

March 2013  
Vol. 68 No. 3

# The Iowa Friend

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

Celebrating our  
150th Year!

## Intimacy with God Brings Purity and Unity

**When we place ourselves in a position where God is in control of our thoughts and actions:**

**When we place our personal desires and wishes before God:**

**When we place our ambitions and heart before God:**

Then God can speak to us, inspire us and draw us into a more intimate relationship with Him and with each other. God is there all the time is the words of a song we used to sing in the church, but where are we is the question? Of course, I don't mean physically. But rather where is our focus, where is our attention, or where is the intent of our heart? Are we willing and able to say with our brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world, "Here am I Lord, send me" (NIV, Isaiah 6:8) as an act of submission of my will and perhaps even my physical self. Or are we so used to being in charge of our will or self that we argue and question the validity of submission to anything or anyone at all?

Acts 1:5 "but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." NIV, which suggests immersed in the consuming fire of the purity of God. When we add that thought to the verse in Acts 2:1 "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." My prevailing understanding is that they were praying together, waiting for God to speak and/or reveal Himself to grant them empowerment and guidance as how to implement the Church as they embarked on the mission of introducing the world to the saving and indwelling grace of God through Jesus Christ.

As we gather together on April 21<sup>st</sup>, for our Concert of Prayer, is that our expectation? Are we willing to place ourselves in a position that allows God to control our thoughts and our plans? Will we come together with humility and love surrounded by expectation for a visitation from God? If not, why not? If so, how so? Do we have God in a box that leaves us in a false sense of control of how He should speak or reveal His will to us?

Let us consider together, what God is wanting from us. Let us be sincere about our plans and expectations, willfully submitting our best laid plans at the feet of His throne. Then let us wait and listen, with one heart and one purpose.

*Ron Bryan General Superintendent*

## 2013 Camp Dates

Little Fry	May 31-June 2
Fry Camp	June 27-30
Fox Camp	June 23-27
Jr. High Camp	June 7-12
JR High Weekender	June 7-9
HS Camp	June 14-19
HS Weekender	June 14-16
Young Adult Weekender	May 31-June 2

### BLIZZARD BLAST

Jr. High Youth 5th—8th Grade

Marshalltown Friends & the YMCA

March 15—registration at 6pm

March 16—ends at 6:30am

Cost: \$25 per youth

Contact Jay Wyatt for more info!

@ 641-691-7417

Registration forms are on our website!

## 9:30- 2:30 April 6, 2013 hosted by West Branch Friends USFW

Pulitzer Prize winning author to be our USFW Spring Luncheon speaker!!!

“Sometimes I have loved the peacefulness of an ordinary Sunday. It is like standing in a newly planted garden after a warm rain. You can feel the silent and invisible life.”  
— Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead*

Marilynne Robinson is a masterful storyteller and a writer that we can all relate to in our everyday lives. We are extremely fortunate to have her as our speaker for the USFW Spring Luncheon this April 6th at West Branch. This is one event you will not want to miss and you will want to bring any friend along who loves great books.

Robinson has written three highly acclaimed novels: *Housekeeping* (1980), *Gilead* (2004) and *Home* (2008). *Housekeeping* was a finalist for the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (US), *Gilead* was awarded the 2005 Pulitzer, and *Home* received the 2009 Orange Prize for Fiction (UK). *Home* is a companion to *Gilead* and focuses on the Boughton family during the same time period.

She is also the author of numerous non-fiction works. Robinson was raised as a Presbyterian and later became a Congregationalist, worshipping and sometimes preaching at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Iowa City. Her Congregationalism, and her interest in the ideas of John Calvin, have been important in her works, including *Gilead*, which centers on the life and theological concerns of a fictional Congregationalist minister.

Make plans now to attend this USFW event!



## Scholarships Opportunities

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission Board announces that scholarship funds are available for adults and youth within Iowa Yearly Meeting for short term mission trips. Guidelines for this opportunity are available at the yearly meeting office and can be found on the IAYM website. The maximum amount for each scholarship is \$150. Deadlines for Applications are January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. Contact the Yearly Meeting office for more information!

### Garrison Scholarship for Christian Ministries

Purpose: To encourage individuals from IAYM to pursue a degree in Christian Ministries. Must be an active member at a church in IAYM who apply in the spring prior to enrolling as a half-time or full-time student. Currently maintaining a GPA of 2.5 or better, pursuing a degree in a field related to Christian Ministries. More than one applicant may be selected each year. Applications and references must be submitted to the Yearly Meeting office and postmark dated by **May 31, 2013**. Contact the office for more information!!

### Iowa USFW

#### William Penn University Scholarship Fund Guidelines

Following are guidelines for the selection of candidates for Iowa United Society of Friends Women William Penn University Scholarship. The Scholarship Committee shall consider applications for scholarships and make decisions as to 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.
- A candidate from Iowa Yearly Meeting shall have successfully completed secondary education requirements and shall have been accepted by William Penn University.
- Applications must be received by March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 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 at the Yearly Meeting office.

# IAYM Mission Emphasis Turkana

When you hear of Friends Mission work in Kenya, one immediately thinks of Western Kenya where the first missionaries started their work. Since then, western part of Kenya is known worldwide among Quakers as the heart of Friends (Quaker) in Kenya. However, there is Mission work in Turkana, the northern part of the Kenya close to Sudan that is being led by John Moru.

*The Lord has called those He has chosen to serve HIM faithfully and spiritually*

John Moru's leadership team consists of 27 staff members' and 17 board members. The board members come from various Friends organizations such as East African Yearly Meeting of Friends North, Kitale Quarterly Meeting, FUM African Ministries, Monthly Meetings and local churches in Turkana itself. John works tirelessly with the staff members and board members in decision making and promoting the mission work locally and across into Southern Sudan. There are 13 local Friends churches, 3 primary schools and 6 pre-schools in the community that ensure the children are getting the education they need.

The girls in these schools are encouraged to work hard and apply for scholarship that are raised by USFWI that is offered through FUM to continue their high school based on their qualification. Currently there are 19 girls on scholarship and this year there are 31 applications but only 15 of those passed the national exams but the awards are still pending. What does this mean for those 16 girls who had hopes of joining high school but did not pass the exams? You and I in America have choices, alternatives and hope for the future. What about these girls?

*Sharing and Giving is a blessing from GOD. We pray to God for certain things in our lives, does God answer your prayer?*

The refugee camp, Kakuma is one of the sites that the Turkana Mission is faced with many challenges. The orphan children with their widowed mothers struggle every day. Their outcry to the rest of the world can be heard in their music singing. These refugees come from Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and Somalia. The Congo people like to praise the Lord through music but they lack instruments. Music is part of their life, they have a Friends church in the camp where they find peace. The children in this refugee camp lack desks, benches to sit on in the class rooms.

John has been able to go to Southern Sudan twice last year and this year he plans to spend the months of April, May and June there evangelizing and setting up a groundwork to establish a Friends church.

The Turkana has its own budget and the leadership team is very innovative, they have built 5 rental units that give them KSh. 24,300/ month that they use to maintain the other buildings.

## **These are the needs identified for Turkana Mission:**

Guest house on Lodwar Friends church compound.

Kshs80, 000/= for installing electricity in the church.

Computers for accounts office and pastor.

Pastor's house.

Improve nursery school in Lodwar.

*I pray to God that He blesses those that are reading this writings from because they are the chosen for a reason by God.* By Phena Shimaka.

## **IAYM Pastors Short Course 2013**

### **"Building Bridges to Change the World"**

**April 2-3 @ William Penn University**

#### **Guest Speaker: Jim Le Shana**

Dr. Le Shana is the Vice President of Academic Services and Director of the MA in Transformational Leadership at Barclay College in Haviland, KS.



Topics of the Short Course are:

**Tuesday:** The Beane Lecture **"The Forgotten Distinctive"**

**Building Bridges** on Tuesday evening

Wednesday Morning: **"Multiplication Epidurals: Birthing new groups and churches without pain (and other church myths)"** AND

**"Ministry Insights for Pastors and Spouses: Things I've Learned Along the Way"**

**Brochures available at the IAYM office!**

# Remembering our Spiritual Trails

**This section is from the 125th yearbook of "Spiritual Trails"**

## Friends United Meeting

Iowa Yearly Meeting's affiliation with other yearly meetings across the country and the world stemmed first from the concern for missions. In an 1875 session, a proposition was considered from Bangor Quarterly Meeting for the appointment of a Missionary Boards. There had been mission activity to homes, jails and the poor, but foreign mission work was not seriously considered until six years later in 1881 when Evi Sharpless of Stuart Monthly Meeting presented his concern to go to Jamaica as an evangelist. The way opened for him and others after him to establish and maintain a Jamaica Mission as best they knew how.

For 30 years the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, Sunday Schools and Christian Endeavor Groups of Iowa Yearly Meeting rallied their support around the Jamaica Mission, while dedicated Friends went out and returned from the field, trying to hold the scale in balance between success and failure. Finally, in 1911, the Yearly Meeting granted the request of its mission board to place the Jamaica work under the American Friends Board of Foreign Missions. The task had become too large and the envisioned benefits of a cooperative effort too great to continue alone.

This realization of the potential in joining with other Friends, thus combining concerns, resources and skills, served as a springboard for entering into the consortium of yearly meetings under what was first called the Five Years Meeting and is now known as Friends United Meeting. The ties in this larger group have strengthened, not only through the common concern and work of missions at home and abroad, but also through the areas of work in Christian Education, Meeting Ministries, Stewardship, Peace and Social Concerns, Publications and Quaker Volunteer Witness.

As the organizational structure of FUM (Friends United meeting) evolved, the vision of Iowa Yearly Meeting's members expanded causing them to assume more active participation in leadership roles, financial needs and personnel positions both on mission fields and in the central office. During this 25-year span many Iowa Friends have served on boards and commissions, including Miriam McDonald, Assistant Presiding Clerk of FUM, 1981-84, and Richard Whitehead, Presiding Clerk of FUM, 1984-87. At the beginning of our 125th year, Stephen Main moved

from the position of Iowa Yearly meeting Superintendent, to Friends United Meeting General Secretary. At the same time Mary Glenn Hadley, a professional registered nurse, a missionary and recorded minister of Iowa Yearly Meeting, assumed leadership of the FUM Meeting Ministries Commission.

Friends United Meeting, in truth, is not "they" it is "us," corporately seeking God's will in order to accomplish rightly what no single yearly meeting is able to do alone. FUM sessions are large gatherings that meet triennially for inspiration, fellowship and business, with all Friends welcome to attend, along with appointed delegates. Representatives from the yearly meetings serve on boards and commissions in decision-making roles during the interim years, and support programs coordinated by central office staff persons.

In 1987 FUM held its 100th Anniversary Triennial Sessions in North Carolina with more than 800 persons attending from 18 yearly meetings located in the Continental United States, Canada, Jamaica, Cuba and Africa. This modern day body of Friends, seeking a statement of self-identity, approved that "Friends United Meeting is an organization that, amid the diverse body that is the Society of Friends today, comes together to work and witness based on a common commitment to Jesus Christ.

*150th Spiritual Trails Book will be published this summer which will contain the works of the 100th & 125th Spiritual Trail publications.*

*Please reserve a copy of the new book for yourself, church, or local historical library! Contact Mary at the Yearly Meeting office. Estimated cost of publication will be \$20-\$30.*



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**CONCERT of PRAYER**  
**April 21st, 2013**



# Spring Ideas to “Live Love”

Genuine love and compassion for God and others  
is what attracts people to the Gospel and thus to our church family.

*“Churches that seek to follow God need only one thing, pure, unfiltered, and unconditional, 1st Corinthians 13 style love; first for god and then for our neighbors. Everything that a church does should be motivated by these two loves. Are programs, worship services, meetings, ushers, pastor, worship team, nursery workers, Sunday school teachers, and every other part of our local church motivated by the love they have for God and for His created people? If not maybe it’s time for a change in focus...As a church there is nothing greater that we can invest in than our love of God and people.” (Manny Garcia, 42 Days of Prayer)*

**These suggestions can be done as a family, individual or with a small group. You might want to print a few in your church bulletin each week.**

## **March**

- In honor of National Craft Month gather materials for a project and offer to demonstrate & share with a mom of preschoolers, someone doing daycare, your local library or nursing home. One idea is to make flowers with DumDum candy. Just Google DumDum flowers for instructions.
- Buy car wash coupons; tuck them under the wipers of dirty cars with a note “Just showing God’s love to you in a practical way,” and include your church name.
- Offer to walk a neighbor’s dog. Take a garbage bag along and gather any trash along the way.
- Pack a bag for someone undergoing chemo—snack, water, magazine, word-find game book, mechanical pencil, humorous book, etc.
- In honor of National Peanut Month bake peanut butter cookies, bars or candy then deliver them to your pastor and family; your local post office, senior citizen center; or mail to a college student.
- Leave an encouraging comment on someone’s blog.

*“Let all that you do be done with love.” (1 Corinthians 16:14)*

**THE IOWA FRIEND**

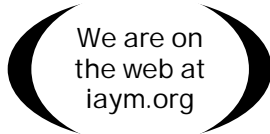
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March 2013 Vol. 68 - No. 3



Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Oskaloosa, Iowa  
**Permit No. 544**

Change  
Service Requested

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

**Iowa Yearly Meeting Schedule**

**March 2013**

- 3/9/13 BOC at Grinnell
- 3/8-9 FWCC at Middle River
- 3/10 FWCC at Fairfield
- 3/15-16 Blizzard Blast—Jr. High youth @ Marshalltown
- 3/23/13 Spring Body at Quakerdale  
M&C board meeting following

**April 2013**

- 4/2-3 Pastor Short Course @WPU
- 4/6/13 USFW Spring Fling at West Branch
- 4/6 Camp Quaker Heights workday
- 4/21 IAYM Concert of Prayer

**July 2013**

- 7/4-6 USFW Triennials  
Indianapolis, IN

**July 31-August 3, 2013**

!50th Yearly Meeting and Celebration  
At William Penn University

4-Person Best Position Tournament  
9:00 AM Shotgun Start

**April 27, 2013**  
Westwood Municipal  
Golf Course  
3387 Hwy F48 W.  
Newton, Iowa 50208

**\$200 / team**

Includes:  
18 holes of golf  
cart rental,  
lunch & prizes

**Questions?**  
Anthony Nieuwsma  
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 **GARRISON  
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