



9.07

Western Work

News of Western Yearly Meeting of the Friends Church

Superintendent Bible Study, James 5:13-18

As a leader of the Jerusalem Church, James gives additional pastoral advice to the church when there is suffering---PRAY. Spiritual leadership in the church invites God to be in the midst of the situation. James' second suggestion is to sing songs of praise. As we fill our hearts with the testimony of song about God's glory and goodness, we renew our hope in the midst of suffering. Finally, James suggests the elders of the church prayerfully minister to those who are suffering. Tell the stories of how God has historically worked in the midst of suffering. This public witness of prayer to physically heal and to spiritually heal through confession and forgiveness is powerful and effective. Are we an active people of prayer?

150th Anniversary of Western Yearly Meeting---History Book

Western Yearly Meeting launched the Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration at their Annual Sessions on August 2-5, 2007! *Western Work* this next year will feature Western Yearly Meeting historical information leading into next year's Annual Sessions, July 31- August 3, 2008! Join us as we celebrate the spiritual heritage of Western Yearly Meeting!

Pre-Publication orders for the WYM History Book have been better than expected. The closing date for Pre-Publication of \$15.00 will be September 15, 2007. If you wish to take advantage of this price, you need to get your check made out to "Western Yearly Meeting", to Kay R. Carter, 425 Simmons St., Plainfield, IN 46168 by September 15. Note on Memo Line, "WYM History Book".

Friends Historical Reading

The development of American Quakerism has been greatly influenced by the visits of prominent English Friends. Hannah Backhouse made extensive visits in the 1830s, encouraging Bible reading and study, and the organization of Bible classes and Bible schools. Her cousin, Joseph John Gurney, who later visited nearly all the American yearly meetings, gave the Bible a still-more-important place in the Friends' consideration and placed a new emphasis on conversion and on justification through the atoning death of Jesus Christ. As the exclusiveness that had kept themselves from outside contacts weakened, Friends became open to the Great American Revival of the 1850's.

[WYM Faith & Practice, p. 6]

Dearly ought we to prize the many noble testimonies which have been borne by the Society of Friends, not only in the present day, but from its earliest rise, to the truth and importance of the doctrines of the New Testament. Christ has been the centre around which they have delighted to gather; and those who have quitted that centre have never failed to lose, in a spiritual sense at least, their unity with the body. Since the Holy Scriptures contain a divinely authorized standard of revealed truth, and are fully sufficient for their purpose, Friends have always refused to bind themselves by any other creed. Nevertheless, in every period of the Society's history, the acknowledged faith of a body has been sound and unquestionable. Repeatedly have they confessed their belief in one ever-living God, all-wise, almighty, omnipresent, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, holy, just, true and merciful; in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the dead; in the eternity of future rewards and punishments; in the mysterious union and distinction of the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; in his incarnation and birth of the virgin Mary; in his sinless human nature; in his meritorious obedience, sufferings, and death; in his resurrection and ascension; in his supreme and universal reign; in his spiritual presence with his people; and in his glorious future coming to judge the quick and the dead. *[Joseph John Gurney, A Peculiar People. Friends United Press, Richmond, Indiana, 1979, pp. 3-4. The book was originally published as Observations on the Religious Peculiarities of the Society of Friends in 1824.]*

Training for Small Group & Spiritual Formation

Western Yearly Meeting Friends are invited to take advantage of the opportunity to hear Richard Foster speak at the regional Renovare Conference this fall, September 14-15, 2007 at the First Nazarene Church, Indianapolis, IN. The cost is \$65.00. To find out more about Renovare, check out their website at www.renovare.org or call Steve Pedigo at the WYM Office (317) 839-2789.

Together Encouraging All Meetings (TEAM) Prayer Reports

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other..." [1Thess. 4:11, NRSV]

September 2 – Newport

September 9 – Noblesville

September 16 – Paoli

September 23 – Plainfield

September 30 – Ridge Farm

Special prayer requests for publication in the Western Work may be submitted by the meeting to the office prior to the printing deadline.

Upcoming Team Schedule for October

October 7 – Rush Creek

October 14 – Russiaville

September 16 - Paoli

October 21 – Sandcreek-Azalia

October 28 – Second Friends

Additional Prayer Requests

FUM Missionaries

- Please remember Ben & Jody Richmond as they begin their term at Friends Theological College as principals.
- Continue to remember the WYM Special Project for 2007---to raise funds for the Kaimosi Hospital Renovation in Kenya!

Pastoral Openings

Westfield Friends Youth Minister

On August 12, 2007, Westfield Friends Meeting approved to hire a new Youth Minister at Westfield Friends. Contact Tracy Rogers at info@westfieldfriends.com or call (317) 896-0233.

Hemlock Friends Church

Hemlock Friends has begun the search for a pastor. If wanted, they will provide a parsonage. If you are interested, please call Beth Lightfoot, (765) 963-5917.

First Friends Kokomo

First Friends Kokomo has begun to search for a full time pastor to begin on 1/1/2008. If you are interested, please call Jim Crew, (765) 455-3887.

Bloomington Friends

Bloomington Friends Church has begun to search for a pastor. If you are interested, please call Brenda Ireland, (765) 498-8644.

Ridge Farm Friends Church

Ridge Farm Friends has begun to search for a pastor. If you are interested, please call Sandra Brown, (217) 247-2345.

New WYM Associate Pastor, Gale Stutz

Gale Stutz is the new Associate Pastor at Indianapolis First Friends. She graduated from Christian Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity degree on June 7, 2007, was ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on June 10, and began serving at First Friends on July 15. Gale is married to her husband, Tom, for almost 23 years. They have four children: Tyler, a 20-year old junior at Indiana University; Matt, a 19-year old freshman at Indiana University; Andrew, a 7th grader; and Kasey, a 6th grader---both at Eastwood Middle School. Gale writes, "I first began to sense a call to ministry while an elder at Allisonville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) six years ago. Since then, I've realized that God's really got an interesting sense of humor. How else could one explain a "40-something" woman with four children at home deciding to go to seminary and become a fulltime students?! This decision was further complicated when I began serving Carmel Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as its part-time Minister of Education during my first year of seminary."

We welcome Gale to Western Yearly Meeting!

Statistics

Births

- Theodore "Teddy" William Means was born 7/20/07 to Fred and Karen Means (Plainfield)
- Zachary Kyle Rhoden was born 8/14/07 to Kyle and Lesley Rhoden (Plainfield)

We Welcome New Members

- Daisy M. Strange and Addalene Nickels (Courtland Avenue Friends)
- Elaine Rogers, Arthur & Laura Brown (Mooresville Friends) welcomed into membership on 7/22/07.
- Judy Smith & Nathan Pedigo (Plainfield Friends) welcomed into fellowship on 7/29/07.

Renovare

Any Young Adult or Young Friend that would like to participate in the Renovare conference can request financial assistance from the WYM office. Please encourage any young people in your meeting who might be interested in starting a small group/bible study or stretching their spiritual muscles to contact Katy Palmer at the WYM office for more information.

See You At The Pole

Please encourage the Young Friends in your meeting to participate in this year's See You at the Pole event. See You at the Pole is a student-initiated, student organized, and student-led event. That means this is all about students meeting at their school flagpole to pray—for their school, friends, teachers, government, and their nation. See You at the Pole is not a demonstration, political rally, nor a stand for or against anything. See You at the Pole is scheduled annually on the fourth Wednesday in September, which is September 26 in 2007. The suggested starting time is 7 a.m. See www.syatp.com for more information.

1st Youth Cabinet Road Show

The WYM Youth Cabinet will begin their new season of Road Shows starting on Oct. 7th at Mooresville Friends. 10:30 a.m. Please pray for these young leaders as they search for how God wants to use them this year in WYM and plan on attending at least one of their Road Show services this coming year.

WYM Fall Impact Retreat

The Young Friends Fall Impact Retreat is coming up quickly; Oct. 26 & 27. Check out the WYM website www.westernym.net for a brochure and registration form. Spread the word! We will be hanging out at the Jameson Camp in Indianapolis and exploring the theme "Go...Impact Your World!" Don't miss it!

Opportunities for Friends

USFW Fall Retreat

The WYM and IYM USFW Fall Retreat will be held on September 10-11, 2007 at Quaker Haven Camp with the theme, "Woven Into a Tapestry of Love." Total cost is \$55.00 which includes three of Dan's great meals, overnight lodging, wonderful speakers and inspirational music. To register call Susan Pickrell, (937) 698-5803.

USFW Fall Conference

Indianapolis First Friends USFW will be host for the WYM/USFW Fall Conference to be held on Saturday, September 22, 2007. The program begins at 10:00 a.m. with registration at 9:30 a.m. Brenda White, Mesquakie Friends Center in Iowa will be the speaker, giving a woman's view of the work and ministry that she and her husband are doing. All women are invited to attend and participate; cost is \$7.00. Please call your reservation to Christie Moulton by Monday, September 17, (317) 843-1357. Child care will be provided.

Friends Disaster Service

Friends Disaster Service is planning on going to Lafitte, Louisiana on October 27 to November 4. If anyone is interested in going, please contact Lane Sims by the first of September. His e-mail is pamlane@juno.com. Phone: (317) 774-0787.

The Annual FDS Benefit Banquet will be held on Saturday, October 6, at 6:00 p.m. at the Richmond First Friends Church. Tickets are \$10.00. Reservations are required, so please call Art Harris (260) 726-7084 or Jim Secaur (419) 203-1171.

Quaker Hill Conference Center

T. Canby Jones (Wilmington College) and **Michael Birkel** (Earlham College) will lead a Friday evening and Saturday program reflecting on letters of George Fox and Margaret Fell as "windows" on the spiritual life and concerns of early Friends. This should provide the basis for an interesting discussion of similarities and differences in comparison to issues and concerns facing Friends today.

Celebration Plate

The Yearly Meeting has been gifted with some attractive plates featuring a raised border and the silhouette of a Quaker couple. These are for sale for \$10 by the 2008 YM Celebration Committee as part of our year of celebration. The plates will be available at Administrative Council meetings, Board meetings, and various other events. If you would like more information, please contact Ann Carter at eannc@sbcglobal.net or (765) 883-5696.

Mission Opportunity

A work team opportunity is available this fall through FUM---open to doctors, medical technicians and nurses. The medical team will be training staff at the Lugulu Hospital. In addition, visits will be made to other nearby mission sites and a wildlife preserve. Registration deadline is October 1. Call Friends United Meeting: (765) 284-6900.

Check out the WYM Website: www.westernym.net

Upcoming Events

September, 2007

- 8 Quaker Day at Plainfield Friends
- 9 Hazel Dell Friends Homecoming, 10:00 a.m.
- 10-11 WYM USFW Fall Retreat at Quaker Haven
- 11 North Central Area Pastors' Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Westfield Friends
- 13 West Central Area Pastors' Meeting, 10:00 a.m., WYM Office
- 14-15 Renovare Conference, First Church of the Nazarene, Indianapolis
- 18 Central Area Pastors' Meeting, 12:15 p.m., Shapiro's Deli
WYM Program Committee, 2:00 p.m., WYM Kelley Conference Room
- 20 Struggling Meetings Task Force, 2:00 p.m., WYM Office
- 21 Northern Area Pastors' Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Jamie Lyon's Home
- 21-22 WYM Youth Cabinet Retreat, WYM Hospitality Center
- 22 WYM USFW Fall Retreat, 9:30 a.m., Indianapolis First Friends
- 25 Western Area Pastors' Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Newport Friends
- 27 Seasoned Friends, 11:30 a.m., Richards Restaurant in Kokomo
- 29 WYM Board Meetings, 9:00 a.m.

October, 2007

- 6 Friends Disaster Service Benefit Banquet, Richmond First Friends Church, 6:00 p.m., Tickets are \$10.00
- 7 WYM Youth Cabinet Road Show, 10:30 a.m., Mooresville Friends
Blue River Friends Homecoming
- 11-14 FUM General Board Meetings, Woolman Hill
- 16-18 Superintendents & Secretaries Meeting, Pendle Hill
- 20 WYM Executive Committee, WYM Kelley Conference Room
- 26-27 WYM Young Friends IMPACT Retreat, at Camp Jameson, Indianapolis

Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Western Yearly Meeting equips Friends Meetings in the Gospel of Jesus Christ by exercising mutual care and extending cooperative ministries. Through various expressions of our Christian faith, we strive to inspire ministry and the release of gifts of leadership.

WESTERN WORK

Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church
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(317) 839-2789

Website: www.westernym.net

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Office Hours: 9:00-12:00-1:00-3:00; M-Thursday

**MATERIALS DEADLINE FOR NEXT
NEWSLETTER:
9/17/07, 9:00 a.m.**

Address Correction Requested