

The Iowa Friend

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

May 2003

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 58 - No. 5

Q 350 Years of Quakerism Now What?

*By Arlen Daleske, Pastor -
Honey Creek New Providence Friends*

350 years is along time to take into consideration but, uniquely, I can account for a tenth of Quaker history, as I became a convinced Friend approximately 35 years ago. So, here is my "offering". I believe the "Now What?" of today is the same as it was to me 35 years ago, and is a similar question to that which George Fox wrestled with.

"But as I had forsaken the priests, as I left the Separate preachers also, and those called the most experienced people; for I saw there was none among them all that could speak to my condition. And when all my hopes in them and in all men were gone, so that I had nothing outwardly to help me, or could I tell what to do..." - George Fox

Many of you know that Fox' quote does not end there, but let's consider his words to this point before we go on. Humanity's condition is well expressed in Fox's own plight. The "condition" of humanity has not changed from the fall to the present, nor have people's feeble attempts to fill the emptiness that only God has the power to do. We ask directions from "experienced people" to guide us on life's path when all we need to do is seek THE WAY.

*"then, oh! Then I heard a voice which said, 'There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition'"
- George Fox*

The same voice which spoke to George Fox 350 years ago awaits all who seek Him. The Holy Spirit will speak to your condition; He will speak to my condition. The Holy Spirit is able to speak to anyone's condition. We don't need to "clean ourselves up before we get washed" and we can't demand that others change their condition before the Holy Spirit will speak to them. So, now what?

Among other disciplines which need to be employed, a component of our Quaker practice that will help us answer the "Now what?" is the Query.

"The purpose of the Queries is to direct attention to the true source of spiritual strength, to promote and encourage individual faithfulness to Christ, to keep the (Church)

Meeting in a healthy condition, and to cause the individual and meeting to be actively employed in a ministry acceptable to god." - *Discipline*, 8-4

Now what? Now is the time to hear God's voice as we answer the questions of our own conditions.

"Do you strive for the constant realization of God's presence in your life? Are you sensitive and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit? Do you endeavor to advance your spiritual growth by the prayerful study of the Bible and other devotional material?" - *Discipline*, 8-5

The Holy Spirit will speak to our condition. We must listen and obey.

"I believe the 'Now What?' of today is the same as it was to me 35 years ago," says Arlen.



MINISTRY CONFERENCE

August 6-9, 2003

THEME: "Committed & Unashamed"

Guest Speaker: Randy Quate

Children's Yearly Meeting Theme:

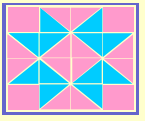
Committed

Unashamed &

Really

Excited

Wednesday Night: Bar-B-Q in the Park



Friendly Flashes

"And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."
— Colossians 3:15

In a speech given to FWCC on March 15, 2002, Mary Lord said that "as Friends, not only do we need to do what we can to stop wars, but that we need to be prepared to be Quakers in wartime." This linked in my mind with Judith Kendall's call for us to give UNLOCKING HORNS a second look.

Wars grow out of unresolved differences. Hitler used ridicule and fear to turn the Germans against the Jews. Today, the French are targets of our ridicule. We no longer eat "french" fries, but "freedom" fries. Is that a small seed of hate being planted?

Country western radio stations are now playing a patriotic anthem, "A Call to War." The lyric asks "Don't you remember how it felt that day, to see our country under fire and our people blown away? Don't you remember?" We remember! The people of Iraq are feeling that now. They too, will remember. Will a new and better life come from this season of destruction? I pray it is so.

To be a Quaker in time of war requires the vigilance of John Woolman. In his "A Plea for The Poor" he wrote, "May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses, and our garments, and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these". In a world where the "ocean of darkness" threatens to overwhelm us, we must be planted in the ocean of light and love that overcomes the darkness".

As a mother who understands all too well the grief of burying a child, this war is felt on a very personal level. The horns of disagreement must be unlocked before the hatred, violence and greed escalate into war.

May we join together each morning to pray for the safety of our men and women, for the people of Iraq and for the peace of Christ to rule in all our hearts.

Peace and Grace, Linda Burnett

VITAL SIGNS

DEATH - Denita Ruth Follette, 38, died Tuesday, April 1, 2003 at her home near Grinnell. Pastors Kevin Mortimer and Ron Bryan officiated at the funeral service. Denita was a member of the First Friends Church of Grinnell. In 1987, Denita and her husband, Todd, moved to Fairfield. While there, she taught in the Fairfield School District and coached volleyball. When the family moved to Grinnell in 1999, she taught at the Newton Christian School. Most recently, she taught English and Coached volleyball in the Montezuma School District. She enjoyed shopping, reading, needlework, and collecting Winnie the Pooh items. She also enjoyed attending her children's school, church and sporting events. She is survived by her husband, Pastor Todd Follette; her children, Clinton, Craig and Christa; her parents, Earl and Eloise Brightup of St. Louis; her sister, Diane Hershberger of Newton, Kansas; and her brother, Robert Brightup of Richmond, Virginia.



Taking the PLUNGE

- by Scott Rains, Pastor - Buffalo Friends

One of our favorite things to do in college was cliff jumping. Lake Red Rock was just a short drive from campus and students had discovered a perfect spot from which to abandon reason and leap 30 feet into the lake below.

What was so great about cliff jumping? Certainly the thrill and excitement. And maybe even the danger of risk?



As I've matured (yeah, right) my taste for extreme activity has taken a similar dive. Yet somewhere buried inside my soul and I dare say inside the soul of any human, is a desire for adventure. A desire for a little bit of risk if the reward is great enough.

The life of a disciple of Jesus Christ is anything but boring. It calls for extreme faith and trust. It calls for a kind of abandon that appears reckless to those who don't understand the radical nature of the call of Christ.

As we enter the season of Spring, let's think about what it would mean for each of us to take the PLUNGE. To immerse ourselves in a deeper level of faith and commitment to our God, our church, our families, our friends.

- P - Practicing the Presence of People**
- L - Letting Go**
- U - Unstoppable Force**
- N - iN-fluence: The Power of Prayer**
- G - God of Glory**
- E - Economy of the Home**

I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love you'll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! LIVE FULL!

2002 Triennial Minute Books

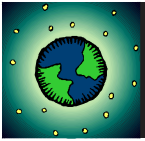
Will be available after May 1, 2003. (Individuals who attended will receive a copy) Monthly Meetings may order a copy

Order by email: karolec@fum.org

or by mail: Number of copies _____

Ship to information:

Cost: \$5.00 each (to help cover printing and postage)
Mail to: Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374 Attn: Karole Cox



MARDI GRAS 2003

by Spencer Thury,
Pastor -Riverside Friends

Before I went down to New Orleans for the Mardi Gras, I began studying and memorizing the beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:10 stuck out. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." I saw a friend carrying a cross and dressed like Jesus on Bourbon Street. I greeted him. He said, "I have been praying for you that you would be righteous." I fell to my knees right there under the power of God. I realized he had been praying for me, what I had not been praying for myself. When we are aware of our selfish motives and dispel them, we can see God purely.

*God, Please purify my heart, so I can see You.
Cleanse my heart, so I will not judge in the midst of
wickedness, but see lost souls made in your image.*

I met a guy who loved his guitar despite its bent neck. Later he said he could not be accepted by God because of his own sinful behavior. I asked him if he was bent. "Bent? I'm a bartender! I'm bent all the time!" I responded, "God desires to play you, and loves you when you're bent, as much as you love your bent neck guitar. Even more so, he was bent and broken for you when he died for you on the cross."

At Mardi Gras, people wear all sorts of strange costumes. Someone had rejected taking a tract from Paul, only to have a beer can get wedged into the wheel of his shopping cart. Since he couldn't get it because of his costume, Paul removed it for him.

*Lord, help us remove our costumes, masks, and the
logs from our eyes. Purify our vision, and help us all
accept from Christians who want to help.*

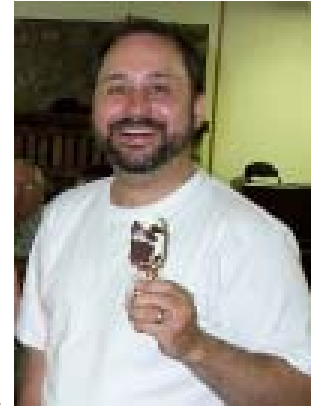
Daniel is 21, and has spent years preparing to minister to punk kids on the street. One could not tell the difference between Daniel and the other street kids by their looks. He had lived with them for a week until they demanded he drink alcohol with them. When he refused, they beat him up. When other ministers at our camp saw him, they brought him back. I did not meet a rebellious young minister, but a sweet-spirited Christian young man. I told him it was an honor to eat in the same room as a person who would live and sleep in the gutters to win punk kids to Christ. He did not feel he was doing anything outstanding, or anything that Jesus did not do. Daniel is right.

On the last day - I went in and started singing right away. I put out a tambourine and people started tipping me. A street girl named Cat hassled me about taking money when I was obviously prosperous. I encouraged her to hang around and see what I did with the money. A couple came up and the Spirit moved me to ask if they were married. They had been arguing. I counseled him to

honor her by keeping his promise and I prayed for the future Mr. and Mrs. Fulmere to make it right in men's eyes as well as the Lord's.

A man who said he had traveled and played in blues bands half his life said I was very good and tipped me a few dollars. It was all I needed for my next act. I grabbed my tips and yelled to the crowd. "How many of you are sick of preachers who just want money?" I had to say it three times before I got any response. "Well I'm a preacher from Iowa who loves Jesus and I'm giving away money. If you'll come up and take it out of my hands, it's yours. That's the gospel. It's free, but you have to leave the trash you are walking in to receive Him!" I looked at Cat.

She was still only five feet away, but she missed the whole thing! "I just gave my tips away, didn't you see that?" The blues man came back up to me and said, "That's the coolest thing I have ever seen in my life." Cat said, "That is cool, I had judged you wrong." She went on to tell me she was from a strong legalistic religious Christian family, and had left home because of it. I was able to share a few things and I saw her opening up, but her friends came and dragged her away against her will. This happens far too often.

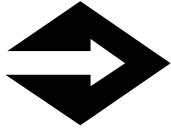


A team member walked up and said, "I can't take it anymore. I need to get out of here." It is not uncommon for a Christian in this grossly sinful setting to get fed up and need to walk away from it for a while. We packed up and started walking out.

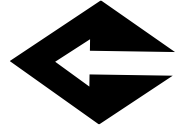
At a stoplight I saw a man who had listened to me play blues harp, thanked him for listening, and asked where he was from. "Atlanta. I am trying to get back there, but I couldn't find the guy who said he would take me to a place where I could get sober and right with God. I waited all day." "I know right where he is," I said. "It's going to be all right. In an hour you'll be fed, cleaned up and ready to go" We all cried. We had missed one, but Dwight would not miss out. We were sensitive to the Spirit's leading that we needed to leave the area, and the Spirit directed us to a hurting soul. Praise the Lord.

Finally, One preacher said, "These people have the logic and firm standards of a rubber yardstick." But God loves all of us just the way we are. He also loves us too much to leave us that way. Whenever it looks like you have missed it because your plans have gone awry, keep your spirit open to God's Spirit, and you will be right where you need to be to save someone's life.

*Lord, keep my spirit pure and open to your Spirit, so I
may see You move in people.*



CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS

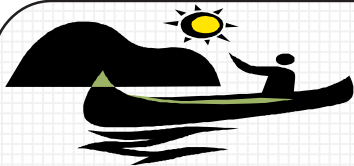


In just a few weeks Young Friends camps begin again. This is always one of the most thrilling aspects of working along side Iowa Yearly Meeting. I can't wait for young people to arrive at camp: to see the faces of first timers, to greet those that I have not seen for awhile, to experience the community that is built throughout the week. Thankfully, all this still tugs at my heart. I'm confident that this season will be no exception as youth and children come to hear the gospel.

This year the Camp Quaker Heights board and I are asking to be remembered in several ways by the members of Iowa Yearly Meeting.

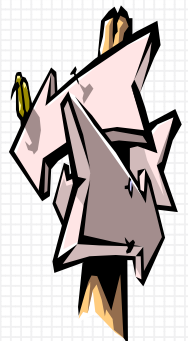
1. Begin now to pray for the campers. Each day of June, remember them as well as the directors, summer staff, counselors, speakers, and musicians that they will know Jesus is the only true way to God.
2. Be a counselor or volunteer. To do so, you must attend one of the counselor training sessions across the state, even if you have been to camp before. The training sessions will help you understand what the focus of our summer will be, and allow the team to begin bonding together, so that when campers arrive, we are ready to develop relationships and share the gospel.
3. Send someone to camp. Each of us knows someone that might not have the opportunity to experience camp. Will you encourage their participation by giving a scholarship?

I am excited about the camping season; excellent speakers have been working for some time in preparation for Camps 2003. What will you do to make this a successful year? - Ric Garrison, Associate Supt. of Youth & Camp Ministries



Counselor Training Dates

| | | |
|---------|------------------|--|
| May 1. | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Honey Creek New Providence (tentative) |
| May 5. | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | College Avenue Friends |
| May 6. | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Motor Friends |
| May 13. | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Fairfield Friends |
| May 19. | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Buffalo Friends |
| May 21. | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Lynnville Friends |
| May 22. | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Middle River Friends |



PLEASE NOTE - With all Camp Quaker Heights funds being handled through the Yearly Meeting Office, all campers and churches must pay at the time of registration. - Thank you -





EASTER BLOOMS

- by Don Coffin, Pastor - Cedar Creek

CEDAR CREEK - Sometimes it's easy to hear, or see, a message from God. Sometimes it takes real faith. And sometimes, it takes real imagination, or so some say.

We are a small group at Cedar Creek Friends and we want to do God's work. We strive to keep the doors open; the church warm in the winter; and dry in the rainy times. Yet, last fall God gave us a wonderful miracle. A miracle we believe points to His intention for continued vibrant life at Cedar. Between Halloween and Thanksgiving, an Easter Lily the ladies had planted in the small flower bed beside the steps after Easter, had three buds and bloomed again. One new bloom for each week until all three buds were bloomed full out.

This was a cold, harsh time and we all expected to find the Lily had died as we arrived each week. But, there it was. It surprised us each week with a new bloom. Fragile, beautiful life just as everything in God's creation seemed to be closing down for a season. Our fall Easter Lily became our affirmation of God's intention that there should be life and vitality at Cedar Creek Friends.

A great word from God or great imagination, it doesn't really matter as long as it bring hope and energy and renewed life. It did to us!

MY PRAYER

Today I stopped, dear Lord, to think
of all the things you've done;
Of all the tears You've dried for me
And all the battles won-

Of all the times my head hung low
Without a friend to care,
Now looking back, I clearly see
That You were always there.

You've heard my prayers, when no one knew
The pain I felt inside,
So many times, no words would come
And I just knelt and cried.

Sometimes it would be easy, Lord
To give in to defeat,
To let old Satan have his way,
Admitting I am beat.

But somewhere deep inside of me
I hear Your gentle voice,
That circumstance is not excuse
And victory is a choice!

Lord, one more thing I ask of You,
As I go on my way,
That all the love and blessings sent
I may, somehow repay.

May those I meet, wherever I go,
See Christ in all I do,
And may all my deeds and all my ways
Say, Lord, how much I love You!



BANGOR LIBERTY FRIENDS CHURCH

150th Anniversary

Celebration

July 12 & 13, 2003

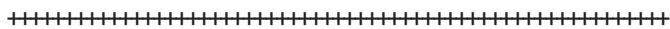


Saturday, July 12

- 3:00 p.m. – Afternoon Program
- 4:00 p.m. – Bangor Cemetery Tours
Children's Activities
- 6:00 p.m. – Catered Mea, free-will offering
- 7:30 p.m. – Evening Program – Worship,
music, and sharing time, recognition
of former pastors

Sunday, July 13

- 10:00 a.m. -Worship Service, keynote speaker,
Ron Bryan, new IAYM Superintendent,
recognition of former pastors
- 12:15 p.m. – Catered Lunch – free-will offering
- Afternoon - Additional Cemetery tours, and
tours of Camp Quaker Heights
- 6:00 p.m. – Concert Under the Stars



Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

_____ Number attending Saturday Night
Catered Meal

_____ Number attending Sunday Noon
Catered Meal

We would like to reserve _____ copies of the BLFC Historical Booklet.

Please return this form to Bangor Liberty Friends Church, 1260 Hopkins Ave, Union IA 50258 by June 8, 2003. If you prefer, you may make your reservations by email at blfchurch@juno.com, thru the church's website at www.blfchurch.org, or by phoning the church at 641-486-5434.

Come Join Us!

The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

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Oskaloosa, IA 52577



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1 – Camp Counselor Training, HCNP
May 2-4 – Peace Consultation, Richmond, Indiana
May 6 – Camp Counselor Training, Motor
May 10 – Vennard College Graduation
May 12 – Des Moines Pastors, Wellspring, 2:00 p.m.
May 13 – Yearly Meeting Planning, 4:00 p.m.
May 13 – Camp Counselor Training, Fairfield
May 15 – Advanced Report Deadline,
(Board/Committee Clerks)
May 17-18 – Spring Golf Retreat, CQH
May 18 – William Penn University Graduation
May 19 – William Penn University Board of Trustees
May 19 – Camp Counselor Training, Buffalo
May 21 – Camp Counselor Training, Lynnville
May 22 – Camp counselor Training, Middle River

June 9 – Des Moines Pastors, Wellspring, 2:00 p.m.
June 21 – USFW Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

July 1 – New Superintendent begins Work
July 1 – Vision Report Deadline,
(Board/Committee Clerks)
July 15 – Registration deadline for Ministry Conference

August 6-9 – IAYM Ministry Conference

October 3-5 – FUM Boards, North Carolina
October 4 – USFW Fall Retreat, Grinnell



IS PEACE POSSIBLE?

*By Dave Holm,
Director of Spiritual Life
at Quakerdale*

We hope so...we pray so; God desires it ("If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." – Romans 12:18 NKJV). There are some situations for which we can only pray for peace, others in which we can influence for peace, and yet others in which we can determine peace.

Peacemaking is a high priority at Quakerdale. It is a part of our mission statement and throbs like a heartbeat throughout our treatment service. Our staff often serve as conciliators.

Ken Sande, author and founder of Peacemaker Ministries, says it best, "Since all of life involves relationships, and all relationships are prone to conflict, peacemaking is a key to our children's success in life (For further information, see HisPeace.org)."

It is more gratifying to assist youth in experiencing the freedom of forgiveness. The life baggage many youth bring to Quakerdale necessitate their granting of forgiveness to the offender; for others the big task is getting forgiveness from the offended – for some it is both.

The greatest expression of peacemaking is resolving one's personal conflict with God, who offers a restored relationship with Him (Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ" – II Corinthians 5:19 NKJV).

Not only is there the absence of guilt and conflict, but the presence of a calm and tranquil spirit (and the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"- Philippians 4:7 NKJV).Once peace and forgiveness have been received from Christ, youth can progress to resolving their relational conflicts.

A third step offers youth a prevention system. Integrating the principles of the Bible into daily living helps them learn to live free of offense ("Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble"-Psalm 119:165).

Thank you for partnering with us in our effort to bring peace to Iowa's youth.



Friends United Meeting VBS Mission Project for Summer 2003 is to raise funds for 2 classrooms to be built onto the Cuba Yearly Meeting facility for children's education. Please encourage your VBS planners to support this project.

- IAYM Board on Missions

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