



The Iowa Friend

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

November 2005

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LET US ALL WELCOME GRACE COMMUNITY FRIENDS CHURCH



Grace Community Friends Church in Mt. Pleasant held a celebration for becoming an independent monthly meeting on September 24, 2005.

60 people, who included visitors from Iowa monthly meetings, were in attendance for the worship service and dinner. Jerry Phillips was the presider for the ceremony. Special music was performed by Jan Palmer and Daryl Coffin. Tom Palmer, the speaker, had a vision 5 years ago of extending a new church to be 200 strong. Grace is fast approaching 100 members they come from all walks of life. These communities of believers are excited about our Lord Jesus.

Grace has followed and made all the requirements to be a monthly meeting. Several members from the Salem monthly meeting took up the call to start a new meeting in Mt. Pleasant in 1999. The members shared how they felt when leaving their home church to help start a new church. In 1999, Grace first met as a congregation at the Mt. Pleasant Christian School. The first pastor was Tom Palmer followed by Charlie Sander in 2001. Jerry Phillips, a candidate for recording, has been serving as Pastor since June of 2005. They answered the call and the goal was to bring people to Jesus. They took up the vision and have seen it through to the present. 75-80% of the monthly meeting members were unchurched. Grace has a Saturday and Sunday service. There are 3 classes on Sunday.

Grace Community's vision for the next 5 years is to continue to bring more people to Jesus. They also hope to have their own building. The board on church extension shares in the excitement of this community of believers. Let us remember Jerry and Patti Phillips and all the members in our prayers.

Roger G. LeBel
Board on Church Extension

Pastor's Retreat, October 2-5, 2005

The annual pastor's retreat sponsored by the Pastor's Association continues to grow in size and value. The first part of October we gathered at Camp Quaker Heights beginning on Sunday evening with a time of praise and worship led by Spencer Thury and Matt Byas (William Penn). Then the Superintendent presented a challenge of a new concept for the year 2006. "Working together with Christ" is the theme and each church will be challenged by a monthly bulletin insert. A focus on new leaders in the Yearly Meeting will be a part of this monthly challenge as well as preaching and teaching topics developed by our own Pastor's and Christian Education committees. Sunday evening also brought many people together for the ground breaking of the new Tall Oaks facility at the Camp.

On Monday morning we began our times of sharing led by Joe Rohr, recently retired senior pastor from Friendswood, Texas. Joe developed over the next two days some very insightful helps for all of us to consider. His theme was personal solitude and renewal. We were all moved and challenged by Joe's personal journey sharing. All reports since the retreat have been very positive and encouraging. We had what is considered the largest turn out in many decades of 60 participants. We also enjoyed the enthusiasm of Craig and Judy Marshall and Ruthie Tippen who helped with the worship in music. Of course there was plenty of time for recreational activities, the photo shows, or just sitting under the hickory tree and visiting. And as always Ric and Linda treated us well with hospitality and food.

The annual pastor's retreat continues to grow and serves as a valuable part of healthy leadership to Iowa Yearly Meeting.

*From our General Superintendent
Ron Bryan*





Friendly Flashes

"Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better. If one falls the other pulls him up; but if a man falls when he is alone, he's in trouble. Also, on a cold night, two under the same blanket gain warmth from each other, but how can one be warm alone? And one standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back to back and conquer: three is even better. for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken" Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

How fitting that this year, with hurricanes, high oil prices and not enough shelters for the displaced, that our theme is "unto the least of these". We maintain the food pantry and help center for Earlham. We ran nearly out by July, three months earlier than ever before. In talking to the heads of other area food pantries they are in the same fix. We are blessed because the school and the scouts both do food drives for us, our cord is strong. How are things in your area?

In New York City at the very beginning of the AIDS epidemic, two people, a model and a writer/producer started a group called Friend in Deed. It is open to any one suffering from a terminal illness. The volunteers walk beside the ill sharing the journey, going to doctor appointments, and to funeral homes to arrange burials what ever is needed. From the first two the group has grown to 80+ volunteers. Their cord is strong.

A.B.C. Quilts grew from the first two ladies quickly into a nation wide organization reaching around the world. Both of these organizations started almost 20 years ago by responding to a disease that most people did not even care about, because it was in the beginning only affecting gay men. They like some of the rest of the country did not think Jesus would want these men, women and babies to die alone and abandoned. They are the lepers of our day and every day the numbers grow in Africa and Asia. Countries where the government has ignored for too long the need for medicine, food and education. Friends missionaries serving in these countries need our support, our prayers, our voice in congress and our dollars. This cord must be kept strong by us.

In Des Moines the homeless numbers grow every day. Some times entire families, sometime veterans who served to protect us and were for ever damaged by that service, sadly some of them are teenagers thrown away by families who no longer assume responsibility for them. In 1998 two ladies joined together to keep these people warm. They formed My Brother's Keeper. Baby, child, twin and larger quilts are made, sleeping bags and pillows are made using old neckties to form the strap. Homeless veterans meet once a year at the foot of the capitol in Des Moines, and receive hot showers, haircuts, clothes, blankets and other necessities. To date 7,500 quilts have been made by these volunteers. They meet regularly on Mondays at Prairie City Christian Ministry Center from 9:30 AM to 2PM sharing a potluck. The second group meet on Monday's from 1PM to 3PM at the Mitchellville Legion Hall. Everyone is welcome to come, for information call Leona Brandhof, 5182 W. 140 St So., Mitchellville, 50169, 515 967 3076. The cord is strong here also.

If none of these ideas suit you or your group, then look around and see who is need of the love and comfort that comes from Jesus Christ and flows through us. If we do not allow the love to flow then we leave no space for Jesus to give us anything else, but when we use what he gives us then our capacity grows and we can be filled and used more and more. Everything starts with one idea and two willing to take a chance, Jesus brings the others to strengthen the cord. May the love and kindness's we do live long after our names are forgotten.

**God Bless
Linda B.**

Friends Disaster Service

We want to thank you all for your patience over the last several months as we have been trying to get IYM FDS organized. Also, we are very grateful for your donations of goods and money for the hurricane victims and support of FDS.

We are now in the process of planning work trips to Wiggins, Mississippi, which is approximately 35 miles north of Gulfport.. We leave on Sunday to Wiggins, work Monday thru Friday, and head home on Saturday. If you can only work part of the week, we will need to know that ahead of time so we schedule work accordingly. Also, if you are available for more than one week, please list all dates that you are available and we will include you into one of the weeks where there is a need. If you want to stay in Wiggins for more than one week, please let us know that also.

We are working with Jim and Sierra Secaur (from Ohio Yearly Meeting) who are heading up the overall FDS efforts in Wiggins. They set up FDS operations at a church in Wiggins on October 2nd, where we will be staying and eating our meals.

We will pull the FDS trailer to Wiggins on November 6th. and leave the trailer in Wiggins for an extended period of time. It will be available as long as IYM FDS volunteers are working in the gulf area. Each work crew will consist of 6 people (5 to help with construction and 1 to help with cooking). At this point in time, only one crew is needed per week. We will also be looking for a volunteer to coordinate the work efforts the weeks of November 27th and December 4th as we will not be able to be in Wiggins for these weeks. If you would be interested in this, please let us know.

Following items will be covered in more detail after we get the work teams set up:

1. What to bring
2. Arrangements for traveling with others
3. What tools to bring for your own use
4. How expenses will be handled for your trip

We still have openings for the weeks of November 27 and December 4. We will be looking for people to go after the first of the year also. The same schedule will be followed by leaving on Sunday and returning the following Saturday. We would probably not schedule any trips until 1-9-06.

Thanks and God Bless,
Dan & Nancy Ritchie

Quakerdale
is now offering their "Acts 14:27: Report To The Churches" newsletter in a new email format. If you would like to be included on their distribution list please email Dave Holm (Director of Spiritual Life) at: dholm@quakerdale.org and indicate "newsletter list".



IAYM's Missions Committee Project 2005

**From the desk of IAYM mission's chairperson -
Diane Martin**

Last year one of IAYM's Missions Committee projects was to send shoe boxes for the missions in Chicago. This year we have been asked to assist the needy school children in Belize.

On November 20th the churches in IAYM have been asked to take up a special Thanksgiving offering to help with the education for children at a boys Friends mission school in Belize. Belize is a very poor country located south of Mexico along the Caribbean Sea. It is about the size of the state of Delaware.

Michael and Kay Cain along with Andy and Lisa Stout operate Friends Boys School in Belize City whose purpose is to prepare children to retake the entrance examination tests for admittance to high school, or to prepare them for learning an employable trade - and thus keep them off the street. Since nearly 60 percent of Belize's population is under the age of 19, the School plays a vital role helping to fill the gap between grade school, high school and work opportunities. There is space for approximately 40 boys at the school.

Under the British system, state and local custom regulations require all students to wear a uniform. These cost approximately \$11.00 for one uniform shirt. Many of the families are so poor that they own only one uniform and if it rains in the night the uniform does not dry, thus the student misses school.

Presently the missions school is using math books that were donated by New York Yearly Meeting nine years ago. These were used books when donated and over the years they have begun to come apart and we are now faced with a shortage of these vital books. Michael Cain has been looking for some three years now for a new supply of used books has not been successful, in the last three month he has found a new book that will meet the children's needs, these books cost \$30.00 each and the school should purchase at least 40 of them.

IAYM has been asked to raise money to help with these needs.

Please send any monetary donation by **December 1st** to :

**Bob Watson, Treasurer of IAYM Missions Committee,
803 Minnesota St.,
Glidden, IA 51443 Phone # 712-659-2273**

Iowa Youth Ministries Upcoming Events

by CQH (call Ric @ 641-751-4400 for more info)

Youth Ministries 101...Nov. 7 @ Grinnell Friends

Nov. 8 @ Fairfield Friends

Cross Training...November 5 9-3pm Cost \$10

6th Grade - Prayer @ Grinnell Friends

IMPACT...November 12 11 AM thru

November 13 12 PM @ Grinnell

Cost \$60/person

: VITAL SIGNS :

Midred Reed, 98, died on October 4, 2005. Mildred was raised in North Dakota. She was a member of the Fairfield Meeting. Pastor Dave Elmore conducted the service.

West Branch Friends will be hosting a high school dinner every Thursday night. This will be a time to "Meet and Eat". After dinner the students will spend time together to talk about God stuff.

Indianola Friends had Mike and Kay Cain visit their church in July to talk of their work in Belize. 4 of their young people were blessed by attending summer camp at Eldora. And 4 men from their meeting were ushers at Triennial and enjoyed the fellowship of other men.

Marshalltown Friends began a new adult education opportunity called "Getting Fit". Using Richard Foster's "Celebration of Discipline" as a guide, they will explore the Scriptures, dissect their personal motives, and challenge their daily patterns of living. By the grace of God, they will begin a life-long fitness program that is pleasing to Him and satisfying to them.

Salem Friends had designated October as "CAN DO" month. They received canned goods to help out the cupboard at the FELLOWSHIP CUP. Thanksgiving boxes will be made with the food donations for some who need the help.

Bear Creek Friends had Terri Johns from FUM speak at meeting in July regarding missions projects and her work with FUM. The Triennial was attended by several of their members, including the pastor and his wife. A "surprise" potluck dinner was held on July 17 to honor the 52nd wedding anniversary of Pastor Dallas and Eleanor Gilreath. Bear Creek's annual VBS was held in July with the theme "Joy in Jesus". A crowd of children and adults enjoyed a special guest...Isaiah Bikokwa, director of the Simburu Mission in Kenya. On August 27th, another annual event was enjoyed when neighbors and friends joined together in the churchyard for their Bear Creek Community Picnic. On the 28th, services were held at the Dexter Park as part of an ecumenical worship service.

It's a girl!! Joel and Tasha Schnell of Lynnvile Friends are the proud parents of Selah Dawn, born on August 29th.

It's a boy!! Dan and Helena Hayes of New Sharon Friends are the proud parents of William Hayes, born on September 30th.

Correction:

The zip code listed with the memorials was incorrect in the October Iowa Friend. Marshalltown's zip code is 50158

The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

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Brianna Martin Thailand & Cambodia Missions Trip - Summer 2005

If you've ever traveled abroad for several weeks at a time you know just how difficult it is to share and recap all that took place...how I wish you could have been there with me!

You would have loved seeing the faces of the few Shan Christians as they worshipped our gracious Heavenly Father. You would have loved meeting Toi, a very gifted Shan Christian woman whose father was the village spirit doctor before turning to Christ. I was amazed to see vibrancy and love in the Shan church, which exists among a people less than 1 percent Christian.

God is brilliantly gifting Shan Christians for ministry and growing his church among the Shan people despite the enormous obstacles of social and political oppression from Burma, deep rooted Buddhist and animistic roots, and lack of workers to spread the good news.

Thank you for partnering with me this summer. Thank you for believing with me that this work is important. I feel honored to have been given such an opportunity and now hope only to continue to serve the Lord and to seek Him as to how I am to respond with my life and future ministry.

Brianna (and her husband, Nathan) are members of Riverside Friends and are attending Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary near Boston, MA.



Mission's Scholarship

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2006-2007 academic school year. Persons seeking intentional study in missions at a Christian college or seminary, and who want to pursue education to prepare for full time missions' work with a Friends organization may contact the Mission's Board to receive an application. For the 2006-2007 scholarship, please contact Diane Martin, IYM Mission's Chairperson, at 3227 Pheasant Avenue, Rockwell, IA 50469 or e-mail at zoocrew@netins.net.

The deadline to apply is March 15, 2006.



What I Did on My Summer Vacation by Katy Palmer

As fall is upon us and the school buses are once again on the streets of Boston, it's a clear sign that summer is coming to an end. So in honor of the annual homework assignment crossing the desks of many at this time of year I wanted to give my report about my adventures of the summer months.

I'm finishing up my seminary work here in Boston, MA, and as a part of my final class I spent 5 weeks this summer with Friends in Kenya. I had the joy of living at the Kakamega Friends Centre and Orphanage in Kakamega, Kenya. This place is a beautiful illustration of the love of Christ actively changing the lives of the least of these. Thirty-seven children between the ages of 6-13 have been chosen out of desperate situations and have found a home in this newly constructed building and in the hearts of the people serving them in Christ's name. The Kakamega Yearly Meeting USFW saw the need around them and began a feeding program for the children a few years ago, which has grown into an orphanage with a three story building consisting of a dormitory, multi-purpose cafeteria, classrooms and meeting rooms. This inspiring grassroots project is a visible demonstration of Christ's followers acting in His name and the effects of that work can be seen in the faces of these precious children.

My time with these kids was life changing. My concepts of ministry, my personal comfort level and my trust in the provision of my Father were all stretched and shaped. I spent my days attempting to learn Swahili, playing soccer and hide-n-seek, and helping with English and Bible homework. The kids presented me with a beautiful picture of the awesome and great God we serve and how mightily His hand works within His kingdom.

It was a memorable summer and I can't think of a more meaningful way to learn the lessons God had in store for me and serve in His name than with these kids halfway around the world. God is at work in Kenya and throughout His kingdom and to be a part of that is an exciting thing! Thank you all for your prayers and support, God is good and at work in the lives of His children all across the world.

Katy is a member of Salem Friends and is finishing her seminary degree at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary near Boston, MA.

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