



The Iowa Friend

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

March 2004

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 59 - No. 3



CUBA MISSIONS January 22 - February 6, 2004 by Linda Garrison

In early spring 2003, Cadena de Amigos (Chain of Friends) formed as a task group of IAYM. The first group of De Agmigos traveled to Cuba in August 2003 to enjoy various summer camping programs of Cuba Yearly Meeting. I traveled with them, along with my daughter, Meredith. The fellowship was affectionate and delightful among these lively believers.

In the fall of 2003, word was received that FUM was forming a team to work on a dilapidated building in the town of Delicias. Many factors, largely political and economic, had played into the deterioration of the property. I joined the team as leader, and we began to make plans to travel to the Caribbean sun-



shine at a time we knew our own homes would be enveloped in the chill of winter. From 3 Yearly Meetings and 4 monthly meetings, 8 of us from across FUM journeyed through Toronto on to Holguin, Cuba to greet our hosts and continue with work the Cubans had begun. Our plans were thwarted when some permits, long promised by government entities, and longer sough tby CYM (Cuba Yearly Meeting) leaders, had been held up. No building materials could be purchased until said papers were in place. We worked in and around the towns of Gibara, home of the first monthly meeting in Cuba, as well as host of the annual general Yearly Meeting Sessions, and the nearby village of Floro Peres, where previous teams had labored on the meeting house.

We longed to move on to the Delicias project, but found the warm hospitality in the seaside town of Gibara to be very pleasing. After a week of making friends, we rejoiced upon hearing that all the forms had been officially stamped and we would be able to join the Cubans and begin the rebuilding of Delicias.

The church building was a mere shell, overgrown with vegetation inside, and crowded by a city park on the outside. For 20 years, townfolk had become accustomed to the condition of the building, but many wandered by the work site to offer encouragement and advice as walls were broken through, and lines were drawn for the pouring of the footings for the parsonage.

After a week of working in the very hot sun, all the trenches were finally deemed to be "Deep and Wide" enough. Cement was mixed and buckets were passed along this particular chain of friends, and a deep sense of satisfaction was enjoyed by the 20 or so Cuban volunteers and laborers, and the 8 American workers. Our Goodbyes were exchanged in early February, and we made our way north to discover that as certainly as Cuban hospitality had gripped our hearts, dreadful winter weather had gripped our homes. We wrapped our coats and our memories around us to keep warm.

NOTE: Cadena de Amigos, the Cuba Task Force of Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Committee, is gathering funds to enable Enelia de los Angeles Escalona González to attend our 2004 Yearly Meeting Sessions at our invitation. Enelia is beloved among the Cuban Friends, and serves as gracious hostess to those who enjoy the hospitality at the Gibara compound. We are also seeking funds for the Delicias building projects and other projects in Cuba Yearly Meeting. It is estimated that 1145 cement blocks are needed for the Delicias project, @ .44 each. Forty zinc panels are needed for the meeting house roof, as well as twenty for the parsonage. Each panel is \$46.00. Designated gifts may be sent to:

IAYM Mission Treasurer
Bob Watson
803 Minnesota
Glidden, IA 51443





Friendly Flashes

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."
Romans 8:14

In his book "The Five People You Meet in Heaven", Mitch Albom tells us that each person we meet in our lives is there for a reason. We may not know what that reason is at the time, but none of it is random.

If we follow that reasoning through, we begin to see that even our smallest actions may have a big impact on someone around us. Think of all the people who made a lasting impression on you. Were they big important people or were they just ordinary people going about their daily lives, with courage, patience and a sweet gentle spirit?

Everyday we see people struggling to overcome some past hurt caused by a chance remark or selfish act that a loved one inflicted on them. The papers are full of the terrible things that we as human beings do to one another out of anger, greed or just plain meanness.

We are in the Lenten season where we are to examine our lives, our actions, and our relationship with God. Do we ever examine how our actions are impacting the lives of those around us? Not necessarily the ones up close but those who are on the fringes, the store clerks, neighbors, our children or spouse's friends. This is on my mind as we have just said good-bye to a dear lady who faced extraordinary circumstances with courage and strength. Her actions are reflected by someone who she has had influence upon 32 years later. He remembers her presence in his life and the lessons learned are still shaping his character today.

So as we enter Easter and give witness, let us remember the impact that our Savior has had for thousands of years. May we become more mindful of those around us and pray our example is more like His; a sweet and gentle loving presence bringing joy and peace to those we meet. Let us all fulfill the purpose that God intended for us.

Blessings Linda



REFLECTIONS Turn Around Strategies

Friends share their thoughts of our recent "Turn Around Strategies for the Small Church" conference.

My son, Josh, is the product of the Holy Spirit working through small Iowa churches. He will be graduating this Spring as an urban youth minister/missionary want-to-be. I am proud of what we have allowed God to accomplish through our small churches. With the encouragement of Ron Crandall, I am here and willing to bare my soul, to be honest about who I am with others in my circle of influence and to allow the Holy Spirit to work through me even more than He is now. The fact that most pastors, who are in small churches that have "turned around", are my age, or older, who are on their second career and don't have high degrees of theology, tells me that none of us are safe from God being able to use us in a mighty way. Challenged and a little scared, C.L Hoskins.



Dr. Ron Crandall - Saturday morning

Just a note to let you know what a valuable resource the conference was to me and the leaders that attended from Lynnville. I was reminded of some great principles that can, and must be applied for any size church to grow. Here are some of the things that I was reminded of:

1. Know why and who we are in business for. Sometimes we forget why we exist and after awhile self-perpetuation becomes the reason for our existence. But God has placed each church where it is for a reason...to change the lives in that community.
2. Understand the indigenous needs of our communities to which we minister. There is always an unmet need that the church can fill that can become our "hook" as we fish for men.
3. No matter what size the church is, prayer must be the foundation upon which we build.
4. Our churches must be open to new people, new ideas, and new manifestations of the Holy Spirit. So appreciate those fresh eyes that are visiting our churches and see the church from their perspective.

Thanks again for the weekend! The golden days of the church are ahead of us. I don't know about you, but I want to be a part of them!
~Jeff Lee, Pastor of Lynnville Friends~

SPRING BODY OF
REPRESENTATIVES
SATURDAY
APRIL 3, 2004
MIDDLE RIVER FRIENDS



Italian meal will be served for \$5.50 per person.
All profits will go to the
Retired Ministers & Missionaries Fund.



NEWS FROM THE FIELDS

Chicago Fellowship of Friends have a very active after school program. In addition, there is a waiting list of kids who want to participate. Erika Palmer reports that she is amazed at Steve and Marlene's abilities with these youth. They need our prayers as they travel to and from picking up the youngsters.

Their vision is to have a high school program, so kids do not have to quit school once they finish the eighth grade. Of course more money is needed. Roof work has been completed and the cost was \$15,600. Approximately \$8,000 has been raised. However, \$7,600 was borrowed against the mortgage; adding \$50 to the monthly payment.

The neighborhood is changing and the old corporate offices of Montgomery Ward are being remodelled into housing. West of CFOF, along the river, middle to low income single family dwellings and condos are being built. The city has plans to build a playground in the empty lot directly west of CFOF but that remains to be done.

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Andy and Lisa Stout report from Jamaica that things are going well for them so far as housing and "fitting in" are concerned. Seaside Friends have worked hard to make repairs to their home, which has stood empty for three years. Various churches from the states have made it possible for the Stouts to acquire the necessities to live comfortably.

Happy Grove school has nearly 1500 students. It is difficult to maintain order with so many in crowded conditions, but the Stouts ask for our continued prayers for the school and the staff as they seek to balance everything. The Stouts have a lap top computer and can email even when the electricity is off, which happens frequently. A Watch Night service was held to greet the New Year. However, it was interrupted by power outages and completed in the dark with only a few flashlights and the glow of cell phones.

Emails of encouragement may be sent to the Stouts at: [lisa.b@cwjamaica.com](mailto:lisa.b@cwjamaica.com). They will enjoy hearing from you.

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Victor White reports some encouraging things are taking place at Mesquakie. Presently about 17 adults are participating in the mid-week Bible study. More people are taking a personal interest in attending and volunteering in projects such as the recent fundraiser. They have also been pitching in with food preparations, clean-up and other needed services and activities.

A group of Native American college students from Lawrence, Kansas, plan to visit over spring break. There will be 13-14

young people visiting Mesquakie to learn how the work of Friends is done.

In addition, a group from Lynnville Friends has also visited Mesquakie to lend their assistance. Victor reports that they were able to secure dividers for the enclosed shelter, so that the space may be temporarily made into two rooms for class purposes.

The Iowa Yearly Missions Board will meet with the Whites March 20th, when they hold their regular meeting.

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The news from Ramallah/el-Bireh is that 1050 students are enrolled with about 120 individuals working as teachers, administrators and support staff. Over 30% of the students who complete their education at the school go on to a higher school of learning. Many of those find their way to the USA on scholarships to attend Earlham, Guildford and Manchester colleges.

A play center at Amari Refugee Camp is supported by Ramallah Friends Meeting, which works to serve 40-50, four and five-year olds. Violet Zaru, who provides hope and security to the youngsters, and two other individuals, are currently employed at the center.

We ask for prayers that God will raise up a new director for the work in this troubled area. Watch for more about Ramallah and other missions in the up-coming issues of the Iowa Friend.

*~Submitted by the Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board~*

## RIVERSIDE FRIENDS



**Riverside Friends church will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary on July 11, 2004.**

We invite all who have invested time, money, hard work, and prayer in our ministry, to come and see what the Lord has done through our efforts together: pastors sharing, children singing, friends witnessing and praises to the Lord in song.

More information to come!

Riverside Friends  
We're here to **H.E.L.P.**

**Honor God, Equip believers,  
Love people, and Pray**



## The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

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### POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Dear Friends,

It happens every year, there are corrections to the camp brochure. Please make note of the following changes:

1. Weekender is on - date, time & cost are on the back of the camp brochure.
2. Jr. High camp registration begins at 10:00 am not 5:00 pm, this is so folks can pick up FOX campers and drop off Jr. High campers.
3. Fox and Jr. High camp has been lowered to \$160.

**REMEMBER:** camp work day - April 17th from 9:00 am to 4:00pm. Here is what we hope to accomplish:

- Cut fire wood
- Plumbing changes in bathhouse
- Cleaning grounds
- Prepare mowers for the season
- Set up Pool (Marshalltown Youth Group)
- Clean all buildings
- Prepare kitchen for use
- Stack fire wood at fire rings
- Wash windows
- Work on the final cabin
- Repair mini-golf course
- Paint lines on basketball court
- Fellowship with others across IAYM
- Eat great food!



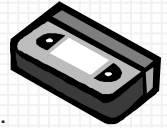
May the Lord Bless You! Remember keep Iowa Yearly Meeting and Camp Quaker Heights in your prayers.

~Ric

## Mark your April calendars

- April 3 - Spring Body of Representatives, Middle River  
8 - YM Planning Committee, 4:00 p.m.  
13 - Pedigos at Indianola 6:00 p.m. pot-luck supper  
14 - Pedigos at Fairfield 6:30 p.m.  
15 - Pedigos at Arnolds Park 7:00 p.m.  
16 - Camp Board Meeting at CQH, 6:30 p.m.  
17 - CQH work day  
16 thru 18 - Pedigos at Bangor Liberty Friends  
26 thru 28 - Mid-America Pastors Retreat

## CONFERENCE TAPES



"Turn Around Strategies" conference tapes are available for \$12.00 a set, which includes postage and handling.

Please fill in the information below and send to the yearly meeting office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ sets of the "Turn Around Strategies" conference tapes at \$12.00 each.

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## VITAL SIGNS

**Merilyn Pemberton**, 70, passed away at Oakview Nursing on February 15, 2004. She was a member of Marshalltown First Friends Church since June 1967. She taught Sunday school for 25 years, and belonged to several other clubs. On May 25, 1957, Merilyn married Isaiah "Ike" Pemberton. To this union were 2 children, Kelly and Steve. Steve & "Ike" preceded her in death. Six grandchildren, and 2 great-granddaughters survive, also 2 sisters and 5 brothers. Funeral services were held at Marshalltown First Friends Church on February 18<sup>th</sup> with Phil King officiating.

**Lawrence Tatum**, 85, of New Providence, Iowa, died Saturday, March 6th in Ames, Iowa. A memorial service was held March 8th with Pastor Arlen Daleske officiating. Lawrence was born in West Branch, Iowa, on April 15, 1918. He graduated from New Providence High School in 1935 and attended William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he met Virginia Henning whom he married May 31, 1941 in Scranton, Iowa. He served Quakerdale Home for over 43 years. A member of Honeycreek-New Providence Friends Church for 71 years, Lawrence served his church in a number of capacities including over 60 years as a member of the choir. Lawrence is survived by his wife, Virginia, four daughters, Judy Davis, Lori Grim, Nancy Stevens, and Deb Moyer, eleven grandchildren, nine great-grand children and a sister, Eleanor Hoover.

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa