



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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Inauguration Ceremony of Dr. Richard Sours

~ by Iola Cadwallader, College Avenue Friends Church ~

The Inauguration of Dr. Richard E. Sours as the 25th President of William Penn University was held April 22, 2005 at George Daily Community Auditorium in Oskaloosa. It was a meaningful, uplifting celebration with thirteen William Penn students from around the world, each carrying his or her country's large flag, leading the procession of dignitaries, staff and faculty into the auditorium.

Dr. Sours was inaugurated after spending nearly a year on the job as Penn president, and to those both within and beyond the walls of this Quaker institution, the total inaugural week mirrored the creative impact both Richard Sours and his wife, Charlotte have already made in the life of the University. A full calendar of events and activities showcased the new spirit, which now permeates the campus.



Friday's Inauguration Service held a spirit of worship, dignity, warmth, joy, challenge, unity and optimism for the future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) is the undergirding promise Richard Sours holds for the university in the task that lies ahead. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." And as the entire gathering joined in singing the familiar hymn, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee," God's presence was felt.

In his inaugural address, Richard Sours announced plans are already in progress toward a more stable future for Penn. The Jump Start Plan, a work of Penn faculty, staff and trustees, will make improvements in eight key areas of the life and outreach of the university. These are found in goals Sours outlined for Penn to achieve within the next five and the next 10 years. Included among these was the renovation of Spencer Chapel, to which a round of applause erupted from the audience. One particular goal which began to take form early in Richard Sours' presidency was to reach more deeply into Penn's founding Quaker principles, for a more true and workable identity within today's world. Dr. Sours found inspiration from the ladder erected on campus in the 1972 under the leadership of Bill Griggs, then Campus Minister, which bears William Penn's Advices, written in 1699:

Be Humble
Be Meek

Be Patient
Be Merciful
Be Loving
Be Generous
Be Just
Be True
Be Grateful
Be Diligent
Be Thrifty
Be Temperate

Richard Sours says, "In my opinion, William Penn's Advices can be interpreted both personally and corporately. On a personal level, they can be viewed as a condensed 'Sermon on the Mount,' in that they teach us how to think, speak and behave. When applied to the entire University, they teach us how to conduct the school's business; that is, how the school should treat our students, parents, employees, alumni, community, and all with whom we have relationships. The 'personality' of the institution, how it is viewed on and off campus, should be shaped by Penn's Advices. This is what most schools call their 'Core Values,' those qualities which must be adhered to at all times. We try, both by personal example and by University policy, to exhibit Penn's twelve virtues."

A special Inaugural Buffet Meal was served in the Union Dining Room at noon. At each place setting was a bookmark commemorating the occasion and bearing Penn's 12 Advices; also, one of eight printed prayers of blessing, written by local ministers for the occasion. With permission, printed here is the prayer by Allen Bowman, retired faculty member and campus minister. A Prayer for the Sours

"God of all wisdom, of all goodness, and of all grace, we give thanks for Dr. Richard and Charlotte Sours. We are grateful that in your good providence they have come to be among the William Penn family and to give leadership to this University. For their Christian Faith, for their generous and gracious attitude toward students, staff, faculty and all of us, we are glad.

"Continue to give them understanding and wisdom as they provide the leadership needed for William Penn University. May the insight, enthusiasm, and energy in their vision for Penn be so transparent that it will become a shared vision within the entire University constituency. In the name of Jesus we Pray."

And may the corporate "Amen" to this prayer from the Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting be joined by many such prayers in our churches, our homes and our hearts on behalf of the future of William Penn University. Then to give our prayers wings, may we find added means and ways for doing our part in bringing its present vision into a lasting reality.



Friendly Flashes

" ... anyone who holds on to life just as it is, destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you will have it forever, real and eternal." John 12:24-26 { the Message}

In the March issue of Quaker Life, David Wade wrote about this passage challenging us to let go of any thing that hinders us from loving recklessly. He reminded us that Jesus' reckless love showed us that all people of all races in all places are a part of our family.

The purpose of U.S.F.W. is to further the kingdom through fellowship and service. That we might by this fellowship be strengthened and increase our awareness and our concern for the needs of those around us. We do this by gathering at our Spring and Fall meetings , by attending Yearly Meeting and our own Monthly meetings. We share through articles in Iowa Friend , the Advocate and Quaker Life. All of this keeps us aware of the needs around the mission fields of FUM and EFM. These are very important areas of our ministry but on the local level are we missing an opportunity in our own backyards?

I have been wondering this in the wake of an evening of vandalism in Earlham last September. The youngsters involved were 11 and 12 year olds, honor students, never been in trouble before. What they did was annoying, damaging, and for some of the victims time consuming to repair or clean up, but none of it was dangerous, yet. I add the yet because one of the youngsters was scared and very repentant, one was, on the surface, repentant but not old enough hide that this child really didn't care what kind of damage was caused. Can we hide our hurt and recklessly love this child, invite them into our family, regardless of the possible cost?

I think that if we are to love recklessly as Jesus did, then as women of U.S.F.W. we must reach out to the children who harm us in some way and to their parents. The hurt and the pain in a family when a child with every thing going for them suddenly crosses the line can only be healed by Christ's 'love. Just as we worry about the futures of children in our mission fields, we must also open our eyes to the children next door or down the street. Bring them under the wings of prayer at our meetings and in church. Offer our friendship not our judgement to the families and if allowed walk with them through the valley they have found themselves in, show them the light of Christ to lead them out to greener pastures. In so doing, maybe they and their families will be restored as only God can do.

Keep Praying, Linda B.

P.S. Don't forget to send in your nomination letter for the E.A.Cox award.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2005

Ron Bryan: bryanrj@mahaska.org
Daneta Lopez: iaym@mahaska.org



MEETING MOMENTS

The winter months seemed busy at Bear Creek Friends, but they started on a sad note with the death of our oldest member, 100 year-old Russell Johnson. Russell's funeral was held at Bear Creek on Thursday, February 10, with our pastor, Dallas Gilreath officiating. Burial was at the Bear Creek Cemetery. Russell had lived at the Panora Nursing Home since 1988, but had maintained an active interest in his church home and neighbors right up until his death. We'll miss his letters and frequent correspondence.

A series of Ash Wednesday soup suppers and Lenten service began on February 9th. Members gathered each Wednesday evening for six weeks, enjoying a time of fellowship, soup, and lessons presented by our pastor.

Easter weekend was very busy, beginning with the Good Friday Ecumenical Service held at our church on March 25. A community choir, along with narrations by Pastor Dallas and another local pastor, provided a meaningful program. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the churchyard drew a large crowd of children and families on Saturday, March 26th. The Sunrise Service, held jointly with the Earlham Friends Church, was held at our church on Easter morning, followed by breakfast and regular services later in the morning.

Several of our women attended the USFW Spring Fling in Grinnell on April 9th. Pastor Dallas traveled to Waterloo on April 11th for a Quakerdale Conference. A big crowd enjoyed a pork loin supper on April 16th, as a fundraiser for our children's church camp expenses. Five children will be attending Little Fry and Fry camps and one adult member also attended camp counselor training at Motor Friends Church.

Pastor Dallas, his wife, Eleanor, and Sarah Kritzer represented us at Spring Body at Arnold's Park the weekend of April 29th. Bruce Gaumer, a local neighbor, was our speaker for Sunday morning service on May 1st. He shared about his work with the Gideons' Bible Ministry.

Spring is just around the corner now, promising more busy times for all of us at Bear Creek in the warm weather months ahead!

2005 Ministry Conference

August 12 & 13, 2005

at

CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS

"Trusting God with Lives Wide Open"

Youth Yearly Meeting Director: Anthony Nieuwsma
Children's Yearly Meeting Director: Becky Barber
Music Leadership: Spencer Thury

Recording Service & Reception Friday Evening
followed by a Bon Fire!

Look for more information and registration
in the July issue of the Iowa Friend.



Spring Body Arnold's Park

Memories of Spring Body, April 29 through May 1, 2005

"I always enjoy the times Friends gather. Meeting new acquaintances and learning how they live out their faith in their every day lives. I felt challenged from Darlene Pittman and her message of 'taking the steps to becoming a healthy church'." ~John Rains



"Very good meetings, visits and services. One of the very best Spring Body of Representatives. We were blessed by Arnold's Park Friends in getting to know them. Darlene Pittman challenged us personally and in our meetings, to be all God wants us to be." ~ Shirley Settle

"Blessed by the very gracious hospitality of Arnold's Park Friends. We appreciated the tour which emphasized the history of the Native Americans in the area. The speaker challenged us to 'ch-ch-change' in ways to help our local meetings grow." ~Ray & Clara Millett



"A great time of renewal. It felt like the messages were directed straight at me, my church and our yearly meeting. I thank God for this weekend." ~Joyce Haller

"Small congregations can do big things. Arnold's Park was the host of a wonderful weekend. The speaker's message, the meals served, the fellowship shared and the hospitality shown was all we could ask for and more." ~Patti Phillips

"I hope North Carolina Yearly Meeting knows and appreciates the treasure they have in Darlene Pittman! Her messages pushed buttons in me that needed to be pushed. Thank you Darlene!" ~Margaret Stoltzfus

"I enjoyed the whole weekend. Darlene was a wonderful speaker with a dynamic goal for each of us to consider and pray about. The message was for growth in our lives at home, church and community. Enjoyed visiting with others in the Yearly Meeting. Arnold's Park Friends were very wonderful hosts." ~Sue Beall



What I Didn't do at Mardi Gras This Year!

~ by Spencer Thury, Pastor of Riverside Friends Church

This is written to all those who say to me, "What happened at Mardi Gras this year?" I do not want to disappoint you, but after going eight years in a row, it was time to give it a year off. H.B. London was coming to Oskaloosa that weekend and I really wanted to spend some time with my wife, Mary.

I learned something new on that trip. H.B. London spoke on the need to continue ministering to the "Old Joe's in our lives." Basically, I went to a conference instead of to Mardi Gras this year to hear a speaker say, continue to schedule and plan your trips of outreach and evangelism. It was a great conference and an eye opener, but the divine encounter forever burned into my mind happened on the drive down.

Rounding a corner, our van came upon an accident. A few people were already on the scene, but there were no police or ambulances there yet. A driver of one car had a sheet over their head and the doors were sheared off the driver's side. A man was lying twenty feet from his pickup truck, which was all pushed in on the driver's side. It looked like he flew out the windshield and landed in front of the truck.

There was woman who looked like she knew what she was doing, checking vitals on the man, and having another man hold him still. But the accident victim himself was struggling against them. Here he was thrown from his vehicle and within his view was the covered body in the other car. He had a deep cut in his head and was gurgling while he breathed and tried to speak. It was his words that got to me. He cursed. He called down curses upon the situation. I understand he was in pain, most assuredly physical and emotional, but going through my mind was, "You don't know if you are going to make it out of this. A young person twenty feet from you is standing before the Lord right now, and you could be there soon yourself. I would not want those words on my lips if I were going to meet God right now." That's what I thought, but said none of it. I did not want to get in the way, I prayed.

Here's what I learned, and hope you will think about:

1) Jesus said we speak out of the abundance of our hearts, out of what has been stored up within us already. When accidents happen, and they will, what comes out of your mouth is what has already been stored up. Is it prayers, memorized bible verses, or curses?

2) We never know how much time we have. We are just one click away from eternity. One deer in the wrong place when we are talking on the cell phone, or two cars going different directions and it's over. Are you ready to stand before God?

I didn't interrupt those who came up to help. My thoughts were on eternity and the nearness of God. I still don't know if I would have. But someone needs to warn the living before those accidents happen and it's too late to decide.

Are you prepared to stand before God and give an account of your life? What comes out of your mouth after accidents happen?

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A FUTURE AND A HOPE

Financial Giving Update

As of May 15, 2005, the following money has been received for the Capital Campaign:

Undesignated Giving.....	\$ 31,095.00
Designated Giving:	
Missions & Outreach.....	\$ 3,600.00
Pastoral Leadership.....	\$ 1,035.00
Tall Oaks Lodge.....	\$ 73,770.46

TOTAL RECEIVED.....\$ 109,500.46

Capital Campaign

In November of 2004, we hired Pat Watson as our IAYM Capital Campaign Director. Her primary responsibility is to travel to all the churches, make presentations and work towards securing pledges that will eventually realize our total goal. That goal was originally set at \$2,140,000. After prayer and consideration, we as a Yearly Meeting, agreed to start with an initial push for \$600,000 in cash and pledges. By September 1, 2004, we were at the \$300,000 mark. When including the Cedar Rapids church funds of \$360,000, earmarked for Church Extension, we then have \$671,000 in cash and pledges.

With Pat's vision we set her forward to challenge all members of the Yearly Meeting to make a \$100 a year pledge for five years. This, we hoped, would enable everyone, who is a yearly meeting member, know that they have a part in the Future and a Hope of Iowa Yearly Meeting. Our purpose in a \$500 pledge is simple. If all 3,400 members would make that commitment, this would equal \$1,700,000 and that would achieve our original goal. Perhaps even surpassing the preliminary amount agreed upon.

Still unanswered is this: We have had several \$100 contributions, but very little in the form of a five year pledge. We need for everyone to catch this vision and make the commitment. Many hands and hearts working together make goals achievable. If we are doing so for the Kingdom of the Living God, then there should be no fear of commitment.

Ron Bryan

VITAL SIGNS

Herschel Lewis Mendenhall, 89, of Wayland, died April 20, 2005 at Parkview Home in Wayland where he had been a resident since late March. Herschel attended Otterbein College and graduated from William Penn College in 1941 where he was the business office manager during his last two years of college. He was pastor at the Woolson Friends church and Middle River Friends Church. He farmed from 1949 until his retirement in 1993 except for three years when he worked as treasurer and bookkeeper for the Friends Africa Mission in Kaimosi, Kenya. Herschel was a long time member of Pleasant Plain Friends Church where he had served on many committees as well as the Yearly Meeting. Memorial services were held at Pleasant Plain Friends Church on April 24 with Karen Mendenhall and Stan Bauer officiating. Herschel is survived by his brother, Charles Mendenhall and wife, Martha of Earlham, brother-in-law, Earl Coffin of Fairfield, nieces, nephews and friends.

USFWI-QUAKER MEN BANQUET

Saturday, July 16, 2005

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Where: Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines

If you would like to attend the USFWI-QUAKER MEN BANQUET, but are not planning to attend the Triennial Sessions, please call Daneta at the Iowa Yearly Meeting Office (641) 673-9717 to make your reservation.

Following the banquet will be a fellowship time with a COFFEE HOUSE and TALENT SHOW!
Everyone is invited to attend.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 15, 2005

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