

What would Jesus have us do (about the upcoming election)?

by Tom Showalter

By the time you receive this newsletter the elections will be over...hopefully. We have quite a responsibility in electing governing officials, but the election process is often filled with smear campaigns, many unwanted phone calls, and enough mailings to fill our mailboxes for a long time.

However, as I search Scriptures, I am challenged by several often overlooked nuggets of wisdom when it comes to governing officials:

Ro 13:1: *Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

1 Peter 2:13-14: *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.*

We are also encouraged:

1Ti 2:1-2: *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

Samuel Adams put it this way:

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual--or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."-- Samuel Adams, *The Writings of Samuel Adams*, Harry Alonzo Cushing, editor (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1907), Vol. IV, p. 256, in the Boston Gazette on April 16, 1781.

Express your faith and your conviction and vote... and when you vote remember that we are voting

for human representatives. I don't care how moral and upstanding the politician is that we vote into office... he or she is still a sinner. He or she is still prone to the same weaknesses and sinful tendencies and the same temptations as the rest of us. That reality alone should prompt our prayers for God's intercession.

In his article, "A Century of Congress" published in Atlantic magazine in July 1877, President James Garfield said this:

"Now more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature.... If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces. In every election, the future of our nation hangs in the balance. Let's let our faith in the Living God, who loves us without end and who leads us into all truth help shape that future. And may God bless America."

Regardless of your political affiliation, as followers of Jesus, we are to live lives that display the character and mission that Jesus modeled for us. We may disagree, but we will maintain unity under the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ.

It is a dangerous mistake to put more faith in politics, politicians, and political parties than we do in God. We trust God to take care of us...not man.

Psalm 20:7 (NIV)

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Thanksgiving Offering 2018—Nathan & Brianna Martin

Dear Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting,

Warm, heartfelt greetings from Cambodia! It has been nearly a year and a half since we were last among you and since we came back to Snuol to continue in the work. We miss you already! You may remember that four years ago as we traveled through Iowa, we shared about the Parable of the Mustard Seed, and how it gave us hope for this unplowed ground. This last year has been an exciting new season of celebrating budding growth of this mustard seed, and we thank God for each stem and shoot.

A surprising part of the year started when our dear friend, and fellow believer, Srey Lieng, relocated to a village about an hour from the market by motorbike. This remote area was very unreached, almost untouched by the gospel. Roads to this area have been almost unpassable until the past few years. Srey Lieng is now living there with her sister, Leng, and the two of them farm cassava together. Sadly, this



sister, Leng, lost her husband this year to suicide and she has three school-aged children. In the midst of this pain, and other trauma, Leng was almost completely broken, but she began asking questions about Jesus. Last November, she called us and asked, "Would you please pray for me, that I can believe? I want to believe, but there is so much pressure in my village and I'm not sure I can stand". We pressed on in prayer and a few weeks later she invited us to visit. When I (Brianna) arrived I saw her spirit shelf for spirit offerings was swept clean and she explained with joy how she believed in Jesus and He had given her hope! We celebrated and sat in awe of God's goodness. We began to meet in her home for worship on Sundays, just us, Srey Lieng, Leng and her three kids. Every time I drove out there I felt a rush of amazement. Then, after a few months, a young house church pastor from another village met us there almost by "accident". His eyes looked astonished to see there were believers gathering there and he said "I have been praying for this village for six years and there has never been any opening." We were all happy to be connected to other believers and we began working and dreaming together. We decided to start a children's outreach at Leng's house before Sun-

day worship, and Leng and Srey Lieng were eager to start. This group of kids began meeting and has now grown from 20 to 40, to 50, even 90 kids one morning! We praise God for these children who are coming to sing, color a picture, and hear a chronological Bible story, and we give thanks for the adults who are staying around to hear more. If you had asked us a year ago, we might have put all of this in the category of "impossible". But, here our God is at work doing impossible things! Thank you for your prayers for these people over the years. Please keep praying for the roots of this gospel planting to grow deep and strong!

This year was exciting for several other reasons too, and we look forward to sharing those stories with you in person during our next home assignment which is starting in April of 2019

Thank you for thinking of us this Thanksgiving through the IAYM Mission Board Thanksgiving offering. We feel honored and are so grateful for your support!

Send your Financial Support Gifts to:

Dorothy Taylor, Missions Treasurer
1121 Parkway Dr. Apt. 1
Boone, IA 50036
Memo: Thanksgiving Offering

OR send to IAYM, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa 52577
 I will send a check to the missions board for any gifts received at the office! ~Mary~



Marcine Louise Baxter, 79, of Richland passed away on July 23, 2018. Marcine was born June 17, 1939 in rural Batavia, the oldest daughter of Harold Kenneth and Shearley Carmen DeVore McDowell. A graduate of Agency High School, Marcine attended Parson College. On August 28, 1960 married Mervin Leon Baxter at Agency Methodist Church, he died in 2010.

Marcine was a member of the Pleasant Plain Friends Church and USFW organization, Sunday and Bible School Teacher. She was a lifetime member of Chief Wapello Association and a member of the Carnegie Museum and Agency Library Museum. She worked at Otumwa Regional Hospital, Mercy Hospital in Davenport, Jefferson County Hospital, Parkview Care Center, Fairfield Public Grade

Schools, MIU Child Care and custodian at the Pleasant Plain Friends Church for 23 years and cleaned many homes. Her hobbies were gardening, taking care of her chickens, cooking and baking, writing, playing the piano and caring for her family. She loved all her family, a blessing from God.

Surviving are her five children Jim Baxter of Burlington, Joe (Mary) Baxter of Olathe KS, Joyce (Nick) Martin of Packwood, Johnnie (Michelle) Baxter of Brighton, and Jeanna (Dave) Johnson of Richland. 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, one sister-in-law: Debbie Baxter of Moscow, IA. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, an infant son, Jerry, a great-granddaughter, Jessica, and a sister Marjorie Gilltner.

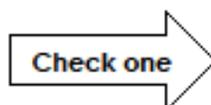
Bloom And Become—Created to Flourish

Women's conference @ Fairfield Friends March 8-9, 2019



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Email: _____
 Cell Phone: _____
 Your Church Name: _____

REGISTRATION FEES - KRIS RANKIN is our Registration Coordinator



- Early Bird Price \$50.00 – Until January 31, 2019
- Late Registration \$70.00 – February 1 – March 7, 2019
- Walk-In Registration \$80.00 – March 8-9, 2019
- I'd like to pay in installments. Contact Kris Rankin at ffcwomens@gmail.com
- I'd like to help "Help A Sister Out" and donate \$_____ towards her registration.

TOTAL DUE: _____ **Paid by:** Cash Check **Payable to:** Fairfield Friends Church
 Debit/Credit (credit cards or debit cards) go to fairfieldfriendschurch.org

FOOD: please tell us if you have any food restrictions i.e. gluten free, vegetarian, etc. We will make every effort to accommodate these restrictions. Please list here: _____

REFUND POLICY: There will be no refunds once registration is purchased. You may re-sell your registration or gift it to another person. Thank you for understanding.

Mission Focus: Oscar Mmbali—Belize

What do you know about each of our missionaries? Oscar Mmbali is working in Belize. Do you know what Oscar does? F.U.M. sends out a newsletter by e-mail each month. Do you get and read it? Here is some information that Oscar sent me.

After about 1 year in Belize, I came to learn how much less people in the Friends School community knew about Friends. The best that was known of us here was the name Friends or Quakers. As a result, we began conversations to develop a Quaker Faith and practice curriculum to be used in the school. Over the summer, I worked with Rosalie Dance to develop the curriculum. So, I began using the new Quaker Faith and Practice curriculum in September of this year. The curriculum covers topics such as introduction to Friends, a brief history of Friends, Quaker Testimonies, God, Scripture, worship, decision making etc. Even though we have finished working on the curriculum, we lack Quaker relevant materials for children ages 12-17 years. Most of our young people come from broken homes with no church background or with at least someone with a Catholic tradition. Therefore, having materials that are Friends focused will provide us with significant spiritual resources to help them build a spiritual life.

At the church, most of the outreach work over the past year has been done by youth – students from Belize Friends School who come to church. When we started in August last year, we had about two students coming to church on Sunday. Over time, they reached to others sharing their experiences with them and inviting them to come to church.

Some of the outreach work these youths do arise out of spontaneous experiences at the church. During last Quaker Day celebrations for example, we had potluck after Sunday service. At the end of the meal, a substantial amount of food remained. Youth at the church subdivided it and packed it in several packages. While I drove them home, I realized they had decided to share the food with several families

in the community they knew needed that meal. They lead me to new streets and new places. We stopped by different homes. A young man left the car with a package of the meal, walked to the door and knocked. Someone came and opened the door surprised. A brief conversation followed. The meal was received. We moved to the next home. These youths emerged with a spontaneous outreach ministry. They identified families in need of food. They visited families, told them about the World Quaker Day celebration, the meal and their decision to share it. This experi-



ence helped me see how these youths can find creative ways to translate their worship experiences at the church into messages and practices of love and care to the communities they come from.

Currently, we have 5-10 of the school's current population of 18 students in Meeting (church) each Sunday, and some who have graduated from our primary school and are now in high school. We want to encourage this trend and learn how best to enhance it. Our major challenge for the church is that we don't have Friends who are available to minister to the needs of these young people when they come.

~Iowa Missions Board ~

Oscar Siema Mmbali serves as the first pastoral minister for the Friends work in Belize. Oscar is a member of Nairobi Yearly Meeting, in Kenya. He first learned of FUM's work in Belize in 2004 through reading articles in Quaker Life magazine while a student at Friends Theological College, and has felt a persistent call to serve in Belize ever since.

Oscar trained for pastoral ministry at FTC and St. Paul's University, and worked with Nairobi Yearly Meeting as a pastor and as a church planter among the Maasai. Before beginning his ministry in Belize, Oscar lived in Bangkok, Thailand, studying for a PhD in International Development and working as a researcher for Transparency Thailand. He also volunteered as a chaplain for the Kenyan embassy in Thailand, visiting Kenyan nationals who were imprisoned, in detention centers, or were victims of human trafficking.

Seminary Scholarship

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends has a limited amount of funds available for **seminary (Masters or Doctoral program) studies.**

These funds are for those planning on entering the Friends ministry as pastors, missionaries, Christian Educator or youth workers. An applicant will need to be a member in good standing of a Friends Church and plan on attending an evangelical institution. Applications should be received by May 1, 2019 for the next school year or four months before courses begin.

For more information or an application, contact
Iowa Yearly Meeting,
PO Box 657,
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
or call 641-673-9717.



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, 2019**
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.

MISSION BOARD'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2019-20 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, 2019

TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now being taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2019-2020 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, 2019**

**A recipient will be determined at
Spring Body 2019.**

Short Term Mission's Trip

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission Board has scholarship funds available for adults and youth within our Yearly Meeting for short-term mission trips.

Guidelines for this opportunity are available at the yearly meeting office and can be found on our website (iaym.org)

The maximum amount for each scholarship is \$150.

**Deadlines for Applications are:
January 1, April 1, July 1 OR October 1**

Please contact the IAYM office via email—office@iaym.org—for more information!

THE IOWA FRIEND

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

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

UPCOMING

EVENTS

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!

2019

February 23 QuakerMen's Annual Winter Family Banquet at William Penn

March 23 Spring Body of Representative (location to be announce later)

March 8-9, 2019 Bloom & Become Women's Conference
at Fairfield Friends

Visit iaym.org and view our calendar page for more 2019 events!

Deeper in The Spirit Workshop list:

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

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



**2018 Mission's
Thanksgiving Offering**

**Nathan & Brianna Martin
Serving in
Cambodia**