



# The Iowa Friend

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

March 2007

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 62 - No. 3



FUM Board meeting members during their recent gathering in Africa. From Iowa Yearly meeting are: John Rains, Ron Bryan, Paul Martin and Margaret Stoltzfus.

## Historical FUM Meeting in Kenya

Over a year ago, the North American members of the Friends United Meeting General Board started making plans for a first-time-ever meeting with representatives of the East African yearly meetings. As it turned out, on February 9 and 10, representatives from twenty-four yearly meetings and affiliate bodies, FUM staff and mission staff of Friends United Meeting, and guests totaled eighty-one people who met in Kakamega, Kenya as a Global General Board. We regret that six member yearly meetings were unable to attend.

Prior to the meeting, the North Americans traveled for visitation among a few of the Kenyan and Uganda churches. We worshiped with Friends at Ngong Road in Nairobi. We visited at Kaimosi and Lugulu Hospitals, and at the Kakamega USFW-sponsored orphanage, and we visited churches and schools in Uganda. After the board meeting, we attended the dedication of the new meetinghouse on the campus of Friends Theological College. Then our big group divided into smaller groups. Some spent several days in the Turkana area. Some visited in Samburu. A few stayed in Kaimosi and worked at the hospital.

We learned first hand about the challenges to the ministry due to lack of water and food resources, difficulties in transportation, and the wide-spread poverty conditions of the people. We also learned first hand about the hope and enthusiasm of the African Friends, their love for hearing the word of God, and their respect for the Americans who have been coming for over a hundred years to share the love of Christ. We learned there are now over 2000 Friends Churches in East Africa, mostly in the Western Province. There are also 200 secondary schools and around 1500 primary schools supported by the local Friends Churches. We learned that the Quakers in Africa are respected throughout the country and many hold state leadership positions.

The first day of the General Board meeting was devoted to the continuation of the Strategic Planning Process that was begun at the June 2006 meeting. Groups who had been formed to develop goals and strategies in the areas of Administration, Communication, Evangelism and Identity at the October meeting were asked to review and revise their plans with the help and insight of the African members. By the business meeting on Saturday, the strategic plan had been groomed for acceptance as a work in progress. It was noted by the clerk that the plan could not be approved in its final form because it will be reviewed and revised annually to guide the work of the organization.

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# Friendly Flashes

from the IA USFW Board

Since some of you probably helped with the "Caps to the Capitol campaign", I thought you might like an update. Iowa sent 216 caps. Thank you so much. The total was 260,000 caps. Isn't that wonderful. Just think of the babies who will benefit from your gift. You saved a life with out even leaving home! The caps are being delivered to Malawi and Bangladesh as these countries have the greatest need. Check out this web site "savethechildren.org" for updates and information about on going needs. You will also find a link to "warmupamerica.org". This organization provides blankets, either knit or crocheted to those in need. What a good use for all of our old yarn and what a great excuse to buy some of the new yarns that are on the market now. This also might be a good project for your young people. They could learn a craft and help someone in need at the same time.

This spring is shaping up to be quite exciting, with a new retreat being offered and the Spring Fling coming after it in April. I am looking forward to both of them. It is a great way to make new friends and greet old ones. The last two months have been cold and miserable and we are ready to break out and celebrate who we are and what we have to offer our brothers and sisters. When you see me let me know what you or your church is doing to reach out a helping hand.

In the Bible we are told that we are not to forsake the meeting together of friends for in so doing we strengthen one another and grow spiritually strong. What a gift that is that we can give to one another. I am stretching my hand to encourage you to join with us in March and April.

*Blessings. Linda*

Editor's note: please refer to the cover page for more information regarding USFW Spring Fling.

## *Illegal Immigration-Solutions: Part 1 of 3*

Imagine for a moment that you live in a small farming community in Mexico. While you work very hard on your land, the area is very arid and your farm is very small making it difficult to raise enough food to feed your family. You want to send one of your children to secondary school so they can be educated; however, the closest secondary school is located in a community an hour and a half away. You will need to cover the costs of lodging, food, books, and school uniforms. What should you do?

You decide your best option is to leave for the United States where you can earn money to send home to your family. You borrow \$1,600 dollars and hire a guide to take you into the United States. Your wages at your job are \$450 per week. You live in an apartment with eight other people and take turns paying for rent, food, utilities, etc. After you earn your first paycheck, you are stopped by a group of people from your neighborhood who threaten to beat you up unless you give them money. You end up giving them \$50 dollars out of every paycheck. You would go to the police, but you are an illegal immigrant. This is the real story of Victor Reyes Deramona from an article from the November/December 2006 Issue of A Common Place. He lives in Teticic, Mexico with his wife and 10 children.

Illegal Immigration has recently come to the forefront as a hot-button political issue. Congress has approved spending millions to build a fence on the Mexican boarder. There are plans to expand the boarder guard, and the INS has recently engaged in some high profile raids of companies suspicioned to have hired illegal immigrants. While these efforts may slow down the flow of illegal immigration into the United States, most people recognize that they will not solve the problem. The real problem is caused by economic conditions in the countries that illegal immigrants come from. In order to stop the flow of illegal immigration, these economic conditions must be addressed.

You can be part of the solution through Micro-Lending and Fair Trade. In Victor's community micro-credit has been used to bring hope. Mennonite Central Committee provided a small loan to the farmers to start a greenhouse where they are able to grow chile peppers. Peppers sell for a higher price then other crops and allow the farmers to make a decent living making it possible for people to stay in the community (Common 11). Perhaps one day the community might even be able to build their own secondary school. Next month another article will follow discussing the benefits of micro-lending and how you can help. Source: Deremona, Victor R. Personal interview. A Common Place. November/December 2006: 10-11.

**Submitted by Paul Kessler  
Peace and Social Concerns Board**

# MEETING MOMENTS & VITAL SIGNS

**Marshalltown Friends** has recently redesigned their Children's ministries for Sunday School and their mid-week service. They began a rotational study which implements various centers for children to explore the Bible topic. Some of the centers (rooms) are Media Center, Discovery Center and an Art & Music Center. The youth are also being challenged in the area of service and serving. This has included a trip to Mesquaki Mission for their midweek ministry and helping to serve at various church-sponsored activities.

**West Branch Friends** has 2 of their members on the planning committee for a Habitat for Humanities home to be built in West Branch. Pastor Ruthie Tippin has recently attended seminary "intensive" course at ESR in Richmond, Indiana. The church also sent off Valentine boxes to their college aged youth.

**Honey Creek - New Providence Friends** filled "Love Boxes" for their college students as a Valentine project. The USFW met at the church recently for a project day to construct lap robes, clothing protectors, and walker bags to be given to a nursing home or Greenbelt Home Care. The women have had interesting programs throughout the year that have furthered their awareness of needs and progress in mission areas.

## Historical Meeting in Kenya

*continued from page 1*

In the Identity Focus Group's sessions, both in October and at this meeting, there were long and loving deliberations about the existing diversity of our member yearly meetings. Prompted by concerns about the FUM personnel policy that requires employees to be married or celibate, some yearly meetings have encouraged continuing dialogue about sexual ethics whereas others have asked that the issue be put to rest. With the input of the Africans, the voice for the latter seemed overwhelming, and with the affirmation of the Richmond Declaration of Faith by most of the attending yearly meeting representatives, a few Friends came away feeling that FUM was trying to push their yearly meetings out of membership. However, affirming the Richmond Declaration is not set as a requirement for membership and the freedom to remain in FUM without such affirmation still exists. Also, there are parts of the strategic plan still in place to channel some continued discussions.

**Lynnville Friends** sponsored a mission trip to Texas/Mexico in February. There was all sorts of work to be done on both sides of the border. They went to serve at Melody Lane Christian Renewal Center and Texas Rose in Texas.

### Weddings

Ryan Heilskov and Yenny Flores were married in a Christian service at Baptist Church in Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela, on December 30th. They are members of Honey Creek-New Providence Friends. Dan and Tracey Whitehead, friends of the couple, provided a tape of their singing, made especially for the ceremony.

### Births

**Paige Makenna Bisgard** was born in December 2006. Her parents are Troy and Angie Bisgard of Fairfield Friends.

### Deaths

**Clara Van Zuuk Mosher, age 99**, died on December 22, 2006 just eight months short of 100 years. She was born on a farm near Leighton, IA. The Van Zuuk family moved to a farm near Motor in 1917 where they attended Motor Friends. Clara was united in marriage to Howard Mosher in 1927 and they made their home in the Motor community. Clara was a tireless worker as a farm wife, mother, church member and other community organizations. She served her Lord in all areas of Motor Friends. She was a pianist for years and then was replaced by a granddaughter. The ladies Aid, USFW, and the Sunday School received the benefits of her dedication and dependability. She is survived by 3 children, Joy Reynolds (Darl), Jeanne Nash, and Jay Mosher (Charlotte) all of Milo. 13 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren, and she loved everyone of them. Services were held December 26th at Motor Friends Church with Pastor Keith Smith officiating.

## Memorial Information

After the passing of a member of your church in Iowa Yearly Meeting, please send all memorial information (service folder, picture, personal memories, etc...) on a 8 x 11 sheet of paper directly to:

Shirley Settle  
1211 W. State St. #141  
Marshalltown, IA 50158  
(641) 844-5022

Your help with this matter is greatly appreciated!  
These records are kept to help future generations remember the past.

## Due to Inclimate Weather...

### 2007 Blizzard Blast

has been rescheduled for

**March 23-24**

**For Middle School/Jr. High Youth**

**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](mailto:iaym@mahaska.org) to receive a copy of the registration form.**

## WANTED:

Iowa Yearly Meeting Christian Ed is looking for a volunteer to lead Children's Yearly Meeting in August of 2007. Successful candidate must be willing to lead and worship with youth (K - 5), have fun, get dirty and play carpet ball!

If you think you might be interested, please contact Nina Easley at [easley71@msn.com](mailto:easley71@msn.com) or by calling (515) 758-2067.

**This leadership position has not been filled yet. Please prayerfully consider how you can be part of this ministry opportunity!!**

## Camp Dates 2007

Iowa Yearly Meeting

Youth Ministries

Camp	Grades	Dates
Little Fry	K-2	June 1-3
Fry Camp	3-4	June 8-10
Fox Camp	5-6	June 29-July 1
Jr. High Weekender	7-8	June 15-17
Jr. High Camp	7-8	June 17-22
High School Weekender	9-12	June 22-24
High School Camp	9-12	June 24-29
College Wknd Bash	9-12	July 13-15

More information will be coming soon to your church!!

## 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.

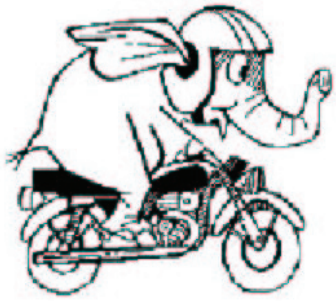
**March 17 – Marshalltown Friends Church  
9:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m.**

**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](mailto:kindra@mahaska.org) or 414 N. 2nd St., Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

# CQH



## Women's Retreat

Join us at Quaker Heights for a short weekend of encouragement designed to help you get better acquainted with God, with other ladies, and with yourself. (Please note: This is NOT a USFW event; invitations and information are going out far and wide.)

**Who:** Any woman or girl interested in a low-key, upbeat time of fellowship and friendship

**What to bring:** Toiletries, \*sheets, \*towels, wrapped white elephant gift (the more bizarre and tacky, the better!), a snack to share Friday evening

**When:** March 23-24 Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.; supper at 6:30 p.m.

**Where :** Camp Quaker Heights

**How much will it cost? (Prices are per participant)**

\$25 - no overnight accommodations  
\$30 - cabin (cabin and central bathhouse are heated)  
\$42.50 \*Tall Oaks with 3 roommates  
\$45.00 \*Tall Oaks with 2 roommates  
\$47.50 \*Tall Oaks with 1 roommate  
\$60.00 \*Tall Oaks Single Occupancy

\*Sheets and towels provided in Tall Oaks

Each Tall Oaks room has a bunk bed with an upper and lower single bed, as well as a queenbed.

Rooms available on a first come, first served basis.

**Mail registrations and fees to:**

**Camp Quaker Heights  
22605 V. Ave.  
Eldora, IA 50627**

**Make checks payable to Camp Quaker Heights**

**Questions? 641-939-5977 or email Linda  
lindakgar@yahoo.com**

## USFW Spring Fling “A Child- Like Faith” April 14th at Bangor-Liberty Friends

“Get all excited, go tell everybody”...Yes, that Jesus Christ is King, but also that they need to plan to attend the Spring Fling!! I am very excited about our guest speaker this year - Mary Porter and Suzi Q!! If you haven't seen or heard them, Suzi Q is a “huggable, loveable puppet who wins the hearts of children and adults alike with her quick wit and bubbly personality.” She is accompanied by gospel ventriloquist, Mary Porter, who is married to Pastor Dean Porter of the Stuart Friends Church.

Mary and Suzi Q have appeared at many places: The Iowa State Fair, Iowa's 150th Year Celebration, Senior citizens' activities, schools, libraries, camps, town celebrations, Lion's International Club Meetings, National and International Church conventions, International Missions Conferences, and a variety of church functions throughout the Midwest (approximately 300 programs a year), Canada, and Hawaii and recently in Greece! Now, I could get excited about going to Hawaii and Greece and I imagine you could too!

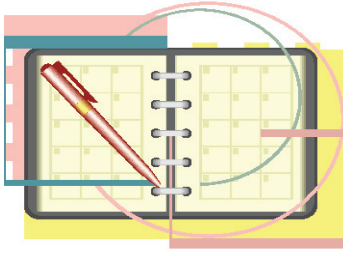
In her press release, Mary tells us that she learned Ventriloquism 33 years ago from a record album. Suzi Q was made by Mary, 25 years ago on Valentine's Day - and she is still a Sweetheart!

Scripture tells us that we are to have a “child-like” faith, but when problems come our way, we often forget this and try to be “adult” about them when perhaps the best answer would be to put our trust fully in God just as our children put their trust in us. When I heard the theme of our Spring Fling, Suzi Q and Mary immediately came to mind. So, I hope you will “Get all excited”, tell all your friends, bring them along, and join us in Bangor Liberty on April 14th!!!

**Spring Fling Committee:**

**Ethel Watson   Dorothy Taylor   Karen Dorrell**





## Mark Your Calendar

**March 31st**

**Spring Body of Representatives**

**9 am - 3 pm**

**hosted by LeGrand Friends**

**Lunch to be served by the church  
cost of meal is \$5.**

Please note that LeGrand Friends has  
handicap accessibility to the sanctuary.  
Please use the new south door and park-  
ing. There is a lift available inside this  
entrance!

**March 23-24**

**\*\*Blizzard Blast Lock-in**

**at Marshalltown**

**\*\*Womens Retreat at CQH**

**April 14**

**\*\*Spring Fling at**

**Bangor-Liberty Friends**

**August 1-4**

**Yearly Meeting 2007**

**at Camp Quaker Heights**

*The Theme is:*

*"The Kingdom of God is at Hand"*

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