

The Iowa Friend

Light Always Dispels Darkness

March 2020

By: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Light always dispels darkness! When you turn on a light in a dark room, there is never a question as to whether the dark is too dark or if the light is strong enough. A small amount of light will dispel the darkest dark! For the light to be light, however, there are some prerequisites. A man-made light, a flashlight for instance, needs a power source in addition to the flashlight's other working parts. Without batteries, a flashlight will not produce light. A flashlight without light has little value. If a flashlight is not producing light, it can be inspected to determine the reason for its lack of light; maybe the lightbulb is in need of replacement, perhaps the inner parts have become corroded and need a good cleaning, or perhaps the wires are loose and need to be re-connected.

Similarly, have you noticed the world around us seems to be getting darker and darker? Although we often do, we should not blame the darkness for being dark. It is only acting according to its nature. We cannot expect those who are not God followers to adhere to the same standards or life choices as those who are.

In a recent devotional, *Experiencing God Day by Day*, the author plainly states, “The only remedy for darkness is light.” In the passage above, Jesus states “You are the light of the world.” Ephesians 5:8: “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” Are you dispelling darkness? Is your light shining in dark places? The authors of *Experiencing God Day by Day* succinctly say it this way, “When God's light is allowed to shine unhindered through your life, the darkness around you will be dispelled.”

“The first distinction of Quakerism as taught by George Fox was found in the fact that it sought to bring men into living and first-hand relationship with Jesus Christ. The second essential of the message of Quakerism, as I conceive it, is that it ring true to the word of inspiration as recorded in the Holy Scriptures.”

(Allen David Hole, *The Place of the Quaker Message in Modern Life*, p.71)

The Old Testament author gives us this hope and challenge under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, “...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14). The hope here is that God says He will “heal their land.” However, before that can take place there are some conditions that need to be met according to this passage. We must “humble ourselves,” “pray,” “seek (God's) face,” and “turn from (our) wicked ways.” Understand this is addressed to God's people, not the world at large, but God's people. In other words, before the results can be seen or received the conditions must be met. Are our gathered meetings places of prayer? Are we exalting God's Holiness, bringing awareness of our sin, and then turning from that path? Are we humble?

I am most troubled by the questions that result. Are we, the people of IAYM, humbling ourselves, are we truly praying and seeking Him, and are we turning away from our own sin (rather than simply confessing the sins of “the world”)? If we are not seeking His face, what else do we have to offer anyone in the context of our meetings, our communities, our families, etc.?

I am praying that Iowa Yearly Meeting will be a people who will exhibit this verse: “...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

IAYM Missions Board
EASTER OFFERING
 Belize Friends School

Friends United Meeting's ministry in Belize includes a school for vulnerable youth, a growing Quaker church, and a community center! Nikki Holland, the Director of FUM Belize, shared this heartwarming story... In 2018, a student came to our school. I will call him Mike. Mike has some special educational needs, and when he arrived at our school, he did not know his alphabet, although he was a teenager. This past December, another student was struggling to read a verse in morning devotions--and Mike started to help his classmate! We all turned and stared at Mike, and Oscar, our pastor, asked Mike to read the whole verse over again. Mike read it without a hitch! We all stared, and then we started clapping and cheering! Mike can read now! And he can read well! We are proud of him, and we are proud of our teachers' brilliant and loving instruction to help him on this journey.



Belize Friends School gives young people in Belize a second chance to succeed at entering High school or Trade school and to be successful in life! One of the school's primary needs is funds to cover operating costs. These costs include salaries for our amazing staff, utilities, school supplies, etc. The IAYM Easter offering will help pay these tremendous staff members so that they can continue to teach our precious students and keep our facilities clean and safe. Without our teachers, we have no school! Your Easter gift will help keep our teachers here with us so that they can continue the life changing work that they do every day. Thank you so very much. I am so grateful.



Nikki Holland,
 Director of FUM Belize





Marshalltown Friends

Merryn Drew Woodsmall was born December 12, 2019 to Sawyer and Morgan Woodsmall. Big sister is Addison.

Jim and Kathy Kessler will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday March 22, from two to five o'clock P.M. at Grinnell First Friends Church, 1115 W. St. S., Grinnell, IA 50112.



Martha Elaine McDonald, age 85, died January 27th, 2020. She was born July 24th, 1934 to Moses Cyrus and Vera Von (Leppert) Hoskins in Washington, Iowa. She was the youngest of nine, raised on a farm in rural Pleasant Plain, Iowa and graduated from Pleasant Plain High School in 1951, then began attending William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa that fall. It was at William Penn that she met Lloyd McDonald and they were married April 12th, 1953. They began their life together on a farm in Marshall County. Her life will be remembered for her commitment, support and service to her family, her church and the broader community as well. In addition to farming, her husband Lloyd also pastored some rural churches. In 1960 the decision was made to discontinue farming and commit to full time pastoral ministry. Their journey that began in a small rural church, took them to Union, Iowa. From there to Phoenix, Arizona, then to West Milton, Ohio, back to New Providence, Iowa, then to High Point, North Carolina, and Snow Camp, North Carolina before retiring and returning to New Providence, Iowa.

Later in life, she found another service roll as Director of the Material Aids Program of the American Friends Service Committee. As such she collected fabric and clothing for the re-distribution to needy areas all around the globe.

Martha is survived by her husband of over 66 years, Lloyd McDonald of Ames, Iowa; son Tom (Marlene) McDonald of Windsor Heights, Iowa, daughter Jean (Arlen) Daleske of New Providence, Iowa, son John "Mac" (Brenda "Berny") McDonald of Tama, Iowa, son Philip (Teddie) McDonald of High Point, North Carolina; 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; brother Keith Hoskins; sister Darlene Hoskins; sister-in-law Carol Hoskins; along with other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents Moses & Vera Hoskins, an infant sister Ruth, sister Rosalie Mason VanSteenberg and brothers Richard Hoskins, Alfred Hoskins, Hubert Hoskins and Robert Hoskins.

Spring Body of Representatives

March 28th

Grinnell, IA



Roll call begins at 9:30 am.

Lunch \$ 9

Each church is encouraged to send representatives to this meeting!

FUM Summer Focus: Turkana Friends Mission



Basket making was one economic focus of the Turkana Mission in the 1970s

If you're thinking ahead to Vacation Bible School, or programming for Quaker camps, or other summer fundraising efforts, keep in mind that our summer focus this year will be the Turkana Friends Mission. TFM is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, and we're looking forward to giving you materials on the history of the mission and how God has used it to bring hope and peace to the Turkana region.

Interested in seeing the Turkana Friends Mission for yourself? Travel to Turkana is one of our many post-Triennial options!

WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY—MTC

Pastors Short Course

March 31st—April 1st 2020



March 31st: 11:15 am Beane Lecture
 12:00 Lunch (WP Caf.)
 1-6 pm Free Time
 6 pm Dinner (MTC)
 7 pm Session #1

April 1st: 7 am Breakfast (on own)
 8:30 am Session #2
 10:00 am Session #3
 11:30 am Lunch &
 Q&A (MTC)

Speaker

Dr. Jacqueline E. Bland



Dr. Bland's career has spanned 36 years, serving as a campus minister throughout the United States and South Africa, developing leaders in the formation of their character from a biblical ethic foundation. She's also the founder and CEO of Resolute Leaders Initiative, a faith-based organization designed to coach individuals in becoming authentic leaders as reformers of their culture.

Registration Costs:

\$60 for pastors \$90 for pastor & spouse

Lodging at your own expense

Email office@iaym.org to get a email

registration link -or- by calling

Sawyer Woodsmall @ 641-691-7037

IAYM Stewardship Board/FDF Board

Generous Congregations

March 14 8:30 am—4:30 pm

Lunch provided!

At William Penn University

The cost \$50 per church
 (up to five representatives per church).

Call the IAYM office (641-673-9717)
 to confirm attendance at this workshop/event.

Fortune-telling or Prophecy – What is the difference?

Many people today, especially youth and young adults, are fascinated by magic, fortune-telling and psychic phenomena. They do not understand the difference between hearing God and being a fortune-teller. **Michelle Seidler** is someone who clearly understands the difference. At one time she made her living as a Psychic. After coming to know the Lord and discovering God's purpose for her life, she served as part of the leadership team at International House of Prayer in Kansas City for several years.

Psychic to Prophet

7:00 p.m. March 20 with Michelle Seidler

Michelle will share her journey from her misunderstood childhood to life as a Psychic to finally coming to know the Lord and discovering God's purpose for her life. She will give insight about the differences between Psychics and hearing God.

Hearing God Training

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21

Spend the day with Michelle and her team and learn to more accurately hear God for your life. The team will help us learn to see Jesus through the Word, and behold and encounter Him in a deeper way.

Lunch provided -Please let us know you are planning to be here for lunch so we can prepare enough food. Contact Church office: lfc@iowatelecom.net There will be a free will offering.

"Mac and Berny's 2020 is filling fast. Before it fills up, what date does your church want them to come visit and share information about Mesquakie Friends? The McDonalds are available to come share their message of God's love for the 1st Nations on the Meskwaki Settlement to your church family on Sundays.

Contact Berny 641-521-1901 or Mac 515-339-1423 or Mesquakiefriends@gmail.com."

January 2020

Student Highlight

Tyrell Bang

Riverside Friends Church,
Mason City, IA

Riverside Friends Church (Mason City, IA) is fortunate to have a large number of youth. One of those youth stands out from his peers, Tyrell Bang. He is a humble high-schooler, who is gifted in leadership and has been going through Kaleo this last year. His Released Project will be developing a prayer labyrinth at Riverside Friends Church.

Tyrell is a naturally gifted leader and he doesn't know it, but he sets the tone for how our youth group will go. Regardless of the drama from school life, he can bring youth into a state of readiness to learn and worship.

Working with Tyrell is a blessing. He is an important member of the worship team and has participated in several music specials. With piano lessons he has even been able to play the piano for praise and worship. Tyrell has preached, led small group lessons, and is now serving as an elder. He is becoming a capable leader that has served in many leadership roles already. We see him taking advantage of many opportunities to serve in leadership positions in the kingdom.

(Pictured below: Tyrell and his Mentor Paul Martin)



December

Photo Contest Winner



Courtney Brown and Emmi Hancock from Friendswood Friends, Friendswood, TX were the winners of our December Photo Contest! Light up matching sweaters!! Pretty great!

Prayer Requests

***Released Projects**

Pray for our current Kaleo students as they work on their Released Projects. These are service-learning projects our students do in order to live out the call God has placed on their lives in their local communities.

***2020-2021 Kaleo Cohort**

Pray for God to speak to those who will participate in Kaleo this next year as we begin to ramp up our recruiting efforts.

Churches

Does focusing on young people mean neglecting older generations?

How much focus and resource investment should young people receive? At what point does caring become spoiling or idolizing? How do we ensure other groups aren't neglected?

Everyone rises
when you focus on
young people.



#growingyoung

THE IOWA FRIEND

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Nonprofit Organization
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"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)."

Subscription Price (individual)...\$10.00 per year (group)....\$9.50 per year Published monthly except August

{CALENDAR} OF EVENTS

- March 14: Generous Congregations Workshop @ WPU
- March 28: **Spring Body Meeting @ Grinnell Friends Church**
- March 31-April 1: **Beane Lecture & Pastor's Short Course (please note the date correction)**
- April 4: **Camp Work Day**
- **April 25:** **USFW Spring Fling @ HCNP**
- May 16: **Camp Cookie Prep Day!**
- **Camp Dates 2020:**

Little Fry June 12-14

Elementary June 25-28

Middle School June 14-18

High School June 19-24

July 12-18, 2020: **FUM Triennial** in Kisumu, Kenya

- August 8: USFW Celebration of Service & Kenyan Tea @ College Ave. Friends
- September 11-13: **Family Camp @ Camp Quaker Heights**
- October 2-4: **Man Camp @ Camp Quaker Heights**
- Nov. 11-13, 2020: **Church Multiplication Conference**
- Tentative 2020 Annual Ministry Conference following Multiplication Conference