

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting

November 2014

Open Doors

Jesus is quoted in Matthew 7:7 saying "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Luke writes in Acts 14:27 that as they prayed and followed God's leadings they then gathered and gave a report as to how, "he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 16:9 about "because of a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me." Later Paul writes in 2 Cor. 2:12 "Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there." And finally we read in Revelations 3:20 the words of Jesus Christ, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

As in the days when Jesus Christ walked this earth we too have doors to open and walk through. Sometimes it will take patience, other times difficulties may need to be overcome, yet Jesus promises that if we persist; He opens the door and will come in and sit with us. I am thinking about many of the doors we may be standing in front of right now:

- ~Potential short fall in our annual budget for 2014.
- ~New missions opportunities opening for us to participate and be involved with in Southern Tanzania. Real life changing, eternally lasting change for hearts and souls of a vast region.
- ~Two of our own members seeking openings to begin work in Cambodia.
- ~One of our families who has been serving in a foreign country needing an outpouring of God's love for their future needs of employment and family.
- ~Blessing and challenge of supporting the new FTC Principal, with a possibility that we are missing the great excitement in Kenya accompanying the first Kenyan Principal to lead this incredibly important school to the future growth and health of East Africa. This is a question not an indictment, have we grasped the magnitude of this blessing?
- ~Member churches of Iowa Yearly Meeting as they seek new pastoral and member leadership to help them step over their next threshold.

These are just some of the blessings and praises that I am experiencing this morning while writing this article. We as members of one another can walk together through the open doors or hesitate and even perhaps call for a halt because we are being pushed out of our comfort zones. I for one do not want to limit God, nor do I want to miss what He has called us to do. Let us draw close to him and to each other, seeking new doors of opportunity, and completing the tasks of the doors that are already opened to us.

~Ron Bryan, General Superintendent

Just a brief letter to say thanks for the very successful USFW Fall Retreat that was held at Mesquakie this past weekend. All in attendance had a great time. And speaking of attendance we had as best we can figure out—96 individuals attending (wow!!). We had 75 absolutely amazing baskets to auction and made \$2277.50 for the USFW funds for the Triennial event of 2016.

The lunch of Indian tacos, native-American type soups and many fresh homemade pies was delicious and the dancers from the Mesquakie attendees were delightful to behold. The costuming they wore was fabulous! All in all I felt that everyone left with a greater understanding and appreciation of the Mesquakie mission that has so burdened Deneen and Juan's heart for God. Much thanks to the Ahumada family for their part in this great time we had together.

It took many hands and prayers to pull this off and many, many thanks to each of you.

~Debra Savage, President Iowa USFW



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. 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.

Obituaries

Nedra Jane Smith, 85, of Oskaloosa, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, at the Oskaloosa Care Center.

Nedra Jane Smith, daughter of Edward C. and Mary "Lena" Evalena (Maddox) Andree, was born, Sept. 18, 1928, at the Masonic Hospital in Cherokee, Okla. She attended grades 1-5 at Alfalfa Co. Enterprise School No. 144, grades 6-8 at Short Springs School No. 42, and completed her high school years at Lambert High School in 1946 as the valedictorian of her class. Nedra Jane furthered her education at Northwestern State College at Alva, Okla., from 1946-47 and completed her degree in education at Friends University at Wichita, Kan., graduating in 1949. Her first job teaching was at Short Springs Rural School where she taught for two years. She was next employed in Fowler, Kan., teaching 3rd grade.

She married Norval D. Smith, May 23, 1953, at the Cherokee Friends Church where Norval was a pastor. Norval's position as church pastor would take the family to Wilmore, Kan., Enid, Okla., and finally to Marshalltown in 1960. Nedra Jane was a stay at home mom to her two sons during these years but taught piano and organ and also served as a youth sponsor in their churches.

In 1968, Norval accepted a position as college professor at William Penn College in Oskaloosa and Nedra Jane accepted a position as Headstart director/teacher. She remained at Headstart until 1975 when she accepted a position as the Chapter One teacher for a year. Nedra Jane accepted the job as kindergarten teacher at Grant School in 1976 and remained there until 1992. After her retirement, Nedra Jane could then pursue some of her real passions: antiques, Pekinese dog figurines, Piano Babies, pattern glass and Native American artifacts. She opened the Antique Shop in downtown Oskaloosa in 1997 and operated it until 2011.

Nedra Jane was an active member of the College Avenue Friends Church: she served as clerk on the Young Friends Board and the Ministry Counsel of the Iowa Yearly Meeting. She also served on the local ministry, counsel and music committees of her church. She was a former member of the Wm. Penn University Board of Trustees, Chief Mahaska Questers and Rho Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma. Nedra Jane's family includes her son, Duane A. Smith of Berea, Ky., and two grandsons: Jeremiah and Isaiah, of Valparaiso, Ind.

In addition to her parents, Nedra Jane was preceded in death by her husband, Norval of 54 years, on Jan. 4, 2008, and her son, Edward on June 16, 2009.

Funeral services for Nedra Jane were held Saturday, Aug. 16, at Garland-Van Arkel-Langkamp Funeral Chapel with Pastor James Tower officiating. Burial will be in Short Springs Cemetery in Cherokee, Okla.

Raymond Alfred Millett died Sunday, Oct. 26, 2014, at his home in Springdale, with his wife, Clara, at his side. He was born Dec. 12, 1919, to Lee and Ada (Branson) Millett on the family farm near Springdale. He attended the Springdale School through eighth grade and proudly earned his GED later in life. As a birthright Quaker, his church was always central in his life. He served there in many different capacities throughout his life, including Sunday school superintendent, on committees of ministry and counsel as well as peace and social concerns. Ray also served on the Peace and Social Concerns board for Iowa Yearly Meeting. The Quaker men's organization was important to him on the local, state and international levels. Through his broader church family, Ray was introduced to Clara Weaver. They married Aug. 23, 1986, and enjoyed a life together on the Millett farm. They took pleasure in the wildlife and beauty of God's creation around them and welcomed many to the Young Friends Cabin in the Millett woods.

A kind and gentle soul, Ray lived a life of simplicity that exemplified the Quaker testimonies. His devotion to stewardship was evidenced in the conservation of land and natural resources that he cared for on the Millett Century Farm where he and brother Roscoe specialized in raising Angus cattle. Ray was a lifelong Farm Bureau member. He was actively involved with the farm until the age of 91, when he and Clara moved to their retirement home in the community of Springdale that he loved so well.

Ray lived out the testimony of peace. He was a dedicated supporter of the United Nations, enjoyed visiting its headquarters in New York City and encouraged high school students in attending the UN Seminar. As a young man, Ray was a conscientious objector. During the Vietnam era and years following, he met with young men who were examining their conscience in regard to serving in the military. A faithful servant to those in need, he volunteered for Cedar County hospice and participated in CROP walks and UNICEF events. He represented Iowa Yearly Meeting on the Scattergood School Committee. Over the years, Scattergood students have camped in the Millett woods and used the Young Friends Cabin.

Family was always very important to Ray and he was lovingly known simply as "uncle" to many nieces and nephews. He was a quiet man whose gentle ways drew children to him. He loved reminiscing and talking about the history of the Springdale and West Branch communities. One way that he cared for himself was his daily routine of doing 20 pull-ups which he continued well into his 80s.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Russell Millett; sisters, Genevieve Millett, Elizabeth Smith and Golda Gatch; and nephews, George Millett and David Smith. He is survived by his loving wife, Clara; brother, Roscoe (Helen) Millett of West Branch; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews, in addition to his church family and friends. A quiet and humble man who leaves behind a legacy of kindness and love, Ray will be deeply missed.

Peace and Christian Social Concerns The Value of Simplicity By: Susan Schulte

In the Quaker tradition the function of simplicity is to free you from the constraints and artifice that would keep you from having a genuine relationship with God and with others.

Quakers are to listen for that small, still voice within, to focus on God. We need to make a decision to spend the time and carve out moments of stillness.

I have a collection of bibles that includes the one issued to my father in WWII, my childhood bible with the gold cross zipper pull, and others acquired through the years. Reading them is not enough. I have sat through many sermons, Sunday School lessons, and bible studies but hearing is not enough. Even praying is not enough. Silence, stillness, feeling the presence of God is what is missing.

Setting limits on what we allow to distract us from God also helps us to connect with others. Being in the moment lets us see, hear, and feel the people around us. How often have I been frustrated by not having someone's full attention, and yet how often have I been resentful towards those who want MY full attention.

Simplicity demands that we be involved and aware. I am surrounded by the products of someone else's hard work. My house, utilities, furniture, car clothes, books, and food came from the work of someone else's hands.

Some Quakers choose to shop at second hand stores or to use their cars only when necessary. They feel it lessens consumer demand and puts less strain on the environment. There is a quote, often credited to John Woolman:

"Live simple, that others may simply live."



Dale Graves

FUM Interim Field Staff in
Belize



Friends United Meeting will continue to operate the Belize Friends School program. In addition, over the next 12 months we will build on the groundwork the Barbers have laid toward an expanded Friends ministry. Towards this end, FUM has approved Dale Graves of Western Yearly Meeting to assist in an interim

capacity. Dale's educational background, knowledge for and love of the Belize mission and availability as a recent retiree make him ideally suited for an interim appointment in Belize. He will go to Belize in August to serve for one year with a focus on research, community needs assessment and program planning for a holistic Belize Friends Mission that addresses the unmet needs of the South Side neighborhood of Belize City.

Come join us at Grinnell Friends and hear Dale speak about his study for a more comprehensive ministry in Belize.

Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at Grinnell Friends Church. Everyone is invited.

Iowa Yearly Meeting is seeking qualified applicants for the position of General Superintendent. This is a full time position within the Yearly Meeting focused on providing visionary leadership to guide the Yearly Meeting in its recognition and efforts to fulfill God's purposes. This position will be located in Oskaloosa, IA and will become effective January 1, 2016.

Applications will be received through February 1, 2015. For complete job description and application, contact John Rains at:

jraiment@gmail.com or call 515-490-9104.

Update on Flooding in Tanzania



On May 10, 2014 a prayer event was held for Tanzania. Southern Tanzania is working on building a church and heavy rainfall in April had caused major flooding in this area "Kylea, District". This event was a time to hold our brothers and sisters in prayer and encourage them that they were not alone in this or their vision of spreading the gospel.

Through the money raised Pastors and leaders of every village meeting in this area were able to supervise distribution of much needed items including food, bedsheets, mosquito nets, and clothing which were given to those in need after the flooding.

Four houses were also repaired of some elderly people who were affected by the flood. With our help, needs were given to everyone in the community.

The presiding clerk said "Convey our heartfelt thanks to our friends in the LORD because your help touched a lot of people and they were very thankful. We attach pictures taken during the distribution."



With the flooding and a delay in funds being sent for helping to build the church they just purchased bricks and cement in September. John Muhanji states this will go a long ways to shoring up the corners and after that they will be ready to attach rafters and a roof.

They hope for this to be a place where a Yearly Meeting can take place in the region. Many things are happening and this will be a place they can all meet at once and share vision and knowledge together. One huge praise is in Dar EsSlaam which is a large city that is heavy Muslim has started to open five churches. Please pray for these churches to grow and for the resources so that discipleship can happen.



In Christ,
IAYM MISSION BOARD

THE IOWA FRIEND
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Iowa Yearly Meeting CALENDAR of Upcoming Events

2014

November

11/7-8 All Boards Retreat at CQH

December

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



2015

February

2/28 Winter Family Banquet
@MTC at William Penn

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