

The Iowa Friend

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

February 2003

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 58 - No. 2

Q 350 Years of Quakerism Now What?

by Ron Bryan, Pastor - LeGrand Friends Church

As the Friends celebrate 350 years of existence, there are many who are taking time to reflect on all that has been accomplished. Taking a look at the historical aspects of the Friends Movement, our traditions and testimonies can always be healthy and perhaps even encouraging for the present. Yet as I consider my understanding of our past, I seem to naturally move my thinking to the question, "What about our future?"

In recent weeks, I have had the occasion to be completely on my back while recovering from an accident. This has given me more time to reflect than I have ever taken in my entire adult life. Just before the accident occurred I had a discussion with my son-in-law about the significance of Friends and what he thought about our future. I was quite interested in his perspective because he is national marketing manager for Sara Lee, and his focus is knowing his product and how to sell it. Keep in mind that in his personal journey, he was brought up in a major Protestant denomination. Once he married our daughter, they worshiped with Friends for a couple of years before moving back into his original denomination along with becoming very active in a Catholic Spiritual Renewal movement that holds weekend retreats. It has been exciting to witness the spiritual growth and vigor that he and our daughter have shown as they have grown in their dedication to God, to each other and to their church. I took seriously his comment to me about Friends.

His statement was this, "As I think about Friends, what is so vital about them as a Christian church today is that they honestly believe that Jesus Christ will speak directly to each of us, and we allow a time in every service for that to happen." He went on to say that this was the most significant thing for him about our church. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" While many Friends today may point to one of the particular testimonies and say, "This is what makes us vital today," I have come to the conclusion that first and foremost, aside from all the testimonies or other ministries we are involved in, must come this one truth: Jesus Christ is still speaking to us as individuals, just as He did to George Fox and those early followers. Can we not continue to highlight this as our basic insight that can and should be put before

the entire world at this moment in history? We are so busy trying to save the world, save the church, increase our net worth and many, many other priorities. The world, the community, my life, needs to be reminded that God Himself, wants to and will speak to me this very day and every day, if I am willing to be still long enough for His voice to be heard.

To me this is exciting and can be a primary focus for me personally and for us as a Friends movement now and in the future.



Ron Bryan reveals one of his gifts during the Iowa Yearly Meeting Ministry Conference last summer.

Dear Friends,

In accordance with the *Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends*, the clerk has received a written request for a called meeting of the Body of Representatives to consider the recommendation of the Board on Coordination to call Ron Bryan as the next General Superintendent of Iowa Yearly Meeting to begin no later than July 1, 2003.

This meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on March 1, 2003, at College Avenue Friends Church in Oskaloosa. According to the Discipline, "A quorum of the general Body of Representatives shall consist of at least one representative from each of sixty percent of the Monthly Meetings." If this is not the case, no action can be taken. Please make it a priority for your representatives to attend this called meeting.

The Quaker Men banquet has been rescheduled and will be held at noon following this special called meeting of the Body of Representatives. (banquet information on Page 6)

Blessings,

Margaret Stoltzfus
Presiding Clerk, IAYM



Friendly Flashes

Do you use your spiritual gifts in serving humanity as God grants you light to see such service?

This is part of Query 8 and seems to serve as the basis of our USFW mission statement, or at least as a part of the leading for much of our different activities. In January and February many of us schedule work days and use our various talents in making either baby quilts or adult-sized comforters. Some USFW groups suspend meeting for these two months because of lower attendance (some of us become snowbirds). Whatever your group does, these two months are usually a time of introspection, taking a look at where we have been and where we want to go in the coming year.

I took a day to read a little history on Quaker Women's ministries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It may or may not surprise you that nothing has changed. Quakers have always freely and equally allowed the ministry of women. It was noticed that women not only were active in preaching, they also viewed their most important activity to be that of pastoral care, such as visitation, spiritual counsel, attention to the poor and those in prison, and offering words of encouragement. The amount of their contribution varied depending on the time they had available and each one's individual sense of call. Each woman's interests or perceptions of the issues and concerns of that day also guided the ministry. The power of Divine grace was the quality requirement for service; in other words, as each woman was given light to see a need and bring it before the group, the need was addressed. All of these needs usually fell into one of these categories: education, equal rights, home or foreign missions and international peace. As Quaker women, we are carrying on a proud tradition when we work for these various causes.

God has called us all to serve Him and we are daily answering that call each in our own unique and individual ways. For example, our meeting this past year, has added what we call a 'Care Committee.' As members of our meeting become unable to attend worship and have increasing difficulty remaining in their own homes, members each according to their abilities clean, cook, read the Bible and do personal care, allowing them to stay at home awhile longer with dignity. If your meeting has a different service you are engaged in, I would love to hear about it and so would women across the Yearly Meeting. Such ministry of service is the outward showing of the inward growth of the Spirit of Christ in us, which brings forth fruit and growth in the meeting at large.

Give, and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over....Luke 6:38.

Peace and Grace, Linda Burnett



MEETING MOMENTS

Blair Ratcliff of Woodside, California, formerly of Grinnell, a particle physicist with the Stanford (University) linear Accelerator Center, has been named a Fellow of the American Physical Society. The recognition was for "broad contributions to experimental particle physics". A prize or award presented by The American Physical Society is one of the highest honors a physicist may receive.

Blair grew up in the Lynnville Friends Church and graduated from Grinnell High School in 1962, and was a 1966 graduate of Grinnell College. Blair is the son of Arnold and Geneva Ratcliff of Sully, formerly of Grinnell.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Grinnell College, Ratcliff received the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in physics from Stanford University in 1968 and 1971 respectively, and has been associated with the center since that time, garnering many other honors.

BE A LIVELY CHRISTIAN

A man told a pastor that he wanted to become a member of the church. "But," he said, "Im very busy, so don't ask me to join a committee, teach a class or sing in the choir. Spare me from anything that would take up my time, and don't be surprised if I'm not in worship very often."

The pastor thought for a moment, and then replied, "I believe you're in the wrong church. The church you're looking for is 10 blocks down the street."

The man followed the pastor's directions and soon came to an abandoned, boarded-up church building. It was a dead church -- out of business.

May each of us always be alive to the ministry of the Lord's church. Remember that lively Christians make churches that are alive.

- taken from "Friend to Friend", HCNP Newsletter

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

True worship may be expressed at any time; in any place - alone on the hills or in the busy daily life - we may find God, in whom we live and move and have our being. But this individual experience is not sufficient, and in a meeting held in the Spirit there is a giving and receiving between its members, one helping another with or without words. So there may come a wider vision and a deeper experience.

- Britan Yearly Meeting 1925; 1994

MINISTRY CONFERENCE

August 6-9, 2003

THEME: "Committed & Unashamed"



Praying for Peace

Responding to the threats of terrorism and wars around the world, many Friends Meetings are joining in the annual Chain of Prayer to pray for peace. The Chain began on January 1, with Highfalls Friends in North Carolina. By mid-November, Meetings from seven yearly meetings had joined the Chain, which concludes on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2003.

In addition to praying for peace, Friends are praying for the needs in specific mission fields and for the common work of Friends United Meeting of bringing people into fellowship where Jesus Christ is known, loved and obeyed as Teacher and Lord. Several of the mission fields are dealing with significant levels of violence, most obviously the schools in Ramallah, Palestine, but also the school in Belize that has had to confront street violence.

It is still possible to sign up to join the Chain by contacting the FUM office.

Taken from Quaker Life, January/February 2003

Peace Testimony



How do we encourage local meetings to be faithful to the peace testimony as an essential part of the Christian faith and then to witness to it in the world? Members of yearly meeting peace committees from FUM yearly meetings in North America are invited to participate in a consultation to address this question. The consultation will be held in Richmond, Indiana, May 2-4, 2003. More details will follow in the coming months.

Taken from Quaker Life, January/February 2003



PENN NOTES

- Oskaloosa Herald, January 21, 2003-

Dr. Thomas Boyd announced that he will resign as president of William Penn University effective June 30th.

Boyd has received several job offers and said he is looking at a variety of options in both higher education and business. He is announcing his resignation now in order to give Penn time to conduct a search for his successor.



His wife, Mary, the university's director of admissions, also will be leaving Penn. "Mary and I have truly enjoyed our time at the university and in Iowa," Boyd said. "I could not have had a better cabinet, faculty and staff to work with here at Penn. I will miss them."

Boyd said he feels he has accomplished what he set out to do at Penn and it is now time for someone else to "accept the calling" and take over the role of university president.



Between 2 Fires: The Untold Story of Palestinian Christians

Written by Jack Kincaid (Gainesville, FL, Banner Communications, Inc., 2002), reviewed by Del Coppinger.

Jack Kincaid has worked in television management and production for over 20 years, most recently funding and coordinating Christian television projects and humanitarian efforts throughout the world. He now heads Banner Communications, a non-profit missionary media organization. In recent years, his encounters with Palestinian Christians have led him to radical reevaluations of the Israeli-Palestinian disputes.

Kincaid has become aware of the small-but-significant numbers of evangelical Christians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. While working professionally in the Holy Land he met several Arabic-speaking Christian leaders who related "the other side of the story" which most Western Christians have not taken the time and effort to learn. He met Labib Madanat, General Secretary of the Palestinian Bible Society, who says, "We refuse to succumb to despair. Jesus is our living hope." Nader Ghneim, youth worker of the Ramallah Local Church says, "We need to feel that we are part of the Body of Christ. We need strong relationships with other believers."

A key institution for developing Christian leaders for the Palestinian churches is the Bethlehem Bible College, led by its president, Dr. Bishara Awad. He founded the school in 1979 with the assistance of his brother, Alex. Its mission statement is to "train Christian leaders for service in the Arabic-speaking churches in Palestine, Israel and throughout the Arab world." On average, about 135 students attend the college and it provides the only public library in Bethlehem. Alex Awad says, "We don't want people to hate the Jews. We don't want Christians to stop supporting Israel in a legitimate way. But to support the settlement movement and the radical Jewish extremists is to support injustice. And that's what many evangelicals are doing right now. They are not discerning, they are not allowing the Holy Spirit to lead them to do the right thing."

Labib Madanat said that leaders of the Muslim society in Gaza focused on teaching the children to become martyrs. His Palestinian Bible Society places their focus on peace. "And all the kids were running in the tiny streets of the refugee camp, hundreds of voices, singing 'Peace, peace to God's people wherever they are!' This was a breakthrough. This was a victory!" God is continuing to bless their efforts to turn the next generation away from hatred, violence and revenge.

Jack Sara is another Palestinian Christian leader educated at Bethlehem Bible College and the Alliance Biblical Seminary in Manila, Philippines. He provides pastoral leadership for the Jerusalem Alliance Church. For a time the church was led by a committee of two men and two women, which underlines the important role that women play in the church ministries. That is true in spite of the church being located in the heart of the Muslim Quarter. "At least half of the Muslim believers in our congregation are women....We do not ask the churches in America to give us money. We just want them to identify with us and allow us to identify with them. And if not

-continued on Page 6



Friends in Action

by Glen Rochholz

In July 1998 caring adult citizens and youth of the Adair/Casey Communities gathered at the Adair City Park to share a common Vision. They were grieving the recent tragic deaths of two young men, one from suicide and the other from a fatal automobile accident involving alcohol. From this meeting evolved "The Adair/Casey Teen Organizations," (ACTO), consisting of clergy, adults, and youth representing each denomination in the communities.

"The Vision" was to create a Recreational Center for teens (7th-12th grades) to hang out, to do homework, relax, get away from bad situations, have opportunities to discuss everyday problems, and just have FUN in peaceful surroundings. To provide a SAFE HAVEN from the streets of a violent world; free from drugs, alcohol, bad language, and sexual misconduct; a place of learning values to integrate into adulthood. We adopted "The Golden Rule" (Treat others as you want to be treated) as our Mission Statement Luke 6:31.

WE STARTED WITH NO EXPERIENCE OR FUNDING, BUT WITH A STRONG UNITED VISION THAT THE LORD WOULD PROVIDE. WE PRAISE HIM AS HE HAS PROVIDED IN STRONG AND MIGHTY WAYS!

ACTO developed an immediate bond with the Adair/Casey schools and assumed the lead in substance abuse and teen leadership programs. Today we have a Recreational Center located on 2 acres of donated land in Adair. The Lord has expanded our "Vision" to include youth 6 years old through 18. November 2002 we became chartered as "The first Independent Rural Boys & Girls Club of America."

At the end of each school day the Center "Rocks" as eager elementary kids are dropped off by the school bus to enjoy "Power Hour." "Power Hour" provides homework help, tutoring, recreation, and, yes of course, "snacks." At the conclusion of "Power Hour" older teens have the opportunity to use the facilities.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US IN CELEBRATION!

**Boys & Girls Club of Central Southwest Iowa
Open House & Dedication
February 22, 2003**

Time: 1-4 p.m. - Program at 1:30 p.m.

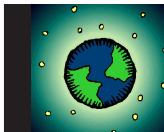
Location: 807 Broad St, Adair, Iowa

(Diagonally across the street from John Deere)

For additional information please contact:

Glen E. Rochholz, Chief Volunteer Officer
1531 Highway 925, PO Box 361, Adair, IA 50002
Telephone: 641-742-3412 - Email:
rockge@iowatelecom.net
or

Marty Lester, Executive Director, B&GCA
807 Broad St, Adair, IA 50002
Telephone: 641-742-3119



Cuba Family Camp

Ola! Quieres ir a Cuba en Agosto?

All those interested in a short term mission opportunity to Cuba in August are invited to contact the Yearly Meeting Office or Board on Missions Presider Phil King for an application form. The Board on Missions will sponsor a Ministry/Mission Team to Cuba for the purpose of fellowship and worship with our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ at the Cuba Yearly Meeting Family Camp. The dates will soon be determined, however we can now say it will be early August. The trip will probably be 7-10 days in length and the final costs are yet to be determined, however, it is expected to be \$1,200-\$1,400.

Friends have been in Cuba since 1900 when Zenas Martin of Iowa Yearly Meeting started the Mission there. Cuban Friends are well aware of the Iowa connection of their beginnings and are eager to have renewed ongoing relationship with Iowa Yearly Meeting. They have invited IAYM to build a bridge of renewal for fellowship and sharing life together. With this special invitation in mind, the IAYM in session last August approved that the Mission Board set up a Task Group to explore ways to renew ties with Cuba Yearly Meeting. This trip is the first official IAYM Board on Missions event to help bring this dream to light.

IAYM has had several people visit Cuba recently through FUM Work Teams, and now we are trying to make direct connections with our sister YM in this event. Will you be a representative for IAYM to the Family Camp of the Cuba Yearly Meeting of Friends? Ability to speak Spanish is a plus, however not entirely necessary. We expect that our Team will prepare to share leadership in at least some aspect of the Family Camp. So, if you have talents in music, drama, teaching, or other ministry gifts, you may be one God would desire to go for IAYM to Cuba in August.

Further information and/or an application form may be obtained through the IAYM office or from Phil King, Presider of the Board on Missions, 2409 S. 6th St. Marshalltown, IA. 50158. (pking55@hotmail.com)

-submitted by Phil King, Missions Board Presider



A gathering of the Adair/Casey Teen Organization (ACTO). IAYM member Glen Rochholz, is the Chief Volunteer Officer of this organization located in Adair, Iowa.



SPRING BODY OF REPRESENTATIVES

STURGEON BAY FRIENDS, WISCONSIN

APRIL 25-27, 2003

Friday, April 25

Hawkeye Stages 54 Passenger Bus Departs:

- 7:00 a.m. Marshalltown Friends
- 7:45 a.m. Grinnell Friends
- 9:30 a.m. West Branch Friends
- 6:00 p.m. Motel & Dinner at Sturgeon Bay
- 7:30 p.m. Worship with Steve Pedigo

Saturday, April 26

- 8:00 a.m. – noon Spring Body Session
- Noon Self-made sack lunch, cafeteria style
- 12:30 p.m. Bus to see Door County sights/Free time
- 4:00 p.m. Spring Body continues if necessary
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner at Sturgeon Bay
- 7:30 p.m. Worship with Steve Pedigo

Sunday, April 27

- 8:30 a.m. Worship with new Superintendent (?)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Steve Pedigo
- Sturgeon Bay's 100th anniversary recognition
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch followed by departure

Theme: Experiencing Christ Jesus

Speaker: Steve Pedigo

Iowa Yearly Meeting's Priorities Update:

- *Strong Pastoral Leadership
- *Missions & Outreach
- * Camp Quaker Heights

New Superintendent possibility
 Worship & Fellowship
 Scenic Door County Wisconsin

COSTS: Round trip bus fare - \$60 per person
 Best Western Motel - \$90 for two nights,
 pool, hot tub, continental breakfast
 Winneshiek Quarter provides lunches
 Evening meals on own
 RV Parks available in area

Pastors Association requests that Churches do what they can to release their pastor for the weekend!



BANGOR LIBERTY FRIENDS

150 YEARS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Concert Under The Stars

July 12-13, 2003

Check our website for additional information
www.blfchurch.org



SPRING BODY REGISTRATION

Please detach and return by February 10, 2003 to:
 Iowa Yearly Meeting, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Names & addresses of Representatives/attenders:

Number of bus fares requested:

(54-seat capacity with rest rooms - send money to office by April 10, 2003)

Number of Best Western Motel rooms requested:

(\$90 per room for both nights, whether 1 or 4 to room - pay at the motel)

Your questions that aren't covered above:

We encourage each monthly meeting to provide the financial support necessary to allow your church to be represented at this important Spring Body gathering!



Are you getting geared up for camp? Look for details in next month's newsletter for this year's camp dates!

VITAL SIGNS

Russell McKibben, 80, passed away at Westbrook Acres in Gladbrook, Iowa on January 15, 2003 under the care of Cedar Valley Hospice. Services were held at First Friends Church in Marshalltown with Pastor Phil King officiating. Russell was born April 28, 1922 in Marshall County. He married Bernice Carlson in Bethany Missouri. They had two children; a daughter Sharon and a son, William who was later killed in the war. Russell served in the navy during WWII, and worked at Fisher Controls for over 40 years. He was an avid golfer and bowler.

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers and the concerns expressed in the form of emails, cards and phone calls during the recent crisis in our community. Thanks also to Del Coppinger for filling the pulpit and Kevin Mortimer for not hesitating when called.

Keith & Nancy Smith and
 Motor Friends Church

The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

P.O. Box 657

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Email: iaym@kdsi.net

Website: www.iaym.org

Subscription Price (Individual).....\$10.00 per year

Subscription Price (Group).....\$9.50 per year

Published Monthly Except August

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657

Oskaloosa, IA 52577



Attention Ladies!

The United Society of
Friends Women
Spring Conference
will be held

Saturday - April 12, 9:30 a.m.
Middle River Friends Church

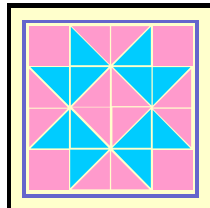
Theme:

"The Patchwork of Life"

Mission:

Friends Disaster Services

(Luncheon tickets will be available in March from your local USFW President or contact person.)



TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP

Several years ago IAYM received a generous gift making it possible for a student to receive a \$500 scholarship to assist in his/her education. The donor providing these funds had a great concern for our Christian young people and their education. The income from this gift is available from year-to-year to the student selected by the Trustees Scholarship Committee.

Applications may be submitted by any Christian student who is planning to attend a recognized college; all other things being equal, special consideration will be given to those planning to attend William Penn University. Those applying must have a recommendation from their local church and fulfill other requirements asked for in the Scholarship Application. Last year's recipient was Susie Gray, daughter of Robin and Nancy Gray of Grinnell Friends Church.

Those wishing to apply should write to Iowa Yearly Meeting Scholarship Fund, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 for an application. Deadline this year is March 31, 2003.



ATTENTION QUAKER MEN!!

Banquet Rescheduled

When: March 1st, 2003 - Noon

Where: Memorial Hall on the Vennard
College Campus, University Park

Cost: \$10.00 per person.

The Quaker Men have rescheduled the banquet to coincide with the called meeting of the Body of Representatives that will be held that morning at College Avenue Friends Church at 10:00 a.m. We would also like to invite the women to join us. Cost is the same - \$10 per person

Please make your reservations by calling either Sam Barber at (641) 672-1450 or Keith Mardock at (563) 382-3121 by February 20th.

Don't Wait - Make your reservations right away!

-"Between 2 Fires", continued from page 5

identify, at least feel with us....On the contrary, many of the brothers from outside come to us with judgment. They even come with rebuke."

Waleed Rishmawi, a Palestinian audio/video director, says "Revenge is part of the Middle East culture. If I shoot you, your brother will avenge your death. They cannot let go of offenses....To shake the hand of your enemy in the Middle East is a sign of weakness." He says most Palestinians do not support terrorism. Israelis have their bad ones and so do the Palestinians. Arafat is between the two, stuck between two fires. However, he is convinced that reconciliation and peaceful coexistence are possible, despite the cultural norms. The book contains many examples of hopeful spiritual victories in the 150 paperback pages. It is well worth the read to learn how we might become involved in furthering those.

Kincaid's website can be visited at: www.bannerc.com

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa