
Evangelical Friend

Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church
(Quakers)

4-1986

Evangelical Friend, April 1986 (Vol. 19, No. 8)

Evangelical Friends Alliance

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/nwym_evangelical_friend

Recommended Citation

Evangelical Friends Alliance, "Evangelical Friend, April 1986 (Vol. 19, No. 8)" (1986). *Evangelical Friend*. 205.

https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/nwym_evangelical_friend/205

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church (Quakers) at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Evangelical Friend by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

Evangelical Friend

April 1986

Vol. XIX, No. 8



Thoughts on Quitting a Church

BY STAN THORNBURG



HAS ANYONE seen the Smiths?"
 "Well, I saw them a few weeks ago..."
 "Didn't you hear? They're attending No Hope Faith Center now. They didn't like the music here, I guess."
 "I thought they were upset because their daughter, Sally, didn't get a solo in the Easter cantata."
 "Maybe we should talk to the music minister..."
 "Couldn't Sally sing some other Sunday?"
 "Little Julie Brown will surely miss Sally!"
 "Now that you mention it, has anyone seen the Browns?"

Sound familiar? Probably so. It's an example of the kind of conversation that occurs in our churches on an increasingly regular basis. It reflects the kind of situation that leaves church leaders feeling frustrated and helpless, and leaves the pastor in his/her study crying out to God with a paraphrase of Matthew 12:3, "Lord, is it lawful for one to divorce the church for any and every reason?"

Who is to blame for the seemingly casual attitudes toward church membership currently plaguing our churches? Some blame the entertainment-oriented religious hucksters who crowd our airwaves. Some blame our consumer mentality, rugged individualism, or highly mobile lifestyles. Others point the finger at local church programs

or even individual pastors. Of course, any single answer oversimplifies the problem; perhaps the truth includes a smattering of all the above.

At the risk of oversimplifying the matter myself, I would like to suggest what I believe to be a major factor contributing to the high "divorce" rate between members and churches. That factor is the absence of any clear-cut policy or procedure whereby a member leaves the local church. We have adequate policies and procedures whereby a person joins the church, but almost no clear guidelines outlining the appropriate way to leave the church. So I would like to suggest some such guidelines and to explain how those guidelines might be used as a tool to gain deeper commitment to the church from new and existing members.

I'm sure we would all agree that the real problem is commitment to the body, not policy and procedure. True, but the scope and the importance of that commitment is reflected in the processes and policies surrounding the initiation and termination of membership in the local body. If when one joins a church one is instructed not only in the process of joining but also in the process of resigning, one is less likely to believe that he/she is free to leave the body for "any and every reason." Please, let me illustrate:

John and Jane Doe ask to join First Friends Church. The pastor explains the procedure to them. He says, "John and Jane, if you feel God is calling you to First Friends, you

Stan Thornburg is pastor at Reedwood Friends Church, Portland, Oregon.

need to request membership of the Spiritual Life Committee and write a statement of faith for them to consider. Then, they will prayerfully seek God's guidance about your call. If they concur that God has called you here, you will be received into membership."

Most pastors stop at this point. This pastor continues, "Now, the same process is used when you feel God is calling you to resign from membership. You need to submit such a request to the Spiritual Life Committee. They will meet with you in a Meeting for Clearness. If God indeed seems to be calling you elsewhere, you will be sent out joyfully and with our blessings. If not, you will be expected to remain with us and work out whatever problems have made you want to resign."

faces. Now, often it is not. Often, there is not a strong enough commitment, a strong enough base, to even bring the issues up. To do so would tear the marriage apart. So, I have to begin with that couple by strengthening the commitment, sometimes artificially, so that we can face the problems. I will ask the couple, "Will you make a commitment that for the duration of these counseling sessions, you will not even consider divorce as an option? You won't threaten divorce or even consider it?" If the couple says, "Yes," then we can proceed. We can proceed because both parties know that they can bring out all their feelings and all the issues without destroying the marriage. They've committed themselves to endure the pain of growth. Most couples who make that commitment avoid divorce. Some



I realize that it's extremely naive to believe that everyone would actually go through such a process, but at least the message is clear that joining First Friends implies a commitment to work through difficulties and problems that arise, and that quitting the church over small issues is simply not appropriate. In addition, such a policy implies that church membership is a corporate concern, not an individual one. This provides a healthy foundation upon which the church can feel free to nurture and counsel its members.

I strongly believe that such freedom and commitment is absolutely necessary if a church wants to step out and really go somewhere, to move with purpose and direction. Conversely, I believe that without such freedom and commitment, a church will be too weak to face the difficult struggles of real ministry. Let me use the marriage commitment as an example.

One of the first things I do in marriage counseling is to determine whether or not a couple's marriage is strong enough to endure the struggle of dealing with the issues it

problems, however, are beyond the strength of any human commitment to withstand.

Now, in a church it's much the same. When God asks us to step out in faith it always involves risks, it always involves certain dangers, it always involves problems and pressures.

Faith is never an easy thing. And for a church to step out in this culture and actually represent Christ is a very difficult and very risky business. And so, in order for a church to do that, in order for a church to go forward, it must have a strong commitment from its members. Otherwise, the very struggles themselves may destroy it. The very process of dealing with the issues and bringing them to mind and giving pros and cons may tear it apart.

A church is never any stronger than the commitment of its members to work through its problems. In order for a church to survive the risks of faith, it must have members who will say, "This is my church and I'm here to stay. I know we're going to go through problems, I know we're going to go through struggles, and I know I won't like every-

thing that happens, and I know that I may be hurt, and I know that I may experience conflict with others in the church, but I'm here to stay. God has called me here as part of this body. I'm a leg, or an arm, or an ear, or a head, or a foot, or a hand, and God has called me here and I'm committed to face any problem or battle that comes along. And, after the smoke clears, I'll still be here."

One of the things that impressed me when I came to Oregon for the interview with Reedwood Friends Church was a man who told me that he didn't particularly think I was suited to the job and if he had his way, I wouldn't be called. I appreciated the honesty but the thing I appreciated even more than that was that he said, "But regardless who comes, I'll be here. No matter whom they call as pastor, I'm



going to be here, I'm going to be sitting in the pew, I'm going to be praying for that pastor, I'm going to be doing everything I can to make him/her a success." That's the kind of church I wanted to come to. That's the kind of church that can grow.

Admittedly, most people join a church with the same kind of romantic ideals that are characteristic of young couples entering marriage: They are so enthralled with each other that they just can't believe they could ever have problems. Usually, they believe three very dangerous myths: (1) My spouse is going to meet all my needs; (2) We are going to share everything in common; (3) My spouse is going to conform to my ideal image of a husband/wife.

The young husband and wife who sit in my office battling their eyes at each other and telling me, "We don't fight or argue or anything. We just love each other too much," are usually back in my office a year and a half later. He says, "You know, I'm tired of her squeezing the toothpaste tube in the middle, all of it runs down to the bottom and when I want to get any toothpaste, I have to squeeze it all

the way up from the bottom, and then she squeezes it in the middle the next day and it all goes back down again. Why can't she just roll it up?"

And she says, "Well, I might roll up the toothpaste tube if he would rinse the sink after he shaves. It just grosses me out to see all those little black hairs in the sink. I can hardly stand it and I can hardly touch those things, I hate to be the person that has to clean out the sink. And if he would just clean out the sink . . ." And so forth, and so forth.

They want a divorce. If I can't convince them to let me help them change the foundation of their relationship from those romantic ideals to mature love, which is a solid commitment to suffer the pain of struggling through such problems, the marriage will either dissolve or remain hopelessly superficial.

These same kinds of romantic ideals brought into church membership translate into this kind of language: "This church is going to be everything I always wanted in a church. And, people are going to love me and I'm going to be accepted and when I have a need it's going to be met (I won't even have to mention it), and this is going to be the true body, and I'm going to be challenged every Sunday morning, and the preacher will never be boring, and every Sunday school class will be exciting. Yes, everything that's supposed to happen in the world of religion will happen and more. This is going to be wonderful!"

These kinds of members end up blackmailing the church into inactivity by saying, "I'm not really going to commit myself to the church, I'm just going to come as long as the church pleases me. But, as soon as something happens, as soon as I get hurt, as soon as they're not preaching exactly what I want to hear, then I'm gone." And when that happens, when there's a large group of that kind of people in a church, the church is paralyzed because it can't go forward for fear it's going to lose half its congregation.

I'm convinced that a clear policy or statement about the procedure to follow when one is dissatisfied would do much to indicate to our people that such blackmail is unquestionably inappropriate. Asking for such a commitment says to the members, "When you join with us in membership you are no longer a free-lance Christian. Decisions that affect this body (including your possible resignation) are corporate decisions." Implied in your decision to join us is a submission to Christ working through the body.

In a church where such commitment is made by its members, there is freedom to dream, to experiment, to step out radically in the name of Christ. Members feel ownership of ministries and programs. The Kingdom marches forward again.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put love, which binds us all together in perfect unity." (Colossians 3:12-14 NIV)

STAN THORNBURG	2	THOUGHTS ON QUITTING A CHURCH
RICK HUNT	6	CROSSROADS FOR CHURCH PLANTING
CELIA MUELLER	8	RESTORING MEANING TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
JAMES E. MORRIS	10	MISSIONARY VOICE: FRIENDS REACH OUT TO RWANDA
MAURICE ROBERTS	12	A MISSION FIELD WITHOUT MISSIONARIES
CINDY BRIGGS	14	HIS MIRACLES NEVER CEASE
THOMAS B. WELCH	28	CARDS NO ONE WANTED

REGULAR FEATURES

The Sense of the Meeting 15/ The Face of the World 16/ First Day News 17
A Certain Shaft of Light 20/ Friends Write 21/ Books 22
Friends Concerns 24/ Friends Gather 26/ Friends Record 27



"It's hard to be humble when all of you have such good taste."

(See expressions of appreciation to immediate past editor
Jack L. Willcuts in Friends Write, page 21-22.)

COVER

Bringing people into the church and the responsibilities of church membership are issues considered in this month's feature articles.

(Photo by Mel McCracken)

ANTECEDENTS

I'm sure that it is safe for me to presume that your church has a few problems. It is probably also safe to presume that at one time or another you have heard exciting reports of what is happening in another church and you have thought how nice it would be to be a part of such a body.

Our desire to see our own needs met and the number of options available has stimulated a restless movement from church to church. When the church is viewed as a place responsible to meet my every need rather than a group committed to ministry for Christ, then the tie that binds becomes very weak.

Commitment and loyalty are rewarding attributes. They are not characteristics of the non-adventurous or those comfortable with sameness. Commitment to a local church means that you can help create change when it is needed. It means that you lock yourself into experiencing growth when difficulties come rather than just running from them.

Circumstances have allowed me to have my membership at the same place for more than 18 years. But length of membership is not as important as how the responsibility of church membership is treated. Celia Mueller (pages 8, 9) mentions that some churches have members renew their membership each year. This would help everyone be reminded of the ongoing benefits and responsibilities of church membership.

Stan Thornburg (pages 2-4) uses marriage and divorce as an analogy: "Most people join a church with the same kind of romantic ideals that are characteristic of young couples entering marriage." "A church is never any stronger than the commitment of its members to work through its problems."

Whether you are one of the old timers or a new-comer in your church, it is our commitment to Christ and to each other that makes us one in the body of Christ.

—D.L.M.

EVANGELICAL FRIEND

Editor: Lon Fendall

Managing Editor: Dan McCracken

Administrative Editor: Harlow T. Ankeny

Assistant Editor: Nancy Thomas

Art Directors: Stan and Shirley Putman

Department Editors: Lauren King, Books; Reta Stuart, Missionary Voice

Regional Editors: Mae Kellum, Mid-America; Lucy Anderson and Jayne Laursen, Eastern; Dan McCracken, Northwest; Michael Henley, Rocky Mountain

Contributing Editors: Lucy Anderson, Norman V. Bridges, Catherine Cattell, A. J. Ellis, Norval Hadley, Robert Hess, Ron Johnson, Lauren A. King, Jack Kirk, Howard Macy, James Morris, Charles Mylander, Jack Rea, Arthur O. Roberts, Maurice Roberts

MEMBER **epa** EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

Crossroads Church Planting

BY RICK HUNT



CROSSROADS ARE those unplanned encounters when you must decide which way to go. Will you turn right or left? Some of the crossroads of life hold eternal significance for us, while others may only involve what to have for dinner. But each crossroads we face must be dealt with for life to continue.

We are facing many crossroads in the world, in the church, and in our own lives. In the world we must decide whether to choose war or peace, feast or famine, freedom or oppression.

The crossroads for the church today invariably have two signs: One side indicates that this way tries God's power; the other side says this way tries God's patience. We look back and forth trying to make a decision. We look at the path that says it tries God's power and we see it is a narrow path that leads to big rugged mountains, higher than we have ever climbed. We could fall. We could fail.

We look at the way that tries God's patience and we see that it is wide and flat and comfortable and it leads to the valley. We are sure we would not fail. Let's look at some information that will help us make a choice. In a study that was done in 1982 the following information was discovered.

Out of a world population of 4 billion, 452 million, the following categories exist:

- 245 million are committed Christians, 5.5 percent of the world's population;
- 1,107 million are nominal Christians;
- 660 million are lost, but have a Christian witness somewhere in their culture;
- 2,440 million are lost and have no witness in their culture; they are hidden;

Rick Hunt of Boise, Idaho, is church planting consultant for Northwest Yearly Meeting.

• 70 percent of the world's people not only are lost but have very little chance of hearing the Gospel;

• 94.5 percent are either lost or in a nominal state of Christianity.

What does all this mean to Christians? The world is full of lost and dying people. It was never God's wish that mankind should be lost. He created us to be in fellowship with Him in the garden. Although man sinned, on that very day God implemented a mission to redeem that which was lost. It was in the forefront of God's mind to re-establish fellowship with His creation. He had a plan that would require that He make the ultimate sacrifice.

If we understand that God always intended to reconcile the lost to Himself and we realize that at least 70 percent of the world's people are not only lost but have very little chance to hear the Good News, this puts the Church of Christ at a crossroads. Did God become impotent? Of course not! Rather, the church has become impotent. It has taken its rest. It has taken the road that tries God's patience.

On the other hand, some have taken the road of power. The stories are exciting and invigorating.

Some young people with little missionary training went into a village in India to preach the Gospel. They wanted only to try God's power and be used of Him in boldness. They found a little boy who had been born deaf and prayed for him; he heard. Practically the whole village became Christian. They went to the next village and found a blind woman. They prayed for her, and her sight returned. A church was started there.

In Guatemala a town was suffering a horrible drought. God revealed to a congregation that they should dig behind their pastor's home. In spite of objections, they

tried God's power instead of His patience and found a spring flowing with sweet water. The whole town came to drink and were offered the Living Water as well.

In 1949 in China, Mao Tse Tung expelled almost all missionaries from China. Chinese pastors were liquidated or sent to labor camps. Church buildings and Christian institutes were converted into warehouses, schools, and factories. When the missionaries were expelled from China there were an estimated four million believers. Today there is evidence that there could be as many as 25 to 50 million.

There are many more stories like these. God is not impotent. His mission is still alive. He still wants all to come to repentance. He knows that His power is necessary to reach these people.

Many groups are trying God's power, some of them after years of trying God's patience.

• The Southern Baptists in Texas have set out to begin 2,000 new churches by 1990.

• The Liberty Baptist Fellowship is intending to plant 5,000 churches by 2000.

• The Church of God Cleveland planted 28 churches in one day.

• The Evangelical Theological Seminary of Indonesia has a program for which graduation requires a person to start a church of at least 30 people.

• World Literature Crusade wanted to place literature in every home in India. They found out an interesting thing. People came to know Christ and needed churches. This organization had never thought of itself as a church-planting organization, but it had to begin to plant churches. It has since planted 548 and hopes to plant 200,000 more.

• Campus Crusade discovered the same thing. As they showed the *Jesus* film, they

were getting 30 to 50 thousand decisions a day for Christ. There were no churches to disciple these new converts, so they have become involved in church planting. Their goal is to plant 20 million churches by the year 2000.

The power of God is moving in amazing ways, but don't forget how many are still lost. It will take every person, church, and denomination to decide to try God's power and quit trying His patience.

Friends are also at a crossroads. We must choose the way of power if we want to survive and be a part of God's mission to the lost.

It has been proven that planting new churches is the most effective method of evangelism, and that all denominations that showed a decline in the number of churches also showed a decline in attendance. We should never assume Friends can't grow and do not have something to offer. We are at a unique point in history when our expression has an especially strong potential, but we must face some important considerations.

1. We are losing ground in many of our communities. This means that we are aging as a church and losing touch with the lost. If we do not grow, we will have little in common with our communities.

2. Unless we grow we will find it harder and harder to maintain our denominational identity. We will lose the ability to finance our yearly meeting activities, whether they be administrative or missionary. Everything that we do from recruiting students and missionaries to financing schools, camps, and churches depends on the health, vitality, and growth potential of the local church. We see this even now as our schools and camps find it harder and harder to attain a survival level of utilization based on attendance by Friends people.

3. If we don't grow we will lose the potential leaders that growth requires. When God selects and develops His prophets, visionaries, and leaders, He will use them for His Kingdom. If they cannot be used among Friends, they will be used elsewhere.

Just because we are in a difficult position does not make the lost any less lost or our commission any less of a commission. In

fact, the fulfillment of our commission is not only the cure for the ills of the lost but for the church as well. The church cannot exist for any other reason than to meet the needs of the lost. By our very nature, if we turn inward to our own maintenance we die. It is in the design. The destiny of the church is inescapably merged with the des-

apparent safety of the desert where we know where our next meal is coming from, where our clothing is provided, and our temple is built and paid for.


There will be little resistance if we stay put. We can stay comfortable and safe in the familiar or we can get out of the boat and walk with God on the water. We can

Spiritual Roots

Evangelical Friend: What are some of the assets and liabilities that Friends have in reaching people with spiritual needs?

Rick Hunt: Friends have several assets that help them to reach out. Foremost are our spiritual roots. Our roots are radical in both their spirituality and their focus on the wholistic needs of the lost. If we did not have these roots, I would despair at our future. Our biggest drawback is we do not remember or understand our roots. There are few people in our churches who have read about our past and, if they have, they don't see the focus of our forefathers as relevant to the present. We have bought into the form of Quakerism without the substance. We all emphasize peace and social justice, yet we forget the roots from which these sprang—a personal communion and obedience to the Holy Spirit and a radical evangelistic mission.

Because of this, Friends do not walk in power like they should. We have taken the safe road, which has not cost us our all, especially in the areas of pride, reputation, and intellectual austerity. We have become classist in the worst sense. We accept that which is clean, comfortable, and that which does not make us look the fool in the world's eyes. Yet we have rejected the plight of the lost who are often objectionable, unintellectual, and not at all interested in our politically popular causes. Much of our activity merely keeps us from having to actually come in contact with the lost and look foolish by presenting the Gospel to an unbelieving and dying world (1 Corinthians 1:18 and 4:10).

If we will return to our spiritual roots, then the substance will return to the form and we will know true renewal, revival, and unity. 


tiny of the lost. Whichever way the lost go, so goes the church. If the lost remain in spiritual death, then the church will die also. If the lost are reached through the ministry of the church, then the church will live. We must make our decisions for the lost, since deciding against the lost is deciding against the church.

So what am I saying? Simply that even in the midst of all these problems it is not the time to think of ourselves and draw inward. It is not a time to retreat and defend the fort. We must go forth and reach the lost on a consistent, aggressive basis.

We are at a crossroads just as surely as the Children of Israel were at a crossroads when they first came to the Promised Land. We are lined up on that border, pacing back and forth trying to make a decision. Our options are clear. We can step into the promised land and fulfill our true mission as the people of God, or we can stay in the

look at our plans or God's. We can try His power or His patience. It will require change. When the Children of Israel made this decision, they made the wrong choice. They chose to try God's patience. They tried to walk in power after making this decision and were defeated at every turn.

We do not want to spend the rest of our life in the wilderness, knowing that the only significant thing we can do is die. Each generation has its decision to make, each generation must decide which road to take.

Many of our churches are stagnant. We have lost contact with the lost in many of our communities. We are constantly preparing for a battle, yet never joining it. We have lost a clear vision for our mission. There is still time. We can step into the promised land. God is making preparations in His Kingdom for an outpouring of His Spirit upon those who will consecrate themselves to Him. The door is open to Friends, if Friends are willing to enter. 

Restoring Meaning to Church Membership



BY CELIA MUELLER

HAVE YOU EVER noticed how some things in life seem to be in perpetual crisis while others only have their crisis moments? Whether the issue of meaningful church membership is a momentary crisis or a perpetual one, I'm not sure, but it's clear that many people are currently distressed about local church membership.

Membership concerns that have been raised among Friends include the following:

- How do we assure that those joining the local church have an adequate understanding of the Christian faith as understood by Friends?
- Should affirmation of Quaker testimonies be an important part of membership in a Friends church? (Which ones are crucial?)
- How do we assure that those ready for membership in the local church have adequate opportunity to become members?
- How do we help members stay active and committed to the life of the local church?
- How do we keep membership rolls from becoming outdated with names of people who are no longer actively participating in the life of the church?
- How do we avoid the pitfall of equating church membership with salvation?

Celia Mueller is minister of Christian education at Reedwood Friends Church, Portland, Oregon.

- How do we respond to those who are willing to actively participate in the local church but unwilling to join?

None of these are simple questions. None have one-line answers or solutions; but neither are they unanswerable.

It would be ideal if each yearly meeting could agree not only in word but also in practice in areas such as qualifications for membership, methods for encouraging members to stay active and committed to the life of the local church, and practices for dealing with wayward or inactive members. Furthermore, if each church in a yearly meeting were to use the same general standards for membership, we might increase our sense of unity within a yearly meeting. By providing tangible evidence of our common commitment to Christ and to this specific expression of His church we could further affirm our bonds to each other in Christ.

Transferring from one church to another when necessary would make more sense if the meaning of membership were consistent from one church to another. Such standards if employed consistently would further serve to clarify the commitments being made on the part of both the local church and the individual member and could greatly increase accountability. Clear-cut standards might also reduce the emotional manipulation and game playing on the part

of people who want to maintain membership but not active involvement or accountability. Spelled-out standards and expectations also might reduce the possibility of various opinions, personality differences, and vague feelings becoming the basis for decision making in membership matters.

Being somewhat of an idealist, I long for the day when we can all clearly affirm from experience (not just historical association) the same standards and values in this and other areas. Being somewhat of a realist, I am forever searching for concrete, "can-do-now" ways to move us toward such ideals.

Having attended the Friends Consultation on Membership in Richmond, Indiana, in December of 1983 and having served on the Northwest Yearly Meeting Long Range Planning Committee as the membership objective for the Yearly Meeting was formulated and having surveyed numerous other pastors on this topic, I have had time to reflect on some concrete steps we could take.

Such exposure has also given me opportunity to see how varied our theories and practices related to membership actually are. We will not easily arrive at unity on this issue. We can, however, work toward it. Northwest Yearly Meeting decided in its Long-Range Plan to develop a more uniform and effective procedure for preparing people for membership. The goals of this

objective were that the Spiritual Life Board of the Yearly Meeting undertake the following projects:

1. Redefine the main objectives of membership.
2. Affirm a common system for membership training that would include standard teachings to be covered and resources to be used.
3. Define the minimum basic beliefs (doctrines and testimonies) for membership.
4. Develop a system of accountability of membership that would include renewal and covenants.
5. Consider the issue of transfer of membership.
6. Review and edit the certificate of membership and encourage all churches to use it.

There are other levels from which we can simultaneously address the issue. Active dialogue between local church leaders along with the effectual use of our listening skills and our capacity to learn from one another is another starting point. Pastors and/or elders of our various churches can come together to listen to each other, hear about the successes and failures and the concerns that others within the yearly meeting have in this area. Together we need to discuss, dream, share viewpoints, build a sense of caring and togetherness.

Another natural starting point is the local church. At the local level we can do much to increase the integrity of membership by experimenting with various answers to some of the questions posed above. The following are ideas I gleaned from others who have tried them and found them of substantial help:

The local church can develop what it considers the minimum standards of belief and behavior needed for membership. These standards should be clearly spelled out verbally and in writing. Such standards should be stated clearly on any form used for membership. If you want membership to mean active involvement in the life of the church, clarify what that means. If membership is a visible outward sign of inward allegiance to continued growth in Christ, then develop objective standards in this area. If affirming and living out our Quaker testimonies is a significant aspect of church membership, spell it out.

A second area is developing ways for both potential members and current members to express their commitment to Christ and the local church. Having individuals put their commitments in writing often helps them think through the commitment in a way

that stimulates further growth. Having opportunities to see and hear each other speak of our commitments provides mutual encouragement and can also increase the vitality of the local meeting. Prospective members could be asked to tell what Christ means to them in his or her present practice of spiritual discipline, areas where growth is needed, and the specific service he or she is performing or plans to perform during the next year as a member. Some churches accept members on profession of faith in a corporate setting. People are given the opportunity to share their commitment to Christ and, if possible, something about their spiritual pilgrimage. Individuals who are already members of the local church also need opportunities to recommit themselves in visible ways to growth in Christ and to the local church.

Some churches have members renew their membership annually to help people remember that church membership is an active, ongoing choice, not a once-and-for-all decision.

Another area local churches can consider is membership education. What topics should be covered by all potential members (even individuals transferring from other churches)? Is attending a membership class for eight weeks enough or should a year be required? Might potential members also meet one-on-one with an elder or sponsor? The Church of the Saviour uses the sponsor system. The period of sponsorship lasts six weeks or longer. Usually the sponsor and prospective member meet once a week and study together, following a syllabus that has been prepared as a guide. The membership commitment is covered line by line and memorized during this time, and the disciplines are discussed one by one. Among the subjects discussed are the constitution of the church, the importance of worship in the life of the Christian, the principle of proportionate giving, and the decentralization of leadership and responsibility so that the membership does not lean on a professional staff to carry on the tasks of the church. They require reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* and at least one other book during this period. I know of a number of pastors who meet in a one-on-one fashion with

potential members as well as offering classes for them. Most find this allows time for relationships to be built and potential problems or misunderstandings to be dealt with. Involving elders or others within the body in this endeavor increases the number of caring relationships the new member has within the church.

Finally, the local church can develop a standard or system for dealing with inactive members and removing people from the active membership list when they are in fact no longer active participants in the life of the church. Each yearly meeting's *Faith and Practice* provides guidelines for this and some of the other areas we have been covering, but it is still up to the local meeting to actively choose to carry out these practices in a regular and systematic way.

"Church membership can allow individuals the opportunity to flesh out their commitment to Christ through a visible and tangible commitment to the local fellowship of believers."

Having clear-cut steps for dealing with inactive members that are consistently employed removes much of the trauma faced by both the church and the member in question when the need arises. Often early action on the part of the elders can do much to reestablish an individual as an active member of the local church.

If we work at it, church membership can allow individuals the opportunity to flesh out their commitment to Christ through a visible and tangible commitment to the local fellowship of believers. Church membership carries with it the possibility of meaningful accountability and shared responsibility with the local expression of the community of faith.

Crises are interesting, for while we would rather avoid them, they offer us the opportunity to reexamine assumptions, they can stimulate new growth and can add depth and new dimensions to our lives. The challenge to make church membership meaningful today affords us just such an opportunity.

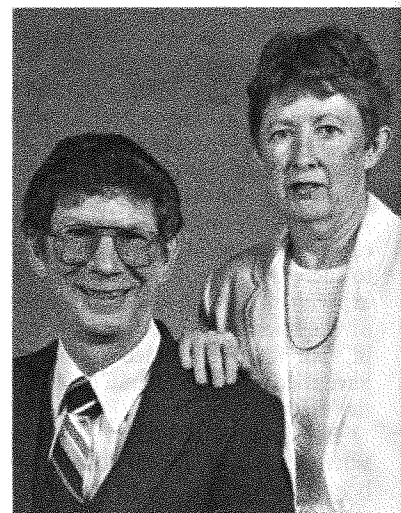
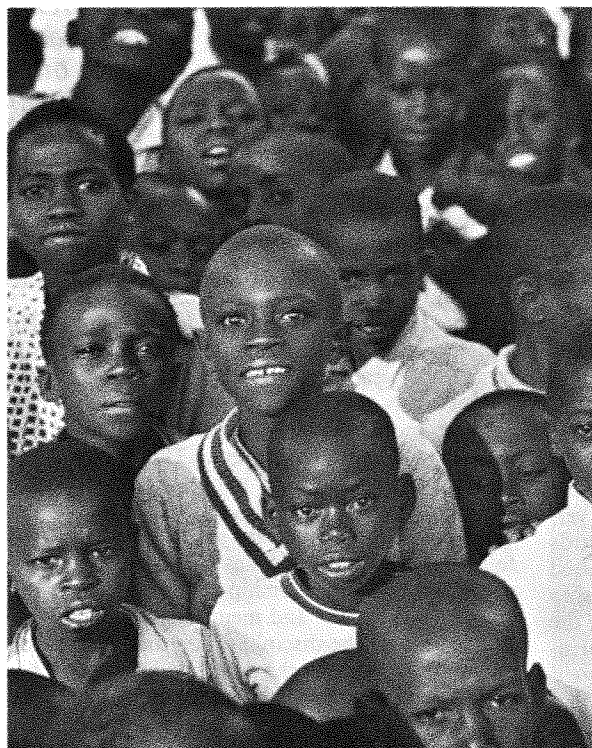


Friends

BY JAMES E. MORRIS



A Rwandese woman



Willard and Doris Ferguson, newly appointed missionaries to Rwanda. Willard accompanied Thomases to Rwanda in February and will come home in May before returning in June for a four-year term with Doris and their son Sam.

Top: Short-term missionaries to Rwanda George and Dorothy Thomas departing February 19 from the Portland, Oregon, airport. Shown from left to right are EFA Missions Commission Chairman Ron Woodward, Thomas's daughter and granddaughter Rosemary and Kate Livingston, Dorothy and George Thomas, Ruth Brown, Frances DeVol, and Oscar Brown. Bottom: Forty-six percent of Rwanda's population is under 15 years old.

Reach Out to Rwanda

WHY are evangelical Friends starting mission work in Rwanda? One of the main reasons is that when Evangelical Friends Mission was formed in 1978, a major purpose was to spearhead new mission outreach. Many have been praying for God's direction about where to open a new field. It is evident that God is answering prayer because He not only led in the decision to survey this country in central Africa but now is helping us to start work there.

Although surrounded by countries where Friends churches are found, Rwanda has been untouched by Friends. The largest concentration of Friends in the world, over 40,000, is located in western Kenya. Despite the struggles and tensions of recent years in Uganda, Friends continue to survive there. Friends have spread into Tanzania, and in Zaire a live indigenous Friends church is taking root. Burundi Yearly Meeting is growing and becoming stronger as it matures now without resident missionaries. It is not strange, therefore, that God would lead EFM to open a Friends work in the one country of the entire region with no Friends church.

Another important reason for choosing to work in Rwanda is that, in God's plan and grace, this country is now receptive to the Gospel, with churches growing rapidly on every hand. The Lord of the harvest is thrusting us forth into this ripened field where leaders of other missions and churches have urged us to come and help reap.

Also, God has prepared us as Friends in many ways to work among the people of Rwanda, who have been known to us for decades through missionaries serving in nearby areas. There is even an acquaintance with their culture, worldview, and language. Strategies needed to serve an agricultural people with limited income and a rather low literacy rate are also part of our mission understanding. Missionaries experienced in ministering to such people have recently been released from neighboring Burundi and became available for reassignment to Rwanda.

God is at work, providing resources to move into this open door quickly. He has moved upon churches and individuals across Evangelical Friends Alliance to supply the \$100,000 start-up fund. In a short time He provided visas for the first mission-

ary team, George and Dorothy Thomas and Willard Ferguson, to go out. And, almost immediately upon the team's arrival February 21 in Kigali, the capital, God provided housing, transportation, and helpful contacts. These all add up to evidence that Rwanda is the place for EFM to be.

A Look at Rwanda

I would like to acquaint you with the country and people of Rwanda; you would find both delightful. The climate is mild and sunny—so much so that Rwanda is called the "Land of Eternal Spring." It is a crossroads for the vast lake region of Africa's Great Rift Valley. The beauty of the terrain is accentuated by changing elevation, ranging from rolling grasslands at 4,600 feet in the northeast to snow-capped volcanoes of 14,800 feet in the northwest. Even though small (just over 10,000 square miles), Rwanda has two game parks with most of Africa's wildlife represented.

Ninety-five percent of the people live in rural areas. Their little tin-roofed houses and small homesteads with tiny plots of coffee or tea, as cash crops, plus bananas, cassava, peas, beans, and potatoes for food, give the country a colorful patchwork effect as one flies over the hills and valleys. These homestead sites seem unbelievably close. With an average of 620 people per square mile, the country is one of the most densely populated in Africa. There are about 6,300,000 people now, with the population projected to reach 10,700,000 by the year 2000 at the present growth rate. There is less and less room for grazing prized longhorn cattle, so goats, sheep, pigs, and chickens are increasing—coexisting with the small garden plots.

The majority of the people, Bahutu, belong to one of Africa's largest tribal families, the Bantu. There are also tall Batutsi who no longer rule the country but live among the Bahutu; they are descendants of the Hamitic people of north and east Africa who migrated to central Africa centuries ago, bringing longhorn cattle. A little over 1 percent of the people are Batwa, assumed to be the earliest residents, and related to the Pygmies scattered throughout the Zaire basin. The cultures and languages of these people have melted into one; they all speak Kinyarwanda, the national language, and many speak French, the second official language. They are a friendly, curious people, and responsive to the message of Christ.

Getting Started


How is EFM planning to develop this new mission work? Our broad basic purpose is

"to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ by helping to build His Church through missionary outreach in cultures and countries where we are already working or in new areas as the Holy Spirit leads." In keeping with that purpose, we plan to make the communication of the Gospel central in all activities. While this process began informally the first day our missionary team arrived by the way they established themselves and began making contacts, it can only begin formally when the Government of Rwanda actually approves the mission as a recognized official entity and grants it legal status. Such a requirement is necessary for the government to keep the country from being overrun with all kinds of organizations that could do more harm than good.

Because obtaining government permission is absolutely essential, the beginning period of the work is very crucial. So we would encourage Friends to pray earnestly for this approval to be given, so that our work can continue and become established in Rwanda.

After receiving this official approval, we can follow our policy on mission development, which is to seek to be sensitive to local needs and culture. Plans call for using a number of different methods in achieving our main goal of evangelism and church planting. Proclamation of the Gospel is to be balanced with ministry to the whole person, so that the message of Christ is made known in word and also authenticated in deed.

At the beginning we are holding open several options as to our involvement, depending on local needs and God's leading. We are prepared to help the country meet some of its goals—in education, health, agriculture, or development. In all these the ultimate aim of our missionary thrust would be to make known the full revelation of God in Jesus Christ and to lead as many as possible to accept Him intelligently by faith and enter into all that acceptance of Christ affords them. We believe this should result in the establishment of a growing, maturing church that is relevant to the people of Rwanda. We want to be sensitive to God's leading and ready to change or move ahead as He opens the way.

We express our appreciation to all who by prayer and financial support have made possible this new venture with God, and encourage you to continue to be faithful so that together we can succeed in reaching souls in Rwanda, for His glory. 

James Morris is executive director of Evangelical Friends Mission and lives in Arvada, Colorado.

THE INTERNATIONAL telephone call from Burundi last July brought the words that Willard and Doris Ferguson were not being permitted to continue as resident missionaries under the appointment of Mid-America Yearly Meeting. The local government was refusing to extend their visas and they were given less than two weeks to depart. How should they pack and what should they try to sell? How does one wrap up all church and personal affairs under such a time pressure?

This news came only days after Geraldine Custer, along with Gary and Connie Young, had left for the States. Gerry had said her goodbyes for the last time and would be retiring after a period of deputation, concluding 38 years of missionary service in Burundi.

The Youngs were leaving for regular furlough and, although they left with a temporary permit to return to Burundi, there is uncertainty about final permission. The government has not yet been willing to officially grant or deny permission to return.

Because the Fergusons and Youngs had sons in the school for missionary children—the only American children—and because they were both now leaving the country, Carolyn Hinshaw, the teacher, was scheduled to return to the States. The only remaining missionaries were Bob and Connie Shaffer, whose visas were due for renewal in early September 1985. Carolyn was asked to remain in Burundi for several weeks until the visa for Shaffers was acted upon by the government.

The leaders and church workers of Burundi Yearly Meeting quickly began a systematic process of helping the Fergusons sort and price their furniture and household goods. The word soon spread across central Burundi that a large garage sale was about to commence. Fergusons concentrated almost totally on packing for departure, thus leaving all details for the disposal of 24 years of missionary housekeeping in the hands of the church people. As Willard said later, "The prices and the results of the sale were far better than if we had handled it ourselves."

They flew out of Burundi on July 16, leaving only three missionaries at least temporarily. Then in early September came another international call stating that the Shaffers were departing. Time for another garage sale, Burundi style. Again, the people pitched in and provided marvelous

Maurice Roberts is superintendent of Mid-America Yearly Meeting, Wichita, Kansas.

A Mission Field Without Missionaries

BY MAURICE ROBERTS

assistance. Soon the Shaffers and Carolyn Hinshaw departed, leaving no missionary personnel among the Friends in Burundi for the first time since 1934.

During the meeting of the Foreign Missions Board in August 1985, it was discussed whether a trip should be made to Burundi for the purpose of encouraging the church and helping coordinate administrative details at the time of Burundi Yearly Meeting sessions December 27-31. The board approved such a trip for Gary Fuqua, Mission Board president, and Maurice Roberts, general superintendent.

What would we find? Would discouragement and abandonment be their overwhelming mood? Would the long-standing programs be slowly grinding to a halt? Would financial management for both the Yearly Meeting and auxiliary programs be in chaos?

We were met by six happy church leaders on the morning of December 23. They insisted that we should take time to rest before the two-hour drive to Kibimba where the main mission station is located. We had been in transit for two days and two nights so a time to sleep was welcomed.

The next day was primarily spent with Emmanuel Sibomana, the legal representative for Burundi Yearly Meeting. Some matters of business were discussed and our agenda for the next several days was reviewed. The church had arranged for us to reside in one of the missionary houses, and they hired a former houseboy to provide American meals for us. Wasn't that a generous gift? As the afternoon was nearing an end, the legal representative said he wanted to show us the new motorbike for which the Mission Board had sent money.

Gary Fuqua at the graves of Arthur and Edna Chilson. Graves of the two Fuqua infants in the background.



This money came from a special fundraising project by David Kellum when on deputation in 1983-84. Because the Kellums were not permitted to return, the funds remained stateside for another year. When they were transferred, the suggestion was that the money be used for a motorbike for the legal representative, but that the church could use the money in whatever way was most helpful. So, he wanted to show us how the money was spent.

As the legal representative unlocked the garage door, we saw 12 new bicycles, one for each pastor. In their Executive Council, it was decided the work of the church could be better helped if each pastor had a dependable new bike. This was to be a surprise to most of the pastors.

Christmas day in Burundi, what should we expect? The church service was a wonderful time of music, taking in several new members, and a wonderful message by the legal representative. The Christmas story is the same story for everyone. Instead of snow falling, the steady rain on the roof provided background sounds as our translator, a young college student, so ably provided us with a sentence-by-sentence report of the message.

David Niyonzima is a junior in Kenya Highlands Bible College and speaks four languages. When he graduates in 1987, he hopes to return to Burundi and help in the ministry of Theological Extension Education. Products such as David make us realize the wonderful return on the investments that are made in future church leaders.

We were invited to the home of Bahenda, the Yearly Meeting superintendent, for the evening meal on this Christmas day away from our families. A wonderful meal—

Pastors on their new bicycles.

combination of Burundi and American cuisine—was shared. The family was anxious to share their photo albums, and we saw that many of the pictures were from the time Bahenda visited MAYM in 1965. A Christmas tree stood at the end of their living room and the tree lights were illuminated, undoubtedly left behind by one of the missionary families.

The Yearly Meeting sessions were to begin on Saturday, December 28. The preceding day, the Executive Council met to take care of its agenda. Our own meetings get very long; however, we learned what long meetings are all about.

The superintendent's report included some enlightening statistics. Since the previous report 15 months earlier, Sunday worship attendance had increased 40 percent and membership was 13 percent greater. For every three members, there had been one new convert. Three new churches had been started in 1985 and they hoped to begin three more in 1986.

In 1983, a survey trip was made to Zaire at the request of Burundi Yearly Meeting. The team was asked to evaluate the possibilities of starting new mission work there, but the survey team concluded that MAYM or Evangelical Friends Mission could not appropriately enter into that work. BYM was notified of the decision. They felt called to be responsible for an outreach program in this neighboring country, on the opposite shores of Lake Tanganyika.

And now, during the Yearly Meeting sessions, we heard how a new small church in Zaire had been completed and was filled to capacity each Sunday. We heard how the Friends in Zaire had completed all the

paperwork to obtain legal status, except the requirement of opening a bank account. No request was made for the American mission to put up funds. Instead, their discussion centered around the Burundi church disposing of some unneeded items so they could raise the amount necessary for this new bank account in Zaire. Could it be that Burundi's commitment to this new outreach has been a reason for its own growth? A biblical principle of growth—whether it be numerical or stewardship—is that by giving of ourselves, we are blessed.

The financial reports would not pass muster with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) in terms of their format. The banker would not find the structure of their balance sheet to be very presentable. However, the activities that were left in the hands of the national church were, according to their financial reports, paying their way. The leaders were working diligently at being good stewards.

Sunday morning, December 29, found us in the Kibimba church along with an estimated 1,200 others. The Lord's presence was very evident. As we arrived early, we noticed several persons were bowing in prayer for the worship service. The celebration of worship was in our hearts and on our lips.

One highlight of this morning was the recording of another pastor. Emmanuel Sibomana, a gifted man of God who carries a very heavy load as legal representative, was recognized as having met the requirements for recording. In the face of many obstacles and testings, this man is unwavering in his faith. His commitment to an uncompromising obedience to the Lord was

very evident, as we heard many stories of his leadership. He and his wife, Loy, who works at the Kibimba Hospital, have five children. It was a privilege to share an evening meal in their home.

As the Sunday morning service concluded, the altar was filled with seekers. We were told that revival continues in many of their churches.

On the final day of Yearly Meeting, the legal representative announced to all the pastors that he wanted to meet with them at a certain building location after lunch. He told us to have our cameras ready, and as he opened the door, he told each of the pastors to go inside to get "one item." They looked at each other as if to ask, "Is it a chicken or a pot of beans or a stalk of bananas?"

With eyes as large as a 10-franc coin, each came pushing his bike out of the garage. As they massaged the handlebars, flipped the pedals to see that they actually rotated, and climbed on the padded seats, it was truly the joy of gift giving! Each one spoke on our cassette recorder to thank MAYM for the gift. We had to remind them that the gift was from their own church.

Wearily and "meetinged-out" we left Kibimba and the many church leaders for the trip back to Bujumbura and a quick night's sleep before departure. A customary procedure has been for guests of missionaries to pay a per diem as assistance for meal costs, laundry, and other services. Our contribution for the nine days care was refused as they told us, "You were our guests. We were honored that you would visit us. Now we know by your actions that you care about our people because you came when your people were gone."

The one thing we didn't experience during the visit was football. The holidays came and went while we missed out on the last two weeks of the pro football season, along with all the bowl games. On New Year's night in a Brussels hotel, we found that British Broadcasting Corporation doesn't care a thing about American football. We were kept in ignorance on these important events until arriving in the States.

Our international telephone calls continue each month, although they are initiated from the States. It gives us the opportunity to be kept informed of the news and of prayer needs. Their final words at the airport were, "We are praying for Mid-America Yearly Meeting and your ministry to the lost in America." Perhaps we need missionaries here. [CPI]

PHOTO BY DAVID NUSS COURTESY OF THE STATESMAN-JOURNAL, SALEM, OREGON



Former Friends missionary to Mexico City Kathy Anderson (at left) along with Deloris Wyant and Ron Post pray for Claudia Torre Mendoza before she had surgery on Valentine's Day.

His Miracles Never Cease

Some are big, some small, some special

BY CINDY BRIGGS

Recently a Christian medical team came down from the U.S., with medical supplies, to offer free medical care to victims of the great Mexico earthquake of 1985. One day a young 16-year-old girl, Claudia Torre Mendoza, came to them, walking with a cane. She had a great deal of pain in her back due to the crooked way she had to walk. When the earthquake occurred last September, she had been walking to school, when concrete from a building fell on her, breaking her thigh bone into three parts.

Cindy Briggs and her husband, Mike, are members of Barberton, Ohio, Friends Church presently living in Mexico City, where Mike is working for General Tire Company. They will be leaving in June and taking a work assignment in Casablanca, Morocco, in September.

One of the team doctors found through X rays that the leg had healed in the form of a "T", with a slanted top forming a lump on the surface of the leg. Corrective surgery was needed; so, many prayers and much searching went on to seek help as her family could not afford to pay for such extensive surgery. She was one of eight children in a fatherless family with no income.

Word spread like wildfire. An orthopedic surgeon in Salem, Oregon, offered to do the surgery free and a hospital there would provide services at no charge. A Mexican family volunteered to care for Claudia while in Salem. The American Embassy offered to take care of paperwork required for her to leave Mexico, and Mexicana Airlines would give her a round-trip ticket provided she went on February 12 with one of the returning doctors.

On February 10 the paperwork was still not ready so we prayed even harder. The next day all was ready, but as she waited to board her flight the 12th she began to feel apprehensive, fearful, and reluctant to leave her family for a new place with a foreign language. So many unknowns, yet she drew up her courage and went. Much to her surprise, when she stepped off the plane in Salem, Oregon, she was greeted by her new family with a banner in Spanish welcoming her.

On February 13 Claudia was admitted to the hospital. Her surgery was February 14 and went very well, with less complications than expected. She felt at ease in her new surroundings and was soon recovering well. Those who prayed and gave for the earthquake relief program of Friends in Mexico City were a part of this miracle.

ORA



BY LON FENDALL

Hope in a Hopeless World

How could it be that those who have faced the most hopeless situations in life have understood hope the best?

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered a sermon in Detroit in March 1968, just a few days before he was assassinated. Nothing in his life gave him a basis for hope. There had been significant victories, but he was weary and the struggle for civil rights was anything but won.

Dr. King distinguished hope from wishful thinking, declaring that hope for the Christian was not based on circumstances. It was not the same as optimism. Hope, he insisted, was the certainty that God had acted and would continue to act according to His immutable laws. One of the mysteries of hope for the Christian, he said, was the knowledge that the object of our faith is already present, that God had already acted and we only need to align ourselves with His will to see it come about.

A few months ago I addressed a gathering of peace workers, talking about maintaining our hope in the face of a succession of failures in the struggle to end the nuclear arms race. My comments were politely received, but I didn't really convince anyone, not even myself.

Then I began to listen more carefully to those who have faced evil and death and have found victory instead of despair in the midst of devastating experiences. Dr. King's words were echoed by a young, black South African minister, who was almost overwhelmed by the brutality he saw and experienced. His journey to hope was led by some believers who sensed how essential it was that he face his own hatred for his oppressors. He had been immobilized by his anger until he sought the Lord's help in forgiving the unforgivable.

Could it be that hope is only found by facing death victoriously? Romans 8:24-25 uses the word *hope* five times in three short sentences. The preceding verses speak of the deliverance we as believers expect from death. In fact the entire created order has been "groaning in travail," eagerly awaiting the completion of our redemption, the deliverance from death and evil.

The remainder of Romans 8 speaks of the courage and boldness that flows from Christ's victory over death. We rejoice that God works for good on our behalf. We proclaim that none can be against us if God is for us. We are "more than conquerors" over death, the principalities, the powers, the heights, the depths and, indeed, everything in creation.


What is the basis for the emphatic hope and confidence in these verses? Precisely the same as in Dr. King's sermon and in the life of my South African friend, Graham Cyster, and my Palestinian friend, Jonathan Kuttub. They all have looked death squarely in the face and have claimed Christ's deliverance from the immobilizing drive for self-preservation. Dr. King had accepted the likelihood of losing his own life in the struggle for justice. Graham Cyster and Jonathan Kuttub have also

surrendered their own lives and thus are freed to face danger, if necessary, to carry out their work.

The result of hope is an exhilarating liberation from fear. One of the most beautiful and vivid passages in Scripture speaks of this freedom: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Bruce Larson in a recent book, *There's a Lot More to Health Than Not Being Sick*, describes a week he spent at the Menninger Foundation. He repeatedly asked the staff what was the most important single ingredient in treating the emotionally disturbed. The answer was unanimous—hope. Patients must have something exciting to anticipate in the future in order to get well.

Isn't that what hope is? Eagerly looking forward to Christ's return and the establishment of His Kingdom. Energetically working for the reconciliation of people with people and with God, establishing relationships that institute His Kingdom in our lives and in the world.

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" (Jeremiah 29:11) 


Unity Is Hard Work

In a recent article in *Eternity* (Lee Taylor, "Management by Unity," December, 1985), a description is given of a technique being used in business to attain consensus on the direction of a business. So crucial is it that a firm find harmony and agreement on its direction and goals that executives are willing to spend as much as two weeks doing nothing but working through to agreement on a plan of action.

The ground rules for this "management by unity" process sound very familiar to Quakers. Everyone's opinions are valued equally. No votes are taken; instead there is a process of careful listening to others in the group and formulating a statement that all can accept. While unanimity is not always expected, there is a commitment to the group that allows the process to go forward even when there are differing opinions.

The striking thing in this process was the recognition of the effort required. Not only does it take a great deal of time, but it is emotionally draining to listen patiently to those with different views and sift through the contradictory statements for those common goals that permit a bond of unity.

In Ephesians 4:3, Paul urged his readers to be eager to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." The verb "maintain" indicates the effort required. Unity does not happen by itself and does not stay in place on its own. Whether in a meeting for business or during the routine of church life, there are innumerable issues that can disrupt and prevent our unity.

Lee Taylor's article closes with this statement: "In the age of cutthroat competition, unity is an asset that has no price." The same is true within the church. Our effectiveness as a body of believers depends on unity. May we view this unity as a priceless quality, worthy of whatever effort it requires. 



'Center of Gravity' Has Shifted

"Ninety-five percent of the people in the world have at least some of the Bible translated into their native language," said Warren Webster, general director of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Missions Society, to National Association of Evangelicals delegates meeting in Kansas City in March.

Although, according to Webster, "more tools and technology are available than ever before," the task of world evangelism is far from complete.

"More than 300 million people do not have as much as John 3:16 in their own language," said Webster, "and even if the Bible was available, more than 1 billion nonliterate adults worldwide could not read it."

"Less than 1 percent of evangelical Christians were found outside of Europe and North America 200 years ago," Webster noted. "Today that figure is more than 50 percent. Clearly the 'center of gravity' of Christianity has shifted."

—National Association of Evangelicals

Washington Pastor Explodes Myths

Myron Augsburger, pastor, Washington Community Fellowship, Washington, D.C., addressed the National Christian Education Association. The former college president outlined three myths he feels need to be exploded: That cynics are more honest than those who take a Christian stand; that the secular is more narrow than the spiritual; and finally, that one who is conservative theologically is, therefore, conservative politically.

Travel with a Friend

Complete Travel Services

- Airline ticketing, Domestic & International
- Professional & Leisure Travel Arrangements

Folkways Travel Service
14903 S.E. Linden Lane
Oak Grove, Oregon 97222

- Newberg Delivery •

653-5882

774-5156 Portland

800-547-7400 outside Oregon

He briefly noted that the opposite is true: one who has investigated various possibilities and then stands firm is much more honest than one who dismisses that with which he disagrees; because the spiritual can include the secular, that position is obviously much broader than one limited to just the secular; and finally, Augsburger, an avowed theological conservative, has certain political convictions that many would classify as liberal.

—N.A.E.

Christians in South Africa Meet to Discuss Reconciliation

POTCHEFSTROOM, SOUTH AFRICA—Nearly 200 Christians—black and white, Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Dutch Reformed—met to discuss the meaning of reconciliation for the South African Church. The Rev. Errol Hind, chairman of the Western Transvaal committee of the National Initiative for Reconciliation, claimed the gathering was the first of its kind among the different denominations, and the very first to consider the role of the church in South Africa as a troubled nation.

Summing up resolutions made by the gathering, committee member Lourens du Plessis said, "We are not going to call upon anybody, or urge anyone, to do anything. We are going to do it ourselves... we are each of us going to sacrifice something from our daily lives for reconciliation, then we will convene again in three months to report back."

The group called for closer fellowship between white and black ministers—including pulpit swaps. The group also urged greater social contacts between whites and blacks, and encouraged whites to initiate such contacts. Work against laws that enforce racial discrimination was encouraged, as was a forum for blacks to vent community grievances.

—Evangelical Press News Service

Graham Challenges Film Industry To 'Clean Up Its Act'

LONDON, ENGLAND—Evangelist Billy Graham, speaking with David Hartman from the London Bureau of ABC television on *Good Morning America*, said he would like to see the motion picture industry in America "clean up its act."

"What is right with movies today is that many are teaching us about the social issues of the time in which we live," commented Graham. "But, there are many

others that are just there for the sex and violence and are having a detrimental effect upon our young people. Many surveys indicate that."

Graham, through his organization's subsidiary World Wide Pictures, is the world's largest producer and distributor of religious films. Graham said he can empathize with the film industry in their present dilemma.

"I think that filmmakers feel that they themselves would like to know how to make decent, moral pictures, and still make a profit," he said. "It is very difficult today to make a profit if you do not use sex and violence."

—E.P. News Service

Christian Artists Unite to 'Fight The Fight: Rescue the Unborn'

LINDALE, TEXAS—A multiartist recording to benefit the Christian pro-life movement has been released. Written by Anne Her-ring of the 2nd Chapter of Acts, *Fight the Fight* is a call to Christians for prayer and action against abortion in the United States.

Over 100 Christian recording artists, musicians, technicians, and their families were involved in this project to "rescue the unborn." Participants in the project included Scott Wesley Brown, Debby Boone, Dallas Holm, Steve Camp, Pam Mark Hall, Greg Volz of Petra, Steve Taylor, Sheila Walsh, Jamie Owens-Collins, Sandi Patti, Larnelle Harris, 2nd Chapter of Acts, Phil Keaggy, Terry and Wendy

(Continued on page 20)

OPENING IN CAMPUS MINISTRY

One-half to two-thirds time position at Wilmington College. **TASK:** Promote and coordinate Religious Activities among students and nurture understanding of Quaker Faith and Practice in the campus community. **RESPONSIBLE TO:** College Religion and Philosophy Department, Wilmington Yearly Meeting and an Advisory Council. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Active Quaker well grounded in Friends approach to Christian faith. A.B. in Religion or related field a minimum requirement.

Applications due by April 30 to:

T. Canby Jones, Pyle Center, Box 1322, Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH 45177 or phone 513/382-6661, ext. 210.

First Day News

EFA Given Recognition from World Relief

At the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Kansas City in March, World Relief recognized each denomination or individual church for the donations that had been made in 1985. The Evangelical Friends Alliance was recognized for having given \$48,777 through both the member yearly meetings and member churches. This represented the 8th largest per capita giving and the 10th largest cumulative total from among member denominations. The plaque pictured was presented to the Evangelical Friends Alliance "in grateful appreciation for spiritual commitment to help the world's hungry and homeless."



Morris Visits Alaska

James Morris, executive director of Evangelical Friends Mission, and his wife, Doris, traveled to Noatak, Alaska, in March to welcome Alaska Yearly Meeting as an associate member of EFM. This work, begun as a mission by California Yearly Meeting, has been an independent yearly meeting since 1970. Walter Outwater is superintendent of Alaska Yearly Meeting.

Bolivian Friend Visits Ohio

Venancio Quispe, presiding clerk for Bolivia Yearly Meeting, was in Canton, Ohio, March 24-28. He traveled from La Paz, Bolivia, to Greensboro, North Carolina, earlier to attend the Friends World Committee for Consultation annual meeting as the representative for Aymara Friends. While in Canton, he was hosted by the Alvin Andersons, who introduced him to Malone College and Canton and Alliance Friends churches, where he brought greetings from Bolivian Friends and reported on current happenings there.

New Call: Reaching Out to Other Churches

On the 21st of February, 35 church leaders, invited by the New Call to Peacemaking, gathered in Washington, D.C., to explore "nonviolent alternatives." In the years since the historic peace churches launched the New Call, many of the major churches have issued "pastoral letters" on the moral unacceptability of the "balance of terror" policies of governments. Participants explored in some depth the experiments in revolutionary nonviolence of Gandhi and Martin Luther King and also explored the relevance of the Christian message of "Shalom" as it can be expressed in this time of threat of nuclear holocaust.

Quaker participants were Joe Volk of American Friends Service Committee, Ben Richmond of Friends United Meeting, and Bob Cory of Friends World Committee for Consultation and a member of the New Call steering committee.

Work Tour to Mexico

Iowa Yearly Meeting is organizing a Mexico Missions Work Tour for September 5-15, 1986. Participants will help the Elektra Friends Church complete their building. It is hoped that a group of 10 people will be able to take advantage of this ministry opportunity.

Obedience Through Empowerment of the Holy Spirit

For the past six years Quaker Hill Conference Center and Earlham School of Religion have cosponsored a three-day consultation of approximately 50 Friends on a variety of topics, including Quaker service, ministry, eldering, membership, spiritual authority and accountability, and spiritual discernment. Participants include persons from Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, Evangelical Friends Alliance, Conservative Friends, and Independent yearly meetings. Next year's consultation will be held December 11-14, 1986, and will focus on "doing the will of God by living the life of obedience through the empowerment of God's gift of the Holy Spirit." One of the results of these consultations has been the

publication of the findings in booklet format. Except for the first consultation on Quaker service, a limited supply of booklets are available; they sell for \$5 each (including shipping). Booklets are available from Quaker Hill Conference Center, 10 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, Indiana 47374.

Alliance Friends Go on Record Against Abortion

Responding to community needs, Friends from the Alliance Church recently sent a letter to the local newspaper expressing their disagreement with Planned Parenthood and letting the public know of the Crisis Pregnancy Center. To inform people that there are options to abortion is the concern that motivated the action. In Stark County there are now two Crisis Pregnancy Centers—one in Alliance and one in Canton—where help is offered by Christian counselors.

FWCC Brings Friends Together at Annual Meeting

Representatives from Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Jamaica, Canada, and the United States met in Greensboro, North Carolina, March 21-23, 1986, to worship together, to become better acquainted, and to conduct business at the sixth residential Annual Meeting for the Section of the Americas of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. Kenyan Friend Joseph Kisia, currently traveling in the ministry for FWCC, delivered Friday night's address entitled "And Who Is My Neighbor?"

Ministry of Money

Friends provided leadership for a Ministry of Money workshop in the Wichita, Kansas, area April 4-6. The workshop was presented by the Ministry of Money Mission of the Church of the Saviour in Washington, D.C. The weekend event focused on the impact of money on our lives. The workshop was designed to help Christians develop more wholesome attitudes about money in a society where worth and self-esteem are associated with net worth.

Indian Affairs Meeting

The Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs held their 117th session on April 11-12 at West Des Moines, Iowa, Friends Church. Five centers are under the care of the committee, including Council House and Wyandotte in Oklahoma, which are Mid-America Yearly Meeting churches. Joe and Florence Cox and Sheldon and Elda Ann Cox represented MAYM at the gathering.

Tentmakers Transferred

Mike and Cindy Briggs, members of Barberton Friends, will be returning from Mexico to the States in June in order to prepare for their next assignment—Casablanca, Morocco. Mike has headed the compounding department of General Tire Company in Mexico City since 1982. The entire family has been supportive of the Friends Mission there, with Cindy contributing many volunteer hours. Their daughter Linda will enter Akron University in the fall, while son David will accompany his parents in September to Morocco.

CHA Seeks Director, Secures International Office, Holds Convention

Darius Salter has announced his resignation as executive director of the Christian Holiness Association, effective August 31, 1986. He has held the position for seven years. Dr. Salter has expressed a desire to give more time and energy to teaching and writing at Western Evangelical Seminary, where he is currently professor of pastoral theology.

The Christian Holiness Association has recently been given property in Wilmore, Kentucky. A colonial style building located on seven acres of land was donated by OMS International and World Gospel Mission for the purpose of housing the international office of CHA. It is the goal of the Association to relocate from Portland, Oregon, to Wilmore, Kentucky, by the end of the summer of 1986.

The CHA will hold its annual convention April 22-24 at the Columbus, Ohio, Sheraton Plaza. "Holiness: An Expanding Influence" is the theme for the week. Dr. Robert Buswell, professor of Greek at Malone College, Canton, Ohio, will participate in a panel discussion.

Ministers Gather for Annual Meetings

Eastern Region pastors met April 7-11 in Blackstone, Virginia. Guest speakers were Bob Medford, director of Friends Ministries to Families, and Joe and Sally Roher, pastors at Friendswood, Texas.

Mid-America Yearly Meeting Pastors' Retreat will feature Verl and Lois Lindley, pastors at Granada Heights Friends, LaMirada, California. The retreat will be held May 5-8 at Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, Missouri.

Ray and Anne Ortland, well-known for their writing, speaking, and pastoral leadership, were the featured speakers for NWYM Ministers' Conference held April 7-11 at Twin Rocks Camp, Rockaway Beach, Oregon.

Church Presents Special Gift for Philippine Mission

Trinity Friends, Van Wert, Ohio, made a gift of \$3,000 for the Philippine Mission in Manila on Palm Sunday. In behalf of Evangelical Friends Church, Duane Comfort (right) receives a check from Trinity pastor Duane Rice. A record attendance of 1,050 in the two morning services was set that Sunday.



Friends Women, Quaker Men Schedule Triennial

From June 28 to July 3, 1986, the United Society of Friends Women and Quaker Men will hold triennial sessions on the campus of Wilmington College in Ohio. Edna Smith, International USFW president, will bring the keynote address. Beginning on Sunday, Bible hour leaders will be Anne Thomas, Canadian Yearly Meeting, and Tom Mullen, Dean of Earlham School of Religion. Billy Britt, superintendent of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, will speak during meeting for worship. Participants will also hear the Wilmington Yearly Meeting Peace Memorial Lecture to be given by Val Ferguson, general secretary of Friends World Committee, from London Yearly Meeting. A drama on Tuesday is entitled "Abraham and Sarah." The closing banquet is on Wednesday with a message from William Wagoner, Friends United Meeting Secretary of World Ministries.

International Year of Peace

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 1986 as the International Year of Peace, to focus attention on what is required to create it. Despite no official U.S. support of a special UN Year of Peace Fund, scores of international nongovernmental organizations are taking initiatives. For instance the International Studies Association is planning a television series on swords into plowshares, and the International Peace Research Association has outlined a special study program on an alternative security system. In June the UN will sponsor a major international conference to take place in Paris on disarmament and development. This meeting is the culmination of a decade-long effort to assess the possibilities of conversion of research, investment, and resources from weapons to the struggle for freedom from poverty, oppression, and disease.

Squash Pie and Parable of Talents

Starting with pennies, one member of Durham Monthly Meeting, Maine, bought and planted ten Blue Hubbard squash seeds and ended with about 100 pounds of ripe squash, which meeting members made into about 40 pies, all sold for their Emergency Relief Fund, for \$130.

The largest squash contained nearly 600 seeds, which the meeting has distributed, with a letter of explanation and a reprint of a newspaper story, to all meetings and worship groups in New England Yearly Meeting. "What you do with these 'talents' is up to you.

"Two things have become clear to us. First, in the Lord's work, significant ventures can be successfully undertaken even though enough funds may not appear to be available. Second, everyone's gift, regardless of how meager it may seem, is important. We dare not fall into the trap of feeling our gift is too small to be of any use. If we all took that line, nothing would ever get accomplished."

—*The New England Friend*



(Continued from page 16)

Talbot, Kathy Troccoli, Andrae Crouch, Evie, and Michael Omartian.

All proceeds from the sales of the record and related products will be given to Christian pro-life organizations, according to Live Oak Records, which released the album. —E.P. News Service

Hispanic Population Growing Rapidly

Luis Palau, internationally known evangelist, addressed the NAE Hispanic Commission encouraging representatives "to help integrate the immigrants."

"We know," said Juan Carlos Miranda, Commission chairman, "that by the year 2000 there will be approximately 40 million Hispanics living in the United States . . . and a certain number of them will be members of evangelical churches."

Presently, there are more than 5,000 Hispanic evangelical churches. These churches need unity, according to Miranda. —N.A.E.

Final Agreement Signed For \$6.7 Million Press for China

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A formal agreement has been signed between the Amity Foundation, with the financial assistance of the United Bible Societies, and Nanjing Normal University, to establish the Amity Printing Press, which will give priority to the printing of Bibles and New Testaments for Christians in the People's Republic of China, according to the American Bible Society.

The Amity Foundation, founded March 21, 1985, was created on the initiative of Chinese Christians to help them take a more active role in Chinese society, express their Christian witness to their fellow countrymen, and serve as a channel for the international sharing of resources.

The new printing facilities, to be located on the campus of Nanjing Normal University, will have a minimum annual production capacity of 250,000 Bibles and 500,000 New Testaments, and will also be used for printing other Christian literature and educational works.

—E.P. News Service

The EVANGELICAL FRIEND neither endorses nor necessarily approves subject matter used in *The Face of the World*, but simply tries to publish material of general interest to Friends.—The Editors

ABNORMALITY CAN BE FUN

BY NANCY THOMAS

We were talking about the problems of singles and how the church can meet their needs. Discussion flows pretty freely in this Sunday school class, and that morning was no exception. Someone referred to singleness as an abnormality in our couple-oriented society. My friend Bruce immediately reacted.

"Singleness is not abnormal," he stated emphatically. "We all come into the world single, and that's how we'll leave it. Being single is perfectly normal. *Marriage* is abnormal."

We all began laughing, perhaps in agreement. Bruce then looked sideways at his wife and added, with a slight grin, "But abnormality can be fun." More laughter.

That phrase has been playing around in my mind ever since. I think Bruce may have something. "Abnormality can be fun"—in more areas than marriage.

We North Americans have a passion for being "well-adjusted." The accepted norms pressure us constantly with demands to conform. Women's magazines (that I no longer subscribe to) have informed me for years that my appearance doesn't measure up. I own a decidedly "mal-adjusted" nose. This fact used to bother me a whole lot more than it does now. But as my children enter their teen years I sympathize with their constant

struggle between conformity, on the one hand, and pride in their uniqueness, on the other.

Recently a friend of mine took a psychological test the school he attends requires. The results showed him as "not quite normal." (I could have told him that without the bother of testing!) On a scale of average responses, my friend tested too high in some areas, too low in others. Yet, the "abnormalities" the test revealed are some of the very characteristics that make this person so unique: a keen sensitivity to others and a prophetic intensity that, while it occasionally makes people uncomfortable, often produces the fruits of repentance or worship in a congregation. Would it honor God if he were more bland, normal, and well-adjusted? My friend is currently undergoing group therapy with the intention, I suppose, of taming his extremes and helping him on the rocky road toward normalcy. Fortunately, the process doesn't seem to be taking.

God has always used abnormal people (people with serious personality problems) to build His Kingdom. Saint Jerome's scholarship enriched the Church, yet he, himself, had the reputation of being extremely offensive and socially maladjusted. Poet Phyllis McGinley writes of him as "God's angry man, His crotchety scholar." Stephen Evans, in a recent edition of *Christianity Today* ("The Blessings of Mental Anguish," January 17, 1986), documents how both Soren Kierkegaard, the great Christian philosopher, and Charles Spurgeon, one of the outstanding preachers of the 19th century, suffered from chronic depression. Spurgeon spent weeks at a time in bed with this psycho-



"A Friends Seminary Education With A Practical Difference"

THE DIFFERENCE?
DOING THE WORK OF MINISTRY
WHILE STUDYING ABOUT MINISTRY!

Write or call collect Glenn McNeil, Director (818) 969-4212
Friends Center, Graduate School of Theology
Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA 91702




logical ailment; his bouts with depression were often followed by a special increase in his ministry. Kierkegaard, although in love and engaged to be married, decided to give up the idea of marriage for fear his wife wouldn't be able to cope with his abnormalities. Instead he dedicated himself to writing, and the Church is by far the richer for it.

The Bible itself is replete with examples of characters who would probably score poorly on a psychological test. Jeremiah was way too intense, often given to depression. Anyone who did the things Ezekiel did would require more than an encounter group to get him straightened out (read chapter 4 if you're curious). Moses, Gideon, Isaiah, Amos—they were all flawed people, in one way or another.

I wonder if even Jesus could have passed our psychological tests for normalcy? It's possible that His score would show Him as not quite well-adjusted. Yet Jesus was perhaps the "wholest" (and holiest) person who ever lived, perfectly well-balanced, but on a different set of scales.

I'm not against psychological testing or even encounter groups (my friend is actually having quite a good time). I recognize that there are people, even within our churches, with serious problems, abnormalities that in no way can be classed as "fun." We need to lovingly seek ways to alleviate the sufferings of these people, and I believe modern psychology has tools to offer us.

Yet, at the same time, we need to recognize and oppose the tendency of our culture to make an idol of personal adjustment. We aren't called to live normal, well-adjusted lives. We're called to love the Lord and serve Him in His Kingdom. Some eccentricities and, every now and then, some downright abnormalities have to be accepted and lived with. The teacher of the Sunday school class referred to at the beginning of this article suffers with crippling arthritis and teaches the class from a wheelchair. Yet he is one of the wholeset, sanest persons I know. I even wonder how much of his ability to minister so sensitively to others is due to his struggles with disability, rather than in spite of them. If God someday chooses to heal him, that would be wonderful; I'm sure he'd accept it! In the meantime, there are people to be won and a Kingdom to be built, and my friend is actively doing his part. And having fun doing it. 

In response to the tribute to immediate past editor Jack L. Willcuts in the February issue, several have sent word of personal appreciation, portions of which are shared here. Photo at right shows new EVANGELICAL FRIEND editor Lon Fendall presenting Jack and Geraldine Willcuts the original art used for the February cover.

Dear Jack:

For over four years I have been a regular reader of EVANGELICAL FRIEND by benefit of the exchange subscription we get here at New Call to Peacemaking. I have appreciated very much the insight this provides into an active and vital part of the Quaker fellowship.

I have appreciated your editorial efforts. I wish you God's richest blessing in your retirement and I'm sure you will continue to carry forward in many ways the concerns for Christian service and witness that have been part of your life.

EDGAR METZLER
Elkhart, Indiana

I know of no other individual who is as consistently creative as Jack Willcuts. His name as a byline is indication that the article or message to follow will be pithy, witty, and appropos. Some of the EVANGELICAL FRIEND editorials are masterpieces and should be preserved in permanent form for rereading. I'm looking forward to such a publication.

MARJORIE CRISMAN
Hayden Lake, Idaho

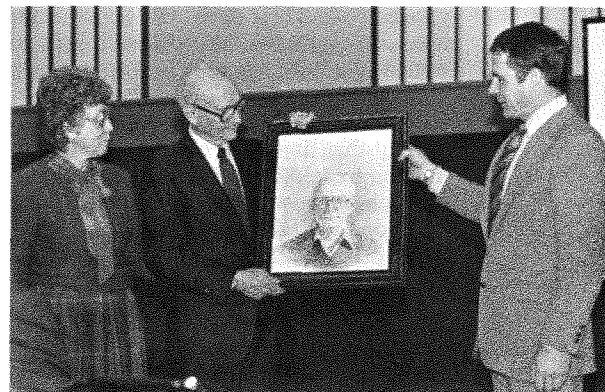
None of us will ever be able to fully measure the value of your writings nor truly

We need Senior Citizens that...

**Love work
Love kids
Love summer camp.**

Must have someone able to take charge of general maintenance and janitorial crews. Needed a minimum of four weeks at a time between Mid-May and Mid-September. For more information write:

Quaker Hill
P.O. Box 1181
McCall, ID 83638



imagine the good they have accomplished. I simply wish to add one more expression of appreciation. Some of what you have written has blessed me richly. Some has entertained me. My life is better because of your ministry.

As you relinquish the task of editor of EVANGELICAL FRIEND my huge assumption and hope is that you will now be free to expand your writing. We need more of it. You've had an effective ministry. May it continue.

ORVILLE WINTERS
Fresno, California

Jack Willcuts has added much to our lives and the church. Ephesians 5:25 comes to mind: "He loved the church and gave himself for it." Jack knows how to walk circumspectly and how to redeem the time. We have so appreciated the way he can express his thoughts in talking and writing. His greatest gift is that of love for people, and that caring has been evident in his life. We hope and pray he will have many more years of service.

CHARLES AND JEAN HANSON
Camas, Washington

Olive and I read with interest and profit from your articles in the EVANGELICAL FRIEND. Your service as editor has been very acceptable. From personal experience I know something of the labor involved. I was editor of *The Evangelical Friend* for twelve years. I followed Walter R. Williams in that office.

BYRON OSBORNE
Canton, Ohio

It was my privilege to be youth minister at Medford, Oregon, for four years when Jack Willcuts was pastor of the church. Jack was considerate, understanding, and



very helpful. He is absolutely genuine. He is so conscientious and dedicated! It is no wonder the Lord has used him so much.

When I was in Medford with Jack, I never realized I would someday be a pastor, but that time with him was the best training I could have had to prepare me for such a ministry.

No one can take Jack's place. He has had a positive influence on many, many lives.

HAROLD ANTRIM
Boise, Idaho

God has used you in so many capacities. The article "Thanks, Jack" is super. We read every word and said amen.

We will continue to remember you in these great days ahead. As editor of EVANGELICAL FRIEND, you have done a superb job.

SHERMAN AND DOROTHY BRANTINGHAM
Alliance, Ohio

It appears to me that Jack Willcuts is the receptacle of more of the gifts of the Spirit than most of us. God uses these gifts and abilities for the benefit of us all.

He was my pastor at Reedwood Friends for a number of years, and his ministry and manner of life spoke the Word.

We honor, respect, and love you, Jack, for your commitment and abandonment to Him.

IOLA STEEN
Portland, Oregon

A Matter of Stewardship

A 13-week curriculum on comprehensive Christian stewardship. Written by Paul Anderson and Mark Kelly for the Department of Christian Testimonies and Stewardship Board of Northwest Yearly Meeting.

Teacher, \$2.00; Student \$2.00 or ten for \$15.00. (Please add 10% for shipping, \$1.00 minimum.)

Order today from:
THE BARCLAY PRESS

"A Concern of Friends"
P.O. Box 232 • Newberg, Oregon 97132
Ask for our free catalog

I want to tell you how much I enjoyed reading the dedication to you in the EVANGELICAL FRIEND. Also, I want to express my appreciation for your dedication to the Friends Church but even more than that, your dedication to the Kingdom of God. Your humility and gentleness is an inspiration to me.

DALE ROGERS
Oregon City, Oregon

After reading the fine tribute, "Thanks, Jack" prepared by Harlow Ankeny, I want to accept the invitation to write a note to you.

I remember well your excellent leadership in the Yearly Meeting and the support you gave all of us pastors as superintendent. You have been a good editor and an exceptional writer.

I shall always be grateful for the privilege of going to Peru and Bolivia with you and Geraldine in the spring of 1967. The fact that you had served there as missionaries helped to make the trip so much more informative and enjoyable for me.

May God's richest blessings continue to be upon you and Geraldine as you continue your ministry. We are thankful that God has brought Lon Fendall into the editorship at this time and for your part in preparing him for this service.

CHARLES BALL
Worthington, Ohio

Although I've been a Christian all my life, I have only recently become a Quaker. Many of the ideas set forth by George Fox are new to me. Jack Willcuts's explanation of the concepts clarify and stretch my mind to ask new questions. Thank you, Jack.

JEAN SCHACHT
Klamath Falls, Oregon

NEW FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP SEMINAR June 28 to 30, 1986

at Camp Neekaunis, Ontario,
Canada on "Quakerism: A Faith
To Live By Today."
Details from Fritz Hertzberg
966 Finch Avenue
Pickering, Ontario,
Canada L1V 1J5.

Raised Immortal

Murray J. Harris
Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 304 pages.

The author deals with the resurrection of Jesus and of believers, as taught in the Gospels and the Epistles. He then ties this in with New Testament teaching on immortality. The latter makes the book "unique."

An excellent study book on the subject, but to be of benefit it will demand much of the reader.
—Philip E. Taylor

Faith in Dialogue

Jerry H. Gill
Word, 156 pages.

This is a book for a limited readership—college and seminary students and graduates. Writing out of an academic context about academic challenges to Christian faith, Gill takes up these challenges, such as reductionism, relativism, humanism, subjectivism, and pluralism, to examine their truths and possible contributions to faith as well as their failures. He is engaging in dialogue with non-Christian faiths for the benefit of Christians. Finally, he proposes a holistic hierarchical world view as a result of this dialogue.

This is a piece of tough thinking, but an excellent book for a student going off to university.
—Lauren King

New Life for Men

Joe Vaughn and Ron Klug
Augsburg, 144 pages.

A commonsense, low-key treatment of problems met by today's man based primarily on psychological approaches (though without psychological jargon). Christian considerations are implicit throughout but not overt until the 11th chapter.

—Lauren King

Revivalism and Social Reform

Timothy L. Smith
Johns Hopkins University Press, 250 pages plus extensive bibliography.

This carefully documented study of American Protestantism of the middle 19th century, when evangelical Quakerism was rising, was first published in 1957. Now with an afterword, it is deemed so helpful as to merit republication. Smith's

thesis is that the wave of revivals that swept the United States in the mid nineteenth century, centering around 1858, was the source of the church-sponsored social reforms of that time and later. This is a contradiction of much opinion on the subject, but Smith uses the numerous denominational and independent periodicals to establish his belief. He argues, further, that it was the preaching of entire sanctification, of either the Wesley or Finney variety or of other varieties, in most of the major denominations, including the Unitarian, that gave special fervency to the reform movements. This is an excellent study of a time when John Joseph Gurney and Elisha Bates were influencing Friends in America. —*Lauren King*

Gladys Makes Peace Mattie Loves All Brethren Press

These two short hardback books are simply written and well illustrated for children of one to six years. Both are wonderful stories about well-known Christian women (Brethren history) who have contributed to Christian ideals of equality and peace. —*Jannelle Loewen*

Parents Talk Love

Susan K. Sullivan and Mathew A. Kawiak
Paulist Press, 164 pages, \$7.95.

This is the Catholic Family Handbook about sexuality.

Parents will be greatly helped by this sensitive, inclusive book in the hard task

of teaching their children about sex. The authors write with the Christian church's perspective overall. They suggest ways to talk about sex, write about sexual myths, the child's sexual development, sexual knowledge, sex and TV, as well as specific facts for different ages of a child's development. It also includes a wonderful book list.

An excellent resource book for every Christian parent. —*Jannelle Loewen*

Finding Hope Again

Roy W. Fairchild
Harper & Row, 136 pages, \$6.95.

This is a guide to counseling the depressed—the moderately depressed. Deep depression is best committed to professionals. The author is a widely experienced pastor and skillfully combines psychological insights and biblical guidance. Best understood by those with some training in counseling. —*Lauren King*

Trevors Place, The Story of the Boy Who Brings Hope to the Homeless Frank and Janet Ferrel with Edward Wakin

Harper & Row, 138 pages, \$12.95.

This is the story of the Ferrell family—a wonderful book to shake up our comfortable materialistic “collecting” in suburbia! It takes a true-life 11-year-old to see how the homeless street people live, or rather, survive each day, and to do something about it. His compassion breaks his middle-class suburban family's self-indulgent interest, and they find, to their surprise, how helping others can be the real road to happiness and fulfillment.

—*Jannelle Loewen*

Steps to the Kingdom

Hannah Hurnard
Harper & Row, 291 pages, \$7.95.

Having enjoyed Hannah Hurnard's previous books, I looked forward to reading this one. The idea of this story is very good, but it gets bogged down very quickly in Hannah Hurnard's “real explanation of the Gospels.”

The story centers around the *upan*, a group of men from different races, cultures, and religious beliefs who come together to hear and learn from the Apostle Matthew. These disciples find the real meanings in the parables and find answers to their individual problems, their racial

and cultural problems, and find the path to Christ-centeredness and true discipleship.

I found that I was reading this book very defensively. I couldn't believe these hardened men could possibly be won over so quickly. The answers are too “pat.” But I also enjoyed the insightful and revealing ways the author has restated biblical truths.

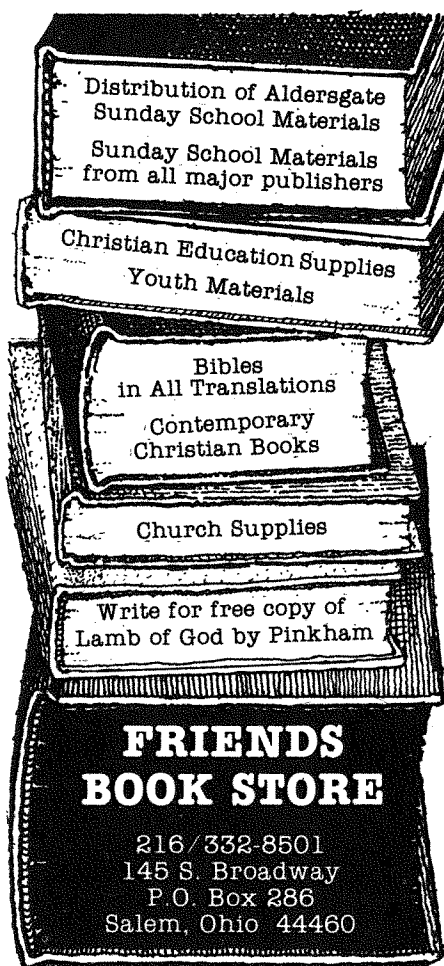
—*Jannelle Loewen*

A Search for Charismatic Reality

Neil Babcox
Multnomah, 91 pages, \$5.95.

Babcox recounts his experience with speaking in “angel's languages” and with prophecy. Irenic but doubtful of the charismatic gifts, this book will please opponents and dismay the proponents of these gifts. More narrative than theological, it will not settle the matter.

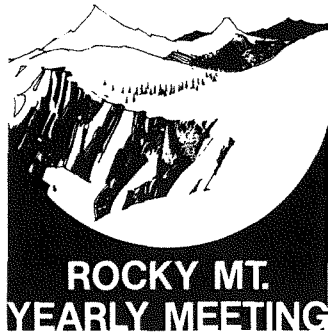
—*Lauren King*



POSITION OPENINGS

American Friends Service Committee seeks **Quaker Representative at the United Nations Office, New York City**: senior position for Friend to represent world body of Quakers, organize conferences, seminars; supervise staff and budget; give leadership to program. Requires: broad experience in international affairs, strong analytic and communication skills, administrative and program experience, knowledge of the UN. Also, **Director, Quaker House in NYC**: residential position involving arrangements for meals, meetings, seminars. Requires: skills for managing a hospitality center and building; flexibility, patience, stamina, good humor. Positions can be filled by a couple or single persons. Starting late '86. Contact: Karen Cromley, AFSC, 1501 Cherry, Philadelphia, PA 19102. AFSC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

FRIENDS CONCERNS



Rocky Mt. Yearly Meeting

RYM Briefs

DENVER, COLORADO—Max and Kathleen Huffman of Muncie, Indiana, presented a Holy Life Conference, April 20-24 at First Denver Friends. The series encouraged believers in living holy lives before God.

COLORADO SPRINGS—Jews for Jesus presented "Christ in the Passover" at First Friends March 11. The presentation was designed to improve understanding of the New Testament by showing a Jewish background for the communion celebration.

Robert Hess Is 1986 Yearly Meeting Speaker

Robert Hess, superintendent of Eastern Region, will be the main speaker at the 1986 Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting sessions June 8-12. The annual sessions are at Quaker Ridge Camp near Woodland Park, Colorado.

RYM Prayer Opportunities

1. "If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear." (Psalm 66:18 NASB) Ask God to reveal any wicked way in your life that prevents you from living in the holy manner He desires. Also, confess any known sins.

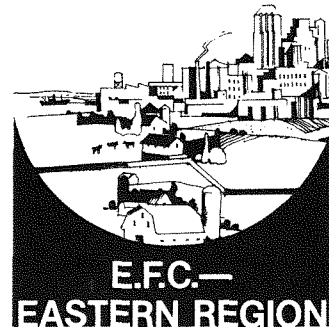
2. "Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious." (Psalm 66:1, 2) Take time now to simply praise God for who He is. Maybe you want to take a piece of paper and write a letter that tells our God the reasons you praise Him.

3. "Come and hear, all who fear God, and I will tell of what He has

done for my soul." (Psalm 66:16) Make some time to give thanks to God for all He has done. Again, maybe you will want to write a letter of thanks to our Savior.

4. "O God, hasten to deliver me; O Lord, hasten to my help!" (Psalm 70:1) Now, why not take a personal concern and talk with God about it. The issue could be personal or involve your family, a neighbor, church.

5. In closing, why not ask God to be blessing your pastor and helping him to do the ministry in the church?



E.F.C.—Eastern Region

EFC—ER Happenings

FRIENDS SINGLES' RETREAT will be held April 18-20 at Salt Fork near Cambridge, Ohio. Tom Douglas of Pittsburgh will be guest musician, and the speakers will be Jim Kilpatrick and Jean Marie Campbell.

TRINITY FRIENDS in Van Wert, Ohio, announce two special events scheduled for the spring and summer. The first is a Christian Education Workshop on May 16-17 featuring Joyce Lamb as the leader, with a special invitation to Sunday school teachers and elders of education in the Western District to attend. The second event is a Film Workshop on Church Growth on July 25-26 with Dr. Blake Wagner conducting the workshop. Special emphasis is placed upon the use of laity—recruiting, training, and mobilizing them to reach unchurched people. The five films feature Dr. Robert H. Schuller speaking for the Institute for Successful Church Leadership.

Contact Pastor Duane Rice, 605 N. Franklin, Van Wert, OH 45891, for details.

A WORK TEAM from EFC—ER traveled to Mexico City February 8-18 to help with finishing work on the building in which Elektra Friends worship. According to Dean Johnson, it was a very successful journey—"not because of some dramatic accomplishment, but rather because ten Christian people shared their time, energy, and skills with our brothers and sisters in Mexico. This work team showed them we care!"

Those who made the trip included Claude and Sonia Bancroft and Gary Beltz of Canton, Melvin Hoffman of Damascus, Carl Gamble of Winona, Bill Murphy of Deerfield, Dean and Freeda Johnson of Boston Heights, and Stanley and Irene Sams of Sebring Presbyterian Church. In the group were carpenters, a welder, a glass cutter, and a landscaper, and together they were able to make great improvements on the building.

DUANE COMFORT, Western Area Superintendent, will be the evangelist for special revival meetings at Marysville Friends Church April 27-30.

DEEPER LIFE CONFERENCES in 1986 are focusing on the Christian family. Each district has taken responsibility to plan the presentations. Here are the events as scheduled:

Central Ohio—February 1 Dr. Robert Medford spoke at Westgate, and April 25-27 Paul Unruh is guest speaker at Alum Creek.

Pennsylvania—March 7-9 featured Alvin and Lucy Anderson in a weekend seminar at Hughesville and Williamsport. The Rhode Island churches: April 18-20 with Robert Hess and Bruce Burch.

Eastern Ohio—April (on Wednesday nights) films by Tim Timmons at East Richland.

Northern Ohio—April 19 at Wiloughby Hills with Dr. Robert Medford as speaker and Marcia Michael as children's worker.

Northeastern Ohio—April 26 at Salem First Friends with Alvin and Lucy Anderson, Watson and Anna Cosand, and Earl Smith.

Piedmont—May 17 at Hunter Hills with Dr. Robert Medford, speaker.

Virginia—April 25-27 at Newport News with Dr. Robert Medford, speaker.

Western Ohio meets April 19 at Fulton Creek, and May 10 at Battle Creek. Their plans had not been finalized at press time.

CANTON FIRST FRIENDS celebrated the grand opening of their new Family Center with its renovated gymnasium and beautiful classrooms on March 2. Having approved the project last June, the congregation broke ground July 14 and began construction on the \$250,000 project. The expanded building has tripled the square footage of the original gym, provided five new classrooms, a spectator area for 80, a small kitchen, office for staff, a game room with glass overlook of the gym, a central stairway, new lighting for the gym plus carpeted walls, improved rest rooms and showers, and an energy-efficient heating and cooling system of the entire building.

A tract of 1.1 acres was purchased east of the gym and developed into

140 new parking spaces, thus facilitating the parking problem.

Pastor John Williams, Jr., views it as "a step forward to expand our ministry and community outreach." He spoke with appreciation for the many who had donated hours of labor to help with the building and also the financial support to make it all possible.

Focus on Malone

THE MALONE HALL OF FAME induction ceremony was held February 15 with a large and appreciative crowd gathered for the occasion. Three former students were honored, chosen for exemplifying the highest ideals of intercollegiate athletics and also having earned two letters in one or more sports while studying at Malone.

David Fross, class of '68, was a four-year starter on both Malone's basketball and baseball teams and also played on the golf team. After graduation he served as assistant coach for Malone and was "Coach of the Year" in 1972. He is presently the head baseball coach at the University of Akron.

Kenneth Hyland, class of '69, lettered four years in golf and was both Mid-Ohio Conference and NAIA medalist in 1969. He coached the Malone golf team for 12 years with six District #22 championships, seven MOC championships, and three All-Americans. Named MOC "Coach of the Year" seven times and District #22 "Coach of the Year" six times, Hyland is presently employed as a coach and teacher in the Springfield Local School District.

Bill Scholl, class of '73, was a two-time MOC and NAIA district champion in cross-country and track, setting the school record in the National Men's Mile Run. After graduation, he was a winner in the Jersey Shore and the Philadelphia Marathons and was the first American finisher in the '83 London Marathon. He was invited to compete in the U.S. Olympic Trials in 1984. Scholl lives in Neptune, New Jersey, and is a sales representative for Point Pleasant Distributors.

COORDINATORS for the Glenmede Grant recently received by Consortium colleges have been named for the Malone program. **Brad Beach** will oversee "Ethics Across the Curriculum"; **Burley Smith**, "Writing Across the Curriculum"; and **Alvin Anderson**, "Internationalizing the Curriculum."

MILLARD FULLER, founder and director of Habitat For Humanity, was on campus February 8 to explain the amazing success of this Christian organization "which serves as the conscience of the world." Habitat was begun as a Christian concern, based on Matthew 25, to build decent housing on a no-profit, no-interest basis for the poor. "No More Shacks" is the theme of the

1986 Camp Dates

Camp dates for the annual Quaker Ridge youth camps are set. If you are between 9 and 18 years old, why not plan to attend? Should you be an adult, why not go as a counselor or help finance campers from your church?

Here are the dates:

Junior High	June 21-26
Junior	June 26-30
Senior High	June 30-July 5

program, which now has 117 projects in various U.S. cities and overseas. Recent Ohio projects include Zanesville, Dayton, Seneca, and Wooster, also Trumbull and Wayne counties.

Fuller's book entitled *Love in the Mortar Joints* records the exciting story of how the whole concept began, first only as a dream in Millard Fuller's mind, and then gradually emerged as a feasible and successful plan. "We seek to demonstrate the love of Christ," said Fuller. "Our goal is to get rid of shacks. We are not arrogant, bragging that we do it ourselves. Rather, we seek to follow God's Spirit as we motivate people to do something about the poverty conditions where they live."

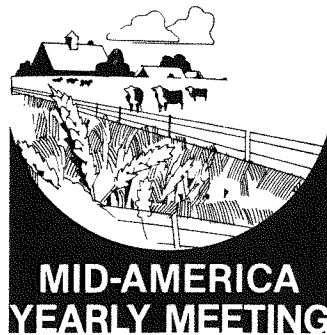
The seminar was sponsored by the local chapter of Evangelicals for Social Action.

* * *

A CHRISTIAN DRAMA CONFERENCE is scheduled for June 24-28 at Malone led by Dr. Alan Hedges, associate professor of communications. During the five-day conference the class will prepare a major play to be performed on the concluding night for the Friends Association of Higher Education. For registration information contact Dr. Alan Hedges, Malone College, 515 25th St. N.W., Canton, OH 44709.

* * *

MALONE PRESIDENT Gordon Werkema reports that a husband-wife team will be speaking at the graduation ceremonies the first weekend of May. On Friday evening, May 2, Mary Regula will speak at the Baccalaureate service held in the sanctuary of First Christian Church, and the next day, May 3, at 10:00 a.m. Congressman Ralph Regula will be guest speaker at the Commencement. Regula is the Representative from the 16th congressional district, residing in Navarre, Ohio, and Washington, D.C.



Midyear Board Meetings

Midyear Board Meetings, held February 6-8 at Northridge Friends Church, were unusually blessed by the Lord. A spirit of optimism and cooperation was present and one board member said, following the

meetings, "I feel almost as if I had been in worship for two days. All the work was being focused on ministry and ways to enhance the Kingdom, with no uptight discussion about finances and reasons for not being able to do things."

One highlight that was approved by Executive Council was a long-range committee report that brought seven goals for implementation. Assignments have been made to various boards, and these goals will begin taking shape in the coming months.

Home Ministries Division is enthusiastic about plans to begin two or three new mission points during the next year. One of these will begin in Wichita with Norman and Janice Bridges providing the leadership.

Foreign Missions Board is looking seriously at new opportunities for missionary involvement, in addition to its continuing relationship with Burundi Yearly Meeting. It was reported by Maurice Roberts and Gary Fuqua that the Burundi church has been concentrating on new outreach, both in its own country and in Zaire. The result has been increased membership in most of their churches.

Christian Education Division is planning a Fall Festival in October, which will be a group of workshops and training sessions for Sunday school education, youth ministries, home Bible studies, etc.

A new program was approved that will provide scholarship assistance to seminary students, in accordance with guidelines that were set up by the Spiritual Life Board.

The proposed 1987 budget includes a mass subscription plan for *Evangelical Friend* so that all MAYM homes will be able to receive the magazine.

Yearly Meeting sessions will be August 6-10, 1986, with Walter Albritton as the speaker. The spring Pastors Retreat will be May 5-8, near Barnson, Missouri, with Verl and Lois Lindley as the speakers.

Notes from Friends Bible College

Dr. Norman Bridges, Vice President of University Relations for Friends University and past president of Friends Bible College, has been selected as the speaker for the 1986 graduating class of FBC. Commencement is announced for 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, in Hockett Auditorium on the FBC campus. The baccalaureate service for the college will be held at 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning at the Haviland Friends Church.

The Alumni Banquet at Friends Bible College on May 4 will feature as special guest and master of ceremonies, FBC alumnus Lloyd Johnson, owner of the Better Book Room in Wichita, Kansas.

Also featured on the program are Bill and Faye Pruitt of Arvada, Colorado. Bill is pastor of Northwest Friends Church in Arvada.

News from Friends University

Both the Friends University basketball teams were involved in state playoff action in early March. The lady Falcons were conference co-champions for the first time. The men's squad finished the regular season tied for second place and were involved in a playoff game to determine the Conference's second place representative to District 10 tournament action.

* * *

Three faculty members are on sabbatical for the spring semester. Dr. Howard Macy of the Religion and Philosophy department spent part of his break on a trip to the Holy Land. Dr. C.A. Chacko of the History and Social Sciences department has a trip to his native country of India planned as well as visiting other countries. Professor Dee Connet traveled to Europe to tour and study European art museums.

* * *

Philosophy instructor Dr. David Holly announced his resignation effective May, 1986. Dr. Holly has accepted a position at his alma mater, Baylor University.

* * *

The Sunday With Friends program will begin March 16 and run through April 13. The program is an effort to build closer community and understanding between Friends University and the Yearly Meeting churches. Each Sunday, faculty and student representatives travel throughout the area providing a morning worship service.

* * *

The Spring Christian Emphasis Week was held March 24-26. Pastor Edward Rowley of the First United Methodist Church of Wichita was the guest speaker. Special music was provided by students during each day's service.

* * *

Friends University students were on spring break March 8-16. While some students took the time to vacation, the Singing Quakers traveled to western Kansas, Colorado, and the Air Force Academy on their spring tour. In May, the choir is scheduled to perform at the World's Fair in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

* * *

President Richard Felix has announced a slight increase in enrollment, as compared to last year's second semester figures. Several innovative new programs, including the Human Resources Management Degree Completion Program are credited for the increase.



Around Northwest Yearly Meeting

ROBERT HESS, superintendent of Evangelical Friends Church—Eastern Region, will be the speaker for the evening meetings of Yearly Meeting this summer. Robert has served as a Friends missionary in India and was a professor at Malone College, Canton, Ohio, prior to becoming Eastern Region superintendent.



Yearly Meeting sessions will be held July 26-August 1 on the George Fox College campus, Newberg, Oregon. Speaker for the morning services will be RICK HUNT, Yearly Meeting church-planting consultant from Boise, Idaho. (See article by Rick Hunt on page 6 of this issue.)



Friends Women's Missionary Fellowship and Friends Men banquets will be held Saturday evening, July 26. Gen Fitch, missionary to Peru just returning for furlough, will be the speaker at the women's banquet, and the offering will go for the purchase of a car for furloughing missionaries. The program for the Friends Men banquet will feature the Gospel Sons, a music group from Vancouver, Washington. Missions and church extension news will also be shared.

* * *

FRIENDS WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP Spring Rallies were held in three areas during March and six more rallies are being held in April. The theme for the rallies is "Dwelling" (Psalm 27:5 NIV). Offerings are for housing for the Chapman and Roberts families. FWMF President Beth Bagley is coordinating the rallies and visiting each of the areas.

Dates for FWMF Fall Retreats have been set. Retreat at Quaker Hill, McCall, Idaho, will be held September 25-28. October 9-12 are the dates for the retreat at Twin Rocks, Rockaway Beach, Oregon.

QUAKER HILL CAMPS

McCall, Idaho

Canoe Family Camp—June 20-22
Kids Camp I—July 6-11
Junior High I—July 13-18
Mom and Dad Camp—July 18-20
Junior High II—July 20-25
Senior High—July 27-August 2
Kids Camp II—August 3-7

TWIN ROCKS CAMPS

Rockaway Beach, Oregon

Girls Camp—July 6-12
Tween Camp—July 13-19
Boys Camp—July 20-26
Wilderness Trek I—July 21-26
Parent/Child Trek—August 7-10
Surfside Camp—August 10-16
Wilderness Trek II—August 18-23
Family Camp—August 29-September 1
Adult Fellowship Camp—September 12-15

George Fox College News

George Fox College, beginning with the next school year, will award \$1,000 scholarships to Friends students and scholarships in the same amount to California students.

For Friends students, to receive the award the recipient must be an

entering freshman or new transfer, meet academic requirements, and be a member or regular attendee of a Friends church or meeting.

The local church pastor or clerk will be requested to provide a statement of recommendation verifying active participation in the church.

Awarding will be based on submitted SAT scores and high school grades used to predict college success.

The new program will provide California students with the grant if they have a high school or college grade point average of 3.0 (B) average.

"With certain restrictions, any student will be eligible as long as funds are available," said GFC Financial Aid Director Terry Bell.

A group of George Fox College students got a firsthand look at the current conditions in Haiti when they spent 11 days in the country in mid-March.

Despite some earlier concerns and questions about proceeding with the planned trip after the political upheaval in the island nation, the trip proceeded as planned by the college's Center for Peace Learning.

Five students and Center Director Lon Fendall and Assistant Director Ron Mock made the tour, spending much of their time in the mountain village of Fond-de-Blanc in a reforestation project in cooperation with the Haiti Christian Development Fund.

John Perkins, founder of Voice of Calvary Ministries, was the annual Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecturer April 6-8.

His opening address was Sunday afternoon, with chapel programs Monday and Tuesday and evening programs both days.

Perkins, born into a sharecropper's family in Mississippi, founded the Voice of Calvary program in 1960, serving as president until 1982. The next year he founded the John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development, based in Pasadena, California.

He is the author of *Let Justice Roll Down, A Quiet Revolution, Call to Wholistic Ministry*, and *With Justice for All*.

Tim Tsohantaris, who joined the George Fox staff last fall as acting director of Christian life on a one-

year basis, will be GFC's chaplain and full director of Christian life for the next school year.

At the same time, Tsohantaris will share coaching duties with GFC soccer coach and athletic director Paul Berry. Berry will be administrative coach for the fall sport and Tsohantaris will field coach, directing the Bruins in practice and as game coach. He moves up from a position as assistant soccer coach.

Born in Greece, Tsohantaris, 32, was a pastor and church planter with the Evangelical Friends Church—Eastern Region prior to moving to Newberg.

Sociologist-author David O. Moberg was guest speaker for George Fox College's Social Involvement Conference VI April 1-2.

Moberg, chairman of the Department of Social and Cultural Sciences at Marquette University, spoke four times. The conference had the theme "Reaching Across Generations."

Moberg is the author of *The Church as a Social Institution, The Church and the Older Person*, and *Inasmuch: Christian Social Responsibility in the Twentieth Century*.

FRIENDS GATHER

(Editor's note: With first mention of a church, the name of its pastor is noted in parentheses.)

Special Events

WESTSIDE, Kansas City, Kansas, (Dan Frost) featured the newly organized group "Celebrate" sponsored by Mid-America Yearly Meeting at their Valentine's banquet.

A formal reception was held at **BYHALIA**, Ohio, for new pastor, Ted Barnes and wife, Shirley. They recently transferred from Salem, Ohio. Seven new church members were also accepted into the fellowship the same day.

The Singing Quakers symphonic choir of Friends University presented concerts March 14 and 15 at **DENVER**, Colorado, (David Brantingham) and **COLORADO SPRINGS**, Colorado, (Arden Kinser). The Colorado Springs concert was at Shove Chapel.

The Tri-State Area Rally was held February 16 at **STARK**, Kansas, (Roman E. Ward) Friends Church. Stan and Eloise Brown from Friends University Financial Services were speakers for the adults. The youth program was directed by Pastors Paul Snyder and Grady Miller. Mary Robinson was in charge of the children's program.

In 1985 **YPSILANTI** Friends, Michigan, (G. Wesley Sheldon) celebrated

their sesquicentennial. The highlights for the year began May 26 with a large church reunion of past attendees. The theme centered on "Walking with Jesus Yesterday, Today, Forever." Ralph Smallwood, pastor in 1949-53, spoke in both morning and evening services. A potluck dinner was enjoyed after the morning service. In the afternoon, moderators Lelanel Gorton Malick and Barbara Bennett McKenzie highlighted the heritage and present-day histories. Both the Gorton and Bennett families started the church.

A "Spring Fine Arts Festival" was held at **SHERWOOD**, Sherwood, Oregon, (Gayle D. Beebe) Friends Church the five Sunday evenings in March, led by Dr. Dennis Hagen, chairman of the Music Department of George Fox College. The subject studied was "Hymnody of the Church" and covered (1) Music of the Bible and Early Church; (2) the Psalter—the influence of Psalms on Reformation churches; (3) the earliest hymns—Luther, Watts, Wesley; (4) the English high and low church hymns; (5) the American hymns—Crosby, Sankey, gospel songs. These evenings were times of enjoyment, encouragement, and learning. Our church choir, under the direction of Nancy Laughland, presented the cantata *Easter Celebration* by Harold DeCou on Palm Sunday morning. An all-community Easter Sunrise Service was held at the

church. All the churches of the community joined in making this a memorable event. Doughnuts and coffee were served following the service.

A three-part seminar on financial planning, presented by Harry Mosher, was held at the **GOSHEN**, Zanesfield, Ohio, (Bruce Bell) Friends Church. All sessions were held February 2, 1986, with a potluck meal at dinner time. Opal Lockwood was honored for her faithful service as church treasurer for the past 25 years. A reception was held in her honor and she was presented with an opal necklace. Taking over the task of church treasurer is Doris Schultz.

On February 14 **WHITNEY**, Boise, Idaho, (Roger Watson) had a Sweetheart Banquet. The social chairperson, Marjorie Baker, made it very beautiful. Roger and Sue Watson went to California the week of February 17-23 to take their son Jeremy to a specialist for evaluation. March 1 we had a time of housecleaning. We wanted our church "spic and span" for Easter.

The pastor and five others from **RAISIN CENTER**, Adrian, Michigan, (Steve Savage) were among the approximately 400 people who gathered in Adrian during the noon hour on Wednesday, January 22, to protest the 1973 Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade decision, which legalized abortion on demand.

A special feature of the **OKLAHOMA CITY**, Oklahoma, (Sheldon Cox) Family Fun Night-Box Supper was an auction. Articles auctioned off were given by church members. The proceeds went for the purchase of a lawn mower. An idea offered by this church is the "Love Notes" box. They placed this box in the church and encouraged members to write notes of love and appreciation to members during the Valentine season.

CANTON, Ohio, (John P. Williams, Jr.) First Friends welcomed their sister church, **AKRON**, Ohio, (John Glenn) Community Friends choir January 16 as they shared their musical, *Praise the Lord*, during the evening celebration.

BEAVER-SHANNON, Beaver, Kansas, (Lyle Whiteman) hosted the North Central Spring Area Rally on March 2. Howard Harmon, assistant superintendent of Mid-America Yearly Meeting, was the guest speaker.

ALLIANCE, Ohio, (Rick Sams) First Friends participated in Celebration of Life Sunday by devoting an evening service to explore what is being done to promote life, especially for unborn babies, and to emphasize what needs to be done. Special music "Let the Children Come to Jesus" was sung by Sally Handrych and Joyce Sams, members of Right to Life. Darolyn Anderson, director of Alliance's Women's Pregnancy Center, spoke.

Howard Harmon, assistant superintendent of MAYM, and wife, Beth, were special guests at the **BAYSHORE**, Bacliff, Texas, (Mahlon Macy) Annual Valentine's Banquet.

Missions

WHITNEY reports that February was a busy month. They had a special Women's Missionary Fellowship evening meeting on Thursday, February 13. All the ladies of the church were invited. Louise George and Charlene Olson were the speakers.

Connie and Gary Young and Gerry Custer, missionaries from Burundi, visited with the churches in the Texas Area February 22-27. They ministered in most of the churches and were guest speakers at the Area Friends Women's Mission Conference.

Marion and Wilma Merryman of **ALLIANCE** First Friends shared experiences of their travels to Texas and Mexico with the Men in Missions groups. Women were also invited to the meeting to hear of the Merrymans' missionary ministry.

James and Gail Roberts have been living in **NAMPA**, Idaho, (Ron Friedrich) while on furlough this year. We have enjoyed having them and their presentations to the church. Terry and Jan Hibbs of Mission Aviation Fellowship also have been to our meetings.

BEAVER-SHANNON enjoyed the ministry of Gary and Connie Young March 16.

Spiritual Life and Growth

The Spiritual Life Committee of **EMPORIA**, Kansas, (Galen Hinshaw) Friends will begin the Shepherd Ministry. During March they will start the enlistment and training of the shepherds. Also, they will hold a dedication service for this ministry.

After 14 years Pastor Walter Morton, **BETHANY**, Wadsworth, Ohio, Friends has shaved his beard. He had promised to remove his beard and mustache when the congregation reached 180, and they are nearing their goal.

"Body Life Network" (BLN) is a new program being implemented at **NORTHBRIDGE**, Wichita, Kansas, (Duane Hansen). This program is coordinated by Wanda Tittsworth and is attempting to mobilize our congregation in a concerted effort to welcome, befriend, and integrate new persons into the church.

Ron Jones of **ALLIANCE** has opened his home early on Friday mornings for the men's program, 50 Days to Welcome Christ to Our Church, promoted by the *Chapel of the Air* radio ministry.

A series of seven video tapes on Friends Doctrine will be shown in the Sunday evening services at **GATE**, Oklahoma (Richard Buck).

Three people were added to the staff at **TRINITY**, Van Wert, Ohio, (Duane Rice) Friends—Phil Taylor, minister of pastoral care; Carol Rice, director of assimilation; and

Anna Cosand, Christian education director.

A four-part film series *Blessings Out of Brokenness* featuring Joni Eareckson was shown during the February Sunday at Six services at **NORTHBRIDGE**. As a prelude to the film series four people from our congregation shared their experience of having a handicap or working with the handicapped.

Members of the **ALUM CREEK**, Marengo, Ohio, (A. Dane Ruff) have enjoyed their third Lenten devotional booklet, "Because He Lives." Contributors include congregational members, missionaries, and other Friends. One of the church youth, Brian Cmelo, designed the cover.

PRATT, Kansas, (John Haven) Friends were challenged by the ministry of Tom and Karen Cobb and family from Merriman, Nebraska, on February 19.

Special meetings were held for one week in November at **NAMPA** with Ron Crecelius of Newberg, Oregon, as the evangelist.

March 21-23 were the dates for the **WESTSIDE** Lay Witness Mission. The guest coordinators were Joe Schoonover and Dewayne Bryan from Haviland, Kansas.

Building Improvements

A new roof and new air conditioner were installed last summer at **NAMPA** Friends. Also, the parsonage received a new coat of paint.

The building that has housed the gym since 1959 at First Friends in **CANTON** has been expanded and renovated for more Christian education space. The new "Family Center" has been in use since the beginning of January. The "Outreach Through Recreation" ministry includes basketball leagues for ages 6-14, with over 200 participants (including several families from the community); mixed adult volleyball, with over 100 adults competing on six teams; men's basketball, racquetball, and women's aerobics. The classrooms were put to use beginning the first Sunday in March. The dedication service was April 6.

Youth and Christian Education

Three teens from **SMITHFIELD**, Ohio, (William Waltz) attended a Christian Youth Conference in Hudson, Ohio. The fees were covered by funds earned from pizza sales during the county fair.

The **NORTHBRIDGE** (Tim Thornburg, youth coordinator) youth raised over \$700 for Youthquake at their annual Valentine's dinner.

Shirley Barnes of **BYHALIA** is the chapter director of the Christian Youth Crusaders program that has been started there.

The **EMPORIA** youth planned and prepared a formal Valentine dinner for the church.

URBANA, Ohio, (James Chess) sent 15 teens and adults to the dis-

trict youth meeting in North Lewisburg. The subject was abortion.

The Friends Youth of **SHERWOOD** have completed a study of cults, using the book *Martin Speaks Out on the Cults* by Walter Martin.

LONE STAR, Hugoton, Kansas, (Gary Routon) presented a Teacher Enrichment video series for all Sunday school teachers and Christian education people.

All ladies of **NORTH OLMSTED**, Ohio, (Neil Orchard) were invited to a "Toy Shower" on February 11 at the church. Young mothers brought their children (infant through four years) with them to unwrap the gifts and play with them. At the conclusion of the evening, all toys were left in the church nursery to replace those that had been broken or worn out.

BAYSHORE youth enjoyed a "Sensational Saturday." This will be a

monthly program of fun and fellowship for the youth.

Pastor Duane Houser of **CANTON** coordinated a one-day seminar for teens of divorced parents led by Dr. Rich George on Saturday, February 15.

A Sign Language class has been provided at **BYHALIA** Friends for all those in the area who are interested in learning another form of communication. There have been a lot of "Amens" in silence.

Some new members of **RAISIN CENTER** spent their lunch hours for a week in February delivering warm and cold lunches to the elderly in the area as part of a local "Meals-on-Wheels" program. Evening services were dismissed on Sunday, March 2, so that the congregation could travel to Toledo, Ohio, to hold the evening service at a street mission there.

FRIENDS RECORD

BIRTHS

BURRIS—To Robert Burris, Jr., and Roen, a daughter, Kati Dawn, November 19, 1985, Beloit, Ohio.

CRUTCHLEY—To Dale and Christine Crutchley, a son, Bryan Richard, October 4, 1985, Beloit, Ohio.

EPLING—To Matt and Kay Epling, a daughter, Joanna Louise, January 19, 1986, Canton, Ohio.

HANDSHUE—To Ben and Colleen Handshue, a son, Benjamin Franklin, Jr., December 20, 1985, Wadsworth, Ohio.

JACKSON—To Kevin and Shelly Jackson, a son, Jerod Gene, February 1, 1986, Alva, Oklahoma.

JOHNSON—To Eric and Toni Johnson, a daughter, Melanie Rose, January 2, 1986, Spokane Friends, Washington.

LAWSON—To Jack and Larie Lawson, a daughter, Tammy Lyon, October 3, 1985, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

O'CONNER—To Jeff and Maureen O'Conner, a daughter, Anne Kimberly, December 27, 1985, Spokane Friends, Washington.

OEHLERT—To Richard and Janalee Oehlert, a daughter, Anna Mae, December 30, 1985, University Friends, Wichita, Kansas.

SCHMIDT—To Dave and Carol (Puckett) Schmidt, a daughter, Samantha Elizabeth, January 28, 1986, Spokane Friends, Washington.

WILES—To Steve and Nancy Wiles, a son, Todd Michael, August 16, 1985, Wadsworth, Ohio.

WILLARD—To Lee and Tami Willard, a son, Benjamin Aaron, September 13, 1985, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

MARRIAGES

DAVIS—KAGARISE. Ann Davis and Steven Kagarise, December 23, 1985, Manchester Trinity Chapel, Ohio.

HARVEY—LYON. Kerry Harvey and Daniel Lyon, March 22, 1986, Mt. Gilead, Ohio.

DELO—KIDNEY. Pam Delo and Vey Kidney, January 11, 1986, Bayshore Friends, Bacliff, Texas.

KELLY—JONES. Mildred Kelly and Woodrow Jones, October 10, 1985, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

KING—WHITE. Laura King and Bryan White, February 15, 1986, Northridge Friends, Wichita, Kansas.

SHELDON—GAMBOE. Tracy Sheldon and Donald Gamboe, July 5, 1985, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

SNYDER—KISER. Kristina Snyder and Anthony Kiser, February 15, 1986, Alliance, Ohio.

DEATHS

BARNES—Annabel Barnes, 68, January 25, 1986, Camas Friends, Washington.

BROWN—Susie Grinnell Brown, 85, January 14, 1986, New Point Friends, Virginia.

BURRIS—Ruby Theresa Burris, November 19, 1985, Beloit, Ohio.

DUNAGAN—Josephine Dunagan, 81, July 16, 1985, member Nampa Friends, Idaho, in California.

GRINNELL—Jennie Grinnell, 83, January 19, 1986, New Point Friends, Virginia.

HILL—Emma Hill, December 15, 1985, Lawrence, Kansas.

JORDAN—Buck Jordan, January 24, 1986, Ramona, Oklahoma.

KILMER—Henry Kilmer, 82, late fall, 1985, Wadsworth, Ohio.

SHREVE—Marie Shreve, October 1, 1985, Beloit, Ohio.

URMEY—Gail Urme, January 11, 1986, Emporia, Kansas.

WEBER—Chris Weber, February 16, 1986, Fowler, Kansas.

WHEELER—Robert Wheeler, January 12, 1986, Damascus, Ohio.

WHITMORE—Irene Whitmore, February 11, 1986, Sherwood, Oregon.



BY THOMAS B. WELCH, JR.

OUR INACTIVE file consisted of cards that were left on the table after our visitation teams went out, from people who indicated little or no interest in Christ or His church. I paid little attention to the cards until the day I came back to the office after conducting the funeral of a devoted member.

Seated at my desk, I saw the file in a completely different light than before. What would I say if I were called upon to officiate at a memorial service for one of them? I had mixed feelings regarding that file. On the one hand, is it ever right to give up on anyone? On the other hand, if after many attempts there is no response, is it not the best use of the Lord's time to realize that you have reached a point of "no return"?

Taking a few cards, I determined to find out if our neglect had really made any difference. Just what had happened to them?

Samuel Martin was the name of the man on the first card. He would be 18 now. Sam had always been a problem boy. The kind of boy you are almost glad is absent once in a while. Sam began to miss more and more and finally did not come at all. Our visits meant apparently nothing. So we consigned Sam to the inactive roll.

It was not easy to find Sam. His family always moved a lot . . . six times in one year. When we finally found him, he was in jail.

He looked older than 18 years, much older. The charge was serious—armed robbery. He would be there quite awhile.

Sam was totally indifferent to my visit. Bitter. Cynical. Street wise. Though he did not say it, it was very clear that he felt that the church had lost interest in him.

Billy Rose was the name on the next card. She had given evidence of great interest but was not dependable. Her attendance was spasmodic, as was her involvement in any

activities concerning things of the Lord. She blew hot and then cold. When her coming to church began to slide, we visited her and when she evidenced no concern, we dropped her.

When I found Billy, she had joined a cult. She had found what she was looking for, she said. She said she enjoyed her new-found "liberty," but was putting in 15-hour days, trying to tell others that the old-time religion did not have the answers that were needed in today's world. She had found what she needed outside traditional Christianity. Hopeless? No, there is always hope, but Satan had won a major battle.

The next card was for Jean Wilson. I remembered the day I first met her. Shy, self-conscious, poorly dressed, and educationally deprived. When she quit coming and did not respond to our efforts to get her back, we left her alone and placed her in the inactive file.

We found Jean in a home for unwed mothers. The old and sad story had been repeated in her life. She thought she loved the boy, but when he found that she was pregnant, he left her.

Our chances now? She was no longer shy or backward, but actually defiant. Almost proud of what she had done.

"I know why you quit visiting me. The same reason you were not friendly when I did come. You knew where I lived. Wrong side of the tracks. Isn't that what you call it?" She contemptuously brushed aside my offer of help. "I've come to this without you and I'll come out of it without you."

Charles Adams, the next person, was home—drunk. His wife said that he had not worked for 18 months. They barely got by on welfare. Gone was any semblance of self-respect. He seemed to enjoy talking about his condition. He told about those who let him down, assuring me that it was not his fault.

At one time Charles had much to offer to society, but now everything was gone except a wife who stayed with him more out of pity than anything else. The church had no part of his life now and he felt no need for it.

One card left. Dan and Judy Douglas were fine people to be sure, but about as careless about spiritual things as a couple could get. I'll stay just a few minutes, not over five, I told myself.

Responding to my knock, Judy opened the door, registering mild surprise. Dan joined us. After a moment of small talk I came to the point.


"Are you folks going to church anywhere now?"

"No Sir," said Dan. As he paused, I thought how much this couple had to give the Lord if He were ever given first place in their lives. I was on the verge of saying this when Dan continued:

"You know, Preacher, we really have been thinking about the Lord lately and wondering about all the things you preached about." He faltered: "We'd both like to know just how do you get to be a Christian?" Tears welled in the eyes of both.

Earnestly and sincerely, we went over the plan of salvation. Genuine trust was evidenced as we bowed and prayed together.

My five minutes had become almost two hours by the time they walked me to the door. Judy said: "We have been waiting for you to come back. Our home has needed Jesus for a long time and now I know things will be different."

I stopped by the church on the way home and removed all the names from the inactive file and put them back into the active one. I could not say for sure that I could have made a difference in the lives of the others. It may be that Dan and Judy would have been the only ones to respond under any circumstances; but I know that at least I can take each card and ASK, SEEK, KNOCK, and maybe I can change, under God's leadership, more lives like Dan and Judy. 

Thomas Welch is a pastor and a free-lance writer from Mullins, South Carolina.

EVANGELICAL FRIEND
Post Office Box 232
Newberg, Oregon 97132
Second class postage paid
at Newberg, Oregon

update

a publication of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church, Newberg, Oregon

Volume 1, Number 5
April 1986

Growth and Development Seen in Bolivia and Peru

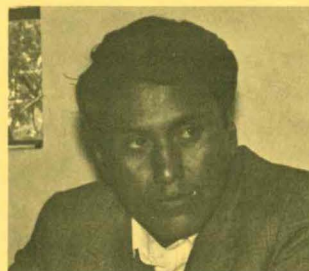
Northwest Yearly Meeting Executive Secretary Quentin Nordyke shares insights from his visit to Bolivia and Peru in February and March.

A periodic look is often more revealing than everyday contact. Like seeing growing children every two years rather than daily. The change is more noticeable and often striking.

So it can be with mission work. For those involved on a daily basis, the growth and change often seems so slow, and progress is sometimes disguised in backward movements. However, for those who visit the field periodically, change is more striking and usually reveals growth and development.

It has been just 25 months since I last visited Peru and Bolivia, and there are several noticeable and encouraging signs of maturity and progress. I noticed one or two situations that look like regression but hopefully these will also soon lead to forward movement.

Spending six weeks in Peru and Bolivia gave opportunity for multiple contacts with the national leaders as well as missionaries. One rewarding encounter was meeting with the Executive Council (Mesa Directiva) of the Peruvian National Church. They have noticeably gained in their sense of direction, their awareness of self-worth, as well as the organization of their affairs. Ramon Mamani (shown in photo) is giving capable leadership as president and is willing to delegate responsibilities and tasks to committees. Their observations on missionary placement, new areas where churches can be started, and the strategy to do that, were all most helpful and showed maturity.



Ed Cammack with members of the Peru Mesa Directiva gathering for their monthly meeting.

Peruvian National Church Celebrates 25 Years

Some of their discussion centered around their observance of 25 years as a national church in Peru. Although this is a year-long commemoration, their main celebration will take place July 4 and 5, with a grand gathering on their national church property in Ilave.

My time with the Peruvian mission staff was most rewarding. There was an overwhelming sense of unity and support for each other and a real commitment to spend time supporting each other in prayer as well as sharing observations and encouragement.

Bolivian Leadership Faces New Challenges

Nearly three weeks in La Paz, Bolivia, gave a chance to meet with the Mesa Directiva of Bolivia Yearly Meeting for three different meetings, as well as a number of other encounters with leaders, including the new national church president, Venancio Quispe. The Mesa Directiva is struggling with a number of organizational factors including how to administrate a national church that has outgrown their traditional method of directing everything themselves rather than delegating responsibilities. Some of the committee seemed to have a critical spirit and seemed to be wishing for the "good old days." However, Venancio is highly respected by the country people, even if unaccustomed to the ways of the city, and his spiritual insights and

steadiness can do much to get past some of these temporary factors.

My three Sundays in La Paz were spent visiting three different city churches. The Villa San Antonio church is in the midst of a very ambitious building project following the disastrous mudslide that destroyed their original building two years ago. They have ideally located property and are building a four-story church that will have a capacity for worship of about 500.

The second Sunday I visited one of our older La Paz churches called "New Hope," and enjoyed the enthusiastic service and sense of God's Spirit.

The third Sunday I had the enjoyable opportunity of worshiping with the newest church in La Paz, the Spanish-speaking congregation meeting on Uyustus Street in a storefront room crowded with over 50 attenders, including some new visitors. They welcomed me not only with the traditional welcome song, but with a fancy floral and feather arrangement and hugs from nearly everyone in attendance. This church is now under the capable leadership of a young pastor named Domingo, who earns his living as an engineer in the city planning offices.

Spiritual Warfare in a Developing Church

The 35 students in the seminary class I taught in La Paz listened patiently and attentively to my halting Spanish. I zeroed in on spiritual warfare and the realities of Satan's daily attacks on the church and its workers and pastors. Their faith, as well as their understanding, was increased as they saw God answer specific prayers for various situations.

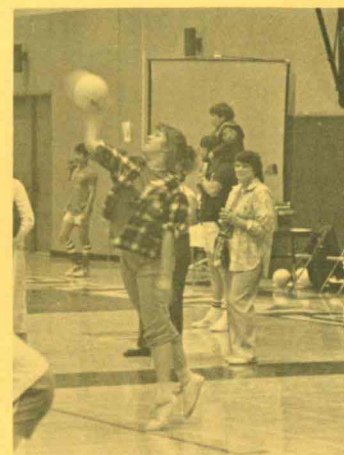
A couple meetings concerning extension education, which continues to expand in both Bolivia and Peru, and a short visit in Santa Cruz rounded out my trip. Did I see progress? Yes, as well as signs of maturing. Yet there are real needs for prayer. Certainly the Bolivia Yearly Meeting Mesa Directiva needs our prayers that those with critical spirits will either have a change of attitude or be removed from the committee. A great revival of reconciliation, restoring of broken relationships, changing hurtful attitudes, and a new sense of unity of purpose and direction also need to take place in Bolivia Yearly Meeting. The church in Peru has opportunity on every hand. Pray they will have leaders to meet these challenges.

Friends Youth Volleyball Tournament Is Largest Yet

Forty-four volleyball teams from 28 churches in Northwest Yearly Meeting came to the Wheeler Sports Center on the George Fox College campus April 4 and 5.

This annual Friends Youth volleyball tournament has become the event that

attracts more participation than any of the activities on the Friends Youth calendar. Teams played in two separate divisions this year. In the "Friends" division the winners were Hayden Lake, first; Newberg, second; and Talent received the sportsmanship award. First place in the "Quaker" division was Silverton, Eugene was second, and the sportsmanship award went to Olympic View.



Extension Church Concerns

ROSEBURG, Oregon--Praise for 130 people in attendance at our Grand Opening on April 6. Approximately 50 of these were new attenders from the Roseburg area. The Lord has provided a 5' x 8' covered trailer for hauling all of our equipment each Sunday as we meet in a Junior High school. We praise the Lord for Eugene Friends helping with our music program -- what a blessing! Pray for full-time people in our Body to work with our music.

SILVER VALLEY, Kellogg, Idaho--Praise for the growing number of people being reached through the church body. Praise for physical healings as a result of prayer in the church. Please pray regarding a potential building to be purchased as our church -- Silver King School. We are presently negotiating with the school district. We are also negotiating with the Nazarenes and Methodists regarding the use of their facilities in the meantime. We are averaging 70-80 in our services with no room for growth.

KENT, Washington--Pray for us as we make plans to begin a new direction in our ministry. We want to reach those who were once in a church but because of a negative experience have rejected the church.