

The Iowa Friend

Growing Through Life's Detours
By: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

June 2020

During our current shutdown, I have been aware of the many who have lost loved ones and who have been unable to be with family and friends during hospital stays and funerals. I think of facilities for our older generation that have been limiting or restricting outside visitors. Amid these realities, I was reading in the book of Acts from the New Century Version and came across a passage that I have read before, but during this reading, the words seemed to be especially meaningful. The context is Paul's unfolding journey as it starts to wind down. He tells the people before his departure that this may be the last time he sees them.

25 "And now, I know that none of you among whom I was preaching the kingdom of God will ever see me again. 26 So today I tell you that if any of you should be lost, I am not responsible, 27 because I have told you everything God wants you to know. 28 Be careful for yourselves and for all the people the Holy Spirit has given to you to oversee. You must be like shepherds to the church of God which he bought with the death of his own son. 29 I know that after I leave, some people will come like wild wolves and try to destroy the flock. 30 Also, some from your own group will rise up and twist the truth and will lead away followers after them" (Acts 20, New Century Version).

Have you ever read a passage that seems especially important? I have read the book of Acts before, but for some reason, this time when I read those words it was like I was seeing them for the first time. Maybe it was that I was reading from a different version than I was used to or maybe, just maybe, God had something he was attempting to say to me.

We know that even though it may not feel like this shutdown will ever end, some may wonder if life will ever be able to return to "normal." What are the lessons we can learn when life takes a detour from what we expected? How will our church en-

deavors be different? How will WE be different?

As I read that passage in Acts, I was reminded of the fragility and brevity of life. As a former firefighter, I was reminded of the brevity of life as I encountered many life-ending tragedies. As a pastor, I oversaw many funerals. Life is indeed short and brief. In James 4:14 it says, "Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away."

Although we cannot deny the mortality that we inevitably face, can we say, as Paul articulates in Acts, "I have told you everything God wants you to know"? I would encourage you to look at the rest of the cited passage from Acts, allow God to speak to you, and then implement the lessons learned. Paul gives his audience some pretty strong warnings. He says, "Be careful," "You must be like shepherds," "some people will come like wild wolves and try to destroy the flock," and possibly the hardest to hear is at the end, "some from your own group will rise and twist the truth and will lead followers after him."

As already stated, this shutdown will eventually come to an end, but I pray we will have a renewed passion to live our lives in a way where we take nothing for granted, assume nothing, and make the most of every opportunity.

I pray we would be a people who can say confidently, "I have told you everything God wants you to know." I pray when people see us, they will see "that of God in all of us" and they may say of us as was said of the disciples, "*The leaders saw that Peter and John were not afraid to speak, and they understood that these men had no special training or education. So they were amazed. Then they realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus*" (Acts 4:13, NCV). I want people to know I have been with Jesus! When our world encounters us, "religious people," may they say nothing outstanding about who we are or what we do, but I hope they can tell we have been with Jesus!

Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions

Nicaragua Mission's Trip by Bethany Hadley

Twenty-two people from across the state of Iowa gathered to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a village in northern Nicaragua with a ministry called Amigos de Santa Emilia. Approximately 2000 people live in the mountain village of Santa Emilia. The people there are desperately poor. Those who have work earn about \$3.00 per day, but most do not have work beyond the coffee picking season. Our group focused our projects working with a village committee that included local pastors, the school principal, and other community leaders. By working with these leaders, we were able to make the largest impact on all of the community, not just one church or group.

The mission of Amigos de Santa Emilia is "to make a difference in one place, Santa Emilia, Nicaragua, especially with health care and education by working with a local committee who will provide supervision when we are not there. An unofficial goal is to become friends with the people, whose lives are very different from ours." This organization has been making biannual trips since 2007 and has made improvements including opening a public school, starting a health clinic and continually restocking needed supplies, and getting potable water to the village.

Our group was able to continue the work of this mission. Major projects were advanced and discussed while we were there which include building new bridges and a water project expansion. The village committee voted on three things they wanted our team to focus on: build a handrail,



feed the elderly and children with special needs, and continue a church expansion. These were all immediate needs that we could address RIGHT NOW.

The handrail- The handrail was my "Wow, God!" moment. There was a place along the highway through town where the sidewalk became very narrow and dropped off into a

small creek about 10 feet below. People had fallen off this place at night and been badly injured or died. They did not want that to happen again and asked if we could build a railing. God just happened to send an iron worker with us that had the handrail designed and assembled in two days. Problem solved and lives saved because the right people said, "Yes, send me." Yet, God has a place for all talents and used me to finish off the project with some bright yellow paint.

The meals- The village has several elderly who struggle to find money for food. They knew it would not be a permanent solution but they wanted to do what could be done to help these people. The committee also wanted to bless a few families who have children with special needs that require more care. We were able to make 42 meal packages that should supply basic needs for a month. Packing

them was fun but the best part was the distribution. It was a party for the village. Each person who could travel made the walk to town to get their supplies. They dressed in their very best to receive what we had prepared for them. We then walked to the homes of those who could not make the trip and got a glimpse into what their world looks like. You have not seen poverty until you have walked into the homes of these people.



The church- We spent a lot of time working on the building of the Assembly of God Church. The church is in the middle of town and right across from the school. It acts as a community center and meeting place. Improvements to the church are improvements to the community. Our team used various talents on different projects at the church. Some installed lights, some painted, some mixed and poured cement, some leveled ground, but all shared love with the locals. We worked side by side not speaking the same language but knowing how to share a smile.

We also reached out in ways that were not planned. During a visit to the school, we took nearly 20 bags of supplies for the teachers. The children were so excited to see new crayons. Many classes were sharing one box between 20 children. Our bags of candy filled a piñata that made a fun game for the children one afternoon. We prayed for the local contractor who guided our projects that his business would be successful and got to bless him and his family.

A big way that God used us actually did not even happen while we were on the trip. We made it home right before COVID-19 started to hit hard in the United States. Although Americans have stimulus and unemployment money coming, our new friends do not. Henri, our bus driver, and Miguel, our translator, depend very much on tourism. Due to the pandemic, trips have been cancelled and they have been without any income. Members from our group were able to send money to help cover their loss of income during this time.

A friend asked me when I got home what I had learned from my trip. I think my answer came from a conversation with Pat Nixon, the leader of the Amigos de Santa Emilia mission. He was talking one day about why Americans should go on short term missions and not just send money. Although the money helps, building a relationship with the people gives you a heart for them and the locals in return are encouraged that someone would not only give of their money but of their time to help them. I come home realizing people not only need our money, but they need our time, attention, and love.



Opal F. Wilson, 98, of Marshalltown, formerly of New Providence, on April 8, 2020.

Opal was born in Paton, Iowa on November 18, 1921 to Irving Leroy Weant and Ella (Bauer) Weant. She farmed with her husband, Albert Wilson, near New Providence for years in an extensive corn and hog farming operation.

Opal's great grandparent's, Clayton and Phoebe Brown, were early pioneers to Greene County and established a Quaker Church and school in Dawson Township.

Opal was involved in many Quaker organizations, including several state and national Boards, along with her involvement in the local church.



Hazel Fleda Hadley, 92, of Indianola, IA, who passed away Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Hazel Fleda Hadley was born August 19, 1927 in Watseka, Illinois to Paul and Fleda Hadley. Hazel would start college at William Penn in Os-kaloosa, Iowa where she would study for two years. While living in New Prov-

idence she met Edwin Hadley. In September 1947 they would marry.

Hazel's whole life was lived in the background doing whatever she could to serve. She had learned to play the piano. Before she was a teenager, she was playing piano for church and continued playing until just before Mother's Day this year. Even entertaining for the residents of the Village.



Wayne Eldon McDonald, 89, of Clemons, Iowa died May 7, 2020 at home surrounded by his family. Wayne was the son of Wilber Benton and Ethel Marie (Norman) McDonald.

He married Miriam Thurber in September of 1952. It was the love of both of their lives raising a family, being leaders in their church, their community and working together each day.

He was an active member of Bangor-Liberty Friends Church, serving on and chairing many committees.

Gladys L Nicholls, 96, of Carlisle, IA, passed away Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at home. Gladys is survived by her sons, Kenneth (Karen) Nicholls and David (Connie) Nicholls; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; siblings, Joyce Haslam, Beryl French, and Carol Lohr. She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Gladys Lidgey; and husband, Dale Nicholls.

Roscoe Lewis Newton Millett, 98, was born June 1, 1922 to Lee and Ada Millett on the family farm near Springdale, Iowa. He died peacefully on April 2, 2020.

He married Helen Maxwell of Earlham, IA in June, 1945 and enjoyed 71 years together. After his service in the Navy, Roscoe and Helen returned to the family farm, where he partnered with his brother Ray in the farming operation until Ray died in 2014.

He served on various committees in his beloved West Branch Friends Church and continued to lead pre-worship singing there until shortly before his death.

FRIENDS OF GOD

Our Inheritance
and our Future



By Charlotte Stangeland

Friends of God: Our Inheritance & Our Future

Friends (Quakers) have a unique and important message to share with the world. Charlotte Stangeland has written a new book titled *Friends of God: Our Inheritance and Our Future*. *This book can be used to disciple new believers who join a Friends church or as a refresher of Friends history and beliefs for those who have long been a part of Friends. It provides both a historical context and a contemporary understanding of Friends beliefs and testimonies. It is written from an evangelical-orthodox perspective.*

Part 1 tells how, as Friends of God, we strengthen the four supporting foundations of our faith—Listening to the Holy Spirit, Anchored in Scripture, Committed to Community and Steadfast Obedience to Jesus Christ. It also explains Friends emphasis on Salvation and

Holiness; what it means to Abide in Jesus; and the importance of the Kingdom of God.

Part 2 starts with a brief review of Friends' History. It then considers the historical Testimonies of Friends and reflects on their relevance for today. It includes the following chapters: Early History of Friends (1600s-1700s), History of Revival and Division (1800s-1900s), Evangelism – Reaching that of God in Every Person; Service & Social Reform; Ministry of Every Person; Integrity, Transparency & Faithfulness; Equality, Simplicity, Stewardship & Moderation; Peace and Justice. Drawing from *Fox's Journal and stories of early Friends*, as well as examples of contemporary Friends missions and activities, *Friends of God: Our Inheritance & Our Future* demonstrates the importance of Friends foundations and testimonies for today. For more information or to purchase a book for \$10 plus shipping, contact stangelandchar@gmail.com.

THE IOWA FRIEND

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June 2020

Nonprofit Organization
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Oskaloosa, Iowa
Permit No. 544

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

{CALENDAR} OF EVENTS

- 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

Michelle Seidler Weekend at LeGrand Friends

Psychic to Prophet

7:00 p.m. July 24th with Michelle Seidler

Michelle will share her journey from her misunderstood childhood to life as a Psychic to finally coming to know the Lord and discovering God's purpose for her life. She will give insight about the differences between Psychics and hearing God.

Hearing God Training

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Saturday, July 25th

Spend the day with Michelle and her team and learn to more accurately hear God for your life. The team will help us learn to see Jesus through the Word, and behold and encounter Him in a deeper way.