

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

God's Leading *by Tom Showalter, General Superintendent*

Iowa Yearly Meeting sessions are approaching and I look forward to seeing how God will choose to lead as we gather. Our goal is to discern God's plan for His people and His Body. To hear and discern God's voice requires preparation that precedes the gathering.

"Discernment is an ever-increasing capacity to 'see' or discern the works of God in the midst of the human situation so that we can align ourselves with whatever it is that God is doing. Every Christian is called to this kind of discernment (Rom. 12:2)" (Barton, 2012). When the Body of Christ is gathered, seeking His plan and not our own is paramount to unity in the community.

Paul Anderson, professor of Quaker studies at George Fox University, boldly proclaims:

"One great need of the church today is to experience the dynamic leadership of Christ as its Head...The Scriptures promise us that Christ's Spirit will be with us, will guide us, and will lead us into all truth...If Christ desires to lead His church, His will should be sought. If His will can be sought, it can be discerned; and if it can be discerned, it deserves to be obeyed. This is nothing more than the *basic Christian life*" (Barton, 2012)

In the midst of seeking God's will is the expectation that once His plan is recognized, His plan will be pursued. With that in mind, I would encourage you to prepare for Yearly Meeting. Not only do registrations need to be completed and travel arrangements made, but spiritual preparations are needed as well to hear God speak. If you are unable to attend our gathering this year, commit to pray for those who do attend.

*"1Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.**" (Romans 12: 1-2).*

Works Cited

Barton, R. H. (2012). *Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups*. Downer's Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press.

Ministry Conference of Iowa Yearly Meeting

July 27—July 30 @ William Penn University

Revivify

verb re·viv·i·fy \rē-'vi-və-, fīː

to make (someone or something) strong, healthy, or active again

Programs for our youth Nursery—High School!

Quaker Kids

University

Ages 4—6th Grade

(just completed)

You are What You Think

Philippians 4:8-9

The schedule and cost will be:

Wednesday 1:00-5:00 pm and will be \$5

Thursday and Friday 8:45-5:00 and will be \$15 each day

Saturday childcare only and will be \$10

Cost all four days is \$30 per child or a max of \$60 per family

The Recycled Life

Youth Yearly Meeting 2016

Grades 7th—12th

(just completed)

Cost : \$180



Registration covers housing at Market Street

Dorm, food and activities. Students need to bring their own bedding and toiletries.

**Nursery Care Available!
\$10/day**

At College Avenue Friends

Jennifer Talbot— Director

Children must be registered before our conference begins so we have adequate coverage available. Call office for any questions (641) 673-9717

Parents/guardians must pick up child(ren) for all meals.

Children under 4 eat for free!

On Friday afternoon we will have opportunities to head into the community of Oskaloosa to take on several service projects. Our hope is that these types of local work/service ideas will spur your imagination about ways to be a light to your local communities.

Make sure to pack along some work clothes!

Friday (7/29)

starting at 1:15 pm

During our conference we will be highlighting 4 different Local Mission works within our yearly meeting. There are just a sample of missions in our "backyard" and we hope that these will spark many conversations about how we interact and serve in our local areas.

Fairfield Iowa —

Maharishi Outreach

Salem Iowa—

**The Inside Corner
youth center**

New Providence Iowa—

**Monday Morning
Breakfast**

Oskaloosa Iowa—

Take-Along

Weekend Food Program

Saturday

@ 9—10:15 am at the MTC

Wednesday— Personal Revival

9 am Board on Coordination followed at **10 am** with other board and committee meetings

Lunch—on your own

12:30 Ministry & Counsel Body of Representatives @ (MTC)

1:30 Opening Worship and prayer time @ Musco Technology Center (MTC)

Followed by **General Body of Representatives**

5:30—Dinner at Musco Technology Center (MTC)

7:00 pm —Worship at College Avenue Friends with Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

Followed by ice cream social in Fellowship Hall

Thursday—Church Revival

7:30 am—Breakfast at MTC @ William Penn University

8:15 —Morning devotions

9 am—General Body of Representatives (MTC)

Noon—Lunch at Musco Technology Center (MTC) **Pastor Assoc. Lunch**

1:15 pm—Large group session with our ministries (Camp Quaker Heights, Mesquakie, Quakerdale, William Penn University Campus Ministry)

Dinner on your own

7:00 pm—Worship at College Avenue Friends with Scott Biddle

Friday— Missional Revival

7:30 am—Continental Breakfast at College Avenue Friends (CAF)

8:30—Memorial service and morning worship @ CAF

10:30—Workshops at Musco Technology Center (MTC) and College Avenue Friends

Noon—Lunch at Musco Technology Center (MTC)

1:15 pm - Afternoon Local Service Experience

5:30 pm—Dinner at MTC

7:00 pm—Recording/celebration service @ CAF

Young adult coffee house at Smokey Row following service

Saturday—Consecration & Sending

7:30 am - Breakfast at Musco Technology Center

8:15—Morning devotions

9-10:15 am—Round table discussion with in-state local mission highlights

10:30—USFW Celebration of Service @ Musco Technology Center

QuakerMen gathering

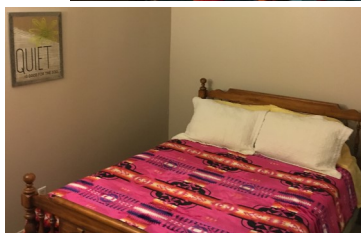
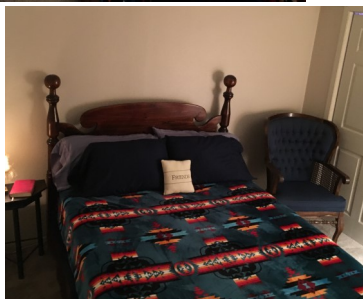
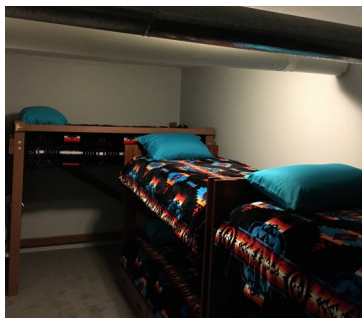
12:30—Mission Banquet at Musco Technology Center

Guest speakers—Robert & Sarah Radcliff

WPU—William Penn University

CAF—College Avenue Friends

MTC—Musco Technology Center



Greetings from Mesquakie Friends,

Due to the generous out-pouring of Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting, that participated in the Easter Missions Offering to help furnish our lower level retreat center & bunk room, we say "THANKS"!



We were able to purchase 2 sets of bunk beds with under bed storage & use one of our kids college dorm loft to add 5 more sleeping spaces. We were also able to purchase beautiful Native American blankets when Dr. Casey Church, of Wiconi International paid us a visit & brought a presentation in regards to worshipping Jesus in his Native American culture & ceremonies.

Now we are able to accommodate 2 couples & 5 individuals in our retreat center, in an effort to support the ministry here.

Mesquakie Friends Church is God's property, on loan to Iowa Yearly Meeting and for you and/or your group to truly 'retreat', to meet, to camp or to hold gatherings.

We invite you to experience Mesquakie Friends (We worship on Saturday nights, 5:00 PM). **ALL** are welcome.

Workshops scheduled for Friday (7/29) at 10:30 am



How is your church investing in Leadership Development for the future? Do you have anything in place to encourage young people

towards a life of ministry, service and calling? **Kaleo Academy** would like to come alongside your church in helping develop future leaders for the Friends Church, and most importantly, for Christianity.

Kaleo Academy is a **National Friends Youth Training** for students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of high school in the fall of 2017. **Kaleo Academy** will offer training through 4 different avenues: 1) a 10 month **Mentor Match** with an adult from the student's local faith community; 2) A one week **Theology Camp**, June 26 – July 1, 2017 hosted by Barclay College with national evangelical Friends teachers & leaders; 3) a 10 month **Online Learning Community** with continued theology teaching, mentoring, assignments, and conversation with the student's cohort; and 4) **The Released Project** – a 50 hour service learning project in conjunction with the student's local faith community.

Pastor Association Lunch scheduled for Thursday, July 28th at the MTC. Meet in the upstairs lounge area. Alan Mullikin will lead the meeting.

Everence-Your dreams, your goals

(are you on the right financial path)

Designed to explain the importance of financial planning

Other Workshops/Gatherings

Missions will host a workshop featuring Dale Graves and other missions work.

Christian Education will be sharing about curriculum and education with your local meeting.

Evolution of Music in Worship—presented by Donna Williams of Marshalltown Friends

Quaker Earthcare Witness and the Grinnell Friends Butterfly Garden

I will provide information about how churches and individuals can help to care for God's Creation by supporting Monarch and other pollinators—Jim Kessler

Optional gathering for lunch Friday noon with Stephen Donahoe/FCNL
Sponsored by Peace & Social Concerns



Our season of summer camping is wrapped up and was a wonderful time of memories/fun/and new friendships!



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Help for Refugees in Crisis *written by Hannah Maselli*

James 1:27 (NLT) Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

James 2:14-16 (NLT) What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

Tragedy strikes day and night around the world. We wake up to another news story of loss and suffering every morning. Yet, we are so far removed from those who suffer. We send them our condolences momentarily and forget them just in time for the next story of tragedy to come across our social media feeds.

There is one crisis that has been present for a while now. This is the fighting in Syria. Daily, people are dying; losing their homes, children, and family; and fleeing for their lives. Sometimes they escape only to be met with hostility or attempt to brave deadly waters. Sometimes they succeed, and sometimes they perish seeking a chance to survive.

According to the United Nations office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 13.5 million people have been forced out of their home due to the ongoing civil war in Syria, which now represents the largest displacement crisis in the world, with over half the population forced out of their homes. Nearly half of the people affected by this conflict are children, 5.6 million children.

As of June 2, 2016, there were 4,843,344 Syrian people affected by the refugee crisis seeking aid through Europe. Over half of that number is made up of women and children. Between April 2011 and March 2016, there were 1,004,345 asylum applications in Europe. According to The UN Refugee Agency, "the number of Syrians arriving in Europe seeking international protection continues to increase. However, it remains low compared to Syria's neighboring countries, with slightly more than 10 percent of those who have fled the conflict seeking safety in Europe."

According to State Department data, 67 percent of refugees referred to the U.S. by the U.N. have been women and children under the age of 12. By law, the United States administration is only allowed to admit slightly more than 10,000 refugees in the 2016 fiscal year. No refugee commitments can be made beyond that. In total, 2,290 Syrian refugees have arrived in the United States since fiscal year 2011, which was when the Syrian civil war began. Of that number, only 62 have identified themselves as Christian. That is 2.7 percent.

As of February 7, 2016, one source put the death toll of the Syrian civil war at 210,060 people. Nearly half of those people were civilians. Many suggest the death toll is much higher because accurate data is very hard to receive as the conflict continues and worsens. There is a climate of destitution, depravity, and devastation being created in our world. It is taking the lives of literally countless human beings.

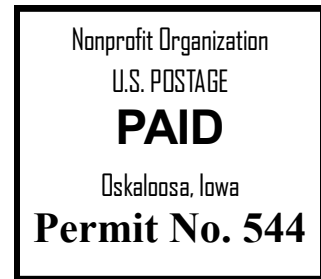
We can draw three conclusions from all of this data: 1) there is a very prevalent and obvious need for aid among the Syrian population; 2) there is a specific group of people coming into the United States who have experienced horrors who have not received the Gospel message; and 3) there are many, many people created by God who are displaced, hungry, lost, and scared who need far more aid than is currently being provided. Refer to the Scriptures above. We have been commanded to provide for those who need the loving provision of our Lord Jesus Christ. There are more than lives on the line; there are souls waiting to have their eternity determined. Christian Aid Mission, a non-profit organization that assists over 500 ministries across the globe, said "that the ongoing conflict that is tearing apart Syria and creating millions of refugees and displaced people is an opportunity for Christians to who the love of Christ, which is opening the world's eyes" (Christian Post)

There are countless charities that provide aid to those affected by the Syrian tragedy. There is a pressing need for more aid because these refugees depend on humanitarian sources for food, clothing, shelter, medical assistance, and schooling for children. Here is a website that helps you find a charity that provides for the needs of the Syrian people in a way of your choosing. It also helps you find a charity that handles its business with integrity and transparency: <http://www.charitynavigator.org/>. Type "Syria" into the search bar at the top of the page. You will find a list of charities and their ratings.

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Subscription Price (individual)...\$10.00 per year (group)...\$9.50 per year

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Annual Ministry Conference of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends is nearly here!

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATION YET?

You can visit our website and fill a registration form and then save it and email it to our offices.

Please register by the 18th of July!

Advance registration is needed so I can:

- ⇒ order the meals and banquet tickets from the caterers.
- ⇒ make reservations at the dorms for those who are planning on staying there.
- ⇒ Reserve your spot for camping. Our park can accommodate about 6-7 campers
- ⇒ Children/youth need to know who is coming so they can plan and staff appropriately!

Cambodia—Martins

We have started contacting churches for visits. We will be in Iowa (Sept. 1st through March 1st) Please contact directly at the email address listed below. We will be living in Mason City and will be traveling around Iowa during that time.

Nathan & Brianna

nb.martin@mac.com