



The Iowa Friend

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

Mesquakie Friends Center

1Co 3:5-15 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom you believed, even as the Lord gave to each? I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither is he who plants anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. So he planting, and he watering, are one, and each one shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For of God we are fellow-workers, a field of God, and you are a building of God. According to the grace of God which is given to me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let every man be careful how he builds on it. For any other foundation can no one lay than the one being laid, who is Jesus Christ.. And if anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, each one's work shall be revealed. For the Day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try each one's work as to what kind it is.

Iowa Yearly Meeting is on the verge of embarking upon a new partnership. Over one year ago we approved moving ahead with the plan presented to us by the Associated Committee for Indian Affairs. That plan was for us to take over the management and operation of the Mesquakie Friends Center at Tama, Iowa.

This, in my opinion, is an exciting opportunity. As the scripture listed above states, it is so important to recognize that the work we do in the church is to build up His Church. We are all called to be fellow-laborers, and fellow-workers. We are each called to do our part but it is God who gives the increase. It also says that some will water and some will plant so we can easily observe that it takes many different laborers to prepare, cultivate and harvest a field.

On March 31, 2007 we gave final approval of moving ahead with this plan. The land and buildings are to be signed over to the Yearly Meeting along with some partially restricted funds to continue the operation that was begun twenty years ago with the vision of people from ACFIA and Iowa Yearly Meeting. Little did we all know that at the same frame of time God was preparing a family from the Kickapoo Friends Center in McCloud, Oklahoma to move here and begin this work. Victor and Brenda White along with their two children moved to Toledo and stepped out in faith to follow God's leading. Now the mission consists of land that has a house, a garage, a classroom facility, a shelter house, and a multi-purpose worship building. There is a very robust ministry to youth on Wednesday evenings and a Sunday morning worship service for youth and adults along with a continuous reaching out by Victor and Brenda to minister and counsel on the Settlement owned by the Mesquakie people.

Iowa Yearly Meeting has approved, and is in the process of, forming a new standing committee comprised of nine members to work alongside of Victor and Brenda White to administer this program. The committee will work with Victor and Brenda to develop a budget (which will come from their local programming) as well as the ACFIA information. This committee will help in the accounting, financial fund raising, work team coordination, newsletter publications, shared ministry with the existing volunteer workers and staff. It will mean that these committee members will cooperate and help in the development of the vision of ministry for the Mesquakie people and carry this vision to the rest of our churches and members.

The proposed makeup for the committee is five members from IAYM, two members from the working staff of Mesquakie Friends Center, one member from Western Yearly Meeting and one member from Indiana Yearly Meeting. This committee will need to be represented on the Board on Coordination.



As in all new works of the Church there are mountains to climb and hurdles to clear. However, if we are working as partners with God, nothing is too difficult to overcome. All of our plans for this transfer and new beginning are working smoothly and rapidly. We should be ready to finalize all of these developments yet this spring. Please pray for Victor and Brenda White as they adjust to this new committee, and pray for the new members appointed to serve with them that God will quicken their hearts with a united vision and passion to serve TOGETHER as fellow-laborers. And I should add, pray for the entire Yearly Meeting to embrace this new work as an exciting opportunity to serve God and see what He can do.

Ron Bryan, General Superintendent



Friendly Flashes

by: *Linda Burnett*

After an unexpected snow storm, earlier in the week, 85 women gathered in Bangor Liberty for the annual Iowa USFW Spring Fling. The theme was "A Child Like Faith". As the ladies arrived they were greeted at the door by a shower of bubbles from two bubble machines set up on the sidewalk. After registration you proceeded into the dining room for coffee and mini muffins, fruit or cheese and crackers. As we sat at the tables each lady received a circle of cardboard and crayolas with which to decorate them. The center piece of the tables were stuffed animals and building blocks. As you arrived upstairs for the program we were greeted "heads up ladies" followed by a barrage of beach balls with scripture written on them. We also received some rhythm instruments to use during worship. Karen Dorrell, with help from two young ladies, led us in some children's worship songs and the actions that went with them.

Ethel Watson introduced our guests Mary Porter and Suzy Q. Suzy Q had been waiting patiently, but not always quietly, to speak to us. If you have never met Mary and Suzy Q before you really should go when they are in your area. We heard the story of Suzy Q's birth and the growth of their ministry. Suzy Q kept us laughing with her comments. She was continually reminding us that some of her story was "not funny ladies".

Suzy has her own unique way of telling the stories in the Bible. It seems that General Moses (followed by an apology to the pacifists) had to call in the SeaBees from the Navy and the Army to build a bridge over the Red Sea. It was the only way to flee from General Pharaoh who was following close behind with his army. As the Israelites were coming off the bridge General Moses radioed for the Air Force to send in the bombers and take out the bridge, sending Pharaoh's army "whoosh splat" into the sea. Mary had to remind Suzy several times that Bible stories should be told as they are written even if Suzy thought they could have happened that way. After a lovely lunch of sandwiches, a variety of salads and trays of cookies and bars (all calorie free, I am sure) we returned upstairs for the afternoon session.

Karen Dorrell reminded us to take our decorated "round tuit" home to use as we got around to it. We sang some more Sunday School songs and played our instruments. Karen and the girls sang "Jesus Loves the Little Children" in Swahili. Karen Bauer told about the Kakamega Orphanage Store founded in an effort to become self sufficient. This was what our offering was towards. The total to go to the orphanage was \$640.00. Mary and Suzy Q spoke to us about the way we are all children of God our father. Each of us specially and uniquely created just as Suzy Q had been. When we run to him and snuggle in his arms he will hold us and comfort us in our trials. We need to relinquish our lives into God's hands with the trust of a child. When we do - He will direct our path and enable us to serve him in wonderful ways, beyond our own capabilities.

Our business meeting followed. Margaret was able to announce that we now have a full board. Margaret Stoltzfus - President, Mary Ann Coppinger - Stewardship, Delores Jones as Adult Missionary. Devotional books were given to all first time attenders. We were asked to consider hosting foreign guest in our homes after Triennial in July. If you are interested in going or in hosting, please contact Margaret Good. We look forward to seeing you at Camp Quaker Heights during the yearly mission conference Aug. 1-4. Blessings to you all. Linda B.

IAYM Mission Board A Ramallah Friends School Update

The Ramallah Friends Schools held their first graduation ceremony with 7 students in 1906. The year 2006 was their Centennial Graduating class. The Friends Girls School's centennial occurred in 1989 and the Boys School celebration in 2001.

For the 2006/07 there are 1,100 student with over 620 girls and boys in the lower kindergarten to grade six (FGS - Lower School). The Upper School (FBS) has nearly 490 girls and boys in grades 7-12. Palestinian-American students comprise around 30% of the junior high and high school and 15% of the elementary. The vast majority of students are Palestinian. Currently there are 49 staff.

At first glance these sound just like facts or numbers. However, these years and the many students and staff affected by the Ramallah School have been life-changing. Education here begins at the preschool level offering a caring environment for learning. Many of these students rise to become leaders in business, education, and law, to name just a few areas. To quote an alumni, "...Friends School, you see, is not just a place but an idea - an experiment in scholastic excellence in which diversity is not just taught and tolerated but indoctrinated and embraced. The essence of this spirit transcends to existential levels, for it molded our existence, our code of ethics and scale of values, who we are, how we live, and what we do."

Some projects that are going on for this year is a new kindergarten/special needs and auditorium building, financial aid fund-raising, and the Friends Play Center at Amari Refugee Camp is thriving. An upgrade in the electrical system for the Upper School Campus (FBS) is scheduled for completion in Sept. 2008. The abandoned sports field will become a proper soccer field including basic bleachers and track soon. The Middle East Yearly Meeting took place for the first time in decades in Brumana, Lebanon in September 2006. Staff changes in any school happen, and prayer is needed for adjustments by everyone in their new positions and a unity to be formed.

You can keep up-to-date with the Ramallah school news, download their newsletters, interact with their students, enjoy pictures and much more by using the following website: www.palfriends.org

**Submitted by Donna Hoeksema
IYM Missions Board**

The United Society of Friends Women International (USFWI) will hold it's Triennial Sessions July 19-22, 2007 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"Woven Into a Tapestry of Love" - Colossians 2:2 will be the theme for the conference.

Quaker Men International is also meeting at the same time and the same registration form can be used for both events.

Registration forms can be obtained by contacting the Yearly Meeting office or by going online to: usfwi.org.

Meeting Moments & Vital Signs

West Branch Friends reports the following news:

Walter and Vesta Hansen celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary with an open house at the West Branch Friends Church. The West Branch area Religious Council sponsored "Awaken", the story of Christ's death and resurrection, as well as the whole story of God and creation from the beginning of time. Easter was celebrated with an Easter Sunrise Service, breakfast, meeting for worship with the Hand Bell Choir, followed by the children's Easter egg hunt. Guest speaker at the last USFW meeting was Ann Nichols. She told about her experience traveling in Israel and Palestine. Mark Patton, Director of Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity spoke at our meeting about the home being built in West Branch. A ground-breaking ceremony has been held.

LeGrand Friends USFW met at the Embers in March. Myrna Shope, President, opened the meeting with words of wisdom from the Advocate, "Silence is preparation for being still...and stillness is simply the awareness of God's Presence....and is enhanced when experienced in the company of others." The devotional time was led by Shirley Settle and Jackie Weitzell gave the program, both continuing the year's theme on the Ways we find Restoration for our Souls.

Lynnvile Friends ladies completed 165 quilts this last winter. There were 10-12 ladies helping every week. Quilts were given to Texaco Mission, Mt. Pleasant, Quakerdale, Honduras (Donovan Van Wyk), Ronald McDonald House and Hope Ministry. The group went on a trip to "Brother's Keeper" in Prairie City. This is a group of women from the surrounding area that meet in the former Christian grade school. They have been making quilts, pillows and sleeping bags for many years.

Middle River Friends had a busy week for Easter time. On Palm Sunday they had a Dedication Service for both babies and for adults. Then later in the week they had Maundy Thursday service and a Good Friday service at the Hartford Presbyterian Church. Then Easter Sunday had a Sunrise Service followed by Easter Breakfast, Sunday School, and morning Worship Service.

Bangor-Liberty Friends had Wes Davis come to speak at Special Services on April 28-29th. The theme for the services was "Continuing to Work on Making the Church a Praying Church". Wes lives in Kansas and was the guest speaker at last year's Yearly Meeting sessions.

Marshalltown Friends has been hosting a book club. The book that is currently being discussed is "Out of Egypt" by Anne Rice. The book club meets the first Saturday of every month. Also noted in their newsletter was the amount of money raised during their 30-Hour Famine. It was \$430!!

Our Friends - **Eugene and Francis Wolfley** - have now officially returned from their missions work in Jamaica. They are now residing in Ankeny, IA. If you need contact information for them, please contact the Yearly Meeting office.



A special note of congratulations to the many graduates from high schools and colleges throughout our Yearly Meeting. May your time of celebration with friends and family be rewarding and special. You deserve it for all the hard work and studies.

We pray that God will bless you in your future endeavors and service!

New Worship Group in St. Paul, MN

Friends Worship Group of Greater St. Paul, MN is under the care of the Iowa Yearly Meeting and gathers for unprogrammed worship most Sundays at 9:30 a.m. The group meets at the Friends School of Minnesota, located at 1365 Englewood Avenue in St. Paul. This is just east of Hamline University. For more information, please contact:

Teri Geis at 651-695-1304 or by
e-mail at friendsworshipgroup@yahoo.com

Please do not direct questions to the Friends School because this worship group is not a sponsored project of or a group endorsed by the school.

Our General Superintendent, Ron Bryan, will be attending "Healthy Congregations" workshop in Minneapolis on May 18-19. This workshop is presented by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. They provide a variety of programs in Christian peacemaking to churches, schools, and community groups. Healthy Congregations is designed around the books entitled "How Your Church Family Works: Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems" and "Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach". For more information about LMPC visit their website at:

www.LMPeaceCenter.org

During the Month of May, Mary Thury will be attending a class at William Penn University. This class is scheduled for May 14 thru June 1 meeting from noon until 3 pm. I will be in the office during this time from 8:30 am until noon.



Illegal Immigration-Solutions:

Part 3 of 3

Micro-Lending and Fair Trade lift people out of poverty and allow them to earn a livable wage. Through Fair Trade, your consumer purchases can help to alleviate the need for illegal immigration and provide long term poverty alleviation.

Fair Trade sounds like what it is. Fair Trade Organizations guarantee a fair price to the groups of poor artisans and farmers they represent. Take coffee for example. Farmers receive very low prices for their coffee beans. Those same beans are then sold in the United States at an enormous markup. One problem that farmers face is that they are selling a raw material, and raw materials are not worth as much in the market place as finished products.

Coffee beans are not worth as much as an espresso for example. A Fair Trade Organization will work with farmers to form a group or cooperative. This group can then be certified as a fair trade organization by the Fair Trade Federation. Once they are certified, the farmers can sell their coffee under a Fair Trade Label. The Fair Trade Organization will work with them to connect them with the U. S. Market. They will also help them with packaging and marketing the product to a U. S. audience.

The objective of fair trade is not to provide the American life style to people around the world, but instead to make sure that they make a livable wage within their own country's context. For a family that is able to participate in a Fair Trade project; the added income makes the difference between living in extreme poverty and making a modest income that can be used to provide for schooling, medical costs, eating two or three meals per day and home improvements.

The Mennonites are heavily involved in fair trade. Mennonite Missionaries were frustrated by the poverty they witnessed in different countries. They found that many poor people were incredible craftsmen or produced high quality agricultural products but still could not earn a living. It occurred to them that many of these items would be very popular and sell for high prices if they could be connected to the North American Market. This idea has grown into an organization called Ten Thousand Villages. Ten Thousand Villages sells fairly traded handicrafts from around the world including Mexico, Central, and South America.

Products sold by Ten Thousand Villages include, kitchenware, garden supplies, hand-made paper, jewelry, picture frames, pottery, stone work, baskets, children's games, greeting cards, instruments, scarves, home furnishings, etc.

They have an online store where products can be purchased with a credit card. If you are interested you can visit their website at "www.tenthousandvillages.com". There are also several stores where Ten Thousand Villages products are sold in Iowa.

Some locations include:

Worldly Goods Ames, IA (515) 233-4568
223 Main Street Ames, IA 50010
email: worldlygoods@isunet.net

The World's Window Cedar Falls, IA (319) 268-1584
214 Main Street Cedar Falls, IA 50613
email: tww@cfu.net

Crowded Closet Iowa City, IA (319) 337-5924
1213 Gilbert Court Iowa City, IA 52240
email: ccloset@mcleodusa.net

Hands Around the World Orange City, IA
104 Central Avenue N.W. Orange City, IA 51041
phone: (712) 737-8181

The Work of Our Hands Pella, IA
602 Franklin Street Pella, IA 50219
phone: (641) 628-8687

Fair World Gallery West Des Moines, IA
116 Fifth Street West Des Moines, IA 50265
phone: (515) 277-7550

For more information about fair trade you can call Ten Thousand Villages at (717) 859-8100 or you can write them at 704 Main Street P.O. Box 500 Akron, PA 17501-0500.

If you are interested in finding out more about the organizations mentioned in these articles, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee will be sending a packet to each Church in the Yearly Meeting.

Sources:

Discover a World of Difference. 2007. Ten Thousand Villages. 16 April 2007 www.tenthousandvillages.com.
article submitted by Paul Kessler, P&SC committee



News from FUM

NEWS RELEASE: April 20, 2007

Subject: Public Statement
regarding conflict on Mt Elgon

Dear Friends,

At its recent meeting in Rwanda, the Quaker Peace Network (QPN) Africa Region adopted the attached statement (please refer to the note at the bottom of this article) as an open letter to the President of Kenya on the current violence taking place on the southern slopes of Mt. Elgon. Please distribute the attached statement widely, in the media and among religious leaders.

QPN has also sent a fact-finding team on the ground, who will be publicizing their findings shortly. Friends United Meetings has announced Wednesday, April 25, 2007, as a day for Kenyan Quakers to visit and distribute humanitarian aid to the refugees who are taking shelter in various Friends Churches. Friends Lugulu Hospital reports many casualties from the fighting who are unable to pay their medical bills.

Current information on the humanitarian situation is available at: <http://www.kenyaredcross.org/highlights>.

Friends United Meeting is collecting contributions toward humanitarian aid and medical expenses. Contributions in U.S. Dollars can be sent to 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond IN 47374 U.S.A. earmarked "Mt Elgon Clashes Relief Fund." Contributions in Kenyan Shillings can be deposited to Barclays Bank, Kisumu Branch account number 2007332.

Many blessings in Christ and prayers for Peace,
Eden Grace
FUM Field Officer

**The published statement is available at the Yearly Meeting office. If you would like a copy....please call or email Mary Thury at 641-673-9717 or at iaym@mahaska.org.

News from...

Camp Quaker Heights

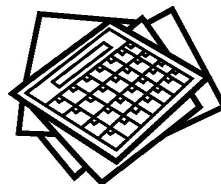


WORK AND WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY

will be on May 2nd (featuring Dave Holmes) and May 9th (featuring Jason Nightingale). Work begins early in the afternoon with evening meal provided. Then, following the meal, an evening of worship. Our evening worship will conclude at 8 pm. Please contact the Yearly Meeting office for more information.

Cabins are available on Tuesday or Wednesday if needed. A light breakfast is available if you stay overnight.

Mark your calendars for
Friday, July 6 - Sunday, July 8 for
Iowa Yearly Meeting's



"Camp Experience 2007"

This is camp for all ages (young and old) of Quaker Friends. The presenter for this event will be "Mad Dogs and Englishmen". More information and costs will be published soon. Look for it at your local IAYM church!

Volunteers needed Camp Quaker Heights' kitchen help and cleaning

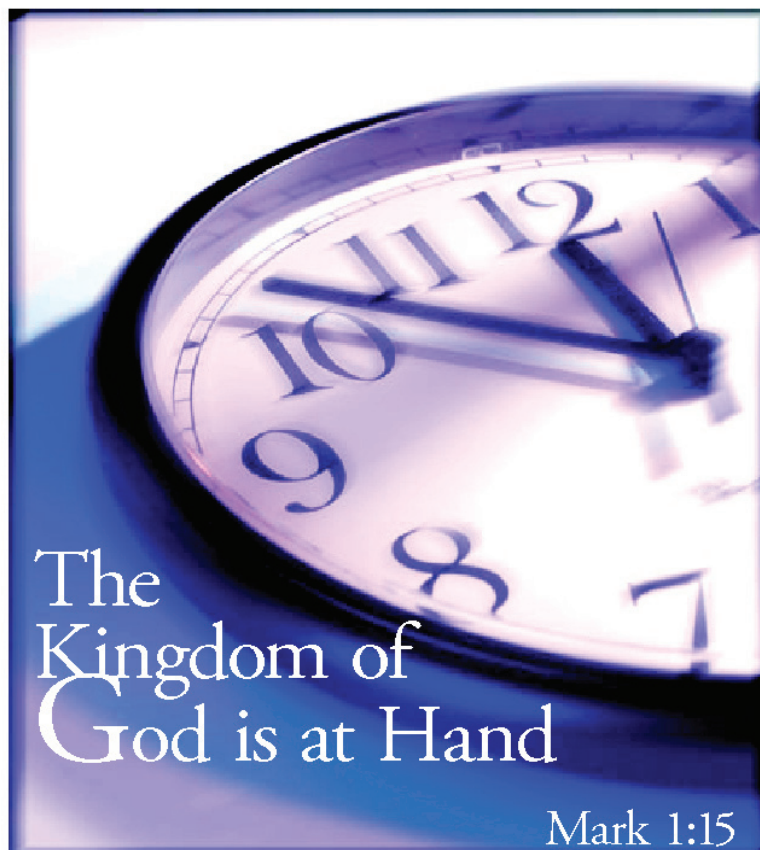


Please contact Linda Garrison if you would like to help in the kitchen or for cleaning at the camp grounds during the 2007 camping season.

2007 Quaker Camp season

2 things need to be sent to the Yearly Meeting offices for camp counselors or counselors-in-training:

- 1) a letter or e-mail of recommendation from an IAYM pastor or member of M&C on your behalf and
- 2) an e-mail or letter stating name, age/grade, camp applying for, and position applying for (i.e. counselor or counselor in training)



Iowa Yearly Meeting Ministry Conference 2007

August 1 - 4
at Camp Quaker Heights
(located near Eldora, IA)

- + **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
ALAN WEINACHT
Former superintendent of Indiana YM
- + **WORKSHOPS INCLUDE -**
 - John Muhunji of Africa FUM
 - EFM
 - Mesquakie Mission
 - Pictorial review of General Board Meeting in Kenya and the FUM Worktrip to Cuba
 - Community Involvement by Paul Kessler - P&SC

And more!

Make plans to join us!

Brochures and Registrations coming in June

Subscription Price (individual)...\$10.00 per year (group)...\$9.50 per year

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