



The Iowa Friend

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

December 2009 Vol. 64 - No. 11

GOOD NEWS

Let us consider a few things in closing out 2009 and then take a look at 2010.

In this calendar year we have completed the Capital Campaign *"A Future and a Hope"*. We did not meet each of the goals we set out but took some very large steps toward securing a future for Iowa Yearly Meeting. The Tall Oaks Lodge at Camp Quaker Heights was constructed and is in use. Each year now we are seeing an increased usage. We also closed out the Cedar Rapids property sale and added it to the Church Extension permanent funds, while also receiving additional assistance from two different estates. This is enabling us to help bring the **Friends Church West** into reality. Our new church venture in West Des Moines, under the leadership of Michael and Janessa Lock, has just completed the search for a pastor to come and help plant this endeavor. Rich and Patty Kopp will be arriving from Ft. Collins, Colorado by January 1, 2010 to assume the role as pastor. Through the leadership and prayers of Church Extension for over two years we are now seeing the fruit being born. This new work will continue as a Preparatory Meeting under Middle River Friends.

Let us not forget the two Missions families that were commissioned and sent forth from Iowa this year. Sam and Becky Barber (Belize) and Nathan and Brianna Martin (Cambodia). And we have commissioned Morgan Martin to work with InterVarsity at Coe College. These are significant callings from God to spread the Good News both here and abroad. We will be called upon to continue to support all of them in prayer and finances.

We had a devastating storm hit Eldora, Iowa and our Camp Quaker Heights. I am happy to report that the restoration is completed from the contractor's side of this work. The total cost of the damage reconstruction is approximately \$350,000. According to two different storm adjusters comments it was the worst hail damage they had seen in over 25 years of adjusting.

There were literally thousands of hours of volunteer workers cleaning up and helping to restore CQH to a ready position. We have a new office to build yet and we actually made several upgrades or improvements to different buildings in this process. There are projects that still need completion and workdays will be called in the future by Linda Garrison, our Camp Administrator, who also received extensive damage to her personal home. Having Chip and Alicia Daleske on site has been a very important component to making this all come together in such a short time. We have one final piece of insurance work to complete and that is finishing the "loss of income" portion and that will be addressed shortly.

2010 appears to be ready to bring it's own share of challenges and good news. As we complete the 2009 budget year we are on track to finish in the black and move forward with confidence. Our God reigns and is leading and directing us in many different ways at this time. Isaiah 52:7 is the verse we are focusing on for our new year and the plans are underway for another enjoyable and fulfilling Annual Meeting July 29-August 1. Before that event, your General Superintendent would like to pick up the challenge of encouraging Quarterly Meetings to not forget one another. July 9-11, 2010 are the dates for Winneshiek Quarterly Meeting to be held at Sturgeon Bay Friends at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. It would be another great time of fellowship and encouragement for us to round up a bus load to make the trip up to worship together. Some of you will remember what a great time we had in 2003 when we held our Spring Body of Representatives there. What also has me excited about this idea is that July is the time when the cherry orchards should be ready for picking. What a beautiful sight it is to behold this scene which just happens to be in the middle of one of the most famous travel locations in the upper Midwest. We are going to be looking into a bus trip that should be another moment to remember. More information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Friendly Flashes

- a Ministry of USFW of Iowa -

First, an update on the Fall Retreat offering for Adopt-a-Nurse. The amount sent for this project was \$1,405.00, which is more than reported in the Nov. article. The fault is mine. One offering basket did not get counted with the rest before the announcement was made at Fall Retreat. Praise the Lord for the extra funds

So far this year, dues have been paid for 219 members. We are almost at the end of the calendar year, which is the fiscal year for USFW International projects. If you still have funds to send in, it is helpful to send them undesignated, or at least check the latest Advocate to see which projects still need money the most. If funds are sent for a specific project, they must go there, even if the total is over the budgeted amount. When undesignated funds are received late in the year, the USFWI board can allocate them among the projects which still need money the most. It is wonderful when all the projects can be funded in full.

Thank you to all the local societies; you contribute so faithfully year by year to the USFWI and Iowa projects. Even if you think your contribution is very small and insignificant, when combined with money from all our societies and with those from other Yearly Meeting USFW groups, there is enough to do a great deal of good in spreading God's kingdom.

May you have a Blessed Christmas season, remembering and being grateful for the Greatest Gift ever given, the gift of God's own Son to provide our salvation and enable us to have a close relationship with Him, in this life and for eternity.

Dorothy Taylor, Iowa USFW Treasurer

IAYM Stewardship Monthly Report

The Stewardship Board decided to include a monthly update of the Yearly Meeting's financial information along with a scripture. This is the month-end report for November:

November Income.....	\$ 12,977.60
November Expenses.....	\$ 14,698.00
Year to Date Income.....	\$ 150,154.43
Year to Date Expenses.....	\$ 154,604.07

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

CHRISTIANITY IS STILL ALIVE

written by: Ron Bryan, General Superintendent

Isa 52:7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, making peace heard; who brings good news, making salvation heard; who says to Zion, Your God reigns!

This verse speaks to me so strongly yet so sweetly. As I reflect over the span of my Christian walk I can see in my mind's eye so many faces. These faces are of people who have brought to me truth, have challenged and encouraged me to not only begin the walk of eternity but to continue in it. So let us all finish the race strongly. Let us not faint or give into fatigue, but lean forward with anticipation to the finish line. Let us also consider how many and who we can help bring to this race. Let us remember who it was that brought us to the knowledge and the saving grace of Jesus Christ and let us consider them with thanksgiving for their obedience. We aren't the first and we shall not be the last. This race, from start to finish, will continue until the day when the Lord returns.

Eugene Peterson in his book "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction" writes on the final page, *"I sometimes amuse myself by imagining Friedrich Nietzsche, who announced the death of God and who is now long dead himself, showing up in my study as I'm writing my books. He looks over my bookshelves and sees part of a sentence he wrote as a title on one of the books. He learns that I wrote the book. He beams (although I do have trouble imagining Nietzsche beaming). How pleased he is to find that I have kept his wonderful sentence "A long obedience in the same direction" in circulation into the third Christian millennium.*

Then he takes the book off the shelf and looks through it. His face furrows into an angry frown. The old atheist was convinced that Christians, by promoting the weak and ineffectual Jesus to keep the weakest, spiritually diseased, morally unfit and inferior parts of the population alive and reproducing, were a malign influence on civilization and would be the ruin of us all. He thought he'd delivered a death blow, and now he finds us still at it.

I love imagining him standing there angry and appalled, beard smoking, astonished that these weak, inadequate, ineffectual and unfit Christians are alive still, and still reproducing. "

Meeting Moments & Vital Signs

West Branch Friends

A thanksgiving offering was taken this year in the form of a challenge to the members of West Branch Friends. The USFW began with contributing to Cuba for their USFW and their Yearly Meeting following Eirena's visit this summer. They then challenged members to meet or beat the amount with the total raised for Cuba to be given in memory of Paul Hemingway. Paul had done mission's work to Cuba with the FUM workteam. His last trip was in 2003. Paul was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in the fall of 2007 and passed away in January 2009. A total gift of \$760 will be sent in praise to God for Cuban Friends, Eirena's visit and as a memorial to Paul Hemingway.

The meeting will celebrate advent with "The Gifts of Christmas". Each Sunday they will gather for worship anticipating various gifts that come to them in the waiting. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love will be celebrated one by one, as they share time in the Spirit. The Young Friends and Quaker Kids will perform "The Best Christmas Gift Ever" on the last Sunday of Advent that will be followed by a soup supper!

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It would great for us to send cards of Christmas cheer to our "local" missionaries who began their new works this year. Their addresses are:

Morgan Martin, 3201 H Ave. NW, Apt. 4,
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

Nathan & Brianna Martins PO Box 570
Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA

The Barber Family, PO Box 454
#4 Allenby St.
Belize City, Belize
CENTRAL AMERICA 00106

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Thanksgiving and Christmas time bring thoughts of blessings and thankfulness. The staff of Iowa Yearly Meeting, Camp Quaker Heights and Mesquakie Friends Center want to thank you! It is because of you and the ministries of our churches that we are here. Your gifts, contributions, volunteer service, and community of support make our collective work a joy. May your celebrations, both big and small, bring joy, remembrance, and peace.

With anticipation for what the new year hold we say thanks!

Ron Bryan, Mary Thury
Linda Garrison Chip Daleske
Victor and Brenda White



Quarterly Meeting at Marshalltown First Friends

Marshalltown First Friends hosted our first Quarterly Meeting in a very long period of time on Sunday November 1, 2009! All of the area Friends pastors have gathered once a month in New Providence to study and pray together. It was out of this gathering a desire to meet as a Quarter was born into reality.

Over 50 Friends gathered at First Friends Church in Marshalltown on November 1st, 2009. Representatives from LeGrand Friends, Bangor Liberty Friends, Stavanger Friends, Honey-Creek New Providence Friends, and Marshalltown Friends shared worship, fellowship, and prayer. Anthony Nieuwsma surprised us arriving with his youth group from First Friends in Grinnell. All present, there were over 20 young Friends in participation!

Each church participated in worship and helped by bringing refreshments to share afterwards. A brother-sister duo played "Amazing Grace" on their banjo and Mandolin; Jim & Deb Bonser from Stavanger performed two songs in sign



language; LeGrand Friends brought their beloved puppets including Uncle Wilbur; Nathan McCracken, pastor at Bangor-Liberty, offered devotions that led us into Open Worship. But the moment the youth are still talking about is Lloyd McDonald and his ventriloquist friend, Danny, who brought the children's message!

Each church had an opportunity to share what God is doing in their midst. It was sweet fellowship to see God's hand at work in so many different areas of ministry! What a privilege to gather together for the sake of praising God!



TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS

This year we are planning to give to each child and youth who attend our Christmas Sunday celebration a toy. We plan to have a special Christmas project, *White Christmas*, with the children and youth dressed in Native Regalia, drums, and a narrator. Each person is to bring a gift for another child or youth and will draw two gifts in return. This will be a special Christmas for each child and youth as they will be able to be in the play and receive two gifts. **WON'T YOU BE PART OF THIS CHRISTMAS AND SEND US MONEY FOR A GIFT?** You will insure each child and youth have a very Merry Christmas and know that you have helped. Thank you. Send your donations to: **Mesquakie Friends Center, PO Box 36, Toledo, IA 52342**



IAYM Church Quilt

We finished up on the quilt drawing fund-raiser for the capital campaign leadership portion. Over \$2,000 was raised for our leaders. Our winner from the drawing was Ethel Watson. She has donated the quilt to Camp Quaker Heights to be displayed for all to enjoy. Thanks to all who donated time to make blocks and finish the quilt. And thanks to all who donated to our leadership portion of the capital campaign!



Barber's Missionary Math!

- It costs \$80,000.00 per year to send and keep the Barber's on the field in Belize for salary and FUM expenses.
- That's approximately \$6,667.00 per month!
- Or... about \$220.00 per day.

The Barber's are committed to serving the children and families in Belize for multiple three-year terms. They will be coming home each year to visit family and to raise funds as they travel around the United States visiting various Yearly Meetings.

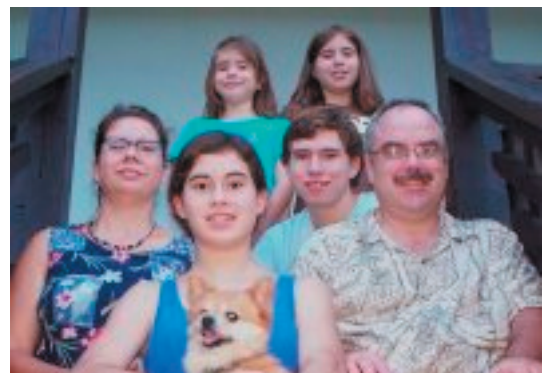
Their home is in Iowa and in Iowa Yearly Meeting. We are their Friend's Family! Here is our challenge! Let's raise enough funds this Thanksgiving/Christmas to keep the Barber's on the field for one month.

Let's raise \$6,700.00 – together!
Can we do it? How is it possible?
With God, all things are possible!
If we could do it for Bicycles,
we can do it for the Barbers!

There are 35 Friends churches in Iowa Yearly Meeting. If each of our churches were to raise \$190.48, we could do it! **OR...** if two smaller churches were to each raise \$95.24, and another church raised \$380.96, we could still do it!

No matter how you add it up,
Iowa Yearly Meeting + God = Bountiful Barber
Blessings!
Join the Challenge!

Please send all contributions to
Bob Watson, IAYM Mission's Treasurer,
803 Minnesota St., Glidden, IA 51443
--labeled Sam & Becky Barber--



IAYM Youth Ministries Presents:



Mid-Winter

Sr. High/College Outreach Retreat

January 1-3

@

Middle River Friends Church
Carlisle, IA

Registration:

\$75



Be sure to bring: Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, etc.

Friday:

Registration-5:30pm
Food, Games, and Worship
to follow

Saturday:

Breakfast
Worship, small groups,
games

Lunch

Ice Skating/Broomball
Dinner
Worship, small groups

Sunday:

Worship w/ Middle River
Lunch
1:00pm-goodbye!

Questions? Contact Mike Lock: michael21orange@hotmail.com
or Manny Garcia: ypmanny.mrfc@gmail.com

THE IOWA FRIEND

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December 2009 Vol. 64 - No. 11

The Iowa Friend

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Oskaloosa, Iowa
Permit No. 544

Change

Service Requested

IAYM SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MISSIONS BOARD SCHOLARSHIP

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2010-2011 academic school year. People within Iowa Yearly Meeting, who are attending a Christian or an accredited college or seminary and who want 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 2010-2011 scholarship, please contact Karen Bauer, 702 110th Street, Brighton, IA 52540 or call 319-694-4120. Her e-mail address is bauer.kn@gmail.com

TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are currently be taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2010-2011 academic school year (January 2011). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting office. Deadline for this scholarship is January 1st, 2010. A recipient will be determined at Spring Body 2010. Make inquiries to: IAYM, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 / (641) 673-9717 or email at iaym@mahaska.org. Thank You!

WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND Iowa USFW

The committee shall consider applications for scholarships and make decisions as to the recipients. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by need of the applicant and by funds available. The candidate shall be a participating member of Iowa Yearly Meeting. shall have successfully completed secondary education requirements, and shall have been accepted by William Penn University. Applications must be received by January 1, 2010. To be considered for a scholarship for the succeeding academic year, recipients must submit a request to the committee each year. Scholarships shall only be awarded for a maximum of four (4) academic years. Applications are available from the Yearly Meeting office. Please call (641)673-9717 or email iaym@mahaska.org to request a copy.