

Iowa Yearly Meeting
Thanksgiving Offering
Jim & Donna Hoeksema
Serving at
Rift Valley Academy
Kijabe, Kenya

Thanks to all of you who are
praying for Jim and Donna
and supporting them.

Send Gifts to:

Dorothy Taylor,
Mission Board Treasurer
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Boone, IA 50036



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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).”**



The Iowa Friend

GIVE THANKS

German theologian and mystic, Meister Eckhart understood the Trinity to be so full of love that it overflowed and emanated from the godhead and resulted in Creation. Then, when sin entered Creation, that same love would motivate our Heavenly Father to embark on a far-reaching rescue mission that would span millennia and include the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus. As Eckhart reflected on this great love and the impact it has had on the world and in his own life he mused, “If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, that will suffice.”

The first time I read Eckhart’s words, I was a young twenty-something Bible college student, and I remember thinking, “how can that possibly be enough?” How could a pithy “thank you” be enough of a response to the incredible love and redemption offered to us by God? But now, years later I have come to understand that Eckhart was not referring to merely uttering a simple phrase, but instead he was alluding to the spiritual posture of gratitude. In Paul’s first letter to the church in Thessalonica, he writes, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ

Jesus.” Paul and Eckhart understood that gratitude is not so much a feeling we get as much as it is a practice we do. Dr. Robert Emmons, scientific expert in gratitude, notes the two parts of gratitude being: 1. Affirming goodness in one’s life. 2. Recognizing the sources of the goodness.

As we approach the season of holy days, moving toward Thanksgiving and Christmas, it is an ideal time to put Paul and Eckhart’s words into practice. Often at this time of year people choose to engage in the spiritual discipline of counting their blessings. It is one of the easier disciplines to engage in. All you need to do is spend a few moments at the end of each day reflecting on something in your life that you are grateful for and offer thanks. Making a list of these blessings can offer an incredible reminder of God’s love and faithfulness to us, especially on the bleaker days of life (of which there seem to be more of these days). This simple exercise can have a profound impact on the way we view our circumstances and interact with others. In a culture that often dwells on what is lacking, we can willingly choose to be people of abundance. And out of the abundance of blessing and love we experience from God, we can offer more of ourselves to those around us who are in great need of

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hope, healing, and love. To embody gratitude is not to deny the sharp edges of life, but instead it is to choose to notice the good, beautiful, and true things that those sharp edges can often distract us from. It is to acknowledge the incredible love of God and His faithful care in our lives.

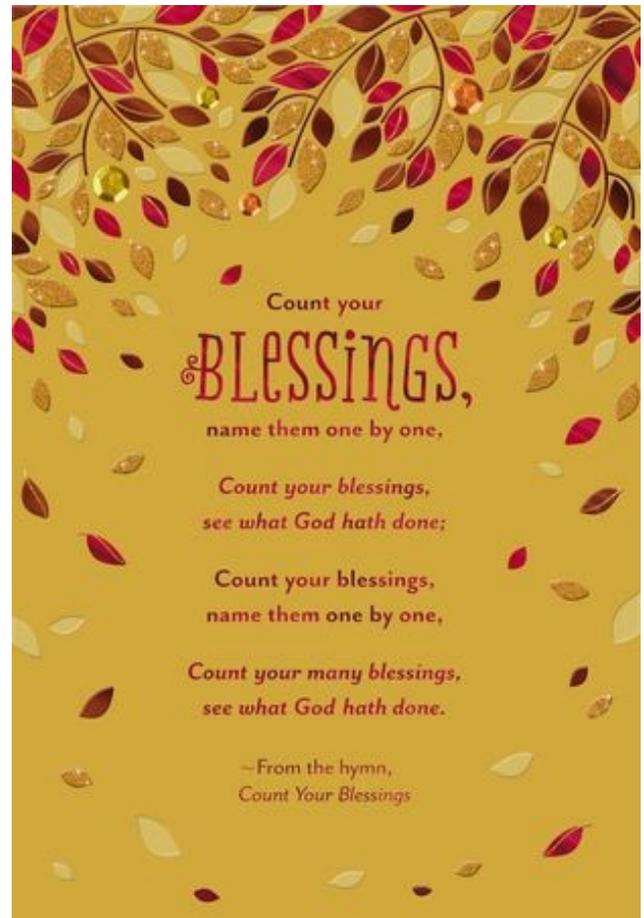
Can you see why Meister Eckhart reasoned that if the only prayer we pray is “thank you,” that it would be enough? Similarly, Roman Philosopher, Cicero believed gratitude to be the greatest of the virtues and the parent of all of the other virtues. Reflection on and gratitude for what God has done and is going in our lives is foundational in our Christian formation. Will you join me in pursuing a genuine posture of gratitude this holy day season?

*Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good;
his love endures forever
(Psalm 107:1)*

—BY MANNY GARCIA,
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT



“EFM’s 2021 Fall Offering, “Pressing Towards the Goal,” is now available! This year’s offering features six missionaries and ministries that are currently underfunded. Our prayer, our belief, is that the Lord will inspire many of you to give a fall offering to close the total underfunded gap of \$109,600 for these faithful workers. This will release them to concentrate on their God-given assignments unencumbered by financial concerns. You can be part of this effort by making a commitment to support them at <https://catalog.friendsmission.com/fall>. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity.”



Year End Gifts for Staff

Our Iowa Yearly Meeting Pastors Association is giving gifts for staff in December. If you would like to contribute—please send your gift to

Wes Blanchard
(treasurer for the Pastors Association).
His address is:
12172 150th Ave., Indianola, IA 50125

Please send your gift before December 16th.

The staff of our Yearly Meeting are:

Manny Garcia—General Superintendent

Mac & Berny McDonald—Mesquakie Friends

Chip & Alicia Daleske—Camp Quaker Heights

Mary Thury—Office Administrator

IAYM Mission Focus—November

Nathan Martin Serving with OMF



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings in Christ to each of you! It has been an exciting season in my world of missions mobilizing. This year I had the joy to be in person at both Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Moody Bible Institute for their fall student mission conferences and Barclay College for Kaleo Academy this summer. I was deeply encouraged by the students I encountered. At Gordon-Conwell, I was struck by international students hungry for bible training to take back to places like Myanmar and Nigeria. The current President, Dr. Sundquist, spoke and shared, "I have been preaching the same message to the church for more than 30 years now: May we make Jesus' last words our first priority." His concern for missions impacts the way the school is seeking creative mission partnerships. Several ongoing conversations have been the fruit of that trip. This year at Moody, I gave a seminar entitled, "Examples of Contextualizing the Gospel in Cambodia." Nearly 70 students joined the session, and it was sandwiched between individual meetings with students from breakfast to late-night coffee for three days straight. Many students were eager to share their stories of God tugging their hearts toward missions and to ask questions about their next steps. One conversation led to a discovery that a young man was considering missions, but was also fighting through a season of questioning his assurance of salvation. It was a



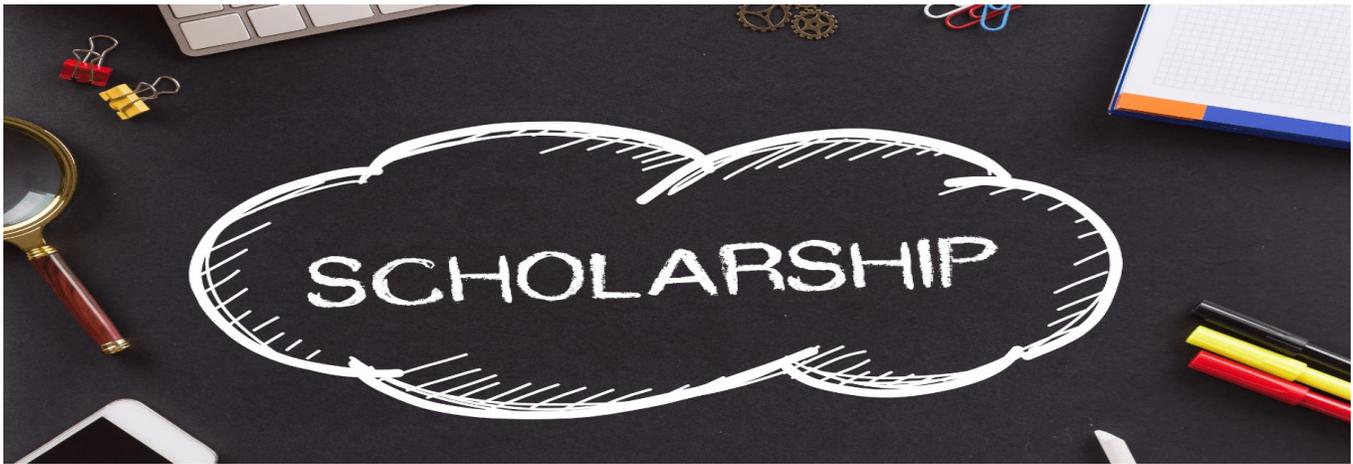
God-ordained moment to be present with him and have a moment to encourage and speak gospel truth to his soul. This past summer at Kaleo Academy at Barclay College, my topic was justice. I shared the broad mission vision "the whole church, reaching the whole world, with the whole gospel" (see lausanne.org, also adopted by efcmaym.org). The students were engaged, and I left encouraged by their seeking hearts.

The truth is that the landscape of global missions looks very different now than it did two years ago. The COVID pandemic has had an undeniable impact on short-term missions. It is much harder to go on a short-term trip when you factor in new health concerns and the quarantines required by many countries. Prior to COVID, short-term mission trips from the US had been growing exponentially, while long-term workers sent from the US had plateaued. Now, short-term trips have come to a near screeching halt, but interestingly, from what I've seen, COVID has not made such a deep impact on those wanting to serve long term. The abiding concern of God's people to be involved in his work in the world does not seem to have waned. Thanks be to God for continuing to stir his church, even while we face uncertain days, and thank you for your ongoing prayers and partnership!

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GAROL M. COOLING passed away on Sept. 24, 2021. Garol Merl Cooling was born on Nov. 13, 1930 along with his twin brother Darol Earl to Eldon and Julia Cooling. He had 11 siblings. They were a very close-knit family. He graduated from Clemons high school in 1949. In school he enjoyed basketball and baseball. His senior year they went to state in baseball where he was a catcher. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corp with his twin brother from Aug. 10, 1951 to Aug. 10, 1953. Most of the residents of LeGrand came to know him for running the Mobil station in town. He opened the station on Memorial Day 1970 and ran it for 32 years. Garol was an active part of LeGrand Friends Church for many years. Garol married Ruth Jackson on Feb. 14, 1964. Between them they had 7 children. Besides his children, there are many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as many friends, who will miss him.



**Iowa United Society of Friends
Women (USFW)**

**William Penn University
Scholarship Fund**

Guidelines

Following are guidelines for the selection of candidates for this scholarship. The Scholarship committee shall consider applications for scholarships and make decisions as to recipients.

1. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by need of the applicant and by funds available.
2. The candidate shall be a participating member of Iowa Yearly Meeting.
3. A candidate from the Yearly Meeting shall have successfully completed secondary education requirements and shall have been accepted by William Penn University.
4. **Applications must be received by January 31st, 2022**
5. To be considered for a scholarship for the succeeding academic year, recipients must submit a request to the committee each year.
6. Scholarships shall only be awarded for a maximum of four (4) academic years.

Kenneth & Betty Palmer Scholarship

The purpose of the Kenneth & Betty Palmer Scholarship Endowment is to assist students who are members of the Friends Church and who are involved in graduate studies (Masters or Doctoral program) in preparation for or furthering their ministry. This includes, but is not necessary limited to, pastoral ministry, missionary service, Christian Education and youth ministry.

A maximum assistance of \$500 per semester shall be granted to an applicant but final determination will be based on funds available and the number of eligible applicants.

Recipients of scholarship assistance shall apply by May 1 for the next school year or four months before courses begin. Continuation of scholarship shall be determined by need and by funds available. The maximum anyone can receive under this scholarship program is \$4,000 or eight semesters, whichever first occurs.

Applications available through the Yearly Meeting Office.

TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now being taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2021-2022 academic school year (January of 2022). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting Office.

**Deadline for this scholarship is
January 31st, 2022
A recipient will be determined at
Spring Body 2022**

**MISSION BOARD'S
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2021-22 academic school year. **People within Iowa Yearly Meeting who want to pursue an education at a Christian college or an accredited college or seminary to prepare for full time mission's work with a Friend's organization** may contact the Mission's Board to receive an application.

For the scholarship, please contact the Yearly Meeting office for more information.

The deadline is 3/1/22