

The Iowa Friend

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

April 2003

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 58 - No. 4

Q 350 Years of Quakerism Now What?

More Than Protesters

By Keith Mardock, Pastor - Hesper Friends

One of D. Elton Trueblood's most quoted Scripture passages was I Peter 3:15b-16a, "Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence."

When someone hears that you are a "Friend," do you feel a need to try to explain to them what a "Friend" is. Are you ready to give them an account of your faith, hope, love and trust? Where should we begin, to explain who we are and what is important and distinctive about Friends?

Since many people don't know anything about Friends, we may ask, "You have heard of Quakers, haven't you? Then they may think, "Oh you are one of those peculiar people who lived a longtime ago, like the man on the Quaker Oats box. Other people are amazed that Quakers have been in existence for more than 350 years.

I am very proud to be a part of our 350 year heritage. The first thing I want people to understand about my faith as a Quaker is that we are members of the Church, the Body of Christ in the world today. We are not some vague fringe group that rejects and protests against the essential doctrines of the Church.

My concern, is what we understand and believe is the essence of being a Quaker or a Friend or a Christian. The terms are synonymous. We need to recognize all that we hold in common with all believers and followers of Christ Jesus, rather than our differences. Friends seek to embody Jesus' teaching and commands into our daily lives, as George Fox did. At a young age, George Fox took the Scriptures very seriously, he determined if the Bible says our Yea must be Yea, and our Nay, it means that we must always speak the truth. George Fox was perplexed when the actions of some men were inconsistent with the Christian faith they professed. At 19 years of age he went in search of a faith which would really show itself in the lives of those who professed it. After consulting various preachers and priests, for three years, he would write: "And when all my hopes in them and in all men were gone, so that I had nothing outwardly to help me, nor could I tell what to do; then, Oh then I heard a voice which said, 'There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition;' and when I heard it my heart did leap for joy." This fresh realization of the saving power of Christ came to George Fox.

He and his followers did not set out to reform the Church, they

sought to revive primitive Christianity. But those in established churches were suspicious of the "Children of the Light," as they called themselves at first. While on his way too a meeting in Nottingham, George Fox felt inspired to go testify in a certain church. The minister was delivering a sermon in which he explained that "the sure word of prophesy was the Scriptures, by which the people must try all doctrines..." George Fox cried out, "Oh no, it is not the Scriptures!" He explained, the Holy Spirit which inspired the Scriptures, was the one sure guide to truth. He was taken away and shut up in prison.

Near the time George Fox was to be released, the Commonwealth needed soldiers to resist its enemies who were arming in support of Charles Stuart's claim to his father's throne. Fox was offered a captaincy in the army, in recognition of his leadership qualities. But he replied, that he "lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars."

I cannot think of a better way of defining who Friends are. Living in the virtue of that life and power, (of the Gospel) is not just the basis of our "peace testimony," it is the basis of Friends every day life. We seek to live continually in communion with God and our community. Our faith is received through Jesus' baptism of the Holy Spirit, which John foretold. We believe the Holy Spirit guides us to understand the Scriptures and reveals God's will and direction to each of us. We trust that God's will can be known and followed by individuals and communities. All Friends are called to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, but each one of us must follow our own leading.

Friends understand, we are called to live faithfully, according to Jesus' teaching and example. We take his words, spoken to his disciples, literally: "You are my friends if you do what I command you...I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father."

MINISTRY CONFERENCE

August 6-9, 2003

THEME: "Committed & Unashamed"

Guest Speaker: Randy Quate

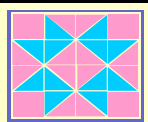
Children's Yearly Meeting Theme:

Committed

Unashamed &

Really

Excited



Friendly Flashes

"It is finished" ...John 19:30

Aren't these words a great relief? Let's face it, most of our tasks have no end. They must be repeated daily or weekly. Our lives are filled with necessary jobs, and we sometimes put off the things that enrich us. As a result we end up tired, overwhelmed, feeling that we have nothing left to give. That is why Jesus took time away from ministry to renew His spirit.

I hope a number of you will join us at Middle River for the USFW Spring Conference. The board puts a lot of time and effort into planning our spring and fall meetings. These meetings are planned to come together and strengthen one another. They are times of renewal for our spirits.

At the end of the day, the board can say – "it is finished." However, then we start planning for the next event, so it isn't really finished.

As I write this, a group from our church is nearing the end of Companions in Christ. We have enjoyed the small group experience so much that another bible study is being planned. These small group experiences are a great way of bonding and supporting one another on the journey. So again, we are not really finished.

I have a number of U.F.O.'s at my house (Un-Finished Objects). One of them is nearing completion--a quilt my daughter pieced as a gift for my mother. It has been in the quilt frame for over two years and now the quilting is within days of being completed. However, another top is waiting to go into the frame. Again, I am not really finished quilting.

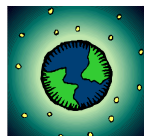
Whether it is our U.S.F.W. meetings, bible study, quilting, scrap booking, gardening or going on walks; these things are never really finished, but they are a necessary part of our journey. We can not become all that God wants us to be if we do not take time to renew our spirits and reconnect with our heavenly Father. It doesn't matter if we finish our tasks, because the most important thing was finished on the cross. He took into himself every sin of humanity. "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, said, I Thirst"....So when Jesus had received the sour wine, he said "It is finished" and bowing HIS head, He gave up His spirit" John 19:28,30.

The work necessary for our salvation IS COMPLETE! Jesus did it for us, once and for all. Isn't that a great relief? A joy worth celebrating, worth sharing with other women who have not yet heard that it is truly finished.

Happy Easter!
Linda Burnett



REMINDER
**Please send your \$60 bus
fare for spring body
to the office by April 10th!**



Cuba Ministry Team August 2003

The Board on Missions and the Cuba Task Group, "Cadena de Amigos" are sponsoring a short term mission trip to Cuba, August 1-8. We believe God is calling IAYM members to make connections and relationships with members of Cuba Yearly Meeting. What better way to re-establish ties as yearly meetings than to meet one another at their Family Camp. Those traveling with this group will be helping to provide a program for children 5- 10 years old. We hope both youth and adults will consider this opportunity for serving our God and Iowa Yearly Meeting. See the application form below.

Registration Deadline: April 30, 2003

Group departure will be from Iowa. A non-refundable registration fee of \$250 is to be included with this form. The total cost of the trip is estimated at \$1,275. This figure represents all costs except personal spending money from the point of group departure. Participants age 14 and under must be accompanied by a parent. Participants between the ages of 15-17 must arrange for one adult member of the team to be their sponsor during the trip. **Please fill out the form below and mail it to Phil King, 1102 Kester Rd, Marshalltown, IA 50158 with your deposit.** Please read the disclaimer included on the bottom of this form. Return passport information with your registration and deposit. Please list any short-term mission trips you have participated in previously:

Registration for Cuba Ministry Team: August 1-8, 2003, \$250 non-refundable deposit required Deadline-April 30,2003
(be sure to list your name as it appears on your passport)

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Church: _____

Person to contact in case of emergency:

Name: _____

Address & _____

Phone: _____

If you have any physical/dietary limitations that need special attention, please attach a letter of explanation.

Direct any questions to:

Phil King,

641-753-7367, 641-485-5202 or email: pking55@hotmail.com

OR

Erwin Lopez, 641-673-4744, e-mail: e_lopez33@yahoo.com

Iowa Yearly Meeting Disclaimer

Iowa Yearly Meeting does not assume any responsibility for the loss of any personal items, passport or other official papers, the failure to acquire a visa, or for any illnesses or injuries during the trip. Willingness to participate in this trip indicates your acceptance of these terms and agreement by either you or your parent or guardian, (if you are under the age of 18), to hold harmless Iowa Yearly Meeting, its employees, board members, agents or successors for any and all liability or claims, demands, rights, causes of action, whether known or unknown, being brought by you or by your heirs, beneficiaries, or executors. Iowa Yearly Meeting does not accept responsibility for disruptions caused by actions or negligence on the part of airlines or other common carriers, or by actions or omissions of government officials or an other cause beyond the control of Iowa Yearly Meeting.



People are People

- by Dale Dorrell, M&C Co-Clerk

"The problem with the Church is there's people in it."

The ironic truth of this statement was not lost on me. Although I have long since forgotten what the response was too, I got the point my General Superintendent was trying to make. People are the Church. People are the business of the church. People are people. We have different viewpoints, different personalities, different understandings, and different experiences upon which we base our values. We are human and we have conflict. We may cringe at the word, we may cringe at the thought, but conflict is a reality of life together. That conflict within the Church is not something new is obvious in the letters that Paul wrote to the early churches. Healthy conflict, creative discussion can actually be a sign that a church is alive and changing to meet the needs of the congregation and the community.

Friends believe in the ministry of all believers. We are not all endowed with the same gifts, but the Spirit of God informs and empowers us to use our gifts for the good of the faith community. The word of God may come through anyone, young or old, female or male, rich or poor, educated or not, so it is important that we all learn to listen, openly and respectfully to one another. Then together, we listen for God's word for us. In a society obsessed with power and speed it is not always easy for us to take the time and patience necessary to work through conflict, to move forward together in the work of God. Sometimes I wonder if God is not more concerned about how we treat one another in the process as with the decisions we make.

The Ministry and Counsel of the local Meeting is the body charged with the general care of the spiritual welfare of the Meeting members. Often referred to as elders, not because of age, but because of the need for spiritual maturity, one of the most important tasks of the Monthly Meeting is selection of this committee. It is important that these members be sound in their own spiritual lives. It is also important that these elders be open listeners, to know the people, to be in touch with the needs of the congregation, to be able to discern the direction of God's leading. This is important in the work of assisting members to grow and mature in faith. But our ministry moves beyond our own congregation, and in listening we may ascertain the gifts that God is calling the congregation to use in ministry in the community and in the world.

Maturity in leadership is important so that we neither run from the inevitable tensions and conflicts that are a part of living together, nor become embroiled in them. Indeed, we may find that as we listen with love and respect to one another even in the midst of these seemingly discordant voices that God is showing us opportunity for ministry to our own members and moving us toward new and exciting ministries together.

I do not know much about sailing, but I do know that a sailboat must have both a sail and a rudder. The point at which these meet is a place of much stress and tension. Without either, the sailboat cannot function, but that point of tension must be strong. For us that strength comes not in our own self, but in our faith in God.



Friends United Meeting

Friends United Meeting Minute on War on Iraq

At its February 16, 2003 meeting in Richmond, Indiana, the General Board of Friends United Meeting adopted the following formal minute on the war on Iraq:

Friends United Meeting Minute on War on Iraq

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

- Romans 12:21 KJV

"Let us then try what Love will do."

- William Penn

The government of the United States proposes to protect democracy by means of preemptive violence against the people of Iraq. Friends United Meeting calls its members - and all who know the love of God - to deny the possibility of a "just," "necessary," or "holy" war.

We believe there is another way to address issues of injustice and oppression because the root causes of injustice and oppression, such as greed, thirst for power and lack of mercy, cannot be solved through violence. We must examine our own entanglements in these roots.

Jesus shows us the way of service, humility, and non-violent intervention - substituting courageous acts of compassion for domination. The teachings of Jesus are clear: Feed the hungry, heal the sick, take care of children, love each other, forgive each other, return good for evil. In His life, His death, and His resurrection, we can see a way through our fears which is not the world's way.

The citizens of the United States continue in turmoil, affected by messages of fear and terror from all directions; we pray that they do not succumb to the temptation of believing in the security promised by military might and action. Only a false security comes through armies or weapons or creating fear - thereby hatred - in others. We recognize that following Christ's way carries risk. Yet, our experience of life under God's power keeps us on this path of love and compassion. We know that there is not - and never has been in this world - any safety except the safety that is found in hearts that have been touched and tendered by the Holy Spirit.

Friends United Meeting says to the governments and peoples of the United States, Iraq, and all the world once again, "The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world." (Declaration from Quakers to King Charles II, 1660)

- Approved by FUM General Board on February 16, 2003.

CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS



Friends United Meeting VBS Mission Project for summer 2003 is to raise funds for 2 classrooms to be built onto the Cuba Yearly Meeting facility for children's education. Please encourage your VBS planners to support this project.

- IAYM Board on Missions

RECIPES WANTED



Wanted:
Recipes for a
Quaker Cookbook

Quaker Life and Friends United Press are joining together to publish a new cookbook,

"Plain and Plenty: A Quaker Cookbook"

The core of the book is taken from a Quaker Life column written by Avis Rees in the 1980s. Included in each column was 1 or 2 recipes from a local meeting/church, a picture of the meetinghouse and a short history of the congregation. Guidelines for other meetings to contribute to this new cookbook are:

1 long or 2 short recipes, especially focusing on more healthy guidelines;

a picture or photo of the meetinghouse which will be returned;

a short history of the meeting of no more than 200 words.

Also wanted are short quotations by Quakers that could be inserted as fillers throughout the cookbook.

Send contributions to:
Quaker Life, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374.

For more information, contact Trish Edwards-Konic at (765) 962-7573 or email: quakerlife@fum.org.
Deadline for all contributions is June, 2003.

It is amazing that when Jesus faced a world fallen from the glory of God, He not only knew that the answer they needed was the good news of the Kingdom, but also believed that the earthling disciples, despite their weaknesses and even failures, could be agents of the great restoration news of the Kingdom of God. He trusted them and committed them to take over the work from Him and to do it effectively. By this act Jesus, the Son of the living God affirmed God's love for men (sic) and His ability to transform men and women from self centered evil to effective carriers of the gospel. Because of Jesus, Christians have the capacity in Christ to make a significant contribution. Most humanitarian organizations depend on human ability and wisdom, but Christians depend on the strength the God gives.





MEETING MOMENTS

EARLHAM – We are continuing to make improvements to our church property. The parsonage has a new furnace and air conditioning. Thanks to a generous gift given in memory of Powers and Nora Inman our church is air conditioned. Our sound system has been replaced and upgraded. The kitchen has been remodeled and an exhaust system installed over the stoves. This year we will upgrade our kitchen appliances and hope to make our restrooms more handi-cap accessible.

We have said good-bye to dear friends, Forest Smith, Emma Schlerffarth and Carol Thomas. Emma and Carol were able to attend a special Mother's Day service with their families, where they received recognition for their years of witness to the community. Esther Compton, Rich Tomlinson, Alfred Dunmire and Tim Maas who lived away from our meeting, but maintained a connection, also went home to the Lord.

Our young families have us welcoming more and more babies – four in the past two years. We also welcomed seven new members into fellowship.

We continue to join with Bear Creek for Easter services and other special occasions. This year we joined with the Methodist Church to go Caroling and in the Spiritual Formation Study, 'Companions in Christ' from Upper Room Ministries.



From left; Angie Wetrich, Rachel Reynolds, Linda Burnett, Dan Wetrich and Ann Dye sing 'A Christian Home' celebrating Angie and Dan's recommitment of their wedding vows.

On February 14th, braving ice, sleet and snow, we joined together to hold Dan and Angie Wetrich in the Light as they renewed their marriage vows and rededicated themselves to the Lord. This was done in the manner of early Quakers – with the addition of a closing hymn a 'A Christian Home'.

We remain busy, under the Lord's guiding hand. We feel His presence in our quiet time and see Him at work in our meeting. We ask your continued prayers, that we hear His voice and see the path He would have us follow.

MOTOR – Following the September 8th morning worship service, a farewell dinner was held in honor of Lucille Rogers and her family. Lucille had been an active and faithful participant in the Motor congregation for many years. She has moved to Derby, Kansas where she will make her home

with her daughter, Sheryl.

Erwin and Ardith Cook's children and spouses hosted an open house at the church on September 15th in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. The Cooks pastored at Motor for several years prior to assuming the pastorate at Smyrna where they have served the past seventeen years.

Gabrielle McCoy, daughter of Tim and Kathy McCoy, was dedicated on September 22nd during worship service. On October 6, a dedication service was held for our new shelter house. This is a memorial to Dale and Dorothy McGraw, and was built by their grandsons.

Our pastor, Keith Smith, participated in the Thanksgiving services held in Milo on November 24. Our morning worship on that day was devoted to a time of sharing in the Spirit of Thanksgiving by various members of the congregation. Keith and Nancy hosted the congregation by serving a delicious meal following the morning service on December 15. This kind gesture has been an annual custom with Keith and Nancy – one that we all enjoy!

During the Christmas season, the annual Christmas program was held during the Sunday School hour on December 22nd. On Christmas Eve, Pastor Keith led the congregation in a time of meditation followed by a candlelight service.

WEST BRANCH - The annual meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) met in Washington D.C., November 1, 2002. Pat Minor-Nidey was our representative. The theme was; "Speaking Truth to Power; Voices for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation." She reported upon her return, "It was an exhilarating experience. There was a wide variety of profound speakers including the FCNL Executive Secretary; Emeritus Ed Snyder. I learned what an important voice we have in Washington D.C., importing knowledge to our elected leaders."

This year our Christmas program was "Emanuel, God With Us." The children helped us remember the birth of Christ by performing the Christmas story. Following this, several individuals shared their witness of the manifestation of Christ with us. This was an especially meaningful time and led us into a spirit-filled candle light service. Continuing in the spirit of fellowship we enjoyed soup and bread together.

Once again our meeting sent two workers to Cuba. Lisa Baum-Waters and Paul Hemingway. Along with the labor, we sent \$520 to be used as they observed the need. It was given as aide to the Gibara Monthly Meeting for the rebuilding of the Flora Perez's Mission Church. Their reports gave us assurance that the Light did shine among them.

Our pastor invited any members interested into his home for the reading and discussion of the book, 'Mere Christianity', by C.S. Lewis. Those attending found the book helpful as it expressed in words their feelings about life and faith. It had words of encouragement for us today in our world of war and terrorism. They felt it was a profitable time together.

We bid farewell to a life time member, Belva Vincent, on March 2, 2003. She was hostess to many visiting Friends. She was a long time chairman for Christian Service, working tirelessly on behalf of missions. She will be greatly missed.

The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

P.O. Box 657

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

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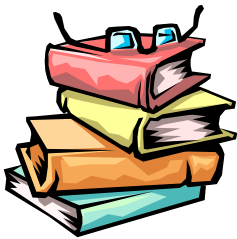
P.O. Box 657

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

AN INFORMATION GOLD MINE FOR QUAKERS

Have you ever dedicated yourself to completing a three-year project? If so, you know how much patience, persistence, and dedication are needed. Our F(f)riend Lloyd Patterson recently completed such a project and it is now available to all of us.

When Lloyd and Patti Patterson became custodians of the Iowa Yearly Meeting archives, they began receiving requests from persons who were researching their Quaker ancestry. In many cases, these persons wanted information about Quaker cemeteries in Iowa where their relatives might be buried.



This information was not available, so Lloyd set out to fill the gap. He contacted clerks of monthly meeting, the Iowa Genealogical Society, and county historical societies. After much research, correspondence, and computer work, Lloyd compiled a data base that includes all of the burials in 80 Quaker cemeteries in Iowa.

This information, which is indexed by county, is available in notebooks in the Iowa Yearly Meeting office vault. At present, 77 of the 80 counties are on a computer database available at the Oskaloosa Public Library. Contact persons are Lloyd Patterson, Linda Eliason and – at the public library, Paulette Groet.

Interesting person a information inevitably comes to light during such a project. Did you know, for example, that Hope Milhouse Hemingway (1803-1865), great grandmother Of President Richard Nixon, is buried in Hickory Grove Cemetery, Cedar County? Winnie Warren, George Washington's salve, died September 16, 1884, at the age of 116 and is buried in Bangor Friends Cemetery, Marshall County.

By Linda Eliason, College Avenue Friends



Marvin and Doris Hoeksema
celebrate their
50th Wedding Anniversary.

Their children invite you to help create their Golden Anniversary Memory Book. Please send a card, letter, personal note and picture, if possible. All this information will be used to create this special book, something they will treasure the rest of their lives.

Please send by Monday, May 5th, to:
Ardeth Hoeksema, 50th Anniversary,
10470 Hwy F17 W, Mingo, IA 50168

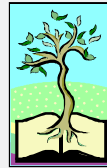
God's Girls Getaway!

(The former "Breakaway" Retreat)

When: May 2nd & 3rd

Where: Camp Quaker Heights

Who: All Ladies and Teen Girls



**Bring you sleeping bags, Bible,
casual clothes and walking shoes Get
ready to have some fun.**

Cost: \$25.00, includes all meals and lodging

Registration: 6:00 p.m.

Supper: 7:00 p.m.

To register call Julyn Goodhue at
(515) 989-4139

or - email at: goodhue4@juno.com
Give her your name, tell her you're
coming, pay at the door.

It's that simple!



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