

The Iowa Friend

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

March 2018

Pursuing the Mission of the Church

By: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

As we enter March, we are getting closer to spring and hopefully the warmer weather than accompanies it. March is often a month of transition where we are not in the midst of winter any longer, but we are not yet enjoying the spring temperatures either. However, we know that with each day, we get closer to the warmer weather that will eventually lead to summer. We are not there yet, but we know it's coming.

Iowa Yearly Meeting is also in a time of transition in many ways. We continue to consider our mission, we look forward to that time when we can recommend a statement that encapsulates who we are and why we exist. Until that statement is achieved, opinions may differ as to what is the purpose and mission of Iowa Yearly Meeting and the meetings represented. Our boards and committees need to know the mission. Each meeting needs to know its purpose or reason for existence. Individual attendees of our meetings need to know the intent.

In the movie *Apollo 13* (based upon actual events), the space module had some technical malfunctions and the challenge was to discover a way to safely bring the three astronauts safely home. The tools at their disposal were not ideal, the context in which they worked was less than perfect, and the physical demands were a challenge. At some point, one of the characters state, "Failure is not an option." We, as well, have a mission! We have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation as ambassadors of Jesus Christ to a dying world (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). In our mission as well, failure is not an option.

As I travel and visit, I often hear the limitation of our local settings financially, numerically, physically, or motivationally. Nonetheless, we have a responsibility to those in our communities to be light and to illuminate darkness. Our mission is larger than merely getting people to come and sit in our pews during a gathering. Our mission is not about simply enjoying a song service. Our mission is greater than personal preferences or enjoyments. Our mission is equivalent (if not greater than) to get the astronauts home! Our tools may be less than ideal. Our resources may be limited. Our context may not be conducive to new works. However, failure is not an option!

Practically speaking, I am committed to pursuing the mission of the Church. Regarding the future of Iowa Yearly Meeting, I see the importance of balancing our annual budget and continuing to formulate our mission, vision, and values statements. Those are items previously discussed. Additionally, I would like to see us consider a task force, possibly under the responsibility of the General Superintendent's office, to assess church health. Using tools to assist the local meetings to formulate a mission statement, assess current health, brainstorm ideas for making disciples within the local community, and to challenge the church to be more missional in practice. What if each IAYM church had a goal to make disciples of all people within ten miles of rural meetings and five miles of our more urban settings? What if each person set a goal to make disciples of everyone within a mile of their home? Would we see a renewed focus on the mission of the Church to "go into all the world and make disciples"? That is my hope and desire: a renewed, passionate, and missional Church! As we look to the future, may God give His wisdom to renew our local meetings.



USFW
Spring
Fling

will be
April 28th.

The theme
is
**Spring
Forth
with Joy.**

Bangor is
hosting the
event!

Cost: \$10

includes
lunch!



PURSUIT

**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

January 26th

winter jam

February 9th

**Blizzard
Blast**

MARCH 9th-11th

ignite

June 8-10

LITTLE FLY

June 10-15

Middle/High School

June 17-22

Kaleo Academy

June 24-28

Elementary

July 13-19

Chicago Mission Trip

IAYM.org Youth Ministries



CAMBODIA UPDATE

MARTINS & RADCLIFFS



The sacrifice of soldiers on the front lines is one way to understand missionary lives. This is certainly true of Nathan & Brianna Martin and Robert & Sarah Radcliff.

The fact that soldiers are called to sacrifice is no surprise. (See 2 Timothy 2:3-4) We recently read an inspiring story about C.T. Studd, who was a missionary to China, India and Africa. His call to the mission field came in part because the ratio of pastors and evangelists in his native England greatly exceeded missionaries serving in foreign fields. He wanted to go where he believed was the greatest need. He saw himself as a soldier for Jesus and was willing to sacrifice all to obey his Lord’s call.

This is also very true of Nathan & Brianna and Robert & Sarah. Sacrifice is part of life. Power cuts, bucket showers, unsafe water, worming yourself for parasites, and extreme heat are normal. In addition to relationship building, training teachers, and developing worship groups, Nathan & Brianna also provide their children, Caleb & Jonah, with opportunities such as homeschooling. This requires them to be their teachers and to research and purchase appropriate school material. An additional pressure is due to their children being fair skinned with blond and reddish hair. They attract people, who want to touch, surround, and photograph them.

Robert & Sarah Radcliff have different but equally sacrificial challenges. Learning the language and understanding the culture is a daily process as they adjust to Cambodia. Sarah wrote, “Learning Khmer and the culture has put a new meaning to spiritual forces and the importance for the armor of God every day.” As a registered nurse, Sarah has the opportunity to save lives by teaching basic health practices. This work has potential but their team realizes and strives to share the grace of the gospel of Jesus, which has eternal significance. Recently, Robert had to return home to be with family with his father’s death. However, Sarah had a commitment to participate in several medical clinics so she stayed in Cambodia to fulfill her responsibility.

Romans 10:14-15 explains the need for people to be sent and beautiful are the feet of those, who bring good news. Nathan & Brianna and Robert & Sarah are sent. It is not easy and spiritual warfare is very real. Individuals, who have made commitments to Christ, have had health issues. Family often are convinced this is a result of abandoning ancestral/spirit worship and pressure the family member to give up their faith before worse things happen. The government has made it more difficult recently to obtain visas, which are required to stay in Cambodia. Recently, a new law for only foreigners will make it more difficult for them to obtain a driver’s license.

Twelve thousand of fourteen thousand villages still don’t have even two or three Christians. “There are three stages in every great work of God. First, it is impossible, then it is difficult, and then it is done.” (J.H. Taylor) The Martins & Radcliffs have a passion for the souls in Cambodia. Pray for boldness in sharing Jesus, for the people of Cambodia to encounter Christ, and for the nurture of new believers. Ask God if He wants to send you!

March 17 2 pm @ CAF
**Surrender, Sanctification
and the Friends Baptism**

April 14 9:30 am
Hearing God

June 16 9:30 am
**Open Worship & Friends
Communion**

September 8 9:30 am
Spiritual Gifts

Deeper in the Spirit Workshops

It is not too late to register for the Deeper with the Spirit workshops. The first workshop is March 17 (following Spring Body) 2:00 p.m. at CAF in Os-kaloosa. To register email

stangelandchar@gmail.com.

October 6 9:30 am
Praying with Others for Healing

November 10 9:30 am
Roadblocks to Hearing God

January 12, 2019 9:30 am
Marketplace Ministry

February 9, 2019 9:30 am
**Equipping Ministry & Leadership
Gifts**

Addiction....

Peace & Social Concerns Board *written by Charlene Martin*

Do you know anyone that has problem with controlling their pain? Are you or someone you know taking prescription pain medications?

The abuse of and addiction to opioids (Fentanyl, Vicodin, Hydrocodone, Morphine) is a serious global problem that affects the spiritual and physical health of our society including our church bodies.

No matter how hard you pray or how closely you adhere to the teachings of the Lord, life is rarely easy. A split second is all it takes to turn everything upside down. Whether you begin taking a prescription medication as a way to mitigate pain after surgery or started sampling opioid's to deal with the stress of life, a few uses is all it takes. A highly addiction pain killer that is prescribed contributes to 20 million Americans with a substance abuse disorder.

What signs will you see in a person? What behaviors indicate that you may have an addiction?

Noticeable elation

Need for increase in dose

Nodding off during the day

Feeling down or depressed without medication

Changing moods

Missing work, family or church activities

Altered judgement

Inability to sleep without medication

Clammy skin

Having financial problems

Social Isolation

Spending time in trying to figure out how to get medication from doctors

It isn't easy to admit to an addiction or to seek help outside of worship and prayer. It isn't an easy problem to solve. Sometimes we need to access a Christian helpline @ 844-329-6895 for more long term care by a trained counselor.

What can we do as Friends to become more aware and help others with identifying opioid abuse in our neighborhoods and church families?

These verses come to mind: Matthew 26:41 *Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. We, as church families need to be aware of those that are hurting or going through difficult times. Are we continually praying for one another? Do we know each other outside of church? Are we watching out for each other and correcting each other in love?*

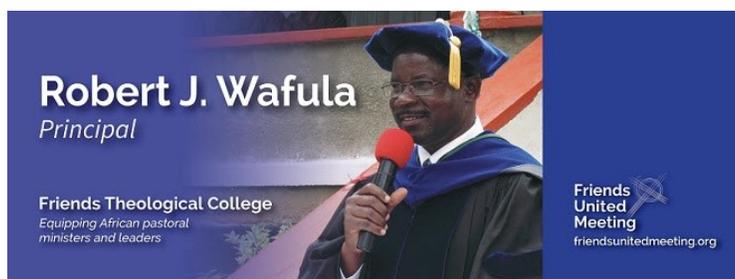
Philippians 4:13 *I can do all thing through Him who gives me strength.*

Are we remembering and truly believing in Christ's healing power?

IAYM Missions Board

EASTER OFFERING

The 2018 Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board Easter Offering will be going to Robert Wafula, the Principal of Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya. Robert began his renewed contract with Friends United Meeting last October, which continues for three years.



Friends Theological College has been a pillar in Kenya Quakerdom for many years. Founded in 1942 in Lugulu as Friends Bible Institute, it has played an integral role in leadership development, training pastors, teachers, and chaplains. Through a move to the Kaimosi location in 1950, a name change in 1994 (to Friends Theological College), times of growth, struggle, and financial crises, the college has continued moving forward toward stability and excellence. These challenges have been met with prayer and support through the years from the FTC staff and students, Kenyan Quaker churches and Yearly Meetings, and other FUM Yearly Meetings. And the need for strong, dedicated, Spirit-led leadership is still crucial. The Vision Statement of FTC is: *The vision of FTC is to train and empower pastoral ministers for spiritual growth, personal development and academic excellence for global ministries.*

Robert Wafula has shown, through his visionary leadership, to be a leader “for such a time as this”.

Some significant steps taken in Robert’s first three years of service:

Enhancing the relationship between FTC and Kenya Yearly Meetings.

Enrollment has grown from 51 (2015) to 141 (2017).

There are now four satellite campuses: Lugulu, Nairobi, Lugari, Kitale.

A solar power system now provides a major source of electricity at the Kaimosi campus.

An Academic Dean and new Business Manager are in place.

Improvements in infrastructure.

The process of accreditation with the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa is steadily moving forward.

New scholarships have been established and made available to students.

For more information about and from Robert, check out the FUM website:

www.friendsunitedmeeting.org This is interesting and inspiring reading.

We encourage any who have supported Robert’s ministry to continue with your giving for the next three years as God urges you, and those who feel led, to join the team. All support will help secure Robert’s strong leadership at this crucial time in FTC’s expanding mission. In Robert’s own words: “I am now beginning a new contract as principal of FTC for the next three years. I am very grateful for how generously Friends have supported me in the first three years of my ministry, and I am glad to announce that I will be continuing this great work, and it’s time for renewal! I deeply appreciate Friends and your continuing support.”

For more information about how to support Robert’s ministry, contact Eden Grace, FUM Global Ministries Director at edeng@fum.org; or by mail, Eden Grace, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374. Phone: 765-962-7573.

THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
phone (641) 673-9717
e-mail office@iaym.org
March 2018 Vol. 74 - 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 August

March

- **March 3: Board on Coordination (BOC) Meeting**
- **March 17: Spring Body Meeting @ College Avenue**

April

- **April 3-4 Pastor's Short Course @ William Penn University**
Guest Speaker Mary Kate Morse
- **April 7-14 FDS Houston**
- **April 21st Camp Quaker Heights Spring Workday**
- **April 28 USFW Spring Fling @ Bangor-Liberty Friends**

June

- June 8-10 **Little Fry Camp (K-2nd)**
- June 10-15 **Jr/Sr High Camp (grades 7-12)**
- June 24-28 **Elementary Camp (grades 3-6)**

July

- **July 13-19 Youth and Young Adult Board** sponsored trip to Chicago
- **July 25-28th Yearly Meeting Conference**

August

- **August 1-3 Multiplication Conference @ Barclay College**

September

- **September 14-16 Family Camp at Camp Quaker Heights**

October

- **October 5-7 Man Camp at Camp Quaker Heights**



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**