



The Iowa Friend

Vol. 75—No. 1

January 2019

A monthly publication for Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

2019 Is A Blank Page Of Possibility... by Tom Showalter

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*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me
were written in your book before one of them came to be" (Psalm 139:13-16)*

We fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) as we press on (Philippians 3:14) to pursue the mission He has called us to fulfill and we trust God's plan no matter how it may initially appear in our limited understanding.

Happy New Year!

The Body of IAYM exists to exalt Jesus Christ by becoming fruitful disciple-makers and expressing God's love by serving all people (John 15:1-17)

IAYM Missions Board ~Serving in

Cambodia- Robert and Sarah

Robert and Sarah Radcliff began serving in Cambodia in 2016 and have recently been on furlough, spending time in California and Iowa. Some of you may have had the opportunity to spend time with them while in Iowa, but if not, the Missions Board wants to provide you with insight into their ministry and equip you with ways to pray for them.



Khmer people.

When Robert and Sarah return, they will continue their work with the Friends church in Battambang. This church has had missionaries for nearly 25 years, and they are quickly coming to a point where they no longer need missionaries. When Robert and Sarah moved to Battambang in September of 2017, they were greeted by a missionary couple who had been there 3 years, and in Cambodia for 7 or so years. A few months

later, a single missionary woman joined them. Together the 3 units recognized that their time in Battambang needed to come to a close, so their teammates moved to a different part of Cambodia in September of 2018, leaving Robert and Sarah as the only Friends missionaries left in Battambang.

In addition to helping church in Battambang, they will take on the responsibility of overseeing the other Friends work in the area. This includes 2 church plants (a few hours outside the city in separate villages, Phnom Pruk, and Moug) and leading a few more bible studies. By this time next year, they hope to serve in a new part of Cambodia, that has not be served by missionaries.

As Robert and Sarah return to Cambodia, please pray for:

-The church in Battambang-- that she would stand strong without missionaries and that her pastor and elders would continue to be faithful.

~Lynn Blanchard

As you might imagine, being immersed in a foreign country can present challenges. For Robert and Sarah, learning the language has been difficult. The Khmer language (which is the language of the Cambodian people) is tied for 3rd as the hardest language to learn. For the first year and a half in the country, Sarah and Robert have devoted 40 hours a week to learning this language and continued to spend 30 hours a week after that. Learning the language has been a full-time job.

Being called to the mission field comes with blessings as well. Robert is often reminded of the Pearl of Great Price parable found in Matthew 13:45-46 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it." Robert shared that they have left their home and families and given up luxuries like drinkable water from the tap, and the ability to communicate, so that they might receive this pearl of great price, and it has been worth it. There is great joy in following the Lord where he leads. That joy of knowing and following Jesus Christ is the biggest blessing they have received as they minister to the

Project Kuwesa, started in 2007 by Bill McCracken and his wife, Jean, works to empower the rural poor, especially widows raising children, to become self-sufficient. Kuwesa teaches skills and supplies materials & equipment to alleviate hunger, to create a source of clean water, and to build businesses.

Currently Bill is working to raise \$12,000 for these purposes:

- To purchase soil inputs to increase production of vegetables, especially to feed the children
- To purchase materials and pay for training & labor to create more biosand filters to produce clean water
- To run power to a new well so it will be operational

Funds are needed early in 2019 to support the rapidly growing demand for Kuwesa's services to help and empower the poorest of the poor. All the proceeds of this campaign will go to support Kuwesa. Thanks for donating!

Kuwesa Garden (Bill & Jean), work to supply seedlings that have been tested & will withstand drought & other harsh conditions. They also deliver to numerous different groups & communities!

Direct donation can be mailed to Bill McCracken, 3380 Elm Ave., Brighton, IA 52540

Here's the link to the gofundme campaign for more info:

<https://www.gofundme.com/empowering-kenya039s-poor-to-help-each-other>



This photo is of Tuloi women's group who are receiving seedlings to plant in their gardens from the Kuwesa project. The purpose of the seedlings is to improve the genetics of their plants, thereby increasing yields.

A Gathering for Women Who Are Created to Flourish

By Lucy Maselli, Women's Ministry Team Leader, Fairfield Friends Church

*"They will be standing firm like a **flourishing** tree planted by God's design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of their lives. They are never dry, never fainting, ever blessed, ever prosperous." Psalm 1:4 TPT*

This verse holds such wonder-filled promises for us to believe but do we believe? We are to be...standing firm, flourishing, by God's design, deeply rooted, bearing fruit, and on it goes.

Sister, do you feel like you are experiencing the "flourishing" life that Father God intended? Are you standing firm and vibrant in your faith? Are you living the life God designed for you? Do your roots go down so deeply that the storms of life can't rob you of your peace? We can probably say "some days" or "most days" or not right now?

What if I told you there is an event just for women designed to encourage and equip you to flourish just around the corner? The Women's Ministries team of Fairfield Friends Church is planning a conference for women the weekend of **March 8-9th, 2019**. We are getting ready to host a gathering that will inspire and connect you with other sisters in southeast Iowa and beyond. Our theme is "Created To Flourish" and we have assembled a trio of female ministers who are ordinary women like us, with extraordinary lives and ministries coming to Fairfield to minister to us. They are bringing their distinct passion and history with God to encourage our hearts.

Ephesians 2:10 says this *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."*

Not only does Jesus desire for us to flourish in the good things He planned for us long ago, but He expects us to! Until Jesus returns we must set our hearts to do our part to fulfill the Great Commission. We all have an assignment to do, but here is a little secret. In order for us to know and fulfill His plans, we must be flourishing both in our vertical love with Him and in our horizontal love with each other. We are not created to be amazing on our own. We are His family and we are better when we connect our hearts, spirits and gifts with each other. This conference is designed to create the time and space for us to do exactly that. Flourish in relationship with Him and each other!

I pray you make a decision to join us on March 8-9th, 2019. You are welcome to bring a friend or two, or to come alone and make some new friends. Either way, you won't be alone!

Bloom and Become CREATED TO FLOURISH

You can register online at www.fairfieldfriendschurch.org or email us ffcwmens@gmail.com to request a registration form. If you are on social media, we have a Facebook group titled 'FFC Women's Ministry' and two Instagram accounts: @ffcwmens or @ffcbloomandbecome.



THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
phone (641) 673-9717
e-mail office@iaym.org
January 2019

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Oskaloosa, Iowa
Permit No.
544

Change
Service Requested

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019

February 23

March 23

March 8-9, 2019

April 27

July 24-27

September 13-15

September 20-21

October 18-22

November 1-2

QuakerMen's Annual **Winter Family Banquet** at William Penn

Spring Body of Representative (@ Middle River Friends)

Bloom & Become Women's Conference
at Fairfield Friends

USFW Annual **Spring Fling**

Annual IAYM Ministry Conference @ William Penn University

Family Camp at Camp Quaker Heights

USFW Fall Retreat at Camp Quaker Heights

Fall Pastors Retreat @ Camp Quaker Heights

Fall All-Boards Retreat

Visit iaym.org and view our calendar page for more 2019

Deeper in The Spirit Workshop list:

January 12, 2019 9:30 am

Marketplace Ministry

February 9, 2019 9:30 am

Equipping Ministry & Leadership Gifts

Scholarships:

Please refer to the previous issue to see information OR email IAYM at office@iaym.org to make inquiries!

