



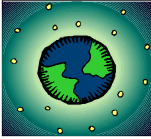
The Iowa Friend

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

January 2005

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 60 - No. 1



Kenya Pastors Conference

~By Ron Bryan, General Superintendent~

1 Timothy 6:20a "Guard that which has been entrusted to you" was the theme for the fourth ever Friends Pastor's Conference in Bware Yearly Meeting, Kenya, East Africa. As you know Colin South of FUM invited me to attend and share in the speaking responsibilities for this conference. Through the wonderful generosity of many churches and individuals, I was able to make this first ever trip to Kenya. It was an experience of a life time, and gave me the opportunity to be a part of the Friends Theological College at Kaimosi, where I spoke three times, and visited the Kaimosi and Lugulu Friends Hospitals.

Upon my arrival in Kenya, I had a guided visit to the Lindi School which is in the Kibera district of Nairobi. This is home to approximately 1,000,000 people who must contend daily for the barest essentials of life. I was told it is the second largest poor district in the world. Yet, Friends have a school and church there, and several dedicated Friends strive to make a difference in the lives of these people.

After traveling to Kaimosi and a short stay there, John Moru, Colin South, Patrick Nugent and I, along with one FTC student, traveled to Migori, Kenya and attended the Friends Pastor's Conference. Colin gave the key note address on Thursday morning, and then I spoke on Friday and Saturday, with Patrick giving an address on Saturday afternoon. There were approximately 500 people in attendance at the peak with an overall average of around 300 for all the sessions. Our challenge to the members of the fourteen East African Yearly Meetings was that we, in FUM, are no longer working as separate entities, and with North America acting like a parent. We are now entering a new level of cooperation; working as partners, sharing in our responsibilities of church and mission work.

I felt led to challenge the pastors to Guard the Gospel, the Church, the Family, and the Truth against the pressures of the world, and to personally Guard their Hearts, their Souls, their Minds and their Calls. Also, on the last day I challenged all the Yearly Meetings to send their Superintendents and others, to Des Moines in July of 2005. It is our hope that we can bring to fruition the call to gather all Superintendents and Executive Secretaries together and have a first ever meeting of North American and African Ministries Committees. My desire was to impress upon them our sincerity in working together as equals, hoping we can share and learn from each other.

I have a power point presentation available of the entire trip and would welcome the opportunity to share in any local Meeting.



From left; Ron Bryan, Colin South, John Moru, Daniel an FTC Graduate and Patrick Nugent.



Shamba (house) outside of Kisumu, Kenya.



Surgical ward, Lugulu Hospital.

**IAYM Ministry Conference
August 12 & 13, 2005
Camp Quaker Heights**



Friendly Flashes

"...let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is." ~Romans 12:2~

Last month as we focused on Advent, we spent time looking at how God transforms us from the person we once were to the person he desires us to become. This can happen in many ways; our personality, our moral or ethical viewpoints or by bringing about a healing of old wounds, either physical or spiritual. As we study God's word, it is opened to us and we become convicted of wrong behaviors or attitudes. The change is then accomplished by God using his strength in us to make the change.

He never asks us to make these changes and become perfect before He accepts us into fellowship with him. This is just the opposite of the way we view ourselves or each other, for we look at all that is "wrong" before we decide to enter into fellowship. The entire relationship is then spent trying to correct the "wrong" so that the relationship can grow. With God the relationship grows and the growth its self brings about the change. The more we come to know God the more we seek to be like Him. We become transformed into that "new person" Paul talks about in Romans 12.

Have we taken a look at how our churches have been transformed as we have grown? Has our church stopped growing? In our desire to grow have we transformed ourselves into something other than what God desires for us? Good questions, worth spending time studying, and discussing our answers. Some practices need to change with the times but some need to remain to give us strength and stability, even creditability in the world.

On February 4&5, IYAM is providing us the opportunity to do just that and to learn at the ministry conference " Becoming your favorite church". Lets all make sure our churches are well represented so that we can be working together toward the same goal. The goal of spreading Gods word across Iowa Yearly Meeting and sharing His love with all we meet.

See you in Oskaloosa in February, Linda



Cadena de Amigos

The Cadena de Amigos had some exciting news recently. In August, when Enelia Gonzalez was here from Cuba visiting Iowa Yearly Meeting, she had the opportunity to visit various meetings throughout the state. After speaking at Earlham Friends Church on August 22nd, Linda Burnett, pastor of Earlham Friends, Enelia and Erwin Lopez visited the John Wilson House in Earlham. This big, beautiful stone house was built in the 1860's by Quakers and served as a home for those using the Underground Railroad. Deb Rex, current owner of the home, was excited to have a Cuban Quaker Visitor. Enelia spoke to Deb about her life in Cuba and of the Quaker Friends there. Several weeks later, after Enelia had gone back to Cuba, Deb Rex contacted Linda Burnett and presented her with a \$1,000 donation for the continuing work with the Cuban Quakers. The Cadena de Amigos would like to thank Earlham Friends and Deb Rex for their generosity.

Cadena de Amigos will be having a fundraiser at the Winter Conference at College Avenue Friends Church. The purpose for the fundraiser will be to provide opportunities for fellowship with a brother or sister from Cuba Yearly Meeting. Monies raised will be used for visa and passport obligations, travel expenses, and Triennial fees. We anticipate welcoming this visitor in mid- to late summer, and hope that he or she can remain through our Yearly Meeting Sessions.

The women of College Avenue's USFW have fashioned a craft from VERY old Quaker hymnals donated by Earlham Friends Church. In addition, a woven rug made by Elizabeth Hawthorne, a visitor to our 2004 Yearly Meeting Sessions, will be offered at a silent auction the weekend of the H.B. London conference, February 5 & 6. We are excited about these special craft items and want to thank the ladies of College Avenue Friends and the Earlham Friends Church for being part of this fund-raiser for the Cadena Committe.

Anyone who can't attend but would like to help financially, please send donations to Bob Watson, IAYM Missions Treasurer with a note in the memo line for "Cuba visitor—2005".

Erwin Lopez and Linda Garrison
Cadena de Amigos

FRIENDS DISASTER SERVICE



We have volunteered to be the Friends Disaster Service Coordinators for IAYM. As you can imagine, we cannot do this on our own. We need God's help and the help of as many of you as possible. We have asked that each IAYM church assign a Friends Disaster Service Coordinator (FDSC) that we can work with in the event a disaster happens where we may be called on to provide assistance. Many of the churches have been able to appoint an FDSC. For the churches that do not have the resources to provide an FDSC, we ask that you pray for all of us as we work towards getting the FDS efforts coordinated.

In the very near future, we will be sending a form to each FDSC that can be used to gather information related to resources available in your local church to help with any disasters where we may be asked to participate. We would like to get this information completed and back to us by early February.

We are very excited about getting started with FDS and again ask for your support.

God bless each of you -- Dan & Nancy Ritchie





MENNONITE MUTUAL AIDE

By Jeffrey Swartzentruber

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED ASSETS

II Corinthians 9: 7 says "Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." In my many interactions with donors who work with Mennonite Foundation, I have found few "reluctant" givers. Many have a story to tell and have used us to facilitate the gift they ultimately wish to give to the ministry, mission, church or charity of their choosing. At Mennonite Foundation, we serve to facilitate the donor's hopes and desires on their timing to *make the gift* and to *direct it* where the donor ultimately wants it to go.

We also find that when the Lord moves people to action, a passion is created as well as many imaginative scenarios by these same people. Much of our believer population is geared to give cash because that is what they have most of, or that is what is most readily apparent to them. *When imaginations start to work, non-cash assets come to mind.* Non-cash assets that can be gifted to church/charity are: Real Estate (farms, homes, commercial property), marketable securities (publicly traded stocks, bonds, and mutual funds), privately held securities (closely held corporate stock, secured notes receivable), personal property (farm equipment, semi-trucks, business equipment), commodities (farm grains, livestock, milk, timber, etc.), and patents (intellectual property).

Why would people wish to give these types of assets? *First*, it is a way to give something when one does not have cash or liquid funds. *Second, and more importantly*, it is a way to give something that has appreciated in value, such that, if the donor were to personally sell the asset, it would result in a taxable event to the donor. By giving it to charity, the donor not only avoids paying taxes on the gain, but also is allowed a charitable deduction for tax purposes. Each asset, mentioned above, has certain hoops that the donor and the charity must jump through. Most times a tax qualified appraisal needs to be obtained around the time the gift is made. In addition, the donor needs to know what was paid for the asset and when it was purchased, or inherited.

Many times people do not consider gifting appreciated assets because they mistakenly believe that the entire asset must be given. It is possible to give an undivided percent interest in an appreciated asset. This provides flexibility to the donor and the charity. The donor is able to keep part of the sales proceeds, and will pay tax on any gain on the retained ownership interest.

Our goals at Mennonite Foundation are to: a) educate church members about the possibilities; b) enter into planning and discussions with people motivated to give, finding ways of giving most effectively for each one; and c) work with the donor and the asset to sell the asset in the most efficient way.

Do you have appreciated or business assets? Are you contemplating a sale of or retirement from your business? Has the Lord provided for you in ways that you find yourself thinking about giving back? Pray, Dream. We might be able to help you!

Jeff Swartzentruber serves Iowa and Illinois in the areas of gift - planning, financial and estate planning, and asset management .



MEETING MOMENTS

CENTER FRIENDS held a very successful "Peace & Justice" worship, Sunday, December 12, 2004. Karen Mendenhall, pastor, opened the meeting, followed by a Silent Worship in the manner of a traditional Quaker Meeting. Assistant Pastor, Cheri Doane, brought a brief message calling us to "Live in the Light." Bob Anderson, Clerk of the meeting, presented historical remarks and brought a current report from his I.R.I.S. Program - extending an invitation to anyone interested in hosting a student. I.R.I.S. has at least 16 students from Nigeria presently studying here now. The morning closed with a brunch. At least 40 were in attendance including a number of Grinnell College Students. Thank the Lord for this wonderful day!

LEGRAND FRIENDS celebrated the Christmas season with three performances of "Bethlehem Inn"—a Christmas dinner theater that depicts the events surrounding the night of Christ's birth. A talented group of our kids also put on wonderful musical, "Christmas at Hope Central." And, a brave group of folks enjoyed Christmas caroling around LeGrand even with plummeting mercury. To top it all off, we had our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the round. Over Christmas break, our jr. high youth and their fearless leaders, Will and Jessica Owens, went ice skating in Ames. Another day they joined the sr. high for a movie night on the big screen at church. A good-sized group of youth plan to attend Acquire the Fire in February. For the younger kids, we're still having weekly Pioneer Club meetings plus special events such as a roller skating party and pine car derby in the next few weeks.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY



Fairfield Friends is located in Fairfield, a town of approximately 9500 people located in the Southeast corner of Iowa. We are a dynamic growing congregation. and offer a mix of traditional and contemporary Christian Worship. We have an enthusiastic group of adult volunteers working with our children and youth. We are located on the corner with a middle school on one side and an elementary school on the other. Fairfield Friends has a growing youth group, which averages 30 Jr. and Sr. high youth on Wednesday evenings. We also have a dynamic children's ministry which averages 25 on Thursday evening.

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. We seek to have a significant impact for Jesus to the 1000 plus kids meeting in the two schools God has placed beside us. The ideal candidate will have a strong Christian faith with a desire to share Christ and have an education in youth or children's ministry and related Christian service and experience (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 S Sixth St,
Fairfield, IA 52556 (641) 472-2623
Email: pastor_dave@fairfieldfriendschurch.org

The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

P.O. Box 657

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Email: iaym@kdsi.net

Website: www.iaym.org

Subscription Price (Individual).....\$10.00 per year

Subscription Price (Group).....\$9.50 per year

Published Monthly Except August

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

VITAL SIGNS

DEATHS -

Esther Stoner, 88, of LeGrand died unexpectedly in her sleep early Thanksgiving morning, November 25, 2004. Services were held on Monday, November 29 with Pastor Alan Mullikin officiating and Pastor Ron Bryan assisting. Burial was in LeGrand Friends Cemetery. Esther was an active member of LeGrand Friends Meeting all of her life and was Treasurer of LeGrand's USFW. She and her husband, Paul, had just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this past summer. Besides him, she also leaves behind 4 children, 13 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. She was faithful . . . a "rock" to our church and we will miss her greatly.

Marjorie McCracken, 87 of Davenport, formerly of Richland, died Saturday, January 1, 2005 at the Davenport Good Samaritan Center, Alzheimer's Unit. Marjorie was a homemaker, Sunday school teacher, 4-H Club Leader and was active in the mission work of the USFW. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 5, 2005 at Woolson Friends Church with Pastor Angela Hancock officiating. Survivors include 4 children and 1 brother. Her parents, her husband, two brothers and one sister preceded her in death.

Doris L. Sullivan, 82, of Marshalltown, died Wednesday, December 22, 2004 in Des Moines. Doris was born in Marshalltown, Iowa and married Edward L. Sullivan in Minneapolis, MN. They lived in various communities where Ed was a teacher and pastor. Doris enjoyed her music and was known for her singing at various events including many funerals in the Union and Minerva Valley area. She and Ed served many years at the Hartland Friends Church where Ed was pastor. She is survived by 3 children; Bill and wife Ann Sullivan, Mike and wife Pat Sullivan and Jane Sullivan. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Ed.

Miriam G. McDonald, 70, of Clemons died Friday, January 7, 2005. Miriam was raised on a farm near Liscomb, Iowa where she graduated from high school. She attended the University of Northern Iowa and was a graduate of Life Underwriters Training Council. She married Wayne McDonald and together they had 4 children. After working with Wayne on the farm for over 30 years, she began and successfully developed her career in insurance. Miriam was an active leader in Friends United Meeting (FUM), Marshalltown Chamber, Bangor-Liberty Friends Church, Bangor USFW and Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends. Miriam is survived by her husband Wayne, 3 sons, Douglass, Steve and Scott, 1 daughter, Sarah, 1 sister and 7 grandchildren.

BIRTHS

Kemble Jobe Rains, son of **Scott and Wendy Rains**, was born January 11, 2005. Kemble weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Scott is the pastor at Buffalo Friends Church. Paternal grandparents are John and Ann Rains of Honey Creek-New Providence Friends Church.

Journey Rain Bryan, daughter of **Paul and Autumn Bryan**, was born January 4, 2005. Journey weighed 9 lbs. 3 oz and was 21 inches long. Paul is the pastor at Bloomington Muscatine Friends Church and is the Youth Director at Buffalo.

Dear Friends,

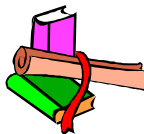
I have recently accepted the position of the IAYM Memorial Chairperson. The committee and myself have the following requests:

1. Send your memorial write-ups throughout the year, telling their story.
2. Typewritten on 8 1/2 x 11 paper.
3. Picture on same paper.
4. Include place of burial.

Send to: Shirley Settle, 1211 West State #141,
Marshalltown, IA 50159

Any questions, please call me at (641) 844-5022.

Thank You - Shirley Settle



Scholarship Opportunities

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2005-2006 academic school year. Persons seeking intentional study in missions at a Christian college or seminary, and want to pursue education to prepare for full time missions' work with a Friends organization may contact the Mission's Board to receive an application. For the 2005-2006 scholarship, please contact Diane Martin, IAYM Mission's Presider, at 3227 Pheasant Avenue, Rockwell, IA

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa