

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

Focus on Purpose

Five hundred years ago this Tuesday, the Protestant Reformation took place. (Oct. 31, 1517). At the heart of this transformation of the Church were questions about authority, salvation, and practices. As a **much** abbreviated summary, the outcomes were “Five Solas”: 1) Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone). The Bible alone is the sole authority for all matters of faith and practice; 2) Sola Gratia (Salvation by Grace Alone). God’s blessing in Christ is the sole efficient cause of salvation; 3) Sola Fide (Salvation by Faith Alone). We are justified by faith in Christ alone, not by the works of the Law; 4) Solus Christus (In Christ Alone). Salvation is found in Christ alone. No one and nothing else can save; and 5) Solio Deo Gloria (For the Glory of God Alone). Salvation is of God and has been accomplished by God for His glory alone. The article concluded:

“These five important doctrines are the reason for the Protestant Reformation. They are at the heart of the Reformers’ call for the church to return to biblical teaching. The Five Solas are just as important today in evaluating a church and its teachings as they were in the sixteenth century.” (What was the Protestant Reformation?)

Fast forward to 2015. IAYM Ministry Conference participated in a World Cafe’ where three questions were asked and participants were given opportunity to share, discuss, and debate these questions: 1) What key elements (core values) will carry our yearly meeting through the next decade? 2) What are the most crucial needs of Iowa Yearly Meeting churches in order to carry out the key elements through the next decade and beyond? 3) If you were king for a day, how would you address the crucial needs of Iowa Yearly Meeting churches during the next decade

In an attempt to analyze these answers, I have found that so many of the responses showed a strong desire for traditional Judeo-Christian, biblical, pursuits.

Following that annual gathering in October 2015, I began my work in IAYM. I strongly advocate for any organization to know its reason for existence, its mission, purpose, and the vision it is pursuing. Recently I shared with someone that we need to focus on our purpose and pursue it passionately. It is going to take time, but I believe we must take the time to formulate our mission statement and core values. Tony Dungy wrote, “The vision, mission, and values we establish in life are the guiding lights for our lives and the lives of those we lead. Those three elements create the ‘goalposts’ for the decisions and actions of our lives. They should direct and guide everything we do—and we should develop them prayerfully as we move forward.”

As often cited, while the American population continues to increase, the statistics of church attendance continues to decline. If we can recapture a vision for disciple making and restoration of the purpose of the Church, we can look at the future with hope, not despair. Consider this lighthearted analogy of Sam and Jed who saw the potential and not the threat:

An organization in Montana offered a bounty of five thousand dollars for every wolf captured alive. Two hunters named Sam and Jed decided to head for the hills and make some money capturing wolves. Day and night they scoured the mountains and forests searching for their valuable prey. Exhausted after three days of hunting without any success, they both fell asleep.

During the night, Sam suddenly woke up to find that he and Jed were surrounded by a pack of thirty wolves, with flaming red eyes and bared teeth.

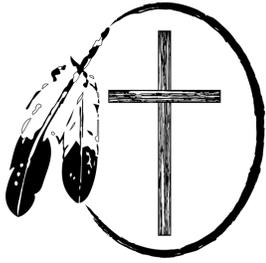
Sam nudged Jed and said, “Hey, wake up! We’re gonna be rich!”

Finally, I have visited 32 of our 33 churches for morning worship. I have completed two years of service in IAYM, and have had countless conversations; I have seen strong commitments to biblical values, hearts focused on Christ, and the desire to see more people brought into God’s Kingdom. Like the Reformation, I wonder if we are on the verge of seeing another reformation or revival in The Church. As I recently stated in the Iowa Friend, we need to focus on the mission/purpose of The Church, we need to understand that we are God’s Ambassadors, we need to analyze our methods and evaluate them by the fruit produced, and we need to be a people of prayer.

As we continue to prayerfully formulate a mission statement, may our focus be to continually pursue God’s Agenda. May nothing distract us from that. As I shared with the pastors’ at retreat, Nehemiah responded to many attempts to distract him from the work, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. I do not want the work to stop while I leave to meet you” (Nehemiah 6:3). Later, Nehemiah prays, “God make me strong” (Nehemiah 6:9).

May we know our mission as Nehemiah did. May we not allow anything to distract us from pursuing it passionately. May we submit our ways to His ways. May we pursue God’s Agenda, not our own.

~Tom Showalter, General Superintendent



Mesquakie Friends News

By: Mac & Berny McDonald

Our trip to South Dakota started with a wonderful time of education at Sioux Fall Seminary at a conference entitled, "Following Jesus—Different Cultural Styles:" with our friend Casey Church speaking on, "Can a Native American be a believer in Jesus Christ without following the worship ways of Western Christianity?". We were deeply touched, enriched and blessed beyond measure by the wisdom of the panel and attendees. God keeps leading us to open our eyes to the things He needs us to see...equipping us for His Service. Our pilgrimage took us to many beautiful sights and many heart wrenching sites. We paid respects to several Native American Holy places. We returned home rested, revived & ready to keep serving The Creator in this ministry. We are committed to loving our brothers and sisters in all cultures and are thankful that God has planted us here at Mesquakie Friends to live out His will of uniting all His children, all races in unity. We deny racial separation, we ARE one in the Spirit.

Prayer Concerns & Needs

Relationships –

On the completion of our second year here at Mesquakie Friends, we feel that we are, just now, beginning to build some true 'friendships' and 'relationships'. Please continue to pray for open hearts & open minds. Spiritual Warfare— One of the largest forms of Spiritual Warfare in our communities and possibly yours as well is 'abuse'. Drug & alcohol abuse, physical & sexual abuse. Please pray for the emotional and spiritual protection of those innocent victims & witnesses involved. **Traveling Ministry**— Mesquakie Friends worship Saturday nights at 5:00 PM. This allows Mac & Berny to travel on Sundays to carry the message of the ministry.

Please contact them if your group or Meeting would like to hear from them. **Financial Support** – In 2015, when we accepted the calling to Mesquakie friends, one generous person stepped forward and 'pledged' Mac's salary for 2 years. (Berny is un-paid, Co-Director in title only) We are coming to the end of that 2 year commitment. We are seeking several (200)people to give \$35.00 per month to surpass our \$80,000 annual budget. $\$35/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ months} = \420 $\$420 \times 200 \text{ people} = \$84,000$ Mesquakie Friends Church is funded solely on your contributions. We are not sitting on an generous endowment. We are not a Iowa Yearly Meeting annual budget line item.

Triennials 2017 At Wichita Kansas

Our Iowa Friends were well represented at last summer's Triennial event. The picture below was of our group at the gathering. (James Tower and Mac & Berny McDonald also attended but are not in this picture)



It was just the other day (October 2nd) we saw our first Christmas commercial on TV! It may see a little early, however, we are planning a Birthday Party for Jesus! Our plan is to send each of our Friendly Kidz home with a gift bag. Your financial assistance would be greatly appreciated. We are planning for approximately 80 kids from Kindergarten thru 8th grade!



Larry Wayne Crawford, age 73, of Washington, formerly of Brighton, entered into peace on October 19, 2017, at McCreeley Home in Washington, after an extended illness. A private family burial was held at the family plot in the Columbus City Cemetery.

Larry was born on January 25, 1944 to Ralph Eldon and Hazel Marie (Boulton) Crawford, in Muscatine, Iowa. The family soon moved from Wyman to Brighton, and Larry attended White Hawk country school in rural Brighton. He later earned his GED at Kirkwood Community College. He was united in marriage to Jane Frances Anderson of Burlington on November 17, 1979 in Brighton, Iowa.

Larry was a lifelong resident of the Brighton area. He farmed with his father; worked as sexton of Hillcrest Cemetery in Brighton; and then for the City of Brighton. He also worked part-time as a farm hand, delivering newspapers and at a trailer court. He was a custodian at Washington County Hospital until 2002 when he became disabled.

Larry enjoyed fixing things and tinkering around the house. Before moving to the nursing home, he attended Woolson Friends Church.

Larry is survived by his wife; a son, Matthew Crawford (Samantha Summers) of Centerville; a daughter, Bethany Crawford of Des Moines; three grandchildren: Eric, Tammy and Zaidyn Crawford; a sister, Joan (Don) Neal of Springville; and several nieces and nephews.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Kathel White; a brother-in-law, Eugene "Gene" White; and a niece.



MISSION BOARD'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2018-19 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 scholarship, please contact the Yearly Meeting office for more information.

The deadline is March 1, 2018



TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now being taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2018-2019 academic school year (January of 2019). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting Office.

Deadline for this scholarship is January 1, 2018

A recipient will be determined at Spring Body 2018.

Did 50 Days of Prayer awaken a desire for more of the Holy Spirit?



Then join us as we create time and space for the Holy Spirit to move among us!

UNPROGRAMMED WORSHIP

February 24, 1:00 p.m.

Grinnell Friends Church

Everyone Welcome!

Sponsored by IAYM Ministry & Counsel

Follow-up Workshops:

Going Deeper with the Spirit

To be offered in the spring and Fall of 2018

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, 2018**
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.



2017 THANKSGIVING OFFERING FOR CUBA

Cuban Quakers are busy constructing buildings and transforming buildings for their growing ministries. Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board would like to encourage their work with a Thanksgiving Offering.

Following is a list of some of their needs and costs of the projects.

- Sanctuary expansion, Asiento de Calderon: \$1500
- Replace doors and windows, Floro Perez: \$1000
- Bathrooms in each of two meeting houses: Pueblo Nuevo \$600 and Bocas \$600.
- A bicycle for Missionary in Delicia, and work on meetinghouse: \$500.
- Door on Havana Meetinghouse:\$700.
- Pews/benches Las Calabazas: \$150per bench. They hope for 10 benches.
- Refrigerator, Banes: \$650.

Your Thanksgiving Offering can be sent to:

Dorothy Taylor , 1121 Parkway Drive, Boone, IA 50036-5046.

Please continue to pray for the growing work in Cuba.

Nancy Stevens, IAYM Missions Clerk

Cuba: the first Quaker missionaries to Cuba came from Iowa Yearly Meeting in the early 1900s, and the first Yearly Meeting was established in 1927. Friends established a number of schools in Cuba, which were taken over by the government following the communist revolution in 1958. Today the small Quaker community (around 350 members) is supported by the Friends United Mission (FUM).



IAYM Youth Ministries

2017/18

I'm single-minded

IN PURSUIT

*of you; don't
LET ME MISS
the road signs
you've posted.*

Psalms 119:10

IAYM.org Youth Ministries

January 26th

winter jam

February 9th

Blizzard Blast

MARCH 9th-11th

ignite

June 8-10



LITTLE CITY

June 10-15



Middle/High School

June 17-22

Kaleo Academy

June 24-28



Elementary

July 13-19

Chicago Mission Trip

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2018

January

- **January 10-17, 2018: Quaker Men-Friends Response Team Trip to Belize**

February

- February 17, 2018: **Quaker Men's Winter Banquet**
- **February 9-10: Blizzard Blast**
- **February 24:** Unprogrammed Worship/revival @ Grinnell Friends

March

- March 3, 2018: **Board on Coordination (BOC) Meeting**
- March 24, 2018: **Spring Body Meeting** (Location to be Determined)

July

- July 18-22, 2018: **Youth and Young Adult Board** sponsored trip to Chicago
- July 25-28th **Yearly Meeting Conference**

YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT EVENTS
Scott has made a fantastic poster of all the 2018 events!
See backside of this page.



UPCOMING EVENTS