

# The Iowa Friend

## Tony Evans: America's Racial Crisis is a result of the failure of the church to deal with racism

July 2020

By Tony Evans

We are in the middle of multiple, simultaneous pandemics. COVID-19 has created a medical pandemic, while recent racially motivated violence has kick-started a cultural pandemic and the devolution of our society. But amid all of this, it is obvious we are in a spiritual pandemic.

We have wandered away from a value system that was established by God for how human beings are to live, act and relate to one another. Across racial and class lines, we have come up with our own standards for how to treat each other, and it has not done us good. It is absolutely clear right now that there needs to be a reset, and this is the time to do it — when it has everyone's attention at the very same time.

Psalm 89: 14 says that from God's throne comes righteousness and justice. They are always to be balanced side-by-side.

Righteousness is the moral standard of right and wrong to which God holds people accountable based on His divine standard. Justice is the equitable and impartial application of God's moral law in society.

God desires and requires his children to juxtapose both in our own daily doings. God wants to protect the life of the unborn in the womb, but He wants to see the justice of life once born, to the tomb. In other words, God wants a whole life agenda and not a term agenda. But unfortunately, all lives aren't valued the same way in our country right now, and they ought to be, because every person is created in the image of almighty God.

It is now time, on a personal level and a systemic level, that we reverse the course of history that has brought us to this point and that we reverse it on every level. This is a defining moment for us as citizens to decide whether we want to be one nation under God or a divided nation apart from God. If we don't answer that question right and if we don't answer it quickly, we won't be much of a nation at all.

God has four distinct spheres in which life is to be lived, and therefore, there are four areas in which changes need to be made, according to his kingdom agenda. The kingdom agenda is the visible manifestation of the comprehensive rule of God over every area of life.

This change first begins with the individual. We cannot change the nation if we don't first allow God to change our

hearts. We have to develop a heart that cares for our fellow man because they are created in the image of God. Not because they look like us or have what we have, but because they have the stamp of divine creation on them. And that means that you have the responsibility to reach out to somebody different than you, hear from that person, and build a relationship.

The harsh reality, yet one we must face, is that unfortunately, all lives aren't valued the same way. All lives ought to be, because every person is created in the image of God. We are not to try and change others, if God can't even change our own hearts. Unity starts with the individual. Each of us plays a part in healing our racial divide.

This individual transformation then must flow into the family as parents transfer these values to their children. We cannot expect people to think differently and act differently if they aren't hearing differently from their parents, if they are not getting a righteous value system of judging people by the content of their character, not the color of their skin.

But this is only the first step; families must then make connections with other families who are different from them and partner together to serve yet another family that is worse-off than theirs. This is where reconciliation happens, not in seminars but in service.

Additionally, the evangelical church needs to speak up where it has been silent on injustice and racism.

The biggest problem in the culture today is the failure of the church. We wouldn't even have a racial crisis in America if the church had not consistently failed to deal with racism as the severe sin it is. But because the church has historically ignored and downplayed it, the issue still exists. Where the church is called to set an example, we have cowered.

The church must address racial, economic, health care and opportunity inequity, as well as recognize the systems that work against the fair treatment of people. In doing so, they help to create opportunities for all to responsibly take advantage of all that God has blessed us with in this nation. We must further hold people accountable to be responsible for their decision-making.

The church must speak with one voice, because God doesn't ride the backs of donkeys or elephants. We have

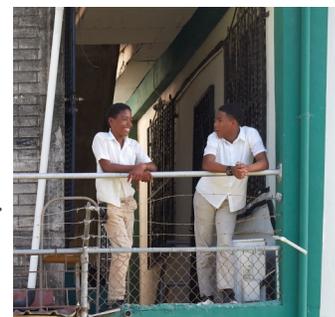
IAYM Missions Board  
**4th of July OFFERING**  
 Belize Friends School

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.



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.



This 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 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



Please send your Belize School Offering to our Yearly Meeting Mission's Treasurer....

**Dorothy Taylor**  
**1121 Parkway Dr. Apt 1**  
**Boone, IA 50036**

one God, one Lord Jesus Christ and one inerrant Word to speak from. And yes, we should protest evil in a righteous way. We should let our voices be heard, but then we must act because if we don't act, all we did was have a speech. We must implement righteous principles, modeling them through the church, so the world can see what it looks like in the broader society. And we in the body of Christ must collectively call racism what it is: sin. Racism isn't a bad habit. It isn't a mistake. It is sin. The answer is not sociology, it's theology.

And then, finally, we must challenge our civil leaders on all levels of government to be agents of healing and not division and to speak in such a way where unity is reinforced and not divisiveness. We must demand that the words that come out of their mouths and the way they say the words that come out of their mouths, be words of strength and kindness, not vitriol and meanness. Additionally, they should represent God's standard for how civil government should function.

When those four areas — the individual, the family, the



Lloyd Thomas McDonald, 98. Lloyd was born January 25th, 1932 to Wilbur Benton and Ethel Marie (Norman) McDonald in Collins, Iowa. The family moved shortly thereafter to a farm in the Liberty Township of Marshall County.

At William Penn College, he met Martha Hoskins and convinced her to become his bride. In addition to farming, Lloyd was also active in pastoral ministry. He completed a Master of Divinity degree from Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana. He remained a lifelong learner.

One lifelong passion of his was Camp Quaker Heights, initially as a teenage camper. Then as an adult, he was a "cabin dad", camp pastor for many years, board member, fund raiser, construction laborer and contributor.

He is survived by his son Tom (Marlene) McDonald of Windsor Heights, IA, daughter Jean (Arlen) Daleske of New Providence, IA, son John "Mac" (Brenda "Berny") McDonald, of Tama, IA, son Phil (Teddie) McDonald of High Point, North Carolina; 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sister Erma Haywood; brothers Keith, Willard "Mac", Joe, Dwight, Duane McDonald, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha, his parents, stepmother Mary, brothers Norman and Wayne McDonald.

church and the community — begin to operate based on God's standard, then He can feel comfortable to get back in the midst of us and make us repairers of the breach and healers of the land.

It is time for us to fervently pray and repent of where we fail to do what God says to do, and the way he says do it. We must ask God to realign ourselves under his authority while pursuing a relationship with him so that his word can overrule our ideas, perspectives and agendas.

Until we take seriously God's word and its application in all the categories of our lives, we won't see what he can do in turning this mess into a healing miracle — the miracle we've all longed for. Remember, if God is your problem, only God is your solution (2 Chronicles 15:3-6).

*Tony Evans is senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, president of The Urban Alternative, and an author and evangelical speaker. He wrote this column for The Dallas Morning News.*



Roger LeBel, 71, passed away unexpectedly at home on June 18, 2020. Roger was born on November 7, 1948 in Sherbrooke, Quebec to Charles and Joan LeBel.

Roger came to the United States when he was 5 years old and as a teen, became a naturalized citizen. Roger attended William Penn University where his loyalties were still strong. He served on the William Penn Board and was an active part of the Alumni Association and Sigma Phi Sigma Fraternity. But most importantly, Roger met the love of his life while attending William Penn.

Over the years Roger served on various boards for the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends. He was a member of College Avenue Friends Church in Okaloosa. Roger had a passion for helping those in need, no matter their circumstances. He had a gift of making others feel comfortable and a knack for sharing endless stories, as he had a story for everything. Roger also loved to hunt, ride his bike, and mentor young athletes.

Roger is survived by his wife of 47 years Janet (Wells); son Todd; sister Charlotte (Bill) Page; brother Norman LeBel and Dennis LeBel; numerous nieces and nephews and other extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents Charles and Joan; and his brother Guy.

## Kaleo Academy— National Friends Youth Training Release Project by Tyrell Bang



Tyrell Bang, 15 years old, is a member of Riverside Friend's Church, Mason City, Iowa. Tyrell is a valued member of our faith community. Faith in action is one way to describe Tyrell. He has sung with the praise and worship team for several years and now plays the piano for worship. Tyrell has preached sermons, led small groups for our children's ministry, and now serves on the Board of Elders.

Last summer Tyrell attended the Kaleo Academy at Barclay College in Haviland, Kansas. Kaleo Academy provides training for emerging student leaders from evangelical Friends churches. The program is presented in a blended format beginning with Theology Camp. The lessons learned at camp are further developed through 10 months of online community learning, intentional mentoring relationships, which culminate with a service learning project called "The Released Project".

After the experience, Tyrell wrote: "Kaleo was truly amazing, I had so much fun and learned more than I thought I ever could. The people were very welcoming and helped me expand in my faith. Throughout the week we had classes which included Biblical interpretation, Social Justice, Christian leadership, and Quaker history. These really helped me realize that being a Quaker is more than just the name of a denomination. We also had TAG time every day. TAG stands for Time Alone with God. During those times, I felt a real connection with God. Thank you for assisting in my journey of becoming a true Christian leader."

After completing Kaleo, Tyrell created a Prayer Journey for his Release Project. Only God would have known how valuable and timely this project was for our community. He completed the Prayer Journey just as social isolation and distancing became household words due to COVID-19. The nine prayer stations Tyrell developed at Riverside Church have been made available to everyone. For families, who were quarantined, two prayer stations were delivered to them each week. People have commented how beneficial and reassuring the prayer journey has been for them during the pandemic. It truly has served as a tool to help us remember that even in the midst of all the fear and chaos in our world we have a solid anchor in Jesus Christ.



**The video by Tyrell Bang about his Release Project and the prayer stations are available on the Iowa Yearly Meeting website ([iaym.org](http://iaym.org)) under the Resources tab and click on Prayer Resources. Take the time to experience the blessing of the Prayer Journey and share the blessing with others.**

Kaleo Academy provides training for emerging student leaders from evangelical Friends churches around the world. The program is presented in a blended format beginning with Theology Camp at Barclay College in Haviland, Kansas.

The lessons learned at camp are further developed through 10 months of online community learning, intentional mentoring relationships, which culminate with a service learning project called "The Released Project".



The Youth and Young Adult Board, in conjunction with the Camp Quaker Heights board, have decided to move forward with a couple of weekend camps in the month of August. And a big thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey and assist us in making that challenging decision. Here are those dates.

### **-Jr High / High School Weekender - \$140**

- July 31 - August 2 (Grades 7-12)

### **-Elementary Weekender - \$140**

- August 7-9 (Grades 3-6)

*At this time, we did not feel it was possible to host our normal Little Fry Weekender. We hope to see you back next year!*

We will have registration open by June 10. If you register before July 10, there is a \$20 discount and you will receive a free camp shirt! You can visit the IAYM Youth webpage any time after June 10 to get signed up.

### ***Friends of God: Our Inheritance & Our Future***

FRIENDS  
OF GOD  
Our Inheritance  
and our Future



By Charlotte Stangeland

Friends (Quakers) have a unique and important message to share with the world. Charlotte Stangeland has written a new book titled *Friends of God: Our Inheritance and Our Future*. *This book can be used to disciple new believers who join a Friends church or as a refresher of Friends history and beliefs for those who have long been a part of Friends. It provides both a historical context and a contemporary understanding of Friends beliefs and testimonies. It is written from an evangelical-orthodox perspective.*

Part 1 tells how, as Friends of God, we strengthen the four supporting foundations of our faith—Listening to the Holy Spirit, Anchored in Scripture, Committed to Community and Steadfast Obedience to Jesus Christ. It also explains Friends emphasis on Salvation and Holiness; what it means to Abide in Jesus; and the importance of the Kingdom of God.

Part 2 starts with a brief review of Friends' History. It then considers the historical Testimonies of Friends and reflects on their relevance for today. It includes the following chapters: Early History of Friends (1600s-1700s), History of Revival and Division (1800s-1900s), Evangelism – Reaching that of God in Every Person; Service & Social Reform; Ministry of Every Person; Integrity, Transparency & Faithfulness; Equality, Simplicity, Stewardship & Moderation; Peace and Justice. Drawing from *Fox's Journal and stories of early Friends, as well as examples of contemporary Friends missions and activities, Friends of God: Our Inheritance & Our Future demonstrates the importance of Friends foundations and testimonies for today. For more information or to purchase a book for \$10 plus shipping, contact stangelandchar@gmail.com.*

# THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657  
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phone (641) 673-9717  
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July 2020

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Oskaloosa, Iowa  
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Change  
Service Requested

“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

**-Jr High / High School Weekender - \$140**

- July 31 - August 2 (Grades 7-12)

**-Elementary Weekender - \$140**

- August 7-9 (Grades 3-6)



- September 11-13: **Family Camp** @ Camp Quaker Heights
- October 2-4: **Man Camp** @ Camp Quaker Heights
- Nov. 11-13, 2020: **Church Multiplication Conference**
- **2020 Annual Ministry Conference following Multiplication Conference**  
**November 13-14th—More details to come from the planning Committee soon!**

## **Michelle Seidler Weekend at LeGrand Friends**

**Psychic to Prophet**

**7:00 p.m. July 24th** 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, July 25th**

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.