



The Iowa Friend

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A monthly publication for Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

A Gift of Freedom by Tom Showalter

Just about every year (even though it comes each year on a 12 month cycle), I seem to be unprepared for the holidays. I often say things like, "It sneaks up on me," when in fact it comes every year at the same time, in the same months, and there is no "sneaking" happening. I begin to think about family gatherings, Christmas shopping, and the true meaning of Christmas--the significance of Emmanuel, God with us. In addition, I have found myself pondering Galatians 5:16-26:

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. but if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

After pondering Galatians 5 in the context of this time of year (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's), I realized, the gift of freedom that comes from Jesus Christ is the greatest gift offered to us. However, here is the problem...not all of us will receive this gift. Imagine if you will, buying gifts for a loved one this Christmas and the recipient turns it away or takes the gift and never opens it or never uses it.

Many of us attend church, participate in the work of our local meetings, and possibly even participate

with times of regular devotions, but are we truly free?

Verses 19-21 lists the "fruits" that show up when we are living to "gratify the desires of the flesh." As you read the list, realize that along with the "big" offenses are ones that can be easily overlooked or unseen like impurity, idolatry, hatred, discord, jealousy, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, and envy. If these characteristics mark our lives, we can be sure that the flesh is being gratified, and the Spirit quenched.

However, verses 22-23 show the "fruit" of a life being controlled by the Spirit. As you contemplate the two lists, which one characterizes your life more regularly? The list of the "acts of the flesh" and "the fruit of the Spirit" are similar to the gauges on the dashboards of our cars. What we see as we contemplate our "fruit" (good or bad) tells us something about who or what is controlling our lives. The problem is not the fruit, the problem is the root. How do we determine the controlling entity of our lives?

If we spend time doing things that strengthen the natural person, the natural man will be stronger than the spiritual person. If we do more to strengthen the spiritual person, it will be stronger than the natural person. So the quick answer on how to determine which nature succeeds is determined by which nature we feed.

To wrap up (no pun intended for Christmas), Jesus came to be "God with us," but also promised us the Holy Spirit as "our Helper" (John 14:15-27). We have all the tools we need to be successful in this Christ-like journey. The gift of Christmas, given by God to His people, is Immanuel. The gift given by Immanuel to His people (among other gifts) is the Helper, the Holy Spirit. And the gift the Holy Spirit gives, as we see in Galatians 5, is the offer of freedom. Are you free? Keep in mind, the freedom offered to us came at great expense...the life of Jesus offered for us on a cross and then resurrected. Freedom comes when we too submit to God's plan for us by "walking in the Spirit so we do not gratify the desires of the flesh" (v. 16). We get to choose who wins between our flesh and Spirit person.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from Iowa Yearly Meeting!**

What is Your “God Story”? IAYM Missions Board ~Jan Palmer~

In my “Iowa Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Memory Book” (not an actual book), there is a page with an image that is stamped on my brain. During one of the IAYM evening sessions at College Ave. Friends a few years ago, after the speaker, there was an invitation for anyone who was currently involved in any kind of mission work, or who had been involved, or was sensing God’s call into missions, to come forward. This is what I remember: 25 – 30 (maybe more) people stretching across the front of the sanctuary, facing the congregation. An amazing sight! What followed was a time of rejoicing and prayer for these faithful servants, praise and thanksgiving to God, and a shared sense of excitement and hope for God’s plan and purpose for Iowa Yearly Meeting. I don’t remember the year, the speaker, or the theme of that Yearly Meeting session, but the Holy Spirit has used that moment for encouragement, challenge, and even correction through the years, in my life. And I’m wondering what God stories those people up front could tell in 2018. And what new stories can be added?

To those of you who went forward that night – What has happened since then? You have stories to share about how God called you, His faithfulness through the years, lessons learned in Kingdom work, the stumbling blocks along the way, how you are still

growing, how God is still calling in whatever life stage you find yourself.

To those of you who have recently or are now sensing God’s call to move in a direction not previously in your planbook – you have an opportunity to invite others to join you in watching God at work by sharing how the Holy Spirit is taking you deeper, revealing new insights/thoughts, making you uncomfortable or restless in your current setting, awakening Christ’s heart within you for people you hadn’t noticed before. In allowing others to journey with you, you’re also inviting them to support and encourage you along the way.

To any of you who have responded to or are sensing God’s call to mission work of any kind, please share your story with your faith family: a lesson God has taught you; a story of answered or unanswered prayer; a time God blessed you beyond belief, or a time of loss that sent you to your knees; a story of struggle, or of victory; a new understanding of God’s Word; something that has been helpful to you from brothers and sisters back home.

Let us hear from you. We’ll find a way to share with others.

These God Stories can be sent to

jjepalmer49@gmail.com



BARCLAY COLLEGE

Sharpen Yourself—Enroll in Barclay College’s Friends Ministry Training If it has been years since you have done systematic study, Friends Ministry Training (FMT) through Barclay College may just be the right way to sharpen yourself.

Friends Ministry Training is for ALL doing ministry, not just pastors. You can multiply your congregation’s ministry by developing your people, including Sunday School teachers, committee clerks, members of Ministry and Counsel, and more. Why? Because growing people attract others who want to grow. Who in your Church or Meeting could benefit?

The Winter/Spring session begins February 4th with Orientation to Online Learning. Paul Cochrane teaches Old Testament Survey from February 18 to March 31, followed by David Phillips with Introduction to Pastoral Ministry from April 1 to May 12. Contact Paul Cochrane for more information telephone 260.274.2257 or email at paul.cochrane@barclaycollege.edu.

Online

Leah Higgins and Ryan Woiwood were united in marriage at Bangor Liberty Friends Church on November 10, 2018. Leah is the daughter of Karen and Paul Hammers, all members of Bangor Liberty.

Doris Drury Koch, age 89, of Conrad, passed away Thursday, November 22nd, at the Iowa River Hospice Home with her family at her side.

Born Doris Grace Ferneau on August 12th, 1929, in Marshalltown, she was the daughter of Harry and Grace (Stewart) Ferneau. Doris graduated from the LeGrand High School in 1948, along with the love of her life and high school sweetheart- Richard "Dick" Drury. On January 1st, 1949, the two were united in marriage at the LeGrand Friends Church.

Following their marriage, the LeGrand community was home. Doris was a farmer's wife and homemaker and worked part-time at Tractor Supply in Marshalltown until the early 1970's and then for LeGrand Oil. She was a member of the LeGrand Friends Church and served on the Missions Committee, VBS and Sunday school (receiving the name of "Grandma D").

In 1994, she lost her husband Dick, to cancer. She was blessed with finding love after loss and was united in marriage to Melvin Koch on October 30th, 1999, at the LeGrand Friends Church. After marriage, they moved to his home in Conrad. Doris could be spotted at local parades in his antique Mercury and was smiling the moment she woke up in the morning. She loved having Christ in her heart and family at her side. After seeing the love and compassion she and her family received during Dick's last days, she began a ministry with Iowa River Hospice. She worked at Iowa River Hospice for many years and later became a volunteer. She was voted "Volunteer of the Year" by hospice.

Left to cherish her memory are Melvin, her loving husband of 19 years, her nine children as well as 20 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. In death, she rejoined her husband Dick, her parents, son Michael Koch, grandson Justin and siblings- Darold, Clark, Maxine and Wilma.

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

Check one

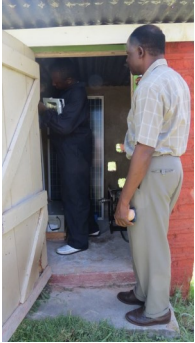
- ☐ Early Bird Price \$50.00 – Until January 31, 2019
- ☐ Late Registration \$70.00 – February 1 – March 7, 2019
- ☐ Walk-In Registration \$80.00 – March 8-9, 2019
- ☐ I'd like to pay in installments. Contact Kris Rankin at ffcwomen@gmail.com
- ☐ I'd like to help "Help A Sister Out" and donate \$_____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

HANDS -ON ADMINISTRATION:



Dr. Robert J. Wafula personally supervises infrastructure development at the college.

"The entire campus is now solar powered including staff housing and the dairy area. We are erecting a floodlight tower that will light staff residences plus walkways from the Administration and Library building. All are solar powered. Our monthly savings in electricity bills range between 86 to 95%. Kenya Power and Lighting is only but an alternative source", Dr. Wafula has revealed

(November 28, 2018).

Friends Theological College has received notice that it has been granted **full accreditation** with the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA). FTC is now one of just fourteen accredited post-secondary theological colleges in Africa. This process has taken many years, and involved intensive self-study and improvement by the entire college community. Principal Robert Wafula remarked, "We have worked so hard on this process and are filled with joy at this news." In celebration of this significant achievement, the college named the next calf to be born to the dairy herd "ACTEA"! This new international recognition gives the college confidence in the quality of its educational offerings, and allows FTC students to continue on to graduate level work with a solid and reputable preparation. We could not be more proud of Robert Wafula's faithfulness and wisdom in leading this work, and of the entire FTC community .

From Sylvia Graves:

~An Update for Dale Graves~



After a recent fall at home, medical tests to check on possible damage from the fall show that Dale's cancer has metastasized to his brain, as shown by numerous little spots. The radiation oncologist believes the spots can be eradicated with ten radiation treatments. The oncologist also said he had seen the scan taken in January when Dale's stage IV lung cancer was diagnosed and had seen the "miracle" response to treatment indicated by the scans in July. "Doing these radiation treatments now will keep the 'miracle' going," he said. So, Dale has started a new round of treatments, spread over two weeks and conveniently in Mooresville. We still don't know what caused Dale to fall, but believe it was Divine Intervention to find the spots while they are manageable. Thank you for your continued prayers and virtual hugs, dear friends! —Sylvia



We just celebrated Thanksgiving and we have much to be thankful for including our Iowa Yearly Meeting Staff. Traditionally we have honored our leaders at the Yearly Meeting level with financial gifts as a symbol of our appreciation for the leadership and hard work. We will again do this in 2018. Please send your gifts for Tom, Mary, Chip and Alicia, Scott, & Mac and Berny through Wes Blanchard our treasurer. Thanks so much and may the Lord continue to be raised up and exalted in your gatherings and hearts!

Mail checks (Made out to IYM Pastor's Association) to Wes Blanchard, 12172 150th Ave. Indianola, IA 50125. Please make your contribution by Dec. 10th so we can get the gift on to our folks.

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.**

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.**



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

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
December 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:

January 12, 2019 9:30 am

Marketplace Ministry

February 9, 2019 9:30 am

Equipping Ministry & Leadership Gifts

