



# The Iowa Friend

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

January 2004

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

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## USE ME - GOD!

By Ron Bryan, General Superintendent

Unity of Faith - Knit Together  
"causes growth of the body"

Ephesians 4:13-16 was brought to my mind as I viewed a program on the History channel a couple of nights ago. This was a story of Ancient Rome and the slave/gladiator named Spartacus who led an army in revolt. He was eventually defeated by the mighty Roman legions after two years of wreaking havoc in the countryside of Italy. As Rome sent out its first army to defeat him they sent along their symbol of power and authority. This is called the Fasces, it is a bundle of rods bound tightly together with an axe in the center with the cutting edge jutting out. With this symbol was the full might of the Roman Empire.

As I viewed this program and considered this symbol I began thinking of what it represented in another way. These rods bound tightly together represented all the strength of a whole empire, many different country nations now all under the rule of one authority. With it came great power that ruled the European world for many centuries. As I contemplated this symbol I began to see the idea of how we as a Yearly Meeting all working together, bonded by our oneness in Christ and combining our prayer and physical support, are much stronger than one church standing alone. Together we can offer encouragement and spiritual strength for the individual person or church who may be facing a difficult challenge, in a much larger way than if one is standing alone.

Together we can send out more missionaries, plant more churches, provide more support, enable more corporate prayer, than any one can do alone. Together we can have the broader spiritual insight needed at times when faced with decisions. Together we can stand against the enemies of the Gospel and the powers that would destroy the Church.

Yes, I was and am moved by the knowledge made afresh that we, together, are a part of something bigger than just a local Meeting or even a Yearly Meeting. God brought into being the Society of Friends 350 years ago, at times we have wavered or been deterred by our special interests. But together united by our vision of "Making the love of Jesus Christ known in the heartland and beyond" we will not only continue to exist, but grow.

Should we not all be challenged to pray for those still walking in darkness, and asking God whom can I be a witness to? Use me God, and direct my steps, that I may be a part of your outreach on earth. TODAY! This may sound exciting or

frightening to anyone, but if we are willing to lay down our self, to be used of God, then it can be the most fulfilling thing we have ever done with our lives.

Come and be a part of our "Turn Around Strategies" conference, February 27, and 28. Be a prayer warrior and intercede for the Yearly Meeting of Iowa so that we can be used of God to influence the world for His Kingdom.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Camp Quaker Heights needs caring, fun-loving folks to spend time with us this summer. For more info call 641-939-5977, or 641-751-4400, or email [campqhi@adiis.net](mailto:campqhi@adiis.net)

### We are in need of the following:

- Counselors
- Nurses
- Kitchen help
- Nurses
- Janitors
- Canoe runners
- People who want to serve regardless of the task
- Grounds keepers



### Camp Dates for 2004 are:

Little Fry (kind-1st grade)	May 15-16
(must be accompanied by a parent or adult)	
Fry (grades 3-4)	June 4-6
High School	June 6-11
HS Weekender	June 11-13
Fox (grades 5-6)	June 18-22
Jr. High Boys (7-8)	June 22-26
Jr. High Girls (7-8)	June 27-July 1

### PLEASE NOTE

**All Volunteer staff must attend a Camp Quaker Heights Volunteer Workshop!**

Fairfield Friends Church	March 16	7 PM
Motor Friends Church	March 18	7 PM
Buffalo Friends Church	March 23	7 PM
HC/NP Friends Church	March 25	7 PM
Woolson Friends Church	April 13	7 PM
Earlham Friends Church	April 15	7 PM
Marshalltown Friends Church	April 20	7 PM
Lynnville Friends Church	April 27	7 PM



## Friendly Flashes

*"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." Romans 5:5*

Always with the start of a New Year, we become filled with hope. Hope that this year will be better. According to news reports, the economy is on the upswing. Saddam has been captured offering a small glimmer of hope that peace may have a chance in Iraq. All through the month of December, people reached out to help those who were struggling. The seeds of hope are there, but only time will tell if they fell on good, rich soil or rocky soil.

Too often when our hope is based on the things of this world, we soon lose hope. We come 'down to earth' and face reality. Yet, God himself came 'down to earth' in the person of Jesus. He came to show us how to have hope in the eternal, in the only one who never disappoints us. He came as Emmanuel; God with us. He left us with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He did this so that we might never despair, but instead remain confident. One good way to keep that hope alive and fresh in our lives is to spend time with other believers. We are strengthened by meeting in a gathered community for worship.

Our Spring Conference and Fall Retreat are the way we strengthen and encourage one another. We, also, by our interest and our prayers strengthen our speakers.

This year at Spring Conference, Dan and Tracy Whitehead of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) will be out guests. They have taken this 'hope that does not disappoint' to people who have not yet received the Lord.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at New Providence. Come to be blessed by the Whiteheads ministry and to be a blessing to them in return.

The true hope for the New Year is the hope that comes from the Lord. As with any good gift, we must share it, that others too may turn from despair to hope. The hope that grows in the fertile soil of God's abundant love.

Hoping to see you all there. Blessings – Linda Burnett

### Young Adult Spring Lobby Weekend -- March 6-8, 2004



This is a special opportunity for young people to talk to their Senators and Congressional Representatives about peace and social justice within the context of FCNL's missions. FCNL lobbyists teach young participants about the issues and how to lobby. Young adults also have time to explore Washington, DC. Lodging and breakfast will be at the William Penn House in Washington, DC, which is co-sponsoring the event. The weekend costs \$50. In addition, participants will provide and pay for their own transportation and some meals. You must be between the ages of 18 and 30. For more information, please contact Jennifer Chapin Harris at 1-800-630-1330x140.



## SANATA CLAUS - ROMANIA

*Having FUN sharing CHRIST in Romania  
by Bob Watson*

Sanata Claus is universal in every language: caring, love, presents, and reaching out to others.

Bob Anderson and myself had the opportunity last month to go to Romania and take Christ's love to 120 orphans living in eight cottages/homes. We traveled with an organization called "Remember the Children (RtC)" (Indianapolis, Indiana). We took presents for the cottage called the "Lisa Potts" house. There were twelve children (6 boys & 6 girls) ages 4 to 17. Each home is set up with house parents and 10-16 children in a family style so each orphan is provided with parents and brothers/sisters. RtC operates 15 cottages/homes.



When the children reach the age of 18 they leave the home and are assisted in getting employment. The children attend school each day, take piano or instrumental lessons, as well as household chores. We, the team of twelve individuals, were given a piano recital. The talent level ranged from beginner to very good (six years of lessons).

During the day we wrapped presents for eight of the homes, took a tour of two State-operated orphanages (vast contrast to RtC), we visited a children's hospital, and a children's physical therapy clinic. After delivering presents to several of the homes, we went to see a normal elementary school (grades K-8). Several of the RtC children attended this school. We could not tell which children were from RtC homes and which children were from traditional homes. The children just beamed with big smiles when they saw us. Some of the older ones even left their seats and gave us hugs. It was refreshing to see them stand by their desk when we entered the classroom. While we there, the students (especially the younger grades) were quiet, but after we left & went to the next class, they talked, laughed, and were excited to have visitors from America.

We fellowshipped at a non-denominational church on Sunday with about 400 in attendance. The children were excited to see our team leaders (whom they knew from previous trips).

The RtC program is well balanced (food, shelter, nurturing) with an awareness of the caring and saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. They liked the gifts (clothes, toys, and candy) that we brought and sincerely appreciated the love and caring that we extended to them. The sparkle in their eyes when they saw us during the week was very rewarding.



## MEETING MOMENTS

Life in LeGrand is ticking right along. Our new Pastor, Alan Mullikin, and his family arrived from Denver, Colorado the end of July. His first day on the job was also the start of our SCUBA VBS. What a lively welcome! It's safe to say things haven't slowed down since.

Pastor Alan has set the ambitious goal of meeting individually with everyone in our congregation who is willing within his first six months. He has also set an initial emphasis on enhancing our Worship Services and initiating discipleship training.

In September, our church officially welcomed Will Owens as our Youth Pastor. Will and his wife, Jessica, began meeting with the Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups on Wednesday nights. In October, Will presented 13 High School Freshmen with their own Teen Study Bible from the church.

Our Pioneer Club has been averaging about 80 kids in grades K-6 each week. The highlight of their fall was an "UN-Halloween" party which was a rousing success. More than 100 kids made their way through our famous Cardboard Maze and other carnival games.

Megan Browns (Second Miles Ministries/inner-city Kansas City), Will Owens (Chicago Fellowship of Friends Work Teams), and Victor and Brenda White (Meskwaki Friends) all shared about their ministries during our annual November Harvest Home Missions Sunday.

Our big Christmas presentation this year was the "Bethlehem Inn" dinner theater which was very well done, attended, and received. (See photos) Special thanks to Salem Friends for all their help, direction, and lending of supplies to make our production go so well!



## GATHERING OF FRIENDS

### ON NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS

Boulder, Colorado -- April 28-May 1, 2004

We are Friends who share a profound concern about the continuing survival of Native peoples as members of distinct and viable communities. We know some of the vulnerability of those communities and their precarious legal and social protections. But it is also a moment in which Native Americans are asserting their rights, renewing their communal life and strengthening their institutions.

We come from various parts of the United States with a range of experiences over a number of years in defense of Indian rights. We work with Quaker organizations, Friends meetings, and other groups in that defense. We know the historical connection of Friends with Native peoples on this continent and humbly note the pain that was inflicted accompanied by good intentions in that relationship. We, like other citizens of the United States have continued to benefit from the original and continuing theft of native lands and resources. We are humbly aware of the racism and paternalism that have too often been part of the relationship between Native and non-Native peoples.

We hear and heed the call of Native peoples for allies and partners as they assert their sovereignty. We know that effective support must be sustained and rendered in a faithful way. We have learned from the historical record and our own direct experiences of the imperative for listening to, not prescribing for Native communities.

In 1999, a number of us attended a gathering of Friends on Native American affairs held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. At that gathering, greatly aided by Native people, we learned much. Building upon that occasion and our own sense of the moment, **we call on Friends to join us April 28 to May 1** both to learn more and to be more effective allies of Native peoples in their current struggles. We see exciting and renewed possibilities, rooted in the traditions of Friends, to work as cohorts with Native peoples on a mutual enterprise of justice.

**We invite** all Friends who share our concern and the sense of possibilities to come to Boulder, Colorado, April 28 to May 1 at the Boulder Friends Meeting. Cost will be \$75 with financial assistance available if needed. Please contact Ed Nakawatase, 215-241-7131 for more detailed information.

Dear Friends,

Donation: \$ 4,827.73

*May God's richest blessings be yours in this new year! It is my privilege to thank you for your generosity to the Chicago Fellowship of Friends, which is being witness to God's love and mercy in a difficult urban setting where hope is often in short supply. Every gift enables the light of Christ to shine a bit brighter. Thank you for your participation in this way. The challenges facing the Fellowship of Friends in 2004 are numerous. With your support, you are a part of this ministry.*



Peace and Joy,  
Kara Newell, CFOF Board Member

## The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

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## Quaker Challenge

In an effort to seek God's will and His direction for Quakerdale's "Caring For The Forgotten Child" campaign, we ask for your continued prayers. An anonymous

Quaker donor provided a challenge to other Quakers to raise \$250,000, which would then be matched by an additional \$500,000. We have almost reached our goal - \$232,238 as of December 3, 2003. If you or your church has contributed to this project, thank you for your gift. If you have not yet designated a gift, would you prayerfully consider how you might help in this effort?

"Caring For The Forgotten Child" is the largest campaign in Quakerdale's history. This project is a mission of love that can be realized right here in our midst. It provides an opportunity for Iowa's "forgotten" children to reach their full potential in a caring, Christian environment. Your partnership in prayer and in giving will make a difference in the lives of children for years to come.

## USFW SPRING CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2004  
NEW PROVIDENCE FRIENDS CHURCH

Dan and Tracey Whitehead with their three children are spending a well earned furlough, which some of their time will be spent in Iowa. They will be our guest speakers at our USFW Spring Conference which will be held at New Providence Friends Church on Saturday, March 27, 2004. Dan and Tracey have served as missionaries with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) for several years in Venezuela. They play a vital part in God's Ministry with the MAF team there.



Plan to come and hear their stories about what God is doing in Venezuela and rejoice with them.

Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. with coffee. The cost of the lunch is \$6.00. More information will be coming to your societies. March MARCH 27, 2004 on your calendar.

**See you there!**

# VITAL SIGNS



## BIRTH -

**Blake Thompson McDonald** was born on October 29, 2003, to Scott and Karen McDonald. Blake joins 3 year old sister Madeline Mills and 5 year old brother Paul Wayne. Scott was raised in the Bangor Liberty Friends Church where the grandparents Wayne & Miriam McDonald are members. Scott, Karen and the maternal grandfather, P. Gerald Mills are members of Indianapolis, IN First Friends.

## DEATHS -

**Edward L. Sullivan**, 79, passed away January 10th at his home in Marshalltown. Ed grew up and was educated in the Marshalltown area. Born with a special gift for music, he played in a number of area bands while attending high school. He married Doris Bace from Union, Iowa. Edward joined the Navy and served in his country in the South Pacific during W.W.II. During his tour of duty he played the saxophone with the Tommy Dorsey Navy Band. In 1968 he was ordained as a minister with the Iowa Methodist Conference. After his retirement and move back to Marshalltown, he filled the pulpit of the Hartland Friends Church for 12 years and served there until his death. He is survived by his wife, Doris; his 2 sons, Bill and Mike; 1 daughter, Jane; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**Ethel Worthington**, 74, passed away on November 17, 2003, at her home in Muscatine, after a courageous battle with cancer. Ethel was a member of the Hillcrest Baptist Church and attended the Davenport Friends Church where her husband Dean, is the pastor. She was Co-Director of the Child Evangelism Fellowship of South East Iowa, and was a teacher trainer of the Good News Clubs. She also served as a Sunday School Teacher. Ethel loved to crochet, sew, do crossword puzzles, and baking. She played the piano, guitar, accordian and the violin. Her greatest joy was serving the Lord and teaching children. She is survived by her husband, Dean, five daughters, Cheryl Estabrook, Mary Long, Nancy Blomberg, Twyla Thiessen and Deanna McWilliam; 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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