



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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Quick Snapshot For The Summer

~By Ron Bryan, General Superintendent~

Let's take a moment and review the responses from our February "Turn Around Strategies Conference." We had approximately 200 in attendance, 32 Iowa Yearly Meeting Churches, two Bible Colleges, Two additional Yearly Meetings and people from four other denominations. Without exception, it was received well and people felt it was helpful. Also each church that has contacted me since the event, including one today from outside the Yearly Meeting (April 20), their people felt that the first step was to prayer for a specific vision from God. And each congregation has begun setting aside some special time for the purpose of seeking God's voice. WOW! May I say again, it is so wonderful to have a sense that God has lead, we listened, and He visited us. Now comes the challenge where do we go from here?

It would be my hope that each Friends Meeting in Iowa Yearly Meeting will prayerfully consider any and all leadings from God through there members. Always asking the question, "What is God saying to us as a specific congregation, about ministry opportunities that surround us?" By surround us I mean, each community. What can we do, to reach out and touch in the name of our Risen Lord, every person, along the pathway of our personal walk. Won't it be wonderful to anticipate hearing what has been the result of our February meeting when we gather for the Annual Ministry Conference August 4-7.

I want to mention three additional possibilities for celebration this summer. (1) The 110th Anniversary Celebration for Arnolds Park, Iowa. This is scheduled for June 26 and 27. All former pastors and friends are being invited back, along with a special evening cruise around West Okoboji Lake. This will include a music group along with room for 200 friends to enjoy a wonderful evening. Give this some consideration soon. There is an excellent campground close by and we can have reservations made for all who wish to camp, perhaps even together. (2) Riverside Friends at Mason City is celebrating 25 years on July 10 and 11. Don't you remember it was just yesterday we prayerfully gathered funds on one day across the Yearly Meeting to help that church be started. We are being invited to join in that celebration also. (3) Finally, if all the necessary plans are

accomplished we will have a new Monthly Meeting to welcome into the Yearly Meeting this summer. We will hear more on this in another newsletter.



Steve Pedigo entering the Light of the Lakes Friends Church at Arnolds Park. During his recent trip to Iowa Yearly Meeting April 12-18, Steve visited Indianola Friends, Fairfield Friends, Arnolds Park Friends and Bangor Liberty Friends. Steve's wife, Marlene, also traveled to Iowa and spoke to the women of the West Branch Friends on Tuesday evening the 13th.



Thank you, to the following churches who helped make workday a huge success; Marshalltown, Motor, Salem, Grinnell, Pleasant Plain, LeGrand, Chester, Hesper, Indianola, Honey Creek New Providence, Bangor Liberty, Lynnville, Earlham & Dale and Phyllis Schwechel.

There are still some odd jobs to do to complete camp for the summer season. If you have a day to give, please contact Ric for scheduling (641) 939-5977.



Friendly Flashes

"If my sheep hear my voice, I know them and they will follow me." ~John 10:27~

God speaks to us from all of His creation. Our responsibility is to listen for that voice. I would like to share one of my experiences with you. I am a cat lover and have corrupted my husband so that he too now shares my love of all things feline. The consequence of this is that we always have several cats in residence.

Last summer, as I opened the front door to get the morning paper, a black and white blur flew past me. It was a cat we named Groucho, or Grouchy Girl because of her demanding vocabulary. This was a cat that hid whenever anyone else was in the house and never really allowed anyone but me to pick her up. After landing in the front garden, looking very surprised, she jumped the wall to the next lot and promptly hid up in the engine of an old truck parked there. No matter how much I called her, she would not allow me to get close enough to pick her up and return her to safety. I tried for six weeks to no avail I was only able to pick her up when she had become too weak to run away, by then it was too late to save her.,

As I mourned for this lost little soul, I sensed God's presence and realized that this was just a small part of the way He feels when we ignore His voice. He calls us each and every day but there are still souls that do not know Him and are afraid to respond to His voice. We are sometimes embarrassed to share our own experience of God in our lives, yet He went to the cross for us and died in the most humiliating way possible. He was not embarrassed!

May all of us in our meetings and in our churches, begin to share where we feel God has touched our lives. As we share, we make it easier for others to share and to recognize Him in their own lives. This will enable us all to grow in faith and trust.

May you be blessed by His voice
Linda Burnnett

Dear Ladies,

It was a privilege to share with you about our ministry in Venezuela. We enjoyed getting to see alot of you that support us and also meet some new people. Thank you so much for the financial gift that you gave to us. May God bless all of you as you have blessed us. Many of you asked about the recipe for the Chicken and Rice, so here it is!



Blessings, Dan and Tracey Whitehead



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.

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Arroz con Pollo (Chickien and Rice)

- 2 cups of Rice
- 4 cups of water
- 1 chicken breast cooked and tore apart (I cook it with garlic and cilantro)
- 1 1/2 onion
- 1 1/2 green pepper
- 2 carrots cut into squares
- Other types of peppers (I use red, yellow, etc...maybe 1-2)
- 3/4 cup worstereshire sauce
- 3/4 cup soy sauce
- Salt to taste
- Oil to sauté



Cook the breast. After cooled and separated, sauté with onion, peppers and carrots Add the sauces and cook this about 10 minutes. Next add the rice and stir a little bit and then add the water. Cook on medium heat till rice is done.



MARDI GRAS

~By Spencer Thury, Riverside Friends~

I had decided long before the Mardi Gras outreach was near, that I would not lead the group this year. We had other veterans going and I had been going now 7 years in a row so it was time to give it a break. But as time grew close, some had accidents and could not go, and others joined the team who needed my unique assistance. So I changed course and went. What I did not have with me was confidence. I had dreams and visions shoot into my head during prayer of getting shot and beaten up. I was frequently tempted to consider myself foolish for putting myself in situations where I could be seriously hurt and leave Mary to do all the work. I felt terrible, but knew I had to serve Jesus whatever came rolling in. I reminded myself of Gal 2:20, I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I examined my heart, asking,



“Am I truly ready to die for my faith?” On Friday night, the first night out on the streets, I met and played music with a great Christian guitar player, but was distracted from engaging with people and worshipping. I met the first of many people who said, “I drink beer, I smoke a little pot, and I have been with the same girlfriend for years. Am I right with God?” I always swallow hard as I begin to ask questions which will reveal the truth, and I hope they stay around long enough to come to a decision. But that is why we go, to talk about Jesus.

On Saturday, I started playing banjo, but a distracting guitar player in a wheel chair also started playing out of nowhere. I could drown him out with my volume if I wanted to, but I did not want to. I played along with him and helped him make more money. But I was there to minister the good news, and he was distracting me from that purpose. He wouldn't talk about Jesus. I was beginning to have a very difficult time concentrating on the purpose I was there for. We continued to meet more people who told me they

do not need to repent. Proverbs 21:29 says, A wicked man puts up a bold front, but an upright man gives thought to his ways.

At the Sunday am service, the preacher asked the congregation, “What is distracting you from your purpose?” I was distracted by a church musician who kept playing while others prayed on stage, gave announcements, and presented mission's reports. I value silence in service, and I wasn't getting any, anywhere! How can you hear God when God's people keep talking!

I went out on the streets again to read the Bible, and try to center in prayer on Jesus, but I could hardly read a verse with comprehension. There were perverts all around, adult men hitting on underage girls, encourage them to lift their shirts and then take pictures. Sick sick sick. Sometimes wives or kids were with them when they took pictures. All the children! We struggled as a team on how to handle it. We made a decision to do less evangelism and more pro-
t e c t i o n .

A young man, Rob, asked us about the authority of the Bible. Can it really be trusted? He talked so much and hardly let anyone answer, that talking to him seemed futile. I shared my testimony of coming out of witchcraft. He asked many questions and said he appreciated the rational defense of our faith. He said it reminded him of his favorite professor in college: a Quaker. On the way out that night I saw the wheel chair guitar player, pushing the wheel chair with the guitar, amp, and a case full of money,
h o m e .

On Sunday night, I met Mike who said he was going to die before the end of the week because God was going to strike him dead. I shared that God hates all sin the same, and forgives all sin the same. He asked why I thought some men are gay, “All men desire connection with other men. Some would distort that to be sexual. Your heavenly father loves you, can heal you, and fulfills your need for male affection.” He told me he appreciated that, and then proceeded to tell me ... I prayed with him anyway.

Monday morning during prayer, I cried out, “Lord why can't I focus on you?” I went forward for prayer and a man said, “I got a word frum God fer ya. Yer gonna live a long long life...” He shared more than that, but it was enough to free me from my worries. That night, Jan, a grandmother from our church, preached on Bourbon Street for the first time. Wonderful. We met the first of many vulgar backslidden preachers from different denominations. They all who claimed to know the Bible better than me, but they wouldn't accept a challenge to prove it.

For the first time on Tuesday, we experienced support from Louisiana's finest State troopers. (If they were not angels) As we preached that it was the goodness of God calling us to repentance, revelers who came up with vio

~continued on page 5

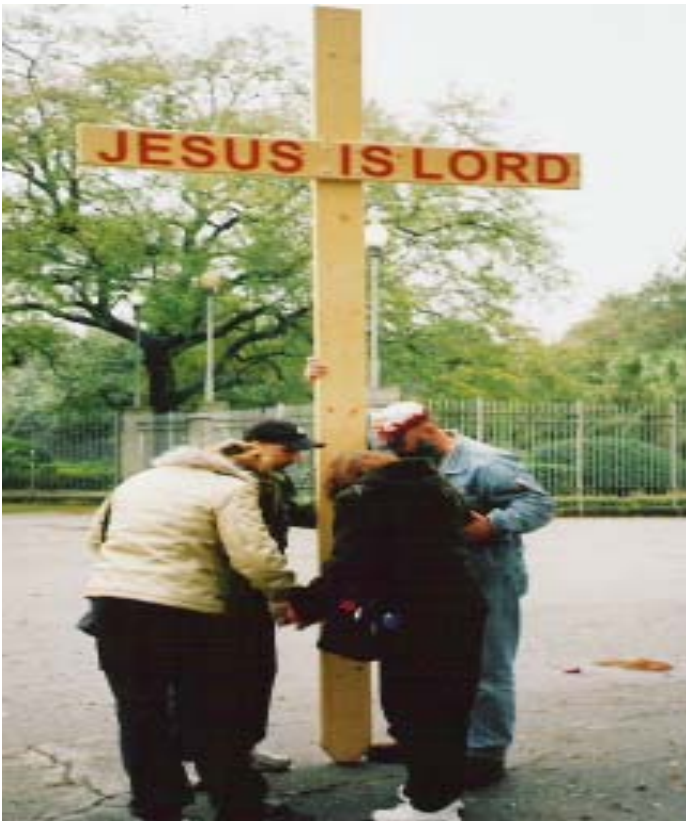
~continued from page 4

lent intentions, or even just to heckle, were thrown to the ground, pulled into a corner, threatened, and forced to listen to more uninterrupted preaching by the officers. It was very strange!

I continued to meet people who asked if they were right with God, while they walked alongside of gross immorality involving children, and doing nothing about it. I told them they could not be justified if they are living in rebellion to God through perversion, doing their own thing, and calling

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Romans 5:1, 8, 9

Let me close with a few questions for you to consider: How are you trying to justify your life: Success, attractive partner, stable successful family, or a daily relationship with Jesus? Has self-justification distracted you from what God has called you to do?



it good. I realized my own struggles were the result of wanting to justify my own ministry desires. For all of us, if you do "whatever," but it is not the good God designed us for, then we are offending him, and we need to repent. Then give your life to Jesus and walk in peace.

The worst part of the trip is all the noise and distractions. The best part of the trip is ministering with a team, seeing them develop ministry skills and spiritual gifts. The constant message is this. People still want to be right with God. But they don't want to change a life of self-preference and sin, to experience the peace that only comes from Jesus.

The Bible says: This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:22-24



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**



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: H.O.P.E.

Happy Opportunity to Prepare for Eternity

Talent Show - Thursday at 8:30pm

Banquet Speaker - Retha McCutchen, FUM



Todd Rausch, Pastor of Light of the Lakes Friends Church at Arnolds Park.

LIGHT OF THE LAKES FRIENDS



We would like to invite you to be our guests at a weekend of praise and worship to help us celebrate 110 years as a Friends Meeting at Arnolds Park, June 25 through 27th. The following is a tentative schedule of the events we have planned.

Friday, June 25

7:00 pm, praise service at the church

Saturday, June 26

8:00 am, donuts and coffee at church

9:00 am, (optional) fishing seminar or chalk talk

11:30 am, picnic at Arnolds Park Community Room

1:00 pm, tour of the area campus

7:00 pm. Praise Cruise on the Queen II (freewill offering)

Sunday, June 27

9:30 am, Sunday school

10:30 am, morning service with Ron Bryan

12:00 noon, catered potluck

The Praise Cruise on The Queen II seats 200 and will be a high light of our time together. Don't wait to get your reservations made!

Please respond by June 1, 2004 with a time of arrival and a telephone number where you can be reached so we can better plan for your visit.

In Loving Friendship,
All of us at Light of the Lakes Friends

RSVP TO: Light of the Lake Friends
PO Box 765
Arnolds Park, IA 51331

I will need accomodations
I have accomodations available



CUBA YEARLY MEETING

Map showing location of Quaker meetings in Cuba



- * **2001 and 2002** - Work teams were in Banes to finish rebuilding the church.
- * **2003** - Work team went to Floro Perez to construct a Chapel.
- * **August 2003** - The first IAYM work team went to Gibara to help with family camp.
- * **2004** - The work team went to Puerto Padre for construction of the Delicias Chapel.

Cuba has six monthly meetings now with Vista Alegre being approved. The following lists the meetings and the pastor.

- * Gibara MM- Luis Carlos Jomarrón
- * Holguin MM- No pastor. Pastoral Committee
- * Velasco MM- Alma Ajo
- * Banes MM- Heredio Santos and Julieta Perez (Husband and wife)
- * Puerto Padre MM- Ramon Gonzalez Longoria Escalona
- * Vista Alegre MM (in Holguin) - Leonardo Gonzalez

Cuba also has seven missions:

- * Pueblo Nuevo- Luis Carlos Jomarrón
- * Floro Perez- Evelyn Gonzalez
- * Las Calabazas- Dickson Santiesteban
- * Bocas- Junior Perez
- * Retrete- Lazaro Garcia
- * Delicias- Yadira Cruz
- * Habana- Candido Fernandez

Open Worship



For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

~|Corinthians 3:11

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VISITOR FROM CUBA COMING TO IAYM

By now, all the folks who gather with Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting have reserved the dates of August 4-7 to participate in the annual sessions. It is hoped that all our gatherings will be worship in which we dedicate ourselves to exalt God in our business, fellowship, and fun. Throughout the short time we will spend, we will lift Him up as we listen to testimonies of how He has worked in and among us, and we will have many opportunities to lift our voices, hands and hearts as a sacrifice of praise in response for all He has done.

It is an opportunity to renew acquaintances and enlarge our circle of friendships. There will be visitors from beyond our Yearly Meeting, folks we've been connected to in the past, folks we hope to share with in a hope-filled future. Among those we will welcome is Enelia de los Angeles Escalona Gonz'lez, a long-time leader among our brothers and sisters of Cuba Yearly Meeting. Between USFW-IA Spring Conference and Spring Body of Representatives, nearly \$300 dollars has been given to help defray the costs of Enelias travel. Cadena de Amigos, part of the Missions Board of Iowa Yearly Meeting as the Cuba Task Force, encourages the many bodies of believers across IAYM to contribute to his travel fund by sending donations to Bob Watson, IAYM Missions Treasurer, 803 Minnesota, Glidden, IA 51443.



At Cuba's Yearly Meeting Sessions this last February, Enelia prepared a cake to celebrate Vista Alegre's new status as a monthly meeting in Cuba.

VITAL SIGNS

Peggy Strand of LeGrand died peacefully on Tuesday afternoon March 16, 2004. Memorial Services were held at LeGrand Friends Church on March 23 with Pastor Alan Mullikin officiating. She is survived by her faithful and loving husband, Lyle (Bud), three children, as well as step-children, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a step-great-grandchild. Peggy was an active member of LeGrand Friends Church, as well as many community groups.

Marvin Klaas, 70, passed away on April 15, 2004 at home in the care of his family and Iowa River Hospice. Marvin was a member of the First Friends Church of Marshalltown. Surviving are 3 children, Donald & Linda Klaas, Lori & Gary Ferneau and Richard and Connie Klaas; 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Services were held April 20th with Phil King officiating.

Myrtle Wood Stuart, 86, passed away on February 13, 2004 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Myrtle graduated from Penn College in 1939, taught high school and college before her marriage to Ashley Stuart. She and her husband served as missionaries in Guatemala and El Salvador for 30 years. She was buried beside her husband, Ashley Stuart, at Whitewater, Kansas. She is survived by 6 children and 19 grandchildren.

James Bartholomew, 83, passed away March 8, 2004 at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines. He was preceded in death by his wife, Faye. He was a long time member of Middle River Friends Church near Carlisle, serving for several years on the Board of Trustees. Services were held Saturday, March 13, with Kevin Mortimer and Lawrence Bailey officiating.

Lori Grim, 58, of Eddyville, Iowa, died suddenly March 23rd in Maui, Hawaii. Lori was born January 1, 1946 to Lawrence and Virginia Tatum of New Providence. Lori graduated from New Providence High School, received her B.A. in Elementary Education from William Penn College and her Educational Administrator's endorsement from Drake University in 1996. Most recently, Lori was the principal of Horace Mann and James Elementary School as well as the chief administrator of the Early Childhood Education Center in Ottumwa, Iowa. Lori is survived by her husband, Michael; two daughters, Robin Bishop and Melissa Junge; mother, Virginia Tatum; sisters, Judy Davis, Nancy Stevens and Deb Moyer; many nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews. Lori was preceded in death by her father, Lawrence Tatum.

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa