

# THE IOWA FRIEND

## Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

### Keeping Sight of the Mission of the Church

by: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

The topic of revival has been discussed within Iowa Yearly Meeting in the last several months. In addition to the book we were using written by Charlotte Stangeland, I have been reading other books on the topic, as well. One such book that is filled with great wisdom is "Preparing Your Church for Revival" by T.H. Moore. Several quotes follow:

- *Revival...is something God does, not something we sponsor or conduct...Revival will come when God determines to bring it; but He calls on us to wait on Him in the interim (pp.13 & 19).*
- *If the officers and other leaders of our churches are nothing more than department heads, committee chairmen, or program managers, they will not be ready to take up the work of guiding, strengthening, and equipping for ministry that a suddenly awakened congregation will require (p.38)*
- *Church discipline is necessary for the purity of the Church and the honor of Christ (p.41)*
- *Without a spirit of sacrifice widely present among the people of God, our experience of revival may fizzle rather than soar, as people react in negative ways to change and the demands that come with it (p.54)*
- *God is preparing to revive His churches...But will He do it in our churches? (p.73)*

As I observe the current condition of Friends nationwide, I see a lot of transitioning take place. Some yearly meetings are splitting, some are reorganizing, some are going through leadership transitions, and others are making evaluations. In my last report to BOC, I declared the importance of knowing our foundation, our associations, and our direction. In the midst of the 50 days of revival challenge, one IAYM pastor stated that we cannot have revival in IAYM since there is so much disparity of practices amongst our churches. We have a variety of practices when it comes to baptism and communion, for example. We have other meetings who have practices that are clearly outside that of Scripture and the Discipline. Additionally, I have observed those who attempt to speak, write, and represent IAYM on topics that may be described as controversial. Understand, I am not afraid to speak and take stands for my convictions, but when I am representing IAYM, I need to make sure that what I am communicating is an IAYM perspective and not a personal one.

Let me simply say, we are not going to agree on everything. Additionally, not everything is worth fighting or debating over...but some things are. Leaders must be very discerning to determine what things are worth making stands for and what things are not. In my opinion, IAYM needs to discuss, debate, articulate, and then stand firm on some core values.

A 2001 Harvard Business Review article stated:

*"Followers want comfort, stability, and solutions from their leaders, but that's babysitting. Real leaders ask hard questions and knock people out of their comfort zones and then manage the resulting distress."*

I want to continually remind myself, and those I humbly attempt to lead, of what I see as my unofficial purpose statement:

*The Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Superintendent is a Pastor to Pastors and serves the people of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends churches. The objective is to assist, encourage, and challenge participants to become healthy and effective Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and Great Commandment Meetings (Matthew 22:37-40) by corporately praying for the Lord of the Harvest to send forth workers into His harvest field (Luke 10:2).*

We cannot lose sight of the mission of the Church, given by none other than Jesus Christ, to go and make disciples. Any other pursuit is a distraction. One author added that we should have a goal "to make disciples who make disciples." This is a well-worded addition and worth consideration. Let us not become distracted from the mission of God's Church!

There is much work to be done within Iowa Yearly Meeting and this will require each of us to maintain an intimate relationship with Jesus. We need to be in God's Word, we need to be in worship, we need to be in fellowship with others, and we need to be diligent in prayer. There will also be a need to examine what IAYM is doing to evaluate if it is helping us pursue the mission of the Church. We cannot be deterred because the ramifications may be too difficult or the potential repercussions too great. We serve a great God who deserves our pursuit of holiness. We can trust Him to lead and guide as we seek Him for wisdom, discernment, and clarity of our call.

The theme verse chosen in our early planning for Yearly Meeting 2017 is an appropriate conclusion:

**"...Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..." (Ephesians 3:20).**

**\*\*excerpts from 2017 Spring Body General Superintendent's Report\*\***

## United Society of Friends Women—Iowa

### ELIZA ARMSTRONG COX FELLOWSHIP

In the late 1800's while living in Western Yearly Meeting, Eliza (Clark) Armstrong Cox caught a clear vision of the part Quaker women should contribute to the Master's great plan of world evangelization. Through her untiring efforts she initiated the movement which developed into the Women's Missionary Union of Friends in America which is known today as the United Society of Friends Women International (USFWI). The Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Award was established many years ago as a way to recognize and honor the special efforts of selected women in the local USFW societies.

If you wish to honor a woman in your society who has given outstanding service to USFW, please follow these steps:

Have someone in your society write a one-page biography outlining the contributions of this woman to your local and state USFW and to other missions efforts in your community.

Send \$25.00 through your local treasurer to Iowa USFW Treasurer, Charlotte Mosher, 23385 McKinley St., Milo, IA 50166. If you wish to award a pin to the recipient, please send an additional \$8.00.

Send the biography and a photo of the individual (in color if possible) to Iowa USFW Historian, Jacque Wilbur, 18684 Erbe St., Carlisle, IA 50047. The photo should be small enough to fit on the same page as the biography. Or, the preferred method is to email the article and a digital copy of the photo to Jacque at [jacwilbur@gmail.com](mailto:jacwilbur@gmail.com).

**DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2017.**

The biography and photo will be added to the permanent record in the book, "Iowa Recipients of the Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Award". The biography will be read and the pin (optional) will be awarded at the next Iowa USFW Celebration of Service as part of the Iowa Yearly Meeting Ministry Conference. This year's Celebration of Service is on Saturday, July 29, 2017, at Musco Technology Center, WM Penn Campus, Oskaloosa, IA.

If you have questions about this process, you may email Jacque at [jacwilbur@gmail.com](mailto:jacwilbur@gmail.com), or call her at 515-989-4129 (home) or 515-205-0692 (cell).

## How Kyela Friends (Tanzania) Came to Be

It isn't very often that a new network of meetings emerges because someone stumbles upon Friends on the internet. And it's even more unusual when this happens in a rural part of Africa where few homes have access to electricity! But that's how the Friends movement in Kyela, Tanzania was born.

In 2007, a young man named Barnabas contacted Friends World Committee for Consultation, saying that he'd found Friends on the internet and wanted to know how he could become one. The Executive Secretary of the FWCC Africa Section at that time, Moses Musonga, invited John Muhanji, FUM's Africa Ministries Director, to accompany him on a visit to Kyela to learn more. Since FWCC isn't directly involved in church planting work, Moses asked FUM to take the lead in shepherding this new community.

When John and Moses first visited they found two Friends churches, both with sizeable membership. John arranged for three of the new Friends (two men and one woman) to attend Friends Theological College for a one-year certificate program, to be better equipped to disciple the new community in Friends faith and practice. The next time John visited, there were four churches.

Kyela is a mid-size town in Mbeya Region in southern Tanzania. It sits at the northern tip of Lake Malawi, and is just a few miles from the border between Tanzania and Malawi. The border with Zambia is also a short distance away. The land along the lake is swampy and flood-prone, and the people are mostly engaged in subsistence farming and production of rice and cocoa for export.

Since 2013, Iowa Yearly Meeting has been partnering with Kyela Friends. Together they have purchased three motorcycles for use by evangelists, have constructed a new church building in Kyela town, and are distributing Bibles to those who've never heard the gospel. Today, this ten-year-old Quaker community has planted churches across the borders in Malawi and Zambia, as well and Dar es Salaam (the capital of Tanzania), over 400 miles away.

### *An article from Friends United Meeting Website News*





We welcome Friends from all across our global body who are spiritually on fire, or smoldering embers ready to burst into flame, as well as Friends who are discerning risky new steps or are simply longing for deeper worship.

Join Friends as we stoke our spiritual fires and stretch ourselves through communal worship, learning, and fellowship. Together we will open ourselves to Christ's presence and power and allow the Spirit to work within us. Childcare is available for this event, and scholarship are available for Young Adult Friends.



Every three years, the global community of Friends United Meeting gathers to celebrate our life together, to grow in our ability to serve the world, and to worship Christ our Lord!

Along with our Triennial host, Great Plains Yearly Meeting, FUM invites and welcomes Quakers from all over the world to join us in Wichita, Kansas, on July 12-16, 2017.

We will meet on the campus of Friends University, and look forward to seeing you there.

**Iola Ruth Lock Parsons**, of Woolson Friends, went to be the Lord March 12, 2017. She was born in rural Jefferson County, Iowa on February 9, 1926 to Frank and Rilla Hadley Lock and resided in the county all of her life. She attended Packwood schools and after graduation she was a teletype operator at the Dayton, Ohio Air Force Base during World War II. She received her teacher's certificate from the State Teachers college in Cedar Falls, Iowa and taught school at Eddyville and Richland, Iowa.



On August 10, 1947 she was married to Wayne Russell Parsons at Woolson Friends church and they resided on their farm south of Richland for 66 years. She was active in the Woolson Church playing the piano for over 60 years. She belonged to Farm Bureau women, Blue Point Cloverleaf Club, Richland Women's Club, the Gideon's Women's Auxiliary, and the WCTU, serving as State President. She was the librarian at the Richland Library for several years. She enjoyed her family, flowers, reading, and was famous for her angel food cake and the quilts which she made for her family.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 70 years; their daughters, Rita Eastman (Dennis) of Packwood, Iowa and Mary Beth Porch (Ron) of Bradenton, Florida; their son, Tim (Nancy) of Richland, Iowa; ten grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and special friends, Jan and Juli Hisel. She left her family with a Godly heritage and many happy memories that live on in the hearts of her children, grandchildren, and all who knew her.

## WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY

### Penn Christian Fellowship Reunion

and Fine Arts Event to be held on campus of William Penn University this summer, June 22-25.

**Deadline to register is June 1st, 2017**

You will find the schedule of events and a registration form at the following weblink:

[www.wmpenn.edu/events/penn-christian-fellowship-reunion-fine-arts-alumni-event/](http://www.wmpenn.edu/events/penn-christian-fellowship-reunion-fine-arts-alumni-event/)



# Handicap Accessibility Keeps Us Safe

Lyn Kinney—Peace & Social Concerns

Lyn Kinney is passionate about raising awareness to the experience of those who have extra obstacles to overcome just to be gathered with Christ's body on a Sunday morning. She sees these needs because she experiences them herself as she follows Jesus from the seat of a wheelchair. Her article shares her heart and a little bit of her journey leading up to the coming time Lynnville Friends Church's facilities catch up to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1978. She writes:

Of the 30 Friends churches here in Iowa, how many are accessible to the handicapped? Those crazy ramps that have been made... who uses them safely? Children seem to love rolling down them or chasing their friends up and down the ramp. Does any person pleasantly use them? I think not!

There are rules to go by when designing the ramp. It is not difficult to look up the specifications and follow them when building the ramp for your church. Quit trying to save a penny. Do it right! At the end of the ramp, make it accessible to get into the building. When one is in a wheelchair or using a walker or cane, lifting a chair or a leg up 4 or 5 inches to get into the church is DANGEROUS if not IMPOSSIBLE! Do a ramp to the doorway, please if nothing else as more people need it than you may think. It is not that much more of an effort when you are building. Follow the Specifications. Rules are rules. They are designed with safety in mind.

I know some churches would bring us a CD or cassette or have a speaker put in our home for the church services to help keep some of us with challenges connected. But just because one is handicapped does not mean we don't need **FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR LORD JESUS ALONG SIDE OF YOU.**

Take time to think from the perspective of those of limited mobility. Please check your floor plans at church. Fix your



building, your bathrooms, your walk ways, your parking areas. There is nothing more embarrassing than to need to leave the building to go to the bathroom because you can't get to the bathrooms or the stools are not adult size and you don't dare try to lower yourself for fear of not being able to get up. When the gravel rocks move or your cane or walker or wheelchair sinks into the grass, it leaves you in a precarious situation. You may topple over! When you are pushing someone in a wheelchair over the terrain, it literally throws you around in your seat and you feel like you are going to fall out. If no one says these things, many people won't think about them until it's too late.

**Need help with the funding for a project?** Call Iowa Yearly Meeting 641-673- 9717. They can hook you up with Friends Development Fund committee.

**No one to build it for your church?** Again call Iowa Yearly Meeting office. The Friend's Response Team (formerly Friends Disaster Service) may be able to assist your church to be more hospitable to those facing these kinds of challenges.

**Full article can be found at the blog:**

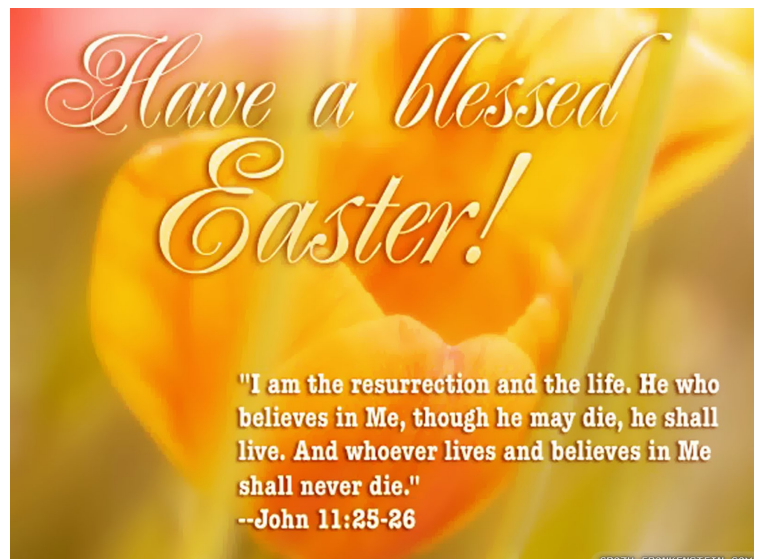
"Fieldsofjustice.org" This link can be found on our website "iaym.org" under the link tab.

## Missions Committee Special Offerings

**Our Annual Easter Offering will be for Cuba**

**We are awaiting a list of their current needs. Please send your gifts for this ministry to Dorothy Taylor, 1121 Parkway Dr. Apt. 1, Boone, IA 50036. Memo: Easter Offering**

**The Thanksgiving offering for Belize raised \$847.50 for Barbers and \$1441.20 for Belize Friends School. Thank you for Giving!!**



## ANNOUNCING OUR CAMP DIRECTORS!

### JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH CAMP

Director Bethany Hadley  
Assitant Kris Smitherman

### ELEMENTARY CAMP

Director Keith Smith  
Assistant Angela Burnham

### LITTLE FRY CAMP

Director Dani Juncker  
Assistant Cindy Norman



Brochures available NOW at your local church OR contact office and one will be mailed to you!

Register by May 14th to save \$25  
And be guaranteed a t-shirt!



## Summer Friends Camp @ CQH June 2017

2-4 Young Adult  
Weekender  
18-35ish

9-11 Little Fry \$235  
Grades K-2nd

11-16 Junior/Senior \$345  
High Camp  
Grades 7th-12th

11-16 Servants In Training  
(S.I.T) \$300  
High School Junior—  
College Sophomore

18-22 Elementary \$285  
Camp  
Grades 3rd-6th



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P.O. Box 657  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
phone (641) 673-9717  
e-mail office@iaym.org  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Come Experience 'Joy In His Presence'**

**Iowa USFW 2017 Spring Fling!**

**April 29th**

9:30—2 pm @ Lynnville Friends

**Cost \$10**

**Pre-Registration Deadline:** April 24th

**Speaker:** Marilyn Sparks Schuler

Register with Deanna Ankrum

(please contact office for contact info)

**April**

**22nd CQH Workday @ 9am**

**29th Spring Fling**

**@ Lynnville Friends**

**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**

**12-16 FUM Triennials**

**26—29th Annual Ministry Conference**

**@ William Penn University—Oskaloosa, IA**



**Camp Quaker Heights  
Workday  
April 22nd  
Starting at 9 am  
Lunch provided!**

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Are now available for purchase**

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