



12.09

Western Work

News of Western Yearly Meeting of the Friends Church

Co-Superintendents' Bible Study

Steve & Marlene Pedigo

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." [John 1:14]

Jesus is the reason for the season. The deity of Christ Jesus is based upon His birth. Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name, Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'" [Matthew 1:20-21, NIV]

The early church believed, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." [Phil. 2:5-7, NIV]. Western Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice, 2005 Edition* describes it this way, "He is the eternal Word [John 1:1] who was with God and was God, revealing Himself in infinite wisdom and love, both as man's Creator and Redeemer; for by Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible [Colossians 1:123-16]. Conceived of the Holy Ghost, [Matthew 1:20] born of the Virgin Mary [Matthew 1:23-25; Luke 1:35], the Word was made flesh, and dwelt amongst men [John 1:14]." [*Western Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, 2005 Edition, p. 77*]

We rejoice at Christmas time as we celebrate the truth that almighty God came to earth to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ. He gave His life for us on the cross for the forgiveness of sin that we might have eternal life. Christmas is a time of giving. We give because He gave for us. HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

"Building Up the Body of Christ," WYM Winter Retreat

Western Yearly Meeting Friends are invited to this year's Winter Retreat, "Building Up the Body of Christ," on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Our speaker for this year is H.B. London who is author of *Becoming Your Favorite Church*. "The Church is not a spectator sport. Imagine a church where everyone contributes, everyone communicates---and unity results in a uniquely productive ministry for everyone concerned... *Becoming Your Favorite Church* spells out a well-coordinated effort of coaching and teamwork, much as Jesus modeled the Church with His disciples." H.B. London has spoken in North Carolina, Iowa, Indiana, and Mid-America Yearly Meetings. Workshop leaders include: Spiritual Formation, Della Stanley-Green; Christcare Small Group Ministry, Lou Herchenroeder; Building Up the Body of Christ, H.B. London; Youth Discipleship, Joe Toren; and Small Group Evangelism, Steve Pedigo. We encourage members of each meeting to spend this day at the retreat and join us in discussing how to build up the Body of Christ!

The cost of this year's retreat is \$15 (which includes lunch if you register by February 8, 2010). If three people from a meeting attend, the pastor comes FREE. **A children and youth program is provided free of charge to everyone who registers by February 8! Young adults are free if you call Katy to register. See the Western Yearly Meeting Website for a brochure and registration: www.westernym.net.**

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Worship
9:30 a.m.	H.B. London
10:30 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Workshops
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	H.B. London
2:30 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m.	Workshops
4:00 p.m.	Closing Worship

The Winter Retreat will be followed by the Pastors' Gathering, February 13-15, 2010, at the Plainfield Hampton Inn. The gathering will include worship, fellowship, continued discussion with H.B. London, and an afternoon discussion with Felicity Kelcourse, "Stewardship of the Pastor." Monday morning will also include worship and sharing. Attendance at this retreat is a requirement to receive the 2010 Pastoral Ministry Excellence Grant. Registration cost is \$50 or \$40 if you are commuting. Additional retreat expenses may be paid through a WYM Pastoral Excellence Ministry Grant. Pastors will apply for this reimbursement grant at the time of the retreat.

Ministry Leadership Classes

The Western Yearly Meeting Training and Recording Committee is pleased to announce the development of a Barclay College Advantage Site Program on the campus of Western Yearly Meeting! This new Barclay partnership allows Western Yearly Meeting to offer college accredited pastoral training classes to individuals in our meetings who are currently in the recording process, to current WYM pastors seeking continuing education, or to those within WYM leadership who hope to strengthen their ministry skills. Continuing Education Scholarships will be offered from the Pastoral Ministry Excellence Fund.

If your meeting would like to provide scholarship support for these classes, please send your gifts to: Western Yearly Meeting, Box 70, Plainfield, IN 46168 --- in the check's memo write "Scholarship Fund."

Upcoming classes will be taught by recorded ministers of Western Yearly Meeting. The 2009-2010 schedule includes:

Pentateuch. [Faculty, CG White], February 5-6 & 19-20, 2010

Writings of John [Revelation]. [Faculty, Justin Weber], March 5-6 & 19-20, 2010

Principles of Church Planting & Church Growth. [Faculty, Gary Wright], March 26-27 & April 16-17, 2010

Advanced Bible Study Methods [Hermeneutics]. [Faculty, Steve Pedigo] May 21-22 & June 4-5, 2010

For more information about these classes, please contact the WYM Office (317) 839-2789. To register online: www.barclaycollege.edu.

Prayer Requests & Praise



Please remember to pray for Sam & Becky and their children Robert, Katie, Kristy and Kassie while they minister in Belize. You may want to check out their updates: www.fum.org.

Local Meeting Outreach

Hinkle Creek Friends

Hinkle Creek Friends have started a Family Fun Night once a month with something for each age group. They placed a new sign made of cherry wood over the exit door of their meetinghouse so that as people leave they read, "You are now entering the mission field."

Living Nativity at Westfield Friends

Rather than hold a traditional church Christmas party, Westfield Friends plan to witness a "Living Nativity" on the first weekend of December and distribute cookies and cider to guests.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Southern Area Friends gathered on October 31 for the Habitat for Humanity Build of Orange County. "The build was once again a time for following the example set by our Savior Jesus Christ. We had as much fellowship and fun as we had work and all was performed with joyous hearts. A morning devotional was given by Chris Lindley prior to a wonderful breakfast prepared by Newberry Friends. Lunch was again preceded by a prayer of thanksgiving and was served by Paoli Friends. The number of volunteers was approximately 25." *Taken from the Paoli Friends Newsletter, Friendly Flashes.*

Canned Good Christmas Tree

Plainfield Friends creates a Christmas Tree of canned goods to donate to the local food pantry during the month of December.

Outreach Updates

Belize Update from the Barbers

How time flies. We have been very busy since our last letter. At the end of September the FUM task force came for five days. These days were spent planning for the future of the ministries here in Belize. However they didn't work all the time. We spent one afternoon at Old Belize, a museum and beach, where we watched Dale Graves, Candi Young and our son, Robert, go down a zip line. Then on another afternoon we took the team to the Belize Zoo. Later we looked at the property at La Democracia. They had a good time and it was informative for us as well.

We have also made some contacts with the Ministry of Education. Because we are not (technically) a secondary school and yet we are not a primary school, we are invited to the primary school principles' meeting each month. Here they discuss the importance of proper legal documentation, in part because of human trafficking.

Many days are spent at the school teaching the boys. Becky and I spend most of the morning teaching in one way or another. We are teaching three different levels of math and two of language arts. The time we spend teaching gives our head teacher prep time during the day. Miss Candi fills in the gaps that we do not know yet and she is indispensable.

We have begun to give bikes away to the students. We do a few at a time so there is an incentive for them. The four that have received them were ecstatic! On November 6 we will have our first field trip. In science the students have been learning about weather so we will be taking them to the weather station at the airport, then we will take them swimming.

We are so happy for the students we have. We have eighteen boys and two girls. Two of our boys are from Haiti and have huge language barriers. Four of our students are functionally illiterate. We also have a couple of students with ADHD. How necessary it is for us to take the time to meet the students where they are. This would be impossible without your support. By your blessing us and the work here in Belize we are able to continue this work here. Thank you for the gifts you have given us.

Submitted by Nadine Kemp

You may submit your gift to support the Barbers to: Nadine Kemp, Benevolence Treasurer, Friends Apartment Homes, 305 S. East Street #14, Plainfield, IN 46164.

Christian Education Opportunities

Quaker Haven Camp Dates

2010

Beginners Camp

June 25-27

George Fox Camp

June 27-30

Pioneer Camp

June 6-11

Junior High

June 13-18

Senior High I

June 20-25

Senior High II

July 11-16

Sundesmos College/Young Adult Mission Trip

We will again join forces with some of the North Carolina YM Young Adults to work at the MOWA Choctaw Friends Center in Alabama and have also invited young adults from Iowa and Indiana YMs to join us on our mission trip down to Alabama

WHERE: MOWA Choctaw Friends Center, McIntosh, Alabama (a ministry of North Carolina Yearly Meeting)

WHEN: Jan. 1-8, 2010

WHO: WYM College/Young Adults

WHAT: visit the site & meet people, prison ministry, general maintenance projects, organize and help with rummage sale, help with after-school tutoring program, small construction work, possible tutoring in local schools, local home visitations, maybe other things...

COST: \$40

Applications for this trip are now available and are due NOW!!!

Contact Katy Palmer for an application or with any questions:

katypwym@sbcglobal.net 317-839-2789

Youth Cabinet

Our new WYM Youth Cabinet is on the road and coming to a Meeting near you. Don't miss it. We are reminding everyone about "Hope in Jesus!"

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

Upcoming Road Shows:

Jan. 24th @ Hinkle Creek Friends

Feb. 28th @ Westfield Friends

News Among Friends

Prayer

Jim Crew has asked Dale Graves and Bob Garris to lead a worship and prayer (with no business) meeting on 12 December 2009 at the Plainfield Meetinghouse, 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited.

Poems from the Pioneer Pulpit

In 1822, just four years after Illinois became a state, three families created a new home in Vermilion Grove, Illinois. In 1826, Vermilion Grove Meeting became a monthly meeting and was a founding meeting of Western Yearly Meeting. It is from Vermilion Grove that Emory and Deborah Reese came as missionaries from Western Yearly Meeting to begin the ministry in Kaimosi, Kenya in 1903. The grave of Emory Reese is in the cemetery of Vermilion Grove Friends Church and a copy of the first Bible translated into Maragoli language by the first Friends missionaries is in a special case in the meetinghouse.

Pastor Jim Walker, Vermilion Grove Friends, began writing a weekly poem for the back side of the church bulletin to highlight notes of the sermon. These poems were recently published in the book, "Poems from the Pioneer Pulpit." This book includes the poem, "Christmas...God's Gift."

*In a manger He lay...not under a tree
God's gift in swaddling clothes appeared;
He came for the sins of you and of me,
humbly he came like a sheep to be sheared.*

*God noticed pride had infected all men;
Satan had found the weakness we had,
and used it to cause God's people to sin.
Pride caused all to go stark raving mad.*

*God sent his Son, it was the last straw;
he had tried rules, but they wouldn't do.
People broke them, they had sin's flaw;
He became a sacrifice for me and for you.*

*What a great gift our loving God gave;
Jesus came down from heaven above;
To save us from sin, hell, and the grave.
Thank God for His gift of undying love.*

Noblesville Friends Meeting Christmas Candlelight Service

Friends are invited to the Noblesville Friends Christmas Candlelight Service, Sunday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. Music of the season from Naomi Jackson (soprano), David Hinshaw (trumpet), Cheri Brightman (saxophone), and Joe & Tom Roberts (pipe organ & piano)---all interspersed with scripture readings telling of the anticipation and fulfillment of our Savior's birth. Plan to come early to get a good parking spot and to hear the fifteen minute prelude of organ-piano duets. As usual, the service will culminate with our meetingroom aglow with the candlelight and the congregation's reverent singing of "Silent Night." Holiday glow will continue with a time of fellowship and refreshments after the program.

New Salem Welcomes New Pastor

New Salem Friends Church welcomes recorded minister Sharm Eaton and his wife Patricia as their pastor beginning 12/2009.

FUM Chain of Prayer

Your monthly meeting is invited to participate in Friends United Meeting's Chain of Prayer. E-mail Kim Schull at kims@fum.org or go onto the website, www.fum.org and enroll.

Quaker Men Project

This Christmas consider a gift to the Belize Friends School for the purchase of tools to be used by work crews: Circular Saw, \$80; 1/2" hammer drill, \$80; Belt Sander, \$60; Random Orbit Sander, \$60; Extension Cord 100' 14 gauge, \$50; Reciprocating Saw, \$90; Battery Powered Tools, \$130; and Get String Trimmer in Belize, \$130. If you are able to help with this project, please contact Dale Graves, 6398 E. Hendricks Co. Rd., Mooresville, IN 46158-7429.

Stamp Project

Right Sharing of World Resources encourages your meeting to save stamps from around the world (except US "flag" stamps) to support their projects. Send stamps to: Earl Walker, Claremont Friends Meeting, 449 Alamosa Drive, Claremont, CA 91711.

Prayer & Support Appreciated

L. Cpl. Drew Carter is currently serving in Iraq in the United States Marine Reserves. You may contact him at dcarter@myvu.vinu.edu or by writing L. Cpl. Carter, Drew, 3/24 Kilo Co. 3rd Platoon, United 43535, FPO AP 96426-3535.



Western Yearly Meeting of

FRIENDS CHURCH

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Plainfield, IN 46168

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Address Correction Requested

**MATERIALS DEADLINE
FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:**

1/19/10, 9:00 a.m.

Our Purpose Statement

*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.*

Office Hours:

9:00-12:00; 1:00-3:00;

Monday-Thursday

Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church Calendar

Twelfth Month

- 3** Northern Area Pastors Meeting, Courtland Avenue Friends, 12:00 noon
- 4** Youth Cabinet Christmas Party, 4:30 p.m. at Katy's Apartment
- 5** Executive Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- 7** N. Central Area Pastors Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 9** W. Central Area Pastors Meeting, 5:00
- 11-12** Leadership Class, WYM Office
- 12** Prayer Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- 15** Central Area Pastors' Meeting, 12:15 p.m.
- 16** Western Area Pastors' Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- 19** Southern Area Pastors' Meeting, 1:00 p.m. at Maple Street

First Month

- 1-8** Sundesmos Choctaw Mission Trip
- 11** WYM Training & Recording Committee at Westfield Friends, 2 p.m.
- 16** WYM Boards, 9:00 a.m.
- 24** Road Show at Hinkle Creek Friends
- 26** Program Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 29-30** Quaker Men Ground Hog Retreat