

The Iowa Friend

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

April 2018

The Banner of the Resurrection

By: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

In a world of differences, (politically, religiously, denominationally, ethnically, etc., etc., etc.), is there any wonder there is so much tension, fear, discord, and animosity? We continually hear of “*wars and rumors of war.*” “*People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...*” (2 Timothy 3:2-4, NIV). Often within the world of Friends, we hear the importance of being peacemakers. But how do Friends offer peace? We can try harder to get along, turn the other cheek, or encourage the psychology of tactics and lessons about how to be peaceful. I would like to assert that no peace can be had without the Prince of Peace.

Although many differences exist within our world, there is one thing within The Church that unites us: the resurrection of Jesus Christ! This is what we have in common. This is the banner for which we march. This is the hinge by which Christianity swings. It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us guard against the tendency to contemplate the significance of the resurrection only at Easter time. It is more than an Easter theme or sermon topic—it is why we are Christians, and therefore, why we are Friends! We may differ about specific theological practices, rituals, routines, worship styles, etc., but we must agree on this amazing fact that changed history. Without The Resurrection, there would be no Church, but even worse, “*...if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith*” (1 Corinthians 15:14, NIV). His resurrection is what set Jesus apart as “The Way,” not just “a” way. It is what defines truth itself and shows us the purpose of life. The intent God had was to reconcile his creation to Himself.

“Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.” (Ephesians 2: 11-16).

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19-22, NIV).

As we celebrate Easter, may this holiday become a holy day which transforms us daily to become more like Jesus. May it lead us to pursue His mission, to live in His peace, and to carry the message of reconciliation to a world that desperately needs to hear it! “He Himself is our peace.” He alone is the answer in the turmoil.



USFW
Spring
Fling

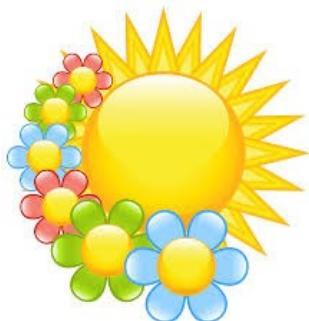
will be
April 28th.

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

Bangor is
hosting the
event!

Cost: \$10

includes
lunch!



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-10th | Bigle |
| June 8-10 | Camp Canaan |
| June 10-15 | Little Try |
| Middle/High School | Camp Quaker Heights |
| June 17-22 | Kaleo Academy |
| June 24-28 | Elementary |
| July 13-19 | Chicago Mission Trip |

Missions Financial Support

By Rick Bachman

Being on the board for Wings of Refuge ministry (WOR) allows me to think about giving from a different perspective. Nearly everyone I have talked to see WOR as a valuable ministry and wants to support in some way financially. However many valid and needed ministries also overwhelm givers. Sometimes good and needy ministries just get lost in the crowd; WOR is not immune to this.

Early in my giving history, I often gave out of emotion. Hearing a passionate plea I would respond, only to move on and lapse in continual support. I did not give much thought to the fact that these ministries all had budgets and just like me they had monthly obligations. I felt I was supporting them through one-time or sporadic giving.

Just as everyone else, ministries have a monthly amount they need just to make budget. That budget includes rent, utilities, insurance, salaries, etc. These are all needs that the ministry cannot do without. Yet most ministries find themselves operating in a deficit budget for several months of the year because of sporadic giving. Summer and fall are the hardest times of the year.

Wings of Refuge's needs are right at \$35,000 monthly. Add to that an urgent need for a second transition home, which is not currently in that budget. How are we going to do that? Truthfully, I do not know! God has blessed this ministry and carried it thus far. However for us to continue and to grow we (and every ministry) need to establish givers who are willing to commit to a regular and consistent giving pattern.

The first objection to monthly giving is fear. I have often hesitated in setting up a monthly plan of giving, just in case an emergency came up. As I have discovered like anyone who budgets properly, you can give without giving up that security blanket. Truthfully it is more habit than budget. Once you start it, it becomes automatic.

Monthly giving is easier than ever before. WOR currently has several ways to do this. I am currently using Giving Fire. It allows an automatic withdrawal every month. I can change or cancel at anytime. This allows me to be consistent in my giving without any effort on my part. It cannot get easier than that.

The second objection I hear is I cannot afford to give enough to make a difference. I love the story of Jesus feeding 5000 with a couple of fish sandwiches. I am not asking you to feed 5000; however almost all of us can afford a couple sandwiches a month. \$10.00 (a month) that equals \$120.00 a year, which can buy groceries, pay rent, and helps with all the expenses we face. Currently WOR has only 30 monthly givers. I have made it my personal mission to increase that number to at least to 350. Even at \$10 a month, 350 monthly givers could cover our budget. This is not pie-in-the-sky wishing; it is totally doable by just the people who read this article.

Monthly giving is a habit, a habit that some may wonder if they can manage. All I can say is try it! I did and honestly, except for the email confirming my contribution, I do not have to think about it. I have budgeted that amount, and it is automatically withdrawn.

The third reason folks give for not establishing a monthly giving plan, is that they support their church's missions. I commend that, but again, it is not always a consistent regular giving practice. I too support my church's mission drives, but I also realize they profile different ministries throughout the year and are not usually doing this on a consistent monthly basis. After all, my boss does not want to hear that I cannot come to work today because I did not budget any gas for my vehicle. I do not want to show up in heaven with that same lame excuse in giving.

Pray about it. Is God leading you to become a monthly giver? I suspect He is. Whether it is Wings of Refuge or another worthy mission, I encourage you to start a monthly plan of giving.

Deeper in the Spirit Workshops

The next workshop in this series will be: **April 14**

**9:30am-12:30pm
at Trinity Friends**

206 W. Main Street, Richland, IA.

The topic is Hearing God and it will be led by John Wilbur of Fairfield Friends. It is not too late for new people to join us. Email Charlotte Stangeland to get one of the books stangelandchar@gmail.com.

Deeper in The Spirit Workshop list:

The following workshops will all be held at College Avenue.

June 16	9:30 am	November 10	9:30 am
	Open Worship & Friends Communion		Roadblocks to Hearing God
September 8	9:30 am	January 12, 2019	9:30 am
	Spiritual Gifts		Marketplace Ministry
October 6	9:30 am	February 9, 2019	9:30 am
	Praying with Others for Healing		Equipping Ministry & Leadership Gifts

Save the Date!

National Friends Church Multiplication Conference

August 1-3, 2018

A gathering of evangelically-minded Friends leaders, students, and others who have a heart for church planting and who want to be faithful to do our part to fulfill the Great Commission through the Friends Church.



WHO WILL BE SPEAKING: **Dave Ferguson** - Lead Pastor of COMMUNITY Christian Church in Naperville, IL. Dave loves helping people find their way back to God and starting new churches. Dave also provides visionary leadership for **NewThing**, an international church-planting mission. He is President of the *Exponential Conference*, equipping church planting leaders around the world. He is the author of *The BIG IDEA* (2007), *Exponential* (2010), *On The Verge* (2011), *Discover Your Mission Now* (2013) and *Finding Your Way Back To God* (2014). Dave will come with a special message for Friends you won't want to miss!

WHAT: The 2018 NFCMC will feature inspirational messages, “best practice” workshops, and time for fellowship and synergistic networking with other forward-looking Friends from around the country. Recognizing that *it takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people*, a number of different methods and approaches will be discussed. This conference will be informative, stirring, and help us refocus on God’s call with a “*gates of hell shall not prevail against it*” passion. Christ is in the process of building His Church. With God’s help, we need to prayerfully consider how we might shed a maintenance-mentality and stir up a strategic church multiplication movement among evangelically-minded Friends!

JOIN THE STORY: This conference is an extension of the growing events held in 2013, 2014 and 2016. Although planners anticipated originally that only 30-40 might attend the first gathering (which would have been a great start), the first conference brought together 100 Friends who affirmed a commitment to support and encourage a church multiplication movement! Follow-up conferences were demanded by popular request, including this one. These grass-roots efforts have given birth to a National Friends Prayer Network with a regular newsletter, a website (www.FriendsMultiply.com), an inspirational quarterly “*Catalyst Conversation*” video conference, and a leadership team of Friends from around the country: *Multiplication Catalyst Ministries*. God’s heart is for the world. Church multiplication is part of His mission. We sense His leading and want to join Him in this story that He is writing. But we are still in the toddler stage of development. We need God’s help, and yours. We are praying and anticipating that the 2018 NFCMC will help us take those next steps forward together to make a difference in this country and world for Christ!

WHERE: The campus of Barclay College, Haviland, Kansas.

QUESTIONS? Contact:

Jim Le Shana, NFCMC Planning Team, 607 N. Kingman, Haviland, KS, 67059.
Email: jim.leshana@barclaycollege.edu Work: 620-862-5252 Cell: 714-337-7596

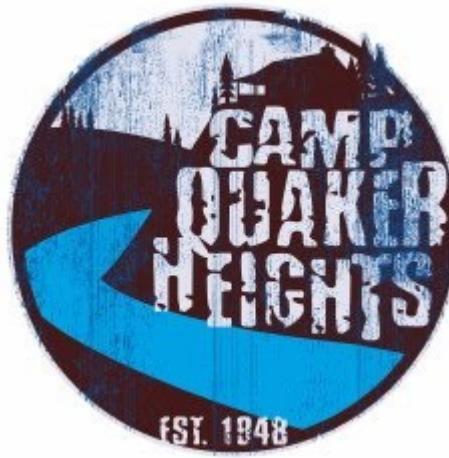
Camp Quaker Heights Clean-Up Day

April 21st

Starting at 9 am

Lunch will be provided!

Join Chip and Alicia to clean and prepare our camp for the summer camping season! There is plenty of jobs to do both inside and outside. All skill levels are needed!



Cookie Day at Camp Quaker Heights

May 19th

Help get the freezer stocked with cookie dough for the summer camping season. All ingredients and equipment will be provided. Help is needed to mix up the dough and scoop it into balls. Doughballs will then be frozen and then baked throughout our busy camping season.

SAVE THE DATE!

THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
phone (641) 673-9717
e-mail office@iaym.org
April 2018 Vol. 74 - No. 4

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

April

April 7-14 FDS Houston

April 21st Camp Quaker Heights Spring Workday

April 28 USFW Spring Fling @ Bangor-Liberty Friends

May

May 19 CQH Cookie Day

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

