



The Iowa Friend

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

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Called, Chosen and Faithful

by Ron Bryan, General Superintendent

Rev. 17:14b "and the Lamb will overcome them, "for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful" This is the chosen passage for the theme of the Triennial Sessions to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, in July of 2005. I bring this to all of you because as we here, plan and pray for this event, I have also noticed a growing anticipation for the work of Friends United Meeting overall.

Think about it, LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS, and those who are with Him are called, chosen and faithful. What an exciting part of Christian history to be a part of. The chosen them is "the Lamb will overcome them," that's right. The Lamb of God will overcome, because He is Lord and King, and anyone who is a part of His kingdom is called, chosen and faithful. I want to be a part of that movement, I believe Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends is positioned and ready to be a helpful, cooperating part of this movement of God, from now right on through the next two years.

Friends United Meeting approved wholeheartedly last Saturday, February 14, 2004 the outline of emphasis for our work. They are: Evangelism, Leadership Training, Global partnership and Communication. The first three are all bound together with the fact that communications plays a most vital role in these successful ministries. As we acknowledge the reality that East Africa is becoming a strong sending forth area of world, and our own Cuba and Jamaica friends are looking to cross the oceans to help build new outreach goals, it becomes ever so more clear that we in North America are a part of a growing movement. FUM is a movement of Christians and FUM is a program of Friends are first two new parts of the vision statement. Although our Mission Statement is not changing it is certainly being sent forth in new directions and with new impetus.

I ask that as FUM calls for more willing workers to 'go forth', Iowa will be faithful to hold everyone in prayer and discernment. THERE ARE INCREDIBLY NEW AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES COMING and we can be in the center of many of those plans and events. So as the requests come for help in planning the Triennial in Des Moines and the announcements are made as we seek willing ministers to take up new positions around the globe will we be open and obedient to the Spirit, who is the Lord of lords and King of kings, are we eager to be called, chosen and faithful?



Friends United Meeting

Friends United Meeting welcomes Curtis P. Hermann to its team in the new position of Internet outreach specialist. Curtis is a seasoned Internet application developer with specialties in Flash and ColdFusion development.

"Curtis will be key to our emphasis on reaching out to the general public with the message of the Christian Quaker faith," says Ben Richmond, director of North American Ministries. "Until now our resources have been focused on serving our own community. The addition of this position is a shift toward interacting with a wider audience."

In addition to managing his web development consulting firm, iindwell, inc., Curtis Hermann is currently serving as a technical editor and co-author of a forthcoming book, *ColdFusion MX Development with Dreamweaver MX 2004* (Apress 2004).

"I am excited about using my technical skills to support people in the work of bringing seekers to Christ," says Curtis. "I look forward to bringing Friends United Meeting's yearly and monthly meetings, and seekers worldwide, together through this virtual community."

Curtis and his wife Maria live in Lancaster, PA with their two children, Emily, 6, and Gabriel, 10 months. Maria works in the Africa department for the Mennonite Central Committee. The Hermanns attend Lancaster Monthly Meeting of Friends.



Friends United Meeting held their General Boards February 13-15, at Richmond, Indiana. Stan Bauer, Margaret Stoltzfus, Miriam McDonald and Ron Bryan all attended the sessions where FUM's new vision statement was approved. Ann Lee Nichols and Mary Ann Coppinger were also present to lead in the planning for the 2005 Triennial Sessions to be held in Des Moines.



Friendly Flashes

I hope you are all managing to avoid the "bug" that seems to be everywhere right now. I got the flu shot, as I do every year, but still seem to have acquired a rather persistent feeling of fatigue. Some one the other day referred to it as "feeling poorly". A rather old fashioned phrase, but one that covers better than any other. I saw Ric Garrison the first part of January; he is "on the mend." There is comfort in these less than scientific phrases because they speak a truth we can all relate to and understand.

I have indulged in reading some of the old Quaker writings and they too have a way with phrases that speak a timeless truth. Letting these words from long ago settle into my heart like an old familiar friend lessens my sense of feeling "poorly." I thought I might share a couple of them with you to ponder as the gray days of February surround us and we long for the warm days of March.

"There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages has had different names; it is however pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of Religion nor excluded from any, where the heart stands in perfect sincerity." John Woolman

How could you feel "poorly" after recognizing that when our heart stands firmly rooted in that pure principle which flows from God's heart, we are immersed in His love, safe from all that swirls around us. That is the secret to being a missionary, that great all encompassing love that carries us beyond what we alone could envision and out into the world as His light.

William Penn, in *SOME FRUITS OF SOLITUDE* put it this way, "Let us today, therefore, hear his voice, and not burden our hearts; who speaks to us many ways. In the scriptures, in our hearts, but his servants and his providences; and the sum of all is holiness and charity."

What ever is going on in your lives right now, do not burden your heart but instead stay in that "ocean of light" which proceeds from God and see, and hear Him speak to us out of the circumstances that surround us at this very moment. May we all arrive at Spring Conference centered and refreshed by our time spent listening for His voice and open to hearing where God has been at work in the lives and ministry of the Whiteheads.

Be blessed by His presence, Linda Burnett

Open Worship

The follower of Jesus is to discover and then promote the Kingdom of God. That kingdom has two tenses: it is already here, in each one of us; and it is still to come, when God's goodness becomes a universal norm. We are to live now, as if the Kingdom of God were already fulfilled.

Peace begins within ourselves. It is to be implemented within the family, in our meetings, in our work and leisure, in our own localities, and internationally. The task will never be done. Peace is a process to engage in, not a goal to be reached.

~Sydney Bailey 1993 24.57~



ATTENTION PASTORS!

Please take note of the following dates and opportunities.

Pastors' Association Meeting – Saturday, February 28th over lunch during the Winter Ministry Conference.

"Arise & Shine" Conference, March 12-13, Archdale, NC. (Friends Disaster Service leaves March 8 for work sites in North Carolina and Virginia. Contact Tom Palmer at 319-258-7221.)

2004 Pastors' Retreat, April 26-29, Branson, MO.
Speaker: Gayle Erwin.

June 16-18 Billy Graham "School of Evangelism", Kansas City, MO. Scholarships available, call 1-800-950-2092.

The Pastors' Association officers would encourage every pastor to help with Quaker Heights' camps this year. Ideally, churches and meetings will not count this as vacation time for the pastor. Also, Keith Smith, pastor at Motor Friends, has volunteered to serve as the counselor coordinator for all scheduled camps.

Please remember that Camp Quaker Heights and New Melleray Abbey (south of Dubuque) are available for personal retreats.

Thank you,
Paul Knupp, Secretary
Dave Elmore, President
Tom Palmer, Vice-President
Linda Burnett, Treasurer

IOWA YEARLY MEETING *Ministry Conference*

"A FUTURE AND A HOPE"

August, 4-7, 2004
William Penn University
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

SPEAKER - David Brock

Children's Yearly Meeting:

Happy Oppportunity to

Prepare for Eternity



CELEBRATING SUNDAY SCHOOL

WHY DO YOU KEEP TEACHING SUNDAYSCHOOL?

- Because** you love the Lord.
- Because** you love the children.
- Because** you cherish the old, old story.
- Because** someone who thought you could, asked.
- Because** you've gotten really good at punching out all those perforated take home projects, and it's not a skill you 'll likely use elsewhere.
- Because** your favorite song is "Jesus Loves Me" and adults just can't do it justice.
- Because** someone once shared Bible stories with you.
- Because** you love those little gold "Praying Hands" stickers.
- Because** you can tell stories about: a. Noah, b. Jesus, c. Peter, d. Jonah, e. Paul, using the same toy boat for all.
- Because** Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."
- Because** even if you you have nochildren at home, you can still routinely hear praises to God for puppies, kittens, mommies, daddies, and victorious ballgames.
- Because** adults often talk behind your back, but kids always want to tell you something.
- Because** "Sunday School Teacher" is the only leadership position in your church without term limits.
- Because** when the story of David and Jonathan appears in your curriculum, it always ends before the sad part.
- Because** if you tell enough stories about Elijah and Elisha, you won't get them mixed up anymore.
- Because** you love going to the Christian bookstore to buy miniature Bibles and cross key chains.
- Because** if you don't share your knowledge of Christ with these little ones - who will?
- Because** God and all the anagels surely smile when a little child learns of HIm.
- Because** your heart longs to hear Him say, "Well done."
- Because** there is a possibility that some day, some where, one person will remember something you said in Sunday School, and it will change that life forever.



Peace & Christian Social Concerns

PLEASE PLAN TO PARTICIPATE In The International Day of Action

March 20, 2004 – 1st anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq.

Drake University Camp, Des Moines, IA

Peace parade begins at 1:00 pm at 29th & University, Drake Parking Lot.

Activities begin at 11:00 am and continue through direct action at the STARC Armory on March 21st.

For more information , please contact Paul Knupp at Des Moines First Friends, 515-277-7173 (home) or 515-279-1879 (church).

Thank you
IAYM P&CSC Board, Del Coppinger, Presider

WANTED

With the extra space we have available in the basement of the Yearly Meeting Office, we would like to set up some sleeping accomodations for our "Friends" that travel about.



We are looking for "free" good used beds, preferrably single and/or maybe bunk beds. We ask that they would be in fairly good condition. Along with beds, we would also need mattresses and box springs.



If you would have any of the items listed above and feel that you could part ways and give it to a good cause, we would like to hear from you.

Please call the yearly meeting office at:
641-673-9717

or

Email: iaym@kdsi.net

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FACES ACROSS IAYM



Youth celebrate bringing in the new year at Mid-Winter



IAYM Church Extension Board



Children's Yearly Meeting

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa

YOUTH MINISTER POSITION



Fairfield Friends is located in Fairfield, a town of approximately 9500 people located in the Southeast corner of Iowa. Fairfield Friends is a dynamic growing congregation with an average attendance of over 100. We offer a mix of traditional and contemporary Christian Worship. We have a group of adult volunteers working with our youth and we have just completed the addition of a new multi-purpose gym. We are strategically located on the corner with a middle school on one side and an elementary school on the other. We have a growing youth group which averages 27 Jr. and Sr. High youth on Wednesday evenings.

We are looking for a dynamic youth minister to direct our current youth and children programs touching their hearts and lives in our church and community.

The ideal candidate will have a strong Christian faith with a desire to share Christ. The ideal candidate should also have education in youth or children's ministry and related Christian service and experience in youth ministry (full-time, part-time or internship).

To learn more about us, visit our web site at:
fairfieldfriendschurch.org

Contact: Dave Elmore, Pastor
Fairfield Friends Church
1209 South 6th Street
Fairfield, IA 52556
(641) 472-2623

Email: pastor_dave@fairfieldfriendschurch.org

COOKBOOKS FOR SALE!



Have you purchased your "Plain & Plenty" cookbook? If not - here's your chance. The IAYM office has several copies for sale at \$13.50 each. Not only does it have many tasty recipes, it is also filled with pictures and tidbits of the various yearly meetings and monthly meetings in the US.

If interested, stop by the office or call Daneta at (641) 673-9717; Email: iaym@kdsi.net or purchase a copy at Spring Body on April 3rd.