



The Iowa Friend

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

December 2008

Vol. 63 - No. 11

A Christmas message from our General Superintendent...Ron Bryan

Fear gave way to Awe, and Awe gave way to Praise!!!!

Luke 2:8-20 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke, the physician, writes as a friend and confidant of Mary the mother of Jesus. He gives us the story of the shepherds on that unbelievable night outside of Bethlehem in the surrounding hills. God chose in His wisdom to reveal this miraculous act to the common people of that era. "Do not be afraid" - of course you and I would have been also at such a moment. But as we read of this timeless story their fear gave way to awe and then their awe gave way to praise.

Do we not need to approach our every day life in such a manner? Right now today, we are

surrounded by fear. Fear of global warming, fear of terrorists, fear of the economic collapse - this is the essence of what we hear and is reinforced to us daily. Only this weekend a person was commenting to me they were surprised that we haven't heard of more suicides, like in the 20's. I didn't live through it, but others did. Many people *in those days* gave into their fear, lost hope and took what seemed to them to be the only way out.

We need to pause and remember, as Christians we believe and have hope. God sent His only Begotten Son into our world so that we might have the hope of eternal life. And that hope is sent to fully envelope us now. Today, not tomorrow, not later in eternity, but now as we live and walk and breath in every moment.

Some might be thinking, "That's easy for you to say, you haven't experienced the problems I am facing"? Perhaps that is true on many levels, but in many other ways, there is nothing new under the sun that has not confronted mankind before. As a pastor I have set with, walked with and prayed with many people. People who had lost hope and then saw the joy in their eyes as hope returned. Our hope is not in and of this world, but of heavenly minded things. Our fears need to give way to awe of our wonderful Lord, and our awe should be consumed with praise as we exercise our faith and believe. Just like the shepherds, just like the Wiseman, just like Simeon in the temple when Jesus was presented to be consecrated.

Have a Merry, Merry Christmas and let us look forward to another day, another year in which we may praise our Living Lord.

Camp Quaker Heights News

Ron and I have worked for some time on the Pastor's mini-ministry retreat dates, and we are eager to host you again. We will hold the retreats in Tall Oaks Lodge on the following dates:

Feb. 24-25, 2009
Mar. 18-19, 2009
April 8-9, 2009 and
April 17-18, 2009

The dates set aside fall on different days of the week, and hopefully one will work for you. We will need at least 3 participants at each event, and no more than 8 participants, couples, or teams. Spouses as well as co-laborers in the ministry are welcome. There will be NO CHARGE. Meals are provided, as are linens and towels in each private guest room.

The event will begin with a supper, and end the following day after the noon meal. Folks are invited to come early in the day to enjoy the quiet of the facility. Schedules with specifics will be sent to registered participants a week to 10 days before the retreat, and all guests will be asked to participate in discussions, and plan to wholly participate in the 18-hour event. Please email your chosen date and I'll reserve your spot!



The I CQH visits have been scheduled, but we do ask that you consider how you will encourage your meeting to gather a special offering for camp. In previous years each church collected an offering on a certain day, and we have chosen not to promote it in that manner. However, we DO need these additional gifts to move forward. We regret that we're only able to visit with a handful of churches but are eager to work with you should you have a particular need. Occasionally, we can offer the I CQH program at a different time of the year, should you wish.

I pray for you, that you practice joy and mercy in this the season of thankfulness. Linda Garrison

Teacher Training Workshop Motor Friends Church

FOR WHO: Any one interested in teaching, leading a small group, or improving their personal study skills

WHEN: Sunday February 1st

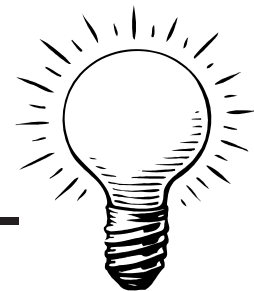
TIME: 2 pm - 7 pm

SUPPER: provided for freewill donation

CONTACT: Angie Gentry 515-238-5844

REQUEST: if possible please RSVP to Angie Gentry by Sunday January 25th so that we can get an approximate count for Supper

IOWA YEARLY MEETING YOUTH MINISTRIES



Mid-Winter Outreach Event

January 9-11, 2009
Middle River Friends Church
& Sleepy Hollow sports Park
for High School and
college age youth
COST: \$100 please go to iaym.org
and look in youth ministry for
more information and release form

USFW Friendly Flashes

Our Iowa funds are coming in well for USFW International projects. The Fall Retreat offering for scholarships totalled \$960.00. The board decided that, since Ramallah is a much larger school than Jamaica or Belize, to send half (\$480.00) for Ramallah, and \$240.00 each for Jamaica and Belize.

We also received \$78.00 from the used book sales, which goes for library books for Swift Purcell Boys School in Jamaica.

USFW International is on a calendar year for financial projects, so the year is quickly coming to an end. The newest Advocate shows at total of 80% of budgeted funds received by Sept. 30. This is a very good percentage, but the projects are not evenly funded. Several of them are well over the 100% mark, due largely to the Triennial offering and memorials for Maxine Beane. But four projects are still under the 50% level.

SO, if your society still has funds to send in this year, I would recommend that you either pick out the projects which have the lowest levels of funding, or just send me "undesignated funds". USFWI really likes undesignated funds at this time of year, as they can apply them to the projects which most need more funds. Designated funds cannot be switched to another project, and of course all of the projects can use all the money they receive. It is, however, best if most, if not all, of the budgeted projects can be fully funded, as the recipients are counting on that money for their operating budgets.

*With prayers for God's blessings upon all of you at
Christmas and throughout the New Year.
Dorothy Taylor, Iowa USFW Treasurer*

Meeting Moments & Vital Signs

Deaths:

Peter Reuben Schuler, 77 of Grinnell and formerly of Lynnville, passed away on October 31, 2008 at his home. Services were held on November 5, 2008 at the Lynnville Friends Church. Peter, son of Samuel and Josephine Schuler, was born on October 9, 1931 in Buffalo Center, IA. He worked with his father as a painter and a paper hanger during school vacations. Peter participated in sports during high school and college. He was a 1949 graduate of Buffalo Center High School. Pete earned a BA Degree from William Penn College in 1954. During his junior year at William Penn, he accepted Christ as his Savior and responded to God's call to the ministry. Pete enrolled in Western Evangelical Seminary in Jennings Lodge, near Portland, OR. On August 22, 1954 he was united in marriage to Erma Jean Baiotto at Scranton Friends Church. They had 4 children, Kenneth Lee, Deborah Kay, Peter Robert and Timothy John.

Pete's first pastorate was at Nehalem, OR. God led him into full time pastoral ministry to Lynnville, IA in 1962. He served in eight churches over 43 years. Pete and Jean were a pastoral team for 40 years until Jean died of cancer in 1995. Pete married Marilyn Watson Sparks on October 6, 1996. Together they enjoyed pastoral services and retirement for 12 years. Peter will be remembered for his faithfulness and obedience to God, his integrity with God's word and his loyalty to family and friends.

Left to honor his memory is his wife, Marilyn; 4 children, Kenneth Schuler, Deborah (Jack) Higginbotham, Peter (Rena) Schuler, Timothy Schuler; 7 grandchildren; one great grandchild; one brother, Larry (Yvonne) Schuler; 4 sisters, Betty (Dick) Murra, Barbar (Merlin) Letcher, Mary Quade, Georgia (Rick) Brown; a brother in law, Vernon Kolpeck; many nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Josephine Schuler; his first wife, Jean; a sister Stella Kolpeck; a brother-in law, Jim Quade and an infant brother.

Freeda Johnson, wife of Dean Johnson (former director of Friends Disaster Service), passed away on Saturday evening, November 8, 2008 about 7:00 PM with her family surrounding her with love, hymns and Bible verses.

Private services for the family were held on Thursday, November 13th, 2008. A Memorial Service in celebration of Freeda's life was held on Friday, November 14 at Canton First Friends, 2130 31st ST NW, Canton, OH.

If you would like to send condolences to the family, you may send to Dean Johnson & family at 241 Keenan Rd., Peninsula, OH 44264

Ercil Victor Beane, 93, of rural LeGrand died on October 25, 2008. Services were held on November 1st at the LeGrand Friends Church. Ercil was born on January 14, 1915 on the family farm north of LeGrand, IA to Quaker parents Charles and Edna Ferguson Beane. He attended school in Green Mountain and graduated from LeGrand in 1932. He attended William Penn College, Lincoln Chiropractic College and graduated from Palmer Chiropractic College 1937. He returned to operate the family farm and establish a Chiropractic practice. He married Maxine Hoover on November 26, 1938 in an unprogrammed Quaker ceremony at the LeGrand Friends Church.

Ercil had careers in farming and Chiropractic. He had a growing farm operation and was a strong supporter of Future Farmers of America and 4-H clubs. Later in life he traveled extensively, with his wife Maxine, to countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and the Middle East, demonstrating and promoting chiropractic to people who had not experienced that healing art. He was a member of the Board of Regents at Sherman Chiropractic College and director of extension with Life Chiropractic College.

Ercil had been a member of the LeGrand Friends Church where he taught the Mountain Boys Sunday School and was president of the LeGrand Quaker Men. He served as president of the Iowa Quaker Men and the National Quaker Men. He also served on the General Board of FUM and their Wider Ministries Commission. He was on the board of governors of William Penn College and the development board establishing the Earlham School of Religion. He also worked with the executive board of the Friends Wold committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

He is survived by 5 children: David (Judy), Daniel (Sarah), Marian, Evan (Cindy), and Joel (Rita). He is also survived by 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, his sister Mary Lois Merryman and his sister-in-law Marjorie Beane. He was preceded in death by his wife Maxine, his parents, two infant siblings, his brothers Ernest and Donald, his sister Frances Watland and a grandson Matthew Beane.

Reminder: Memorials are to be sent to:

**Marie Moffitt
15529 Kennedy St.
Indianola, IA 51025**

The staff of Iowa Yearly Meeting wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God's presence be present at all times during this holiday season!



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

William Penn University, Oskaloosa

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!

Friends Bringing Hope Work Team Mission Trip January 26- February 12, 2009

The season of Thanksgiving lives on for me. I am always delighted and still amazed how God opens doors for opportunities. This is what brings me to this letter. Friends Bringing Hope received a very generous donation Hope earmarked for one or more new people to join the January Work team. These funds will considerably reduce the cost of this trip for one or two people. One person would only need to come up with their air fare and visa fees. If two go, it would cut the cost of the work team portion in half and they would still need to come up with air fare and visa costs.

Of course we have been blessed with a mild fall, however it is snowing now and I can imagine by January 26th, we will be happy for the chance to be in sunny beautiful Kenya.

If you have been feeling called to travel to Kenya and finances have detoured your Spirit lead nudging this may be the open door for you. Please submit your application for this scholarship as soon as possible. I need to finalize plans for hotels in Nairobi and get set for this work team. FBH has rented the East Africa Yearly Meeting Guest house from January 28th-February 9th. It is my prayer that God will nudge the one who is needed. To apply just e-mail me at bauer.kn@gmail.com . I am including work team information below.

It is my feeling that it is evident how God continues to bless this work by making the way open for more to experience Kenya and serving the widows and orphans in Kenya.

We are entering in to the season of Advent, and we are anticipating Gods' Good work in the future and are experiencing God at work now. Peace, Karen Bauer

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Friends Bringing Hope is a ministry to Kenyan widows and orphans who have been affected by the AIDS epidemic. This ministry was created out of a concern to provide humanitarian assistance those most in need. Participating in the work team you will:

- Experience first hand the work to help those in desperate need.
- Work on a project at the dairy farm
- Build a home for displaced orphan and widow family
- Visit widow and orphan groups
- Worship with Kenyan Friends
- Provide funding for dairy farm building renovation,
- investment in micro-enterprises to help widows earn income to provide for their families and continuation of anti-retroviral drug programs for widows who are HIV positive.

During this 17 day trip the work team will provide needed ministry and support for ongoing programs that help widows and orphans. You will stay a few days in Nairobi and the rest near Kaimosi, Kenya. Kaimosi is the location of the Dairy Farm project where income produced from milk sales are directed to help widows and orphans. We will also have the opportunity to build at least one semi- permanent home for a widow and her children. This opportunity is available to the first six applicants.

Mesquakie Friends Center Newsletter - Fall 2008

As we reflect back on our year, we are saying to ourselves "did we really do all those things that we had planned for this year?"

The early part of May (9) we were blessed with a new grandson. His name is Colson Henry. When he was born his left cheek and part of his lips were swollen. This they attributed to trauma during birth but it never went away and was very painful when touched. He had been seen by several doctors who did not know for sure just what they were dealing with. A biopsy was done in Iowa City and from this we heard that his cheek contained not a tumor, but a lesion that they are calling mixed mesenchymal hamartoma. It is an extremely rare growth of organ and skeletal tissues that are in his cheek. The doctor said the only way to get rid of this is surgery. Colson had surgery for this at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. The surgeon removed most of the growth (working from inside his mouth to reduce scarring) and the surgery went very well. Pray for Travis, Jenny and Colson during this time of recovery.

Along with spring came the rain, rain and more rain. Flooding started in late April and continued until the first part of June. There was about 15 families on the Settlement that had to be relocated for awhile. Most are back in their homes - a few are still waiting for their homes to be refurbished before being allowed to move back in. One of the ladies from our church (Gene) had to be removed from her home by boat. She didn't want to go but the Fire Department said it was mandatory. She's home now.

Preparing for camp is always hard work, but when we see the end results, it's always worth it. There were 42 campers and 21 helpers this year. We were happy that Brad Wood brought his kids from Kickapoo to be part of our camp. Warren Pratt brought some HS kids from Pawnee Indian Baptist Church and Jay Mule from Ardmore brought two HS kids and was our Camp Pastor too. This year's camp was a little different and special. Our camp is usually made up of kids in grades 4-8, but this year we had more HS kids. We didn't plan it that way it just happened. After a few nights we began to understand why. Each night these HS kids would give testimonies about what was going on in their homes and lives. They were able to share their hearts and tears with us. Each night the alter calls brought them forward to either surrender their lives to Christ or to ask for prayer for their parents or friends. These kids are desperately crying out for help. On an Indian reservation there have been thirty suicides and 150 attempts in less than a year. Just out of the small group we had here at camp, there was two that we were aware of that had attempted suicide. One just a week before coming

to camp. These statistics do not make the news because the Native people of this country are The FORGOTTEN people. These are our people and we care about them. We are thankful that some of you do care enough that you send gifts and prayers for this camp because without them there would be NO camp. We are thankful for the Natives that come as teachers, counselors and cooks to minister to our young people because they know what they are going through. Thank you all for caring hearts. Thanks for all the delicious cookies Iowa ladies.

July 7-10 Galena Bible Church came and helped us with VBS. We heard they did a wonderful job working with our kids and some of our people. On the last day they invited parents to come and there was quite a few that came to see what the kids had learned. We were able to be there for the first 2 days and then we left for High Point, NC for the FUM Triennials. Warren Pratt from Oklahoma brought a Native American Dance Team to perform some traditional song and dance. We wanted people to see that Native American Christians can and do participate in Pow Wows and at the same time minister to not only our people, but to others as well. We danced in a park in Lewisburg, KY and a gym in Greensburg, KY before heading home.

In August we attended what we could of the Yearly Meeting sessions. We were able to take Simon, from Africa, to an afternoon performance of the Meskwaki Pow Wow. He also enjoyed eating an Indian Taco. Nathan and Brianna Martin brought a work group from Salem Friends on August 15-16 and poured us a nice sidewalk at the Pastor's house. They worked very hard and late on Friday evening getting the ground ready for the cement the next morning. They also broke ground for another project but didn't get that project finished yet. They are coming back at a later time to finish it. For this we say thank you for your dedication and hard work in serving the Lord.

Of course, all of the mentioned things were scheduled projects. If we made mention of all the things that happened in-between this would be a few pages. Like the weddings, funerals, jail visits, hospital visits and etc. Our grandkids keep us busy with their activities and especially Colson and all the doctor appointments. Since Jen is working, we try to help Travis with doctor appointments and shots that newborns have to have. She goes to the more important doctor visits.

Thank you for being a partner with us in this important ministry. **Romans 11:14 says, "I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me."**

Love in Christ.....Victor & Brenda White

Please visit us at our website "mesquakiefriendscenter.com

THE IOWA FRIEND

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The Iowa Friend

Nonprofit Organization
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Oskaloosa, Iowa

Permit No. 544

Change

Service Requested

The Difference Between Welcoming and Integrating New Friends

an excerpt of an article written and shared by permission from:
Christopher Sammond, New York Yearly Meeting's General Secretary

There is a big difference between welcoming a newcomer and integrating new Friends into the fabric of our communities. When we welcome a newcomer, we are letting them know that they are welcome to join us as we are, to have a seat at the table we have set. When we integrate someone into our community, we make space for them, allowing ourselves and our community to be changed in the process. We ask them to be a part of deciding how the table is set, and what each of us will contribute to that process.

Most of our meetings are good at welcoming. Very, very few are good at integrating new Friends and receiving all that they have to offer. Many of our meetings are concerned about

their small numbers and aging population. they see newcomers as the solution to sustaining the life of their meetings. But they are trying to preserve *what is*, not recognizing that opening that circle to even one new member will change the whole community. Thus, newcomers are welcome to join what is a much-loved community, but discouraged, in ways conscious and unconscious, from doing anything that might change that community. They end up feeling frustrated and shut out. Many leave after a year or two, even when they have felt an initial good fit with the rest of the meeting. If we aren't valued for who we are and what we bring, if our gifts and energies do not find an outlet in a community, most people will look elsewhere.