



# The Iowa Friend

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

February 2005

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 60 - No. 2

## **SIMPLE CHURCHES CONFERENCE ~ MARCH 18-19, 2005**

College Avenue Friends Church, Oskaloosa, Iowa

*A conference on evangelism and organic church planting with Wendy and Harold Behr.*

Harold and Wendy Behr are "convinced Friends," recorded with Northwest Yearly Meeting. As church planters (not in the conventional sense) for 20 years or so, they have planted "organic" or "Simple Churches" in many town and cities west of the Mississippi. Each church contains the DNA of early Quakers, as first encountered via Elton Trueblood's writings. The unique nature of planting these "gatherings" is to draw from the previously unchurched or out-churched community through "bridges" of relationship built by serving. Harold and Wendy believe Friends distinctives are appealing to an onlooking postmodern world view and provide a real doorway for reaching into the sea of confusion in which many are drowning.

Our attempt in this workshop is to get acquainted with a way of spontaneous multiplication of churches "with no buildings, no budgets, no big shots." Sounds Quaker. What can we learn from Wendy and Harold's experience to shake things up to release ministry within Iowa Yearly Meeting? (For more info on simple churches, go to: [www.simplechurches.net](http://www.simplechurches.net))

**YOUR BOARD ON CHURCH EXTENSION** Is excited about the opportunities this method of evangelism and church planting presents to the yearly meeting. Many attended the June 2004 conference in Richmond, Indiana sponsored by FUM. We became convinced this was a tool God placed before us to utilize.

We asked Wendy and Harold to come present how Simple Church concepts can be implemented in our various situation. Please note that these are not simply "house churches" with no denominational affiliation or doctrinal standards. They truly contain "the DNA of early Quakers." They are participants in the yearly meeting.

**WHO SHOULD COME?** Anyone who has a heart for starting new meetings/churches. The "simple church" movement Harold and Wendy have been working with will stimulate us to think outside the box about how new worship groups and churches can get going. Come ready to have your heart stimulated and to ask questions. Harold is good at allowing us to ask questions during his presentations. Join us in exploring new visions of God at work in Iowa Yearly Meeting.

We believe in the value of this conference and have paid your conference expenses. Please multiply its effect by bringing others with you.

### **CONFERENCE FORMAT**

We will meet in Oskaloosa at College Avenue Friends, 912 North C Street, on March 18 & 19. There will be no charge for the conference except for your lodging and meals.

**Friday, March 18** - Evening meal on your own.

**7:00 pm** - Inspirational sessions - The vision and philosophy of ministry in simple churches.

**Saturday, March 19** - Nuts and Bolts of simple church

Breakfast on your own  
8:15 am - Worship  
8:30 am - First session  
10:00 am - Break  
10:20 am -Second session  
Noon - Lunch  
1:00 pm - Third sessions  
2:45 pm - Conference adjourns

### **REGISTRATION - NO CHARGE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle: I will attend: Friday Saturday Both**

Before March 10, mail registration to: IAYM, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577, Email: [iaym@kdsi.net](mailto:iaym@kdsi.net)

### **MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Red Carpet Inn: 1-800-251 1962 or 641-673-8614  
Comfort Inn: 1-800-228-5150 or 641-672-0375  
Rodeway Inn: 1-800-228-2000 or 641-673-8351

We encourage conference attendees to stay at the Friends friendly Red Carpet Inn. The Inn is located 1 mile north of William Penn University on Hiway 63.



## Friendly Flashes

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. ~Ephesians 6:18 ~*

I am sure that our church is much like yours, each Sunday we hear prayer requests especially for those who are sick or grieving. We pray during church and remember during the week, but we do not always know the outcome. We are not as quick to share the answer to prayer as we are to share a need. It's easy to get discouraged with our efforts when we are unaware of the outcome. When this happens many times we just quit praying for a certain person or situation.

This week I have been going through my stacks of photos and throwing away the ones that are out of focus or duplicates. Of course I found pictures that brought a smile or a tear, because each one brings with it a memory.

One of the pictures was of a black and white cat. This little lady came into our lives in 1989. When I first became aware of her she was a tiny kitten wandering the streets and talking to everyone who passed. Since I have been assured that I speak fluent cat, we had numerous conversations as she followed me up and down the street. Always trying to get into the store or my husband's office when I went inside. My husband was adamant that we did not need a second cat. I tried with out success to find a home for this very persistent kitty, all with out success. Still every time I went up the street she appeared at my side and struck up a conversation. Months passed and the weather was getting cool. She continued to walk with me and talk coming only as far as the office door where she would sit down as I went inside. One day I was in the living room working on a quilt when my husband opened the door to holler that I had company. When no one appeared I went to the back room to see who was there. Sitting at the food dish was the little kitten, eating away as calm as could be. When she finished and started to walk away I picked her up and carried her back to the office so Jim could put her outside. However, he thought she should be left in a little longer so that she could eat her fill. That day she wandered around the house eating, drinking, sleeping on the footstool and using the cat box. As Jim closed the shop, He put her outside. When he opened up the next morning she was waiting and he put her inside again. That day the temperature took a big plunge to below 0 and she never went outside again. We enjoyed her company for several years before she developed cancer and died. My husband named her Black and Decker and called her Decker for short. Had it not been for her persistence in spite of the constantly closing doors, she probably would not have survived that first year.

When I get discouraged about unanswered prayers I remember all the years we had with this tiny little lady simply because she chose us and never gave up until she got the answer she wanted. We may not get the answer we want all the time, but if we are patient, we will get the answer that God knows is best for us.

May you be blessed,  
Linda Burnett



## Art of a Merry Heart

**"ART OF A MERRY HEART" CONFERENCE  
APRIL 9, 2005**

The USFW Spring Fling will be held at Grinnell Friends Church, Highway 146 South, Grinnell, on Saturday, April 9. Leading the day's fun-filled activities will be Barb Briggs.

Barb and Keith Briggs pastored at Grinnell Friends for 20 years, and before that at Stavanger Friends. Barb is a registered nurse who was volunteer coordinator for Grinnell Regional Hospice for 12 years.

When Grinnell Regional Medical Center received a grant to study effects of integrating alternative therapies with traditional medicine, humor was selected as one of the therapies. Barb received training in 1999 through the Humor Project, a national organization that promotes the positive power of humor, and since that time has made presentations to community groups, nursing home and hospital staffs, and churches promoting the benefits of humor.

The conference will include four sessions: "Darts to a Merry Heart", "The Start of a Merry Heart", "Parts of a Merry Heart", and "Warts on a Merry Heart". The presentation will be interactive, so ladies should come planning to be active participants!

Registration cost is \$10.00, including lunch served by Grinnell Friends ladies. Tickets will be mailed to USFW presidents at the end of February. Guests are welcome!

## CHICAGO FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS



Riverside Friends Church is planning an outreach to Chicago Fellowship of Friends on March 4-6 for youth and adults. It is our goal to be an encouragement and to help clean their facility. There may also be a joint youth party on Saturday night. Pastor Spencer will be leading praise & worship during their Sunday worship service.

We will be leaving from Mason City at 1:00pm Friday, March 4 and returning on Sunday, March 6 after the worship service. The cost is \$35, which includes five meals, transportation, and lodging at CFOF. Additional money will be needed to buy fast food meals while traveling. If you are interested, please contact Diane Martin at 641-822-3694. We would love to have you join us and are willing to pick you up along the route.

In Christ's Love,  
Diane Martin

Be ye fishers of  
men -- you catch them  
& He'll clean them.



## MEETING MOMENTS

The holiday season at **Bear Creek Friends** flew by in a flurry of activities! On November 6, we held a clean-up day for the inside AND outside of the church. Our pastor's wife, Eleanor Gilreath, served chili for our lunch. The USFW ladies served lunch to many others on November 20, when they worked at Loretta Barnett's farm sale. November 21st was a special morning service, when Lora Schneider of Cedar Rapids presented her one-woman drama presentation, "Ladies of the Bible-Living Water." A potluck lunch followed her program, and we then met upstairs again to decorate the sanctuary and the outside of the church for Christmas. That evening was the annual community Thanksgiving service, sponsored by the Earlham Ministerial Association, in which our pastor takes part. This year it was held at the Earlham Methodist Church, with supper following.

The first Sunday of Advent began our series of Sunday evening services. Pastor Gilreath spoke on "Bring Christmas Back to Christ" for each of the four Sunday evenings. On Friday, December 3rd, the USFW met to make "cookies in a jar", their annual fundraiser. Another project enjoyed by all, was taking part in Yearly Meeting's "Christmas shoebox project" for the youngsters at Chicago Fellowship of Friends.

The annual Christmas program for our children was the morning of December 5th. Many children took part in the program with everyone enjoying our traditional "treat bags" at the close. Our evening Advent service continued through December, culminating in our candlelight service on Christmas Eve. We now look forward to a new year filled with God's blessings on our church and church family.



## FRIENDS DISASTER SERVICE UPDATE

On behalf of Friends Disaster Service, Nancy and I would like to thank each of you that were able to make one or both of the work days at the Kilpeck Friends Church.

On January 21, Juli Hisel and Tim Parsons (Woolson), Addi and Frank Miller (Bloomington Muscatine), Stan Bauer and Bill McCracken (Pleasant Plain), Joyce Haller (Kilpeck), Don Russell, Nancy and Dan Ritchie (Middle River) worked diligently on the sanctuary, rooms around the sanctuary, the church office, the social hall, the gym area and part of the classrooms.

On February 12, Del Coppinger (Grinnell), Nick and Jon Martin (Pleasant Plain), Sam and Amy Clark (West Branch), Joyce Haller, Jean and Leland Long (Kilpeck), Jim DeMeyer (Grace), Tim and Nancy Parsons (Woolson), Don Russell, Nancy and Dan Ritchie (Middle River) finished the classrooms, cleared out the parsonage and picked up around the outside of the parsonage. Most of the kitchen was cleaned out also.

A special thanks to Joyce Haller who provided lunch both days for the groups at the church. She did an excellent job meeting our needs with food.

Some work remains to be completed outside related to cleanup. If there are groups of people that are available to help with this work, please contact us (515-989-3407) or Don Davis (319-986-6334) at Mt. Pleasant.

Thanks to all for your time and hard work.  
Dan and Nancy Ritchie, FDS Coordinators

## Prices Reduced for FUM Triennial 2005

In order to make the FUM Triennial more family friendly, the costs for youth and children have been reduced. They are as follows:

<b>Adults</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>2-3 people in a room</b>	<b>4 people in a room</b>
Early Bird Rate	\$395	278 (each person)	\$265 (each person)
Standard Rate	\$425	\$308 (each person)	\$295 (each person)
Late After 6/15/05	\$450	\$333 (each person)	\$320 (each person)
<b>Youth (11-18)</b>	<b>Staying with other youth</b>	<b>Staying with parent/guardian or commuting</b>	
Early Bird Rate	\$120	\$75	
Standard Rate	\$130	\$85	
Late After 6/15/05	\$140	\$95	
<b>Children (3-10)</b>	<b>Entire Conference</b>	<b>Daily commuter rate</b>	
	<b>Staying with parent/guardian</b>		
Early Bird Rate	\$30	\$15	
Standard Rate	\$40	\$25	
Late After 6/15/05	\$50	\$35	

### Children (0-2) No cost if staying with parent/guardian

New registration forms will soon be sent to all monthly and yearly meetings or you can adjust the prices on your present form and mail it in. Registration can also be accomplished via the internet at <http://meetingsfirst.com/fum/add.lasso>.

All questions and registrations should be sent to Brian Clark: Meeting Planning Services, Inc., 8 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Hingham, MA 02043 Phone: 781-741-9966 Fax: 781-741-9977; email: [bclark@meetingsfirst.com](mailto:bclark@meetingsfirst.com).

## The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

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## LIFEGAURD NEEDED

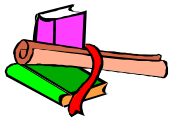
Camp Quaker Heights is looking for a certified lifeguard for the summer of 2005. This is a paid position that includes stipend and room & board. If you are looking for a fun way to spend your summer with a lively bunch, Camp Quaker Heights is the place for you.



Responsibilities include: pool cleaning and supervision, some kitchen and cleaning duties, as well as helping make this an exciting summer for our campers and guests.

Interested lifeguards may contact Ric Garrison, Associate Superintendent of Youth and Camping Ministries by email: [campqhi@adiis.net](mailto:campqhi@adiis.net), or by phone 641-751-4400.

Application Deadline: April 20<sup>th</sup> 2005.



## Missions Board Scholarship

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions' Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1,000 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 Missions' Board to receive an application. For the 2005-2006 scholarship, please contact Diane Martin, IAYM Missions' Presider, 3227 Pheasant Avenue, Rockwell, IA 50469

## Camp Quaker Heights Workday



April 2nd -- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Jobs for everyone!  
cut/stack firewood

clean & repair cabins and other buildings,  
raking, picking up limbs, turning on water,  
moving softball field backstop,  
and MUCH MORE!!

HELP THE CQH STAFF PREPARE FOR  
THE NEW SEASON



Lunch will be served!

## VITAL SIGNS

**Russell J. Johnson, 100**, died on February 6, 2005 at the Green County Medical Center in Jefferson. Russell was a member of the Bear Creek Friends Church. He and his father were custodians of the church for many years. As a young man, Russell was a 4-H leader, was always concerned about everyone's welfare, and ready to help out. Russell is survived by his nephew Larry Johnson of, California and and two great nieces. Funeral service were held at the Bear Creek Friends Church on February 10, 2005, with Dallas Gilreath officiating.

**Moses Hoskins, 81**, of Marshalltown, formerly of Fremont, went to be with the Lord on February 12, 2005. He was born on the family farm and took over the farm work as an adult. He also worked many years at the McCurdy Seed Company. Moses married Sybil Jones of Maine on August 27, 1949. A lifetime member of College Avenue Friends Church, he served on many committees including the Board of Trustees and Board on Coordination for IAYM. Moses was one who could see good in others and encourage people to strive to reach their potential. Because of this the family has designated the IAYM Capital Campaign for the encouragement of leadership training as his memorial. His memory is honored by his wife Sybil, his daughters and their husbands, Marion & Steve Channel of Tucson, and Margaret & John Good of Union with grandson Isaac, a brother Ellis & wife Elva of Springville, and a sister-in-law, Helen Hoskins of Oskaloosa. Moses was preceded in death by his brother, Joseph.

## SPRING BODY OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 29 - May 1, 2005

Light of the Lakes

Friends Church

Arnolds Park, Iowa

"Trusting God with

Lives Wide Open"

Mark your calendars! Send registrations to the  
IAYM Office by April 22, 2005.



Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa