

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting

August/September 2014

SUMMER CAMPING 2014



Elementary Camp



Junior/Senior High Camp

Young Adult Weekender



Little Fry Camp



This summer has been a constant watching of the Spirit move. Highlights from my perspective:

Middle/High School Camp: A night of preaching turns into a night of teens on the floor praying, weeping and giving their all to God.

Triennials: Hearing the Superintendent of Nairobi Yearly Meeting talk about his church of 2500 people and instilling church planting in the DNA of the people.

Yearly Meeting: His Presence during the World Café's and the worship times. Participating in listening to the Spirit through the entire week.

National Friends Church Multiplication Conference: Experiencing the movement of God through the eyes of Apostles, Prophets and Evangelists. God is doing a new thing.

This is just a brief glimpse. God is doing amazing and awesome things here in Iowa Yearly Meeting. His movement is not a sign that He is ready, because He is always ready, but a sign that we are ready to listen and pay attention to what He is doing.

There is an excitement that has been building in me over what this next year is going to look like. Through that excitement, God has impressed upon me the need for prayer, and needing people to be praying for Yearly Meeting staff and Pastors and Leaders in the local churches. It is easy to sit back and relax when things are going well, but we need to be on our knees even more to keep the fire going.

~Scott Biddle, Youth and Young Adult Director of IAYM



Here are the details:

To be held at the Mesquakie Friends Center in Tama on Saturday, October 11, 2014. It will begin at 10am with registration/friendship open at 9:30am. It will include a fun day of all things Mesquakie, and a blessing basket auction! Bring a basket loaded with good things to auction!

A \$10 registration fee, payable at the door, will give you a delicious lunch, refreshments, and the entire day of fun!

Please pre-register by calling Charlotte Mosher of Motor Friends, 641-942-6373 or email her at

cmmosher13@yahoo.com

Don't miss this exciting Fall Retreat!

GOLF RETREAT

September 12-13

Pine Lake Country Club & Camp Quaker Heights
Questions? Contact Chip Daleske @
campquakerheights@gmail.com

Schedule:

Friday: 5 pm registration & Games
6:30 pm Supper
7:30 pm Worship
Saturday: 7 am Breakfast
8:00 am Golf followed by lunch



Prices....

\$30—Cabin Lodging
\$40—Tall Oakes Lodging (based on double occupancy)

Princes include all meals & lodging,
Golf and cart fees are due at the course.
\$20/18 holes of golf + 12.50/person cart fees

Please register online by September 6 at:
<http://goo.gl/BqEiUK>

VBS

IAYM Missions Board Outreach
Serving at International Friends
in Minneapolis

A group of thirteen adults and children (7 adults and 6 children and youth) left Aug 2nd after Iowa Yearly Meeting to head for Minneapolis. This group was made up of eleven members from Salem, one member from HC-NP, and a Rwandan student from William Penn. We arrived at our house which was 3 apartments late that evening. Soon after we arrived Phena and Pastor Wabamba came to us bearing breakfast food.

Sunday morning we went to Jewell Park Building for church at 11:00 am. We met with 7 church attendees to sing and worship. Phena then invited us all to her house for lunch. They grilled and prepared a feast for us. It was a beautiful day and the children were able to enjoy the yard and sprinkler. This hospitality was repeated over and over again throughout the week. After the meal, we went back to the park to decorate for Bible School.

Monday morning we were back at the park anxiously awaiting children at 9:00 am. Vivian brought 3 of her grandchildren. Plus we had 3 Vietnamese children who were playing in the park join our group. The father of two of the children spent some time talking with Rita and others about our beliefs. A family from Bulgaria was in the park. Several of our group talked to the mother, but the children did not attend the VBS. That night we invited Phena and Pastor to join us for supper at the apartment. It was a great fellowship time exploring our two cultures and exchanging ideas for the expansion of the church and encouraging them.

Tuesday flyers were passed out to different neighborhoods. Vivian's grandchildren brought two cousins with them.

Wednesday a woman, who saw a flyer, brought her two girls. She asked if we were doing this again next year. Countries represented by the attending children were Kenya, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Thursday and Friday these same seven children came. It was a small group, but we got to know the children better and they interacted with our kids well. The children learned verses and were awarded with Bibles and other prizes. Friday after VBS, Phena brought lunch for the children, grandparents, and our group. Phena closed out our week with prayer and expressed her appreciation.

The church in Tanzania was our mission and \$50.41 was collected for this mission. Claire, the student from Rwanda, was a great asset as the adults and the children could relate to her. We left the Pastor with the parent's contact information so he could do follow-up visits.

Our VBS group had all different talents. We had creative people, singers, cooks, morning people, outgoing evangelists, and actors. It took the whole group to prepare and present this week long VBS. God truly supplied us with a GREAT GROUP of people for the week. What an awesome week!

The staff and board of directors of Meals from the Heartland would like to thank you and Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends for your leadership and support in regards to the mobile packaging event held on August 2, 2014. **Due to your leadership, as well as others, and with the generous use of the facilities at the Penn Activities Center, 90 volunteers came together and packaged 20,088 meals at this events.**

Thank you for supporting an event! Please know that your support makes a difference in the lives of thousands. During 2013 over 8.6 million meals were packaged and distributed around the world to help feed people in need of nourishment. Also during 2013 over 500,000 meals were delivered to local food banks and organizations to help our fellow Iowans

We thank God for the support that has allowed Meals from the Heartland to package and distribute over 40 million meals since its inception. The need continues and together with you we will carry on this critical work. Iowa is quickly becoming "The Hunger Fighting Capital of The World" due to our loyal supporters such as you.

At Meals from the Heartland our vision is to alleviate life-threatening hunger. Thank you for your faith in our mission to empower people to feed the starving. Thank you for making a difference. We wish you and your loved ones many blessings the coming year.

With sincere thanks, Dave Bradley, Executive Director



The Value of a Human Being

by Rick Bachman, Peace & Social Concerns Board

What is a person worth? That depends. By pure mineral and chemical value a person is worth a little over \$5.00. Yet take a vital organ from that person, and it may be worth many thousands of dollars. It seems to me we have a very confused value system when it comes to a person's worth. Our society has numerous value systems inflating or deflating the value of a single person.

This discrepancy is not only in our society. I believe it has also crept into our churches. We see greater value in some than others.

I can best explain this by telling the true-life story of someone I will call S. He was born in poverty and a dysfunctional family. S and his brother were often beaten by their alcoholic father. So much so, they often would hide from him for weeks at a time in out buildings, eating only what they found or stole. S lived in fear his entire childhood and knew nothing of love and family support. About now I suspect most of you have placed a high value on S. You would love to see someone help him; someone to intercede and get him into a better life. We have a natural desire to protect children from such evil. Sadly, this did not happen. S grew up. He learned violence naturally. As he grew older and stronger, he realized he too could be violent. His constant stealing and other bad behaviors began to transform into more anti-social behaviors. He was a young teenager when he committed his first rape, a neighbor girl. By now, no one was surprised. S had become a person of very low value. His criminal actions and anti-social behaviors had branded him a very undesirable person. S was a person people loathed and feared at the same time.

S continued to grow up. He had children of his own. Not surprisingly, very shortly thereafter I arrested him for child abuse. He began to practice his father's habits on his own children. S also continued to rape. I am aware of five rapes. Sadly, it is likely that many more were not reported. During his last act of rape, he tried to gouge out the eyes of his victim, so that she would not be able

to identify him. S had become a truly dangerous person. As a police officer, I recall stating to a fellow officer, "The world would be a better place without S." I had just placed S into a special category – better dead than alive. Harsh? Yes. Un-Christian? Yes.

God has dealt with me on that judgment. S is still a dangerous person. He will no doubt victimize more people in his life. But he is also a person who has 'that of God' within him. Yes, he has rejected it! Yes, he is most likely headed for Hell. However, that does not take away the value God placed upon him. Jesus died for S as well as for me. Neither of us deserves that love. God would desire S to receive him and his forgiveness. S obviously has not listened to God for some time. Therefore, if S is to hear of God's love for him, it will be through someone like me. Someone who struggles with S's worth. Can I display love to someone with whom I have felt the world would be better off without? Can I overcome my own hatred of his life's actions and the harm he has done to so many to show compassion and love?

In Mathew 25 following the parable of the talents, which teaches us how to use the assets given us in this life, are the scariest verses I know. Verses 31-46 speak of two groups of people, both calling Jesus Lord. Both groups are believers. However, one group is welcomed into Jesus' fellowship, while the other is cast out. They were cast out asking "when did we see you...?" Jesus' reply was that when you failed to do it to the least of these, you failed to do it to me. Believers cast away from God because they did not practice the love they were shown. That should terrify us all! My Christian faith is a faith that requires action on my part. I cannot get to heaven passively sitting in church and forgetting about those around me. Even those I preferred were not alive.

So I am left with the question, "What is the value of a human being?" I share this question with you as I struggle with it. Because I know many of you also struggle with it. "For God so loved the world, he sent his only Son..." The value God's places on S and many more like him is clear. What remains is the value I place on those same people, and that value I have will very surely determine how I share God's love with them. It will also determine my ultimate destiny. James 2 clearly states that a faith without works is dead. I am left convicted of the times I have placed a lesser value on people. Simply, I – and we – cannot continue in that.

Relevant or “Realevent”?

Written by: Deb Maselli

What is relevance? Merriam-Webster offers three definitions: “having a significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand; affording evidence tending to prove or disprove the matter at issue or under discussion; having social *applicability*” (Merriam-Webster; Merriam-Webster *italics*). Do we want our relevance to be driven by society? Or do we want our relevance to address “real” matters or issues of importance for our days?

Jesus was Real about the issues of his day. He attacked the church’s method of tithing (Matthew 23:23), the church’s traditions (Matthew 15:1-11), and rules (Mark 7:1-8). He attacked the judgmental, self-righteous spirit that kept the needy from touching God (Luke 11:37-46). His message was, “Get ‘Real’! God is concerned and cares about *every person*, not every law, rule, or tradition.”

George Fox was Real about the issues of his day. He attacked God-given rites that had been taken over by the state, such as communion, baptism, and formal study as a requirement ministry (Fox; Luke 22:14-24; John 4:1-2; Matthew 28:19; Joshua 1: 8; Jeremiah 2:8; 2 Timothy 2:15). He attacked the money driven, power-grabbing spirit that kept the needy populace from knowing God. His message was, “Get ‘Real’! God cannot be controlled by degrees, money, power, or licenses. Citizenship, ministry, and approval come only from God.”

So what is “Relevance” for our time? How can we be *real* even about ourselves or what we have become in light of God’s word, God’s purposes, and God’s will for our times? The Pharisees promoted JudaISM more than Jehovah. Is it possible that we, the Iowa Yearly Meeting, are promoting QuakerISM more than Christ? What would Jesus say? What would George Fox say?

If George were alive today, what would he condone? What would he preach against? He preached against baptism and communion because they had become tools of the state. Would he reinstitute them based on their Biblical value? Perhaps today instead of preaching against these Biblical ordinances, he would preach against marriage licensure since it has become a right of the state and insurance companies.

Pastors and those who are recorded, would you be willing to perform marriages without signing state licenses? Friends, would you be willing to marry in the church without the benefits of state approval? Or, do the money saved and the privileges earned with state licensure have too much earthly appeal?

This is the type of loss our forefathers were willing to bear in order to gain a more worthy standing with God. Their *radical* positions challenged them financially, politically, and relationally. They suffered ostracism, verbal and physical abuse, jail, loss of possessions, loss of power, and for many, loss of a country they and their ancestors had called home.

What are you willing to lose in order to be “realevent” for our day? What are we willing to let go of in order to gain more of Christ? In order to be relevant to our God and our generation, the one we all live in regardless of our age, what are we willing to risk, both personally and corporately?

Let’s “Get *Real*.” Are you willing?

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FOLLOW THE PATH TO CEDAR RAPIDS

JULY 7-10,
2016

THE MARIOTT
COLLINS ROAD

*You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Psalms 16:11

USFWM/QMI TRIENNIAL

SAVE THIS DATE!

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

Conversations that could change your life!

Save the Date!

December 28 2014—January 1, 2015

For ages 16—25 year olds
Hyatt Regency, LaJolla ~ San Diego, California
Registration opens August 2014

Friends

SUMMIT 2014

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Contact Scott Biddle for more information on how to send one of your young adults! scott@iaym.org or 641-673-9717

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Iowa Yearly Meeting CALENDAR of Upcoming Events

2014

September

9/6 Workday at Mesquakie
9/12-13 Golf Retreat @ CQH
9/15-22 Ron at Superintendent & Secretary
 Meeting and at FWCC Boards
9/26-28 Family Camp at CQH

October

10/5-7 Pastors Retreat @ CQH
10/8-11 FUM General Boards Meeting
10/11 USFW Fall Retreat @ MFC

November

11/7-8 All Boards Retreat at CQH

December

12/28-1/1 SUMMIT in San Diego, CA

2015

March

3/7 BOC @ College Avenue Friends
3/11-14 Ron to Mexico City for FWCC Meeting
3/21 Spring Body of Representatives

April

4/6-8 Pastors Short Course @ Oskaloosa

June

6/5-7 Young Adult Weekend Camp
6/12-14 Little Fry Camp
7/14-19 Jr/Sr High Camp
6/21-25 Elementary Camp

July

7/29—8/1 Yearly Meeting at WPU