

April 2021

The Iowa Friend

"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)."

Iowa Yearly Meeting

Our Church Was Sinking—and Then, Against All Odds, It Started to Thrive

By Dr. John W. Bosman—August 2018 (The Care Revolution)

I'd been a pastor for several years before I received the revelation of effective congregational care. It hit me like a ton of bricks and soon became a revolution that changed my life and ministry forever.

This eye-opening experience came to me shortly after I had become the lead pastor of a church facing incredible challenges. They had gone through a sudden valley of grief and pain, heading for a split, with unbelievable tension and strife. The Sunday morning attendance had dwindled from almost a thousand to less than four hundred, and people were still leaving.

It seemed as though people were finding themselves in gridlock and nobody was willing to surrender, which consequently caused unreal stress and strain. Not only did God graciously help me to bring restoration to the church but also gave me divine wisdom to deliver a solution to the apparent problem. What once was defeat, became one of the most significant victories you could ever imagine.

Deep down in my heart, I knew that real ministry is about people, and if we miss connecting with them, we could lose the God-given momentum. It was at this crucial moment that we discovered the powerful concept of people caring for people.

Many churches today still believe that they provide adequate pastoral care to their congregation. Looking at it a little closer, we will discover that they are not, in reality, providing pastoral care, but only crisis care. This perspective means that people usually have to face a crisis before they receive attention, but once the crisis is over, so is the care. That's not the way to connect people and is most probably not the way to care for the flock God has entrusted to us.

Somewhere along the line, we have missed this reality in the body of Christ and erroneously made pastoral care the sole responsibility of the pastor. This mindset held on over centuries and became the traditionally accepted norm for congregational care. Unfortunately, this mentality remains stuck in many minds to this day.

With the excellent help of my leadership team, we put a system in place whereby our members were trained and developed to connect and care for one another. The more we researched this concept, the more we came to the understanding that it not only meets a crucial needs, but that it's entirely biblical, and should be part of the ongoing ministry of every congregation. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 says, "but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."

Against all the odds, the church grew exponentially within the first year to the point where we had to provide four hundred additional seats in the sanctuary immediately. It is often difficult to get from where we are to where we ought to be if we continually allow the overwhelming demands of a congregation to strangle us. Unless we deliberately take steps to change from the lone-ranger style of pastoring to a shared-pastoring style, we will remain frustrated in our goals and stagnate in our development. When I saw this revelation, it soon became a revolution that positively changed the culture of our church and set us on the highway for becoming pace-setting in our entire region.

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- April 24th: **CQH work day!**
- May 22nd: **Cookie Day @ CQH**
- May 1st: **USFW Spring Fling**
- **Summer Camps @ CQH:**
 - June 11-13 Little Fry**
 - June 13-17 Jr. High**
 - June 18-23 Sr. High**
 - June 24-27 Elementary**
- **FUM Virtual Triennials:**
 - June 17-19th
- July 29th-31st: **Annual Ministry Conference** of IAYM. To be held at William Penn University in Oskaloosa
- September 10-12th: **Family Camp @ CQH**
- October 1-3: **Man Camp @ CQH**



Jim and Donna Hoeksema are returning to Rift Valley Academy for the 2021-2022 school year.

RVA is a boarding school for the children of missionaries serving in many different African countries. It plays an important role in providing a safe, American education for missionary kids, which frees up their parents to spread the Gospel all over Africa.

We and our three children previously served at RVA for the 1992-1993 and 1995-1999 school years. Donna worked primarily in the elementary and high school libraries. Jim worked as Industrial Arts teacher, and later supervising construction and maintenance. We also helped in many other ways as needs at the school frequently changed. Our exact assignments this time have yet to be determined, but we are looking forward to being used in whatever ways we are able.

In addition to our previous time at RVA, Jim attended RVA as a boy when his parents were Friends United Meeting missionaries at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya 1968-1971. Jim worked for Friends United Meeting from 1980-1982 in Turkana, Kenya, our family spent three months at the Africa Inland Church Missionary College in Eldoret, Kenya in 2009, and Jim and Donna spent five months at Friends Theological College in 2016. In many ways, Kenya feels like a second home. We are grateful that God has given us one more opportunity to serve Him there.

Our plans at this point are to leave Iowa on August 3, 2021 and return late July 2022. We would greatly appreciate your prayers as we undertake this new chapter in our lives. If you would like to be included in our updates throughout the year, please let us know and we will add you to our communication list. Our contact information is below. Once we get to Kenya we will send out new phone numbers.

jimhoeks@netins.net Jim Cell 641-990-9266 Donna Cell 641-990-4866

In Memory



Leah A. Anderson (91)
May 17, 1929—
February 22, 2021

She was born in Glasco, Kansas the daughter of William and Florence Connell Ivey. She married W. Roy Anderson September 27, 1947 at the Bloomington Church parsonage. Leah was a faithful and devoted follower of her Lord and long-time member of Bloomington-Muscatine Friends Church. She participated in Sunday School, choir, helped with VBS and was President of USFW for many years. Leah was preceded in death by her husband, Roy (2015) and one son (Stephen). Left to cherish her memory is her son David (Linda), 8 grandsons and 3 great granddaughters.

This coming August, you are invited on a weekend missions trip. The trip will be two full days of immersion in God's word and God's world in downtown Minneapolis. We will explore the thread of God's heart for the world in Scripture and also get out of our comfort zone to explore and get to know two of the many rich cultures in the Twin Cities.

Here are the details:

What: Engage Global <https://engageglobal.net/>

Time: From 3 pm, Friday, August 20th through 2 pm, Sunday, August 22nd
(travel time not included)

Cost: \$225/participant

Group Size Limit: 10-20

Schedule: Bible sessions, learning about tribal & Muslim peoples, ethnic meals, visiting cultural markets and meeting people from another culture, worship, prayer, and discussion.

The weekend will be fast, but the impact long-term as we seek to explore God's word and experience God's world. The goal of this global Christian training is to be a resource for the church, to help inspire and equip the church in becoming active participants in the global mission God has given us.



If you are interested in joining this mission trip, email Nathan Martin at nathan.martin@omfmail.com.

Yours in Christ, Nathan Martin

Iowa USFWI

Lynnville Friends Church
505 East St. Lynnville, IA

MAY 1, 2021
10:00am – 2:30pm
(9:30am – 10:00am registration)

Zoom option available!

Please contact Charlene
via email address

(see below)

Those attending in person
are encouraged to wear a
mask



2021-2022 Iowa Theme:
"New Beginnings"



Morning
Announcements
Praise & Worship

Message Presented By:
Brianna Martin

Afternoon:
Praise & worship
Sharing Service Projects
Business Meeting
Closing Prayer

Registration: 9:30am Retreat Cost: \$10.00 Registration Deadline: April 26, 2021
If needed, Childcare will be provided

You may mail this form to
Charlene Martin 1071 Ingram Ave Union, IA 50258

Or, email the information to: mcm1005@gmail.com

Church _____ Society: _____

Number attending _____

Names of attendees: _____

(Number & Names of children) _____

Please bring a Sack lunch for your child (children)

Note: You do not have to be a member of USFWI to attend. Money does not have to be paid in advance.
You may pay at the registration table.

Submitted by: _____ Phone Number _____



Please join me in welcoming Rania Maayeh as the incoming Head of School at Ramallah

Friends School. Please pray for her as she prepares to take up this important responsibility. Please find ways to encourage her and support her.

Rania is an education specialist with over twenty years of experience across the fields of higher, secondary, and primary education, in Palestine, Jordan, and the United States. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and a Master of Arts in Education.

As a Palestinian Christian, Rania considers the RFS community to be the place where her spiritual journey and formation began. As a young child, Rania recalls attending Meeting for Worship with her classmates at the school. Through her education and career at RFS, Rania developed a powerful commitment to the school, and a close affinity and spiritual kinship with Quakers. While living in West Chester as a graduate student, the hometown of Quaker and civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, Rania often attended Downingtown Friends Meeting. Additionally, Rania attends Meeting for Worship at the Ramallah Meeting.

Shaped by her proximity to Quaker belief, Rania has come to view education as a calling and a location from which to reimagine the world and disrupt oppressive systems. Furthermore, Rania considers the Friends' testimonies to be a vital aspect of Ramallah Friends School's DNA, integral to propelling students toward academic achievement and spiritual transformation. "This transformation," she notes, "can only be understood as a reflection of God's inner light, which I see as constantly pushing us to strive for a more loving and whole world."

Rania currently works for World Vision, as the Education Lead for Jerusalem, West Bank, and Gaza. She oversees World Vision's programs to improve access to a quality of education for children in Palestine, focusing especially on those living in fragile areas. She has also served as an English instructor and school principal. She comes to Ramallah Friends School upon the recommendations of previous employers, former students, religious leaders, and noted Quakers.

Grace and Peace, Kelly R. Kellum General Secretary

2021 CAMP DATES

JUNE 11-13 - LITTLE FRY CAMP
JUNE 13-17 - MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP
JUNE 18-23 - HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
JUNE 24-27 - ELEMENTARY CAMP

The COVID-19 pandemic affected FUM's work and community on multiple levels. This included the postponement of the combined Triennial Sessions, 2020.

The General Board approved the recommendation to host a virtual Triennial Representative meeting in conjunction with the next General Board meeting, 17-19 June 2021.

The responsibilities of the Triennial Body of Representatives include:

Bringing new Yearly Meetings and Associations into membership Confirming the General Board's appointment of the General Secretary Appointing Triennial and General Board officers Appointing Trustees Approving amendments to FUM's Organization and Procedures Considering new business brought by member Yearly Meetings or Associations

The schedule for the three-day virtual gathering is as follows:

17 June - Celebrating FUM's Global Ministries
18 June - Triennial Business
19 June - General Board Business

The plenary sessions are open to guests and observers who are not appointed Triennial Representatives or General Board members. *We are eager for Friends to join and to learn more about FUM.*