



# The Iowa Friend

May 2008  
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Iowa Yearly Meeting: Spreading Like Prairie Grass to Make the Love  
of Jesus Christ Known in the Heartland and Beyond

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## Friendly Flashes a ministry of USFW - Iowa

As the 2007-2008 Reading year draws to a close, I want to encourage any of you that have not completed the reading course to do so. We have many wonderful choices to choose from, so enjoy them and let them lift your spirits as you enter into the world of the authors. I recently received the new books for 2008-2009 and I am again excited about the new adventures in reading that we have in store for us! This year USFW International has chosen more Quaker books than in the past. I think you will enjoy reading novels about Quakers as well as a few of the writings of early Quakers, which will cause us to sit and meditate in order to absorb the many truths they contain.

One of my favorites (and I have many) this year is *The Sanctuary of The Soul* Selected Writings of Thomas Kelly. One of two Upper Room Books, *Sanctuary of the Soul* is an interesting read. You will enjoy having access to some of the best writings of Thomas Kelly as he shares insights into many Quaker spiritual concerns. This is a book that can be read a chapter at a time, set aside to meditate on the thoughts expressed, and then picked up again at your leisure. It is thought-provoking, causing one to want to pray for God to enlighten your own spiritual journey, and then desire to share it with others. I would highly recommend this book.

Another quick read while being informative is *The Back Bench - A Novel* by Margaret Hope Bacon. Here you will move back in time to 1837 when a young Quaker girl is caught in the conflict between the Orthodox Quakers and the Hicksite Quakers. Caught up in her own personal problems, she is able to see and discern God's direction for her life in spite of the discord and racism shown all around her. This historical fiction takes place in Philadelphia and explains some of our early Quaker history in an easy manner. This book is an easy read and has thought-provoking questions at the end for good conversation or group discussion (all ages). It is also a good book for Middle School or High School students to read and learn more of our Quaker History.

Please note also that USFW Books will NOT be sold at the Fall Retreat this year due to lack of space with the celebration. Please buy your books by the end of Yearly Meeting. I'm looking forward to visiting with many of you again this year at your churches.

*Ethel Watson, USFW Literature*

## Summer Faith Stories by: Christian Education Board

There are some good things happening with Christian Education in Iowa Yearly Meeting. CE board would like to share what is happening at one of the IaYM churches. If you'd like to share what is happening at your meeting contact Charlotte Stangeland, 641-676-1532 or [kindra@mahaska.org](mailto:kindra@mahaska.org).

Here is an idea for Summer Sunday School for adults:

The past three years College Avenue Meeting in Oskaloosa has shared faith stories for the adult Sunday School time. This grew out of an idea for ways to have people share their life stories. They realized that each person has a faith story, and by sharing that faith story, could inspire others, or help the meeting grow closer as a caring body of believers. People have shared in a variety of ways. Some start with their childhood and chronologically tell their spiritual journey. Others simply tell key events. One used drawings and another used music to share part of their story. After about 30 minutes of sharing one's life story the audience is allowed to ask questions. Faith stories have been a big success and are very popular. People enjoy sharing as well as listening to others share. We have gotten to know each other better and it has brought the meeting together because of the shared experiences. At the end of the first summer a scrapbook album was begun to have those stories documented for future generations. This has not continued, but there has been good intentions. If your meeting needs an idea for adult Summer Sunday School we recommend you try Faith Stories.

by Dana Oswald and Charlotte Stangeland  
Oskaloosa Meeting

Footings were poured on April 22nd and the concrete slab was done on May 1st. The walls of the building are projected to be done the first week of May. Continue to pray that the weather will cooperate and that the work will be done in time for camping season to begin. If you are able to work a day at the camp, please contact Chip Daleske.

Another Note: The camp e-mail account is being changed. Please record the new address as.... campqhi@heartofiowa.net (as of the 15th of May) AND Linda's (and camp's) phone contact number is 641-751-4088



## Camp Quaker Heights Volunteer Opportunities:

### June 22-27

Addition staff needed for Senior High Camp as many will either be serving as Young Friends Staff or participating as campers.

Camp Jubilee is July 7-11, and assistance will be needed that week as well. If you can't give a week, consider coming every day for the breakfast, lunch or supper. This consistency allows us to continue to provide excellent service in the kitchen, and may free CQH staff to clean bathrooms, make repairs, or continue the ongoing maintenance tasks.

STAFF

## Campus Ministry at William Penn University by Spencer Thury

Hello Friends!

Here is a final picture of some of the campus ministry students at William Penn University during our last Tuesday night large group meeting. We have had such a diverse crowd during the year. I am thankful for this opportunity to serve at William Penn University and to be able to minister to our future generation of leaders. Also, thank you to the many staff and faculty members who supported campus ministry throughout the year!

If you have questions about new scholarships available please call me. I would love to talk to you about campus ministry and William Penn University.

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*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God to save a life Romans 1:16*





# Meeting Moments & Vital Signs

## Canby Friends

### (David Martinson - Pastor)

On Sunday April 20th. at Canby we had a dedication service and eight children including twins were dedicated to the Lord. We are certainly thankful to the Lord for moving on the hearts of these parents to want their children dedicated to our Lord.



## Motor Friends

### (Keith Smith - Pastor)

Motor Friends children are now enjoying their Sunday School classes in the newly completed first floor of the church addition, consisting of 5 classrooms. Work is still being done on the basement.

Motor families enjoyed an evening of roller skating at the Knoxville facility. Our Easter Season celebration began with a Maundy Thursday service. Easter morning was busy with a church full of people for an early morning service, breakfast, Easter egg hunt, morning worship and children's program.

April 13 lunch was served to the congregation for a free will offering to raise money to send our summer campers to Camp Quaker Heights.

We lost a long time member when Ardola Nicholls died on April 1, 2008. She had been a Westview Care Center resident for many years. On April 27th the Rev. Dale Schwechel preached the morning sermon in the absence of Pastor Keith Smith.

## Births

Matthew and Jen Parsons of Cedar IA, are the parents of daughter Olivia Elaine born Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at the Mahaska County Hospital. Olivia is welcomed home by siblings Maya and Luke. Grandparents are Tim and Nancy Parsons of Richland (and members of Woolson Friends) and Dale and Sharon Hansen of Grant Park, IL.

***Smyrna Friends Church will celebrating their 150th anniversary on September 7th, 2008. More details will provided in future Iowa Friend newsletters.***

## West Branch Friends

### (Ruthie Tippin - Pastor)

A report given in regards to starting up the Springdale Quarterly Meeting:

Our monthly meeting is part of a larger group of churches known as a Quarterly Meeting. Years ago, the churches in our Quarter would have gathered four times a year to do business that would have been sent on to the larger body of Friends once a year at Yearly Meeting sessions. Times have changed and the purpose of Quarterly Meetings has changed, from business to fellowship. Our Quarter - Springdale Quarter - has decided to make an effort to gather for a greater purpose once again - something beyond fellowship. That purpose is service. What is there that we as Friends can do together that we cannot do individually to serve those in need?

Springdale Quarter will gather one a year, for one day, to do a service project for someone in our communities. We'll paint a house, repair a roof, clean up a yard, etc. We'll leave a lasting impression of loving care from Friends. The sites will rotate throughout the Quarter from year to year. The day of service will end with a time of worship and celebration together (and maybe some ice cream!).

## Honey Creek New Providence Friends

### (Arlen Daleske - Pastor)

Pat Gourley reports the following: "We praise God for Mary's safe arrival home. We landed in Cedar Rapids Saturday afternoon right on schedule, greeted by 30 family member and friends. It was a wonderful time of rejoicing! God has been so faithful over the past 2 1/2 years as we have prayed, waded through paperwork, and all that was required to bring her home. Thanks to all gave support through prayer, encouragement and notes. Our faith has grown greatly through this experience and we are so thankful for that. When nothing seemed to make sense in the adoption process and our paperwork was not moving, Psalm 46:10 was such a source of strength. "Be still and know that I am God."

Also presented in their newsletter was a special birthday announcement for Florence (Lindaman) McCown who turned 100 years old. Happy Birthday to you!!

*A special note of CONGRATULATIONS to the many graduates throughout our Yearly Meeting. We acknowledge your dedication and hard work during your school days and pray for only the very best as you continue on your life's pathway. May God's grace and provision follow you all the days of your lives.*

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**

## **Adopt A Nurse Program - Successful Yet Needs to Grow**

### **by Nurse Judy Davis**

The best sign of a successful program is that upon your return six months later, the program is working and has been embraced by the people on the ground. As I left Kaimosi Friends Mission Hospital on April 11, 2008, there were nine nurses employed through the program set up by Friends United Meeting and funded by U.S. Friends and Friends Meetings. An additional five nurses are critically needed in order to have adequate coverage at the hospital. This funding source is essential to nurse recruitment and retainment.. If anything, the fund needs replenishing and boosting up.

The reputation of the hospital sorely needed improvement. With the addition of qualified nurses, the care improved. Without a doubt the bright blue roof and beautiful gray paint on the stucco outside walls, also boosted the hospital's image and announced to the community that the hospital was still in business. Adding a missionary doctor would be another tangible help in the return of local citizens to the hospital for care.

The first Adopt A Nurse was Irene Gulavi who was hired in May 2007 to be the senior nursing officer in charge. She is an amazing woman. She came to the job with tremendous experience as a medical surgical pediatrics nurse, a midwife, a reproductive health expert, a nursing school instructor of community health, and the retired head of nursing at the Kakamega Provincial Hospital supervising over 500 nurses. Irene has built a cadre of nurses who struggle against some difficult odds to provide nursing care. The odds are not having electricity, not having running water, not having a blood supply, not having enough drip stands, not having enough nurses on duty to help, not having enough of a lot of things too numerous to mention. They show up for work every day and every night learning together how to solve these challenges.

I attended morning nursing rounds at 7:00 am every day with Irene and covered for her when she needed to take a break. She really hadn't had much of a break since I left at the end of July 2007. I could see the improvement in how night nurses handed over to the morning nurses. The procedure to check in the medications and equipment was now finally working. There was nothing in place when Irene arrived last spring.

Irene was teaching these nurses about a myriad of subjects when arising out of patient care concerns. Irene would know that there was information missing that the nurses needed. I would go back to my nursing textbooks, look up the subject matter, and present it to Irene. She would read it and teach the information to the nurses. It was exciting to part of the nursing service becoming a learning environment. She refused to return my Medical-Surgical nursing textbook telling me I would have to return to get it back.

The real threat to keeping the nursing cadre in place is government recruiting. The government pays double the nursing salary compared with what the hospital pays, but it will not recruit nurses without one year's experience. KRCHN make 10,000/= a month at Kaimosi and in government they make 22,000/=, KECHN make 7,000/= a month at Kaimosi and in government they make 20,000/=. It wouldn't be too hard to figure out how to increase it. Of the 8 new nurses 6 were KRCHN and 2 were KECHN. Of the 5 new ones, 2 would be KRCHN and 3 would be KECHN which Irene hoped she could find retired nurses to balance the experienced with the inexperienced. I'm sure you are getting the picture. All eight of the nurses newly recruited have just finished their education. They are augmented by four retired nurses who have worked for the hospital for many, many years. Irene has worked hard to provide all of the nurses with additional education in order to care for the HIV-AIDS clients who will be coming to the Comprehensive Care Center (CCC) just opening its doors at the hospital as I left. In addition, the government has provided training for nurses in caring for victims of gender violence in the recent wake of post election violence and the problems in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Once a nurse receives more specific education she is recruited and her salary doubles.

There are many things to be grateful for this past year. All salaries have been paid in full. More nurses have been recruited and are working. Nurses have received a small uniform allowance. Nurses are receiving additional training. The hospital environment has been improved with the new roof and internal/external painting and new curtains. Yet even more improvements are needed:

1. Five more nurses need to be hired.
2. Nurses' salaries need to be increased by at least 50% if not 100% to be compatible with government wages.
3. Staff (including nurses) living quarters are deplorable and need to be improved.

There are many financial challenges facing Kaimosi Friends Mission Hospital. When I'm in Kaimosi, it is hard for me not to invest every single cent I have to help improve the facility which impacts the people who have dedicated their lives to working there. Their dedication is remarkable. I want to leave this world knowing that when my children open my checkbook, they will be able to see what was really important to me.

The Adopt A Nurse program needs more money, not less. Are we willing to dream a little bigger for what we might give this year to fund and top up the Adopt A Nurse program?

## **Mesquakie Friends Center News** **by Victor and Brenda White - directors**

**“Because of God’s special favor to me, I have laid the foundations like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any other foundation that the one we already have, JESUS CHRIST.” 1 Cor. 3-10,11.**

Recently a newsletter arrived with these words, “Ready or not...here comes Spring!” Those same words can be said, “Ready or not... here comes Jesus!” No doubt there will be a lot of people who have not made preparations to meet Jesus for whatever reasons. Our purpose in being here is to make sure the Word is given out clearly enough for people to make a decision to be followers of Jesus. This is not always an easy task. For there are those who do not wish to be enlightened about our Lord. Some of our people believe the Bible belongs to the white man and the Indian has their own way. We know we are all children of God. But we do not give up on anyone so we pray for those who resist hearing the Good News. Praise the Lord we are not in control of who will listen and who will not.

This past year has been a time of restructuring in some areas of the Mission. Changes have been made but we are looking at them as positive. Last July the Iowa Yearly Meeting took over the operation and oversight of our Center from ACFIA. Throughout this change our ministry is growing and still needs financial support and work groups. We realize our people are not ready to be a church yet and probably will not be for quite some time. It is important that people understand this and continue to support our work among the Meskwaki people. If you plan for something to last a lifetime you use the best materials and experienced workers available. There is still a lot of ground that needs to be made ready to build on. In order to do this we need help to prepare the ground to further the Lord’s Kingdom. There is great need among the Nations everywhere. They seem to be a forgotten people right here in our own back yard. The alcoholism, drugs and suicide rate among the Natives are unbelievably the highest among any group of people in the US. We should be looking for ways to widen our vision for more work with the Native Americans. It is our hope and vision that we can do this in the future.

As some already know, Victor was diagnosed with ANCA Vasculiti last February following his trip to Africa. It is a very aggressive kidney disease that had already scarred 50 percent of his kidneys. The doctor said if it’s not stopped immediately Victor could be on dialysis within 2 years. What a shock to hear that news! He did not have any symptoms to forewarn him of this disease. It was discovered during a routine check-up. Right away the doctor put him on Prednisone and Cytoxan two very strong chemo drugs and Glyburide for diabetes (although he isn’t diabetic yet.) The medicines causes him to tire out easily, sleeplessness, tingling of the skin and to retain fluids. Please pray that the meds will stop the disease or better yet that the Lord will work a miracle and heal his kidneys.

We are looking forward to greater things at our mission station. God is being faithful and we certainly want to honor Him for it. Prayers are being answered in the Edwin and Janet Rivers will be moving back from Broken Arrow, OK to assist with the work at the Center in May. They have felt the call to come back and help with the Mesquakie ministry. Pray with us about their move, support and a place for them to live within the Tama-Toledo area. They did not know about Victor’s condition and neither did we when they called to give us their good news. Isn’t God’s timing great! We are also thankful that Travis has been helping with the building and grounds maintenance on a part time basis since last summer. He has been a great help. They are expecting their fist baby the end of May!

VBS and SOARING EAGLES CAMP are a vital part of the work because it brings kids here who have the opportunity to meet and have a personal relationship with JESUS CHRIST. We are expecting a church from Galena, IA to help with VBS, a work group from Maryland, and 1st Indian Church from Pawnee to help with camp. Our summer will be full and busy.

Right now we have a concern about our \$90,000 budget for this year. In order to take care of the needs of the Mission and our salaries we have to have a monthly income of about \$7,500. For the first 3 months of this year the total income has been about \$4,800 which is not enough to take care of the needs. We are thankful for a carry over balance from last year that has helped us through. What we need is more monthly supporters who will see that these needs are met every month. Beyond our budget is a lot of repair work that needs to be done. These are not included in our budget. We try to be good stewards of what God has given us and this is a beautiful place. We don’t usually talk about finances but the Lord laid it upon our hearts to make these needs known. We know the Lord will provide and sustain us as He has in the past 20 years. Praise the Lord!!

Thank you for helping us serve our Native People through your continued support and prayers. We cannot carry all of these burdens alone. Pray for all the Lord’s workers and the people. In His Service....Victor & Brenda

*An Opportunity for you to serve: Here is a list of items or services needed to work with the youth at Mesquakie Friends Center. Adult Counselors for camp; camp scholarships for youth in your personal or church name; recreational activity fees for swimming, tubing, etc.; paper products such as plates, bowls, cups, napkins, toilet tissue, and paper towels; disposable eating utensils; craft supplies; prizes for different activities; food; and t-shirts. Donations should be sent directly to the Mesquakie Friends Center. Thanks!!!*





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## Upcoming IAYM Events

### **2008 Yearly Meeting Ministry Conference**

**August 6 - 9 at William Penn University,  
Oskaloosa**

**Our theme this year is:** *"Stand at the Crossroads,  
Ask where the good way is. Walk in it and you will find  
rest for your souls" - Jeremiah 6:16*

**Wednesday the 6th** will be a day of celebrating our  
history (past)...our evening worship will highlight a skit/  
drama from College Avenue Friends directed by Iola  
Cadwallader

**Thursday the 7th** will be a day of celebrating our  
present....our evening worship will highlight a skit/  
drama from Honey Creek New Providence Friends  
directed by Arlen Daleske

**Friday the 8th** will be a day of celebrating our  
future....our evening worship will highlight a skit/drama  
from Grinnell Friends directed by Barb Briggs

**Saturday's Mission Banquet** will feature Nurse  
Judy Davis and her work in Kenya.

### **"Serve in Seasons of Change"**

**October 3-5, 2008**

*Celebrating 60 year of Camp Quaker Heights  
and 125 years of USFW in Iowa*

## Garrison Memorial Scramble

### 4-person Best Position Tournament

Pictures of this event are now  
available to view at our Website  
([iaym.org](http://iaym.org))

Thanks to Anthony Nieuwsma  
for his hard work in organizing  
this event. Nearly \$1,750 was  
raised to begin a scholarship  
fund. Thanks also to the  
many sponsors and the 11 teams that braved  
the weather and participated in this event! The  
winners were the Alan Mullikin team from  
LeGrand Friends Church.



## Quaker Camp Information

Registrations are now available. Find  
them at your local church or online at  
[iaym.org](http://iaym.org). OR contact our office and  
we will send a copy to you.