



The Iowa Friend

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

January 2006

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

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Tall Oaks Lodge

Sunrise Housing completed putting the building on the foundation December 29th 2005. Thank you to all who have prayed, encouraged, and given funds for this project. Without the faithfulness of the IAYM body, this would not be a reality. In the coming weeks there will be several jobs that we are looking for people to help with.

- Insert windows and doors to the basement.
- Install studs for walls in the basement.
- Lay laminate floor and carpet
- Paint interior of upstairs
- Build steps and landings to basement.

Contact Camp Quaker Heights if you can volunteer for these projects.



Mesquakie Friends Center "Soaring Eagles Camp"

a report from: Victor & Brenda White

In April of 2005 during Annual Meeting in Indiana we informed the Committee of our plans to have our own youth camp in Iowa for the first time. Unsure how things were going to work out, we began making plans for this big undertaking. First thing we prayed about was the financial situation we were in, like no money at all for camp. The Lord impressed it upon the hearts of many of you who sent funds to take care of that problem in a short period of time.

Our camp was held during the same time as camp in Oklahoma. We asked our people to think about a name for our camp and Derris Keahna gave the name "Soaring Eagles Camp" after listening to a pastor talking about the soaring eagles. Our camp theme was Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." This verse was chosen because for us this was a new beginning for our center to have it's own camp.

Our first camp drew 26 campers from the Mesquakie Settlement and Ojibwa Reserve in Canada. Our own adults volunteered to cook three meals a day, help with crafts, and organize recreation activities. The Center bought 3 large tents to house all the girls and their counselors. The Boys Scouts loaned us tents and the Red Cross provided cots for the boys. Gary Mattson offered his campground for the boys to set up their tents. The ladies from Grinnell, LeGrand, Marshalltown and Bangor-Liberty provided some wonderful desserts for our meals. Bangor-Liberty's VBS kids collected a variety of paper products for the camp and the ladies even provided one of the meals for us. A man from the Fellowship Baptist Church came and sprayed the area for mosquitoes.

We were very pleased and thankful for the response we received for our first summer camp. We hope next year God will allow us to have camp here at Mesquakie again.

Mesquakie Friends Center's address is:
PO Box 36
Toledo, IA 52342

FRIENDLY FLASHES

" When I felt my feet slipping, you came with your love and kept me steady. And when I was burdened with worries, you comforted me and made me feel secure"

Psalms 94: 18-19

We had our Christmas program last night and enjoyed a time of fellowship afterwards. Over the years this program has changed but the message is still the same. That eternal message of God's unconditional love to all of mankind, told by the voices of children in both word and song. This time of year, the advent season, is a time of reflection not only on this past year but all the years that have preceded tonight.

I no longer make New Year's resolutions because I can't remember them. I do however remember so clearly, vividly the times when God has whispered in my ear. The first was watching a reenactment of Jesus birth at a Christmas program. Walking home with my parents afterwards in the cold crisp air, seeing the stars over head and feeling awestruck at the power and love of God. I went with my parents and brothers a few years later to hear the Blackwood Brothers sing at our church. It was beautiful, but the only song I remember was Just A Closer Walk With Thee. And in my heart I responded, "yes, yes" that is what I want too.

Now here we are on the eve of 2006, that so distant future I couldn't even imagine back in the 40's and 50's. 2000 was much to far away and I would be soo OLD by then. My how those years have flown by and I don't feel old at all, until I look in the mirror. But if I leave my glasses off I still look fairly young!

The verse from Psalms is one of the verses that I claimed as my own because God highlighted it for me as I read one day. Oh, the times He has kept me from slipping into despair, when sorrow struck my life. The times when He whisper slowdown just as I came near a corner or blind curve in the road, and so I missed a car or deer I hadn't seen. The times He kept me steady when decisions needed to made in a crisis or when danger stuck it's head in my car window. When prayers were needed for someone's safety or when a job was needed, He kept me on the road and let me know He was there shouldering the burden for me or someone else.

This past summer when I left the post office and started my surgeries to repair the arthritis damage, I faced the first {a knee replacement} with no fears. Almost floating on the prayers of those around me, I knew I was secure in God's arms. I had a fusion done on my right big toe two months after the knee replacement and never have had any pain. Now I know I am sometimes a trial for my heavenly Father. I don't always pay attention as I move or I move when I know I am supposed to wait for help. After both surgeries (doing things I shouldn't have been doing) I fell. After my knee surgery I was in the back room of the shop with cement floors, carrying bags of groceries. I went flying, throwing bags right and left and thinking, "no, no not my new knee". Somehow He spun me around and put me on my seat in a pile of tires! Less then 24 hours after the toe surgery, I stood up to walk on two crutches and one foot, lost my balance and hopped {somehow} across the room. Once again I ended on my backside with NO damage to the surgery. I was truly secure in His arms and in His unconditional love in spite of my reckless behavior.

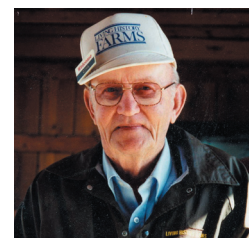
No, I don't make resolutions, I just look back over my walk with God so far and marvel at His faithfulness. I look forward to our walk together in 2006. I hope you do too.

God Bless, Linda B.

VITAL SIGNS

Deaths:

L. Otha Cook, age 90, died on October 24, 2005. Otha was born on October 22, 1915 and was a birthright member of the Bear Creek Friends Church where he attended Sunday School and church most of his life. He was married to Velma Marie Barnett in August of 1940. They had met going to the church at Bear Creek. Her older brother was the pastor at the church. Otha and Marie farmed in the Earlham area until Otha's health failed. Later he got a job at Living History Farm, driving a tractor on the tour rides. Those left to celebrate his life are Marie (his wife of 65 years), sons Marvin and wife Melinda, Norman and wife Mary Jane, Marion and wife Dawn, and Merlin Cook.



From Marshalltown First Friends Church:

Mildred (Beach) McGrath passed away on June 22, 2005.

Esther (Sloat) Schrafel passed away on November 18, 2005.

Louise Porter passed away on June 27, 2005 and her sister,

Patricia Mary Porter passed away on November 1, 2005.

The Porter sisters lived together and were active members of First Friends. Pat was involved in Children's Ministries, including teaching Sunday School, VBS, a member of the Christian Education Committee, and instrumental in the formation of the Pioneer Club for children which was active for several years. Louise, with another sister Bonnie, was church custodian for many years.

Marilyn Norman, of Lynnvile Friends, passed away on November 7. She was a long time active member of the Lynnvile church and will be greatly missed by all who know her. She is survived by her children - Mark and his wife Patti, Myron and his wife Cindy, Beverly and her husband Roger, and Barbara Norman - and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Births:

Chase Thompson was born on June 16. His parents are Troy and Lisa Thompson of Motor Friends.

Kash Nelson Miller was born on July 1. His parents are Jody and Kathy Miller of Motor Friends.

Eva Marie Leiberg was born on Oct. 23. Her parents are Eric and Jen Leiberg of Sturgeon Bay.

Jacob Dean Gudith was born on Oct. 12. His parents are Lee and Danielle Gudith of Marshalltown.

Friends Disaster Service

Weeks available for relief work at Wiggins, MI:

January 9-13, January 30-February 3, February 6-10, March 13-17, March 20-24, March 27-31

Contact Dan Ritchie (515-229-0393 or email danaritchie@aol.com) for more information or to volunteer.

: Meeting Moments :

Motor Friends: It was a busy spring and summer at Motor Friends with many special events in addition to the regular worship services. The Christian Ed committee sponsored a number of events: a bowling party in February, a skating party in March, an evening at an Iowa Cubs game in June, a swimming party in July and a trip to the Goodhue corn maze in October. Their summer VBS program had an average attendance of 34 and a special offering was designated for the Belize Boy's School. In August Rod Brouer, of Newton, shared about the mission of the "Inner Change Freedom Initiative" at the Newton Correctional Facility. They had 23 campers and 14 adults participate in the summer camping sessions at CQH. Jennie Putz reported about her mission trip to the Bahamas which was followed by lunch at the church. The Tradional Rally Day was held with games and contests for all ages. Art Bryant spoke on behalf of the Gideons International in September. And in October, Ric Garrison and Luke McCracken (and friends) presented to worship service on behalf of CQH.

Bangor-Liberty: The congregation participated in a "White Gift" offering on Christmas Eve. This offering was taken to support the Stork's Nest (a resource for mother's who need help with baby things) and also to help Morgan Martin with her mission trip to Tanzania, where she and 8 fellow followers of Christ will be working with missionaries who are already living and working in Tanzania.

Fairfield Friends: "The Heart of CHRISTMAS" musical was presented at the Christmas morning worship service. It presented the gift of Jesus and challenged each one with what to do with this wonderful gift.

College Avenue Friends: The congregation was challenged this Christmas season to give to the Crisis Intervention Services by donating to the "wish list" of items needed for their local programs. The Sunday School program was December 11th. The theme was "The Drama of Christmas" and their White Gift was designated to Friends United Meeting. Eleanor Hoover was the coordinator for this year's CROP walk. Caroline Jaennette and daughter Kristine, and Erin Patterson and daughter Anneliese were this year's walkers.

Marshalltown Friends: This year's White Offering was collected during the Christmas Program. Boxes were distributed to collected items for the Caring Center (they provide clothing and household items free for families in need) and any financial gift went to the ministry to help with their rent and utilities. The Mary Anna Circle (USFW) met together to prepare Christmas plates to deliver to special members of the community. The congregation also collected 54 shoes boxes for the Samaritan's Purse outreach.

West Branch Friends: Highlights from this past year are: one of their members solicited items and mailed a goodies package to a local soldier serving in Iraq, many members participated in a local CROP walk - organized in large part by Robin Anderson, a Cajun Fest was held to help replenish the Love Fund (which was used to assist local families in need as well as hurricane victims) and the 5th annual peace walk/peace pole/supper celebration was held in December.

Lynnville Friends: The "Operation Christmas Child" shoes box collection was a success. There were 50+ boxes this year. The USFW ladies delivered plates of cheer in December as well as a organized a food drive of non-perishable items for the Door of Faith and Bethel Mission in Des Moines. Bev Van Genderen participated in a recent Leukemia and Lymphoma 'walkathon'. And quilts were given to the Domestic Violence Alternatives/ Sexual Assault Center for use in their shelter.

LeGrand Friends Church: "Bethlehem Star - the Light that Still Shines", a Christmas Dinner Theater was presented in December. The meal included Red Velvet Cake and the infamous cheese and bread. The youth group meeting times were changed this fall. Youth Pastor Will Owens noted that the numbers have increased since changing the meeting times to Sunday afternoon. The USFW approved contributions to the Love Fund whose recipient is Joyce Ajlouny, director of the Ramallah Friends Schools. The church held a tradional candlelight service on December 24th at 6 pm



Save This Date
July 16, 2006

Bear Creek Friends Church
Celebrating 150 year
Anniversary

More Details in upcoming newsletters

EFM (Evangelical Friends Mission) is now offering their monthly Prayer Letter in an e-mail format. If you would like to receive their mailing via the e-mail, please contact them at:

efm@friendsmission.com

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.

Mark your calendar for the....

2006 Ministry Conference

Theme: *Working Together with Christ*
2 Corinthians 6:1
Date: August 2-5, 2006
Location: William Penn University

"A MORE SIMPLE LIFE"
USFW SPRING FLING
SATURDAY, APRIL 1 9:30 AM
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
AT MT. PLEASANT

Iowa Youth Ministries

Upcoming Events

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

Youth Ministries 101....Jan 9 @ Grinnell Friends
Jan. 16 @ Fairfield Friends
Cross Training...January 7 9-3pm Cost \$10
8th Grade @ Fairfield Friends
January 14 9-3pm
8th Grade @ Grinnell Friends

Quaker Men's Banquet

February 18, 2006

Vennard College - Oskaloosa

Banquet at Noon

Cost: \$10 in advance

\$12 at the door (\$5 children 4-10)

Jess Settles, speaker

FDS will have a silent auction in connection with the banquet, and all proceeds will go toward funding FDS projects. Friends are asked to bring baked goods, crafts, other quality decorative items, and services to share for the auction. Proceeds will go toward work projects. Recently, FDS has been involved with some of the rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

Please let Mary Ann Coppinger or Margaret Good know what you'll be providing so we have sufficient tables ready. You can contact Mary Ann or Margaret via email or phone .

-Mary Ann Coppinger djma@kdsi.net 641-672-2892

-Margaret Good goodhome@adiis.net 641-486-5977

Thank you! *Dan & Nancy Ritchie*

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