



The Iowa Friend

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

January 2007

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 62 - No. 1

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:15

This is the key verse that has been chosen for our focus this year. I believe it was clearly laid on my heart in September of 2006. The idea that everything that needed to happen in history has happened and that it was now the appropriate time for God to reveal His completed plan for humanity to be in a truly completed relationship with Himself, is intriguing.

I have had this wonderful series of confirmations since September that is helping to build my anticipation that God is at work just like He is at Hand. Even to the point that our Yearly Meeting speaker has just completed a series in his own church on this same verse. By the way our speaker, just confirmed, is Alan Weinacht, former Superintendent of Indiana Yearly Meeting and now pastor of Greenleaf Friends, in Greenleaf, Idaho.

What I hope all of you are looking forward to is God’s plans for Iowa Yearly Meeting in 2007. We know that Church Extension is working on worship groups in St. Louis, St. Paul and Clinton.

We know that they are, along with the Missions committee, working with the Mesquakie Friends Center and the ACFIA to transfer this work to us. We know that because of the Capital Campaign, which is still in progress, we can begin talking about assisting people with internships for missions and ministry. We know that the Tall Oaks facility at CQH will begin to be fully utilized. We know that as a Yearly Meeting we are faced with challenges concerning some of our smaller Meetings that are struggling for vision and leadership.

But I believe we can confidently say that because He is speaking so clearly about our theme for this year, He also has a plan for us. That plan most assuredly includes our “working together in Christ” as we proclaimed in 2006. The question that seems so evident to me is that each one of us should be asking God simply, “What can I do to bring to fruition the Kingdom in my life, in my church, and in our Yearly Meeting?”

Ron Bryan, General Superintendent

"Empowering Missional Leaders in a Changing Ministry World"

A workshop to equip you with new and advanced coaching skills lead by Church Resource Ministries

Dates: Friday, February 9th and
Saturday February 10th

Times: 1 PM Friday - 3 PM Saturday

Location: Vennard College, University Park, IA

Lead Coach/Trainer: Dr. Tim Roehl

Who Should Attend: Any leader who leads leaders! Pastors, Church Staff, Ministry Directors, Volunteer Leaders, Denominational Leaders, Church Planters and Other Ministry Leaders will all grow in coaching knowledge and skills.

Cost: \$114 per person (includes seminar, materials, two meals and refreshments).

Register: For more information, contact:
Prudy Olson at 641-673-8391 ext. 113 or
Tim at... Tim.Roehl@CRMleaders.org

Christian Education Training Workshop

Plan now to attend one of the two workshops being offered by IaYM CE. Both will cover the same topics so choose the date and location that works best for you.

Feb. 10 – Oskaloosa Friends Church
March 17 – Marshalltown Friends Church
9:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Topics: “You are a gift” based on Eph. 4:8,10-12; Adult Ministries, Children’s Ministries, Behavior Management and Round Table Discussions. Please bring examples of adult and children’s curriculum that you use in your church to share with others.

Registration Fee: \$5.00/ person includes lunch

To Register: Contact Charlotte Stangeland at 641-676-1532, kindra@mahaska.org or 414 N. 2nd St., Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

FRIENDLY FLASHES

As we come to the end of 2006, we can look back with satisfaction at the work of our societies. We have helped in our local areas and supported overseas mission workers. Our Spring Fling and Fall Retreat were well attended and those who came left feeling refreshed.

Now is the time we look back over the joys and sorrows of our personal lives and wonder if we could have done better. The answer is probably yes, since we are all human and seem to prove it with amazing regularity.

The December issue of Family Circle magazine had an article about 4 young ladies in the Van Meter area that have raised \$25,000.00 dollars in cash and goods to help two schools recover from Hurricane Katrina. The age range is 9 years to 12 years old. One of them is the co-founder of www.randomkids.com and they all are on a national board to rebuild the gulf. Where were we? We are told in the Bible that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again. We must become as a little child. Children do not see the obstacles, they only see the need and say we HAVE to help. The youngest of these young ladies is Emma Skahill, daughter of Eldonna Coulter Skahill, granddaughter of Eldon and Marilyn Coulter from Bear Creek Church. What a loving example these young ladies have set before us.

Now if only all of the adults would be as loving and helpful. I say this because I have just finished printing the article and comments about the death of a young friend of my family. Most of the comments were meant to offer condolences and share happy memories of a young man we all loved. A more gentle and caring man who had been a part of our lives for over 10 years. One adult who never even met this man had to leave a comment spewing hatred. Just as those who oppose the war target the funerals of soldiers and shout hate filled words.

I have no words of wisdom, Jesus commanded us "to love the Lord our God with all our heart, body and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves" I cling to those words and the knowledge that God's justice is true and forever. Our work is cut out for us, to heal the hate in this land and share Gods message with them before it is to late. I see a brighter future with young friends like those in Randomkids.com.

*May the peace of Christ enter into us and spread
around the world.
Linda Burnett*

MEETING MOMENTS & VITAL SIGNS

Lynnville Friends is happy to announce that Dr. Doug Smiley will be interim pastor. Pastor Doug and his wife live in Pella Iowa where Eileen works as a professional musician. Doug received his BA degree in English and Religion from William Penn College, and did his ministerial studies at Christian Life College in Chicago. He also holds a Masters Degree from the University of Iowa, A Diploma in Broadcast Engineering from The Cleveland Institute of Electronics, and a PhD in counseling from Logos College and Graduate School. Doug is a lifetime member of the Alpha Chi National Scholastic Honor Society and the Phi Theta Kappa Scholastic Honor Society.

Along with his pastoral ministry Doug and his brother developed a successful communications company, which owned Christian radio stations in the Mid West and Texas. After selling the company part of the proceeds provided funding for a small charitable foundation, which does missions work in the third world. Doug has traveled to over 20 different countries planting churches and funding educational, medical and social outreaches. In the United States his organization is deeply committed to a working relationship in the African American, and Hispanic communities.

College Avenue Friends has been busy fund-raising to support those going on the Jamaica mission's trip. Some events held have been a tour of homes and the Quaker "OATS" concert/cookie walk (OATS stands for Outstanding Artistic Talent Shoe).

Salem Friends is beginning small group communities for 2007. They believe in the power of community to transform lives and grow them in the knowledge, love, and experiences of God.

Marshalltown Friends's children's church program has been "visiting" various countries that have Friends mission. So far they have been to Rwanda, Guatemala, and even Taiwan.

Deaths

Edwin E. Humphrey, 88, of LeGrand, died December 7, 2006 at the Iowa Veterans Home--his home since 2002. Funeral services were held Monday, December 11 at LeGrand Friends Church with Pastor Alan Mullikin officiating. Interment will be in LeGrand Friends Cemetery. He was a member of LeGrand Friends Church, LeGrand Senior Citizens, American Legion (Garwin), and former member of the LeGrand Masonic Lodge. He was a WWII Army veteran (achieving rank of Sergeant). He is survived by his wife, Onnalee, two daughters, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Beulah "Maxine" Pickering, 86 of Pleasant Plain Friends church, died Saturday, October 28, 2006. Maxine was an active member of the Pleasant Plain Friends Church and USFW. She was a homemaker and had operated her own beauty shop in Pleasant Plain. The church, family and friends will miss her prayers and her loving way of caring for others. She is survived by 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren and one brother.

What is a Charitable Remainder Trust?

By Jeffrey Swartzentruber, CPA
Mennonite Foundation Representative
Vice President of MMA Trust Company

There are several ways for donors to make gifts to charity but still receive income payments during your lifetime. I presented a breakout session at the August Yearly Meeting that included input on different types of these planned gift agreements.

One type of agreement is a charitable gift annuity. We introduced gift annuities as an idea in the July/August 2005 edition of the Iowa Friend. The major difference between a charitable remainder trust and a gift annuity is that a trust is a separate legal entity, apart from you, the donor, and apart from Mennonite Foundation, the trustee and remainder beneficiary. There are two basic types of Charitable Remainder Trusts. The Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT) is one. The CRAT is most similar to a gift annuity in that it is funded with a one-time gift and the payment is a donor-chosen percent of the initial gift amount. This amount is fixed for the life of the CRAT.

The Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT) is the other variation. Within the CRUT there are variations that can provide flexibility to you in your particular situation. This type of trust can accept more than one gift from the donor(s) in its lifetime. The payment is a percentage of the beginning of the year market value of the trust assets. This means the payment is designed to be variable, and the desired outcome is for the payment to potentially increase over the years as the value of the trust assets increase. Setting the payment percentage low enough that the average return of the trust assets exceeds the payment percentage enhances the likelihood of this outcome. When the payment percentage is set higher than expected investment returns, the payment and asset base in the trust decline instead of grow.

Why does the charity receive the money after I/we are gone? Because there is a promise to pay you for life or as long as the trust assets hold, the funds are invested in a way to balance your interest as donor/income beneficiary and preserve a value for your chosen charities who will receive what is left.

You or you & your spouse can give assets (cash or appreciated assets) to a charity, like Mennonite Foundation, using any of the types of charitable remainder trusts. Your immediate benefits include: a charitable deduction for a significant part of the gift, payments for the rest of your lives, and the satisfaction of knowing that a ministry or ministries dear to you will benefit at your 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 receiving a charitable deduction. Charitable remainder trusts with Mennonite Foundation may be started with a minimum gift of \$30,000.

How is the payment to me/us determined? Payments are determined by the trust document provisions and stated as a percent of assets. We suggest the payment percentage be set at between 5 percent and 7 percent annually. The IRS minimum percentage is 5 percent. We suggest this range in order to create an environment where the trust assets have a reasonable probability of growth. There may be times when you want to receive a higher payout percentage. We will work with you to achieve your goals with legal parameters and provided you understand the possible outcomes from your choice.

How much will the charity receive at my/our passing? This depends on the percentage payout chosen and the returns of the trust. A lower payout percentage to you with an investment return in the trust that is higher than the payout percentage will result in a gift that is greater than the original gifted amounts. A payout percentage that is higher than the average return percentage will result in a reduced gift to charity, or no gift to charity.

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 serve as trustee of their own charitable trusts. An additional benefit of using Mennonite Foundation as your trustee is knowing that all of the funds in your trust will be invested in ways that are in harmony with your values.

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 charitable remainder trust can be a statement of what is important to you and a way to preserve a cash flow to you.

Jeff Swartzentruber serves Iowa and Illinois individuals, families, churches, companies, and institutions in the areas of gift planning, financial and estate planning, and asset management. He can be reached at his office at: 605 B Avenue, PO Box 700 Kalona, Iowa 52247-0700, Phone 877.656.4242 ext. 11.

**2007 Blizzard Blast
Sponsored by the Young Friends
Board
of Iowa Yearly Meeting
For Middle School/Jr. High Youth
February 23-24**

Activities included: Worship, swimming, volleyball, basketball, movie room, board games, snacks, pizza party

Worship and registration will be at Marshalltown First Friends, 2409 South Sixth St., at 9 pm Friday evening. From there the youth go to the Marshalltown YMCA for a lock-in and activities (listed above).

Breakfast will be served at Marshalltown First Friends Saturday morning (optional - please RSVP)

For more information call the church at 641-753-7367 or email iaym@mahaska.org to receive a copy of the registration form.

IOWA QUAKER MEN BANQUET

**February 24 @ Noon
Vennard College - Oskaloosa**

We have not determined the cost yet but it will be similar to last year. \$10 if paid ahead of time and \$12 at the door, I assume. Your Quaker Men dues for 2006-2007, (\$15 per man), can be mailed to Sam Barber, P.O. Box 222, University Park, IA 52595, at any time! They help us much in planning.

Our banquet speaker and musician is Kent Bottenfield. He pitched 16 years in the majors, especially known for being with the St. Louis Cardinals, and pitching in the 1999 All Star game. Since retirement, his passion is music and he has taken his keyboard on the road to give his testimony to the world. He has produced his first album, called "Take Me Back." He is planning on moving to Nashville soon and God will be using him mightily in the future.

This will be a banquet for everyone- men, women, boys and girls, teens but we especially want to reach out to the fringe people who may not be that active or even attend your church. Also, after last year's success, we plan to have a craft/bake sale before and after the banquet. The funds will go to Friends Disaster Service. Sincerely,

Tom Palmer, Pres. of Iowa Quaker Men
910 North C Street Oskaloosa, IA 52577 641-673-8357



Mission Board Scholarship

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2007-2008 academic school year. People within Iowa Yearly Meeting seeking intentional study in missions at a Christian college or seminary and wanting to pursue education to prepare for full time mission's work with a Friend's organization may contact the Mission's Board to receive an application. For the 2007-2008 scholarship, please contact Diane Martin, IAYM Mission's Presider, 3227 Pheasant Avenue, Rockwell, IA 50469 or call 641-822-3694.

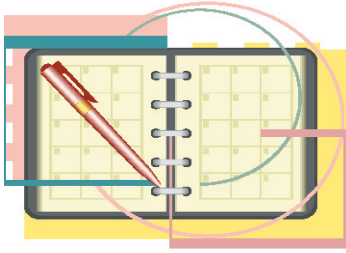
Deadline for scholarship is March 1, 2007

'Good News Goes a Long Way'

Check your closets, your cupboards, and your curriculum cubbies! Do you have it? If you don't, now's the time to order 'Good News Goes a Long Way'. Published by Friends United Press, and still available, this is a wonderful collection of twelve lessons and stories about the mission fields of Jamaica, Cuba, Kenya, and Ramallah.

They were written by Beatrice Kimball and Della Stanley-Green, with simple, beautiful illustrations done by Susanna Combs. Story Notes, Music, Activities, Worship Focus, and Teaching Helps are all made available in the Teacher's Edition, and the Student Edition is a storybook... a wonderful storybook! Willis Hotchkiss, Alma Swift, Annice Carter, Joseph Hishmeh, Margaret Parker, Arthur Chilson, Zenas Martin... these are just some of the folk you will meet as you move through these stories.

Use this delightful curriculum as part of your Sunday School year, as a part of a Missions Emphasis, as Children's Messages in Meeting for Worship, as a Vacation Bible School study, or in any way that will bring these stories of God's love into the hearts and lives of your Meeting, your family and friends. They are a treasure!



Mark Your Calendar

**“The Kingdom of God is at Hand”
Yearly Meeting 2007 is set for
August 1-4
at Camp Quaker Heights**

Our theme verse is:
“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom
of God is at hand, repent and believe in
the gospel”
Mark 1:15

Please note the change of location

"I LOVE CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS"

The staff of Camp Quaker Heights will be on the road after the first of the year. If your monthly meeting would like to schedule a presentation with the Camp Quaker Heights family for any Sunday in January or February of 2007, please contact the camp office at 641-939-5977 or 641-751-4088.

They will share information about ministry opportunities, promote "I Love Camp Quaker Heights," and lead (if desired) Sunday morning worship with message and music.

CQH staff and family are:
Linda Garrison and family
Chip Daleske and family
Lucas McCracken

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