

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

Moving Forward

John 14:30-31 “I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I exactly what my Father has commanded me.” “Come now; let us leave.”

The end of 2014 is upon us very soon. These words spoken by Jesus as he headed to Jerusalem and His crucifixion spoke sharply to me early this morning. We too must be about our Father's business. Jesus knew what lay ahead for him, for he was God and man, we are not left unequipped because we have the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us, if we will fully obey the Father, just as Jesus Christ did, (Exodus 19:5 *“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.”*)

I am not personally an adherent to cheap grace. Our salvation and relationship to God was bought with a price, a very high price. I find throughout Scripture that our joy and reward are always related to our obedience. We live at a moment that people want to simply say, ‘but God is love, we just need to be loving’, and surely we understand the difference between love and obedience. My worldly father loved me but I did not always obey him and there were always consequences. So I think it is with God's overall or big plan for humanity. Surely he speaks continually to people loves all of his creation including those created in His own image, but that does not automatically equate to following His voice or instruction. In my youth I hoped that somehow God would grant me a free pass, that way I wouldn't have to obey Him. But I could never get past that still small voice speaking in my heart, “Ron, you need to humble yourself and ask for my forgiveness” that was the message that kept calling to my soul.

A year and a half ago we as a Yearly Meeting approved making some changes to our staff and focus. Four months ago we experienced a great time together participating in a World Café Gathering where we discussed what is God saying to us today, who are we today and asking the question how do we become relevant in each generation? We have made a commitment to the future as a Yearly Meeting, we have two churches that we are working to plant, and we have a new focus on Youth and Young Adult with new leadership. Also, we continue to pour ourselves into the Mesquakie People and our Camp Quaker Heights. In the midst of these forward movements we find ourselves struggling to meet our commitments financially.

This appears to be a time when many people are hesitant about our future in the local church and beyond. What is God saying, is it any different today than any time before? *“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”* 2 Chron. 7:14. Looking backwards and longing for a time gone past stifles us and makes it nearly impossible to look forward with hope. Let us draw close to God and to one another this December and look forward to what God has in store for His obedient people.

~Ron Bryan, General Superintendent

God Honoring Relevance for Our Day

By Debbie Maselli

At the yearly meeting this year, the general consensus seemed to indicate that relevance was needed for our yearly meeting as well as our individual monthly meetings. What is relevance? What does that look like for us? Does God's definition differ from ours?

James addressed relevance when he wrote, "Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?" This trend of relevance to the culture can be seen in some seeker-friendly churches that have become so culture centric that the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is almost non-existent. Thirty years ago, some of my family members went to a church like this. I remember feeling like a great and beautiful table had been set complete with a desert spoon at the top of the plate. The pastor got to the end of the sermon. I thought, "Here it is. He will finally tell the truth that he has been alluding to." Then he ended the sermon. I had been waiting for the crowning event, the desert, of the sermon meal. To my dismay, the table setting had been ripped off the table while everyone around me smiled and shook hands.

Jesus addressed relevance when He said, "As you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give." (Matt. 10:7-8, NASB). Luke quoted Jesus this way, "And whatever city you enter, and they receive you...heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (Luke 10:8-9, NASB). Jesus seems to indicate that relevance is a process. When people are healed from their infirmities, they can feel the nearness of God. Our part is giving both healing and the message.

Now I wonder, am I giving only the words? Is there any healing in my presence that will bring the kingdom of God near?

Friendship with the world will result in hostility toward God. Healing of the world will bring the friendship that God desires. This is a conundrum; it seems contradictory to our thinking. Proverbs 27:6 exposes the truth of this riddle, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend. But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy." (NASB).

Recently, I had to confront someone about a sin. It was relevant to the person. It was relevant to recent events in which we were both involved. It was not pleasurable or fun or entertaining. I did not use modern metaphors taken from pop culture. I did not invite the person to watch a movie clip. I just asked them to read a scripture. It was uncomfortable for both of us. In a sense, it felt like wounding. The person said, "I guess you are not really my friend."

Let us not become so enamored with the kisses of the culture, that we mistake the painful reality of our need to bring healing. Healing sometimes involves the pain of surgery, relocation of a joint, the resetting of a bone, or the humbling of a pride. Healing must involve revealing. The desire to be healed involves the admission of sickness.

Jesus has sent us to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons so that we can bring the kingdom of God near. Perhaps being relevant requires that we examine our culture and our communities so that we know what needs to be healed. Is it possible that being relevant means doing something to heal the sicknesses and diseases of those around us so that our preaching will not be in vain?

Obituaries

Charles Weesner of Des Moines, formerly of Earlham, died peacefully after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 62.

Chuck was born on February 10, 1952 in Dexter, IA to Max and Carol (James) Weesner and grew up on the family farm north of Dexter. The oldest of three siblings, he watched out for his brother and sister while attending high school and graduating from Dexfield. After high school he stayed on the family farm, in partnership with his father and grandfather raising Angus Cattle. He was married on July 18, 1969 to Beverly Countryman. They had 3 sons, Bryon, Joh, and Jeffery. He served as a 4-H header and on the Dexfield School board and worked part time for Minnesota Valley Breeders Association. When the family farm dissolved he pursued a career in insurance sales for a number of companies including Farm bureau and Met Life, always looking for that one big sale, but making a living on people he refused to swindle because they were his friends and neighbors. He married Donna Craven in January 28, 1988 in Sewal, IA and welcomed her children Christine and Shelley into the family and settled on the old Hadley farm in the Bear Creek neighborhood.

On Thanksgiving Day November 26, 2009 surrounded by his family, he married Michaeline Beggs and along with her children Michael and Catherin, moved to Des Moines to start the final chapter of his life. He spent countless hours watching the kids and helping with 4-H and State Fair projects.

He was recorded a full Pastor in the Friends church in 2014 during the early stages of his illness which fulfilled the long road he had taken to find a job he truly loved. He was serving as the Pastor for the Stuart Friends Church at the time of death, and loved his job and the congregation and was excited for the future there after his recording.

He enjoyed following the Iowa State Cyclones and Green Bay Packers (fulfilling a lifelong dread of attending a game at Lambeau field in 2000). He was passionate about his draft horses, fishing, gardening, and baking pies. He loved his grandchildren dearly and spent hours at "the farm" where he found the most peace. He was recognized by the Governor of Iowa in 1985 for Volunteerism and received the Honorary Iowa FFA Degree in 1989. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Michaeline Weesner of Des Moines; Sons, Bryon Weesner of Dexter, John Weesner of Grimes and Jeff Wessner (Gwen) of Earlham. Step children, Michael and Catherine Beggs of Des Moines; Chris Watkins (Jenifer Davies) of Denver, CO and Shelley (Cesar) Ramirez of Des Moines. His mother, Carol Piatt of Dexter; brother, David (Cheryl) Weesner of Altoona; sister Cathy (Don) Van Hove of Keister, MN, and former wives, Bev Weesner and Donna Craven both of Des Moines; ten grandchildren; two step grandchildren; a host of nephews, aunts, cousins and friends from every part of the state. He was preceded in death by his father, Max and by his uncles Robert Weesner, Jack Weesner, LaVerne James, Dean James and his aunt Doris Miller.

Kermit Leon Hinshaw, 95, of Richland, Iowa, died at 7:05 p.m. Tuesday, November 4, 2014, at SunnyBrook Living Care Center, Fairfield, Iowa. He was born March 25, 1919, in Richland, Iowa, the son of Loren Levi and Gertrude Pearl (Shy) Hinshaw. He graduated from Richland High School in 1936 and attended William Penn College for a brief time. Kermit was united in marriage to Janet Anne Trigg on October 5, 1941, at the home of the bride's mother in Richland, Iowa. The couple lived in Richland their entire married life.



Soon after their marriage Kermit was drafted into the Army. He became a T5 expert tele-typist in the 250th Signal Corps. He served in the European theater throughout WWII. And was in the 7th Army with General Patch. During the war Kermit played his fiddle for the Henault Mountaineers and continued playing the fiddle and mandolin throughout his life. Five of his Army buddies and he planned to stay in contact after the war. They met every other year thereafter. These men were so close to each other that they were more like brothers than simply friends.

When the war ended, Kermit and Janet farmed, raised cattle and hogs on the Hinshaw family farm east of Richland. In 1951 Kermit built the Hinshaw Oil Company at the south edge of Richland and later added a restaurant. A feed store was built next to the gas station a few years later and finally a propane plant.

During the gas station years Kermit never forgot his young childhood love of horses. He decided to buy his first Standardbred mare, then later he purchased a Standardbred stallion, Tryax. This started a love affair that turned into a 60 year career with Standardbred horses. He was a Standardbred owner, trainer, driver, ferrier, breeder, owner of a horse sale company and at times his own vet. He raised hundreds of colts and trained many of them on the half mile track he built at the Hinshaw Homestead Farms.

Kermit was instrumental in starting the Iowa Hawkeye Colt Association to promote Standardbred colt racing throughout Iowa. He was the President of that association for nearly 20 years.

Family genealogy was something Kermit always enjoyed. He was the family historian. People often contacted Kermit seeking information about their relatives. Kermit loved his hometown of Richland and for several years he was considered the Richland historian.

Kermit was a faithful member of the Woolson Friends Church in Richland until he had to move to the nursing home. He loved the Lord and was not afraid to tell others about Christ and encouraged young people to attend church and make sure their lives were on track with the Lord. He had a great love for his wife, children, and a special love for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Kermit is survived by his son, John and wife Reka of Ankeny, IA; Emily Emonin and husband John of Marion, IA; Korwin and wife Judi of Fairfield and Sallie Hayes and husband Terry of Fairfield, IA; granddaughter Lorraine (Emonin) Potter and husband Don of Cedar Rapids, IA; Amy (Hinshaw) Nyren and husband Andrew of Milwaukee, WI; Mark Ryan Hinshaw and wife Kirsten of Ankeny, IA; Amanda Brown and husband Nick of Richland; Kelsie Roland and husband, Jeremy of Richland; Derek Hayes of Fairfield; and Kirsten Harken and husband Matthew of Waterloo, IA. He is also survived by twelve great-grandchildren: Grant, Benjamin, Elliot, and Abraham Potter; Riley, Lillian, Eleanor, and Korwin Michael Brown; Ella and James Nyren; Taylor Hinshaw and Paul Roland. He is also survived by one sister-in-law, Harriet "Peggy" Kavanagh. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Janet Anne (Trigg); brothers, Loren Keith, Kevin Dean; brothers-in-law, William and Paul Trigg; sisters-in-law, Donna Hinshaw, and Grace Trigg.

Peace and Christian Social Concerns

What is the Value of a Human Life

By: Robert Radcliffe

Recently the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns board has been discussing this very topic. We have contemplated in relation to this question the obvious divisive issues, abortion, homosexuality, and the second amendment. Inside of our churches we can feel the tension rise as the hair on the back of our neck starts to rise as someone presents an argument that is against the way we stand. Well I'm not here to present an argument for or against any of the big three. Instead, I want to focus attention on something of far greater importance, Life in Christ.

From where I sit right now in Des Moines less than an hour drive is a place filled with evil and yet light. A place in Satan's grip yet loved by God. A place where few will escape but freedom is being offered. I speak of Meskwaki Indian Reservation, a third world nation in our own backyard. People there are hungry for the gospel. If you don't believe me speak with the Ahumadas or better yet go visit them on a Wednesday night and experience 60+ kids running around hungry for the Word of God.

There is a terrible problem with our religion when we think that abortion, gun control, or any issue is more important than that of salvation. For salvation is the true value of human life. For true religion is caring for widows and orphans.

Consider Matthew 18:6, "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

The words of Jesus are vitally important. I think the obvious application is don't get in the way of a child coming to Jesus. Henry Drummond says of this verse, that it would be better that the person who causes a child to stumble to have never been born. I want to look at this verse just a little differently. What if I don't get in the way of a child coming to know Christ but instead maintain apathy? I don't care if this child knows Jesus or not instead I focus my time on fighting abortion and gay marriage.

I am going to argue that this is just as bad and negative towards a child as actively causing one to stumble. In apathy, we have no concern for the child that Jesus says to bring to him, Matthew 18:2. In disregarding the ones Jesus loves we are disregarding Christ himself, Matthew 25:44-46. At this point both us and the child are in danger of losing salvation.

Ask yourself, is my church arguing over abortion, gun control, and homosexuality, all the while the children are falling further and further into the grasp of Satan?

No matter how hard I try I cannot legislate somebody into a redeeming relationship with Christ. People in their sin need a savior and just like any relationship, a relationship with Christ always starts with an introduction, never legislation. When Jesus says bring me the child, we are both providing the opportunity for salvation for the child, and are sitting at the feet of and learning from the king.

To truly value human life is to put focus first and foremost on the redeeming love of Christ, not on the social agenda of the church.

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.

Scholarships Opportunities

Trustees Scholarship

Applications are now being taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2015-2016 academic school year (January of 2016). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting Office.

Deadline for this scholarship is February 1st, 2015. A recipient will be determined at Spring Body 2015.

**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 2015-16 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 2015-2016 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, 2015.

Dear Friend~

Please take time to consider making a donation to our Yearly Meeting to help us overcome a year-end budget deficit. We have made a commitment to the future of IAYM with the addition of a director of Youth and Young Adult ministries as well as our ongoing support of Mesquakie and Camp Quaker Heights. Your support is greatly needed.

Thank You!

MY YEAR END GIFT

Thank you for partnering with
Iowa Yearly Meeting!

GIFT AMOUNT

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Oskaloosa, IA 52577

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Iowa Yearly Meeting CALENDAR of Upcoming Events

2015

Let's plan to 'Party for Jesus'
YEA!!

Lynnville Friends Church
will be hosting
USFW Spring Fling
9:30 to 2 p.m.
Saturday, March 28, 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

