



# THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

## Love on Display....by Tom Showalter

How do people who do not come to church encounter God? The book of Romans tells us, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities have been clearly seen...so that men are without excuse." People have opportunity to encounter God through God's "invisible qualities."

Additionally, since we have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation and are ambassadors of Jesus Christ, the other way people encounter God is that they encounter us. The challenge we face as we see statistics is that some of the people we encounter do not have a favorable impression of Christians. Tony Nolan, in *Hurt Healer* offers this explanation, "The cause of this great dilemma points to a breakdown between the God we know and the God that we show." As a personal reflection, Is the God we know, the God we show?

In this month of February, the month in which we celebrate Valentine's Day, love is on display. We will celebrate the love of our lives with candy and cards. School children will sign Valentine's cards and give them to classmates. Love is in the air...

Have you ever thought about the way Jesus showed His love to us? The first things that come to mind may be the cross, His crucifixion, His death, burial, or the resurrection...God loves us and sent His Son for us.

As much as that displays God's love, there is a passage of Scripture that explicitly states, "He (Jesus) now showed them the full extent of his love." Is this found just before the crucifixion? Before the feeding of the multitudes? Where is the full extent of Jesus' love on display? The answer is John 13: 1-17. In this passage, Jesus serves by washing the dirty feet of the disciples. It's amazing to think that the Savior shows His love to the "full extent" by serving. He further challenges the recipients of this act of love: "'I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15).

What does a servant look like today? He or she serves like Jesus served because of the love for the object of his service. It means doing things that no one else wants to do. It means we put our personal preferences aside for the sake of others. It means that we are aware of the reality that when we are with people who do not know our Savior, they encounter God because they see Jesus in us. What would this look like in our marriages? What would this look like in our families?...Church?...Community?...Workplace? People may not be in proximity to a place where they will encounter God, but we have the opportunity to encounter them. What will they see?

*John 13:35, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

## Is the God that we know, the God that we show?

*IAYM Mission Board announces it's annual:*

# Easter Offering – Mesquakie Retreat Center

Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board announces the 2016 Easter Offering – the Mesquakie Retreat Center. Mac and Berny McDonald would like to equip and use the lower level of their residence as a retreat center, making it available for yearly meeting boards, individual churches, youth groups, families, or other groups needing a place to get away for worship, fellowship, planning sessions, and fun activities; and as lodging for mission teams.

Mesquakie Friends is situated on approximately 35 acres of woods, including a pond, locations for campfire sites, and an area for a possible prairie restoration. In addition to a place to enjoy the beauty of God's natural world, the grounds offer a worship center with full kitchen, a shelter house, basketball court, and a playground.

The focus for Iowa Yearly Meeting's Easter Offering is one of the rooms in the Retreat Center. This room will include two bunk beds and two small dressers. In order to equip this "Bunk Room", we've created a registry of items, much like engaged couples and expectant parents use to offer gift ideas for family and friends. This registry can be used by individuals, families, churches, Sunday School classes, Bible Study groups, youth groups, mission committees, Quarterly Meetings (if yours is still active), or whatever grouping you choose.

Here's how it works:

Choose an item(s) from the registry and send the name of the item, with your offering for the amount of the item(s), to Dorothy Taylor, Missions Board Treasurer. (If multiple individuals/groups select the same item(s), donations which exceed the amount of the item(s) will be used to purchase other items from the list to furnish the room.)

- (2) Bunk Bed - \$249.99
- (4) Twin Mattress - \$69.99
- (4) Waterproof Mattress Protector - \$19.95
- (4) Twin Sheet Set - \$14.99
- (4) Twin Quilt Set - \$49.88
- (2) 5 Drawer Dresser - \$159.99 (\$32 per drawer)



**Thank you for helping furnish the "Bunk Room" at the Mesquakie Retreat Center.**

*[ Dorothy Taylor's address: 1121 Parkway Drive, Apt. 1, Boone, IA 50036 ]*



**Follow the Path to Cedar Rapids**

**USFWI/QMI TRIENNIAL**

**July 7-10, 2016 @ The Marriott—Collins Road**

## Obituaries

**Haviland, KS – Francis T. Ross, 90**, passed away January 15, 2016. Francis was born on September 27, 1925 to Robert Frank and Eva Cleo (Haile) Ross on the family farm near Haviland, Kansas. On June 4, 1946 he married Dorothy Ellen (White) in Ionia, Michigan. She preceded him in death May 11, 2014.

He graduated from Cleveland Bible College, now called Malone College, with a Bachelor of Theology and from Fort Hays University with a Masters in English. He was a member of Haviland Friends Church and Mid America Yearly Meeting. Francis has served at Beaver Friends Church in Beaver, Kansas, Walsh Friends Church in Walsh, Colorado, Mt. Ayer Friends Church in Alton, Kansas, Alva Friends Church in Alva, Oklahoma, Marshalltown Friends Church in Marshalltown, Iowa, and Booker Friends Church in Booker, Texas. He spent the last couple of years teaching and preaching at Wellsford Community Church.

Those who are left to cherish his memory are his 3 children; Linetta Powell of Lonetree, Colorado, Kenneth E. Ross of Haviland, Kansas, and Marlene (Tom) McDonald of New Providence, Iowa; 4 siblings; Eugene (Alta) Ross of Pratt, Kansas, Paul (Patty) Ross of Inman, Kansas, Ruthelma Spoker of Nebraska, and Warren (Pat) Ross of Rosenberg, Oregon; 7 grandchildren; Todd Ross, Jennifer (Brian) Schneider, Joshua (Sarah) Powell, Elaine (Mark) Hagenberg, Laura (Cody) Johnson, Alan McDonald and Emily (Brandon) Blaney; and 13 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, parents and a sister, Esther Johnson.

**Martina Cummings Bowman, 89**, of Oskaloosa passed away on Monday, January 18, 2016.

Born Helen (pronounced He-leen) Martina Cummings on January 24, 1926, in Warthen, Georgia, she was the oldest child of Vera and Oscar Cummings. Martina attended the Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville, Georgia, her freshman year. She transferred to Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, her sophomore year, where she majored in education and met her red-headed husband, Allen J. Bowman. Martina graduated in 1946 and the two were married on September 8th of that year.

In 1947, Martina and Allen moved to Alva, Oklahoma, where their two sons, Bill and David, were born. In 1950 the family moved to Wichita, Kansas, and Julie was added to the family a few years later. The family moved again in 1959 to Albany, California – outside the Bay Area. While there, Martina began working as a teacher's aide for children with special needs, which was to become her life's work. In 1966 the family moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where Martina began teaching special education and history at the junior high. This was a time when public schools were just beginning special education programs, and Martina helped shape the program for Oskaloosa and Mahaska County. Martina taught for 24 years, retiring in 1990.

Throughout her life Martina was an avid gardener, and she loved arranging fresh flowers every Sunday at College Avenue Friends, where she was an active member. At College Avenue Friends, she had many roles but is best remembered for her many years of leadership on the Fellowship and Helpfulness Committee which provided meals for church functions. Martina loved to read (fiction only). She often would read the last chapter of a book first if she was unsure of whether or not she would like the ending. She also loved music. She read the newspaper cover to cover every day. She saved the funnies for last as they were her favorite part of the paper. She would be disgusted if they weren't actually funny.

Martina enjoyed cooking. She loved to watch the birds on the bird feeders outside her kitchen window. She will also be remembered for birthday cards. She made it her mission to send birthday cards to every friend, every church member, every colleague, and every relative on either side of the family. Martina's family includes her husband, Allen J. Bowman, her children and their spouses: Bill and Kim Bowman of Lake Forest, California, Julie Bowman and Scott Bates of Evanston, Illinois, her daughter-in-law Karla Bowman, of Canal Fulton, Ohio; four grandchildren: Camille Bates, Evan Bates, Aiden Bowman and Liam Bowman; her brother Frank Cummings and numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Martina was preceded in death by her son, David Bowman, and her brother, Hudson (Sonny) Cummings.

### revivify

verb re·viv·i·fy \rē-'vi-və-, fī\

: to make (someone or something) strong, healthy, or active again

*2016 Annual*

*Ministry Conference*

**July 27—30th, 2016**

*On the campus of William Penn  
University*

AND

*College Avenue Friends*

**Garrison Golf Scramble 2016 is set for September 17th. SAVE the DATE!!**

# Annual Winter Family Banquet of Iowa Yearly Meeting

*brought to you by your Quaker Men Organization*

**Saturday, February 27th, 2016**

**at the Musco Technology Center, William Penn University**

**starting at noon**



Many come earlier and socialize with friends. There will be the men's business meeting starting at 10:15 for the QM board and a triennial planning committee meeting as well.

The program will include music by Luke McCracken, a power point presentation, and our 5th annual pie auction conducted by Joe & Kerry Hadley who are back by popular acclaim! They will be eager to sell those \$100-\$200 pies and more. The pies have been provided by volunteers and are excellent. **Good pies, good times-----great for missions!**



Banqueting in February is a great time to come together. Luke has been practicing up and should be pretty good by the 27th. He has recorded two CD's and has been around, so many will know him.



There is widespread interest across the yearly meeting on the continuing work to establish an active ministry thru the Friends Response Team (Friends Disaster Service), so we will have an update which sets up the main event.

**Our speaker is Quint Bryan**, from Eastern Region Friends Disaster Service, along with our General Superintendent –Tom Showalter, have worked together in the past to organize work teams that put young and older people together doing projects which is our goal too. Their power point presentation will include stories recorded in action so we can see the results of their work.

I have a personal goal of 150 people coming to the banquet. We have come close so let's make it happen this year- my 6th and final year as president.

**Banquet tickets are \$12 for reservations or \$13 at the door, same as last year.** We have to guarantee a base number of meals, so we need as many reservations as possible by Monday, February 15 and deadline for reservations is Thursday, February 18. After that, I guess how many more we will need and add that number to the total to turn in. Last year, I turned in the number which turned out to be the exact number of actual meals served!! *We will see you there..... Bill McCracken*

## **Reservation contact information:**

### **Chuck Watson**

902 Penn Boulevard, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577  
641) 673 3755 [charleswatson902@msn.com](mailto:charleswatson902@msn.com)

### **OR William McCracken**

3381 Elm Avenue, Brighton, Iowa 52540  
(319) 694-3265 [wcmccracken@hotmail.com](mailto:wcmccracken@hotmail.com)

January 1st starts the new year for QM.

Dues are \$15 annually or lifetime dues are \$250.

Quaker Men International dues are \$10 or lifetime \$100 for those who have been interested.

Home

Stoking  
THE FIRE  
MAY 13-15, 2016

Go to.....[http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/stoking\\_the\\_fire/](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/stoking_the_fire/) for information and registration!

## Stoking the Fire

Experiencing the power and presence of Christ, together.

Releasing that power in radical faithfulness.

MAY 13-15, 2016, IN SOPHIA, NC

A gathering in the power of Christ



### The Expansion of Belize Friends Ministry

The existing and continuing ministry in Belize City is a blessing that transforms the southside community from a place of hopelessness and violence to a place of hope and peace. There is a small Quaker meeting that has begun. Incarnational and relational work with one-to-one relationships is an opportunity for the communities' strengths and gifts to continue to be uplifted, as such, FUM also seeks a Pastoral Minister and a director of Belize Friends Ministries in order to implement the growing work in Belize City.

The Belize Friends School currently has space for about 25, and there is a demand among youth and adults for what is being offered. Also, while there are other service organizations on the Southside, the potential for connecting educational, spiritual and non-violent social growth is huge. FUM is seeking to revitalize the Alternatives to Violence Project in Belize City. Expanded space for the Belize Friends School, a new church space and a community center are integral to the continuing ministry.

The expansion of Belize Friends Ministry is a great blessing and a work both of the community and of the spirit interwoven together.

### Prayer

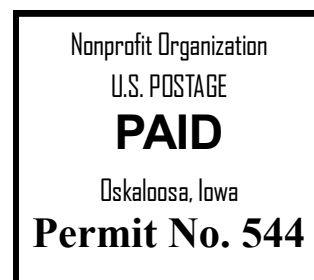
We praise God that the FUM General Board has approved a plan for expanding the ministry of FUM in Belize. We pray the Lord would bless this decision, and the fruits of this commitment will be shown in changed lives and transformed communities in Belize. We pray for discernment, for wisdom and for God's provision of resources. We praise God for the existing ministry and for continuing ministry among the communities in Belize.



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Registration is now open online  
at iaym.org for

## BLIZZARD BLAST

5th—8th Graders  
*February 19-20*

### Young Friends Camps June 2016

6/10-12	Little Fry
6/12-17	Jr/Sr high camp
6/17-19	Young Adult Weekender
6/19-23	Elementary Camp



### MISSION BOARD'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2016-17 academic school year. **People within Iowa Yearly Meeting who want to pursue an education at a Christian college or an accredited college or seminary 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 2016-2017 scholarship, please contact the Yearly Meeting office for more information.

**The deadline is March 1, 2016.**

#### March 2016

3/5 BOC @LeGrand  
3/15-16 Pastor Short Course @ WPU  
3/19 Spring Body of Representatives @ Grace

#### April 2016

4/9 USFW Spring Fling

#### July 2016

7/7-10 Triennials in Cedar Rapids IA