

The Iowa Friend

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

November 2008

Vol. 63 - No. 10



There were Friends, Festivities, Food, and Fun at the recent celebration services at Camp Quaker Heights. Congratulations on 125 years of USFW service and 60 years of Camp Quaker Heights. A special "Thank You" to Margaret Stoltzfus (president of USFW-Iowa) and to Linda Garrison (Camp Administrator) for hosting this event. It was a beautiful weekend of sharing together!



Friendly Flashes

a ministry of USFW

by Margaret Stoltzfus

God provided a beautiful fall weekend for the celebration of Iowa USFW's 125th birthday at Camp Quaker Heights October 3-5, 2008. Together Mary Glenn Hadley, USFWI president/presiding clerk, and Jason Nightingale shared their gifts on Friday evening and Saturday morning--Jason using his dramatic skills with memorized scripture and Mary Glenn giving us historical perspective as well as a look at how life has changed around the theme, "Serving in Seasons of Change." Ruthie Tippin led hymn singing and Pat Coffin provided a special solo. The offering for scholarships for Jamaica, Belize, and Ramallah was \$936.

Saturday noon after the delicious meal provided by Linda Garrison and the camp staff, a decorated birthday cake was served, honoring both the 125 years of USFW and the 60 years of Camp Quaker Heights operation. It was a joyous occasion with balloons, gold centerpieces, and fellowship around the tables. Magnets and pens from USFWI calling attention to the 2010 Triennial in Kenya were at each place setting on a gold napkin. Arlen Daleske provided a historical trivia game that added to the fun.

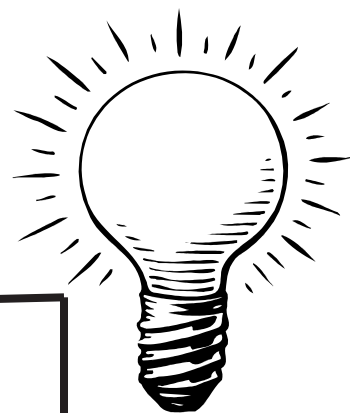
The afternoon session centered on Iowa USFW with the president (wearing a black bonnet which belonged to Lydia Green) sharing the history of our beginning in 1883 and the list of the first officers. Past presidents were invited to share memories of their time in office. Edna Smith, Ann Lee Nichols, Cindy Norman, Clara Millett, Pat Coffin and Margaret Good were present to share while Iola Cadwallader, Joyce Street, and Dianne Marr sent greetings which were read.

Mary Glenn gave us information about the 2010 USFWI Triennial which will be held July 1-4 in Mombasa at a resort hotel. It was determined that approximately \$2500 would be needed for each woman attending from the US. The yearly meeting is allowed 2 representatives and each society may have a representative. More details will be available later.

Displays of historical items such as minutes, photos, clothes and triennial souvenirs were on tables in the chapel. Used books as well as crafts from Kenya and some from a local society were available for sale.

Thanks to each of you who participated, to those who provided the program, to the camp staff and Linda Garrison. It was a grand celebration! Iowa USFW will meet again on April 4, 2009 at Lynnville Friends for Spring Fling. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar. We expect to see you there.

IOWA YEARLY MEETING YOUTH MINISTRIES



Mid-Winter Outreach Event

January 9-11, 2009
Middle River Friends Church
Carlisle, IA
+ Sleepy Hollow sports Park
for High School and
college age youth

IMPACT 2008

High School Youth Retreat
November 8-9, 2008

Grinnell 1st Friends Church

Cost: \$60

Registration begins at 10:30am
event concludes after lunch on
Sunday

Workshop topics include:
Music Ministry, Drama, Speaking
& Children's Ministry

For More Information:

Anthony Nieuwsma

Grinnell Friends

PO box 507, Grinnell, IA 50112

(641) 236-6412

newsma213@hotmail.com

Meeting Moments & Vital Signs

Motor Friends (Keith Smith - Pastor)

In June the church participated in the Highway 92 roadside pickup during a Sunday School hour that was then followed by a meal served at the church. Some 21 youth attended camp and 5 adults volunteered their time at Camp Quaker Heights (some multiple times!). A large group of members and friends attended the June 20th Iowa Cubs game in Des Moines. And finally, on June 30th, the church held a commissioning service for Wes Blanchard and family during the worship hour - their last Sunday at Motor before becoming pastor for the Indianola Friends, followed by a carry-in lunch.

In July there was VBS beginning with a supper at 6 pm. The theme was "County Harvest - Fruit of the Spirit. For the July family outing members and friends enjoyed mini-golf at a facility in Des Moines, followed by a picnic at Blank Park. In August the Motor community was invited to enjoy homemade ice cream and goodies on the church lawn. A new sidewalk to the new Sunday School addition has been completed.

In September there was Sunday School teacher recognition Sunday and Rally day was the following Sunday with a pot-luck lunch and games for everyone in the afternoon.

West Branch Friends (Ruthie Tippin - Pastor)

During the month of July we collected food items for the crisis center. On August 2nd was our annual Hymn Sing and pie & ice cream social. Our meeting (assisted by other churches) hosted the group "Celebration Iowa" singers - they sang before the fireworks display.

On Rally Sunday there was a light breakfast of fruit and pastries. Plans were told of the new Sunday school year. Matt and Laura Scott are the parents of Abrahm Holden Joseph Scott. He was born August 12th and weighed 8lbs-61/2 oz and was 21 3/4 inches long. He was welcomed home by brother Ike. After church on August 31, we met at the Young Friends Cabin to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the cabin. A meal was provided.

A new program, "Friends Together" has been started. It will be a spiritual friendship with a seasoned friend. There will be reading of prayer, study of scripture, queries, and devotional readings. Once a month you meet to share your journey as "Friends Together".

Some of the speakers that have come to our church have been Joseph Mamayi Makokha, Chairman of the Friends Church Peace Team; Sylvia Graves, General Secretary of FUM; and Kim Newlin, FUM staff member.

The Annual day of worship at the park was held in September. It was a time of worship, music, games and food!

Lynnville Friends (Dr. Douglas Smiley - Pastor)

"God has truly blessed our church family and community with new babies and new marriages."

Congratulations to Tessa DeCook who married R.J. VanDyke on September 27th.

Congratulations to Brooke Bryan who will marry Tyler Roose on October 11th.

Welcome to Keegan Gregory, son of Pastor Jeremy and Jodi Schnell.

Welcome to Cameyon Jesse, son of Curtis and Stacey James.

Welcome to Mylee Nicole, daughter of Paige Hartgers.

Glenn and Coleen VanDyke had a road trip in September to deliver 50+ boxes for the Love Packages that they have been collecting as a church. The organization's 2008 goal was to deliver 1000 tons of Christian literature around the globe.

Honey Creek New Providence Friends (Arlen Daleske - Pastor)

The church has invited its members to take part in "Sending Thanksgiving to Africa" (an outreach from 'Outreach Africa'). The goal is to pack 100,000 meals for Tanzania in one afternoon with 600 volunteers. This will take place on Sunday, November 23, 2008 at the Eldora Middle School Gymnasium.

College Avenue Friends (Tom Palmer - Pastor)

The following members of the church participated in CROP walk during October: Tom Palmer, Shirley Robbins, Caroline and daughter Kristine Jaennette, Spencer Thury, and Kristy Barber). Also, the church began an afterschool program entitled "Prime Time".

Editor's Note: Part of this obituary was cut off in the last Iowa Friend. Here it is again in full.

Dorman Brush, age 57, of LeGrand Friends, died on Saturday, September 20, 2008 in Eldorado, Kansas. Funeral services were held Saturday, September 27 at LeGrand Friends Church. Dorman always made his home in the LeGrand community where he farmed, owned a trucking company, and sold NK seed for 30-plus years. He had served on the Stewardship Board of Iowa Yearly Meeting. He is survived by his wife, Diana; his children: Marti (Ted) Wojcik, Kori (Mark) Doty, Kristi (Daniel) Flanagan; his step-children: Sky and Dalton Smith; ten grandchildren plus one on the way; a sister Sandra (Darrel) Devick; his step-mother, Bernice Brush; three nephews and two neices.

**Reminder: Memorials are to be sent to:
Marie Moffitt
15529 Kennedy St.
Indianola, IA 51025**

Upcoming IAYM Events

Quaker Men's Banquet is
February 28, 2009

BOC meets on March 14th in
Oskaloosa @ 9:30 am

Spring Body of Representatives will meet
on March 28th at West Branch Friends

Saturday, April 4, 2009, Spring Fling for
USFW. It will be held at Lynnville Friends.

**2009 Yearly Meeting's
Ministry Conference** to be held on
July 29th - August 1st at

Scholarships

Mission Board Scholarship

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 scholarship, please contact Diane Martin, IAYM Mission's Board, 3227 Pheasant Avenue, Rockwell, IA 50469 or call 641-822-3694.

Trustees Scholarship

Applications are currently be taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2009-2010 academic school year (January 2010). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting office. Deadline for this scholarship is January 1st, 2009. A recipient will be determined at Spring Body 2009. Make inquiries to: IAYM, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 / (641) 673-9717 or email at iaym@mahaska.org. Thank You!

IAYM Thanksgiving

Mission's Focus

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations."

Iowa Yearly Meeting has been given the exciting opportunity of sending two new families to different parts of the world to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Sam & Becky Barber, who have four children (Robert-16, Katie-14, Kristy-9, and Kassie-6), will become the new directors of the Friends Boys School in Belize through FUM. Sam and Becky both have education and Bible college degrees. They are

active members of College Avenue Friends and are both employees of Vennard College. (Barber's phone--641-672-1450) Their website is www.belizebarbers.org Their teaching and administrative experience will be a great asset as they serve God and the boys in Belize. One of their goals in Belize is to work towards opening a church in the school. They are excited for this new direction God has given their family and look forward to serving in Belize.



Nathan and Brianna Martin are currently the pastors at Salem Friends and are hoping to leave for Cambodia in July of 2009. In Cambodia they plan to work in church planting efforts, to encourage and equip Cambodian pastors, and to serve in children's

ministry. God has given them an interest in the world through short-term mission trips, working with international students, and seeing God's heart for the nations through scripture. A passion for unreached people groups was developed during seminary for both of them. Did you know that around two billion people still have never had a chance to hear the gospel of Christ? (Martin's phone-319-931-4640) Their website is www.heartforcambodia.com

These two families need our prayer and financial support. This Thanksgiving mission focus is specifically for the many expenses they will incur in preparing for the mission field that many people are unaware of. This includes travel for fund raising, cross-cultural training, ministry evaluations, passports, medical needs, vaccinations, storage, shipping, and moving expenses. This offering will be divided between the two families to help cover the additional expenses. Please also consider contacting them to become monthly financial supporters. Future inserts will be sent with more details of their individual ministries next year. All donations need to be sent to Bob Watson, 803 Minnesota Street, Glidden, IA 51443 and labeled Thanksgiving offering.

THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

phone (641) 673-9717

e-mail iaym@mahaska.org

website www.iaym.org

November 2008 Vol. 63 - No. 10

The Iowa Friend

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Oskaloosa, Iowa
Permit No. 544

Change

Service Requested

Hope for the Future

A message from Ron Bryan, General Superintendent of Iowa Yearly Meeting

I recently attended the annual Superintendent's and Secretaries meeting held at the end of September in Oregon. I jotted down some ideas as they were expressed by the group. Some examples are:

"Connecting rather than controlling"

"Keep informing of the triumphs and celebrate them"

"Must be convinced of our purpose"

"Reason for new church plants is because many existing churches don't want to grow!"

Hebrews 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; 'without holiness no one will see the Lord.'"

Which leads to Romans 6:22, "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life."

As I wrote them down it seemed like they were just random thoughts that appeared important to me. Then when I returned home I wondered if they were really that random. It appears to me that there is a message here for us all. We need to be connected to one another, be in relationships that have meaning and are filled with exchanges of information. We need to share the triumphs and victories in our daily spiritual walk, and not dwell only on the negative and what may seem at times to be the mundane. We need to be connected and convinced that we have a purpose and that together we can reach our goals and finish our tasks. Life has many, many different twists and turns and we all need to be uplifted and able to see and experience joy.

Continued on page 2

I want to outline some of the triumph's that came to my mind in a matter of a few minutes this afternoon:

****Fairfield Friends** has experienced significant numerical growth in their two morning worship services as well as their burgeoning mid-week youth programs. They have acquired additional property in order to be able to expand their facilities for the future.

****Bloomington-Muscatine** is seeking to acquire a large van in order to facilitate the picking up of the many children that have begun to be involved in their Thursday night and Sunday night programs. At the same time their Wednesday morning and evening Bible studies have been bringing new joy.

****College Avenue Friends** has just begun an after school Kid's club for the neighborhood.

****Salem's** mid-week youth program has amazed the members.

****HCNP** is enjoying a very fruitful Monday morning community breakfast, with as high as 140 attending.

****Light of the Lakes church** at Arnolds Park has established a Saturday night music entertainment and worship as well a worship band on Sundays'.

****Marshalltown youth** have started an after-school Bible study at the Marshalltown High School.

****Motor** has completed a new education wing to accommodate all of their youth and adults for Sunday School, and finally

****Lynn Grove** has approved plans to build a whole new recreational facility next to their property to better accommodate all of their varied youth and adult activities. These are just a few examples but my point should be obvious, all is not lost and there is new life where it is nurtured.

These are some of the triumph's we can celebrate and this is not all of our churches that are receiving blessings. But in each of these locations people are hearing the story of Life, the call to a life of Holy living and the way to eternity through Jesus Christ. As we are faithful with our time and talents God is able to cause the seeds that we plant to take root and grow into fresh fruit or a fresh harvest.

But wait there is more.....

When we talk on a Yearly Meeting level about church growth or church planting we are normally immediately embroiled in a discussion about costs, right personnel, and/or proper planning. The comment I picked up in Oregon about "existing churches don't want to grow" is close to the reality that I have witnessed over the last thirty years. Case and point, one of the General Secretaries was called to sit down with a Meeting that was seriously dwindling and they asked for advice about they should do to attract new members? The General Secretary, after studying the situation asked them three questions:

(1) If you were to have five new members added this year what would you think? *They responded, "Wow that would be great."* **(2) If you were to have fifteen new attendees in your meetings for worship and they all wanted to join into membership how do you think you would react?** *They responded, Well, (pause) that might be a little difficult for us to accept, especially if they wanted to make some changes.* **(3) If, he asked finally, you had fifty new people start to attend how do you think you would accommodate them?** *They responded to him, that could be very overwhelming and we are not at all sure how comfortable that would make us! (This is written from my recollection of these comments.)*

The point, of course, is we often make expressions about wanting to see our churches grow in number, but when it comes to welcoming and accepting the normal amount of changes that would come with growth, there is often an uncomfortable feeling which surfaces that may very well sabotage any true effort to incorporate new members with new ideas and new direction. Hence, we have declining churches that struggle with having a genuinely acceptable vision or purpose that will cause or allow true growth. Does this seem harsh or judgmental or is it simply reality in an aging membership located in a declining population area? That is why we, as Friends, need to seriously engage in new beginnings while not abandoning our existing relationships. We are going to be challenged in the months to come from Church Extension about where we should put forth new efforts to establish new Friends Churches. We all need to be connected to this concept and allow God to direct us and create excitement within us. When we submit to Divine leadership then we can anticipate additional new triumphs to celebrate.