



REASONS FOR HOPE AMONGST THE FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA

written by: Ron Bryan, General Superintendent

My observations from viewing and participating for 32 days in East Africa, these help me to believe God is at work in a new way amongst the Friends Churches. I began hearing reports of people wanting to move forward before ever leaving America. I have a number of friends in Kenya that have been telling me that the Friends Church is beginning to embrace new changes within their Meetings and Yearly Meeting.

One observation I noticed immediately upon arrival in Rwanda was talk of the people and their churches seeking new ways to help in personal development. (1) Spiritually and (2) economically, there seems to be a desire to find ways to increase income by developing new markets, new enterprises and an openness to evangelism. The church I spoke in Rwanda is seeing a number of new faces young and old each Sunday. I saw the same spirit of enthusiasm in Tanzania and Kenya. Eventually, at the end of my trip, even Uganda seemed to notice that people genuinely wanted to help and encourage them. I heard and I conversed with people in all these countries about wanting help in organizing, accountability, integrity. I underscore they were asking for help not handouts, they now want to develop further their own skills and use their own education to help them move forward. With the in-home evangelism lead by the Turkana pastor's and evangelists during the free afternoon at Tororo, Uganda and with the open acceptance of the local people in wanting to come to the final service at the conference and their desire to be recognized as a new Friends Church, caught everyone's attention. Uganda stepped forward and said they would have a pastor there by the following weekend and they were encouraged by the new Quaker Men President that Kenyan's needed to step forward to help in this process as well as he announced he was returning to see that these things were done, motivated the audience. The eyewitness reports of genuine reconciliation going on at the 6 Yearly Meeting Quaker Men conference, where men were in tears asking for forgiveness gave much hope that a new day was dawning. I personally witnessed the asking for forgiveness by a General Superintendent from the Presiding Clerk of the Quaker Men Conference held at Kivigala Monthly Meeting, which included four Yearly Meetings, it was truly a sight to behold. As they reached out and shook each other's hands in mutual forgiveness in front of all of us was something rarely seen. This was followed by an exchange plan for those yearly meetings to share and exchange their pastor's for one month this next year. All of the Yearly Meetings pastoral leaders came forward to shake hands and pray about this plan, with much singing and clapping.

I doubt that it is a coincidence that last year the Yearly Meetings initiated and carried out an exchange of General Superintendents that lasted for three months, what an example. When I attach these sights to my reports of the new gathering of 400 people to worship under Friends pastoral leadership in Northern Turkana, near the border of Sudan and Ethiopia, it is clearly a sign of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on their work. This is region of the world that at first glance is nothing but desert and dry hills with thorn trees covering the landscape. This has taken place in just a few months. Not to be forgotten the Turkana pastors and evangelists are establishing new bush worship centers every year. They are not afraid to meet under a tree, similarly I witnessed the same spirit in Tanzania. Then we add in the amazing work of Christina in southern Tanzania where she has helped to found five Meetings in four years, after finding Quakers on the internet and contacting FWCC for advice and support. In the last four years they have sent three pastors for a one year diploma and they have returned now giving strong leadership to the three churches in Kyela. Their desire is to train two additional pastors right away and to organize into a Quarterly Meeting very soon. The people in Iringa and Mbeya want desperately to become a part of a network where they have support.

When you add all of this up and then see 800 pastors, men and women distributed almost equally, at the conference in Tororo, Uganda, when you hear the call for women to be allowed to hold positions of leadership such as General Superintendents, when you see literally hundreds of men and women on their knees praying for reconciliation and forgiveness for the old wounds of separation that have existed for twenty years, when you see the older Clerks and General Secretaries being replaced by younger men and women, when you see the incredible leadership from within the USFW's and the newly held view that the Quaker Men need to be better organized and better models for leadership.....one cannot help but have a feeling of hope. Even to the point of my saying, look out, here they come, ready or not. Praise God It was an important last step for me to bring forward the concept that James Mugalavai and myself stand together as members of the FUM Executive Committee to announce the results and recommendation for Colin Saxton to become the next General Secretary for FUM. It seemed like the exact time that the African representative make the announcement, which he did. It was refreshing to see and hear the expressions of appreciation for that moment as they clapped and thanked us for these results.

Quaker Men Family Banquet

Location: William Penn University
Cafeteria (Student Union - 2nd Floor)

Date: February. 26, 2011

Time: Dinner Served at 12:00 pm (Noon)

The winter banquet of Iowa Yearly Meeting is brought to you by your Quaker Men of Iowa. It has been called the Quaker Men's banquet in the past, but that would be misleading today. This banquet is for women, daughters, sons, and men-- but no pets. You are all invited, wanted, expected, desired, needed, planned for; and what else do you need? The official action begins by 11:30 at the Dining Room, top floor of Penn University Student Union. We met there last year for an outstanding banquet experience. Dinner served at noon.

We have an exciting program centered around our own home grown ministries; food first of course. Spencer Thury and his worship band from Campus Ministry will provide some music and a glimpse of their talent. Yes, we invest in young people at William Penn, so this will be a treat.

Remember the violence that happened with the last election in Kenya? Quaker peace teams worked to lead the healing of anger and hate that is the product of such violence. Now, Iowa Yearly Meeting is deeply involved in a new initiative to teach the next generation a better way by teaching students in about 1500 Quaker schools about peaceful resolution. We have all heard of the work being done by Mary Glenn Hadley, Charlotte Stangeland, and Marlene Pedigo to develop a peace curriculum and install it in Kenyan schools. This is a very big job. Lloyd Stangeland and Ron Bryan have been working on a way to finance this work by a project named SEEDS that will be done in Kenya. They will unveil this exciting development after dinner. We are privileged to have Ron and Lloyd share with us.

Have you heard of free rice to feed the starving? There is a game called Free Rice. I played it on the internet for an hour and had to make myself quit to go to work. We will play this game for 15 minutes. Everyone will enjoy it, especially in a group setting and we will get an idea of what starving for food is like.

This entire banquet is about you, the Quakers of Iowa Yearly Meeting and what we are doing to advance God's kingdom on earth today. Last year, tickets were 10 dollars in advance and 12 at the door. If there is any change, we will get the word out when we find out, which will be soon after the first of the year. We will know by the time you preregister. It is helpful to give food service advance notice on numbers, so order tickets from Chuck Nichols at 2015 Wardview Road, Marshalltown, Ia 50158. Phone is 641-752-1931.

If this isn't enough, you can even go shopping right on site. There will be baked goods and crafts for sale. The proceeds from this sale be divided between Friends disaster Service and Camp Quaker Heights.

Friendly Flashes

- a Ministry of USFW of Iowa -

USFW Spring Fling

The Spring Fling will be at Middle River Friends at Carlisle. Come be a part of the action!!

offering: for the USFW Ramallah projects

Theme: Sharing Our Gifts.

If you have a gift or special talent that you would be willing to share at the Spring Fling this April 9th, please contact a USFW Executive Officer.

The Officers will be meeting February 5th 2011 to discuss what talents will be forthcoming at our Spring Fling.

Your officers are: Karen Bauer, Linda Eliason, Karen (Mendy) Mendenhall, Cathie Zeliadt, Charlotte Mosher, and Lyn Kinney.

Iowa USFW Board Member NEEDED

Help!! We need someone to get out of their 'comfort zone' and 'step up to the plate'. We are in need of a position to be filled on the Iowa Executive USFW. Please help us locate someone willing to do this. Along with the information described below, this person needs to work with all the board members to help plan the 3 yearly events (Spring Fling, Celebration of Service, and Fall Retreat) and attend the 3 to 4 board meetings (which are in connection of planning the 3 events).

Please pray and send your names to me promptly.

Adult and Children Missionary Education

--You are to encourage local Societies to maintain a strong missionary awareness by informing them of mission and promotional materials available. You will promote concern for missions through reading, information, and participation in missions and service projects.

--Establish and maintain contact with our Iowa missionaries on the field. (example: be put on a list for their newsletters)

--Promote mission education and the USFW International Children and Youth Project.

--Present "Missions Update" at the annual USFW gatherings as requested.

Next August we will be in need of a Vice President and a Secretary. We need you to pray and consider yourself for one of these positions.

If you are interested please contact Lyn Kinney at mirror@netins.net or 641-527-3922.

Meeting Moments & Vital Signs

Community Outreach in Clinton
Bill and Esther Griggs

A Letter to the Clinton Herald Editor and Community

Dear Neighbors and Friends.

We are living in a time when the power of messages, so many, distract us and get layer on top of each other. Finding meaning and purpose in life with focus is a challenge, but so important!

September 22 through October 9 of 2010, about 12,000 homes received A GOSPEL PACKET at their doors with encouragement to find purpose in life and a certainty for the destination of our souls. The HOPE IN TROUBLED TIMES - CD enclosed for your life is a worth-while use of a few minutes.

Persons, about 2 or 3 from each of the following states came to Clinton to make this possible - New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Kansas and Iowa.

The Gateway Bible Chapel, a local group Christians, prayed for weeks for a successful first step of Distribution of the packets. Now over several months a Door-to-Door follow-up hopefully will be possible. The goal of our efforts has been to awaken all to the time honored message that Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Savior of all who will believe in Him and in His eternal purpose for the human family.

Soon one of us plans to make all believers aware of a seven-fold personal commitment that can lift our Clinton County Community to a singleness of purpose that will bless all who hear with obedience and believe in the One who has given us life.

The Sevenfold Common Discipline of a Yokefellow (male or female) is:

1. The Discipline of Prayer and Belief
2. The Discipline of Reading Scripture
3. The Discipline of Christian Worship
4. The Discipline of Money, proportionately given
5. The Discipline of Time well used
6. The Discipline of Work/Service, to help lift burdens
7. The Discipline of Study and careful reading

A Series of Community Wide Breakfasts or Luncheons may become a helpful sustaining part of this effort.

Bill Griggs - Regency Retirement Resident
Clinton, IA

Births:

Chris and Jen Reece, Tallahassee, FL, welcomed **Graham Edward Reece** into their hearts & home on October 26, 2010. Chris, former pastor of the Friends Meeting in West Branch, is now a Special Education teacher, and Jen continues her work as a Music Therapist. Graham's grandparents are Dennis & Marlene Reece of HCNP. His great-grandparents include Bonnie Phillips of HCNP and Art & Donna Williams of Marshalltown Friends.

Weston Amos Grafke was born on November 24th, 2010. His proud parents are Tim and Jennifer Grafke of Bangor-Liberty Friends.

Deaths:

Ruth Bonar, 59, died Wednesday, December 22, 2010, after a long and hard-fought battle with COPD. She was a member of Fairfield Friends Church. Ruth is survived by her husband, Gary, a daughter, 2 sons, and 5 grandchildren plus her many friends. She will be missed.

Bess Holveck

Our most sincere sympathy surrounds Kenneth Holveck, whose beloved wife, **Bess Holveck**, died October 21st, 2010. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, October 26th at Bangor Liberty with burial in the Bangor Friends Cemetery with Pastor Nathan officiating.

Bess' love of teaching was shared with many students throughout the years, in public schools, Bangor Liberty Sunday School, and in private tutoring of students. She was an active member of BLFC until giving up her driver's license at the age of 90, and remained a faithful witness at The Embers where she shared her caring spirit with others. We extend our sympathy to her sons, Jack and Bob, their wives and families.

Tim Albright

We also extend our sympathy to Kristy and Andi Albright and the rest of their family following the death of Kristy's husband, Tim, following a yearlong fight with brain cancer. Tim passed away on October 26th at the Hospice House in Marshalltown.

Attention: Memorials

Please send your meetings memorials to :
Marie Moffitt,
15529 Kennedy St., Indianola, IA 50125

Friends Disaster Service

Greetings from Bob Winn

I thought that those who have worked with Bob and Marge Winn would be interested in this letter.

Dennis White, Iowa Director of FDS

Greetings,

It's November 30th and Marge and I are waiting at the Cleveland Clinic for another round of chemo treatment for her lung cancer. She is doing well and they tell us the cancer is stable. I really don't know where the year has gone. We have so many things to be thankful for.

I'll tell you the most recent event. It was 3:00 A.M. last Sunday morning and I received a phone call from a friend who also happens to be a fireman. He said, "Bob (now I am trying to wake up and be coherent) your son Todd's house is on fire. Where are the bedrooms?" I am trying to sort this out and hear what is being asked of me (since I don't wear my hearing aid to bed). Marge, however, can hear the conversation and reminds me that Tracy, Todd's wife and their daughter Rachael, have gone away for the night while Todd has been deployed to Afghanistan. I immediately say, "Thank you Lord."

I put some clothes on and get to the fire just five miles away. I have never been on this side of disaster. The house is declared a total loss. The fireman, newspaper people, Red Cross, Insurance Representatives, many friends and family were so helpful. God is good even in tremendous times.

Early that morning Tracy, Rachael & I were finally able to get into the house. It was very bad; the ladies were doing ok until I noticed them crying. They had found a soiled teddy bear I had purchased for Rachael when she was born. I mention this because we take the things of life for granted. Such things can be replaced. What ultimately is priceless are friends, family and our Lord's faithfulness.

Marge and I count each and every one of you as forever friends. Thank you for your continued support of Evangelical Friends Disaster Service. Regularly EFDS helps people who suffer tragedies like Todd and Tracy, but they do not have the benefit of sufficient insurance. So on behalf of people like that, we trust that you will remember EFDS with you end of the year giving. We are so grateful for what you have done to date. Your financial and prayer support, are priceless.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday with God's Blessings!
By the grace of God, EFDS is By the grace of God, I am...1 Corinthians 15:10

Bob Winn, Director
Evangelical Friends Disaster Service

Friends Bringing Hope

2011 Objectives

IAYM Mission's emphasis

We are encouraged in Philippians 1:11 to "always be doing those good kind things which show you are a child of God." (LIV) This is just what Friends Bringing Hope is about; doing good kind things in Kenya for widows and orphans.

Friends Bringing Hope is a humanitarian assistance ministry that provides aid to orphans and widows in Kenya. As Christians we are dedicated to transforming the lives of those in need. We believe that all people are children of God, have value and are worthy of living a life with dignity. Our aim is to provide opportunity for improved living conditions, and to assist orphans and widows in a manner that enhances families and communities. We aspire to empower Kenyan widows; for widow groups that have their own decision making structure and manage their own funds. FBH intends to support their continued development. We aspire to impact orphans and widows so they may fulfill their God given potential and experience God's love in their lives, free from stigma, oppression and violence.

On February 15- March 3, 2011 Friends Bringing Hope will carry out its 6th annual work team. Brenda Cox from Woolson Friends (IYM) and Nancy MC Cormick, from Wilmington Yearly Meeting will join Karen and Stan Bauer. Please pray for this endeavor and that they will be a blessing to those with whom they will serve.

Friends Bringing Hope continues to make a positive difference in the lives of Kenyan widows and orphans in 2011 as funding allows through working on the following:

1. Accomplish a successful work team February 15- March 3rd, 2011
2. Continue to improve mission dairy farm
3. Continue to provide micro lending / enterprise funding to widows groups
4. Continue to sponsor education fees to orphans
5. Build homes for displaced widows and orphans
6. Continue NHIS pilot program with Kwanza widows group.
7. Build one safe haven house, office for the Checalini Friends widows group.

Donations may go to Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions
c/o Dorothy Taylor, 1121 Parkway Dr. Apt. 1
Boone, IA 50036

Friends Awarded the Peace and Christian Social Concerns Award

Dr. Phil Collins

Marshalltown Friends

Phil has spent his life in the healthcare field and has a passion for helping others. For many years, he has been active in the local Lions Club where he kept busy collecting used glasses to be given to people who could not afford them otherwise. He has helped to serve meals at Marshalltown's Homeless Shelter, The House of Compassion. For many years, he has also delivered Meals on Wheels. A recent act of kindness involved taking a Friend to rehab sessions until he was able to drive again. Throughout the years, Phil's caring for others has touched the lives of many grateful persons.

Rose Faux Fowler

Bear Creek Friends

Rose Faux Fowler is Activity Director at the nursing home in Granger Iowa. She arranges for people to visit lonely residents. Rose also organized a weekly Bible study. She works hard to decorate for the different seasons, and dressed in a duck costume last Easter. Rose also brings prayer concerns to church on Sunday, for problems that some of her people are experiencing. Rose is a great blessing to those under her care.

Don Humrichouse

Honey Creek New Providence Friends

Don is extremely deserving of the Peace and Social Concerns Service Award. Don has served on the Friends Disaster Service (Iowa branch) on numerous occasions, including trips to Louisiana and Mississippi for reconstruction after Hurricane Katrina. He also worked on roofing replacements following a tornado in the Fruitland community near Muscatine. When a nearby community (Eldora) was hit with a hail storm last summer, Don worked tirelessly to help those who had lost windows and roofs, or suffered other damages. Don was especially instrumental in repairs to Camp Quaker Heights, and the home of Linda Garrison. (It should be added that Don has always been a volunteer in the upkeep of the camp.) Don served for many years on the Board of Trustees here at our local church, and was much respected and loved in that position. Don is a leader at our weekly Monday breakfasts here in New Providence. He does everything from taking in the groceries to serving food and washing dishes. Most of all he finds time to visit with those who attend the breakfasts. He is also a mentor to younger men in our meeting. Don's spirit of service and caring are a blessing to all who know him.

Nina Lorimor-Easley

Earlham Friends

Nina organizes and participates in several community activities. She has helped organize the Community Good Friday Program, the Christmas Pageant, a Handicap Hunt called The Whitetail Challenge, a community worship service in the park and many other events. Everyone here in Earlham knows Nina by name; and, whenever there is an event that needs leadership and direction, Earlham can depend on Nina.

James and Sharon Johnson

Bangor Liberty Friends

James and Sharon Johnson have been active members in both their local and church communities. They have always been community minded, knowing that it takes volunteerism to keep a town healthy and vital. James has held many leadership positions in the town including membership in the Union Kiwanis association for ten years and serving as president for three years. He was on the Union Whitten community School District Board of education for three years, serving as president for two years. More recently, James has been on the Union Betterment Association. The Union Betterment Association takes part in many projects with Union Tarheel Days, each summer, being its biggest celebration. The committee also raises funds for the Union Public Library, Union Fire department, Union Town Pool, City of Union, City Park Playground Fund, Union Town Cleanup, Union Garage Sale Days, and any other worthwhile projects that would benefit the town of Union and its population. James and Sharon have also been local Union business owners for forty years, operating the Union Tax Service and Real Estate Sales.

Sharon is a longtime member of Liberty USFW. She has been a vital part of this women's ministry group and has served as president for the past thirty years. She has participated in many service projects through Liberty USFW supporting local, national and world organizations to help improve the lives of others. Sharon received the Eliza Armstrong Cox Award in 2003. In the past, Sharon has been a part of Bangor Liberty's Christian Education Association and currently is the head of the Bangor Liberty Memorial Committee.

Dwight Laidig

Grinnell First Friends

In December 2009, Dwight Laidig received the Outstanding Educator and Citizen Award from the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce. He directs the School-Within-a-School program at Grinnell High School. In addition to his other duties working with at risk students, Dwight has developed a food pantry in his classroom for students who would not have enough to eat otherwise. He provides meals for students who are not able to get food at home. He also provides backpacks so that students can inconspicuously take food home. Some of his students would not have any food over the weekend if Dwight was not making it available. He also provides clothing for students that need it. Each year, Dwight has students who are planning to attend college but will not have money for furnishing a college dorm. He helps students get used furniture and appliances from Grinnell College Students who are graduating and would discard the items otherwise.

Dwight does more than just teach his students. He cares for them and tries to provide a safe place at school for students who don't always have a great deal of support at home.

THE IOWA FRIEND

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Oskaloosa, Iowa

Permit No. 544

Change

Service Requested

Iowa Yearly Meeting's Calendar of Upcoming Events - 2011

January

Young Friend's MidWinter Event Jan.7th-9th
at Middle River Friends

IAYM Stewardship Board Meeting Jan. 8th

IAYM Christian Education Board Meeting Jan. 22nd
at Oskaloosa

February

IAYM Ministry and Counsel Board Meeting Feb. 5th
at Grinnell

Quaker Men's Banquet Feb 26th
at William Penn University's dining room

March

Board on Coordination March 19
at College Avenue Friends

Pastor's Short Course March 28-29
at William Penn and College Ave. Friends

April

Spring Body of Representatives
April 2nd
at Bangor-Liberty Friends

USFW Spring Fling
April 9th
at Middle River Friends

June

Young Friends' Camp @ CQH

June 3-5 Youth Exec, College Weekender

June 5-8 Fry Camp (grades 3,4)

June 10-12 Little Fry (K-grade 2 with adult participant)

June 12-17 Jr. High (grades 7,8)

June 17-19 High School Weekender

June 19-24 High School

June 26-30 Fox Camp (grades 5,6)

