

The Iowa Friend

February 2008
Vol. 63 - No. 2

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

FRIENDLY FLASHES - a ministry of USFW

In the past few weeks our minds have been focused on the unrest and violence in Kenya following the disputed election results. Many families have had to flee their home areas with no place to go. They are now called "internally displaced persons." Estimates indicate that between 250,000 and 500,000 are in this condition. They are without water, food, housing, sanitation and protection.

Realizing that 3/4 of our USFW International members are in Kenya, the International Executive Committee has set up a way for us to contribute to this relief effort. Initially, USFWI has sent \$5000 through FUM to the office in Kisumu. Eden Grace and Jody and Ben Richmond will oversee the disbursement of this money to those in greatest need. We know the hospital in Kaimosi needs food for the patients as well as medicines. FTC also is in need of food for the students who are coming back to study. The children have just returned to the orphanage after the holiday break and the feeding program there is ongoing.

You can be part of this relief effort by sending your gifts to:

Adis Beeson
4305 Beeson Farm Road
Sophia, NC 27350

Checks can be made out to USFWI and designated for Kenya relief. Adis, who is the treasurer of USFWI, will forward the money as quickly as possible to the Kisumu office so it can be used for food and other supplies such as blankets and medicines. Add your prayers to your gifts. We have been given much. How can we not be generous?

Mary Glenn Hadley, USFWI President/ Presiding Clerk, has also indicated that all projects in the 2007 budget have been met at the 100% or above level except the fund for John Hishmeh and, as you recall, he was in Ramallah only half the year.

So thank you for your generosity, your prayers, your love. God can bring harmony out of chaos. He can weave a beautiful tapestry from even our troubled threads.

Be sure to keep checking the website: www.usfw.org as well as our own Iowa USFW site which is: www.usfwiowa.com You'll find all the 2008 projects listed there and up to date information about our celebrations.

-Margaret Stoltzfus

"Serve in Seasons of Change" October 3-5, 2008 at Camp Quaker Heights

Camp Quaker Heights will be celebrating 60 years of ministry in conjunction with the 125th anniversary of Iowa USFW.

Save this date for a weekend of looking back as we look forward to continuing to "Serve in Seasons of Change."

As you do your fall and winter cleaning keep an eye out for old photos and bits of memorabilia from both CQH and USFW. If possible scan your item and email it to Linda Garrison and the camp staff will be creating a presentation to share that anniversary weekend. (email at campqhi@adiis.net)



Friends Disaster Service

We are seeking volunteers to travel to Lafitte, LA during February and March to help the Ohio FDS, under the direction of Bob Winn, build two new houses. This is a great opportunity to work with and have fellowship with Friends from other yearly meetings.



Lafitte is described as a quaint fishing village located 30-40 miles south of New Orleans. Housing for the building crews will be in a secure "bunkhouse" provided by the mayor of Lafitte. There will be jobs for all skill levels.

Iowa FDS will provide gas reimbursement up to \$200 for each carload (crew of 4-6) who are approved to travel to Louisiana for this project. Bob Winn has requested that every volunteer consider a donation of \$10 per day to help with the cost of food and lodging.

The expectation is that we will follow the same plans as in previous years of driving to the site Saturday and Sunday, work Monday through Friday, and then travel back to Iowa the following Saturday and Sunday.

Weeks available for volunteers are:

February 4-8	March 3-7
11-15	10-14
18-22	17-21
25-29	24-28

If you will join this project for any of the above weeks, please contact Dennis White, PO Box 803, Postville, IA 52162, ASAP. E-mail: dennis673@centurytel.net. OR phone him at 563-864-3858 or cell #563-379-2744.

Odalys, the treasurer of Cuba Yearly Meeting, is shown here with a piglet. The sow was purchased with funds received from IAYM Missions and IAYM gifts. The piglet and the rest of the litter will be sold, and the funds used by Holguin Monthly Meeting for children's needs, including a feeding program.

Also.....

Linda Garrison will be out of the camp office from Feb. 3-Feb. 25. No calls or emails will be returned until late February. She will be working

with the FUM work team to Cuba. Please pray for her safety as she travels and favorable work conditions in Cuba.

Angel Tree Outreach at Riverside Friends Church

Praise the Lord! The Angel Tree Outreach in December exceeded our expectations again. Riverside Friends Church helped organize the Angel Tree Outreach with Prison Fellowship in Mason City. A parent in prison signs up their child/children to be a part of the program. Each child is bought two gifts—one toy and one clothing item. With 92 children in the Mason City area it would be an impossible task for one church. However, the Body of Christ worked together. With sixteen churches participating, gifts were bought for 92 children. The Christmas party with games, crafts, and pizza was very well attended, and each family also received a Christian DVD or CD depending on the age of the children and a sack of groceries with a five pound ham. NIACC employees provided stuffed animals for each child and coloring books/colors for the younger children. Christmas songs were sung and the children were excited when they were asked to join the praise team on the stage. A gospel message was also given before the presents were distributed.

Some children were shy at first but it didn't take long before they were joining in games and making gospel bracelets. A mother thanked the Angel Tree Ministry and said, "You don't realize how much this means to us and the inmates." She then began to cry. A couple of parents had just been released from prison and were able to come to the Angel Tree party with their families. One mother stated, "I have no money and these will be the only gifts my children will receive this Christmas." She was very appreciative.

Several weeks later an Angel Tree volunteer from Riverside received a desperate call from one of the Angel Tree parents that she was going to commit suicide. The volunteer immediately followed up and drove the parent to the hospital. By reaching out with Christ's love to the Angel Tree families, a life was saved. Their parent in prison remembered them.

It was a privilege and an honor to work united as the Body of Christ! Together we are able to accomplish much more for the kingdom of God. Please continue to lift the children and families up in prayer so the seeds that were planted will continue to grow.

Meeting Moments & Vital Signs

Deaths

Helen F. Parcell, 69, of Richland, died Sunday January 20, 2008 following a brief illness. She was born November 19, 1938 near Richland, the daughter of Seth and Maude Hoskins. She grew up in the Pleasant Plain area and graduated from Fairfield High School in 1957 and attended William Penn College in Oskaloosa. On September 26, 1959, she was united in marriage to Victor Parcell in Pleasant Plain. Helen was very active in the community, she was a member of Trinity Friends Church where she served as treasurer and Sunday School teacher, served as either secretary or treasurer for many years on the Iowa Yearly Meeting Board of Friends Development Fund, treasurer of the Richland Community Club, member of the Rubio Ladies club and the Richland Lions Club.

Helen is survived by her children, twin daughters: Melinda (Larry) Crosby of Fremont, IA and Melissa (Patrick) Gorman and on son Joseph (Diana) Parcell, both of Brighton and six grandchildren.

Norval Duane Smith, Son of Alfred Perry and Maude Newlon Smith, was born on October 27, 1928 in Wales, Iowa. As a child, his family moved to Kansas due to his father's service in the ministry. He attended school in Lawrence, Kansas and was a 1946 graduate of North High School in Wichita, KS. He furthered his education at the Friends University in Wichita and received his B.A. Degree in 1950. He did graduate work at Drake University and the University of Iowa and completed his Master's Degree in Seminary at Phillip University in Enid, OK.

His first position as Pastor was with the Cherokee Friends Church in Cherokee, OK from 1952 to 1956. While he was there, he married Nedra Jane Andree May 23, 1953. Norval next accepted a position with the Federated Church in Wilmore, KS, where he served from 1956 to 1960. At that time Norval and Nedra Jane moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, where Norval took a position with Marshalltown Friends Church, a position he held until 1968.

He accepted a position with William Penn College as a professor of English and Journalism; he remained there until his retirement in 1994. While at Penn, Norval also served as pastor to the Center Friends Church in Newton, IA for several years. Norval was a member of the College Avenue Friends Church and served as its secretary from 1998 to 2005. Norval enjoyed working on his computer and collecting old vinyl records.

Norval passed away January 4, 2008 at the age of 79 years, two months and seven days. His family includes his wife, Nedra Jane Smith of Oskaloosa; his sons: Edward A. Smith of Oskaloosa and Duane A. Smith of Berea, KY; two grandsons: Jeremiah and Isaiah of Valparaiso, IN and one brother, Gordon (Joan) Smith of Wichita, KS. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Lorene Craven departed this life on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at the age of 99 years. Lorene was married to Ercil J. Craven. The couple farmed for a number of years. In 1948 Ercil was called to the ministry and began a career with the Oak Creek Church. Ercil and Lorene pastored in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Iowa. In 1973, Lorene and Ercil retired from the Friends Church at Buffalo, Iowa. Lorene enjoyed doing needlepoint. Lorene was a wonderful baker and was more than happy to share her homemade bread with everyone.

College Avenue Friends *Deb Moyer* shared this.

"Here at last a WIN WIN! A vocabulary game that helps you exercise your brain while helping with world hunger!

<http://www.freerice.com/index.php>

What if just knowing what a word meant could help feed hungry people around the world? Well, at FreeRice it does . . . the totals have grown exponentially. The Washington Post - Web game provides rice for hungry. . . FreeRice went online in early October and has now raised 1 billion grains of rice [by November 9]. Each correct answer results in the donation of rice to help feed the hungry around the globe. Perhaps that qualifies the game as a good addiction . . . one with redeeming qualities, something that's, oh, didactic and edifying."

West Branch Friends Church Each year at Christmas time we have a Angel Tree containing names of prisoners children. Members take a name and purchase a gift for the child. It is a wonderful experience for those who deliver the gifts.

The 65th wedding anniversary party for Herb and Madeline Espensen was enjoyed by all. The tables were beautifully decorated by family members. After lunch, and some speeches, Jon and Ruthie Tippin had special music.

On December 16 we had the traditional Sunday School program followed by a soup and bread supper. Christmas Eve there was a time of worship with carols, special music, the reading of the Christmas story and a circle of candlelight.

Honey Creek New Providence Friends are celebrating with Joseph Michael Longobardi as he received the highest rank in Boy Scouts... "Eagle Scout". Congratulations on your outstanding achievement!

LeGrand Friends noted that member Amy Wyatt recently graduated from Buena Vista University on December 14th with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. God Bless!!

Marshalltown Friends is hosting their 2nd annual Friends Valentine's Dinner on February 13th. The youth group will be serving the meal and the proceeds from the meal will go to the youth group to help with their ministry.

Justice can mean Different Things!

By Kevin Mortimer

I recently returned from having spent 17 days in Kenya having returned seven days before their December 27th elections.

I watched with avid interest the election results knowing the strong feelings of the people. And sure enough, when it came time to for the election to be announced, the probable loser, the present president Kibaki, announced he had won and that any report that he hadn't won was because the voting process had been rigged. Raila, the incumbent, the probable winner in the opinion of the many was left to cry foul. What resulted was violence.

In Kenya, I found their anger different from the United States. I read with interest a short news article in their paper reporting that some women at the market had stopped a couple robbers of their merchandise by chasing them down and using their purses and "blunt" objects to render them unconscious until the authorities could arrive. In another news story, five robbers had entered a store and confined the owner in a room while robbing the store. Upon leaving, they locked the store to speed their get away. The only problem was they locked one of their own in the store and when the neighbors finally realized what had happened, they came to the rescue of the owner and rendered justice on the spot. The robber's life was taken before the police could intervene.

In a nation of 32 million people of which 16.5 million are considered poverty level, the people have been on a long path since gaining independence from the British in 1964. Elisabeth Malesi, a conference speaker shared that there can be no peace without justice. And what is justice? Fair compensation for the activity or work rendered? This would seem like a good rule of thumb but the reality is that there must be great discernment in recognizing the condition of the people considered. The people of Africa are a beautiful people with great abilities climbing out of a very impoverished situation.

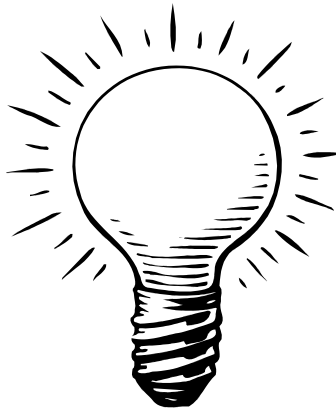
Whether living in the United States or in another part of the world, the same principle remains, "Peace is not knowledge, but a way of living in faithfulness to God". Life is made of diversity and conflict but how we deal with it, within the context we find ourselves makes all the difference. Peacemaking has a different feel in the United States than in other countries. We have come to a place of political correctness sometimes at the expense of truth speaking. Over the next few months we will discern who our next president will be by means of the popular/electoral vote. It will take great discernment on the part of the many. I close with this be-attitude given to us from the Prince of Peace, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9.

What can we do to help with the situation in Kenya?

In response to this question, Mary Kay Rehard, former FUM Field Staff to Friends Theological College in Kenya, has come up with an excellent list to help you and your Quaker meeting raise awareness of unfolding events in Kenya's post-election crisis. Here are ways you can help Friends in Kenya to begin the process of reconciliation and peace-building:

1. Remind Friends that over half the world's Quakers live in Kenya (about 150,000 or more), and most are very poor—the current situation is placing extra strain on families and institutions that were already struggling.
2. Encourage Friends to visit the FUM home page: <http://www.fum.org/> and the Kenya News blog regularly: <http://www.updateonkenya.blogspot.com/> Make a link for these sites on your monthly meeting's website and ask the yearly meeting to do the same.
3. Identify one member of the meeting as a "Kenya point person" to be especially attentive and share news with the meeting—and if you identify someone, ask them to contact Mary Kay Rehard (mary.k.rehard@gmail.com) so that she can send them email "alerts" when there is something urgent to report or to see on the blog.
4. Contribute to AGLI (African Great Lakes Initiative) to meet the huge demand for AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) workshops and peace skills trainings in Kenya by contributing online (<http://aglionline.org/sub/donate.htm>)
5. Contribute to FUM's Kenya Relief Fund (<http://www.fum.org/contributions/index.html>), to assist the projects chafing under rising prices due to shortages of essentials (like Friends Theological College, Kaimosi and Lugulu hospitals, Samburu and Turkana missions), and to help the Yearly Meetings that are providing shelter and assistance to the needy refugees in their area.
6. Announce that Kenyan Friends have conducted a Quaker Peace Conference in response to the post-election violence and ensuing humanitarian crisis. It's taking place this week in Kakamega, 24-27 January. Look for reports to come out of that timely meeting.
7. Feature Quaker service and ministry projects in Kenya: make a posterboard or use a bulletin board to illustrate the work of Friends United Meeting (FUM), African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), and Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR). This could be a project for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, the First Day School children, or an intergenerational meeting activity.
8. Write editorials for the local newspapers and magazines you read, to raise awareness about Kenya's situation. Friends are currently compiling "Talking Points" on some topics that you will find soon on the Kenya News blog.
9. Include a piece on Kenya in your upcoming newsletters, any material off the blog would be suitable, browse the right sidebar for concise chronology, country profiles, maps. Several reports by Kenyan Friends are featured there.

Pray for peace and unity to prevail in Kenya.



...Mark your Calendars...

**2008 Young Friends
camp Dates....**

**“Be Transformed”
Romans 12:1-2**

Little Fry Camp	\$150 (K-2)	May 30 - June 1
Fry Camp	\$150 (3-4)	June 5 - 8
Fox Camp	\$200 (5-6)	June 15 - 19
Jr. High Camp	\$250 (7-8)	June 8 - 13
Sr. High Weekender	\$100 (9-12)	June 13 - 15
Sr. High Camp	\$250 (9-12)	June 22 - 27
Jr. High Weekender	\$100 (7-8)	June 27 - 29

**Blizzard Blast 2008
YMCA Lock-in**

Who: 5th - 8th grade
When: February 15 - 16
Marshalltown YMCA
7 pm - 7 am



Cost: \$25/person
Pizza, Games, swimming, breakfast

**Bring consent form and
register between 7:00 and
7:30 February 15 at
Marshalltown Friends Church
2409 S 6th St
Marshalltown, IA**

Consent forms may be requested from the Yearly Meeting office
email iaym@mahaska.org for a copy.

Sponsors may sleep at Marshalltown Friends Church.

**IOWA YEARLY MEETING
YOUTH MINISTRIES**



THE IOWA FRIEND
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Winter Banquet
Featuring "88 Improv"
and music from all over
Iowa

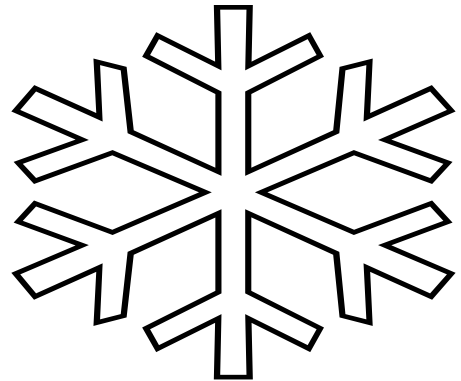


Be ready for laughter and inspiration!

"88 Improv" is a professional theatre group from Omaha, NE, featuring Iowa's own Sarah (Kennedy) Schoenfeld from Marshalltown Friends.

Vennard College
February 23rd at Noon
Banquet for everyone!

Cost \$10 - advanced paid registration
(postmarked by Feb. 16 to Sam Barber,
Box 222, University Park, IA 52595)
\$12 - at the door (Student Center Dining Hall)
\$5 - children 4 to 10



This event is sponsored by Iowa Quaker Men.
A freewill offering will be taken for
"88 Improv" and Iowa Quaker Men.