

# The Iowa Friend

## On a Mission for God

August /September 2020

2020 has been a challenging year in so many ways, but in the midst of whatever is going on around us we are still to pursue the mission that God has put on our lives. If I have been to your meeting recently, you have probably heard a message I have entitled "On A Mission For God." The following are excerpts of that message.

I spoke at Yearly Meeting in 2018 and I shared this quote:

"When it is functioning properly, the Church of Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. It is the only organization that has ever existed that is capable of healing broken lives, pointing people to God, and fulfilling the deepest longings of our souls. It is in the Church that the rejected find acceptance, the sinners receive forgiveness, and the lonely experience love."

I am convinced that every church has a purpose that is either stated or implied, regardless of what is seen on our websites. We have a reason to do what we do (tradition, habit, ritual, to keep certain people happy, etc). What is the purpose of your church? What is the intended/desired outcome?

### Scriptural Truths about Our Mission:

(For the sake of newsletter space, the following clearly show the mission God has given. I'd encourage you to look at The Great Commandment, The Great Commission, & Act 1:8) Additionally we see in 2 Cor. 5: 18, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors..." When I read passages like this, it is clear that the followers of Christ must take ownership of the mission to "Love God, Love People" & "Go into the world and make disciples"

Those of us who claim to be followers of Jesus should display something vastly different from the rest of the world's ways. 2 Corinthians 5:17: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone and the new has come." If we are a new creation, then our behavior should show that...programs don't cut it, good pastors cannot bear all that responsibility. There are people in our lives who don't know Jesus but need Jesus and His help.

### The Gospel!

We do not always follow the plan that God has for us. We do not do what God tells us to do (omission) and sometimes we may even do what God tells us not to do (commission)...anything we do in word, thought, or deed that is contrary to God's plan for us is called sin or missing the mark. In His love for us, Jesus paid the price when he died on the cross and rose again...but we must change the path we are on and get on God's path or we will face the consequences of our disobedience. Repentance, literally means to change paths.

Each of us must answer two questions:

First, are we connected to the vine so that the life of Christ can flow within us?

Secondly, what kind of fruit are we producing?

Producing fruit must begin with being connected to the vine, Jesus Christ. This connection begins with a commitment to read His Word and to spend time praying. We can sit in church week after week and there may be no transformation in our lives, but when we become fruitful disciples by following Jesus as our Savior and Lord... transformation takes place. Discipleship is not the same as church attendance.

### Quaker S.P.I.C.E.S.

In the history of Friends/Quakers, the acronym **S.P.I.C.E.S.** became a common reference. In a world of busyness, storage units, and "more," our world needs to hear the message of **Simplicity**. In a day and age where there is much anxiety and conflict, **Peace** is needed. While many have a negative view of Christians, followers of Jesus need to exhibit **Integrity** once again. In a lonely world where people are searching for meaningful relationships, **Community** is the desperate desire for many. Today, debt (personally and nationally) is out of control and many are concerned about the changes within our climate. The message of biblical **Stewardship** needs to be heard once again.

For us to make a difference in the lives of struggling loved ones, we must first be disciples and look for opportunities to show God's love by serving all people!

We have work to do, "the fields are ripe unto harvest!"



## IAYM Missions Board

### *Updates from the Zagami Family in Clarkston GA*

Our family has been working in Clarkston, GA for four years. Our focus has been on developing new churches among the large number

of immigrant and refugee groups that have settled in the area. We have a small church plant among the Malagasy people of metro Atlanta, a ministry and church plant in a low-income area of DeKalb County, and a large church plant among refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Before coming to Clarkston, we worked in Madagascar for seven years. We had to unexpectedly return to the US when Sarah developed a rare amoebic eye infection that needed surgery. After several surgeries, including two cornea transplants, her eye is stable and some vision is returning.

When we first arrived in Clarkston, we chose to live in refugee apartment housing to get to know the community and develop relationships with the people we were hoping to serve. Last year, we moved into a house where we can spread out a bit and focus on the next phase of ministry.

Opportunities have come up for us to focus on training ministries – preparing African leaders to plant churches and serve as missionaries.

“Basi, Enendeni...” is the theme for the Africa Trip 2020 to the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp in Tanzania. It means “Go, therefore...” in the Swahili language in reference to the opening of Christ’s Great Commission in Matthew 28.

The Nyarugusu refugee camp in western Tanzania is one of the largest refugee camps in Africa and one of dozens in that part of the world. It opened in 1996 for people fleeing the wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and contains nearly 160,000 people. Fifty-five percent of people living there are under the age of 17. Each year, approximately 5,600 people apply for resettlement to countries like the USA, Canada, Sweden, France, England, Denmark, and Australia. About 2,000 of those who apply are granted refugee resettlement status each year and permitted to emigrate to those countries.

Refugees who come to our town of Clarkston, Georgia are entering a new culture and that requires a great deal of change. For some people, change can be very difficult. Adjusting to a new climate, new work routines, new language, new food, and most significantly new

social expectations, can all be very challenging. Those refugees who feel a call to ministry or who were involved in a ministry in the refugee camp are often left without an opportunity to be involved in their new country. This leads to a great deal of depression and feelings of inadequacy, particularly among older refugee men and women.

Our vision is to use the existing system of refugee resettlement as a means to send out trained missionaries from the refugee camps of Africa to the several countries in which they are resettled. When refugees are given a purpose, their ability to cope with the change of a new culture is greater.

In our church plant, most of the families we serve come from the Nyarugusu camp in Tanzania. However there are others who come from camps in Malawi, Mozambique, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, and Zambia. We hope to leverage our relationships with ministries and churches in those camps so that they can run our one-year missionary training program. In this way, refugees who are called to ministry can be trained and equipped to start new churches and ministries in the countries to which they are being resettled.



With this in mind, we had been planning a trip to the Nyarugusu camp in August. The travelers will be Daniel, Jason Lee (a local pastor), and 3 leaders in the Clarkston church plant – Leonard Mkossa, Atiya Lupopo and Makete Asende. However, due to the Coronavirus situation, we have postponed the trip to February 22 – March 6, 2021.

Please pray that we will have safety in travel but also that we would have opportunities to meet with like-minded ministries and churches who want to partner with us that the Gospel might be spread through refugees willing to take it to other nations.

## Sam and Becky Barber

### Updates from Belize



Prov. 16:9 "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." We chose this verse many years ago not knowing all the many steps He had planned. He has always been faithful and we need to remain faithful as well. Those steps have changed, as many things have due to Covid. We have had our own struggles across

Belize and in our ministry as well. In March & April, there was a small outbreak in Belize and everything was shut down, including the airport that brings the necessary tourism dollars into Belize. May & June there seemed to be a complete recovery and we were declared a Covid free country. There were repatriation flights but still the borders and airport remained closed. By the first of August our number of positive cases has gone up exponentially. We now have returned to most of our ministry being online and virtual meetings.

Here is a bit of family news. As soon as school opens and we don't have to isolate, Naiema (14 yrs) will start high school. Malique is going into his third year of high school and has been getting very good marks. This last year our son Robert and his wife Ambur moved back to our old house in University Park, Iowa. Iowa Friends graciously took on the project to repair the roof on that house in May. We are so thankful for all those that contributed in any way. "Thank you" is not even enough to speak the immense gratitude we have for everyone; especially since we live and minister on faith. Daughter Katie and Nathaniel are ministering in Washington at a Friends church. The big news there is that on November 11, 2019, they brought into the world our first grandbaby, Cora Rae. Of course we know she is the best and sweetest baby ever. We are counting teeth and watching milestones on video chats. To be honest, this is super hard for us but God has his plan and purpose and we follow His steps.

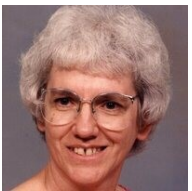
Kristy got married to her best friend Micah Anderson by mail during Covid shutdown. For those of you that know Kristy this may or may not surprise you. She has always been the least conventional of our kids. They are currently living in Colorado Springs; which

brings me to Kassie. She finished her high school courses with high marks this May. She was unsure of God's specific direction for her life but wanted to move to Colorado Springs with Kristy and begin working this summer. With the airport here closed, and all the uncertainty and just plain yuck happening, we didn't see that as a viable possibility. Until, a friend of ours here was planning to go to school near Colorado Springs. She had a space on a repatriation flight to Colorado Springs from Belize. We were able to secure Kassie's ticket with her on a Monday. She was packed and slipped away in just five days. God's provision is more than we could imagine; a ticket from a closed airport and a traveling companion.

We are living under a state of emergency which changes very frequently. The fines for breaking the state of emergency are \$5000.00 and or imprisonment. There are times when the state of emergency allows us to meet, disciple or counsel in person with masks and social distancing and times when we can only do that via video chat. As I write this we are down to a maximum of 10 people in a gathering and only between the hours of 5 am – 8 pm. We were unable to do our annual Biblical Counseling Course this year because of isolation measures. Fear seems to grip so very many people and the need for spiritual-emotional counseling has escalated.

Many of the churches here, including the pastors that we have been working with, have been forced into a more electronic approach to gathering for worship. Facebook live, Zoom and WhatsApp have become much more commonplace for us. We have worked hard over the past few months in developing Bible study discussions to do over Zoom. We have been conducting studies in John and Revelation. We also have developed a 12 week discipleship series that was started in person at one church and we are now revamping it to be a Zoom discussion series for other churches.

We have worked with many individuals who were seeking Biblical-emotional counsel. The Holy Spirit has used us to restore marriages, bring healing from anger and unforgiveness. Also some need to understand how God desires us all to move from fear to faith in Him. We see people release shame and guilt as they are reconciled by the work of Christ and recognizing their identity in Him. We are humbled to be able to boast in the work of Christ; "... But the Lord establishes his steps."



Mary Glenn Hadley, 81, died July 20, 2020. She was born to J. Paul and Fleda Hadley on September 12, 1939, in Milford, IA.

Shortly after she finished nurses' training, she felt a call to serve God as a missionary nurse in Kenya with the Friends (Quaker) United Meeting. She went on to fulfill three and a half terms or approximately 14 years in that place. Her duties pertained to nursing and serving the hospital in many capacities, as well as developing and conducting Bible studies among students at the hospital nursing school and eventually as an instructor in the Friends Bible Institute on the mission field. In 1980, after Mary Glenn

had returned to the United States, she began work as an oncology nurse at her alma mater, Iowa Methodist Medical Center, where she continued working until 1987. During that time she was invited to return to Ethiopia, and she spent six months with Iowa Cares in Ethiopia, feeding people there during a severe famine and starvation period. From 1987-1999 Mary Glenn worked as a church administrator for Friends United Meeting in Richmond, IN. In 1999, she moved to New Castle, IN, where she served as administrator of the Raintree Square Retirement facility until she retired in 2006.

Upon retirement, Mary Glenn moved back to Indianola, IA. She is the author of three books, *Come Pray*, *Following Jesus*, and *Unity in the Church*, as well as contributing author to several curricula for use in Kenya and Friends United Meeting.

# THE IOWA FRIEND

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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

## Family Camp & Man Camp @ Camp Quaker Heights CANCELLED

### • 2020 Annual Ministry Conference following Multiplication Conference

**November 13-14th**—the planning committee is still working on the details of hosting some or all of this event virtually!



## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS CHURCH MULTIPLICATION CONFERENCE

**November 11-13, 2020**

*"For Such A Time As This!"*



An inspiring, world-wide Great Commission gathering that will be the first of its kind in history!

Due to Covid-19 concerns, this conference is now a **100% online gathering** that will connect evangelically-minded Friends from homes, local churches, Yearly Meetings, and regions all over the globe.

Join the Friends Church multiplication movement—you will be inspired, challenged, encouraged, and thankful to be part of what God is doing!  
*You won't want to miss it!*

**More information and  
registration details  
coming soon!**

Main Speaker:

**Dr. Ed Stetzer**

Billy Graham  
Distinguished Chair  
of Church, Mission,  
and Evangelism at  
Wheaton College,  
church planter, and author of *Planting  
Missional Churches: Your Guide to  
Starting Churches that Multiply*



- *Strategic, practical workshops*
- *Fellowship receptions to connect with like-minded people around the world*
- *Affinity group gatherings for regional leaders, church planters, pastors of potential mother churches, prayers, and more*
- *Fresh ideas to apply to your home church*