



# The Iowa Friend

*Iowa Yearly Meeting: Spreading Like Prairie Grass to Make the Love of Jesus Christ Known in the Heartland and Beyond*

February 2002

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

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## Spiritual Life

### WORSHIP MOMENTS

John Porter, Superintendent of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, led Sunday worship. John spoke on the topic of baptism, stating that while Friends don't use water in baptism, we believe in the necessity of and practice of baptism by the Holy Spirit. We are changed when we have a living encounter with Jesus in our lives – when we are saturated with His Spirit. A saturated people become a part of Christ's redemptive process. Jesus' presence in us increases in direct proportion to how much we share and care for those in need. If you always do what you always do, you will always get what you always get.

John challenged us to surrender to the covering of the Holy Spirit in the following ways:

- ...that the light of Christ would shine through our lives
- ...that we would be good listeners to those we encounter
- ...that we would be loving toward all people
- ...that we would be passionate about learning & teaching others
- ...that our business would be as led by the Spirit as our meeting for worship
- ...that our lives would reflect laughter and joy

– General Board Meeting, October 14, 2001



Miriam McDonald pictured with Ben Richmond and new World Ministries Director, Dennis Mills (right).

## PUPPETS & FRIENDS

- Fairfield Friends Church

Puppets & Friends began practicing on October 3, 2001 and has already been very successful. Puppets & Friends performs during the children's sermon one Sunday each month. P&F has also had several outreach performances.



In October, P&F visited Sunnybrook Assisted Living Home in Fairfield and performed for the residents. In November P&F was invited to perform during an evening church service at a local trailer park. P&F spent December practicing their part of the Christmas program. For January, P&F is planning an evening program for the community to be held at Fairfield Friends Church.

Even with only four months of practice, the puppeteers have grown in confidence and excitement. Approximately ten area youth are involved, ranging in age from sixth through twelfth grade. The youth involved are: Brad Hesseltine, Ashley Cox, Kim Lacey, Paul Swafford, Amy Watts, Chris Cox, Emily Mills, Derek Hayes, Michael Smith and Branden Schombert. The church body has been very supportive of P&F and several adults have volunteered their time: Dwight & Robin Schombert, Jeff Nieuwsma, Bob Hayes, and youth pastor Rich Moore. P&F would like to thank all of those who have supported us in so many ways!

**P&F is always looking for ministry opportunities. If you are interested in having P&F perform, please call Jen Clendineng, the director, at (641)-469-3321 or email her at [jenclen13@hotmail.com](mailto:jenclen13@hotmail.com). You can also call Fairfield Friends Church at (641)-472-2623 and speak with the youth pastor, Rich Moore.**

## FRIENDLY FLASHES

I hope you are having a wonderful winter. I finally had the chance to build the snowman that I have been wishing for. Yes, I love snow! I decided to use this article to touch on several items of new business and hope you will find the information helpful.

The concern most often on my mind these days is how to fill 4 positions on your U.S.F.W. Executive Board. Currently the position of Friendly Flashes Editor has been vacant since August 2001. Margaret Good is attempting to keep articles coming in to the Iowa Friend. We appreciate her commitment of time to this responsibility. However, the whole Board would love to have someone come forward and take on this job. As my term ends in August Margaret Good will become the new President leaving a vacancy in the Vice-President's spot. This is a commitment of serving two years as Vice-President and two years as President. The 3 Board positions that come up on a regular rotation are: Secretary of Literature; Secretary of Peace and Christian Social Concerns; and Secretary of Christian Service. Geraldine Smith has agreed to serve another 3-year term in the Christian Service position. The other two positions are both 3-year terms beginning in August. We truly appreciate Delores Jones and Sherry Kernan who have filled these positions faithfully. If you have an interest in any of these jobs or know of someone we could contact, please let us know. Each Secretary is vital to the work we do.

A decision made by the Board at our Fall meeting is exciting to all of the Board members. To encourage women to attend a conference who have never attended one before, we are sending each society one "Guest Ticket". Use this ticket to invite a woman to attend our Spring Conference on April 6, 2002. Her expenses for meal and registration will be picked up by the Board. If you cannot seem to find anyone willing to attend then please return the ticket to the Board. New societies like Riverside's Friendly Women will be receiving 3 complementary tickets for their use. We are hoping this will be a great encouragement to our new fledgling societies.

Another very important matter was brought to my attention recently. Edith Ratcliff has shared with us a financial need for personal support income. She relies mainly on those who have felt God call them to the ministry of giving towards Edith's support. Much of what Edith receives she shares with her people there. It makes her very uncomfortable to ask for monetary help, so I am sharing the concern with each of you. As God lays her needs on your heart would you be faithful to send to FUM whatever you can? Edith will be a trustworthy steward of everything God gives her. Thank you for taking time to pray about this concern.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Lynnville on Saturday, April 6, 2002, for our fantastic Spring Conference. I have been in communication with Joanna Weaver and she is most excited about the time she will be spending with us. Joanna is the author of the book, "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World". Pick up a copy, snuggle down in a comfy chair, and read these long winter nights away. Be in prayer for this very special conference and about whom your society should invite as a first time guest. We would love to see lots of new faces in April! Until then—Spring is just around the corner! Love to all of you,

- Pat Coffin, President



## Missions

One opportunity for you to share in your giving to the Lord is to the Friends Theological College (FTC) in Kaimosi, Kenya. Present directors are Rich and Sandy Davis. This seminary for Friends pastors has a long history of producing quality people who love the Lord and want to share Him to others.

In the past year some physical upgrading of the college has been going on. The classroom building was remodeled to accommodate current needs but plans for an expansion are needed in the near future. The administration building is being more effectively used now as offices for tutors, accounts clerk, secretary, and President, and the basement is being used as a classroom for the one year certificate students. The dining hall was expanded and now has a new modern kitchen, indoor wood-saving stoves, and larger seating area. This was done mostly through USFW Kenyan and American women and is dedicated to them.

Improvements in existing staff housing has been an ongoing process. One new family staff house is near completion. The girls are currently housed in a staff house, so a new girls dorm has just begun to take shape near the dining hall. It should be done by May. Someday better men's dormitories will also be needed but improvements are being made on what already exist such as reroofing, built-in desk and storage areas, and painting.

The library at FTC has grown over the years into one of the most respected around. They have built new shelves, circulation desk, return book trolley, and added a library computer program, standing maps, and some resource books. To accommodate these changes and increased usage an additional 35 feet have been added to the south end. January 9 was the goal of completion and rearranging, (when the next term of classes began).

Four full-time tutors with degrees are spiritually and academically capable to lead the 42 students. Elizabeth Yano has been assigned the Dean of Students and Supervisor of Campus Ministries beginning in January 2002.

To realistically supply the need for pastors in Kenya, the enrollment at FTC should remain at about 50 students. More graduates would become a discouragement when they are not given paid positions. It will be another 10-20 years before this group is considered the elders and can influence church business enough to pay pastors and respect their education. Currently 15 graduates a year can be absorbed, but 35 would become discouraging and decrease the number applying in the future.

A huge prayer request by the Davis' is for all of us to be praying for someone to be led to be their successors at FTC. Rich and Sandy are returning to the U.S. and a replacement is needed by August 2002. Your gifts to continue the evangelical spread of Christ's love through FTC can be sent to **Robert Watson, Treasurer, Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board, 803 Minnesota St., Glidden, Iowa 51443. Please be sure to designate where you want your funds funneled along with your checks.**

- by Donna Hoeksema, Missions Committee

# EXTENDING THE CHURCH

## GETTING UNCOMFORTABLE

Do you long to be uncomfortable? Probably not. But there are reasons why you should. Consider this: the state of being uncomfortable almost always brings about movement. And almost all of us need to be moved. This is true of individuals and organizations alike. Surely much of the movement and change we are seeing in our Yearly Meeting began when individuals began to feel uncomfortable with the status quo. It's even possible they began to feel uncomfortable with how comfortable things had become. And so some squirming began. And out of this discomfort new ideas emerged. Change was considered. Is it important to make people feel comfortable in our churches? Can we accept people and make them feel loved while at the same time making them uncomfortable? I get uncomfortable around truly holy people. One wonderful man in particular always seems to reach right through my comfort zone and disturb me. But I'm convinced it's a good thing. Maybe the best thing. Because he makes me want to move. He makes me aware of my need to change. And I need to change.

- Seth Roe, Quaker Haven Administrator

## A Valentine Prayer



- Gertrude Rudberg

*O Lord, I ask before I start,  
As Valentine's comes round,  
That I may find within my heart  
Its meaning deep, profound.*

*I ask Thee, Lord, that I may find  
Some place where there is need,  
Where I can be a little kind  
And plant a friendly seed.*

*I ask Thee, Lord, that I might give  
A little bit of love  
To those I've felt I can't forgive  
As Thou dost from above.*

*I ask Thee, Lord, to be my guide,  
Grant patience, courage too  
That I may e'er with Thee abide  
In all I try to do.*



# MEETING MOMENTS

**Newsletter breaks down fence** - In recent years, Honey Creek New Providence Friends Church has greeted you each month with a newsletter called YOUR FRIENDS NEXT DOOR. It has informed neighbors and members of church activities and opportunities for fellowship.

There has been some feeling that the name YOUR FRIENDS NEXT DOOR gave the impression that we are somehow separated by a "fence" or "yard." Friends desire to welcome all into fellowship, rather than remaining "next door."

With this in mind, the name of our newsletter is being changed to: FRIEND TO FRIEND, and will incorporate the notice that ALL are welcome to participate in worship, service projects, and fellowship activities at Honey Creek New Providence Friends Church.

Whenever you read of an event that sounds meaningful to you, please feel free to participate.

*"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

-Matthew 5:16

**Cuba, Kenya, Nigeria, Jamaica, Mexico** - For our size, College Avenue Friends must be one of the most active churches around! Erwin Lopez and his daughter, Lindsey Berg, just returned from an FUM mission trip to Cuba. Along with the physical work and the interaction with Cuban Quakers, they delivered medicines donated by CAF, attended church, and spent a busy two weeks there. Erwin was the team leader this year.

Margaret Stoltzfus and Kevin Mortimer will be traveling to Kenya this summer for the Triennials; Bethany Blake is part of a missionary group going to Nigeria; Jennifer Stam is traveling with an FUM mission to Jamaica. One of their projects is building a chicken coop! Please don't raise your eyebrows! That chicken coop is a business project for the girl school where they earn some of their necessary income by selling chickens and eggs; Tony Gray, III's trip to Mexico is not a Quaker project, but he is part of a Christian group who will be building housing for the needy.

Not all of CAF's energies have to do with foreign missions. Our USFW women are busy with a variety of local projects. They are providing evening meals for a family who recently adopted triplets! Instead of the traditional bingo party at a care center, they will have individual sit-down visits with each person and hand deliver home baked goodies. They are also working with Church Women United on a local outreach. We are responsible for all the necessities of two bathrooms - from toilet paper to shampoo and towels!

An ambitious fix-up, spruce-up plan for our Meeting House is also underway. Many improvements are on our agenda, and everyone is involved. Even our youngest Sunday School kids are selling their art work to buy new faucets for the kitchen. Stop by and see how we are doing!



## RETIRED MINISTERS SAY THANKS!

The faithfulness of your giving has again brought great joy to our Retired Ministers & Missionaries. During this past year, \$ 2,929.00 was collected from Iowa Yearly Meeting Friends to help with the annual disbursement to our retired ministers & missionaries. Here is what some of them had to say:

"A BIG 'Thank You' for the check to help with our medical expenses. Last year it took over 4 months of our social security checks. Our prayers are with everyone in Iowa Yearly Meeting. Thanks again and may God's blessing rest upon His work in IAYM."

"Thank you again for the check to go toward our health insurance. It seems as though everything keeps going up, therefore we really appreciate your help."

"Thank you again this year for your wonderful help. IAYM is very dear to me – I have so many wonderful memories. God bless you, each and every one."

Every year a disbursement is made to qualifying Ministers & Missionaries to help them with their medical insurance. IAYM Ministry & Counsel and Iowa Yearly Meeting want to thank all of you who graciously gave to this very important ministry.

## TURKANA FRIENDS

Receive greetings in the Holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ. On behalf of myself and that of entire congregation would like to express our sincere thanks for your great support to us and our ministry in Turkana.

Your prayers and generous financial assistance have made a great impact on our projects, programs and indeed on our pastorlist community.

It is my sincere hope that you will continue to support us even in future programs.

May the almighty God continue to uplift you and reward you mightly for the tremendous work you are doing in His vineyard.

Thanks again for accepting to be spent by our Lord for a good cause that helps to build your heavenly house.

*Herman Jaika Otioko, Missionary  
Turkana Friends Mission*



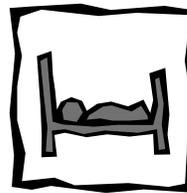
## Camp Quaker Heights

### EVERYONE CAN HAVE A PART!

Would your family, your Sunday School class, or youth group like to have a project that would contribute to the Building For The Future of Camp Quaker Heights? How about one of your adult groups working together on a project to provide mattresses or heating and cooling units for the new cabins?

Could your Sunday School class raise \$80 for one mattress? Each new cabin has eighteen beds, including those for two counselors. That adds up to \$720 per room or \$1,440 per

cabin, for comfortable, extra-long, innerspring mattresses. This spring, the three newest cabins will need mattresses.



Or would you like another challenge? Each cabin will be comfortable in hot or cold weather with a combination

air conditioner/heater unit built into the wall of each of the two rooms. Each cabin AC/Heater unit costs \$650. Would your group like to set one unit as their goal?

The four completed cabins, and one to be built this spring, are designed for refreshing sleep and comfort for youth, adults, and families. They are spacious and light. With heat and air-conditioning, they will provide lodging for campers during additional months each year.

I would like to add a personal note that reminds me of group projects. When I was in seventh grade, a boy in our youth group was killed in a collision between his bicycle and a car. At the time of the tragedy, our congregation was in the process of building a new church. Someone in our youth group suggested that we kids might raise the money to purchase one window in the fellowship hall in memory of our friend, Robert. We worked together and achieved our goal. Now, more than fifty years later, whenever I return to my home town in Illinois, I go into the fellowship hall just to pause at Robert's window and to reflect on our friendship and the fact that I had a part in that project.

Once your group has raised funds for one or more mattresses, or perhaps an AC/Heater unit, members of your Meeting may reflect and thank God for the comfort you helped provide.

Send funds to the Camp Quaker Heights Treasurer, Wes Blanchard, and indicate that they are for your particular project.

- submitted by Evelyn Cook



# GIVING EXCEEDS GOAL!

PRAISE THE LORD!! PRAISE THE LORD!!

PRAISE THE LORD!!

Some Times we take little steps, and sometimes we take BIG steps of faith.

Last year the Mission Board felt that we the churches of Iowa Yearly Meeting (together) had a bigger missions program than we were reflecting through the Year Meeting Mission Board. We opened up the program to include ALL mission outreach programs which you (each church & individuals) were contributing to. And encouraged you to channel your giving through the Mission Board Treasurer. And having him, forward your giving onward to the designation of your choice.

I would like to share with you a comparative of **Your giving** for the two years:

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
Budgeted Programs	\$ 25,071	\$ 16,168	\$ 8,390
Special Designations	16, 926	10,168	6,758
General	4,172	1,702	2,470
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 46,169</b>	<b>\$ 28,551</b>	<b>\$ 17,618</b>

An increase of \$ 17,618 is a big increase. **A REAL "PRAISE THE Lord" increase.** To the churches and individuals that participated, the credit is **ALL YOURS.**

We believe that an even **GREATER** increase is possible for 2002 as more churches and individuals participate in sending their mission giving to the Mission Board to be forwarded per your designation.

I believe that we all gain strength and encouragement from the collective actions of each other. Send your **MISSION GIVING** to the Mission Board to see what we can do for the Lord together in 2002.

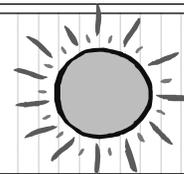
- Bob Watson, IAYM Mission Board Treasurer



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## LOS AMIGOS CUBA



Erwin Lopez, Lindsey Berg, Phil King, Paul Hemingway and Jon Hemingway visit Maulio Ajo and his wife, Clara, while they were on a missions trip to Cuba, January 25th - February 8th.

Two wonderful weeks of working and worshipping with our Cuban hermanos (brothers & sisters) has helped bring the love of Christ into the hearts of many Friends. It was a sharing experience for both the Cubans and us, five Iowa Friends who prospered from the love that we felt from our Cuban hosts.

This was my third work trip to Cuba and it emphasized to me that the Cubans are looking for more than labor and sweat. They want us to share the message of Jesus Christ with them and to help lead them in sharing that love with their fellow Cubans.

We were challenged to build a bridge between the Iowa Yearly Meeting and the Cuba Yearly Meeting. A bridge that has been started with Iowans participating in Cuba work teams and strengthened by the message that Cuban Pastor, Maulio Ajo brought to Iowa last summer. We need to rebuild the bridge that was started 100 years ago by Zenas and Susie Martin and Sylvester and May Jones when they left Iowa and traveled to Cuba to begin the Friends' mission there.

You can help build that bridge by helping the Cuba Yearly Meeting with their family camp August 3 – 12, 2002. It will be held in Gibara, a beautiful coastal town that is the headquarters of the Cuba Yearly Meeting. They would like at least two Iowans to participate. Think about it!!

*"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life."*  
Luke 18:18, 29-30

- Paul Hemingway, West Branch Friends

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## VITAL SIGNS

### DEATHS

**Cecile M. Landerman Coffin**, 93, died January 13, 2002 at Jefferson County Hospital Long Term Care. The funeral was January 16 at Fairfield Friends Church with Dave Elmore and Ron Bryan officiating. Cecile was a faithful member of Pleasant Plain Meeting and attended Fairfield Friends in later years. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

**Harold Byers**, 93, longtime member of Hesper Friends Meeting, died Sunday, January 13, 2002 at the Bear Creek Car and Rehabilitation Center in Rochester, MN. Funeral services were held January 16 at Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester with pastors Bruce Buller and Christ United Methodist and Keith Mardock of Hesper Friends officiating. Burial was in the Spring Valley Cemetery at Spring Valley, MN. Harold was preceded in death by his wife, Grace Street Byers. He is survived by nieces and nephews and many friends.



*Ron and Joyce Bryan prepare the work team to go to Jamaica.*

Spring Body of Representatives  
CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS  
MARCH 16, 2002 - 9:00 A.M.

## Youth Group Revelations



We just got completed a 2-week study on Revelation. Revelation is a difficult book to understand, especially because there are so many events that take place. This was an interesting topic to most of the kids as we discussed the Rapture and The Tribulation. Many questions were asked about what will happen and when. Since the actual timing of the events is somewhat controversial we discussed the possible order of events. This was a scary subject for a lot of the kids because many of their friends are not saved. Because the day or hour is not known, we encouraged everyone to witness to someone that doesn't know the Lord, as if we only had days left here on earth.

The greatest thing that happened is one of the young people was taken by this subject and asked Jesus into his heart that night. He said he had always pushed it aside and said I'll make the decision later, but since we don't know how much time we have left, he wasn't waiting any longer.

Praise the Lord! We have So enjoyed Youth Group this year. The young people have blessed us beyond anything we could have ever imagined.

- Joel & Tasha Schnell, Lynnville Friends Church

Dear Friends,

My apologies to those of you who sent articles, pictures, emails or other important information that I lost! Shortly after Christmas, my computer crashed (again!) and therefore many of my important documents vanished.



I'm back on track, and pray that it will be smooth sailing. Please call or write if I've failed to return a call or publish an important document or report. Thanks for your love and patience!

- Daneta -

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