

# The Iowa Friend

## No Surprises in God's Eyes!

By: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

April/May 2020

Hopefully, you are finding God's Peace amid crazy times! Our prayers continue to be offered for those infected with this virus, especially we lift Pastor Justin Weber and Mike Moyer. As of the last report, they seem to be improving, but will still have a process of recovery yet to come. Many of these effects will yet be realized as families, local businesses, economies, etc. will also undergo a period of recovery. We are grateful for those who have been referred to as "front line workers." As a father of a nurse and also of one with a compromised immune system, we must continue to pray for the well-being of those workers and those who are ill or who may be susceptible to illness. When this virus shut-down began, no one could have predicted the wide-sweeping effects.

In the midst of this was Easter. Normally at Easter, our church buildings are more full than any other time, with the possible exception of Christmas. There have been many posts on social media that our churches are empty this Easter...just like the tomb of Jesus on the first Easter. The whole account of Jesus' death on the cross and being raised back to life offers great comfort during a pandemic, or in any trial.

### The Triumphal Entry of Jesus

Luke 19:29 As Jesus came near Bethphage and Bethany, towns near the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent out two of his followers. 30 He said, "Go to the town you can see there. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here to me. 31 If anyone asks you why you are untying it, say that the Master needs it." 32 *The two followers went into town and found the colt just as Jesus had told them.*

### The Passover Meal

Luke 22: 7 The Day of Unleavened Bread came when the Passover lambs had to be sacrificed. 8 Jesus said to Peter and John, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us to eat." 9 They asked, "Where do you want us to prepare it?" 10 Jesus said to them, "After you go into the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow

him into the house that he enters, 11 and tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says: Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover meal with my followers?' 12 Then he will show you a large, furnished room upstairs. Prepare the Passover meal there." 13 *So Peter and John left and found everything as Jesus had said.*

In both events, Jesus instructed his followers. In both accounts, the followers found things exactly as Jesus said. Jesus knew what was coming and he knew how to instruct His followers. Previously, He told these same followers of the pending crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

God knows us and our circumstances! Chuck Swindoll in *Improving Your Serve* says something to the effect that "everything that happens to me, must first pass through the hands of my heavenly Father." We see that in the life of Job and we see that throughout the Bible.

In conclusion, I share a portion of Psalm 139 with you to remind you that although we are hearing conflicting information, face a future of uncertainty, and may be frustrated by the shutdown, God knows us and He knows our circumstances! We can trust Him to see us through these challenging times.

### Psalm 139 (New Century Version)

1 Lord, you have examined me and know all about me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts before I think them. 3 You know where I go and where I lie down. You know thoroughly everything I do. 4 Lord, even before I say a word, you already know it. 5 You are all around me -- in front and in back -- and have put your hand on me. ... 13 You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body. 14 I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well. 15 You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, 16 you saw my body as it was formed. *All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old.*

## Ministry Update from Nathan Martin

Dear Friends,

It has been a joy to see many of you this past year to share about God's work in Cambodia and to hear about your lives, too. You have refreshed us! We also look back and see the ten years of swelling support and care we have received from IAYM churches. Thank you! From the local fellowships to the Mission Board to the special MAST group (Missionary Advocacy and Support Team), you have blessed us with your genuine concern for God's work in the world and for us as a family. Thank you for standing with us in prayer. Thank you for your generous giving. Thank you for welcoming the people of Cambodia into your hearts and loving them with us!

In the first week of March, I (Nathan) visited Cambodia. I didn't realize then just how narrow my window was to make the trip. Covid-19 was already spreading in many parts of Asia, but Cambodia was still clear. Then, just days after my return home, Cambodia restricted arrival from 5 nations including the USA. I just made it. Thankfully, my trip was smooth both ways and we had no symptoms after isolating. We give thanks.

Cambodia, like many places, is now significantly shut down and there is pervasive fear. The picture here is from our friend and teammate Tim who is in Snuol. Villages are putting up these human "scarecrows" to scare away evil spirits that bring the virus. While much of Cambodia is more isolated in general, we still pray they will be spared a major outbreak. With lagging medical facilities and resources, there is room for concern. In a very sweet way, we have also seen our Khmer friends' concern for all of us over here. We have had several messages from concerned Cambodian friends who have heard reports about the USA and are concerned for all of us. We receive their love and pass it on to you.



Many of you know that since our return from Cambodia last spring, we have been seeking the Lord for the best next steps for our family. Our hearts are still much in Cambodia, but we now also have clarity and peace that our next season will be one of serving the cause of mission through serving the church here and helping to be a bridge to Asia. I have nearly finalized a new job description with our mission agency where I will be the Regional Director for Mobilization for Iowa and Southern Minnesota. Like most positions within OMF, it will continue to be a support-based work and the support sent for us will continue to make our work possible. We will be based in Mason City, IA, and I will be connecting with churches and individuals interested in missions, doing missions training and workshops,

visiting college campuses, and be the short term mission coordinator for Cambodia. I'm excited to take our experience and utilize it to serve the church and to continue to work toward the same mission and vision that has captured our hearts these many years. And, we hope to see even more of you this coming year! Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions, or if there are ways we can serve your fellowship. God bless you, Friends! May the Lord shine his face upon you and give you peace.



For God's glory among the nations,  
Nathan Martin

## Changes at the New Providence Campus of Quakerdale

A few days ago on April 22, 2020, Josiah White's Quakerdale Foundation Board learned through a public announcement on Facebook that the Promise Academy at Quakerdale has closed their program due to lack of funding. We were also formally informed by the Quakerdale Basketball Eagles Board of Directors on April 16, 2020 that their program has also closed. Both of these programs have been active on our New Providence campus for many years, and their closings represent a significant loss for the individuals and families they served, their staff and boards, the Quakerdale Foundation board, as well as for the community of New Providence and Honey Creek/New Providence church in particular. In light of the collective care we all share for these programs and the individuals and families they serve, the Quakerdale Foundation Board of Directors would like to make a public response to the recent closings of these programs.

In 2016, Quakerdale was faced with serious financial challenges due to changes and declines in state and federal funding that would no longer allow for financial sustainability for the programs we were operating. The Board of Directors prayerfully and unanimously made a difficult, but progressive decision to radically restructure Quakerdale from a single non-profit organization with various programs, to each individual program becoming its own 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and Quakerdale transitioning to the Josiah White's Quakerdale Foundation. Each new 501(c)3 nonprofit now has their own staff and Board of Directors. Over a two-year restructuring, Quakerdale's role shifted from being a direct-service program, to a grantmaking foundation to which each individual organization could apply for funding. This transition has been challenging, and admittedly has created a strong sense of loss for the legacy and history of programs traditionally run by Quakerdale. However, we also have carried the hope that we might find innovative ways to continue Josiah White's mission alive and well by providing funds to organizations that align with this mission.

Under this new structure, each and any organization (including existing and new organizations) has the opportunity to request funding from the Quakerdale Foundation Board, and then proceed through an annual grant application process. These requests are filled based on the program's compatibility with the mission of Josiah White and total funds available to the Quakerdale Foundation for the given year. Once grants are made, it is the Quakerdale Foundation's responsibility to be good stewards of the money given to us by continually evaluating whether each or-

ganization is meeting its own defined mission and goals, and whether they are managing funds responsibly and ethically. The Quakerdale Foundation also offers soft services to each organization in consultation to their directors and boards, and access to the services of Quakerdale Foundation's fundraiser. We want to highlight that for the organizations who were housed on the New Providence campus, it has been particularly difficult to deconstruct and reconstruct the understanding of these programs. On the outside, everything looks the same. Behind the scenes, the structure has gone through a significant change.

As we began to embark on this organizational change, we understood that this new structure would require a transition period to allow organizations to build their individual budgets and funds. To ease this transition, we have granted over one million dollars to New Providence-based organizations since 2018 (\$586,000 to Promise Academy at Quakerdale and \$508,000 to Quakerdale Basketball). Some of these funds were designated to be paid back to the Quakerdale Foundation for building rent, which could look puzzling to the outside. Our campus buildings are old and require constant and expensive care to remain up to code and safe for the inhabitants. We wanted rent to be a line item in each individual organization's budget, to transition them to the idea that as independent organizations, they would eventually need to integrate these expenses into their own budgets. We also understood that they would not immediately be able to pay these costs on their own. Our transition plan was to include rent funds supplemental to their grants, and then have them pay those costs back to us — allowing rent allocations to live in their individual budgets, while Quakerdale Foundation ultimately continued to underwrite the costs. In hindsight, it may have been less confusing to the organizations and public if the Quakerdale Foundation had not included this rent money into the grants, and instead held it in our own budget to cover the costs of our buildings.

Another significant part of the transition has been the transference of mission, strategic vision, direct operations, and fiscal sustainability from the former Quakerdale, to each of the organization's directors, staff, and boards. We predicted that this would be challenging and have walked alongside the organizations throughout the transition, offering consultation, fundraising assistance, and flexibility in grant funding. We've had to balance this with our own fiscal responsibility to the endowment with which we've been entrusted.

It is always the goal of a foundation to not be the sole financial support of any organization, but instead to encourage grantees to diversify their funding through securing additional grants, and developing their own fundraising strategies. Unfortunately, the Promise Academy at Quakerdale and Quakerdale Basketball were unable to garner the additional resources to allow them to continue programming, and the Quakerdale Foundation was unable to close the gap of additional funds they needed to sustain. The Quakerdale Foundation Board feels substantial grief and concern for the individuals that the Promise Academy at Quakerdale and Quakerdale Basketball served, as well as the dedicated staff and boards who gave their time and resources abundantly to these programs. Also impacted are the communities who gave resources of their time or money to invest in these programs, and who enjoyed meaningful impact and interactions with the participants. Each of our board members have personal and significant histories and relationships with Quakerdale and these programs, and desired as much as everyone for these new nonprofits to succeed. The loss is undeniably tremendous here.

We understand that it can be very difficult for the public to comprehend our funding decisions. While we desire transparency about our own board practices and policies, there are also confidentiality that prohibit us from publicly sharing all of the reasonings behind our decisions. Nonetheless the choices we made concerning grants to these two organizations and all

our grantees have been made because of our heartfelt responsibility as stewards of the legacy of Josiah White and those who went before us. We are grateful that as the Quakerdale Foundation Board, we have experienced unity in the midst of candor and honest conversations about the directions and decisions this transition has required. We have relied heavily on prayer and the leading of the Spirit of God. We are confident that we have not lost the vision and mission of Josiah White, and will continue to keep these before us as a guide in our support of every organization who "Serve as Christ Serves." To this end, we still trust God, even in the midst of these painful events.

We are open to your questions, feedback, and concerns. We encourage you to bring these to us directly to foster meaningful and productive conversations. This also helps us to better identify areas of confusion or misunderstanding, and allows us to further grow and clarify together. Please direct your questions, feedback, or concerns to:

Rob Talbot, Executive  
[rtalbot@quakerdale-foundation.org](mailto:rtalbot@quakerdale-foundation.org), or  
 Nancy Schornack, President, Board of  
[Nancy.Schornack@Quakerdale-Foundation.org](mailto:Nancy.Schornack@Quakerdale-Foundation.org).

All questions, concerns, and comments will be shared with the full board. We will do our best to engage you in individual conversations, or create forums for ongoing understanding within our community.

From John Muhanji

## Immediate Need for Quaker Churches in Africa!

Sometimes one wonders why calamity will always follow after another. We are in the midst of Covid19 Pandemic crisis now as African countries trying to see how we can manage this scourge from destroying us with our limited facilities and how difficult it is to maintain social distancing and washing our hands regularly or sanitize our hands. As we all know we do not have running water in most parts of Africa, but we try to improvise the measure. But still we are facing a cultural challenge where people are used to their way of life and changing is too hard. Before we even adopt to the changes to win this war against Covid 19, we are now hit so hard with floods all over Kenya due to heavy rainfall

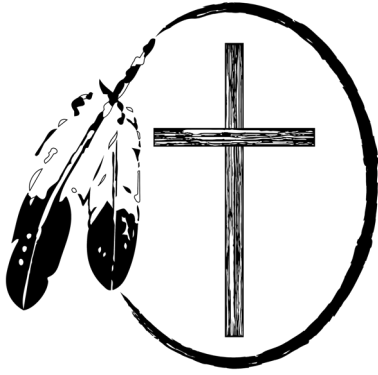
Many parts of Kenya continue to experience floods that are leaving many families homeless as well as properties destroyed. It is estimated that as at now more than 40,000 people have been displaced in Kenya. The worst place is in Nyando, Nyakach and Muhoroni in Kisumu County where 32,000 people have been left homeless. River Nyando and Luanda busted its banks displacing many residents as well as destroying properties/businesses leaving poverty and hunger behind. Lake Victoria has equally burst its banks beyond where it had ever reached and this had rendered many families homeless all around the lake. The Nyanza Golf Course in Kisumu is been taken by the lake and some people are fishing from the course standing on the tees.

River Nzoia in western Kenya is also busted its banks and many families living along the river have been displaced and thousands are rendered homeless, over 1000 families have been rendered homeless in Budalangi in Busia and many others along the river Nzoia and Yala. We have over hundred families in Navakhola in Kakamega who are living in the school with nothing saved from their houses. Hunger, and cold is hitting these families while Covid 19 is looming in our back yards. We have been hit so hard from left/right/front and behind.

The Quaker churches in Africa (FUM, FCK and FWCC-AS) have made an appeal to all Quakers and other well wishers in Kenya and other parts of the world to respond to its emergency call to this calamity. For those in Kenya please send your donations to the PAY BILL NO. 514608 ACCOUNT: COVID 19 RESPONSE (for those friends in USA and Europe contact our FUM Offices in Richmond Indiana and FWCC world offices in London) this will handle both covid and floods emergency support. Our mitiga-



## Mesquakie Friends Monthly Happenings



### In the Midst by Mac McDonald

Looking out my window, onto the 35 acres off the Sett, I would think it was just another normal spring day. The grass is really turning green and we will be ready to mow soon. The first of the spring flowers are coming out of the ground. There are big fat robins all over our lawn gathering preparing their nest. I can see very light traffic on highway 63 to the east of us. I see a grocery bag caught in the fence that I need to go walk out and grab because it is not in the flow of my peaceful serenity...oh look a squirrel! So, in this sense, business as usual. Oh my gosh....I really did just see a couple of squirrels!

Turning on the news and social media I get a whole other picture of the world we are living in. I have never known such a reality. I was a child in school that was taught to put a book over my head and get under a desk for bombs? Or was it a tornado? I don't remember. But now I can't even imagine what is going through the minds of our children.

By now, we all may know someone with Covid-19. Some may have been able to ride it out the virus quarantined at home, but some may have needed more extensive care in the hospital and sadly maybe some may have lost the fight to this horrible pandemic. At this I bow my head and pray and take a moment of silence and give thanks for their lives. They will be honored someday someday.

The "norm" just doesn't exist anymore or has taken an extended vacation. We have all had to find a way to adapt and overcome. For this Marine Corp family that is our "norm" it seems, but for others this may be an added layer of chaos in the already chaotic. It may seem like the adaptations are adapting very quickly and things are so out of control. This, my friends, is where fear breeds. I believe in the Serenity Prayer and how it has worked in my life. I encourage others to keep it close by during this time if they are struggling with all of this abrupt "about faces".

But we need to keep moving one, because we can't get stuck at this beautiful peace giving prayer. God doesn't want to leave us here...He has so much more of His peace to give.

It's just, as I sit here telling you of everything I see outside my window and everything I see on tv and social media there is another view that is a better view. Scripture says, "we are only strangers traveling through this world like our ancestors. Our time on earth is like a passing shadow, and we cannot stop it" - 1 Chronicles 29:15,

So when I look at this with a more eternal view, I am reminded, in the midst of it all, let's not forget where our true source of power, strength, shelter, and health comes from. It comes from God, the maker of Heaven and Earth. Of all that is seen and unseen.

So with "2020" vision I will see, "I life up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." - Psalm 121:1-2

GOD GRANT ME THE  
**SERENITY**  
TO ACCEPT THE THINGS  
I CANNOT CHANGE  
**COURAGE**  
TO CHANGE THE  
THE THINGS I CAN AND  
**WISDOM**  
TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

### FUM Summer:

### Turkana Friends Mission

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.

# THE IOWA FRIEND

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Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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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)."

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## {CALENDAR} OF EVENTS

- May 16: **Camp Cookie Prep Day!**

- **Camp Dates 2020:**

**It is with a heavy heart that we (with our camp board) have decided to POST-PONE all youth camps and groups for the month of June. We are looking for feedback from parents to decide about having youth camps later in the summer. Please fill out our survey if you are a parent of a youth camper on our Instagram or Facebook page. We also ask that you keep Quaker Heights in your prayers**

- 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