

# THE IOWA FRIEND

## Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends



### Mesquakie Friends News

We are very excited about one of our newest arrivals. Thanks to a couple of generous contributions, we were able to purchase this good, used, 27 passenger 'Mid-Bus'. Our Thursday Friendly Kidz program has been running about 30-35 youths. If you do the math, two 15 passenger vans have not been meeting our needs. This smaller bus enables us to maneuver safely around the community. Please continue to watch for the new paint scheme.



This is something we, and I am sure, some of you, have been praying for, for a long time. We were able to give 18 of our youth the Camp Quaker Heights experience. Mac & Berny acted as 'cabin counselors', 'camp directors' and 'camp speakers'. None of this could have been accomplished if not for your prayers



and financial support and the help from our 'worship team', Caleb Smith & Johnny Grafton, Bangor-Liberty Friends, LeGrand Friends, Iowa Yearly Meeting & Camp Quaker Heights. We heard more than once, "This is great.... we should do this again, when we can stay longer?" Our reply was "You can.... next year with the rest of the IAYM youth". This experience was just to expose them to CQH and to dispel any fears of the unknown that they may have had. The bonus was: The Holy Spirit was present!!! God is good... All the time!!!

**Pond Project**—This is somewhat of a 'time sensitive request... This what we need to do, yet this fall. Phase #1 Vegetation Treatment: The pond currently has a very heavy load of aquatic vegetation. This hinders the enjoyment of the pond by the youth and visitors. To gain control of the pond it would treat with Cutrine Plus and Aquathol Super K. Treatment for this year would cost \$810. These chemicals are approved for use in water and are safe for the environment. It is also recommend that the pond be treated in the spring and fall for maintenance, which would cost around \$570 in the spring and in the fall.



**Christmas Gift Donations**— As we did last year, we will be accepting 'gifts' & contributions towards our "Happy Birthday Jesus Party". God & Santa's Helpers were able to provide a "Gift-Bag" to every youth (approximately 50 youth) who attend our Friendly Kidz & Friends Youth programs. This event is very special for the kids/families we serve

# "Loving our Captive Neighbor"

*From our Peace and Social Concerns committee*

We want to make this committee as helpful as it can be in helping the local churches of Iowa Yearly Meeting to connect with the needs of their communities. The main focus this year will be human trafficking, but at least one of our main side projects will be disability in worship (making our meetinghouses hospitable to those of varying ability). We are hoping to have a regular column in the Iowa Friend, and tap into Iowa Quaker writers who are concerned with peace and justice. We aim to use the blog to make accessible resources to help educate (for instance on conscientious objection), as well as to curate devotional articles to help people connect with Peace and social concerns from a theological, rather than political, framework.

**The name of the blog is [fieldsofjustice.org](http://fieldsofjustice.org)**

**Theme: Loving our Captive Neighbor    verse: Isaiah 58: 6-9**

What is the value of a human life? Does all life have the same value? Does value depend on the services that life can provide? Is there some sort of tangible baseline of value for a human being? These are the questions we approach when dealing with the telltale degradation of human life crossing many cultures, regions, societies, income classes, genders, and ages: human trafficking.

Human trafficking has become a topic of interest as the rates of occurrence continue to skyrocket around the globe. Maybe the issue would be easier to stomach if it had a central location from which it originated, a way to pin point the problem. There isn't. The truth is, human trafficking happens everywhere, right under our noses. It happens far away, and it happens next door. This is everywhere. It's time to open our eyes.

So what is this ultra prevalent assault to the value of a human being? Many times human trafficking is oversimplified to sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is the process of removing the ability for an individual to consent, or selecting someone who does not possess the ability to consent, to sexual acts. Sometimes this includes holding someone's immigration status ransom, or making threats of violence, or otherwise severing ties to help and relief. Unfortunately, human trafficking includes much more than this. Human trafficking can also be defined as forced labor or labor for no pay or labor in exchange for slavery. To be very simple, human trafficking is most readily defined as modern day slavery. Slavery is not dead; it is real, alive, and evolving.

This is where we come in, we people who can do something. That includes everyone. "He, who has ears, let him hear." Not everyone is equipped to go into the eye of the storm, guns ablaze, and rescue the victims of human trafficking. Sure, that need exists, but the general public is not ca-

pable of such a task. That's just fine, but we need a job. At least, that is my reaction each and every time I am confronted with a stark reminder of these atrocities. **Here is what we can do:**

1. **Realize no community is safe from human trafficking.** Be vigilant in your awareness. Do not assume a small community in rural Iowa would not be affected by this because that is simply inaccurate. Iowa has one of the fastest growing markets for human trafficking in the United States.
2. **Decide to be active.** Educate yourself on human trafficking prevention. There are many groups who are willing to come to you to teach you how to work with local law enforcement to end human trafficking in your town.
3. **Give.** Give money, time, energy, thoughts, prayers, or other resources. Organizations that help the victims of human trafficking reintegrate into society need you to participate. Maybe you can provide clothing, a meal, time, or assistance to one of these organizations (links will be provided).
4. **Be gracious.** You probably encounter the victims of human trafficking without being aware. Remember that. Battle the degradation of human worth with grace and kindness and understanding. Take a little extra time with a fellow human being. Let them know they are worthy and valued. This is a battle that begins in the brain. We can fight this, but we have to intentionally raise the value of a human life regardless of circumstance, service, or payoff.

This is just the beginning. No worldwide issue is simple to solve. This is certainly not the final answer, but let's begin the process of eliminating the social climate which allows human trafficking. Let's replace it with one of peace, justice, and respect for the human life, the entire human existence.

*By: Hannah Maselli*





Our Friends at Pleasant Plain Friends recently celebrated their 175th Anniversary! Many friends came from near and far to help them celebrate this wonderful occasion.

## Graduation at Friends Theological College

A record 60 students graduated during the 73<sup>rd</sup> commencement of Friends Theological College, in Kaimosi, Kenya, on October 22, 2016. The graduates included 29 students from the FTC branch campuses in Samburu, Nairobi, and Lugulu. The graduates were also commissioned for ministry by John Muhanji, director of the Friends United Meeting Africa Ministries Office.

The commencement speaker for the ceremonies was Dr. Maj. (rtd) David Eseli Simiyu, a current Member of Parliament for the Tongaren Constituency, and also a member of Tongaren Yearly Meeting of Friends. He is a former lecturer in the Department of Medicine at University of Nairobi. Dr. Eseli received a part of his basic education from Kaimosi Friends Junior School.



Our Youth and Young Adult Board have some items we want to bring to your attention. We are reviewing our list and would like to have as many as possible contacts for our board for youth and young adult activities. **Please email the yearly meeting office to get a quick link to the google forms being used for updates!**

**PLEASE** fill out the google doc for every young adult (18-35) in your church. **PLEASE** include name, cell phone, email and name of college if they are college students. Fill out the second document to list adult youth leaders, Sunday School teachers or the persons in charge of youth activities, and a young adult contact.

**Thank you in advance for helping our board follow God's command to "Go and make disciples..."**

Tom Palmer chair of Youth/Young Adult board  
Scott Biddle, Director of Youth/Young Adults

*For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter  
of the night, For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.*



## Mission Board's Thanksgiving Offering 2016

### Timothy Ministry AND Belize Friends School

Between the lands of Mexico and Guatemala and the turquoise blue Caribbean Sea, lies a tiny nation about the size of New Hampshire, where some Friends from Iowa and Indiana serve, and many Friends have visited. Belize is touted as a place for retirees to spend their later years. This tropical country is rich in diversity of peoples and ecosystems, but vulnerable to hurricanes. It is unfortunately also a place of high crime rates, gang warfare, and drug smuggling.

While a mix of cultures: Mayan, African, British, Jamaican, Russian Mennonite, and Asian, the government is based on the British Parliament. Belize Friends School has been a light in the Belize City southside community for 21 years. Dale Graves has contributed his assistance to the school for the past few years and is currently there to encourage the administration and staff as well as children that attend there.

There is a need for Miss Candi, the principal, to have a computer to facilitate her work. Also there is a need for teacher support. One teacher is described here by Dale: "Let me introduce you to Mr. Gershom Rodriguez.

"Mr. Gershom is new to Friends School as of this term. He has an Associate degree in primary educa-

tion and is enrolled in the Bachelors program at the University of Belize. He is a fully licensed primary teacher. "He is a young man "Still in his twenties, he approaches each day with excitement and a good teaching plan. He likes the students and they like him. He lets the students know what behaviors are expected of them. We are fortunate to have found a good young teacher.

"I was told earlier that it was not possible to read to our students because they wouldn't listen. I just listened to Mr. Gershom read to the students for almost a half hour. He had found a youth literature book about an NBA player who had come out of some really bad circumstances, something our students could relate to. As he read he would stop every few sentences and ask someone at random what he had just read about. He kept their attention.

**Offerings for the School AND for Timothy Impact can be sent to the missions' treasurer. All funds will be divided equally between these ministries unless designated otherwise.**

**Dorothy Taylor,  
Missions Treasurer  
1121 Parkway Dr., Apt. 1  
Boone, IA 50036**



**Timothy Impact** is the name we gave our ministry. It comes from the mentor relationship Paul had with Timothy. Our goal is to train up Christian leaders for Belize. This is through prayer, Bible study, opportunities to lead studies, and service to others. Currently, the group that meets at our house has over 20 youth from different churches here in Belize city. We also conduct community Bible study every Thursday and volunteer at a youth center. This gives us opportunity to model Christ in our daily lives.

**Prayer partners** - We need prayer partners to consistently uplift the ministry here in Belize City. Many have told us that the city is a tough place to minister. In many ways that is true. The young people we help are able to receive a second and sometimes third chance are from the same gangs and gang areas that is responsible for much of the crime and intimidation in the city. Though the youth center is government run and religion is not taught, many of the workers there are Christian and it is only through prayer that we are able to break through the hard shell they put around themselves and show them a better way.

**Faith pledges-** These consistent financial gifts make it possible for us to plan and budget our year. This makes us partners with you and you with us. This helps free up gifts for us to do the bigger things that need done like auto repair, health insurance, new items for the space that teams stay like fan replacement. Currently our pledge partner level is about 30-40% of what we actually need.

Contact Sam to sign up to be a prayer/faith pledge partner by e-mail. "This is the best way we can get them on our monthly update list for thank you/ prayer updates letters. My e-mail is [slbisme@hotmail.com](mailto:slbisme@hotmail.com) " He checks it every day!

Some of our bigger needs is that we need for health insurance is \$3000 annually. and about \$1000 for auto repairs. We use our van for our ministry each and every Saturday night. The City has a curfew at 9:00 pm for minors so after our Youth Ties on Saturday night, we take each and every youth home.

**Thank you for your gifts of prayer & faith giving/pledges. Sam & Becky Barber**

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 ("to call") Academy would like to come alongside your church in helping develop high school leaders for the Friends Church, and most importantly, for the Kingdom of God.

This program is designed for young men and women from evangelical Friends Churches around the country who are entering 10th & 11th grade the fall of 2017. The four components of the program include:

1. **THEOLOGY CAMP (June 25-July 1, 2017 in Haviland,**
2. **MENTORING (10 months following Theology Camp)**
3. **ONLINE COMMUNITY LEARNING (10 months following Theology Camp)**
4. **THE RELEASED PROJECT (50 hours of Service Learning)**

If you would like some more information or have young leaders in your church who would be a good fit for this program, contact Katy at: 317-450-4712 or [katy.moran@barclaycollege.edu](mailto:katy.moran@barclaycollege.edu) OR contact Kaleo Academy Director, Brockie Follette at [brockie.follette@barclaycollege.edu](mailto:brockie.follette@barclaycollege.edu) or 620-862-5252 ext. 26. **Applications are being accepted now through January 1, 2017.**



### **TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP**

Applications are now being taken for a \$500 college scholarship to be distributed in the 2nd semester of the 2017-2018 academic school year (January of 2018). College students within Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged to seek an application through the Yearly Meeting Office.

**Deadline for this scholarship is**

**January 1, 2017**

**A recipient will be determined at Spring Body 2017.**

### **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, 2017**
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.

### **MISSION BOARD'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2017-18 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, 2017**

**To receive an application for any of these scholarships—  
contact:**

**(641) 673-9717 or email  
[office@iaym.org](mailto:office@iaym.org)**



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### Upcoming Events



**Registration** is now open for the 31st Triennial Gathering of Friends, July 12-16, 2017, in Wichita, Kansas. More information about the Triennial, as well as the registration form, can be found at the FUM website!

#### **February 2017**

**10—12** Young Adult Winter Retreat  
**17—18** Jr High Blizzard Blast

#### **March 11, 2017**

##### **BOC meeting**

@ College Avenue Friends Oskaloosa IA

#### **March 2017**

10-12 Ignite Retreat H.S. & Teen leaders

##### **25th Spring Body of Representatives**

@ Mesquakie Friends Center Tama, IA

#### **Summer Friends Camp @ CQH June 2017**

2-4 Young Adult Weekender

9-11 Little Fry

11-16 Jr/Sr High Camp

18-22 Elementary Camp

25-July 1st Kaleo Academy @ Barclay College

#### **July 2017**

12-16 FUM Triennials

##### **26—29th Annual Ministry Conference**

Iowa Yearly Meeting

@ William Penn University—Oskaloosa, IA