



The Iowa Friend

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

December 2006

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 61 - No. 12

Special Gifts

I believe it is important that the Yearly Meeting acknowledge some very special gifts that have arrived for support to ministry programs in the last twelve months.

Because of the vision and planning by Herschel and Mildred Mendenhall and Letha (Briggs) Merrill over \$250,000 has been received and added to the permanent funds for Iowa Yearly Meeting. These estate gifts are bringing to fruition plans that were begun several years ago to build up ministry funds for the future.

During recent years' budgeting process it has become evident that most funds raised annually are used to cover administrative costs. Concerns have been expressed that we needed to put more effort into raising ministry funds and some special people put forth personal time to challenge us to this end. Some of the results to those commitments are now beginning to be fulfilled.

We have increased or made initial deposits to the permanent funds of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries, Camp Quaker Heights, FUM Missions, ACFIA, IAYM Missions, Church Extension and the Trustees Revolving Fund. Additionally I know that these same people supported William Penn University and Quakerdale.

I am humbled by the actions of these dear friends. They loved the Lord and also loved the work of Friends and of Iowa Yearly Meeting. By their example we know that ministry to a variety of important works will continue to go forward.

As we come to the close of another year, please remember that Iowa Yearly Meeting is here to serve you and needs your support to fulfill your approved priorities. For Joyce and myself, let me say thanks to all of you. We have the privilege of knowing so many good people who share in the work of the Lord, here in Iowa and throughout the world. We pray that as we enter 2007 we will be united in prayer for the plans and vision of this group of God's people. Thank you and God bless you all.

Ron Bryan, General Superintendent

Mesquakie Friends Center from: Victor & Brenda White

The year is almost over and as it goes, it has left us with fond memories of a time filled with lots of fun, work and activities. One of the bigger changes going on is the transition of the ACFIA leadership to that of the Yearly Meeting. This will in no way hamper the way we minister to our people. The financial support of our center from other yearly meetings, churches, and individuals should be able to continue as usual so our ministries among the Native people can continue. Pray for us as we enter into something new for our ministry.

As we look back over the years of our ministry its hard to imagine the hills and valleys we had to go through in order to be where we are today. What a joy to be a part of what God is doing in the hearts and lives of our people and to see them growing and serving. Our vision for the mission is that the people take the reigns and go forth with greater works to follow. We see it in the children that come every Wednesday evening. We praise the Lord when we hear about some of the kids getting grounded from church. This only tells us these kids love coming and their parents know it. These kids have played a big part of why the adults have grown so much. They gave them ways to serve in the church. Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." It would be great if all of you could hear some of the prayers of the kids.

Taking care of the center buildings and grounds requires a great deal of physical attention not to mention the funds to pay for all the upkeep and maintenance of the vehicles. Our center has been here for nearly 20 years and some things are needing replacing or fixing. There is plenty of work for any group that would like to come and be a blessing to the Lord.

Being able to serve at Mesquakie over the years has been both a privilege and a blessing. Friends...we say "Thank You" for being faithful supporters of the Center. Please pray for the need to have a stronger monthly support. The Lord has provided for the needs thus far and we know He will continue to do so.

Campus Ministries at William Penn University

by: Spencer Thury..Director

If Campus ministry at William Penn University was a professional football team, we would call it "a rebuilding year" I have been attending Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) on Monday nights, and practice with students for Thursday's Chapel service on Tuesday nights. Wednesday mornings consists of a prayer meeting with faculty on and getting ready for chapel, while keeping an open door to answer the questions of students, faculty or staff that drop in.

William Penn University has never let me down when it comes to being a diverse environment. The backgrounds of students are intellectually challenging and fun to be around. This has led me to have to find a way to fine tune my hours here. Therefore I spend my office hours answering questions and praying for people, preparing, and planning for the future, but this year I let others do most of the speaking at chapel services. Some of our speakers have been students who will be graduating or that have a special message/life experience to share, evangelical missionaries coming through town, and special speakers from Oskaloosa. I get my topics for emphasis and encourage the speakers to cover them.

As a result of a prayer meeting this summer, our vision for ministry at WPU for this year:

*God calls us to know the love of Jesus Christ that
surpasses knowledge
to be open to His leading to fellowship
to meditate on His Word
to pray, to stand by faith
to courageously go in His strength, reconciling people
to God*

Here at Penn we need to know the love of God first, and all the development for a career second. If God is first, we must trust that everything else will work its way out. As always, there are other special events, movie nights, and holiday things. Our music team is also willing to go out and play at Iowa Yearly Meeting churches, so if you would like to hear our music you can invite us out to play.

I am grateful and thankful for this opportunity to serve here, but as I said earlier I am most thankful to God for directing me. He is the one who calls us all to know His love that surpasses knowledge. We strive to be open to His leading and seeing others reconciled in His love.



WANTED:

Iowa Yearly Meeting Christian Ed is looking for a volunteer to lead Children's Yearly Meeting in August of 2007. Successful candidate must be willing to lead and worship with youth (K - 5), have fun, get dirty and play carpet ball!

If you think you might be interested, please contact Nina Easley at easley71@msn.com or by calling (515) 758-2067.

"Empowering Missional Leaders in a Changing Ministry World"

A workshop to equip you with new and advanced coaching skills lead by Church Resource Ministries

Dates: Friday, February 9th and
Saturday February 10th

Times: 1 PM Friday - 3 PM Saturday

Location: Vennard College, University Park, IA

Lead Coach/Trainer: Dr. Tim Roehl

Who Should Attend: Any leader who leads leaders! Pastors, Church Staff, Ministry Directors, Volunteer Leaders, Denominational Leaders, Church Planters and Other Ministry Leaders will all grow in coaching knowledge and skills.

Cost: \$114 per person (includes seminar, materials, two meals and refreshments).

Register: For more information, contact:

Prudy Olson at 641-673-8391 ext. 113

Tim at... Tim.Roehl@CRMleaders.org

CRM...Empowering Leaders Worldwide

*A*C*T*S Team*

*.Assessing*Coaching*Teambuilding*Strategically*

MEETING MOMENTS & VITAL SIGNS

West Branch Friends:

It has been busy at West Branch Friends Church these past 3 months. We had a shower for the expectant parents - Matt and Laura Scott. There were games, gifts, and make-your-own-banana split at the event. Gladys Kang-ahi, USFW Christian Service Secretary in Kenya, spoke at our USFW meeting. Several of our members participated in the Crop Walk. Patrick Nugent shared about his work in Kamosi, Kenya. Dr. Lonnie Valentine met with the ministry and counsel members and also brought a Sunday message. The children went "trick or treating" for UNICEF during our time of offering.

We had an all-church family picture day. There is a weekly "Meet and Eat" activity for the youth. and a newsletter is published each month.

Monthly meeting received a recommendation from ministry and counsel to approve Pastor Ruthie Tippin's recording process. Under the direction of Pastor Ruthie and accompanists Jane Cadwallader-Howe, a new West Branch Community Chorus has been formed. A good crowd enjoyed the debut performance. Coming up at their church will be the opportunity to participate in Angel Tree.

Fairfield Friends:

The missions committee has challenged to church in adopting 3 families to bless during the Christmas holiday. Also noted in their newsletter, the "After School Friends Program" has had around 60 kids each week in attendance. They have been learning about the nature of God.

College Avenue Friends has a special Christmas Eve service planned. They are hosting a family oriented candlelight service with lots of music featuring special music by Rusty Johnson, Dameon Place, Katy Palmer and others. They have also selected the Lindi Friends School for their Annual White Gift Offering.

Middle River Friends has recently began a newsletter for their church called "Country Friend". They have been highlighting individual members vision for missions. Some have begun small groups and other's have selected to volunteer as their chosen mission field. Also, the church hosted a Community Pig Roast Fundraiser for the benefit of Teen Challenge of the Midlands last October.

Salem Friends hosted their 45th Annual Missions Convention with the theme "A Mighty Revolution". It was held on November 10-12th. Special guests were Terry and Karen Duncan - missionaries in Kenya and Jay and Amor Hallowell - missionaries in the Philippines.

Lynnville Friends recently hosted a fun evening of ping pong. 28 local people attended the event. People of all ages tested their skills, the youngest being just 7 and had only started practicing two before and could have easily taken home the most victories! The oldest participant wishes to remain anonymous but does enjoy winning! The five tables gave everyone ample time to play. It was unanimous to plan a future event after basketball season!

Honey Creek New Providence Friends have many things lined up for the Christmas Season. They will have a "Mitten Tree" for donations of mittens to those less fortunate. A Dinner Theater is planned for the 17th (with 2 performances). The drama for the event will be performed by the church youth. A New Year's eve party will be at the church and they will be having home-made pizza's and table games.

New Sharon Friends will be featuring a "Living Nativity" in the church yard that will include many animals on the 9th of December. Along with the free event will be a lunch served to those that attend. Also, they collected 27 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. What a privilege to give to others with the love of Christ!

Births:

Matt and Laura Scott, of West Branch Friends, are the proud parents of **Isaac Robert Scott**, born November 7th. He weighed 8.81 pounds and was 22.1 inches long.

Deaths:

Jim Smouse, of LeGrand Friends Church, died Wednesday, November 22, 2006--just 11 days shy of his 92nd birthday. Jim and his wife Melba moved to the LeGrand area after Jim served in the U.S. Army in World War 2. Jim worked in the LeGrand quarry until he became postmaster of the LeGrand Post Office--a career from which he retired in 1979. That led Jim to become quite active in the community--including church, city council, Senior Citizens, and the Masonic Lodge--where he was generous with both his time and his resources. Services were held at the church with burial in Rose Hill Memorial Gardens in Marshalltown. He is survived by his son, Larry, of Knoxville; several nieces and nephews; and his "family of neighbors" that all lived on the same corner in LeGrand.



As editor of the Iowa Friend newsletter, I have the opportunity to read many newsletters and articles from the local churches of Iowa Yearly Meeting. Some months it is hard to narrow down what to include in the newsletter! I try to pick out stories of outreach and missions as well as special events that reach out to the local communities. After all, that is the heartbeat of Friends. I hope that you enjoy the newsletter each month. It is a pleasure to serve the Yearly Meeting through my work at the office and through this newsletter.

May your Christmas be filled with peace and your heart full of wonder with the celebration of Christ's birth. Mary Thury

YOUNG FRIENDS NEWS...

MID-WINTER DATES
DECEMBER 28-31

LOCATIONS:
CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS, ELDORA
SEVEN OAKS SKIING, ROONE, IA
ONEFEST, CEDAR FALLS, IA

DIRECTORS:
WILL & JESSICA OWENS

“You are a Gift”

This is the theme chosen for this year's Christian Education Training to be offered at two locations. Both workshops will offer the same topics. The dates are February 10 and March 17. The topics are (1) Experiences with Children and Worship; (2) Adult Ministries, and (3) Behavior Management Ideas. The topics and information will be the same at both workshops so churches can choose which location to attend. The locations have not yet been confirmed but tentatively the February meeting is planned for Oskaloosa and the March workshop is planned for the Marshalltown area.

Prayer concerns from our Mission's Board

For specific prayer requests for missions refer to the EFM and FUM prayer needs in the e-mail updates or mailings sent to your local church. Also continually lift up Victor & Brenda White and the transitions for Tama. The General Board for FUM continues to make plans to travel to Africa in February. Pastor Eugene & Fran have also resigned from Jamaica due to his health problems. The resignation is not effective until April. They will officially move back to Iowa in April and are in the process of locating a replacement for them in Jamaica.

God Bless You! Diane Martin

**Merry
Christmas**



**and Happy
New Year**

College Scholarships for Iowa Yearly Meeting students

Mission Board Scholarship

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2007-2008 academic school year. People within Iowa Yearly Meeting seeking intentional study in missions at a Christian college or seminary and wanting to pursue education to prepare for full time mission's work with a Friend's organization may contact the Mission's Board to receive an application. For the 2007-2008 scholarship, please contact Diane Martin, IAYM Mission's Presider, 3227 Pheasant Avenue, Rockwell, IA 50469 or call 641-822-3694.

Trustee Scholarship Applications

The trustees of Iowa Yearly Meeting are now taking applications for their \$500 college scholarship. Any Christian student who is planning to attend a recognized college may submit an application. Applications can be obtained by contacting the Yearly Meeting office at (641) 673-9717 or email iaym@mahaska.org.

Application deadline is January 1, 2007

Quaker Hill Bookstore (Located in Richmond, IN) will close its retail store March 1, 2007. Due to the increasing market competition, the Friends United Meeting General Board approved at the October meeting to keep available for sale only items that are unique to Friends United Meeting. Books published by Friends United Press, Quaker art prints and other limited items will be available via catalog, phone and internet orders. Curriculum, other that what is available through Friends United Press, will no longer be available, beginning with spring 2007 materials. Call or visit the Richmond store now to shop for your Christmas gift list. Discounts and inventory reduction sales begin in January.

WE ALL HAVE PROBLEMS

we should measure by the basics

One of the universal truths I believe that all can agree on is that at some time in each life problems arise. What we do with these problems, sometimes called conflicts, and how we address them and resolve them speaks about our character, our faith, and our commitment to being obedient to Christ.

It is also a fact, as I have witnessed and experienced, that it is not easy to find solutions to problems every time they occur. Emotions, such as anger and hurt can cloud the issues and make it difficult to find helpful solutions that everyone can accept and live with.

Last spring I attended the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's "Mediation Skills Training Institute" as part of the continuing education portion of my call to serve as Superintendent. This is a five day experience of study, lectures and a great deal of role playing (one of my least favorite activities). All in all, it revealed to me that mediation and attempting to deal with churches in conflict is hard work and requires understanding and a resolve to be patient with a huge dose of listening required. One of the books we were urged to purchase and read has a page that I feel is fundamental and helpful to everyone. It is not just church issues, but real life issues faced in the home and at work each and every day. I received permission to reprint this one page and I am compelled to share it with all who will take the time to read it and consider it.

There is More than One Way to Solve a Problem

A key problem-solving principle is that there is not just one way forward. Five strategies can easily be identified: collaboration, compromise, forcing, accommodation, and avoidance. Collaboration occurs when those in conflict seek a mutual and fully satisfying solution. Compromise involves working together for a solution that gives all some of what they want and no one all of what they want. Forcing takes place when one person insists on his or her way. Accommodating involves giving others what they want. Avoidance attempts to deal with conflict by ignoring it.

Different Situations Require Different Approaches

A second commonsense principle is that one approach does not work for all conflict. At times individuals need to sit down, discuss issues, and reach a fully agreeable solution. In other situations, as full agreement proves elusive, the best solution may be compromise. There are times forcing may be necessary for safety or to uphold certain values or principles. There are also occasions in which accommodating to the interest of others is most appropriate. Finally, it can be useful to postpone dealing with conflict until there is a better time, place, and emotional atmosphere to deal with issues.

Each approach can be destructive when used excessively or at the wrong time. As good as collaboration is, expecting to collaborate on all matters is unhealthy as well as exhausting. Family therapists call this enmeshment. Likewise, compromise can be problematic. It is not appropriate to compromise on safety issues, for example. Overuse of accommodation can lead to a sense of emptiness and enable inappropriate actions by others. Forcing one's will on others will limit their development and may stir various forms of rebellion. Avoidance, which tries to deal with conflict by ignoring it, will eventually result in the death of the relationship or in pressure, which builds to the point of explosion.

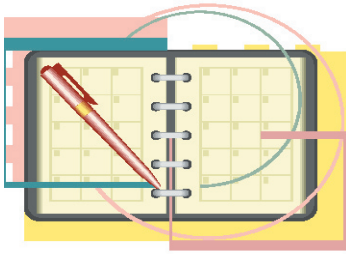
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Many of you may be wondering why I would include this information in a newsletter, I find that people will often "wonder what it means" or "is there a problem somewhere we don't know about" or "I wonder who he is referring to". My purpose is simply as I have stated above. Perhaps these thoughts and words can be beneficial for everyone who is faced with problems from time to time.

Let me close by adding this, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19 when He spoke in Mark 12:29 - "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment. And the second is like this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

This is the basic of which we need to measure all matters of the heart, the home and the church.

May God Bless you during your celebration of Christ's birth! Ron Bryan, General Superintendent



Mark Your Calendar

**“The Kingdom of God is at Hand”
Yearly Meeting 2007 is set for
August 1-4
at Camp Quaker Heights**

Our theme verse is:
“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom
of God is at hand, repent and believe in
the gospel”
Mark 1:15

Please note the change of location

"I LOVE CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS"

The staff of Camp Quaker Heights will be on the road after the first of the year. If your monthly meeting would like to schedule a presentation with the Camp Quaker Heights family for any Sunday in January or February of 2007, please contact the camp office at 641-939-5977 or 641-751-4088.

They will share information about ministry opportunities, promote "I Love Camp Quaker Heights," and lead (if desired) Sunday morning worship with message and music.

CQH staff and family are:
Linda Garrison and family
Chip Daleske and family
Lucas McCracken

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