

The Iowa Friend

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

March 2003

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 58 - No. 3

Q 350 Years of Quakerism Now What?

The Bottom Line

By Sallie Wolff, Pastor - Pleasant Plain Friends

When I was asked to write an article in this series, I thought a book was more in order. My perspective is that of a convinced Quaker, a person who 20 years ago would have connected Quakers to the oatmeal box. To this convinced Quaker, the testimony of George Fox and his peers was revolutionary. It was the answer to the resistance I felt toward organized religion. For the following reasons, I am convinced this would be true for many others who are lost or seeking.

The message of Friends is valid and relevant today. Many good people do not become part of a faith community because they are not willing to submit to the vagaries of church leadership. This rejection of church authority is not a rejection of God's authority or Biblical authority even for the marginal believer, but a rejection of man's very fallible authority and propensity to condemn and exclude. George Fox had the same problem with the church leadership in his day. Fox's answer in 1650 is just as revolutionary and just as relevant to our society in 2003.

The early Quakers formed their testimony around the issue of who's in charge. A nutshell look at this aspect of their testimony would include the following. Spiritual authority belongs to God only, not to men or a church hierarchy. No intermediary, no magical words or rites of passage are required to take up our place in the Body of Christ. There is "that of God" in everyone. Men and women, rich and poor are equal in the eyes of God. They are equal ministers of Christ in worship. Silent worship is the medium of individual and corporate revelation. Decision-making is the work of all, not a select few.

How does this affect the Now What question?

My answer would be to cherish our unique place in the Body of Christ, to live the Quaker testimony more fully in our meeting, practicing what we preach. We must accept the reality that our fame will remain on a cereal box unless we leave the safe haven of the meetinghouse and speak our testimony to a people oblivious to our existence. Our

revolutionary testimony will accomplish nothing if no one hears it.

I would suggest that the bigger question for the Society of Friends would not be "Now What?" but the, "Are We Willing?" Are we willing to give up our introverted ways, take the basket from our light and put it on a hill for all to see. Isaiah 6:8



Sallie Wolff and Steve Graves will be married on May 3, 2003. In addition to serving as the co-clerk of the Superintendent's Search Committee, she is the clerk of the IAYM Ministry Conference Planning Committee.

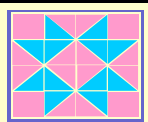
MINISTRY CONFERENCE
August 6-9, 2003
THEME: "Committed & Unashamed"
Guest Speaker: Randy Quate



YOUTH MINISTER

Fairfield Friends Church is looking for a dynamic part-time youth minister to direct their current youth program of touching the hearts and lives of the youth in their church and community.

Contact: Dave Elmore, Pastor - Fairfield Friends Church
1209 S Sixth Street
Fairfield, IA 52556
(641) 472-2623
email: pastor_dave@fairfieldfriendschurch.org



Friendly Flashes

"Use good sense and measure yourself by the amount of faith God has given you. A Body is made up of many pieces, and each of them has its own use." Romans 12:3-4

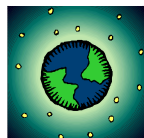
We have come through the winter season of Sunshine and Shadows, where we have closed the door of our Log Cabin, opened the seed catalogs and dreamed of Flower Baskets. On our walks we may see Turkey Tracks but Bears Paw prints have vanished from under our Iowa Star. We look across our Corn and Bean fields, watching the Hovering Hawks, always seeking the Star of Hope. When things break, Old Maids Puzzle over how to use the Monkey Wrench.

By now you are probably getting the idea that quilts are in the future. Our Spring Conference has chosen the theme "The Patchwork of Life." Our afternoon speakers will be Dean and Frieda Johnson from Friends Disaster Service. Any of you who have quilts or comforters to donate, bring them. Our morning plans were to have a lady bring her program of quilts and share with you. However, those plans came down like Tumbling Blocks. God always has a plan, because with just a change in cast, you will hear about quilts during our morning devotional time. On the USFW board is a rather strange lady, who is sometimes referred to as "That Quilt Lady" by people who cannot remember her name. She is putting together a program, sharing her spiritual quilt journey and some of her quilts.

If any of you have special quilts, please bring them to share with us and let Kay Huffman know by calling 515-961-3809. Quilts need to be there by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 12th.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at Middle River, registration 9:30 a.m., lunch tickets \$5.50, Baby-sitters, if requested, will be available.

That Quilt Lady,
Linda Burnett



The Cuban Experience

- by Lisa Baum-Waters, West Branch Friends

As we shared the reasons we felt we were called to travel to Cuba, the Phillips from Mount Pleasant said, they had really no clue. Jerry Phillips was part of last years Jamaica trip. On that trip, as he flew over Cuba, he commented to someone, " Why would anyone want to go to Cuba?" They would soon find out.

I am assured that each and every day we co-create with God. In Cuba, Friends are working side by side us to create a new place for Cuban Friends to gather and glorify God. The spirit is accessible, it surrounds us daily. Whether one is in the comforts of his car or home, or on a busy street, spirit is accessible. Spirit is alive and well in Cuba.

For He will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. Each day as we loaded the truck for our trek to the worksite at Floro Perez, it was obvious we were in the palm of God's hand. The truck would slow to pass a horse drawn cart or provide caution on a curvy hilly section of road. The magnificent views from the truck became history lessons of Cuba. Spanish guard houses could be seen on the far horizon. Political slogans, such as "VIVA FIDEL" dotted the landscapes. Was spirit with the Cubans through those times? Yes! Is spirit with us today? Yes!

As we approached the narrow work site, each day adding more complication and more hazards, I was aware of the activity unseen by human eyes. Protection was abounding...angels, guides, monitors...all working in co-creation with us to bring this building to life. The call for a chain to move block from the truck, or brick from one area to another, or concrete in buckets to a prepared section, was a familiar call. Hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, smiles and song, the work continued and we are partners in this holy work...we became the hands of Jesus.

For He will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways.

The Cubans struggle each and every day for things we take for granted. I oftentimes would look to the tree as Paul would call out the Spanish name for a hummingbird. He spotted one several times at the worksite. Birds are constantly searching for food in their daily lives, so it is for the Cubans, also. Our weekend trip to Banes to see our other worksite and friends, and then onto the beach was a lesson in Cuban life. As the bus broke down 50 minutes into the trip it left us in Holguin. Had the bus not broken down, we would have missed 100 beautiful children singing at Cuban levels (100 thousand watts in radio terms) at the chapel there. Once on the road again after a two-hour wait, we broke down again. Steve and Paul gathered some sugar cane from the roadside field and patience was part of the plan. Our Cuban friends sent a wad of cash ahead to get a truck to help us complete our trip that day. A truck came back for us with the word that we needed to keep still on the vehicle and that it was licensed only for Cubans. The driver could be turned

- continued on page 4



BANGOR LIBERTY FRIENDS

150th Anniversary Celebration
July 12-13, 2003

We invite everyone to share in our celebration of the Lord's faithfulness to our Meeting during the past 150 years. There will be a time of sharing & reminiscing, tours of the cemetery, and a catered meal on Saturday, July 12. On Sunday, July 13 we will gather for Morning Worship and recognition of former pastors, a noon meal, and our "Concert Under the Stars" beginning at 6 p.m. A historical booklet is being prepared and will be available by reservation only. More information will be shared in future *Iowa Friends* or you may check out the church website at www.blfchurch.org for additional information.





Friends in Ramallah

- by Margaret Stoltzfus, Clerk - IAYM

At the invitation of Friends United Meeting, I joined a group of 26 general superintendents/secretaries and presiding clerks of yearly meetings in the United States and Kenya in early February to make a pastoral visit to Ramallah, the site of the Friends Schools which have been in existence since 1889 and 1901. The two campuses are located in different parts of Ramallah and serve about 1,000 students each year from 4-year-olds to form 12. Recently the International Baccalaureate program has been put into place which is a stringent preparation for college and nearly guarantees admission. The students are mature for their years and were happy to interact with us as they guided us around the campuses and questioned us in their classes.

It was our pleasure to meet the administration, faculty and staff, as well as trustees and spend time in dialogue with them. The problems caused by curfews have been dealt with as quickly and comprehensively as possible. Nevertheless, some children are traumatized by the experience of occupation which puts added stress on faculty and staff.

The meetinghouse is on a busy street in downtown Ramallah. The building is in great need of repair so it is not in use at the present. This is where Violet Zaru originally started the Play Center which now has been moved and serves the children in the Amari refugee camp. The group of Friends in this location is small in number, but they welcome challenge and are trying to find creative ways to cope.

I lived with a Christian Palestinian family during the time we were in Ramallah. Imad and Luna are a young couple in their early 40's with two sons ages 3 and 7. Imad is a graduate of the Friends Schools and as a child attended Sunday school at the Friends Meeting. They want their boys to be educated at the Friends Schools because they are the best in the area. Imad's sister told me that you can always tell which people went to the Friends Schools because in addition to learning from books, they learn how to be good people, how to treat others with respect.

If your meeting would like to hear more about this visit, I'd be happy to come and share. The situation on the ground in Palestine and Israel is considerably different than what we read in our newspapers. You need to see it to believe it!

Isaiah 2:5 - "Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord."



Ramallah Friends Meetinghouse



Some member of the FUM Visiting Team to Ramallah, (from left) Frank Massey, Ann Davidon, Nancy Maeder and Retha McCutchen. Nancy is a former member of Woolson Friends Church and is currently working at the Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana.



Violet Zaru, a young boy and Retha McCutchen at the Amari Play Center.

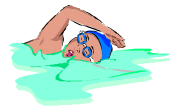
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Members of the FUM work team that traveled to Cuba from January 24 - February 7.



CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS



Young Adult Retreat

March 21, 7:00 p.m. - March 21, 11:00 a.m.

Camp Work Day

April 5, 9:00 a.m.

Camp Work Day

April 26, 9:00 a.m.

Ladies Retreat

May 2 - May 3

Golf Retreat

May 16, 6:30 p.m. - May 17, 3:00 p.m.

Pastor's Retreat

September 28 - October 1

USFW Annual Retreat

October 11



The youth help out with Camp Work Day to spruce things up so it can look and feel like camping season, again!



CQH 2003 - Theme: "FREE RIDE"



LITTLE FRY Grades 1-2	May 31, 1:00 p.m. - June 1, 1:00 p.m.	\$20.00 a person
FRY Grades 3-4	June 6, 5:00 p.m. - June 8, 5:00 p.m.	\$80.00
FOX CAMP Grades 5-6	June 8, 5:00 p.m. - June 12, 10:00 a.m.	\$150.00
WEEKENDER Grades 9-12	June 13, 5:00 p.m. - June 15, 10:00 a.m.	\$80.00
HIGH SCHOOL Grades 9-12	June 15, 5:00 p.m. - June 20, 10:00 a.m.	\$175.00
JR. HIGH BOYS Grades 7-8	June 22, 5:00 p.m. - June 27, 10:00 a.m.	\$175
JR. HIGH GIRLS Grades 7-8	June 27, 10:00 a.m. - July 2, 10:00 a.m.	\$175





MEETING MOMENTS

Valton Friends - Paul and Ruth Willis of Clinton began shepherding the flock at Valton Friends in July. We have been blessed with messages from the Bible and are thankful for the vision of our pastors to extend Christ's love and message of salvation to needs outside of the church. There are some new attenders and also visitors most Sundays. Scripture memorization has become something new in Sunday School and is challenging. Opportunity is given for each one to say the verse and reference they have memorized and then they may choose something from Ruth's box of prizes. Each week we have a new verse, all ages participate.

"Friends Bakers" meet once a month at the church. They invite their friends to join them. With assistance from leaders, they have tried their skill at baking cookies, breads, pies, making candy, popcorn balls and carmel corn, which they enjoy sharing with others. This is fun for the children and an outreach ministry.

Stan and Karen Bauer are serving as interim administrators of the Friends Theological College in Africa from September 2002 to April 2003. Valton has been actively involved in their prayerful and financial support. A "Blessings Box" was sent at Christmas time with items of small soaps, shampoos, etc. Our current project during February is to collect monies for the 'cows for college' project. The meeting is very proud to have Stan and Karen share their ministry with Friends in Africa.

Our annual Christmas Program, featuring the play "The Best Christmas Ever," was presented during the Sunday School hour on December 22. Following the morning service, we enjoyed soups and Christmas goodies and then went caroling, bringing cheer to shut-ins. A potato supper was served New Year's Eve. Games were played and some stayed and prayed the old year out and the new year in. We were happy to have Dereck, David, Daniel and Dishon Kamwesa, sons of our former pastors George and Rose Kamwesa with us for the evening.

Our "Singspiration", held the last Sunday evening of the month, continues to have good participation and is a blessing to many.

Bear Creek - We are pleased to welcome Dallas and Eleanor Gilreath of West Des Moines as our new pastors. Dallas served as a guest speaker at our church off and on throughout the summer and fall, and became our full-time interim pastor in December. We are enjoying Dallas and Eleanor's addition to our church family. We want to thank all of those who filled our pulpit this past summer and fall!

Catching up on news...on July 7th, a community church service was held in the morning at the Earlham park, and was presented jointly by the Earlham Ministerial Association. Bear Creek offered the New Testament reading and the superintendent of Earlham Schools gave the sermon. Each Sunday evening in July, the churches of the Earlham Ministerial Association presented "Music in the Park". Bear Creek was in charge of the service on July 14. "The Harbor Lights Quartet" from Winterset delivered an inspirational program.

The USFW Fall Conference, held October 5th, was attended by many of our ladies. On Sunday, October 6th, we held our USFW Guest Day and Dinner. Chuck and Ann Nichols of Bangor Liberty Friends were our guest speakers.

Many thanks were expressed to our Sunday School Teachers

on Recognition Day; Marilyn Coulter, Juanita Coulter, Martha Mendenhall, Goldie Blair, Delores Jones, Marvin Coulter, Chuck Weesner and the Sunday School Superintendent, Charles Mendenhall.

We traveled to the Panora Care Center on October 27th to help Russell Johnson celebrate his 98th birthday with cake and ice cream. On November 25th, we gathered for a potluck soup supper and decorated the church for the Christmas holiday.

The women of the church met on December 7th for their yearly project of making "cookie in a jar" mixes - 300 of them! We were invited to join the Earlham Friends Church for their Christmas program on the evening of December 15, as well as their Christmas Eve service. Our youngest member, Emma Skahill, took us on a "Christmas Journey from A to Z" as we enjoyed our Christmas program on the 22nd.

Members of our church traveled to the home of our pastors on January 5th for a delicious lunch. Happy New Year to all of you from your Friends at Bear Creek.

- The Cuban Experience continued from Page 2

in and lose his truck if we were discovered on board. **For He will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways.**

We drop of the beach crew, head to Banes for our reunion and the dedication of a new Cuban baby. We've missed the initial lunch and gathering of people as who were now four hours late. However, we saw an ample number of familiar faces waiting on the sidewalk in front of the church. The building that we torn down, was now standing tall and gorgeous in the Cuban sun. New bathrooms and dorm facilities are part of the building. We celebrate the baby and parents and we sing together. The day ends with a late supper at 9 p.m. It was a perfect experience. Cuban life—nothings for sure—schedules or food—but something is for sure—spirit is there preparing a way.

I know that through my life I have knowledge of spirit walking with me, preparing a way. The plan takes form and is easier to see once the chapter closes and we move forward to the next phase of life. I am thankful for the protection our work team experienced and for the support of the Yearly Meeting as we co-created with God in Cuba. When has spirit walked with you?



From left, Jerry Phillips, Lisa Baum-Waters and Paul Hemingway work at the construction site at the Chapel in Floro Perez, Cuba. Jerry's wife, Patti and Erwin Lopez also traveled to Cuba with the FUM Work Team.

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VITAL SIGNS

DEATHS - Violette Mittman, 87, passed away January 30, 2003. Violette was a member of the Bloomington Muscatine Friends Church. Funeral services were held February 1st with Pastor Art Carranza officiating.

Mildred Standing, 102, a long-time member of Bear Creek Friends Church, passed away November 21, 2002. Services were conducted by her great niece, Karen Mendenhall of Newton at the Bear Creek Friends Church on November 30, 2002. Mildred is survived by 2 sons, including Herbert of Bear Creek, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson, nieces, nephews and many friends.

Marie (Ward) Damrau, 51, died January 31, 2003 as the result of an automobile accident. Marie and her husband, Ed moved to Brainard, Minnesota 10 years ago and became active in the Assembly of God church there. Marie lived at Quakerdale during her young life, and while there, gave her life to Christ. She was a prayer warrior, who gave of herself in countless ways to people of all ages. She is survived by her husband, Ed; son Shawn at home, mother, Rosa Ward and brother Jim Ward; her foster parents, Ken and Evelyn Cook of New Providence and 3 foster sisters.



Special Spring Services

**Bangor Liberty Friends Church
April 13-14, 2003**

**Special Guests - Nikki and Doug Krull
of Marshalltown will share God's love
thru music & testimony.**

**Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening, 7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening, 7:00 p.m.**

**Everyone is welcome to join us.
A free will offering will be received
for Nikki & Doug's ministry.**



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The children and grandchildren of
Martha & Lloyd Mc Donald invite you to
a celebration in honor of their

**50th Wedding Anniversary
Saturday, April 12, 2003
2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Honey Creek-New Providence Friends Church
New Providence, Iowa**



While traveling in Cuba, the FUM work team had the opportunity to worship with the Friends at the Vista Alegre (Happy View) Chapel. The Vista Alegre Chapel will soon be approved to become a monthly meeting, which will make a total of 6 meetings in Cuba.

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa