



# The Iowa Friend

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

July/August 2005

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

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## Minute of Appreciation Approved on Saturday, July 17, 2005

**Whereas**, the 2005 Friends United Meeting Triennial Sessions have been held in Des Moines, Iowa, from the 13th throughout the 17th days of the seventh month; and

**Whereas**, the theme of the Triennial has been "The Lamb Shall Overcome;" and

**Whereas**, the attendance has included representatives from 26 of 29 yearly meeting constituencies, plus representatives of affiliated organizations, observers, other yearly meeting Friends, staff members, invited guests, Young Friends and visitors totaling 450 persons; and

**Whereas**, all in attendance have enjoyed occasions for worship, fellowship, study, listening, reflection, celebration and personal spiritual growth, the gathered Friends do hereby express great appreciation to Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends for their dedication, commitment, and diligent work in preparing for the 2005 Triennial Meeting. Special thanks goes to Ron Bryan, Superintendent of Iowa Yearly Meeting; Mary Ann Coppinger and Ann Lee Nichols, Co-Chairpersons of the Triennial Program Committee; Darrel and Eve Goodhue, Co-Chairpersons of the Host Committee; Alan and Sheryl Mullikin for Music; and Brian and Katharine Clark for Meeting Registration.

On behalf of Gathered Friends for the 2005 Friends United Meeting Triennial,

Brent McKinney,  
Presiding Clerk



## Friendly Flashes

*"No one knows the day nor the hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the son, but only the Father" Matthew.24:36*

I have been thinking a lot about a dear friend who died last December, much too soon for all of us. I am just weeks away from retiring from the Post Office. What has been on my mind is all the time I wasted waiting for retirement to start before I "had the time" to do whatever.

My friend and I had planned to have lunch together when I wasn't so busy. Too late now. We talked on the phone and for that I am grateful. Where else have I been putting off things until a better time? How about you? What are you putting off 'till later?

Triennial was held in Des Moines this month. Did you attend, or did you say next time? Yearly meeting is just too long, but someday....this years meeting is just 2 days.... no more excuses, be there and see what you have been missing. How about your local U.S.F.W. ? The day or night of the meeting is the time , just go and enjoy the fellowship. We do not have reruns, each meeting is new and original. Check us out.

I'm sure everyone has spent a dollar on a lottery ticket, and fantasized about what they would do if they had all of that money. So why wait? Be like the widow who gave her mite, but do so regularly. You will be surprised how much you can give away over the years and never miss it.

If we all decided to increase our giving to our local church, both time and money, our churches would be energized and God would bless the church and you.

The capital campaign is a great place to start giving. Just five dollars every month for five years would add up to \$300; \$60 a month would be \$3,600 in five years, \$20 a month would equal \$1,200 after five years. Who says we have to be a lottery winner to give large amounts? God honors the small but continuous gift given to further His kingdom.

I don't want to put off any longer giving where my heart tells me there is a need. I will not put off any longer spending time with those around me, family, friends and the "new people" who are friends in waiting. Waiting for us to take the time to get to know them.

Christ followed His passion and we are saved because of it. Others will come to know His saving grace when we no longer put off getting involved, starting on the local level, state level and world wide. Let us start by praying for all those who will be traveling to Iowa Yearly Meeting and for all the missionaries who are following their passion for Christ.

We don't know the hour or the day of His coming, let's stop wasting time.

Give joyfully,  
Linda B.



## Chicago Fellowship Of Friends

Dear Friends,

Thirty years ago Marlene and Steve Pedigo, obeying God's guidance, came to Chicago to start a ministry to youth under Young Life, a Christian ministry to teenagers. After a few years, as the teenagers in their program became adults, they wanted to have a church home and asked the Pedigos if they could start a church. The Chicago Fellowship of Friends (CFOF) was born and became a mission project of Friends United Meeting (FUM). At the start of the Pedigos' ministry, 20,000 people were living in an area of a few city blocks comprised of high rise housing in the neighborhood known as Cabrini Green.

As the meeting grew and matured, the decision was made to set off the Chicago Fellowship of Friends as a preparative/monthly meeting under Western Yearly Meeting, while at the same time it would remain a mission under FUM.

The Chicago Fellowship of Friends mission to youth received tremendous support from a great number of friends. Individual Friends, monthly meetings, yearly meetings and other religious groups responded with financial and prayer support. Many people were involved in work camps, improving the conditions of the CFOF building/meetinghouse. People responded to the call of ministry by serving as interns, staff and volunteers at the Chicago Fellowship of Friends. The mission was directed to youth; however, ministry was also provided to adults including Meeting for Worship, Sunday School, parent groups, the After School program and other activities. The CFOF Advisory/Oversight Board recognizes that the CFOF began as an inner city mission to youth and developed into a companioning monthly meeting.

But Cabrini Green changed with the times. By early 2005, with the closing and razing of housing, there were less than 2,500 people living there, and people continue to move out of the community. The CFOF recognized that it had completed its mission and minuted approval to lay down all of its outreach programs which was accomplished on May 27, 2005. The CFOF building is now for sale, and we anticipate all closing processes will be completed by early fall. The Pedigos have relocated to Plainfield, Indiana to take up their duties as Co-Superintendents of Western Yearly Meeting.

The CFOF ministry is no longer seeking funds to support this inner city outreach ministry. Any additional funding designated for the support of the Fellowship of Friends and/or the Pedigos beyond June, 2005 will be returned to the donors. It is with gratitude that we thank all Friends who have so generously supported this demanding, creative and important ministry. Truly it has been God's work.

We encourage all Friends to remember with joy and satisfaction the significant ministry of the Chicago Fellowship of Friends and to keep all of its members and participants in our prayers as they move through their transitions.

Robert Garris, Clerk  
Chicago Fellowship of Friends Advisory/Oversight Board

**Thank you Marlene and Steve for your direction, presence and many years of service to our "Friends" in Chicago!**



## VITAL SIGNS

### DEATHS

**Dale Keen**, of LeGrand, died Wednesday, June 22 at Villa Del Sol Care Center in Marshalltown, just 15 days after his 92nd birthday. Dale was an Iowa-born, life-long farmer who enjoyed working with his hands not only in the soil but also in the kitchen baking goodies and in the woodworking shop shaping special creations. Throughout his life, Dale was an important contributor to both LeGrand Friends Church (LFC) and Iowa Yearly Meeting. He served as Clerk of LFC for many years and was Vice Chairman of the Building Committee when the current church building was built in 1951. Dale was one of the original five men who scouted out the land for what is now Camp Quaker Heights. He was one from that committee who saw potential and brought tractors up to start filling in the huge hole that is now the driveway. We can truly say along with the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7 that Dale "...fought the good fight, ... finished the race, ... [and] ... kept the faith." Dale leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Gertrude Keen, two children, six grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Kathryn White Tjossem** died unexpectedly in her sleep, April 28, 2005, at the Barthell OES Home in Decorah, Iowa, where she had resided for a few weeks. The daughter of Bernard and Ruth Bryant White, she was a lifelong member of Hesper Friends Meeting and had been active in Christian Education, Hesper Friends Women, and the general life of the Meeting. Services were held Monday, May 2, at Hesper Friends Meeting with pastor Keith Mardock officiating. Burial was in the Hesper Public Cemetery. Kathryn is survived by her husband, Lawrence; her four children, Greg, Judy, Cindy, and Steve, and their families; and three sisters, Theresa Wells, Bernadine Cooper, and Myrna Mardock.

**Bessie Alice (Betty) Palmer** was born May 2, 1918 in Grinnell, Iowa, the daughter of Bert and Susan Whitaker. She was educated in the Grinnell School District, graduating from high school in 1936. Betty was married to William Kenneth Palmer December 25, 1938. They farmed north of Grinnell until 1949 when they moved to the present Palmer farm south of Grinnell. Betty was actively involved in Grinnell First Friends Church. She and Kenneth donated the land on which the church is located. Betty served as a Sunday School teacher and was the chairperson for the social committee for many years. Pastors and traveling Friends were recipients of her hospitality. Betty was actively involved in Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends serving on several boards. She also served on the William Penn University Board of Trustees. Betty is survived by her four children; Mary Ann (Del) Coppinger, David Palmer, Dennis (Vicki) Palmer, Tom (Jan) Palmer; Grandchildren Doug (Romy) Coppinger, Denise (Randall) Nichols, Sidney (Jon) Hill, Lindsay Palmer, Whitney Palmer, Katy Palmer and Erica Palmer, and great-grandchildren Hannah and Emma Nichols and Reece Coppinger. Betty was preceded in death by her parents, husband William Kenneth Palmer and sisters, Ona Jones and Mary Elizabeth in childhood.

**Compassion is difficult to give away  
because it keeps coming back.**



## Giving With A Gift Annuity

By Jeffrey Swartzentruber, CPA  
Mennonite Foundation Representative

Weldon Troyer is very supportive of the small church-affiliated college where he graduated nearly 45 years ago. He has supported the school with cash donations every year, but what he would really like to do is make a major gift that could have a substantial impact. The problem, he is worried he might need that money in retirement, so he continues to dream of someday making the gift. The good news is that Weldon can use a gift annuity to make his gift today and receive an annual or quarterly cash payment for the rest of his life.

You or you and your spouse can give assets (cash or appreciated assets) to a charity, like Mennonite Foundation, using a gift annuity agreement. Your immediate benefits include: a charitable deduction for a significant part of the gift, a guaranteed fixed payment for the rest of their lives (a portion of the guaranteed payment may be tax free), and the satisfaction of knowing that a ministry or ministries dear to them will benefit at their death with any dollars that remain.

Questions that we hear often include:

#### **What assets can be given to this type of agreement?**

Cash, publicly traded stocks, mutual funds, or any asset that can be turned to investable funds soon after the gift is made are best suited. An asset that has appreciated in value can be most beneficial as the person making the gift defers the payment of tax on the gain as well as receives a charitable deduction. Gift annuity agreements with Mennonite Foundation may be started with a minimum gift of \$5,000.

#### **How is the payment to me/us determined?**

It is determined based on the age of the person or persons who are to receive the payment. The older you are, the higher the interest rate will be. Current interest rates are very attractive compared to a typical bank deposit.

#### **How much will the charity receive at my/our passing?**

Charities normally receive between 50 percent and 70 percent of the original gift. The agreement considers that part of the amount gifted will be paid back to you as fixed payments. Should you live long past normal life expectancies, the amount that goes to charity will decrease as the years elapse.

#### **How do my ministries benefit if the agreement is with Mennonite Foundation?**

Mennonite Foundation serves as a conduit to the ministries you choose to support. Most organizations do not have the means to operate a gift annuity program of their own.

#### **Why does the charity receive the money after I/we are gone?**

Because there is a promise to pay you for life, the funds are invested in a way to help generate the payment and preserve the value of the original amount gifted.

Every person's financial and family situations are unique. The value placed on gifting to ministries for which you are passionate must be balanced with the desire to take care of your personal and family needs. This balancing happens continually during your life. Using a gift annuity or a series of gift annuities over a number of years can be both a statement of what is important to you from a giving standpoint and can be a way to preserve a cash flow to you.

**The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)**

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## HESPER FRIENDS MEETING

*Thru The Years with Hesper Friends - 150 Years*

A 60-page booklet of text and pictures celebrating 150 years of Hesper Friends' history, is now available. Includes a time-line of the Meeting's history, plus articles and pictures on various aspects of the Meeting's life and ministry. Copies are \$15 each, including postage, and may be ordered from:

Robert & Joyce Street

3808 188th Ave

Decorah, IA 52101.

Phone: 563-735-5892

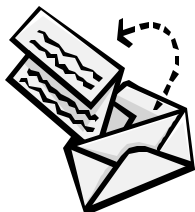
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## OOPS!!

I forgot something--

When sending your registration form back to the IAYM office, please indicate one of the following sleeping arrangements:

- Need bunk(s) in cabin, (how many beds?)
- Tenting
- Camping
- Staying at Motel



Thank You!

Daneta



## MEETING MOMENTS

LeGrand Friends Church (LFC) announces that Amy Wyatt is the 2005-2006 recipient of the Vandervelde Scholarship. Amy recently graduated from Marshalltown Community College with an Associate of Arts degree with Early Childhood Emphasis. She transfers to University of Northern Iowa this fall to continue her studies in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education.

In addition to her scholastic pursuits, Amy is a wife and mother of four who runs a before-and after-school in-home daycare with full-time summer care. She is quite active in LFC, giving leadership to both Pioneer Club and Family Camp, including fund raising. Plus, this summer she will be overseeing a church-wide garage sale and heading up our annual Vacation Bible School. Amy also takes turns teaching Children's Church.

The Vandervelde Scholarship is made possible through LFC by a grant from Marjorie Vandervelde in honor of her father, the late Dr. E. M. Mills. Dr. Mills was LeGrand's country doctor in the early 1900's. Recipients of the scholarship are judged on a combination of qualities including educational goals, character, church involvement, and financial need.

THANK YOU!

I want to say thank you for all of the willing volunteers who gave so much time in making the 2005 Triennial in Des Moines a huge success. It all started three years ago when the planning committee was formed through FUM and the work began.

A special thanks to our two co-chairpersons, Ann Lee Nichols and Mary Ann Coppinger, and also our hosts, Darrel and Eve Goodhue. I know that I can't possibly remember all of the names of those that helped during the planning and the event itself, but wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone involved.

We had volunteers for ushers, hosts and hostesses, host families for night accommodations, drivers, coordinators, guides and yes, even "Friends", (I like to call them gophers) who were just there and helped wherever needed. The total attendance was somewhere between 450 and 500. Based upon comments I received while in Des Moines, this was one of the most successful Triennials in recent history. I felt a great sense of pleasure seeing the wonderful representation of Iowa Yearly Meeting. You all deserve applause for a job well done!

Ron Bryan  
General Superintendent

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