

The Iowa Friend

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A monthly publication for Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

We are on a Mission for God by Tom Showalter

Is your heart heavy when you think of family members who have strayed from following the Lord's plan or who have never acknowledged their need for Jesus? Do you see communities torn apart from violence or substance abuse? Are you aware of marriages and families that struggle for survival? Do you know people who have been diagnosed with cancer or other terminal disease and they are struggling to make sense of it?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, it is a call to Mission work! At our Ministry Conference during the Friday evening worship gathering, I shared the following quote:

When it is functioning properly, the Church of Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. It is the only organization that has ever existed that is capable of healing broken lives, pointing people to God, and fulfilling the deepest longings of our souls. It is in the Church that the rejected find acceptance, the sinners receive forgiveness, and the lonely experience love.

The book of Ephesians challenges "God's holy people" (Ephesians 1:1) to live as "Children of light," "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV). How do we progress from knowing this in theory to exercising this in practice? We pursue the mission we have been called to pursue. During our IAYM Body of Representatives meeting, the following mission statement was approved:

The Body of IAYM exists to exalt Jesus Christ by becoming fruitful disciple-makers and expressing God's love by serving all people (John 15:1-17)

The early Friends were people who simply saw needs in their world and met them with a desire to show Christ's love. George Fox stated, "Christ has come to teach people himself." In the scripture passage attached to our Mission Statement, Jesus says to His disciples:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

In another place, Jesus says, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits." In the book *A God-Centered Church*, father and son authors Henry and Melvin Blackaby say, "When people look at your life or your church, do they see the difference God makes?" (p.297). They further state:

"Our world does not need to see good people doing good things for God. The world needs to see God doing what only He can do through His people. Is the world encountering God in the way we serve Him?" (p.284).

Jesus challenges the disciples in John 15:

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Is God preparing you and your meeting to be light in dark places? Is He stirring you to be "fruitful disciple makers" and "giving you opportunities to "express His love by serving all people"? If He is, stay connected to The Vine! If you are not sensing His life flowing through you, make sure you are connected to the "true vine" for life (John 15:1). Religious endeavors cannot substitute for life given through connection to Jesus!

Chicago Youth Mission Trip Testimony by Daniel Blanchard

Englewood was the name of the part of Chicago we stayed in. It was part of the city, kind of a neighborhood. Englewood is known for violence and death. After looking it up, I found it was labeled as one of the top three worst neighborhoods in Chicago. The community is 98 percent black and we saw that firsthand. The few days we went on prayer walks around a two or three blocks we definitely got some looks. Almost all males are in gangs. Daniel, the man who runs Urban Youth and Family Outreach told us that most all violence is gang on gang violence. Normal civilians and visitors are left alone. With that said almost every night as we were getting ready to sleep we could hear gunshots. This was a trip that took me way out of my comfort zone.

Englewood 50 years ago was the place to be. Business was booming and that's where people wanted to go. How is it that now it's the last place anyone wants to be. Now it has no business, it is poverty stricken, and gunshots are heard every night. Daniel said it like this. One black person moved in and the houses around it lost value. If you were beside that house your real estate agent came to you and told you that your house lost value because of the black person who moved in. You should move before another one does and your house loses more value. The more black families moved in the more houses that were sold and eventually the black population was higher than the white and the white families fled and moved together somewhere else. Busi-

ness were left, homes were abandoned, and this community was left in shambles.

We stayed in one of the two houses that Daniel and the Urban Youth and Family outreach had. We ran a Vacation Bible School the days we could and averaged about six kids every day. We also worked with Pacific Garden Mission in their homeless shelter. Tuesday evening we did the meal for the night which took more work than I expected. We helped serve the food and also cleaned up after the women and men. I was surprised at how picky some of the people were and how messy they were. Wednesday we worked all afternoon at the homeless shelter and besides working lunch, we also made beds available for the men. We probably made 300 beds.

Saturday morning we did a "prayer walk" but much different than the others we did. This was a Hands Across Chicago movement. Churches all over the city came together on a certain street and prayed. It was an amazing thing to be apart of. I had never heard someone pray like some of these men and women did. Across the street from where we were praying there was another church holding up signs that said "Honk for Jesus". Yes, it is much easier to drive by and honk than it is to come out and pray but I still found it amazing the number of people who honked. This was my first time in Chicago and I feel God is working in and through the people and ministries that we worked with.

The Wagoner Wing @ Worthington Friends Church, Jamaica

Worthington Friends Church, in Kingston, Jamaica, has begun refurbishing their annex to house two mini-suites with sleeping quarters, private bathrooms, and kitchen space. These suites will allow Friends in Kingston to offer reasonably priced accommodations for travelers, which will in turn generate an income stream for the church.

The expanded annex will be named The Wagoner Wing, after Bill and Joyce Wagoner. Bill planted Worthington Friends Church in the 1960s. This project has been underway for a while but it's finally nearing completion: a celebratory opening of the wing is planned for December 2, 2018!

If you would like to donate toward this project, you can do so by writing "Wagoner Wing" in the memo line of your check made out to FUM, or by visiting friendsunitedmeeting.org and clicking on the *Donate* button at the top of the page.



The Wagoner Wing

Barber's Ministry Update ~ July 2018

Page 3

Friends, How can I describe this past month? It is one word, AVP. If you do not know what AVP is it is Alternatives to Violence Project. AVP is a fun way to develop community and understand violence and non-violence. It is a tool that has many applications. AVP can be used in schools, community groups, prisons and church groups. It can be used to develop community, alleviate violence and diminish stereotyping. It originated with Friends who worked in prisons in New York State though not solely a Friend's organization. AVP is in over 60 countries worldwide.

How is this affecting us? We are currently conducting AVP workshops in Belize. Since the end of June the following workshops have been held. A refresher at our house for trained facilitators who completed training in 2012, a basic community workshop held at St. Catherine's Academy, and a basic that was held at the prison last week for the woman's section. Currently a basic workshop is being conducted in San Ignacio which is across the country. Next week there will be a basic workshop held for the Department of Youth Ser-



Becky sharing at a workshop

vices here in Belize City. Our goal is to get people here on the ground capable to sustain AVP without foreign experienced trainers. Currently trainers have to come to Belize to oversee the apprentice facilitators where Becky is. Currently she has helped facilitate 3 basic AVP workshops with supervision to becoming a full basic facilitator. God has definitely blessed us with ministry. But we need your help! Summer is usually a harder time financially.

I know My God will supply all my needs according to His riches in glory. So I pray that you will help us as God leads you.

Blessings and Thanks Sam and Becky Barber

Columbia's Redemption Song by Nate Perrin

(the following are excerpts of an article that is shared on our Christian Social Concerns blog—**Fields of Justice.org**) [Visit their blog to read the whole story as shared by Nate](#)

~This delegation of Christian Peacemaker Teams was focused on women's perspectives. We heard various stories from multiple organizations about how women were sexually, physically, and emotionally violated in the name of war. We heard their genuine fear about the coming government and the election of Duque, and how they dread how he is going to treat human rights leaders.

"In the 90's," the teacher went on, "paramilitaries came into our house, beat us nearly to death, and stole everything inside of it. We continued on because of the Gospel calling of standing with the poor."

~We visited a river community of Guayabo. They are a

threatened community that has been under attack by both paramilitary and government forces. The government is attempting to push these communities out for more development plans. Astonishingly, this community in particular has been somewhat successful in resistance – but not without their scars. A family showed the delegation a house that was torn down by government forces. We knew we were standing on holy, sacred ground as the woman wept about what happened.

~ I had the opportunity to preach at a protest by an organization that specifically dealt with women and helped raise them out of poverty so they wouldn't be dealing with horrific options such as prostitution or the drug trade. I had no idea what to say. In Homiletics, they don't teach you how to preach to a group of Catholic women who can't speak English. I managed to say a few words of comfort and support, knowing my status as a clergy member could help them.

Wayne R. Parsons, 93, of rural Richland died Monday June 11, 2018, at the Keokuk County Hospital in Sigourney. He was born in Jefferson County to Russell Otto and Mildred Wheeler Parsons. Wayne attended country school near Richland and graduated from Richland High School in 1943. He married Lola R. Lock at the Woolson Friends Church on August 10, 1947 and she died March 12, 2017. Wayne lived on their farm south of Richland for over 67 years and farmed all of his life. He was an active member of Woolson Friends Church, serving on multiple committees, was a 4-H leader, past president of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau, served on Jefferson County Conservation Board, Charter member and past president of the Richland Lions Club and member of Gideon's International.

Wayne is survived by two daughters:

Rita Eastman (Dennis) of Packwood, and Mary Beth Porch (Ron) of Bradenton, Florida and one son, Tim (Nancy) of Richland, 9 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, sister Lelia Marie Evans of Ottumwa and special friends Jan and Juli Hisel. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and grandson James Franklin Eastman. Funeral services were June 16, 2018, at Woolson Friends. Burial was at the Blue Point Cemetery.

Emma Macy, daughter of William & Jo Macy was married to Andrew Michels, son of Judy Michels and the late Robert Michels on August 4, 2018. Emma and her parents are members of Bangor Liberty Friends. The wedding was at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Marshalltown, IA. The couple will make their home in rural Marshalltown.



Family Camp 2018

September 14-16

@ Camp Quaker Heights



Manny Garcia will be the speaker at Family Camp this year. He will be speaking on "Family Discipleship: The Lost Art of Spiritual Formation at Home"

Manny has served Friends Churches in Pratt, KS; Carlisle, IA, Union, IA, and Wichita, KS. Since 2015 he has partnered with the body of Christ at Northridge to make Christ known in the neighborhood, city, and world. He has a passion for Christian Spiritual Formation and its holistic impact on God's children. Manny enjoys running, reading, board games, and spending time with his family. He loves a good joke, a great cup of coffee, and a nap in his hammock. He is so very excited to be able to return to Iowa and speak to families who desire to do life deeply with Jesus and with one another.

Haven't registered for Family Camp yet? It's not too late!

www.campquakerheights.org/quakercamps

Here is the schedule for the weekend!

Friday

- 6:30 Supper
- 7:30 Chapel with Manny Garcia (Nursery @ Daleskes)
- 9:00 Bonfire

Saturday

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Make Cardboard cars for drive in movie at basketball court (prize for winning car)
- 10:00 In town scavenger hunt
- 11:30 Meet in chapel to share results of scavenger hunt
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Make Pizzas for Contest (prize for winning pizza)
- 2:00 Free time (fishing, archery, nature walk, basketball, mini golf, gaga ball, biking, volleyball, disc golf, carpet ball, soccer, canoeing , knocker balls)
- 4:00 Make birdhouses
- 5:30 Supper
- 7:00 Chapel with Manny Garcia (Nursery @ Daleskes)
- 8:30 Drive in movie

Sunday

- 8:30 Omelet Bar
- 10:00 Chapel with Manny Garcia (Nursery @ Daleskes)
- 12:00 Lunch



2018 IAYM

PASTOR'S RETREAT & CONFERENCE

*October 19-23, 2018
Camp Quaker Heights*

Friday to Sunday Pastoral Family Retreat

New to our gathered time this year is an invitation to the entire pastoral family. If you work during the week or if you need to be back for church on Sunday morning, join us for Friday, Saturday, and/or Sunday (whatever portion you can be with us). We plan to have a time of rest and retreat with one another prior to the conference start Sunday night

Camp Quaker Heights is offering this time of refreshment to IAYM pastors at no cost. Bring your family for retreat, even if it is for one night. Meals will be simple, but provided.

Sunday to Tuesday Pastor's Conference

4-Chair Discipling Training being offered during the Conference

The 4 Chair Discipling Seminar looks at the model of Jesus for being a disciple who makes disciples, answering the questions: What is a disciple? What is the process for becoming a disciple who makes disciples?

Where am I at in that process, and what are my next steps?



Speaker: Joel Zaborowski

Joel is the Associate Director of Leader Development for Sonlife Ministries. He trains, coaches, and mentors pastors, youth pastors, and ministry leaders across the U.S.. He has written training material for Sonlife, and leads their life-of-Christ disciple-making study tour in Israel.

Brochures/information can be found on the IAYM Pastor Facebook page and via email to pastors & churches. Brochures will be mailed out as well!

Deeper in The Spirit Workshop list:

The following workshops will all be held at College Avenue Friends Church.

September 8	9:30 am
<i>Spiritual Gifts</i>	
October 6	9:30 am
<i>Praying with Others for Healing</i>	
November 10	9:30 am
<i>Roadblocks to Hearing God</i>	
January 12, 2019	9:30 am
<i>Marketplace Ministry</i>	
February 9, 2019	9:30 am
<i>Equipping Ministry & Leadership Gifts</i>	

USFW Fall Retreat at Lynnville FCC building (behind the church)

October 13

Starting at 9:30 am

Cost \$10 ~ includes Lunch

Julie Jones will be speaking and showing pictures on her stay with Nathan & Brianna Martin at Cambodia recently.

The offering will go to the Martins.

The 2018-19 USFW theme for the year is
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Plan to attend and listen on how God has been faithful in the ministry of the Martin's!

Please be in prayer for Robert and Sarah Radcliff as they prepare to return from Cambodia to the states for 3 month this fall. They are planning on attending the fall pastors retreat!

THE IOWA FRIEND

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September

September 8
September 14-16

Deeper in the Spirit Workshop
Family Camp at Camp Quaker Heights

October

October 5-7
October 6
October 6
October 11-13
October 13
October 19-23

Man Camp at Camp Quaker Heights
Deeper in the Spirit Workshop
Winneshiek Quarterly Meeting @ Valton
Fall FUM board meeting
USFW Fall Retreat @ Lynnville Friends
Pastors Retreat at CQH

November

November 2-3
11/10

All Boards Retreat @ CQH
Deeper in the Spirit Workshop

December

12/28/18—1/1/19

Friends Summit 2018 for youth ages 16-25
Held in Denver CO

Visit FriendsSummit.com for more information!



UPCOMING EVENTS