



NOVEMBER 2013 VOL. 68 NO. 10

# The Iowa Friend

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

## MOTORBIKES AND MINISTRY IN TANZANIA

The pastors in the Kyela Monthly Meeting area of Tanzania. They are left to right, Rosta, Benson, John David (new and does not have a motorbike) and Jacob. These four pastors are leading in the four village meetings in the Kyela, Tanzania area. Two other churches are without pastoral leadership and they are in larger cities of Mbeya and Iringa, Tanzania. The two without pastors are still meeting but struggling with being able to keep people coming on a regular basis. They want pastors to help shepherd their flocks. All six village meetings have members and an estimated 250+ attending weekly.



I spoke in three services and had a total of 11 people come forward for prayer of salvation and/or wanting to become members. This represented folks from all three services. All of this was within a span of 28 hours.

The three 150cc motorbikes, that were purchased from gifts from our Yearly Meeting, are being used daily to raise personal financial support for the three pastors that have possession of them and they are able to make up to *300,000 Tanzanian Schillings* per month. Part of their agreement is that they will pay a gift back to the church of *4,000 Tanzanian Schillings* each week. The rest of the money is available for maintaining the bikes, paying all of their own maintenance and upkeep, starting a personal savings account and support for their personal family needs. In the words of John Muhanji, by doing this gifting we have empowered the pastors and women in the eyes of the community and it is drawing in new people each week. Incidentally 1 US Dollar exchanges into 1,600 Tanzania schillings.

I left Iowa the evening of the October 15, and returned Sunday evening on the 27<sup>th</sup>. I traveled approximately 24,000 miles by air in my travels to Kaimosi for the Friends Theological Graduation exercise and visiting southern Tanzania. For fun, and to say that I had been there, we drove to the Malawi Border and crossed over to establish that my feet had been in Malawi. The vision of the gathered meeting that was held one whole day before leaving, is that they want to finish their new church building, which the foundation is done, and begin to reach out into Malawi and Zambia (which they have already established contacts in). This will be accomplished by evangelism and preaching.

**Thanks for the opportunity to travel in the Lord's service.  
Your General Superintendent, Ron Bryan**

## IAYM Missions Emphasis for Missions in the Wheeled Sports World

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It may seem like fun and games to hang out at a race track or to ride with the wind in your hair and mingle with drivers and bikers, but two IAYM couples take this unique “assignment” seriously. Intentional presence and visibility are critical elements for success in this work. Visibility is enhanced by what Mac McDonald terms “indigenous regalia of the tribe (Motor Sports Industry) I serve”, and Phil Coffin describes as a back patch on a leather vest that is known as “wearing the colors” distinguishing him from other groups’ members. Their presence makes them available to listen, develop relationships, and to plant and nourish seeds of faith.



Mac McDonald is pastor at Pleasant Plain Friends and Team RFC (Racers for Christ) chaplain. His wife Berny, and sometimes their daughter Charley, accompany him to tracks at Eddyville and Earlville where they set up camp, post signs and flags marking their space for optimal track and campground visibility. They have a brief window of opportunity to make Christ known in every action-packed weekend at the track. While public announcements are made to announce their presence, and to encourage chapel service attendance, the McDonalds are busy handing out flyers, blessing vehicles, and staffing an informational booth. During races they hang out with the ambulance crew, sometimes joining them at an accident scene via golf cart. After an accident they may be called on to be a “presence of calm”, debrief the ambulance or team crew, meet a family’s needs, and manage logistical details.

Sunday morning’s half hour chapel services precede the starting of the engines. Mac has his “four B priorities”: **B**erny, his wife and helpmate, who is introduced; providing **B**ibles for those who request them; a **B**asket for gathering offerings for the RFC ministry; and **B**irthday announcements for celebrating. After taking time for songs, sharing prayer requests and praying, Mac gives a ten minute “light sermon”. In spite of challenges, such as a frequently changing population to serve, there are memorable blessings. Mac recalls being honored to help plan and to conduct the memorial service for a driver’s wife, after being asked to visit in their home and at hospice.



Phil and Jonica Coffin are members of Salem Friends, and parents to their one-year old daughter, Lael. They have been members of the Ransom Riders Chapter of CMA (Christian Motorcyclists of America) for three years. There are chaplains and officers of each CMA chapter, and the organization’s vision statement is “Changing the world one heart at a time.” While CMA is an international evangelistic organization itself, it is actively involved in other mission entities.

Their main fundraiser is Run for the Son, an event that raised nearly \$4 million this year for missions at home and abroad. Purchasing motorcycles for missionaries (or for camels, if more appropriate!) and sponsoring missionaries to Iran are examples of the beneficiaries of the fundraising efforts. Phil says that every dollar that comes into the organization can be correlated with a resulting confession of salvation. The plan of salvation is printed on the back of every issue of the CMA Heart-beat, a monthly magazine.

CMA has their own rallies, but members also attend rallies held for multiple biker groups. Booths where they can meet other bikers, as well as town citizens and visitors, are a place for good interactions. Phil and Jonica cannot be as involved as they would like, due to work and family needs, while most of the members are beyond that season of life. In the cities where they are allowed, worship services are held; Jonica is involved in the chapter’s worship music team.

Because motorcyclists’ gatherings, in general, are known as a devil’s playground with presence of guns, alcohol and drugs, and carousing, indicating an obvious need for the gospel, it is important for models of Christian marriage and family to be present. CMA offers separate Christian faith-based conferences for men and women and teens and two international mission trips per year. Phil and Jonica attend the spring Seasons of Refreshing, an annual CMA vision development class with evangelistic sessions.

Both Mac and Phil are volunteers using their own funds for travel without any compensation for personal expenses or time for their branch of Kingdom work. What they want from us is prayer for endurance, opportunities to share the gospel, growth of relationships, good weather and safety. Both organizations have websites for those that want to have more information.

## Deaths

**Minnie Ellen Bower, 93**, went to meet her Savior. July 21, 2013 at Newton Health Care Center. She committed herself to Christ at the First Friends Church in Muscatine and worked for the Lord in children's church choir as pianist, and in women's ministries. After moving to Newton, the Bowers transferred their membership to Center Friends church. Minnie enjoyed her family, doing crafts, gardening, and loved animals. She was a dedicated wife and precious mother. Minnie will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved her. Those left to honor Minnie Ellen's memory are her husband of more than 75 years, D. Bernell Bower, 2 sons, a daughter-in-law, daughter, 9 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, 15 great-great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews. Memorials may be left to Quakerdale.

**Marno Batterson, 66**, a member of Center Friends Meeting, died on July 18, 2013. Her life was a wonderful journey of friends and adventure. She grew up in St. Louis, and moved to Iowa at age 18 to attend Drake University, from which she graduated in 1969. Marno's career in social services was very important to her. She worked, trained others, and helped organize child welfare programs and community agencies aimed at improving outcomes for vulnerable children and families. In 1999, Marno married Darrell Batterson. They combined her two children, his two children, and added 6 grandchildren. They enjoyed hiking and biking. They hiked in many states, the Alps, Peru, South Korea, and New Zealand, and biked RAGBRAI in 2010 and 2011. Marno and Darrell spent a lot of time with their children and grandchildren, enjoying family trips, outings, and time on the couple's beautiful acreage in Jasper County. Marno was passionate about looking out for the underdog, and worked hard to promote unabashedly liberal causes. Her only regret about dying was leaving her loved ones. A memorial service and celebration of Marno's life was held in Windsor Heights on August 1st.

## Births

Nathan and Brianna Martin, missionaries to Cambodia, welcomed **Jonah Timothy Martin** to the world on October 18th!

**Hezekiah Cash Porter** was born on September 30th. Proud parents are Mark & Lindsay Porter, pastors at Lynnvillle Friends Church,

**Ava Kate Smitherman** was born on October 9th. Congratulations to Kris & Amber Smitherman, new youth pastors at Bangor-Liberty Friends Church!



### Iowa Pastors Association Staff Gifts

What do Ron Bryan, Scott Biddle, Chip & Alicia Daleske, Deneen Ahumada, Spencer & Mary Thury have in common? They all love and serve God, and minister faithfully

through the work of Iowa Yearly Meeting—on campus at William Penn, at Camp Quaker Heights, at Mesquakie Friends Center, and through the Main Office. These Friends serve to meet the needs of individuals and churches throughout Iowa Yearly Meeting.

This Christmas, consider sending a gift of joy and appreciation to our staff. Checks can be mailed to: Wes Blanchard, Iowa Pastors Association Treasurer, 12172 150th Avenue, Indianola, IA 50125. All gifts will be divided equally, as per our testimony of equality. Thank you!

## Scholarships Opportunities

### Trustees Scholarship

Applications are now being taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2014-2015 academic school year (January of 2014). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting Office. Deadline for this scholarship is January 1st, 2014. A recipient will be determined at Spring Body 2014.

#### Make inquiries to:

IAYM, PO Box 657 Oskaloosa, IA 52577

(641) 673-9717 or email

iaym@mahaska.org

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission Board announces that scholarship funds are available for adults and youth within Iowa Yearly Meeting for short term mission trips. Guidelines for this opportunity are available at the yearly meeting office and can be found on the IAYM website. The maximum amount for each scholarship is \$150. Deadlines for Applications are January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. Contact the Yearly Meeting office for more information!

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2014-15 academic school year. People within Iowa Yearly Meeting who want to pursue an education at a Christian college or an accredited college or seminary 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 2014-2015 scholarship, please contact Mary Glenn Hadley, IAYM Mission's Board, 611 South R St. #6, Indianola, IA 50125 or call 515-961-0606. The deadline is March 1, 2014.

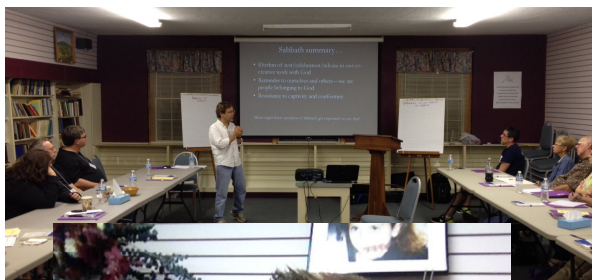


## FOCUS on the Ministries of FUM Ministry of the Month—November 2013 North American Ministries

*The entire world is God's field,  
ripe for the harvest.*

This message was clearly understood as Friends around the world shared the insights they received in FUM's *Day of Discernment*. Expressed throughout was the need to equip and energize Friends for ministry in every land where FUM Friends are present—including North America. The mission of God is ripe for workers in the harvest.

**North American Ministries** has offered a series of very successful leadership development conferences. Most Recently, a "Bridging the Gaps" conference brought together people from local and yearly meetings who are engaged in youth and young adult ministries across North America. There is a demand for connecting Friends who have similar ministries, for mutual support, networking, skill development and energizing. Also, the demand for resources has caused a new focus to develop exciting new curriculum. There's such an abundant harvest to be gathered! As the FUM General Board continues its discernment of FUM's future direction, it is thrilling to know that God is calling us to do more energizing and equipping of Friends in the great mission field of North America.



Our Youth and Young Adult Director, Scott Biddle, along with Jay Wyatt and Eric Paar were able to attend this event and represent Iowa Yearly Meeting within our circle of Friends of FUM!

## 150th History Books Available Now!

Looking for a great gift for a Friend



Cost of book— \$25.00  
Mailing cost— \$3.00

....this would be an unique item to order! Books can be shipped directly to the recipient....just let me know!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send checks to IAYM, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
Books will also be available at the  
USFW Fall Fling, All Board Retreat, November  
Clerking Conference for purchase.



The Winneshiek Quarterly meeting recently met at Valton Friends. Our Friends from Hesper, Valton, and Sturgeon Bay meet together twice a year.

Ron Bryan and Scott Biddle were invited to join them and speak at their gathering! What a blessing it is to gather together for worship & fellowship!

# *Fall Ideas to "Live Love" Year 2*

The "Live Love" project is to give practical examples of how we can show genuine love and compassion to those around us in an effort to live out the goal of loving God and loving others.



*Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.*

*~Leo F. Buscaglia~*

**Veterans' Day November 11th** honors all members of the Armed Forces who have served this country. Personally thank a co-worker, neighbor or loved one who is a veteran. Bring patriotic-themed baked goods or cards to a local retirement home and help staff distribute to veteran residents. Remind your children or grandchildren of our nation's history and encourage them to participate in making patriotic cards to pass on to a local veterans' home. Prepare a care package to mail to a soldier overseas.

**Warm Them Up:** Share coffee or hot cocoa with outside workers, i.e. postal service or package delivery workers, people putting up Christmas decorations, construction workers, crossing guards, etc. All would gratefully accept this warm act of kindness, given freely with a smile.

## **Ideas to "Live Love" at your Job**

- Write your boss or a fellow employee a note of appreciation
- Leave an anonymous treat on the workspace of someone who needs a smile
- Tell the janitors how much you appreciate their efforts
- Give flowers to someone who is often taken for granted
- Display a joke or riddle of the day to brighten everyone's mood

*Kindness is gift with no strings. Kindness is evidence that selfishness has been conquered.*

**November 17 Homemade Bread Day** is a day for the whole family to enjoy the joy of making, baking, eating and sharing loaves of nutritious homemade bread. You may prefer to bake banana or pumpkin bread over yeast breads. Either would be enjoyed and appreciated by an older neighbor, a working single mom; a college teen away from mom's cooking; your Sunday School teacher, etc.



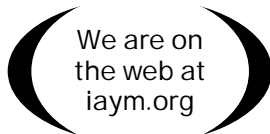
## **Projects for your Whole Church to Work on Together**

**Decorating:** Decorate your church for the fall season. Bring items from home or purchase what is needed. Begin by mixing a Mulligan Stew. Assign families to bring, potatoes, soup beans, onions, carrots, chicken or beef, tomatoes, etc. Let it simmer while you decorate. Hard rolls and apples make a complete meal.

*The IAYM Christian Education Board is passing this along with their prayers for you as you "Live Love" in your church and community.*

**THE IOWA FRIEND**  
**P.O. Box 657**  
**Oskaloosa, IA 52577**  
phone (641) 673-9717  
e-mail [iaym@mahaska.org](mailto:iaym@mahaska.org)

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## Iowa Yearly Meeting Schedule

### November

11/1-2 All Boards Retreat at Camp Quaker Heights  
11/5-9 Campus Ministry—Poverty Awareness Week  
11/8-9 Quaker Leadership Training in Iowa for  
Clerks, Treasurers, and M&C

### December

12/20-22 Young Adult Retreat at Middle River

February 2014

2/22 QuakerMen Family Banquet @ WPU

March 2014

3/1 BOC 9:30 am at College Ave. Friends  
3/7 Blizzard Blast for Jr.High youth  
@ Marshalltown Friends  
3/15 Spring Body 9:30 @ Grinnell Friends

**Yearly Meeting 2014**  
**July 30th—August 2**  
**at William Penn University**

## PAVE THE ROAD @ Camp Quaker Heights

The Quaker Men of Iowa Yearly Meeting are seeking funds to blacktop the road into Camp Quaker Heights. The work is planned for this fall, and will include paving the road up to the Chapel and Lodge, as well as parking for Tall Oaks.



**Estimated cost: \$60,000.00**

Checks should be made out to  
“CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS”,  
designated for the road, and sent to  
Iowa Yearly Meeting, PO Box 657  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577