



The Iowa Friend

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

Looking Forward

By: Scott Biddle, Youth & Young Adult Director

It has been a fast and furious first couple of months. My car has added quite a few miles as well as I have seen a lot of Iowa, some Wisconsin and met loads of people. It has been awesome! I am blessed to be able to not only serve alongside the best of the best in ministry, but also able to call myself a Friend.

I have had a chance to pull back a little for the last month from the amount of traveling I was doing to be able to put a little more focus on vision and direction for where we are going. I was given the opportunity to work with Ron and where the Yearly Meeting is going, so that we are all going in the same direction. It is not that we are looking for a new way of doing things, but to try and be a little more focused on what we are called to do.

We have a bunch of things coming up for the youth and young adults of the Iowa Yearly meeting of Friends in the next 7 months. Young adults gathering together for a couple of retreats, both with and without kids. A crazy night of staying up all night for Junior High students at the local YMCA in Marshalltown, as well as a retreat and camp designed for Junior High and Senior High students.

While these are all things that are great and beneficial, my question is more of what are we doing in the local church to encourage and facilitate Discipleship. It says in Matthew 28:18-20 (MSG):

"Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far

and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. [20] Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.'"

How are we intentionally getting our hands a little dirty by engaging with someone for the advancement of the Kingdom of God? Who are we pouring our lives into that will shape the future of The Church?

This is a messy process. It is not simple. It is not cut and dry. It means the invasion of someone into our easily manageable lives. It means giving up some time that we might think we don't have enough of already. It means noticing the gifts and talents in those around us and not only pointing them out, but being willing to help guide them. Don't hear me wrong, I didn't say control them, *guide them*.

You see, the events that we are planning for this next year are good events, but... much to my dismay, they will fall flat on their face without YOU being involved in the lives of those at these retreats and camps. It is the relationship they have with the People Of God, you, that helps to cement the relationship with God. We have the power to either further the Kingdom of God, neglect and ignore the transformation in someone's life or in actuality, tear it down.

My query is this, "Where do you fit in the process of encouraging and developing the younger generations around you?"

Kids

Little Fry Camp

June 6-8, 2014

Elementary Camp

June 15-19, 2014

Young Adult

Dec 20-22

Retreat

@Middle River Friends

May30-June 1

Weekender

@ CQH

Jr. High and Sr. High

March 7-8

Blizzard Blast -

Jr. High only- Marshalltown

March 28-30

Winter Retreat

June 11-14

Triennial -

(Sr. High only)

June 22-27

Camp @ CQH

From our General Superintendent....
Ron Bryan



The before and after of what is being accomplished in Kyela, Tanzania. As we can see they now meet in the bamboo shelter for worship, but have started the construction of a new 36' by 72' permanent church that is designed to become the headquarters for the southern part of Tanzania, Northern Malawi and Northern Zambia. Their vision is to grow by evangelizing all of these regions. The expanded vision is to establish a new Yearly Meeting in a part of Africa that has not been reached by the Friends Church. They are asking for support and this building they are standing on the foundation of is estimated to need \$22,000 to complete. This is a very large undertaking. In consultation with John Muhanji the idea has emerged that if we can raise any kind of support it will be a source of encouragement to them. If people should be moved to contribute, we could send it in increments of \$1,000 that would allow them to continue with construction and be a witness to the entire region that the Friends Church is a place where God visits and is growing. This is already happening and is being expanded through the use of the motorbikes that we sent the funds for in May of this year. Already one new village church has been started, which makes a total of three out in the country and one in the city. Additionally, there are two Friends churches that are operating without a designated Friends pastor and they are in the larger cities of Mbeya and Iringa, Tanzania. What do Friends say to this challenge?

Deaths

Mary Lou Mikel, 78, of Bloomington, Indiana and formerly of Grinnell, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, at the home of her daughter in Bloomington.

Mary Lou was born on June 12, 1935, in Marshalltown, Iowa to Frederick and Bessie Gaugh Ebert. On September 2, 1953, she was united in marriage to Harvey Mikel, who had taken her to church with him. The couple farmed north of Grinnell in Chester Township for over 50 years. She enjoyed making a large garden and canning food for the family, sewing their clothes, wood working and living the life of a farm wife.

In later years, Mary Lou and Harvey entertained students, Alfonso Gamez of Mexico and Karin Reid of Norway in their home through the Rotary Exchange Program, as their own children were also Rotary exchange students. They hosted international students from Grinnell College and always had another place at the table for anyone in need. She was especially known for her baked goods and her chocolate brownies. Mary Lou and Harvey's love of travel took them to many states and countries, keeping up with old friends, and making new ones along the way. She was a long-time member of the First Friends Church in Grinnell and taught Sunday School for many years. She was also a crafts leader and camp counselor at Camp Quaker Heights. Survivors include her children, Linda (Caleb) Hess of Bloomington, IN, Elaine (Magnus) Jolayemi of Indianapolis, IN, Martha Mikel (Yang) Hong of West Windsor, NJ and Glen (Susan) Mikel of Des Moines, IA; twelve grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and two brothers, Frederick H. Ebert of Puyallup, WA and Richard (Carol) Ebert of Grinnell. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and two grandsons, Cory and Adam Mikel.

Christmas 2013 at mesquakie Friends Center

Many of you have been asking if we will have Christmas gifts for the children again this year. This would be a great opportunity for us all to celebrate the Gift of God. We have at least 60 children now, which I am anticipating more- as we are seeing some new faces. Just this past Wednesday we had 3 new children who were all from different families. **The cost for each gift will be \$20.00**, however, any amount you give will be greatly appreciated.

On December 18th at 5:30 PM we will be having a meal and celebrate the Birth of Christ and gift giving following. We will also be inviting the parents/families and we would to have come join us as well.

Donations can go directly to Mesquakie Friends Church (by December 15th please).

Be sure to specify for "Christmas Gifts."

Please include your name, address and what Church you attend. I being new to Mesquakie Friends will help me become more familiar with you and your church. It's also important for the children to show appreciation for your giving.

Tony & Jeanine Leonard will do the shopping for the gifts again, they did a great job last year.

We are all part of this Ministry, I hope you will come. Thanks.

Deneen Ahumada Mesquakie Friends Center, P.O. BOX 36, Toledo, IOWA 52342

Call if you have any questions # 641-484-2329

IAYM Missions Emphasis Resources for Missions Work

At yearly meeting time, the Missions Board gave out packets to each church which we hope you are using. One part of the packet was twelve five-minute presentations prepared to increase a greater missions worldview. These were prepared by Sarah Martin and encourage use of things available through the internet. They can be used once a month or every Sunday for twelve weeks or any creative way you can use them to reach your people. The second part was information for setting up a Prayer Labyrinth. Quite a few of you took time to experience the Prayer Labyrinth at yearly meeting and we hope you will see it as a valuable way to deepen the prayer life of individuals within your church and develop an appreciation for praying for mission concerns. They can add a special dimension for a church retreat.

In response to your wish for more up-to-date resources regarding missions we support, we encourage you to use the following resources.

For Friends United Meeting (FUM) missions, *Quaker Life* is a good resource. It is now available by e-mail at a cost of \$20 per year or the printed copy is \$26 per year. Subscribe online at www.fum.org/shop or email quakerlife@fum.org, or call 765 962-7573.

An FUM Weekly Devotional and Prayer Requests is available by e-mail to which you can subscribe by going on line to fum_devotions_subscribe@lists.fum.org. Current International prayer concerns are shared which provides up to date concerns and praises.

Monthly bulletin inserts called FOCUS are available through FUM. These can be requested through FUM by contacting info@fum.org or calling 765-962-7573. These provide good information about FUM outreach and are resources for mission information.

Monthly newsletters can be requested from Nathan and Brianna Martin in Cambodia. You can receive them by e-mail or have them sent to you. Contact nb.martin@mac.com to request your newsletter.

Watch the Iowa Friend for articles from the Missions Board. Periodic bulletin inserts are sent to Missions chairpersons and/or pastors. These provide specific mission programs Iowa Yearly Meeting is promoting.

Broaden your worldview for missions

To help you get a worldview and a heart for missions, we suggest you do a study called Perspectives. This course is offered at many sites. The best way to find the one closest to you is to go on-line and type in Perspectives. Most are starting in mid-January with a conclusion date in early May. It meets once a week. There is preparation for the course. You will see the world in a much different way. Those who have taken it say that it has transformed their lives. You can register on line or follow the directions for the site you are interested in attending.

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—December 2013
Africa Ministries Office (AMO)**

The Africa Ministries Office (AMO) works with both new and established meetings throughout East Africa to energize and equip Friends for a vital gospel ministry. A few years ago a seeker in Kyele, an area far south of Tanzania, read about Quakers on the internet. The words that he read resonated with his experience of the Living God. He shared his findings with other seekers. Their excitement continued to the point



that they contacted the FWCC office in Nairobi who, in turn, contacted the AMO of FUM.

Together, representatives of FUM and FWCC visited these emerging Friends. After the meeting, FWCC asked FUM to nurture this group as their understanding of Quakerism deepened. With the assistance of SUFWI, the AMO sponsored three young people to be trained in pastoral ministry at Friends Theological College. The tree (pictured, left to right): Ben, Roster and Jacob, went back to Kyele after graduation and continued to expand the ministry. Recently, Iowa Yearly Meeting partnered with the AMO in donating three motorcycles, to empower these three gifted young pastors in their evangelism. AMO continues to visit and encourage these vibrant young meetings.



**150th History Books
Available Now!**

Looking for a great gift for a Friend



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

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



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.

**Iowa Pastors Association
Staff Gifts**



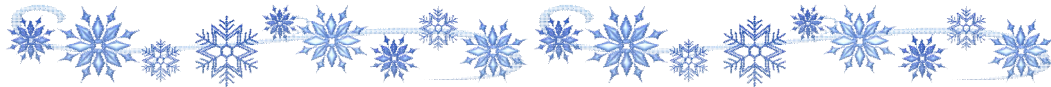
What do Ron Bryan, Scott Biddle, Chip & Alicia Daleske, Deneen Ahumada, Spencer & Mary Thury have in common? They all love and serve God, and minister faithfully through the work of Iowa Yearly Meeting—on campus at William Penn, at Camp Quaker Heights, at Mesquakie Friends Center, and through the Main 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!

Campus Ministry at William Penn University has had the opportunity to share at a couple of our local meetings. The group (as seen in the picture) was at New Sharon Friends recently and shared testimonies and music ministry.

Please continue to prayer for the students of William Penn University and for Spencer Thury as he leads in ministry to the student body. The students will be finishing up the semester next week, so pray for a successful end-of-the-semester.

Winter 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.



These suggestions can be done as a family, individual or with a small group.

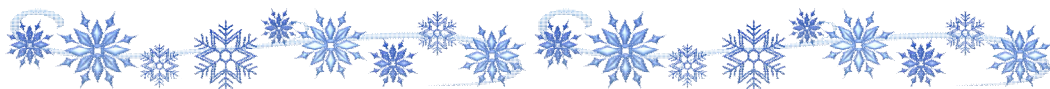
Holiday Photo: Give a photograph to those who don't have the resources to take photos of themselves. (Homeless, single parents, military vets, etc.) Visit locations where these folks live or frequently to take the photos. Then print and deliver before Christmas. Not a photographer? Help with the cost of printing.

Candy Cane Bombs: People will explode with joy as you share these inexpensive treats by scattering them throughout a parking lot on the windows of cars; on the doors of a retirement home; in hospital waiting rooms; on desks of your city offices; etc. Place them in a bag with the message: "Sharing the Joy of Jesus with you this Christmas". Include your church information.

Christmas for Abused Women: Purchase an inspirational Christian music CD and write an encouraging note including encouraging Bible verses. Drop it by a shelter for abused women. The director will know which woman will benefit the most from your gift.

December 21 is "Look on the Bright Side Day": Literally looking on the bright side may be a bit difficult on the 21st as it is the shortest day of the year. This is a day to be optimistic. Often, a bad experience has positive lessons to be learned. Use this day to send cheerful emails, cards, or music to those who often struggle to see the bright side of life.

Love and kindness are gifts with no strings attached.



We encourage these suggestions to be a whole church challenge.

Fill a Furnace: Go to your local oil company and ask who in the community is behind in their bill; then pay their bill for them. What a wonderful surprise this would be for folks having a difficult time and feeling they don't have hope for the future. This could be a life changing Christmas gift!

LIVE LOVE Ideas Especially for kids

For a Soup Kitchen or Shelter:

- Divide powdered laundry detergent into Ziploc bags so that each bag is enough for 1 load of laundry.
- Trail Mix: Chex type cereals, raisins, M&M's, pretzels, mini marshmallows, Cheerios, dried cranberries, fish crackers, chocolate chips, etc. in a big bowl then scoop into small Ziploc bags.
- Make seasonal or holiday table or wall decorations to make a plain room more attractive.

THE IOWA FRIEND

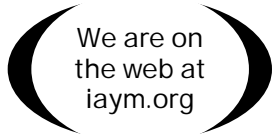
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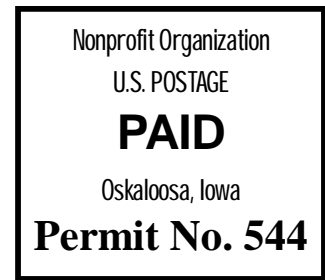
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**Iowa Yearly Meeting
Schedule**

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

3/28-30 Winter Retreat Jr/Sr. High

Summer Quaker Camps (2014)

Little Fry (k-2nd) June 6-8

Elementary (3-6th) June 15-19

Jr/Sr High (7th-12) June 22-27

Young Adult Weekender May 30-June 1

**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