



# The Iowa Friend

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

May 2006

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

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## John Muhanji Visited Iowa Yearly Meeting

John Muhanji, FUM Africa Ministries Representative, has been visiting Iowa Yearly Meeting churches for one week. We are so happy to report to all of you that John has visited West Branch, Marshalltown, HCNP, Middle River, William Penn, New Sharon, Grace and College Avenue as well as attending our gathering of ministers with Jay Marshall, ESR. He also was given the opportunity to witness an Iowa Cubs game and a Civil War reenactment in S.E. Iowa.

We are fortunate that John had time to travel and minister between some classes he has been taking at ESR and other FUM commitments. This is only his second visit to the USA and so we are being used of God to expose him to us, as well as being privileged to hear him speak of his testimony and work. John will be returning to his family in Kisumu, Kenya in May. The FUM Kisumu office is missing his leadership and they are anxious for his return, as has been communicated to me by Eden Grace.

John has a huge task in working with 16 Yearly Meetings in East Africa. In just one year we are already hearing of the results of his spiritual leadership in gathering leaders and pastors together and planting new churches in Uganda. We need to pray for all our FUM Field Staff continually for their protection and support. **Ron Bryan**

## FUM's Annual Work Team to CUBA a report by: Linda Garrison

Once again, the bleak midwinter months were broken up for many folks with participation in FUM's annual work team to Cuba. Eight travelers from FUM, joined by another from EFI, enjoyed the warm Caribbean hospitality graciously extended by Friends in Cuba Yearly Meeting. The project had been one in the works for many years, as funds raised in 2003 VBS offerings were used to begin work on a second-story addition to the Gibara complex. Along with being a lively monthly meeting, Gibara also has adequate dormitories which make it a comfortable site for many Cuba Yearly Meeting activities. Gathering together, however was often a challenge, as there was no inside space beyond the sanctuary or small dining hall. The additional space provided by the new brick construction will be very useful for committees and small groups.

In particular, work team participants carried thousands of bricks a multiple number of times, moving them from one pile to another, as space and work necessitated. Windows from a razed building were refitted for use in the new construction.

There were many painting jobs as well, which spiffed up the buildings for the annual Yearly Meeting sessions which are held in Gibara in February.

Every morning, we gathered for devotions, and each supper hour, a list was made to help us recall the important activities. Most evenings, we attended church services, either at the Gibara meeting house, or with the Pueblo Nuevo mission meeting in an old part of the city. It was a pleasure to again enjoy a day trip visiting other meetings and greeting the groups who interrupted their daily schedules to pray and sing with us, as well as inform us of the ministry opportunities God continues to open to them.

Cuba Yearly Meeting faces many challenges. Some of these are: training, securing, and supporting pastoral leadership with adequate salaries and housing; vigilantly maintaining a Christo-centric yearly meeting; seeing to the construction and upkeep of many buildings; and equipping meeting members to reach out to family, neighbors and friends with the gospel. Continue to pray for this body of believers.



Linda Garrison working with the FUM work team



## Friendly Flashes

As I write this, I have just returned from Mt. Pleasant, Grace Community Friends Church and the "Spring Fling". The speaker was Nancy Twigg from Knoxville, TN. She spoke about the SIMPLE AND ABUNDANT LIVING PATTERN we can enjoy by practicing biblical principles of good financial management, & purposeful living. Blessings and joy follow us as a result of such living. She and her family live this everyday. We have to be a good steward with our time and money and learn to be content with what we have. (1 Timothy 6:7) She is the author of several Christian books and had some to sell at the meeting.

Ric Garrison told us of the progress of the Tall Oaks Lodge at CQH. Hopefully it will be open for occupancy by May 1st. The offering taken went to Tall Oaks to help with furnishings. The amount was \$990.00. Thank you ladies!

I also want to remind you of the 2006 mission projects and our obligations to them.

LOVE FUND: Ramallah, Joyce Ajlouny--\$6000.

FAITH FUND: Eden Grace in Kenya- Mary Kay Rehard--\$6000.

HOPE FUND: Belize--Kay Cain, Lisa Stout--\$6000.

JOY FUND: ACFIA women workers- Christine Wood, Brenda White--\$6000.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM: Kenya- field staff children's education-\$3000.

,Triennial Travel Assistance:- \$4000. , Advocate Subsidy-\$2000., Ramallah

Scholarships- \$2600.

Lisa and Andy have returned to Indiana because of Andy's back problems. They are hoping to avoid surgery. So keep them in prayer.

It takes all of us working together to meet these goals. May the Lord bless as you continue to work toward this goal. I am closing with a quote from George Fox. Therefore be faithful to God, and mind that which is committed to you, as faithful servants, labouring in love, some threshing, and some ploughing, and some to keep the sheep. He can receive this, let him. And all to watch over one another in the spirit of God.

**Blessings in the name of  
Jesus Christ our Living Lord,  
Betty Arterburn, Adult Missionary Secretary**

## WORKING TOGETHER WITH CHRIST MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2006

**AUGUST 2-5**

**@ WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Wes Davis**

**Young Friends Director:**

**Jessica Owens**

**Childrens YM Director:**

**Nina Lorimer-Easley**

**Music by:**

**Brockie Follette  
and Grinnell Friends**

*Brochure and registration will be coming in the  
June edition of the Iowa Friend*

**Coming Soon To  
Children's  
Yearly Meeting 2006**

## Working Together in God's Wild Kingdom



**it will be some WILD life!  
Open to youth grades K-6th**

**7th National Friends Ministers Conference  
November 17-20, 2006**

This will be a gathering of approximately 400 pastors and spouses from Friends churches across the United States. Centered in a four star hotel on the River Walk in San Antonio, Texas, this conference offers inspiration, connection and some greatly needed R&R.

Featured author/speaker Leonard Sweet will guide us in the first couple days, with author/speaker Ron Rolheiser bringing the closing address. Accompanying these two speakers will be Friends leaders from across the US guiding us in worship and workshop/discovery groups through out the conference. See the following website to complete your registration.

[www.friendsministers.org](http://www.friendsministers.org)

# MEETING MOMENTS & VITAL SIGNS

**Ackworth Friends:** A Poem by Besse Marson Ellis  
Ms. Ellis attended the Ackworth Meeting and was inspired to write this poem after attending a Meeting of Worship.

It was Sunday service in a little Quaker church.  
A song; the readings of the Quaker principles, and then,  
"It is our custom", the minister announced,  
"After the scripture lesson, to observe  
A period of silent prayer."  
The congregation bowed. Then from the wall  
The loud tick of a clock against the background  
Of that silence became to me a symbol as it  
Ticked off  
Ticked off  
The seconds of my life.  
And time became concrete, and almost tangible,  
And challenged me in language of the old familiar hymn,  
A strict account to give my calling to fulfill;  
To keep the charge I have to serve the present age.  
The weight of never-dying souls seemed great,  
And I much would have liked  
To stay the ticking of the clock  
And bid Time pause, defy it face to face.  
But the clock continued to  
Tick off  
Tick off  
The seconds of my life.



New Sharon Friends  
150 years of serving!

Anniversary Celebration  
Sunday, June 11th, 2006

## Schedule for the day

**8:30 am coffee hour**

**10:00 am Celebration Service**

**Noon Lunch at church**

**(a free will offering will be taken)**

**1:00 pm Dessert reception**

New Sharon is also celebrating their  
sesquicentennial with activities planned for  
Friday and Saturday (June 9th and 10th).  
Contact Mary Thury @ [iaym@mahaska.org](mailto:iaym@mahaska.org) or  
at 641-637-4118  
for more information

## Deaths

**Mabel Campbell, 94**, of LeGrand, died peacefully, Wednesday, March 29, 2006. Mabel was born, raised, and lived all her adult life in LeGrand where she was a member of LeGrand Friends Church and LeGrand USFW. Services were held at the church with burial in Rose Hill Memorial Gardens in Marshalltown. Mabel was the epitome of a gentle and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4). She is survived by four children, eight grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Wayne Sloat**, of Marshalltown, a member of Bangor Liberty, died on March 25, 2006 at the Oakview Nursing Home in Conrad. Services were held on April 8th at the Mitchell Family Funeral Home in Marshalltown, with burial in Rose Hill Cemetery in Marshalltown.

**Louise Davis**, a long time member of Bangor Liberty, died on April 1, 2006. With a discovery of the return of cancer and a fall, which resulted in a broken hip, she spent time in the University Hospitals at Iowa City and later at the Solon Nursing Facility. She continued to place her trust in her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as she had throughout her life, and we know that she is with Him now, and we rejoice. A celebration of her life was held at Bangor Liberty on April 5th with burial in the Bangor Cemetery.

**Waneta M. Jones, 75**, of Fremont, NE, formerly of Pleasant Plain, passed away early Saturday, April 15, 2006, at her sister's home in Fremont, NE. A memorial service will be held at the Pleasant Plain Friends Church at 11:00 am on May 29th, 2006. Waneta was born March 23, 1931 in Fairfield to Albert and Etha Crail Jones. She made her home with her sister since her father's death in 1986. Waneta was a member of the Pleasant Plain Friends Church. Survivors are one sister, Wilma Pearson of Fremont, Neb., one niece, Phyllis Bohner of West Des Moines and one nephew, Richard Pearson of Fremont, Neb.

## Births

Congratulations to Jolene and Andee Nolte, of Bangor Liberty Friends, on the birth of a little girl, **Gracie May**, who was born on March 3rd. Grandparents and great grandparents are Dennis and Janet Klein and Robert and Jeanette Roe respectively.

## Engagements

Reporting from Honey Creek - New Providence church...Congratulations to **Ryan Heilskov** of Ankeny and **Yenny Flores** of Venezuela on their recent engagement.

## Celebrations

West Branch Friends celebrated their 90th anniversary of their meetinghouse on Sunday, March 12th. Roscoe Millett brought a wonderful prayer of rededication of the building to the work of the Lord, and Ruthie brought a message of history from the 1916 West Branch Times edition! The sermon that day was based on the same scripture, Ephesians 2:19-22, that was used at the original dedication on March 12, 1916. In 1950, West Branch and Springdale churches merged to create what is now West Branch Friends Church.





members of Grinnell Friends with boys from the Friends Boy's School in Belize

# REPORT FROM GRINNELL FRIENDS MISSION TRIP TO BELIZE

BY: **LAURA BRIGGS**

**Junior, Grinnell High School  
First Friends Church of Grinnell**

## To the Iowa Friend Readers:

We are back safely from our mission trip to Belize, which took place over spring break. Our mission group from Grinnell First Friends Church consisted of eight students and six adults. While in Belize City we painted the Friends Boy's School, had devotions with the boys, did

some tutoring, and put a new roof on a newly re-established Friends Church. We also had the opportunity to visit Mayan ruins. This was my first trip out of the country and from the moment I stepped off the plane, it was obvious that things were very different from what I was accustomed to in Iowa. I felt like that because the sights, sounds, and smells told me I was in a impoverished, tropical place.

One thing I learned while I was there, is that I should not judge people so quickly. I was hesitant to talk to strangers, but I found out that people are kind and friendly in the most unexpected places. Something I had known in my head but discovered in my heart is that God's love extends to ALL people and that he will gather together a people to Himself from every tribe and nation, including Belize! I feel very thankful for all God has given me and I will try hard from now on not to take it for granted.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this trip possible. My life will never be the same.

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