

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting

October 2014



The World Café Update

V.I.U. (Very important update). In this article I would like to bring everyone up to speed on the World Café event we held during the Yearly Meeting sessions of 2014. We met on Thursday and Friday afternoon with Dr. Adrian Halverstadt leading us through our discussion questions. As all can see from our photo's we had a wonderful turnout. Ninety plus were involved both days, this was a dream come true for me and frankly I was astounded that we didn't have a big drop off the second session. The three questions that we all wrestled with on day two were: **(1) What are the key challenges to unity in IAYM? (2) What does IAYM need to do in order to be relevant in today's society? (3) What places does the Holy Spirit have in IAYM at this time?** Both days we had newsprint on each of the 18 tables for people to jot down their ideas. We then asked each table to review and seek a theme which was written on 5X7 post it notes, read to the entire assembly and then posted in groups on the walls.

Following the end of the Yearly Meeting a few weeks later, I asked for a small group to come, gather together the post-it-notes and seek definitive summary questions for everyone in IAYM to think about and discuss locally. It is my desire to urge each church to review these final questions in each of our monthly meetings and discern how that helps or defines their present condition and understanding. My ultimate hope is that we can have some reporting back to all of us as we gather for the Spring Body of Representatives which is to be held at Fairfield Friends on March 21. Here are the questions as reached on August 27th in my called meeting for assistance:

- 1) Where is our identity found?**
- 2) What is the matter at hand?**
- 3) What are our top 5 core values? (core = meaning unwilling to compromise)**



It is my hope that each monthly meeting gives time to considering these questions. When and if this opportunity is afforded to each member it should begin with an extended time of inner reflection and personal response to the three questions (or queries), then an open discussion should be held as to how this applies to our individual churches. (All should note that the group who prayerfully considered these questions on the 27th of August, with the exception of me, was under the age of 40). We are aware that today, considerable conviction is held by this age group, which is necessary to be real and authentic in our faith walk.



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!

IN MEMORY OF PETER CARTER

LeGrand Friends Church (LFC) lost a loyal, life-long member recently. Peter Macauley Carter attended LFC faithfully since his birth December 29, 1979. **Peter passed away Tuesday, July 22, 2014 in Marshalltown, Iowa. Services were held at LeGrand Friends Church on Tuesday, July 29, 2014 with Pastor Ron Bryan officiating.**

Peter was born to Jane and Macauley Carter, Jr. of Marshalltown. He was educated at East Marshall schools where he received his high school diploma in 1999, at Marshalltown Community College where he received an AA degree in 2001, and, at Wartburg College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 2003.

Peter was a member of BSA Troop 329 of LeGrand, Iowa from childhood. He was an Eagle Scout and, in recent years, an Assistant Scoutmaster. He was an athletic young man of unusual endurance and physical strength, a man of moderation in habits and tastes, a strong swimmer and triathlete, and a splendid and experienced long distance runner with a long record of distinguished performances in Iowa community road races.

Left to cherish Peter's memory are his parents, Jane and Mac; and his sisters, Catherine, Caroline, and Mary Patricia, along with their families.

Bear Creek Friends

Leon Maxson, 94, formerly of Redfield, passed away at the Stuart Community Care Center on July 22, 2014. Funeral services were held on July 25, 2014 at Bear Creek Friends Church, with Leon's niece, Karen Mendenhall, officiating. Nieces Eldonna Skahill and Juanita Coulter provided the music, and nephew Lance Coulter read scripture and the obituary. Leon joined Bear Creek Friends following his marriage to Eloise Coulter in 1963. He is remembered for loving his job as a car salesman at Hunter Motor Company in Earlham. Leon was preceded in death by his wife Eloise, his parents, both of his sisters, and a nephew. Leon is survived by two brothers-in-law, Eldon (Marilyn) and Marvin (Melanie) Coulter, one sister-in-law, Martha Mendenhall, five nieces, one nephew, five great-nieces and nephews, a great-great-niece and nephew, and many friends who will remember him fondly.

Marie Cook, passed away April 8th, 2014. She was a member of Bear Creek Friends Church. Velma Marie Barnett, daughter of Bruce & Florence Wright Barnett, was born on January 27, 1918 in Linden, IA., one of six children. She was very involved in school growing up and graduated with "The All Round Student Medal" in 1935. On August 27, 1940, she married Leonard Otha Cook of Bear Creek Friends Church. They had 4 sons and Marie's motto was "I'd rather wear out then rust out"! They made their home on a farm south of Linden where they resided for 17 years. Marie played the piano and organ for over 70 years at church in Linden, Bear Creek, Stuart, Guthrie Center and filled in several times at Earlham Methodist and Presbyterian Church. She served as a Sunday School teacher & superintendent, treasurer, a member of the USFW ladies at Bear Creek. Marie wrote "Bear Creek News" for 15 years for 3 papers: Earlham Echo, The Redfield Review and the Dallas County News. Always willing and able to give a testimony, word of praise, thanks or prayers for her Lord and Savior. She had a good, busy life. She leaves to celebrate her life her sons: Marven (Melinda) Cook of Cedar Falls, Normans Cook of Oklahoma City, OK, Marion (Dawn) Cook of Earlham, Merlin (Jennifer) Cook of Harleton TX; 15 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; brothers: Robert (Mary Ellen) Barnett of Newberg, OR and Rollin (Velma) Barnett of Salem, OR. She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years: Otha Cook; her parents; Bruce and Florence Barnett; eldest brother: Paul Barnett; sisters: Celine Mendenhall and Wilma Applegate.

Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board Announces

Fall Thank Offering

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board enthusiastically invites the churches of Iowa Yearly Meeting to plan a special Thank Offering for the support of the Turkana/Samburu ministries in northern Kenya during the month of November. In these remote areas, God is at work.

Sammy LeToole whom many of us met at yearly meeting has been serving as the director of the Samburu mission for about one year. During this time five new churches have been planted. Sammy has been used by God as a peacemaker in a place called Baragoi where both the Samburu and Turkana people live. Unfortunately, they have been fighting over cattle, sheep, goats and camels. Many people have lost their lives in these conflicts. Sammy struggled to find transportation to this place because public transportation is not available and no one, knowing the conflict that exists there, wanted to risk his life to take him there. Eventually a driver agreed to go. Upon arrival, Sammy found a group of people trying to protect themselves outside the attack. A man provided him with a chair in the midst of this group who then surrounded him. He told them that one part of the work that Quakers do all over the world is to bring peace between the communities and the world. He told them, "Today God sent me to bring peace between the Turkana and Samburu people since you had been fighting for a long time. So this is the time you need to come together and live like brothers and sisters since all of us belong to God our creator and protector." After listening to him for about an hour, one of the men stood and said. "Surely this is what we have been looking for...we are tired of losing young, innocent lives...Man of God, welcome to this place!" They gave Sammy their blessing to meet with them and help them resolve their differences.



In addition to these things, they have launched a satellite campus of Friends Theological College (FTC) so that pastors, evangelists and meeting leaders can receive basic biblical and theological training.

In Turkana, John and Grace Moru still feel called to South Sudan though their travels there have been curtailed because of violence. John continues to prepare himself for greater ministry as he studies Counseling Psychology. Two USFW groups in Turkana have recently received Right Sharing of the World's Resources (RSWR) grants which will enable them to be more self supporting.



A monthly grant from FUM provides for administrative overhead and program costs plus payroll for 25 people in Turkana and 13 in Samburu. The aim is to send \$3000 to Turkana and \$2000 to Samburu each month. However if FUM has not received that amount of money, they can only send what they have and the workers don't receive their pay in full. Yet they manage to do an amazing amount of ministry with what little they get.



Our Thank Offering could make a huge difference for the ministries in both Samburu and Turkana. Let's join God in His work and see if we could raise at least \$5000 to cover one month or if God leads you to greater giving, let's be faithful.

Please send your Thank Offering to the Missions treasurer, Dorothy Taylor at 1121 Parkway Drive, Boone, IA 50036-1895. Thank you for participating in God's ministry in northern Kenya.



PLANTING TREES

Camp Quaker Heights is preparing to plant trees next spring. To facilitate this work our camp will be participating in the program named "Branching Out". Branching out is a program/grant to plant trees from Alliant Energy. I visited with the board about it last year and they approved doing this to help plant some trees to replace all the ones we lost during the storm. Quakerdale has done the same thing, got the grant in the spring and planted trees in the fall last year. This deadline is November 1 and planting would be in the spring.

Chip Daleske, Camp Director

Peace and Christian Social Concerns

Value of Human Life

Our focus for the Peace and Christian Social Concerns Board this past year has been the value of all human life. This stems from the Quaker Belief that there is that of God in all of us. Sounds easy enough, right? I know I like to think that I always “value” everyone that I meet. Do you?

The Bible story that came to mind for me in thinking about the value of human life comes from 1 Kings 3:16-28. The story of the two prostitutes claiming that the baby was their own and the method that King Solomon used to determine who was the real mother of the baby. Wow! What a story! I remember my mother reading this story to me. My mother was an awesome example of what it meant to be a mother. That's why as a child, I had time believing that any woman would ever be able to agree to having a baby cut in half. But then I grew up. This story could go in the obvious direction, but...

I am choosing a different direction. I pose a question to us all. How often do we “cut children/people in half” so it is fair? How many people are in your community or on your street or in your church that just want someone to value them and see “that of God in us all.” Are we, or should I say am I, doing all that we/I can to see God in everyone that we/I encounter?

Everyday God gives me opportunities to encourage, support, guide, and love those who just want to be valued. How often do I miss the opportunity? God forgive me for those missed opportunities. How would my life and my church look different if I truly valued all human life?

I end with this familiar passage from **Matthew 25:35-40**. *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothing and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

The King will reply, “tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Submitted by Denise Nichols

Flooding in Kyela, Africa

Updates from Ron Bryan

Thursday, September 18, 2014

I greet you in the name of our LORD JESUS we are all fine. We received money for building and we have already started the construction of the building and after reaching a certain stage i will send you a picture. Also we went in Dar as Salaam to do evangelism we where able to open 5 churches even though they need some help in order to progress. I Send you the pictures we took during the meeting and more pictures of floods. Leah Presiding clerk Kyela MM



Friday, September 26, 2014

I greet you all in the name of OUR LORD ,

Here we are all fine we had our monthly meeting last Sunday at Mwaya Village Meeting where we reviewed the distribution of items for the needy due to floods. This activity was supervised by Pastors and leaders of every village meeting after identifying the needy and their needs in each place and we even invited government leaders. Items distributed were food, bedsheets, mosquito nets, and clothing also we repaired four houses of those affected especially old people. We helped all needy people in the community even those people who were not our members.

Convey our heartfelt thanks to our friends in the LORD cause your help touched a lot of people and they were very thankful.



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

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
@ Fairfield Friends

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