



# THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

## A Word to Ministry Couples A Christmas Exhortation

I sat at my desk one winter morning, sipping coffee while reading. I had been studying a portion of the Old Testament – the Book of Ezekiel. As I pondered all that was transpiring on those pages, my mind went down a path that led to the birth of Christ.

Usually, I think of His birth as an epic first, a new story, an entrance. But on that morning, I realized the profound truth that while Christ's birth was truly an epic of inconceivable proportion, it was not really an entrance so much as a return.

The Book of Ezekiel gives the account of the day that the glory of the Lord departed from the temple. The Glory had been there since the days of Moses when He resided in the tabernacle. The Glory entered the first temple, built by Solomon, as described in 1 Kings. The Presence of God remained with His people until Ezekiel, chapter ten.

I read the through the chapter once and then read it over again. What a sad, sad day. I cannot begin to imagine the grief in beholding the awesome, beautiful, and glorious Presence as He exited the Most Holy Place, moved through the Holy Place, and filled the Inner Court. Finally, He came to the threshold of the temple and then left through the gate...gone...never to return...until...

Now here is the amazing part! As I sat there in somber contemplation, my thoughts went down the timeline of history. My sadness over reading the account of the departure of the manifestation of the Presence of our loving God turned into joy as I thought of Christmas.

It was on the eighth day after Jesus' birth that Mary and Joseph carried Him into the temple. Wow! Our great God and King who, so long ago, had left the temple in matchless glory was now being carried in, wrapped in blankets, held by sinful, human hands. He returned to His temple unseen, unnoticed, and unannounced by all except Simeon and Anna who were actually waiting for Him there.

I am astounded every time I stop to think of the incomprehensible greatness of our God who gave up His heavenly home to become one of us. How often have we, just like the ancient Israelites, rejected Him and made idols for ourselves of things that hold no lasting value? Yet, out of this great Love that is our God, come forgiveness, mercy and faithfulness.

What an awesome God we serve! I pray that these words will remind you of the priceless love that God has for you. My hope is that every pastor will be ignited with the power of the Holy Spirit to bring forth the beautiful message of Christmas, and to love the flock as He enables you (Romans 5:5). My desire is that every pastoral spouse will recognize the great privilege it is to minister to your spouse with support through encouragement and prayer. You, as ministry couples, are uniquely gifted and precious to Him! Merry Christmas!

----By Rose Showalter

## The time I went to the United Nations: A personal reflection

by Esther Lwakabamba, student at William Penn University



From the Pope's appearance, to the intergovernmental organization celebrating its 70th anniversary, and the return of Russia's Vladimir Putin to the stage for the first time in 10 years, this year's United Nations General has been historic.

I was able to attend three sessions at the UN from Sept. 24th to Sept. 27th. I received a rare invitation from Penn alumni, Chancellor Miriam Were who decided to stop by Penn to receive the Distinguished Career Award and later attend the United Nations General Assembly.



Chancellor Were attended this year as a member of the Independent Expert Review Group (IERG) on the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy on Women's and Children's health. During the events in September 2015, the Chair of her group presented a 2015 report to the UN Secretary General Representatives. In addition to this specific event related to the IERG report, there were other meetings we both participated. All the sessions touched on the IERG's work on of reproductive and children health.

The World Health Organization reported in recent statistics that "a child born in Malawi can expect to live for only 47 years while a child born in Japan could live for as long as 83 years. In Chad, every fifth child dies before they reach the age of 5. There is no biological or genetic reason for these alarming differences in health and life opportunity." The issue is clearly socio-economic. By attending the UNGA this year I was eager to see how the largest intergovernmental and humanitarian organization operates and the socio-economic steps it is taking to change the world.

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### **Day One: the Pope and food inequality in the World**

As Chancellor Were and I waited for the other members of the IERG, we decided to watch the Pope's opening remarks. Pope Francis' speech at the United Nations was part of his planned first trip to the United States. The leader of the worldwide Catholic Church got rave reviews for highlighting the rising of risk of environmental destruction. "We human beings are part of the environment. We live in communion with it, since the environment itself entails ethical limits which human activity must acknowledge and respect. ... Any harm done to the environment, therefore, is harm done to humanity," said Pope Francis in regards to climate control.

Chancellor Were much like others in the General Assembly called the speech, "groundbreaking," and Chancellor Were added "this speech could save the world." The Pope's opening remarks at the UN general assembly was a fitting as reminder for the multitude of individuals involved in the UNGA and the importance of the global issues being discussed.

The experience of being at this important event was unique. Upon walking into the historical building of the United Nations, passing celebrities and heads of states was the norm. When walking into the UN building, I ran into mainstream figures such as the Colombian pop singer Shakira who had just come from singing for the Pope, to former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. It was quite interesting to see people who consume and take up the media in such an unfiltered environment. Everyone was there for one common reason which was to better the world. It reassured me of the importance of an individual's impact. Indeed, certain people may have easier access to resources that facilitate their desire to shape the world, but we are all humans and can strive to do our best to help others.

The first session I attended was on a non-profit organization called "eat". The initiative is a Scandinavian-based organization started by Gunhild Anker Stordalen, a Norwegian physician and environmental advocate. She started the organization for the purpose of bringing experts together from different specialties

and disciplines to discuss on how to eradicate food inequality. According to the latest estimates, the number of people living in hunger in the world is over a billion, the highest on record. Initiative such as Eat was hoping to change that.

It was interesting to see the approach of food inequality as a means to resolve other world issues.

### **Day Two: IERG report and "Every Woman, Every Child"**

The second session began with a breakfast at a hotel where members of the Independent Expert Research Group presented their research to members of the United Nations Counsel and World Health Organization (WHO). An impactful moment came about when a 14 year old girl, who had been flown in by the UN from a developing country stood up and she explained that she was a child bride at nine years old and has three children. She simply asked what the solutions to child exploitation are. WHO Director Dr. Margaret Chan passionately replied that the solutions are not simple, and that as a whole, such occurrences should not be tolerated in the world.

The final big event happened at the "Every Woman, Every Child Event" where several nations were represented by public figures. The booklet that was distributed described the purpose of the event, "The Global Strategy strives for a world in which every mother can enjoy a wanted and healthy pregnancy and childbirth, every child can survive beyond their fifth birthday, and every woman, child and adolescent can thrive to realize their full potential. Several panelists attended and pledged financial support and commitment to fulfilling all goals related to improving women and children health."

Facts showcase that there has been a 45% drop in maternal deaths, but progress has been unequal. The session was hoping to bring more equal access to all.

A total of 25 billion dollars to be used over the next five years were pledge in support that day. The purpose is that in the next five years poor-quality education, the daily threat of violence and discrimination that hold adolescent girls back will be a thing of the past.

### **I returned to Oskaloosa the next day.**

The highlight of the UNGA that were picked up by the media included Putin's affirmation of his presence in Syria and support for the Bashar al-Assad's government, President Barack Obama urge to look into climate control, and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe stating his refusal to accept same-sex marriage in his country. However, a lot more goes on behind the luster of media making headlines of the world leaders. Thousands of people make up the UN, who pushes forward through research and the implementation of vows made by the world leaders. Moreover, the United Nations at its core is about promoting peace. In order to do this, several discrepancies have to be investigated. At the end of every session, I came out sometimes with a sense of resolution and other times with even more questions. I would ask myself such general questions like "Why is there still hunger?" and "why is there still child marriage?" Why is it we still leave in a world where according to the WHO "every single day, 21,000 children die before their fifth birthday of pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea and other diseases?" The answers seem simple yet are so complex. I found that the key is individual action. The UN simply looks to promote humanitarian action; one that can be accomplished by anyone whether as part of a multi-leveled organization or simply through getting involved in your local community, whether in Nairobi, Kenya or Oskaloosa, Iowa. We all have the capacity and resources to shape the world.

## IAYM Mission Board Kyela , Tanzania Update

*I am grateful to John Muhanji, FUM African Ministries Director, for generously providing the information for this report.*

It is encouraging to see the diligent construction work that has been going on for the Kyela, Tanzania meeting house. They are now working to put the roof on the structure that you see in the photo. The church construction is a big boost for the growth of the Quaker church in Southern Tanzania.

I thought you might be interested in an update on the motor-bikes that were donated to the pastors, through IAYM, for work in Kyela.

First, I'll give a bit of background, since it has been some time since we have heard about the bikes. There was an understanding that the donated motorbikes would be used as taxis four days per week to earn income. (This pays for their fuel and maintenance costs, as well as for support, because they are not salaried. Thus they do not need to request funds for operating the motorbikes.) The other three days they were to be used for mission work.



FUM is providing "something small to the church every month as a contribution to ministry and the rest they use for themselves and their family as well as doing ministry." John says the pastors' lives have been transformed as a result of the bikes.

Pastor Ben, lead pastor of Kyela Monthly Meeting, has been the most successful, having managed to obtain an additional motorbike from funds raised from the first he was given. He also has generously supported the church he serves. His family

has benefitted from the bikes by making it possible to take his children to school. They have also gained respect in the community because of the bike. His church is Kyela Friends Church.

Pastor Rosta, the only female pastor, has also demonstrated success by managing to send her children to school. Also since she has been ill, and without medical insurance, she has now been able to afford her HIV drugs. She praises God that the bikes came at the right time, giving her a new life and transforming her life in the community. She is also able to help support her church, Makwale Friends, and reach out to other places for mission.

The third pastor, Jacob, of Muwaya Church, communicates that he is also doing well. He seems to do a good job in ministry, and the motorbike has been a great source of support. He has a desire for outreach as well.

Two other pastors, without motorbikes, are leading new and thriving churches in this area. Three other churches have been established in Dar es Salaam by the same ministry team, and they are working with another group to establish a church in Malawi, which borders Kyela. These Quaker brothers and sisters are on fire for Christ, evidenced by the Church advancing in Tanzania.



Finally, a Friend, Brenda Cox, and I plan to visit Tanzania following some work in Kenya mid- January, briefly joining Karen and Stan Bauer with Friends Bringing Hope. We are looking forward very much to seeing for ourselves the progress that is reported in Kyela, to meeting the pastors and other new Friends and encouraging them in their ministry. Please keep us in your prayers.

*Written by: Rita Davis*



### College Avenue USFW



Our gathering began with prayer and an introduction to the planned interactive event. Each table covered in plastic held 5 easels of canvas on a 16 x 20 inch frame, a plastic plate with our many colors of paint dabbed on it to create a palette, dishes of water and 4-5 varied paint brushes.

Our theme for the session was "My cup Runneth Over". Samples of Diane's paintings of a steamy cup of coffee or chocolate were on display to serve as our model. She shared with us her story of a "full cup" in her life as she demonstrated techniques of how to create our own painting of a cup and challenged us to think about our story of a "full cup". She suggested we prayerfully think of colors, shapes and words to help us create on canvas the story we had to tell. We worked diligently at the assignment and concluded the session with each individual presenting their painting and briefly sharing the thoughts and feelings that inspired it. Individual pictures and group pictures verify our efforts as well as the canvas we each carried home. Thank-you to Diane Scandridge (of Exodus 31 Art Studio) in leading us through this fun and challenging experience.

### **Young Friends Camps**

**June 2016**

6/10-12	Little Fry
6/12-17	Jr/Sr high camp
6/17-19	Young Adult Weekender
6/19-23	Elementary Camp

### **February 2016**

2/5-8	Young Adult Retreat
2/19-20	Blizzard Blast
2/27	QuakerMen's Family Banquet

### **March 2016**

3/5	BOC @LeGrand
3/19	Spring Body of Representatives @ Grace

### **JULY 2016**

7/7-10	USFW/Quakermen Triennial in Cedar Rapids
7/27-30	Annual Yearly Meeting Conference @ WPU

We are looking for people who would donate an old laptop computer to Friends Theological College. They need to still be usable. This is part of our effort to reduce their electrical expenses by replacing the old tower computers and CRT monitors with laptops. These will be hand carried to Kenya as people go there to visit/work. We could use 4 in December and 4 more in January. ~Jim Hoeksema

### **QuakerMen's Annual**

### **FAMILY BANQUET**

February 27th @ noon

William Penn University

Delicious Food....

Great Speaker....

Annual Pie Auction!





**Iowa United Society of Friends Women (USFW)  
William Penn University Scholarship Fund**

**Guidelines**

Following are guidelines for the selection of candidates for this scholarship. The Scholarship committee shall consider applications for scholarships and make decisions as to recipients.

1. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by need of the applicant and by funds available.
2. The candidate shall be a participating member of Iowa Yearly Meeting.
3. A candidate from the Yearly Meeting shall have successfully completed secondary education requirements and shall have been accepted by William Penn University.
4. Applications must be received by January 31st.
5. To be considered for a scholarship for the succeeding academic year, recipients must submit a request to the committee each year.
6. Scholarships shall only be awarded for a maximum of four (4) academic years.

**SHORT TERM MISSIONS TRIP**

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!

**MISSION BOARD'S  
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2016-17 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 2016-2017 scholarship, please contact the Yearly Meeting office for more information.

**The deadline is March 1, 2016.**

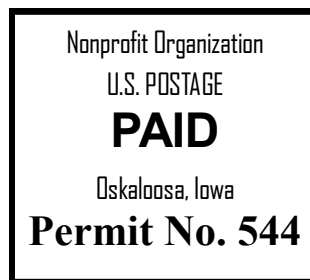
**TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP**

Applications are now being taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2016-2017 academic school year (January of 2017). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting Office.

**Deadline for this scholarship is February 1st, 2016. A recipient will be determined at Spring Body 2016.**

**Make inquiries to:  
IAYM, PO Box 657  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
(641) 673-9717 or email  
iaym@mahaska.org**

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December 2015 Vol. 70 - No. 11



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Subscription Price (individual)...\$10.00 per year (group)....\$9.50 per year Published monthly except August

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

☐ **Today's Gift**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed

Mail check to: IAYM  
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Oskaloosa, IA 52577

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