

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

A People in Need of Hope

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, & the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

He will proclaim peace to the nations... (Zech. 9:10b)

He will stand & shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord...they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace (Micah 5:4-5).

When these verses were written, God's voice became quiet. So when these verses were fulfilled at the first Christmas, the people were in need of hope. We, like the people during the prophet's days, are a people in need of hope. We live amongst people who need to hear the message of hope. The Church is poised to share just such a message. We need to be light in dark places as people become more and more desperate for hope. The book of John gives not so much a historical account of His birth, but more of an application of the magnificent event.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it (John 1:1-5).

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:12-14).

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

The Hope of Christmas is found at the manger, God came to us! GOD CAME TO US!! It was His initiative not ours. Our hope is not found in the results of the election or in the amount in our checkbook. Our hope comes when we humbly bow at the manger and allow Him to reign in us.

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,

When Thou camest to earth for me;

But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room

For Thy holy nativity.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,

There is room in my heart for Thee (from the hymn *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*)

As we prepare and celebrate Christmas this year, may we look to the Prince of Peace for our hope. Once we find it there, may we then be people who display that Peace and Hope to a world who desperately need to hear of such Hope! As the hymn implores:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing, (from the hymn *Joy to the World*)

By: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent



RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL

By IAYM Missions Board

Friends United Meeting is announcing a significant transition for the Ramallah Friends School (RFS). During the last twelve years, Joyce Ajlouny has served as Director of RFS. Alongside the Staff and RFS board, Joyce has helped transform RFS into a premier educational institution in Palestine and one rooted in the values of Friends.

A few of Joyce's accomplishments during the last twelve years include:

- Initiated and oversaw the historic creation of a new academic division – **the Middle School** — on the Upper School campus and ensured the design and construction of a state-of-the-art “green” building with the help of an international architectural firm specializing in schools
- Asserted **Quaker ethos** through various programs including the development of Quaker Faith and Practice and Quaker/RFS History Courses and a Problem Solving program for the Lower School.
- Nurtured and developed the **exchange program with US Quaker Schools** adding two new schools.
- Initiated and supported two successful and ongoing **summer programs**: “I Know I Can Summer Academies” and “Go Palestine Summer Camp”, the former brings Teach for America educators to Palestine who run a creative summer camp for all ages and the latter brings together international youth with RFS students for a 3-week service and cultural immersion experience.

Other news includes the Upper School students just completed a business competition where they opened a recycling company selling all kinds of recycled crafts. Friends and colleagues from George Fox University School of Education visited the Upper School for a week with the focus on MYP planning, assessment, and interdisciplinary unit planning. The Lower School has an Environmental Club which reclaimed land by creating an organic garden in neglected area of the school campus. A drip irrigation system minimizes water consumption.

Over the last three years, Joyce has discussed with the FUM General Secretary an eventual transition into a new position that would capitalize on her unique gifts, background and further dreams for RFS. One of Joyce's passions is to grow a stronger endowment for student scholarships and for operational expenses that will keep the cost of education affordable for Palestinian families. With her strong track-record and success in raising funds and her expertise in securing facility grants, alumni support and endowment funding, we are now prepared to free Joyce to focus more exclusively on building the capacity for RFS.

Thanks to a very generous gift by US donors, FUM is pleased to announce that Joyce Ajlouny will be transitioning out of the role of Director of RFS into a new US-based position focused on Advancement and Alumni Relations. A search for a new, Ramallah-based Head of School will commence immediately. A position announcement and job description for this FUM field staff appointment is being finalized and will be available soon. Joyce will continue to oversee the operations of the school until the new Head of School is in place, ideally before the end of the current academic year.

Clearly, Joyce has served and led the school exceedingly well. As she transitions to a new role, we are grateful that she will continue to apply her gifts for the benefit of the school and Palestinian community. We ask you to keep Joyce in your prayers as she moves into this new season of ministry and pray for the Friends United Meeting Global Ministries Department as a search for a new Head of School begin.

50 Days of Prayer for Revival

All the churches of Iowa Yearly Meeting are urged to join in 50 Days of Prayer from February 4 to March 25.

This united prayer effort is sponsored by IAYM Ministry and Counsel.

Concert of Prayer – February 4

The 50 Days of Prayer for Revival will start with a Concert of Prayer on **Saturday, February 4 at 2:00 p.m.** There will be five locations and churches may choose the location closest to them. During that meeting the five locations will connect by Internet for corporate prayer.

Daily Prayer – Weekly Small Groups

During the seven weeks following February 4, everyone is encouraged to commit to pray daily for revival. A daily prayer guide, *Pursuing Pentecost*, is available to help guide those prayer times. Churches are also encouraged to organize small groups to meet weekly to pray together. There are questions in the prayer guide for group discussion and suggestions for group prayer. There will also be 5-minute video clips available to start the weekly prayer meetings. The video clips include a short testimony and someone leading in prayer for the theme of that week.

The four themes are intimacy with God, purity, unity and power of the Holy Spirit. A Facebook page is being developed to allow people across the Yearly Meeting to connect with prayer requests, answers to prayer, or updates on what God is doing in your meeting.

More information about these resources will soon be sent to the churches or you may contact Charlotte Stangeland with questions, stangelandchar@gmail.com.

Concluding Meeting

The 50 Days of Prayer will conclude with a special revival meeting on Saturday, **March 25**. This holy convocation will be held following Spring Body of Representatives at **approximately 2:00-4:00 p.m.** at Mesquakie Friends Church. All churches are encouraged to gather together at this time and hear what the Lord will say to us through a special speaker and gifted musicians.

We hope all Iowa Yearly Meeting Churches are prayerfully considering how you will participate. We now have confirmation that **Steve Pedigo will be the speaker for the March 25 meeting**. Steve and Marlene led an inner-city ministry in Chicago for 30 years and he is currently pastor at Westfield Friends in Indiana. Steve has a masters' degree from Asbury Seminar and Ph.D from North Park Seminary in Chicago. He is passionate about the life transforming power of Jesus Christ.



Nominations for potential applicants for 2017 Pickett Endowment grants are now being received. Nominations close January 15, 2017

The mission of the Clarence and Lilly Pickett Endowment is to recognize and nurture future Quaker leaders. Nominees must be active attendees, but not necessarily members in a Quaker meeting.

As individuals must first be nominated before they can apply, nominators are an essential part of the grant cycle.

If you know of an individual who could benefit from a Pickett Endowment grant you may com-

plete a nomination online at pickettendowment.quaker.org/. ***It only takes a few minutes.*** Grants are awarded to those individuals whose application clearly demonstrates potential for leadership and whose self-initiated project has potential to make a contribution toward betterment of humankind. Priority is given to those individuals between the ages of 18-35 initiated projects.

Additional information about Pickett Endowment grants and a listing of former grantees with brief description of their projects is available on the Pickett Endowment website.

Nominations close January 15, 2017

Mike Moyer, Pickett Endowment Coordinator

Quakerdale

2nd Annual Quakerdale Winter Classic ProAm

at Beaver Hills Country Club
in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

This online fundraiser will run from December 5 to December 10 and features 14 charities and 8 Quakerdale ministries.

Conceived in 2015, the event is designed to help expand awareness, increase online email subscriptions, and invite people to join their work as a volunteer, donor, or legacy supporter (leaving a legacy through a planned gift).

The 2015 Quakerdale Winter Classic results for Quakerdale alone included an increase of 23 time in web traffic, more than 392,000 impressions on 71,000 plus Twitter accounts, nearly doubled their online subscriptions, and had 161 participants (100 from Iowa, 60 from the US, and one international).

February 2017

10–12 Young Adult Winter Retreat

17–18 Jr High Blizzard Blast

March 11, 2017 BOC meeting

@ College Avenue Friends Oskaloosa IA

March 2017

10-12 Ignite Retreat H.S. & Teen leaders

25th Spring Body of Representatives

@ Mesquakie Friends Center Tama, IA

Summer Friends Camp @ CQH June 2017

2-4 Young Adult Weekender

9-11 Little Fry

11-16 Jr/Sr High Camp

18-22 Elementary Camp

25-July 1 Kaleo Academy @ Barclay College

July 2017

12-16 FUM Triennials

26–29th Annual Ministry Conference

@ William Penn University—Oskaloosa, IA

Upcoming
Events

How is your church investing in Leadership Development for the future? Do you have anything in place to encourage young people towards a life of ministry, service and calling? Kaleo (“to call”) Academy would like to come alongside your church in helping develop high school leaders for the Friends Church, and most importantly, for the Kingdom of God.

This program is designed for young men and women from evangelical Friends Churches around the country who are entering 10th & 11th grade the fall of 2017. The four components of the program include:



1. **THEOLOGY CAMP (June 25-July 1, 2017 in Haviland,**
2. **MENTORING (10 months following Theology Camp)**
3. **ONLINE COMMUNITY LEARNING (10 months following Theology Camp)**
4. **THE RELEASED PROJECT (50 hours of Service Learning)**

If you would like some more information or have young leaders in your church who would be a good fit for this program, contact Katy at: 317-450-4712 or katy.moran@barclaycollege.edu OR contact Kaleo Academy Director, Brockie Follette at brockie.follette@barclaycollege.edu or 620-862-5252 ext. 26. **Applications are being accepted now through January 1, 2017.**



TRUSTEES

SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now being taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2017-2018 academic school year (January of 2018). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting Office.

Deadline for this scholarship is January 1, 2017
A recipient will be determined at Spring Body 2017.

Iowa United Society of Friends Women (USFW) William Penn University Scholarship Fund

Guidelines

Following are guidelines for the selection of candidates for this scholarship. The Scholarship committee shall consider applications for scholarships and make decisions as to recipients.

1. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by need of the applicant and by funds available.
2. The candidate shall be a participating member of Iowa Yearly Meeting.
3. A candidate from the Yearly Meeting shall have successfully completed secondary education requirements and shall have been accepted by William Penn University.
4. **Applications must be received by January 31st, 2017**
5. To be considered for a scholarship for the succeeding academic year, recipients must submit a request to the committee each year.
6. Scholarships shall only be awarded for a maximum of four (4) academic years.

MISSION BOARD'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2017-18 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, 2017

To receive an application for any of these scholarships— contact: (641) 673-9717 or email office@iaym.org

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
From the staff of Iowa Yearly Meeting

Tom Showalter

Scott Biddle

Mary Thury

Chip & Alicia Daleske @ Camp Quaker Heights

John "Mac" & Berny McDonald @ Mesquakie Friends Center