

THE IOWA FRIEND

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE

BY: MANNY GARCIA, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

Many of you are likely familiar with the saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same," and from an organizational perspective, I can assure you that this rings very true. As we put the final touches on the last issue of The Iowa Friend, it feels a bit like stepping back in time to 1947. Back then, folks were figuring out the best way to share all of the happenings within Iowa Yearly Meeting – the ministries, the events, the good news. A newsletter made perfect sense when ink on paper was king.

Fast forward nearly eight decades, and the landscape has completely shifted. Digital media has taken center stage, and honestly, our analysis showed that the time, effort, and cost of printing and mailing The Iowa Friend just weren't reaching the number of people we hoped. So, we had to make the tough call to close this chapter.

But don't think for a second that this means we're going quiet! We're actually really energized about exploring new and exciting ways to keep you all in the loop about the amazing things God is doing in our community. Just like that newsletter felt cutting-edge to Iowa Friends in '47, we're aiming to shake things up again with more digital content. Think podcasts, more interaction on social media, and eventually a more engaging website.

Now, for those of you who still appreciate the feel of a printed page, we haven't forgotten you. Instead of the bi-monthly newsletter, we'll be sending out church information packets to our churches roughly every quarter. These packets will have all the news, events, and opportunities you're used to seeing in The Iowa Friend. The exciting part about this new approach is that each church will be able to take the content we distribute and really tailor the information to highlight what's most pressing and impactful for their specific congregation. The idea is that by working together with our local churches, we can actually reach even more people and connect with them in a way that truly resonates.

Often, change can feel like those early spring days here in Iowa. Those first warm days after a long Iowa winter when the snow melts, but it doesn't vanish cleanly. Instead, it leaves behind patches of slush and mud. The ground, once frozen solid, becomes soft and uneven, making it a bit messy to walk through the yard. You might track mud into the house, and everything feels a little damp and gray. In that moment, there's a temptation to wish for the immediate arrival of sunshine and blooming flowers, to skip over this in-between stage. But this messy thaw is absolutely essential. The melting snow provides the moisture the dormant seeds need to awaken. The softening soil allows those tiny roots to push through and take hold. It's in this seemingly chaotic period of mud and dampness that the unseen work of new life is happening beneath the surface.

Embracing these new avenues for The Iowa Friend might feel a bit like that messy early spring. There could be some awkward transitions, a few missteps, and things might not look perfectly polished right away. We might miss the clear, predictable landscape of the familiar. But just as the muddy ground is a necessary precursor to the vibrant growth of spring, these initial adjustments and changes are what will allow the seeds of the Gospel and community to truly flourish in new and unexpected ways. We might get a little "muddy" in the process, but it's all part of the beautiful unfolding that's to come.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, and time to plant and a time to uproot . . .
-Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Take a Peak Inside to see just a few articles and photos celebrating the history of the Iowa Friend.



THE LORD ANSWERED, "I WILL BE WITH YOU . . ."

~JUDGES 6:16

MINISTRY CONFERENCE

GATHER | WORSHIP | FELLOWSHIP
JULY 24TH - 27TH | OSKALOOSA, IA



TJ Freeman
Guest Speaker



**REGISTRATION
IS OPEN!**

TJ is a rural pastor for the advancement of Christ's church in forgotten places. As the Senior Pastor of Christ Church since 2012, TJ has a passion for the local church. Before he arrived at Christ Church, he served as a church planter, biblical counselor, discipleship pastor, and history teacher. He enjoys the outdoors (but only when it's hot outside) and is an avid photographer. TJ and his wife, Katie, have two daughters, Charlotte and Charity, and two sons, Hudson and Grant. We are so excited to have the Freeman Family join us this July!

2025 SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 24

Board Meetings	12:00-2:30pm
Registration at IAYM Office	3:00pm
Cookout at Friends Park	5:00pm
Opening Session at CAF	6:30pm
Sweet Corn Serenade in Downtown Oskaloosa	until 9:00pm

Friday, July 25

Breakfast at Dana M. Atkins	7:00-8:00am
General Body of Reps at MTC	8:15am
Intergenerational Bible Study	10:30am
Lunch at Dana M. Atkins	12:00-1:00pm
Round Table Discussions	1:00pm
IAYM Foundations of Leadership for Board Members	3:00pm
Free Time	4:30pm
Dinner at Dana M. Atkins	5:30-6:30pm
Worship at CAF	7:00pm
Reception	8:00pm

Saturday, July 26

Breakfast at Dana M. Atkins	7:00-8:00am
M&C Body of Reps at MTC	8:00am
General Body of Reps at MTC	9:15am
Intergenerational Bible Study	10:45am
Lunch at Dana M. Atkins	12:00-1:00pm
Workshops at MTC	1:00pm
Free Time	3:45pm
USFW and Quaker Men Meetings	4:00pm
Dinner at Dana M. Atkins	5:30-6:30pm
Worship at CAF	7:00pm
Reception	8:30pm

Sunday, July 27

Move out of Dorms (checkout table at CAF)	by 9:00am
Breakfast at Dana M. Atkins	8:30-9:30am
Memorial Service at CAF	9:30am
Coffee and Fellowship at CAF	10:00am
IAYM One Church Worship Experience	10:30am

****This schedule is subject to change****

SUSTAINING OUR MINISTRY

AN UPDATE AND APPEAL FROM THE IAYM BOARD ON STEWARDSHIP

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Board on Stewardship writes to you today to express both our deep gratitude and a pressing financial need. We are profoundly grateful for your faithful partnership in ministry and your ongoing financial support, which makes our shared work possible.

However, we must also communicate that we are projecting a significant deficit in our operating budget. Following a shortfall of approximately \$8,000 in 2024, current projections indicate a \$15,000 shortfall for 2025. This situation poses a serious and growing challenge to our capacity to sustain current levels of ministry and support, and it limits our ability to pursue opportunities for expanded ministry impact in future budgets.

We have confidence that our community will respond with generosity and faith. We therefore urgently appeal to you to consider making a special gift to help close this gap or to consider becoming a regular, ongoing supporter. While most of our churches' support has remained stable, individual contributions are vital to fully fund our operations. Your additional contribution, whatever the amount, will directly support the vital work of Iowa Yearly Meeting, enabling us to continue serving our mission and vision.

We understand that many of our churches and individuals are also experiencing financial constraints, and we pray for those needs. We trust that God will provide for us all as we work together as One Church in faith and unity.

To make a gift, you can mail contributions to: IAYM c/o QBS PO Box 8 New Providence, IA 50206
You can also give online at iaym.org by clicking the "Donate" tab.

To establish recurring donations through ACH, please contact the IAYM Office for assistance.
Thank you for your prayerful consideration and your partnership.

With Gratitude,
The IAYM Board on Stewardship

2025 CALENDAR

JAN		FEB	22 Quaker Men Family Banquet 28-Mar 1 Frostbit Youth Winter Retreat at CQH	MAR	21-22 Spring Body and Leadership Workshop at Bear Creek and Earlham Friends	APRIL	12 USFW Spring Fling at CQH 26 Meswaki Work Day
MAY	3 & 17 CQH Work Day 25 Ministry Conf. Registration Sunday 31 Meskwaki Work Day	JUNE	June 7 IAYM Office and Park Clean Up 10-15 HS Camp 16-20 MS Camp 20-22 Little Fry 24-27 EL Camp	JULY	24-27 IAYM Ministry Conference	AUG	
SEPT	12-13 CQH Work Day 13-14 Young Adult Retreat at CQH 26-28 Pastor's Retreat	OCT		NOV	TBD Board on Coordination	DEC	



IAYM OFFICE HOURS



Monday | Closed Tuesday | 9am-4pm Wednesday | 9am-12pm Thursday | 9am-4pm Friday | By Appointment

THE IOWA FRIEND

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY THE
IOWA YEARLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS
AT WILLIAM PENN COLLEGE
OSKALOOSA, IOWA

Application for entry as second class
matter is pending.

Subscription price 25c per year

EDITORS

Charles A. Beals
John C. Harvey
Roy S. Williams

VOL. 1 NO. 1 FEBRUARY, 1947

"Radiant Love" or "Tired Friendship"

A man wrote these revealing words about the relationship between a husband and wife, "Their marriage after fifteen years had become a sort of tired friendship." The radiant glow of first love had departed, leaving them half dead. This striking sentence leads us immediately to a phrase of Scripture: "Thou hast left thy first love." The new revised standard version translates Revelation 2:4 in this way, "But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first."

What has happened in the lives of countless people who at one time knew the radiant joy of life hid with Christ in God? How many of us know God now only in a dull, remote way, finding meager consolation in memories of a shining hour in youth when with eager abandon we said yes to God and meant it to include everything? Now our relationship to Him is a tired friendship.

Does not this account for a large part of the indifference toward the church that exists in nearly all communities today? The church members are not the burning, shining lights they could and should be. "He's no better than those of us who don't go to church," is too often the truth.

How can a tired friendship be restored to vibrant love? The marriage ceremony gives part of the answer, when it says, "forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live." The rest of the answer is in Jesus' often scorned teaching: "Whoever would save his life must lose it." When our relationship to God is one of joyful abandon of self to Him and His will, then the full richness of first love is ours. Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee." O, that we might love Him worthily and perfectly!

—John Harvey, pastor of Oskaloosa Meeting.



Above is a picture taken on missions day during Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Oskaloosa, Iowa, August 17-23, 1953. Reading from left to

TRUSTEES OF STUART MEETING



During the Sessions of Iowa Yearly Meeting. Left to right—Wayne Allman, New Yearly Meeting Superintendent; Orval Cox, retiring Superintendent; and Bernard White, Presiding Clerk of Iowa Yearly Meeting.



Readers Enjoy Iowa Friend

The editors have been encouraged by the kind expressions of appreciation which have come from the readers of The Iowa Friend relative to this new venture. We quote excerpts from a few letters.

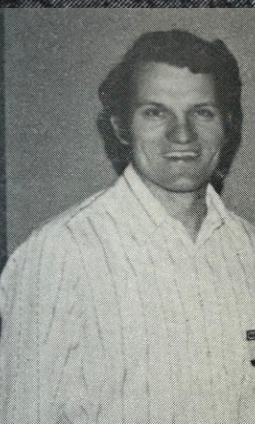
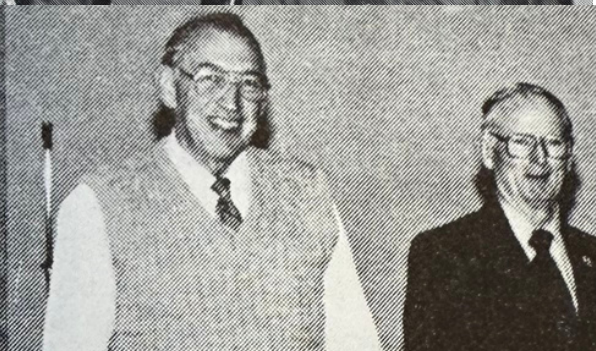
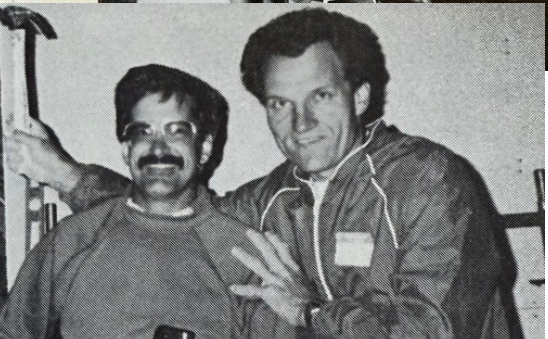
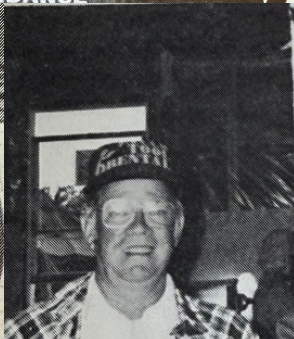
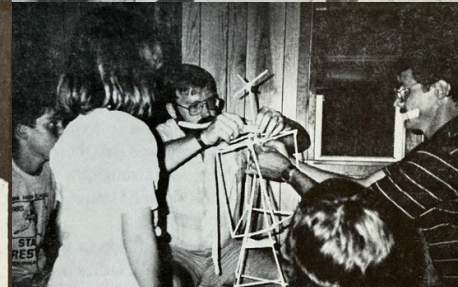
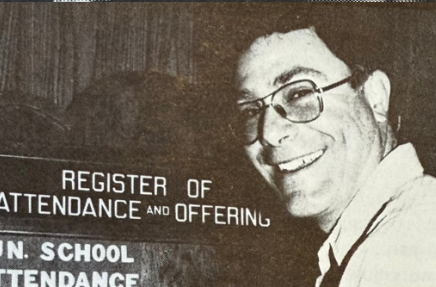
"The Iowa Friend arrived and I think it is grand. I called special attention to it at meeting yesterday. I think it will be a real blessing to the Yearly Meeting." —A. M. (a pastor)

"It (The Iowa Friend) is a fine little paper. We have enjoyed reading this first issue and don't want to miss any of them. As we note the paper is to be partly financed by personal donations, will enclose \$1.00." —E. W. H. (a layman)



TIM AND KATHY FOX
KEVIN
AND
JULIE

MISSIONARIES
TO
MEXICO





"'Twelve years, 3 months and 15 days, but who is counting' This is a phrase I have used to describe my term as General Superintendent of Iowa Yearly Meeting. What an honor. One of the regular, sometimes difficult, but mostly an opportunity to communicate the news and activities of IAYM, was the monthly newsletter. Which included a monthly article by the Superintendent. It was very important to try and maintain the local, national and international members of the Quaker movement apprised of the outreach we in Iowa contribute to the Friends Church. It was an important tool, one of many ways to be able to communicate. Information is valued to keep our members as participants, whatever mode of media we use today."

Ron Bryan, Former IAYM Superintendent

