



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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Digging the foundation and pouring the basement walls for Tall Oaks Lodge at Camp Quaker Heights

A WORK BEGUN - A BUILDING IN PROCESS

Last year it was "A Future and a Hope", this next year it is "Working together with Christ". Let me end 2005 with this challenge: "What price are we willing to pay for our future?" Most of us grew up hearing about how our parents and grandparents wanted to make our lives better, or easier. Our forefathers and mothers labored to provide our future hoping that it would be secure and steadfast. For their service and sometimes sacrifice we should always be thankful.

Look at: **Luke 14:27-30** *Whoever doesn't carry his cross and follow me can't be my disciple. "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. He will first sit down and estimate the cost to see whether he has enough money to finish it, won't he? Otherwise, if he lays a foundation and can't finish the building, everyone who watches will begin to ridicule him and say, 'This person started a building but couldn't finish it.'* (ISV)

I want everyone who sees this Iowa Friend to note that the building is in progress at Camp Quaker Heights. In fact, the building will be sitting on the foundation by the middle of this month. We praise the Lord that it is coming along so nicely, and we praise the Lord that because of the gifts and loans of members of our Yearly Meeting we will be able to pay for the actual building itself. However, we do need additional funds to pay for the cement, mechanical and furnishings of the total project. This amounts to an additional \$40,000 by the end of December 2005. And then more money to finalize the building and make it available for use, which we have targeted for February 2006.

I want everyone to see and to be excited about sharing another major step forward that is being taken for a year round ministry facility that will serve Iowa Yearly Meeting and other churches. This has been a dream for twenty five years and it continues to fulfill the vision of many people who began this work in 1948. So many people have given so much in order for this generation and future generations to have these wonderful facilities. Facilities that will now be available year round.

The scriptures above tell us that we must each take up our own cross and carry it as we receive personally the sacrifice received through Jesus Christ. We must also continue to "work together" to complete the task set before us. One of the final, and primary issues when the decision was made to go forward with this Capital Campaign, was to make sure we complete it.

Together, we have begun an exciting ministry opportunity. It is more than Tall Oaks Lodge, it also includes leadership training, adequate retirement funds for pastors and missionaries, and funds to support interns looking to follow God's leading into ministry. Ultimately, we are all called together to complete the task that is set before us. Hopefully everyone can see that we can all benefit by being unified and working together.

To God be the glory - Ron Bryan, General Superintendent



Friendly Flashes

“They gave themselves first to the Lord”.

2 Corinthians 8:5

The stores are all filled with the trappings of Christmas. Everything is designed to lure us into buying their wares. Business's rely on our frantic rush to give, give, give to everyone. After all, we don't want anyone to feel unloved or unappreciated. So we rush from store to store looking for that perfect last minute gift.

The best gift we ever received didn't come wrapped in fancy paper, tied with a big bow. It arrived one evening in a crude shelter for animals. Besides Mary and Joseph, only the angels went OOOH,OOOH, how beautiful! They then heralded his arrival to shepherds in the field and not to Kings. Jesus came to show us the way to live life fully as God intended. Material goods only get in the way of God's work when we care for them too much. Worldly things are of no lasting value. Jesus used his life to show us that true value comes only from our service to one another. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, giving them the gift of clean feet. Easing the ache of tired, dirty feet as he tenderly washed and dried them.

We get caught up in the marketing strategies of the world and make gift giving way too hard and very impersonal. Some of the most appreciated gifts my family and I have given have not cost a lot of money. A quart of ham and bean soup with fresh made cornbread brightened the life of a former teacher and her husband. Ask the older members of your congregation, who may no longer cook much, what food they get hungry for that meals on wheels does not provide. Salmon patties, meatloaf, and Rueben sandwiches were some of the answers we heard. So easy to do, we all fix more then we can eat and it takes so little time to transfer some into a container [micro-wavable] and deliver it. The joy these simple foods can bring are two fold. The joy of taste and the joy of remembering the last time they had this food and the loved ones who shared it with them. A gardener who can no longer garden misses the joy of fresh flowers.

Giving to others, serving others should come as naturally to us as breathing. Only then is it truly from the heart. Christina Rossetti in a poem set to music by Don Cason put it this way.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him?
Give him my heart.

When our gifts come from a heart overflowing with thanksgiving and love for the blessings He has placed in our lives, then we bless those who receive the gift as well.

Blessings, Linda B.

VITAL SIGNS

Bangor Liberty is participating in "Adopt A Family" through Marshall County. This program helps families who will not have gifts for Christmas.

Honey Creek/New Providence Friends had a Christmas Piano Recital on Sunday, Nov. 27 presented by Jennie Barwick. Also, the congregation participated in Operation Christmas Child by filling shoe boxes for needy children around the world.

West Branch Friends recently added a larger canopy over the back door entrance that will also include some much-needed storage for the church.

Marshalltown Friends is also participating in Operation Christmas Child. They decorated, filled, and sent shoe boxes for needy children around the world.

College Ave. Friends Quaker Men resumed their monthly meetings. They recently met at 7am at Vennard College for breakfast and devotions. Del Coppinger shared from his personal early experiences and how they had affected his life.

Bear Creek Friends helped with the High School's Baccalaureate last May. Members of the Earlham Ministerial Assoc. helped with the service at the Church of Christ. Several children attended Camp this last summer. They were: Katie Hoy (and her father - Randy), Rachel Hoy, Emma Skahill, Emmy and Reyna Godfroy along with Eldonna Skahill as a counselor for Fry Camp. On June 12, Margaret Ann Ellis filled the pulpit for the pastor and spoke on the topic of Women in Prison.

Motor Friends' pastors, Keith and Nancy Smith, spent the second week of July serving as counselors at Camp Jubilee at CQH, in addition to assisting with most of the regular summer camp sessions.

Robert Gause, age 70, passed away recently. He was born and raised in the Searsboro area and was lifetime educator. He will be missed by his wife Jimmie and children Steve, Kathy and Susan. Grave side services were held at the Lynnville Friends Cemetery.

Marc Jackson, age 54, longtime pastor of Stavanger Friends Church, died Wednesday, November 2. Pastor Jackson was pastor at Stavanger Friends Church for two terms, totaling 17 years and had also served the New Sharon Friends Church, Long Lake Friends Church in Traverse City, Michigan, Vineyard Church in Dayton, Ohio, and along with Stavanger church, the Faith Evangelical Church at Laurel. He was recorded as a Friends Minister and was founder of the Heart of Iowa House of Prayer, served as president of the House of Compassion in Marshalltown and was a member of the LeGrand Lions Club. Left to celebrate his life are his loving wife Lisa, his four children: Marci Brown, Christian Jackson, Benjamin Jackson, and Sara Augspurger and 5 grandchildren.

Consider Donating IRAs to Charity By Jeffrey Swartzentruber of Mennonite Foundation (MMA)

Many of us have a Traditional IRA or a 401(k) and know it is a powerful vehicle for accumulating tax-deferred savings during our working years and after we retire. These can also be powerful tools for charitable giving if you are at least age 59 ½. The only other qualifiers are that you desire to be charitable and that you have determined you may not need all of your IRA or 401(k) during retirement. These ideas may also spark your thinking even if you are under age 59 ½. Roth IRA's are not covered here, as withdrawals are not taxable to the owner.

There are three ways to donate an IRA to charity. These include donating the IRA at your death, donating a portion of your IRA during your life, and donating all or a portion of your IRA required minimum distribution.

Donate an IRA at your death. This is currently the easiest way. By designating a charity on the beneficiary designation form with your IRA account administrator, you are able to pass the remaining value, with the tax-deferred growth, within the IRA at your passing. This allows your heirs to avoid income tax and estate tax (depending on the size of your estate). A married couple may donate IRA's with a bit of planning so that at the passing of the second spouse the remaining balance goes to charity. There are planning opportunities with life insurance so that children or other beneficiaries can receive tax-free life insurance proceeds in lieu of IRA accounts.

Donate all or a portion of your IRA during your life. This method requires that the individual, older than 59 ½ years of age recognize the withdrawal as income in the year of the withdrawal. A tax deduction, with limits, is allowed to offset a large portion of this amount if it is given to your church or other charity. Currently, this is not the best way to move dollars to charity, as there are tax consequences not only for the dollars withdrawn but also for elevating the taxability of Social Security payments received. There is activity in Congress that may change this to a wonderful opportunity for retired individuals. Mennonite Foundation closely monitors this legislation and advocates for its adoption.

Donate all or a portion of your Required Minimum Distribution. When you reach 70 ½ years of age the law requires you to take an annual distribution from your IRA or 401(k) account(s). This amount is recognized as income in the year you withdraw it. If your financial circumstances are such that you do not need all or part of the withdrawal,

you may want to consider making an outright charitable contribution or a contribution to a gift annuity. A gift annuity provides payments to you for the rest of your life. At your death or the death of your beneficiary, the remainder goes to the charity of your choice. Many donors employ this strategy over a period of five to 10 years.

Jeff Swartzentruber can be reached at his office at: 605 B Avenue, PO Box 700 Kalona, Iowa 52247-0700, Phone 877.656.4242 ext. 11, Jeff.Swartzentruber@MMAPartners.org. As always, Mennonite Foundation is ready to assist you with your questions and planning as you explore these ideas.

Youths Represent Iowa at International Conference

Meredith Garrison of Chester Friends, and Alyssa King of First Friends Marshalltown, represented Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends at the World Gathering of Young Friends in Lancaster, England on August 14-28. They joined more than 250 youth from fifty-two yearly meetings, and nineteen additional local or monthly meetings.

When asked to characterize their yearly meeting at a presentation before all the delegates, Meredith and Alyssa noted the encouraging climate as well as the awareness of a supportive prayer community.

The World Gathering of Young Friends convened to build community within the next generation of Quaker leaders. They met, study and learned of heritage; share present day expressions of faith; and discern how Christ is guiding to facilitate understanding within the Quaker family. Workshops covered the work of the Quaker United Nations Offices in Geneva and New York, Quaker Centre for European Affairs, Radio Verdad, (a Guatemalen Quaker-run radio station), and American Friends Service Committee. In addition, delegates visited some sites important in Quaker history.

Mission's Scholarship

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2006-2007 academic school year. Persons seeking intentional study in missions at a Christian college or seminary, and who 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 2006-2007 scholarship, please contact Diane Martin, IYM Mission's Chairperson, at 3227 Pheasant Avenue, Rockwell, IA 50469 or e-mail at zoocrew@netins.net.

The deadline to apply is March 15, 2006.

Mark your calendar for the....

2006 Ministry Conference

Theme: *Working Together with Christ*
2 Corinthians 6:1
Date: August 2-5, 2006
Location: William Penn University

**"A MORE SIMPLE LIFE"
USFW SPRING FLING
SATURDAY, APRIL 1 9:30 AM
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
AT MT. PLEASANT**

Iowa Youth Ministries Upcoming Events

by CQH (call Ric @ 641-751-4400 for more info)

Youth Ministries 101...Dec. 5 @ Grinnell Friends
Dec. 12 @ Fairfield Friends
Cross Training...December 3 9-3pm Cost \$10
7th Grade @ Fairfield Friends
December 10 9-3
7th Grade @ Grinnell Friends
MID-WINTER 2005 Skiing and the Newsboys
December 27 - 31st

William Penn Campus Ministries to Relief Efforts in New Orleans

During our relief trip last October, while driving out of the St. Bernard parish in New Orleans, we came upon a long line of cars. Many had rental car stickers on them. A sign on the side of the road was spray painted with the words and an arrow, "Auto Decon". It looked like they were heading into a car lot, so I went in the fast lane around them. A mile up the road I saw two ghostly hooded figures in white chemical suits hosing off the cars that came out of this portion of the city. Then I realized it. They were decontaminating cars! That's what "auto Decon" meant.

This was so typical of the way things were run down in the area overrun by Hurricane Katrina. Hand written signs that point the way in local disaster slang. I couldn't turn back now, so we just missed out on the chemical wash for the van and had to hope everything would be okay.

Back home I run around with people who "like-to-know". At William Penn University, we are hopefully dealing with people who want to make a living out of what-they-know. We value knowing. But there we were in a situation where you can not be sure about everything. We were told that the water was okay to drink as long as you do not drink a lot of it. (which motivated many people to just drink the bottled water we were handing out instead)

A Note From:

Friends Disaster Service

We would like to thank each of you for your support and help with Friends Disaster Service over the last year. We have been busy trying to get organized and to help those in need. We are very thankful for each of the local church FDS Coordinators who have made our work easier.

We also wanted to provide you with information related to what has been done within FDS this year from an IYM point of view. We are very thankful for those who volunteered to go on each of the trips. Trips were completed to the following areas:

Kilpeck Friends Church – Two trips to help clean up the building and property

Clyde, NC – Trip to help rebuilding in a town devastated by a flood

Farmerville, LA – Trip to deliver supplies needed for the hurricane Katrina evacuees

Wiggins, MS – Four trips to help in the rebuilding process for Katrina victims

There were 60 volunteers involved in the 8 trips made by our FDS teams this year. This is a great accomplishment for our first year of working together. We have made a difference in many lives.

God Bless - The Ritchie's

If there is one thing for sure...it's you just don't know how wounded people are. Proverbs says what a man desires is unfailing love. Better to be poor than a liar. People want to be loved, to be significant, and have their lives count. For those who suffered in the wake of losing all their valuables, it can be tough to recover. We were invited to come and help them, walk with them in their loss, and patch up a hole in their dignity. One of the most significant things we did was simply board up a widow's home so no one would go through it and gawk at the mess. If you say it's no big deal, you may think differently if it was your house. The situation brought me to a deeper level of treating people with respect than ever before. *"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."* Romans 12:9-10

by: Spencer Thury, campus minister

