out – doing too much, probably. She helps financially everywhere she can (sending kids to camp, homeless shelters, etc.). She works at the Homeless Shelter, Food Box, helps with the Wednesday night meal where we serve about 100 kids and adults every Wednesday night. She visits people at nursing homes, does Hospice, helps families from other countries, and even builds up Project "Share" credits and gives them away. She is really everywhere! I'm sure there are many more things that we aren't even aware of. Connie is an extremely giving person.

BETTE PIERCE of **Middle River** Friends volunteers at Chaplin Clothes Closet at Fort Des Moines every week. She receives clothing, as well as marks and sizes them. Moreover, she gives out Bibles and tracts and other religious materials. In addition to all of this, she is a guardian for a care center patient and cooks at the senior center.

LORENE SIMON of **Valton** Friends is a constant and faithful servant working behind the scenes. She is knowledgeable about the needs of the community; opens the church; takes visitors and gives them tours; shares history of Valton Monthly Meeting; freely gives and organizes food donations; and is involved in quilt projects, penny potato fund dinners, annual Thanksgiving dinners, 4th of July celebrations, and much more.

KEITH SMITH of **Motor** Friends serves as pastor, doing his work well, but the meeting wants to highlight his activities outside the meeting house. Many in the yearly meeting have seen Keith on committees and board; he has been President of Board on Coordination. He is highly visible at camp, never missing a work day and adding several personal work days each year. But this time the emphasis is what he does in the local community. The school recognizes his ability as a counselor to young people. In the past 12 months he was asked to come to school on two occasions that were troublesome times. He helps in the athletic department, listed at times as assistant coach. He officiates at some wrestling events. He is supportive of arts, as well, and is a school bus substitute driver. Keith will be at the county fair watching and encouraging the church youth with their 4-H and FFA projects. He is a member of Lions and was recently named Chaplain of the fire department, to be present for counseling injured firemen as well as fire victims. He has been the pastor for the community in death and funeral situations, and in the performance of weddings, too, but only after a series of counseling sessions. In the past 12 months, Keith helped plan and conduct two community benefits for families in health crises. Many more examples of his commitment to the community could be written. He has taken the message of Christ and service in the name of Jesus from the pulpit, out the door of Motor Friends Church, and into the community. No, Keith is not perfect, but he does provide an excellent model and example for us to follow when it comes to serving others.

DON AND MARY SPARKS of **Bangor Liberty** Friends are long-time and faithful members. Although Don is currently taking

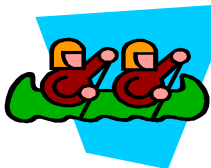
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High School Weekender

Tasha Schnell, Lynnville Friends

On June 14-16th, five of our high school youth and three adults went up to Camp Quaker Heights for the weekend. We had 30 kids and 24 staff all together. It started Friday night and ended Sunday morning. At 5:00 p.m. on Friday was registration and time for the kids to get all of their stuff in their cabins. Supper was served at 6:30 followed by vespers. Vespers is a quiet time to just sit and reflect on your relationship with God. If you feel led to share something you can. Jennifer Phillips, youth pastor at Middle River, led the devotion. We then went to chapel and sang songs with the McCracken brothers, Nate and Luke, and Desiree, Nate's girlfriend. This was an awesome time of singing and praising God in song. They certainly have the gift of music. Nate plays the guitar and Luke plays the piano. Our guest speaker was Michael Ginn of World Ministries. Michael is from Kamrar, Iowa and is a preacher expositional teacher, and an ordained Pastor. He presents preaching and teaching in combination with a passionate voicing of the scriptures from the heart. He has a large portion of the Bible memorized and recited the Sermon on the Mount to us as well as many other parables. This man was without a doubt the most influential person we have ever met. He is contagious and makes you want to be just like him. His passion for the word and dedication to the Lord is phenomenal and the kids loved him. We are working on getting him to come and speak at church and to the youth group. We then had late night games and lights out at 11:30.



The next morning was staff meeting at 8:00 a.m. and breakfast at 8:30. May I mention thanks to Linda Garrison for the **awesome** food this whole weekend. We then went to chapel and worshipped the Lord in song and listened to a parable from Michael Ginn. Lunch was at 12:30 and then we had a free afternoon until supper. The kids enjoyed things like canoeing, swimming, mountain biking, paddle boating, playing basketball, miniature golf, volleyball, carpetball, or just taking a nap. Supper was wonderful and then the kids had their own vespers where they shared from their hearts. Some of the staff had the chance to ask Michael questions from the Bible. That was great as well as challenging. We went to chapel for about an hour and then built a great campfire. WOW!! It felt like survivor walking down there, following tall poles lit on fire. We played some games and talked. We closed the night with a game back at the chapel and lights out at midnight.



Sunday morning we started with staff meeting and then went right to chapel. We worshipped the Lord in song and then Michael recited the Sermon on the Mount and talked to us. We ate brunch and said our good-byes. We stopped for the big Dodgers sale on the way home!! What a great weekend we will all never forget!!



Quaker Heights Camp

CHRISTIAN Rving

CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS is developing a new Christian RV Park. Although it is not completely finished, the water, electricity, gravel parking, fire rings and patio's are in. What a beautiful place to spend a day or several days. Pine Lake has some new hiking and biking trails near by. Also there is the beach, fishing, boating and golfing. Most spaces are available now, but check with Ric Garrison to be sure (641-858-5977). We are requesting that a donation be made to CQH, per unit, per day (this does not include meals), and the rules of camp "no tobacco or alcohol" be followed.



What a wonderful opportunity this will be for 2, 3 or more Christian families to meet together for fellowship, praise and relaxation. Also, it would provide an opportunity to introduce some non-Quaker Christian Friends to Camp Quaker Heights.

Truly God has blessed Camp Quaker Heights, so let's use the camp for God's glory. Pray for the camp as we are "Building For The Future".

- Submitted by, Lloyd McDonald

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 12 - Noon
Planning Committee, IAYM Office

September 29 – October 2,
Pastors' Retreat, CQH

October 5 – USFW Fall Retreat, CQH

October 5-6 – Winneshiek Quarterly Meeting, Valton Friends Church

October 7, 6:00 p.m. – Camp Bd, Grinnell Friends

October 18-19, BOC Retreat, CQH

November 2, 9:30 – Stewardship BD, AND Christian Ed Bd, IAYM Office



MEETING MOMENTS

"PAWS FOR CHRIST" at Bear Creek Friends - A wedding was celebrated at our church on Saturday, May 4th, when Dave Shufeldt and Sandy Feldman were married. Pastor Keith Morrison officiated at the 2:00 service.

The next day on the 5th, we brought 4 new members in to our church family. During a membership ceremony as part of the morning service, we welcomed Goldie Blair, Loretta Barnett, Annette Miller and Burt Kuefner. Dan Knoevitch of Earlham filled our pulpit on the morning of May 19 and Don Applegate of rural Earlham stepped in for us on June 30th.

VBS was held on the evenings of June 13 & 14. Mary Porter of Guthrie Center, along with some help from her puppet Suzy Q and her dog Tyson, presented lessons on the theme of "Paws for Christ". Many children and adults enjoyed the two evenings of lessons, crafts, music and refreshments.

Pastor Keith gave his last sermon at Bear Creek on June 23rd. A church potluck supper and farewell program honored Keith, Kristen and their three daughters on the evening of June 26th. The Morrisons moved on June 29 and Keith began a full-time ministry in July at Jericho Friends Church in Winchester, Indiana. Their new address and phone number is: 4018 W CR 100 South, Winchester, IN 47394 (765) 584-0063.

We wish them well in their new calling. Bear Creek will continue to hold weekly Sunday School and morning church services with the help of a series of interim pastors as we continue our search for a new minister.



"Set Apart" gave their final message at the IAYM Ministry Conference on July 31st . Those involved this year were from back left; Sarah Septer, Nathan McCracken - Director, Lucas McCracken and Lindsey Berg. Kneeling in front; Jenny Meyers, Melissas Ellis and Malarly Harris. Not shown - Chip Daleske.



Open Worship & Communion

John 6:25-69

Come and Find the Quiet Center



Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter
clear our eyes,
that we can see all the things
that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heart and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space with-in our thinking,
Lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope fore faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively schemeing
there is always room to spare!

- Shirley Erena Murray, 1989

"At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through"

- Martin Luther

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VITAL SIGNS

MARRIAGE - Dale Schwechel of New Sharon and **Phyllis Abkes** of Austinville, Iowa, were married July 27, 2002 at the Christian Reformed Church in Austinville. The Schwechel's mailing address is: PO Box 2C, Austinville, IA 50608.

Danielle Septer and **Lee Gudith** were married April 27, 2002 in Pella, Iowa. Danielle is a member of the Marshalltown Friends Church.

DEATHS - Rosalie M. Morgan, 85, of Richland, died July 18, 2002 at the Jefferson County Hospital in Fairfield, Iowa, following a brief illness. Rosalie was a lifelong resident of Richland and an active member of the Trinity Friends Church there. Funeral services were held July 22, 2002 at the Trinity Friends Church with Jonathan Rozendaal officiating.

Gladys F. Mullikin, 87, died August 5, 2002. Gladys was a member and faithful attender of Fairfield Friends Church until her health failed. Her son Willis, and his wife and several grandchildren also attend Fairfield Friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy, in 1975, and two great-grandchildren.

George Porter passed away on May 31, 2002 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Porter. George was a member of the Marshalltown Friends Church.

Lois Frazer passed away on March 13, 2002. Lois was a member of the Marshalltown Friends Church.

Marjorie L. Norman, 87, died May 3, 2002, at her home. She was a long time member of Liberty Friends Church and later Bangor Liberty Friends Church, where she served two years on Iowa Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel and as Iowa Friend Reporter. Marjorie worked as a teacher and a homemaker. She was interested in genealogy and photography. She is survived by three daughters, Judy Svengalis, Joy Wagner, and Rosalee Patten; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

NEW ADDRESS - Luella Dillavou, Heritage Retirement Village, 1705 South Patriot Drive, Yorktown, IN 47396.

(Recipients - continued)

chemotherapy, he still makes time to help serve a meal once a month at the House of Compassion in Marshalltown. The House of Compassion is a place where the disadvantaged or homeless can go for a free meal each day. They can sleep there for a period of two weeks. Don and Mary have also furnished meat and other food for these meals. Their caring examples have encouraged others (including their son and grandchildren) to participate in the ministry.

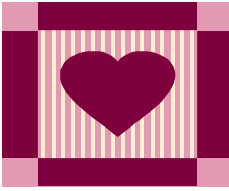
KATE SWATTA of **Des Moines** First Friends teaches English as a Second Language at a challenging public school in Des Moines. She also teaches First Day School for our meeting, a class for children that she started. Besides these teaching activities, Kate keeps well informed about peace and justice issues and advocates them to our meeting.

DOLORES WHITEHEAD of **Honey Creek-New Providence** Friends lives alone in a house, but not in the community. Folks call on Dolores for questions, assistance, conferring, and just to have a friend. Dolores is a nurse by profession, so she is able to be helpful. She is much appreciated by her community.

CHUCK AND MARGARET WATSON, active and faithful members of **College Avenue Friends**, seem to have a special sense of who needs help, when they need it and how best to be truly supportive. They always have time for grandchildren and family challenged by health issues, and in addition, time for reaching out within the church and into the community. Chuck & Margaret never seem to stop giving. Chuck works from early morning on Friends Cemetery Clean-up Day and Margaret is sure to be one to show up with "coffee-break" for the workers. Chuck will take his chain saw and lawn tractor and trailer as far as Quaker Heights when it is needed to mow, haul, trim or burn. He and his AC farm tractor can be seen locally, around town, giving a lift to neighbors and friends. They offer rides to people who are unable to drive, take food to families in crisis situations, and do everything on a low key, in a friendly manner. They make others comfortable in accepting their help because whatever they do stems from a genuine concern for others. These Friends are joyful in spirit. Their prayer life and daily contact with the Holy Spirit are what gives them the insight, strength and the stability they exhibit. They are wonderful models to others, and we are proud to honor them as our Helpful Caregivers.

*THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR SERVING THE LORD
JESUS SO WELL IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND CHURCHES!*

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa



FRIENDLY FLASHES

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

- Romans 10:17

I hope many of you were in attendance at Iowa Friends Conference. A new name that encompasses the purpose of the yearly meeting, an intentional gathering together of Friends to confer with each other and God. A time of celebration and renewal open to all seeking the leading of Jesus Christ. God uses these conferences to strengthen us for the work he has called us to; “Making the Love of Jesus Christ Known.”

If you missed joining us in August, then plan right now to travel to Camp Quaker Heights on Saturday, October 5, 2002. There we will hear how Brenda White, of Mesquakie Friends and our attenders at FUM Triennial in Africa “MAKE THE LOVE OF JESUS KNOWN.” Kay and Kelsey Feltz will share in music and sign language how Jesus love can be known by the deaf. Each of us has our own gifts for fulfilling our call to make Christ’s love known. Registration starts at 9:30, and lunch at noon by the camp will be \$7.00. We will dismiss by 2:30. Come and share in the beauty of the world our Father has created and the bountiful love He pours out upon us daily.

As you saw, if you have the new reading list, we have some great books this year. For *The Blessings of a Friend* by Susan McCracken, and *Quaker Indictment* by Irene Allen, are both works of fiction that take you along on the journey of women seeking to follow God’s path for their life. *Unlocking Horns* by David Niyonzima/Lon Fendall will give us insight into the pain, violence and reconciliation among Friends in Burundi, Africa. Max Lucado has 2 books on the list; Phillip Gulley, Tom Mullen, Richard Foster and Ruth Bell Graham each have one. Delores Jones our own “have books – will travel” lady will help you find just the right ones for your society.

“The entrance of thy words giveth light, it giveth understanding...” - Psalms 119:30

Let us continue in the Light of His Word.

Linda Burnett

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Search Committee for a new General Superintendent is receiving resumes and other materials from those interested in this position. The vacancy will occur January 1, 2003. Inquires may be sent to: The Search Committee, Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577.

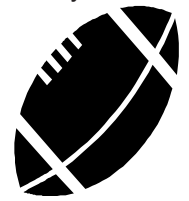


Triennial Representatives in Kenya and Iowa.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

Humor plays such an important part in our lives. If you don’t have that sense to enjoy a good laugh even at your own expense then you can miss out on so much.

Some attempts at humor are pointless, like the fellow who went to the doctor and was told that he was a very, very sick man. His response to the doctor was, “I want a second opinion”. The doctors says “ok, your ugly too.” As I write my thoughts on stewardship, high school football season is right around the corner. There were some college games this weekend and we have already seen several professional teams play exhibitions. For this occasion I like the situation where the husband says to the wife, “Honey, is there anything you want to tell me before the football season begins?” Meaning of course, there will be no time to communicate until the end of the season. Not only is this rather humorous but sadly true. We can get ourselves so preoccupied with things at hand and miss out on so much. We are approaching the changing of colors in God’s great creation, don’t miss it. The stewardship of time, you will have only one opportunity to use that minute, hour or day – so use it wisely!



- By Jay Mosher, Motor Friends Church

EPISTLE OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, 2002

August 21, 2002

To Friends Everywhere,

Through the good providence of God, Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM) gathered for our annual sessions July 31 through August 3, 2002. We sought to recognize the Divine Presence whether in worship or in business. The unifying action of the Spirit was reflected in gracious interpersonal relationships and in the movement toward a shared vision for the future of the Yearly Meeting as a whole. There was a good measure of congeniality and cooperation as we dealt with the difficult issue of the need for a unified corporate structure in order to forward the Yearly Meeting goals and purposes.

The theme of this ministry conference was "Making the Love of Jesus Christ Known" taken from John's Gospel 15: 9 -16a. There has been a growing 'sense of the meeting' that the Yearly Meeting vision and mission could become "Spreading like prairie grass to make the love of Jesus Christ known in the Heartland and beyond". Specifically, Friends of IAYM want to nurture among our youth, friendship evangelism, Christlike living, and young Quaker leadership. Also, we want to be more intentional in providing opportunities for spiritual growth within and among our pastors.

Highlights of our time together included the following:

- The ministry of Don Davis, our guest leader, challenged us to be open to God's call to the difficult places such as the inner city.
- The recording of four lively and prepared individuals for pastoral ministry.
- The continuing echo of the joyful Friends United Meeting triennial sessions held in Nairobi, Kenya, just a short time before.
- The commissioning of Stan and Karen Bauer to serve for several months during the transition at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya.
- The growing excitement about and interest in short term missions in Cuba, Jamaica, Belize, Kenya and other areas was quite impressive.

Our disappointments and concerns include the resignation of our Yearly Meeting Superintendent, Kevin Mortimer, effective December 31, 2002. He has been an able leader. Also, we continue to grieve because of all the conflict in our world, especially, the tragic situation between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

On Behalf of IAYM,
Allen Bowman
Clerk of the Epistle Committee



Ron Bryan and Keith Smith inform YM Speaker, Don Davis on the finer points of Quaker preaching.

JUST A THOUGHT.....

By Scott Rains, Buffalo Friends Church

I went to camp this year for the first time in 8 years. I was a counselor at the Jr. High Boys Camp. Your imaginations are already running wild, aren't they!

I'm not sure what it is about swimming pools and Jr. High boys, but the two can be a treacherous combination for a counselor.

One doesn't go swimming to cool off or get a tan if one is a Jr. High Boy. No - one goes swimming to display one's strength.

This is accomplished through that revered and time-honored tradition: chicken-fighting.

As I try to relieve the tension in my stiff and sore neck, I ask myself:

What do we do to show our strength as Christians?

What does it mean to be strong as a Christian?

Just a thought.....



Sam Barber leads the drum section at Children's Yearly Meeting.