

February 2022



IOWA YEARLY MEETING

The Iowa Friend

A Theology of Hospitality– Manny Garcia

Calendar

March 5 -

Quaker

Family Banquet

@ WPU served at noon

**March 26 -
Spring Body**

of Representative

@ Grinnell Friends
9:30 am

**April 23 -
USFW Spring Fling**

@ Motor Friends
9:30 am

“Renewal of Hope”

**July 28-30
Yearly Meeting**
@ William Penn

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**“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).”**

From 2017 to 2020 I was given the opportunity to study leadership and Christian spiritual formation through Portland Seminary’s doctoral program. My research and dissertation examined the gap that exists between the church and families affected by conditions like autism. What I discovered in my research is that largest contributor to this gap is not a lack of costly programming, specialized training, or licensed staff people. What is often missing is a robust theology of hospitality that embodies God’s welcome to all people. Moreover, while my research was focused on one specific area of disconnect, I quickly came to see that the embodiment of a robust theology of hospitality has much broader implications for local churches. Henri Nouwen explains that “hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines.” In many churches, the description of hospitality offered by Nouwen is more of an idealized fantasy than a reality.

Biblical hospitality, in the manner of Christ, is not something that naturally emerges in congregations. It takes intentionality and hard work. Thomas Reynolds explains that the kind of hospitality that the church is called to represent as the Body of Christ is one that involves “vulnerability, a mixing between guest and host that undoes the distinction between outsider and insider ... Once the stranger is invited in, the host yields stability and control, adjusting the household to accommodate and attend to the guest’s unique needs as they became apparent. Offering hospitality in this way invites disruption in household order and routine.” In other words, it’s the kind of hospitality that enables the host to relinquish his or her own preferences, wants, and even needs for the sake of the visitor. It’s the process of helping the visitor become part of the community. Sadly, examples of this kind of hospitality are rare

in many churches, where tradition and order are held in higher esteem than accommodating the needs of guests who are unfamiliar with the way things are done. Hospitality, however, is fundamental to the Christian life and to the gospel message that the Church announces and claims.

There are numerous accounts of Jesus as host in the gospels. His first miracle at the wedding in Cana, recorded in John chapter 2, was the changing of water into wine. This act positioned him as a provider and a host. There are several other accounts of Jesus healing, feeding, teaching, and caring for others. In Mark chapter 6, Jesus provides food for a gathering of 5,000 people and in doing so, assumes the role of host to the multitudes. Then, in John chapter 13, as Jesus prepares to serve his most dedicated followers what would come to be known as the Last Supper, he assumes the role of host by removing his outer garment and bowing before his disciples. In this instance, however, Jesus combines the roles of host and servant into one by washing the feet of his disciples. It is also worth noting that during the Last Supper, Jesus’s presentation of his body and blood as the elements of the Passover meal is a definitive moment and removes any excuse or reason one might give for not exercising hospitality to his or her neighbor. As Jesus was prepared to offer himself fully, even to the point of death and beyond, in a gesture of love and hospitality, his followers are called to the same level of love for God and one another.

The point, then, is that as followers of Christ, who is the embodiment of hospitality, we are called to nothing less than the complete abandonment of our own preferences, comfort, and even our very lives for the sake of welcoming those outside of the Church. If we began to take this call to heart, the gap between the church and marginalized people groups of all kinds would begin to fill in with the love of Christ. This is the call of the church, to become, “one body made up of many parts.” Lord, let it be so.

Quaker Family Banquet
Saturday March 5th 2022
Noon

Musco Technology Building on
the Campus

Of William Penn University

Speaker: Dr. Denny Nissley



The goal of this event is to provide inspiration and motivation to IAYM churches to action locally during times of crisis in our communities. Later, if we choose to move ahead with the idea, we would bring in Christ In Action to organize us in community readiness at a later separate event with a different part of their staff.

You can learn more here: [Bringing Hope to America's Families - Christ In Action](#)

Last summer, during our Yearly Meeting Conference, we heard from Dr. Denny Nissley of Christ In Action ministries speak about discipleship and evangelism during disaster relief work. Dr. Nissley has 30 years of great stories of Jesus' ministry to lost and broken people.

Love & Compassion in Action

The Love & Compassion in Action program was developed by the IAYM Christian Social Concerns committee members. We are seeking the support of the IAYM churches/members to share stories about how they have demonstrated their love and compassion to their communities.

Love in Action "Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God: but if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us." 1 John 4: 11-12

Jesus said, "All men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). But how do you put that love into action?

Serve one another. The Lord modeled this when He washed His disciples' feet. Be patient with one another. This is possible because of the Spirit's presence in us. Be courteous to one another. Even if someone is difficult or disagreeable, treat them with gentleness and love. Set an example for one another "in speech, in life, in faith, and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12). **Forgive** one another because God forgive us. If we do not extend forgiveness, God "will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6:15).

We are not to judge one another. That is the Lord's job. We may be called to rebuke or reprove in love, but we are not to judge. That will mean not always having things our way. **Edify** one another. We are to **encourage** and **build up** our brothers and sisters in Christ. **Pray** for one another. What a privilege to come before the Lord on another's behalf.

A Creative Way to Support Missions

Dale Dorrell of Grinnell Friends has had a heart for missions for a long time. His parents served as missionaries in Kenya when he was a child. And after college, he and his wife, Karen, were missionaries in Uganda. Now in retirement, he has found a new way to support missions.

Dale is looking for opportunities to share a musical program at churches as a fundraiser. Donations or honorariums from the program would go to help support Robert Wafula, principal at Friends Theological College. Dale uses songs he has written to share a message. For example,

- *Anonymous. The story of the Boy with Five Loaves and Two Fish told as he remembers that day.*
- *Nyimbo Daudi. Song of David, told as though David is looking back on his life and uses quotes from Psalms.*
- *Martin. The Shoemaker's Dream. The story based on Matthew 25:40 "Inasmuch as you've done it unto one of the least of these my brethren you have done it unto me."*
- *John Woolman, man of integrity. - This is a new program Dale is currently working on.*
- *Dale also has a variety of original songs based on scripture and his own spiritual journey. In addition to sharing a message through music, Dale would like to share briefly about the work that Robert Wafula is doing at Friends Theological College (FTC).*

A few years ago, Dale and his son, Michael, visited FTC. In the course of their visit, they talked with a student who had known Dale years ago in Uganda. The man, an older student, now felt called to pastoral work and had come to FTC to get the training he needed.

"That," said Dale, "is what FTC is all about; affirming and enhancing the calling of those who are called to leadership." Dale added, "It is really important we have good leadership and we have that now with Robert Wafula. He has done a lot to increase the value of the education and to make it available to more students. And he has done a good job of keeping things together even in the midst of Covid."

Dale says, "I feel like these songs are a gift God has given me and that God is leading me to use my songs to support Robert Wafula and FTC." Dale is available to share at a morning worship service, a missions emphasis event, or some other special event such as a soup supper or ice cream social. You can contact him at dedorrell@hotmail.com or 641-521-1368.

IAYM Mission Focus—Robert J. Wafula

My Work and Progress at Friends Theological College



Hello Friends, I thank God for having given me life and the opportunity to share with you a few things in this article about my work and progress at Friends Theological College (FTC). I am an alumnus of FTC, class of 1985. As I always tell students and faculty, once you step at FTC, you will have a niche to always come back. After graduating from FTC, I went to St. Paul's University, Kenya for Bachelor of theology, three years later, I came back to FTC to teach (1989-1990), moved to Nairobi Yearly Meeting to serve as pastoral minister (1990-1996) within which Nancy and I got married (1993). Together we flew to Richmond, Indiana at Earlham School of Religion where I did an MA in Religious Studies (1996-1999), and eventually to Ohio University for another MA in International Affairs (2000) and Doctoral degree in Educational Studies (2006). I Served as professor in Columbus state College (2006-2014) as Nancy went through school of nursing and working at health facilities in Ohio.

I received a calling to FTC service in May 2014 while in Columbus, Ohio. I did deputation among North American Friends and flew back to Kenya accompanied Eden Grace, then Director of Global Ministries on October 14, 2014. Eden introduced me to the FTC community as new Principal, taking over from Ann Riggs on October 15, 2014. Three days later after entering office, I presided over a commencement ceremony of a small number of 27 students who graduated. The total number of students enrolled was 42 with only one satellite campus at Lugulu. Eden looked at the numbers and asked me, "Robert, how do you envision the student enrolment at FTC in the next five year?" I looked at her in the eye and said, "Based on my *FTC vision 2020*, I dream to have over 200 students enrolled at FTC." Eden found it difficult to believe my dream, but she was supportive by all mean for my dream to come true. Indeed, by December 2019, student enrollment had risen from 42 to 220. On October 29, 2021, we had 281 students graduate. FTC graduates are being sent out to serve in different capacities in their Friends churches, hospitals, prisons and high schools. Some are sent out on missions to plant churches and introduce Quakerism in Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and other parts of central and southern Africa.

There are several factors I can attribute to the surge in student enrollment. I restructured and energized the Board of Management, formed a strong Marketing and Enrollment Committee. We do vigorous campaign by visiting and speaking among yearly meeting gatherings on the importance of FTC training programs. We launched 6 satellite campuses and took pastoral training closer to the people; launched new programs that include: Leadership and Spiritual Formation (for lay leaders); Chaplaincy training for high schools, hospitals, and prisons; enhanced faculty development programs to energize faculty and staff; improved Library services, dining, and supplemented students fees with partial scholarships; introduced the Online Learning program with enrolment that has attracted overseas students. Currently we have two pastors in Belize enrolled into this program. We improved infrastructure with renovation and simple face-lifts with brush and paint. Our solar system, the brain child of Jim Hoeksema from William Penn University installed in June 2016 is still running and saving us between 70-80% in electric bills.

Immediate and future plans: there are two major concerns we are praying to overcome. As the student population increases, and so is the demand. Water bills are soaring - we are paying between \$700-100 monthly. This is taking a big toll on our expenditure. We are pray for resources to be able to drill our own water and even sell to the community to earn the college some revenue. The total cost of drilling is \$16,000. Our number 2 area of concern is cooking energy. I worry every day on the rate at which we fell trees for cooking activities. In one semester we use between 10-12 tons of wood for cooking in the dining hall. We are praying for construction a bio gas system. This will eliminate dark smoke that is taking a toll on the health of kitchen staff and it will immensely safe the environment. Friends, I invite you to please join us in prayer for the growth of FTC over these immediate needs. Peace to you all.



Opioids: The Other Epidemic

By Justin W. Weber

The CDC reports that from 1999-2019 and estimated 500,000 people have died from overdoses involving opioids. The family of synthetic opioids includes: oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, heroin and morphine. The opioid epidemic is now spreading and intensifying primarily through the use of fentanyl.

The sordid history of fentanyl begins with Chinese transnational criminals partnering with the Mexican drug cartels who are smuggling opioids across our porous southern border. Over 95,000 people have died due to fentanyl this fiscal year. Our society is under a chemical attack that is being ignored and in fact assisted by the failing policies of the present Federal Administration. U.S. Congressman John Karoo of New York reported that in the Fiscal Year of 2019, 2,804 pounds of fentanyl were seized by the Customs Border Protection Agency. Fiscal year 2020, 4,791 pounds were confiscated. Thus far in 2021 11,201 pounds of the deadly drug has thus far been seized which is triple of the previous year. There has been now enough fentanyl smuggled into our country this year alone to kill every American seven times over. This is the other pandemic!

In 2012 the United States began to see a significant number of people dying from fentanyl mailed directly into the United States from labs in China. Then China sent bulk quantities to Mexico. After a few years the Mexican Drug Cartels began producing their own fentanyl with China being the chemical supplier for the production process. On October 28, 2021, a fentanyl lab in Mexico was raided which produced 70 million fentanyl laced pills per month. The DEA reports that 42% of the illicit pills contain a potentially lethal dose of the opioid. (Facts about Fentanyl, US Drug Enforcement Administration) Cartels now employ social media to distribute many of these deadly pills. Cartels "typically distribute fentanyl by the kilogram." One kilogram of fentanyl has the potential to kill 500,000 people. (Facts about Fentanyl, US Drug Enforcement Administration) The Advocacy Resource Center reports the overdose and death "epidemic now is driven by illicit fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, methamphetamine, and cocaine, often in combination or in adulterated forms. Overdose related to prescription opioids and heroin remain high and also are increasingly contaminated with illicit fentanyl." (Issue brief: Nation's drug-related overdose and death epidemic continues to worsen, Nov. 12, 2021)

Special DEA Derrick Maltz, reports that pills are laced with fentanyl. Sadly, cocaine, methamphetamines and even marijuana are laced with fentanyl delivering, sadly a fatal concoction. In September of 2021, "the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a public safety warning, (It's first in six years) about the sale of counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl, a deadly synthetic opioid that is fifty to one hundred times more potent than morphine." Claire Felter reports: "The surge in supply has led to an up-tick in reports of accidental overdoses...and is heightening concerns about the growing threat to public health, national security, and the economy. (The U.S. Fentanyl Crisis: What to Know, Council on Foreign Relations, Oct. 20, 2021) The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in 2020, the opioid-related deaths skyrocketed from 50,000 to 90,000+ and that 80% of those were attributed to synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl.

What can be done?

Contacting elected state and federal law makers to slow and eventually halt the Drug Cartel's incessant flow of fentanyl into the United States.

- Educate yourselves and your entire faith community about the powerful addictive power of opioids.
- Understand addiction creating a grace-filled culture of acceptance and support.
- Partner with public health office, treatment facilities and nonprofit service providers to raise awareness and prevent addiction.
- Encourage education of Naloxone and Narcan which are opioid antagonists which help an overdosed person recover. Many pharmacies carry these life-extending drugs in nasal spray forms.
- Expand overdose prevention education in your circles of influence!
- Intervene early with individuals at highest risk for overdose.

**USFW Spring Fling
Motor Friends 9:30 am
April 23rd, 2022**

RENEWAL OF HOPE

Afternoon missions project

The PAD project for Africa

Pleasant Plain-Salem Quarterly Meeting

Trinity Friends

February 20th

Meeting starts at 5 pm

Potluck meal at 6 pm

Music at 7 pm with their band "Least Likely

Abe Miller will be giving his testimony through music.

Abe grew up in an old order Amish family and has had a pretty interesting life. He's always had a love for music and after he left the Amish way of life he played in a country band for 28 years. His band opened for many big name country artists like Alabama, The Forester Sisters, Charlie Daniels, The Nitty Gritty Dirt and others. We sincerely hope everyone will come out for a night of food, fellowship, and worship. The plan is to wrap everything up by 8 pm.

-Pastor Jerry Hoover