

# The Iowa Friend

## 2020: Seeing Clearly

By: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

January 2020

It's a new year, 2020! Once again, we begin to contemplate resolutions of how this New Year may be different from the last.

As I sat one morning in a time of devotion, I saw the upcoming year on a new calendar. However, in terms of our eyes 20/20 is perfect vision. I began thinking about what it means to see clearly, not only physically, but spiritually... What necessary corrections may we undertake to help our sight to improve?

A quick search of the New Century Version of the Bible found that the word "sight" is referenced 120 times in the Bible, "vision" over 100 times, and "see" is referenced over 1200 times. As I contemplated the applications of such things to Iowa Yearly Meeting, I pray that this would be our desire and theme for this New Year: **"2020: A Year of Seeing Clearly in IAYM."**

I found the following points (bold & italics) in the article "How to Improve Your Eyesight" (wikihow.com).

### •Improving Vision Naturally

*1. "Feed Your Eyes: Eyes are just like any other part of the body – they need nutrition to function at an optimal level."*

Spiritually, it is important that we properly feed and nurture our Spirit. Galatians 5:17, "For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want." There is an ongoing conflict between our natural inclinations and the promptings of the Spirit. We determine which is stronger by which one is fed. If we feed the flesh, it will be stronger. If we feed the Spirit, it will be stronger. We get to choose!

*2. "Exercise your eyes. Exercising your eyes daily will help you maintain healthy eyes and optimal vision."*

Spiritually, it is important for us to put into practice the things we learn in our times of gathered worship, personal Bible reading, and prayer times. If we do not exercise, both physically and spiritually, we will be weak!

*3. "Rest and relax your eyes. Since you use your eyes every waking moment give them lots of rest and relaxation by taking breaks throughout the day and getting enough*

*sleep every night to fully rest, repair, and recover your vision."*

Spiritually, we must rest! The battles and challenges we face are real and to recover requires rest! Are we resting as we need to or do we live by the false premise that "I have so much to do, I do not have time to rest"?

### •Correcting Your Vision

*1. "Get an eye exam. Visit your optometrist regularly to check for visual impairments or diseases that may harm your overall eye health."*

Spiritually, we should spend time allowing God to, as David wrote in Psalm 139, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Our feelings, our plan, or our justifications should not be the determining factor for our activity. As disciples, we follow the plan of the One we follow and implement His instructions, as found in His Word.

*2. "Wear corrective lenses. You might need glasses to improve your vision"*

Spiritually, we must allow the Word of God to do the work for which it is designed. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Do we allow God's Word to speak to us or do we enter our times of reading looking for ways to support our predetermined plans, ideas, and desires?

*3. "Choose refractive surgery. There are several different types of surgery to choose from if you prefer not to get corrective lenses."*

Spiritually, sometimes more invasive procedures may be required to correct our vision. A change of our course, an overhaul of our choices and connections, or a need to radically make a change of location, employment, associations, etc. may be needed if these things hinder our ability to be a maturing disciple of Jesus Christ.

*Continue on page 2*

## The McConaugheys in East Africa



The Great Commission is alive and well in East Africa as Shawn and Katrina McConaughey continue to serve on the African Ministries staff team in Kisumu, Kenya since April 2018. They see how God is working to bind up the broken hearted, care for widows and orphans and bring peace to the wounded and disenfranchised on a regular basis.

They see that Kenya is a culture of gratitude. In the midst of poverty, corruption, drought, unemployment....the Kenyan Friends always find a reason to sincerely thank God for even the smallest acts of kindness. This is a great blessing to Shawn and Katrina as they work alongside fellow believers who are faithfully carrying out their ministry with grateful hearts.

Cultural adjustments have been many--- new foods, frequent power outages, new ways of thinking about time and how it has more to do with the nurturing relationships instead of accomplishing tasks. They also are missing family and friends and learning to communicate with them via Skype, texts and emails. And then there is driving!! They spend a good deal of time on the road and the experience in Kenya brings a whole new meaning to the thought of praying for traveling mercies! Not only do they have to navigate rough roads, they also get to deal with pedestrians, cows, goats, tuk-tuks, motorcycles, bicycles, potholes and speedbumps-often at the same time.

And what can we do, so far away--- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 calls us to encourage one another.

Here are a few ways to let them know that we support their work.

Follow them on Facebook (Find them by searching McConaugheys in East Africa)

Send them emails of encouragement and prayers; email them at [shawnm@fum.org](mailto:shawnm@fum.org) and stay in touch by subscribing to their latest newsletter.

Consider supporting them financially.

Above all, thank God for Shawn and Katrina's faithfulness to God's calling on their lives.

Wondering how you might pray for them?

Pray for the planning and implementation of the worldwide triennial hosted by Kenya in July.

Pray for Samburu Friends Mission: specifically, that new leaders would step into leadership effectively and that cooperation and unity would prevail.

Pray for wisdom for them. Transitions and change (especially growth) seem to be constant in the ministries Shawn and Katrina work with and they want to be helpful as they walk alongside these ministries.

Thank you for remembering Shawn and Katrina in your prayers.

Lynn Blanchard—Missions Board member

*Continued from Page 1*

### 2020: Seeing Clearly

As we anticipate a new year, we are never quite sure what experiences will unfold before us, but we can find encouragement in Psalm 139:16 (NCV): "All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old." I may not know (or even like) what comes into my life, but I can trust the plan of God. He has told me throughout His Word that He loves me, has a plan for me, and I can trust Him.

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him bet-

ter. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you" Ephesians 1:17-18

Our mission in IAYM is to exalt God by becoming fruitful disciple-makers and to express God's love by serving all people. To be a disciple-maker requires one to first be a disciple who can then reproduce other disciples. A disciple of Jesus is one who follows Jesus and obeys His commands (John 15). The Great Commission not only challenges us to "Go and make disciples," but also motivates us to teach them (disciple/followers) to obey everything Jesus has commanded us (Matthew 28:20).



## Ackworth Friends Church

Christmas was celebrated with our new minister.



Art Sathoff is superintendent of Indianola School District but he also has a part-time responsibility ministering at the Ackworth Friends Church. He began his work there last summer.

## You're Invited: "4 Chair Discipling" Seminar At Fairfield Friends Church

Think of it, you and I are here today as a result of 11 men taking Jesus at His Word nearly 2000 years ago and 6400 miles away! Jesus recognized that the people he encountered were at different stages of growth and development, and he worked to challenge each of them to move to the next level.

To me, this is the missing ingredient in the American church. With roughly 350K plus churches in the USA and 80% of them plateauing or declining, it's time to get back to the original mission of Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Thess. 1:8 & 2:8.

That is why we are presenting a half-day seminar on the overview of what it means to be a disciple that makes a disciple.

**What:** 4 Chair Disciple-Making Seminar by Sonlife Ministries

**When:** Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Fairfield Friends Church Gym

**Who:** Anyone who would like an overview of the strategy of Jesus.

**Cost:** \$25.00 which includes workbook and lunch!

**RSVP:** Friday 1/31/2020

Since we would need to order workbooks and prepare food for lunch we would like to know no later than 1/31 or sooner to our administrative assistant Nikki Rude [friendschurch@lisco.com](mailto:friendschurch@lisco.com)

## IAYM Stewardship Board/FDF Board

## Generous Congregations

"Quakers," it has often been noted, "came to America to do good and did well." Many of us have been blessed with an abundance of blessings including financial resources. Traditionally, Quakers tend to be passive toward consumerism. The Quaker traditional value of simplicity, if taken seriously, may and often does, result in an *increase* in financial wealth.

Scripture instructs believers to be good stewards of God's good gifts which includes our finances. Toward this end, the IAYM Stewardship Board and Friends Development Committee in cooperation with Everence have scheduled a

## Generous Congregations Workshop for March 14.

Location is to be determined

The Generous Congregations workshop is designed to awaken an ongoing spirit of generosity in congregations. We strongly urge stewardship committee members of local meetings to attend. Of course, any member or attender will benefit from additional education related to stewardship of financial resources--especially those who wish to leave legacy gifts to family members, Quaker related ministries (such as the local meeting, IAYM, FUM) or other religious or secular entities.

**The cost of the Generous Congregations workshop is \$50 per church (up to five representatives per church).**

**The Stewardship Board will cover the full cost of the first ten attending churches.**

**This workshop is scheduled for March 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Location to be determined.**

**Lunch will be provided by Everence.**

Note: The offer to cover the workshop cost will be limited to those individuals representing the first ten meetings registering (up to five people per church) prior to Feb 29.

**Call the IAYM office (641-673-9717)**

**to confirm attendance at this special IAYM stewardship workshop/event.**



**Deadlines for applications are rapidly approaching! Please contact IAYM at [office@iaym.org](mailto:office@iaym.org) to request more information and applications!**

### **Seminary Scholarship**

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends has a limited amount of funds available for **seminary (Masters or Doctoral program) studies**.

Applications should be received by **May 1, 2020** for the next school year or four months before courses begin.

Wishing you a  
Happy New Year  
and blessed year  
ahead. May  
God's light  
guide your way  
in 2020.

### **Iowa United Society of Friends Women (USFW)**

#### **William Penn University Scholarship Fund**

- 1. Applications must be received by January 31st, 2020**
2. To be considered for a scholarship for the succeeding academic year, recipients must submit a request to the committee each year.
3. 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 2020-21 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. **The deadline is 3/1/20**

### **Kenneth & Betty Palmer Scholarship**

The purpose of the Kenneth & Betty Palmer Scholarship Endowment is to assist students who are members of the Friends Church and who are involved in graduate studies (Masters or Doctoral program) in preparation for or furthering their ministry. This includes, but is not necessary limited to, pastoral ministry, missionary service, Christian Education and youth ministry.

A maximum assistance of \$500 per semester shall be granted to an applicant but final determination will be based on funds available and the number of eligible applicants.

Recipients of scholarship assistance shall apply **by May 1** for the next school year or four months before courses begin. Continuation of scholarship shall be determined by need and by funds available. The maximum anyone can receive under this scholarship program is \$4,000 or eight semesters, whichever first occurs.

Applications available through the Yearly Meeting Office.





## KALEO CHRONICLES

**Contact Brockie Follette with any questions about giving or supporting Kaleo Academy.**

607 N Kingman  
Haviland, KS

brockie.follette@  
barclaycollege.edu



### Student Highlight

**Weston Smith -**

**Rose Hill Friends Church**

Weston wanted to help serve the church however we needed him to. This turned into building a new sound booth during his shop class for our sanctuary. So cool that he is already using his gifts to serve the local church! See the \*Before & After Pics\*. (Our sound booth consisted of a tray table, an old pulpit, and a random cart!)



### Ways to Pray

#### Current Kaleo Students & Mentors

Please be praying for the current cohort of Kaleo Academy. May they continue to pursue their callings and find God using them in leadership in their local Friends churches.

#### Funding for Kaleo

Up until this point, Kaleo Academy has been primarily subsidized by a generous gift from the Lilly Endowment. This gift will be finished at the end of 2019. We are currently looking for new donors and funding so that we can continue this important ministry.

#### Recruitment for Next Year's Cohort

We are always recruiting young leaders from evangelical Friends churches to be a part of Kaleo. We have now actively begun to recruit for the 2020-2021 cohort with the hopes that God will provide the funding for us to continue this ministry.

#### Staff Transitions and Travel

We are making some changes in our staffing at Kaleo and we will be out and about sharing and recruiting. Please pray for the details of our Staff's jobs and travels to go smoothly.



**Take a moment to subscribe to their on-line newsletter by visiting Barclay College and sign-up under the Kaleo Academy link!**

# THE IOWA FRIEND

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

"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)."

## {CALENDAR} OF EVENTS

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

- January 7th: 2019 contribution Cut-off Date
- January 11th: IAYM Stewardship Board Meeting at IAYM office
- January 25, 2020: **BOC Zoom Meeting**
- Feb 22, 2020: **Quaker Men's Winter Banquet** with Van Harden  
(from WHO radio) as speaker
- March 14: Generous Congregations Workshop
- March 28: **Spring Body Meeting @ Grinnell Friends Church**
- March 30-April 3: **Beane Lecture & Pastor's Short Course**
- April 4: **Camp Work Day**
- **April 25: USFW Spring Fling @ HCNP**
- May 16: **Camp Cookie Prep Day!**
- **Camp Dates 2020:**

**Little Fry June 12-14**

**Elementary June 25-28**

**Middle School June 14-18**

**High School June 19-24**

July 12-18, 2020: **FUM Triennial** in Kisumu, Kenya

- September 11-13: **Family Camp @ Camp Quaker Heights**
- October 2-4: **Man Camp @ Camp Quaker Heights**
- Nov. 11-13, 2020: **Church Multiplication Conference**
- Tentative 2020 Annual Ministry Conference following Multiplication Conference