



# Western Work

December, 2010

News of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

## Co-Superintendents' Bible Study

*Steve & Marlene Pedigo*

“And this I pray that your love may abound still more and more...” (Philippians 1:9a, NAS)

The prayers of the New Testament Philippian church resulted in a witness of abounding love. Through joyful praise, abundant thanksgiving, sincere confession, reconciling forgiveness and fervent petition, we open our hearts to the work of Christ. The Holy Spirit pours forth God's overflowing “agape” love into the heart of the believer (Romans 5:5). This “agape” love is an “abounding” divine love (*Gk. word “perisseia” means “in excess, overflowing, over and above”*). As we personally experience God's “agape” love, it overflows to those around us. The abounding love experienced by the Philippians led Lydia to offer hospitality to Paul and Silas, the jailer to wash the wounds of Paul and Silas after they were flogged for the deliverance of a slave girl, and the Philippian church to generously support Paul in ministry (Acts 16 and Philippians 4:15-20).

Christmas is a time we celebrate God's abounding “agape” love for us and the birth of Jesus Christ. Mary, the mother of baby Jesus, found her soul filled with joy (Luke 1:46-56). The poor shepherds praised God when they witnessed a heavenly choir and Christ the Savior lying in a manger (Luke 2:8-20). The foreign wise men followed the star light to worship the Messiah born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-12). Those not considered traditional religious leaders were chosen to experience God's abounding love. Advent is the reminder to prepare our hearts anew for the Christ child and God's abounding love.

*How does God's “agape” love abound in your heart?*

## “Church Revitalization” Winter Retreat February 19, 2011

Friends are invited to this year's Winter Retreat, “Church Revitalization,” on Saturday, February 19, 2011. Our speaker for this year is Peter Sjoblom, Director of Congregational Life for the Central Conference of the Covenant Church and Co-founder of the Chicago Urban Reconciliation Enterprise.

You are invited to spend a day with members of your meeting to reflect upon the revitalization of the church. This retreat is designed for congregations who wish to move towards revitalization or renewal.

- Discover together the marks of a healthy missional church.
- Learn about the four types of established churches and which one most closely describes your congregation.
- Take the first step in addressing the issues of vitality, providing a common language and engaging your church on the journey towards health and mission.

We encourage members of each meeting to spend this day at the retreat and consider the topic of revitalization.

The cost of this year's retreat is \$20 (which includes training materials and lunch if you register by February 14, 2011).

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 14! WYM young adults are free if you call the WYM office. See the Western Yearly Meeting Website for a brochure and registration form: [www.westernym.net](http://www.westernym.net).**

The Winter Retreat will be followed by the Pastors' Gathering, February 20-21, 2011 at the Plainfield Hampton Inn. The pastors will continue to talk about church revitalization, stewardship and healthy pastoral boundaries.

## Ministry Leadership Classes

Western Yearly Meeting continues the commitment to provide pastoral training for those in the Training & Recording process. In the 2011 second semester the following classes will be offered: Old Testament Prophets (CG White), Systematic Theology II (Mike Thornburg), Biblical Evidences (Bill Clendineng), and Spiritual Formation (Della Stanley-Green). To take a class and receive credit, the cost is \$150 per credit hour. The cost to audit a class is \$150. For more information about these classes, please contact the WYM Office (317) 839-2789. To register online: [www.barclaycollege.edu](http://www.barclaycollege.edu).

If you would like to donate towards the fund to provide scholarships, please send your contribution to Western Yearly Meeting, Box 70, Plainfield, IN 46168 and indicate in the Memo this is for the WYM Scholarships.

## Statistics

### Deaths

Hampton, Morris (Plainfield) b. 2-10-1927,  
d. 11-12-2010

## Chain of Prayer Opportunity

Monthly meetings are invited to sign up for the Chain of Prayer to start January thru June, 2011. Make it a priority to pray for the ministries of your own meeting, another FUM meeting that we partner you with, and those of Friends United Meeting. Prayer is one way we can partner with God in transforming lives!!! You no longer have to sign up by hours, just what day you are going to pray and your meeting determines how long or what kind of program you want to make out of it. Chain of Prayer is the one project we can all do together. Let's make it a record breaking year! Please go the web to sign up on the FUM website at <http://www.fum.org> or contact Kim Schull at Friends United Meeting, (765) 962-7573.

## Prayer Partners

**In 2011 pray daily for one individual you know who you might consider inviting to come to church with you. Pray to be aware of how to be a friend to them and reach out in ministry to them---to share your "abounding agape love."**

A thank you for praying from Simon Bulimo at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya for the students' evangelistic trip to Tanzania, *"Indeed, we saw God do great things in Tanzania and we appreciate your prayers. Most people came to the Lord. We visited several homes and had an open air meeting with a revival in the evening. Those people are thirsty for the word and they need a pastor to shepherd the flock. It was a mission of many insights. Please continue praying for the church for greater anointing of the Lord and commitment within the leadership. They needs leadership training, understanding of church structures, more meetings for growth, and projects to be revived."*

Pray for those from WYM attending Summit, 2010, December 27, 2010 – January 2, 2011.

## Missions Update

### SEEDS: Seeds Educating Every Deserving Student

The vision for the SEEDS project was conceived in discussions with John Muhanji and American Friends visitors to Kenya in 2009-2010. The visitors observed there were many educational needs within the Friends schools and were concerned about specific ways to assist with these needs to improve the quality of the Friends schools for the children they serve. As the brainstorming session progressed, it became evident that even a small agriculture endeavor could provide some financial stability to support peace education initiatives and other worthy educational efforts. Currently in Kenya, the growing of large acreages of corn (maize) is a stable and viable method of producing additional sources of income.

The vision for this project is based on the success of such an agricultural effort. Initially we propose to lease at least 100 acres of farm land for growing of seed maize for at least ten years consecutively. Initially this would fund the writing and printing of primary and secondary peace education curriculum for the Friends school. The other project with highest priority would be ongoing funding for a Superintendent of Education position, a staff who would be housed in the Kisumu Kenyan Office.

There is a need to raise \$60,000 for this project. If you are interested, please send your contributions to the Western Yearly Meeting Office designated for SEEDS!

### Adopt-A-Nurse

The Western Yearly Meeting 2010 Special Outreach Project is "Adopt-a-Nurse" for the Kaimosi Hospital nurse salaries in Kenya. The goal is to raise \$10,000. There is a great need for qualified nurses and the only way to attract them and keep them is if they are paid regularly.

A special thank you goes to those who have contributed already this year to the special project, "Adopt-A-Nurse." As of November 30, 2010 we had raised \$7,739.21.

## News Among Friends

### Iglesia Amigos

Representatives from Indiana Yearly Meeting's Evangelism and Outreach Task Force with Carlos & Karla Moran met in November with Western Yearly Meeting representatives to begin a dialogue about the new ministry, Iglesia Amigos. Indiana Yearly Meeting will provide spiritual oversight and serve as the fiscal agent to provide financial support for Carlos Moran as he begins a Hispanic Church plan in Indianapolis. Second Friends has approved renting space for Iglesia Amigos which currently meets for worship on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. with dinner following.

### Western Yearly Meeting Annual Session

The theme of the 2011 Western Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions will be, "That Your Love May Abound," from Philippians 1:9-11. Western Yearly Meeting will be held one week early this year due to the Friends United Meeting Triennial, Thursday, July 21 through Sunday, July 24, 2011. Joshua Brown will be the Quaker Lecturer. Josh recently edited the *Autobiography of Allen Jay (1831-1910)*. Sam & Becky Barber, FUM missionaries in Belize, will be sharing on Saturday evening. John Muhanji will bring the Sunday morning worship. Board workshops will be offered on Saturday.

### State of Society Reports

In 2011 the WYM Board of Christian Ministries & Evangelism requests monthly meetings to reflect upon eleven queries from the Western Yearly Meeting *Faith & Practice* at their monthly meetings for business. The responses to these queries will form the basis for their State of Society Report for 2011.

### FWCC 2012 Triennial Representatives

The following individuals were approved to represent Western Yearly Meeting at the 2012 FWCC Triennial: Sarah & Bill Medlin (Noblesville), Karla Moran (Second Friends), Mariah Jones (Plainfield), and Earl Smith (Chicago).

### Board of Finance Task Force

The Board of Finance presented a consolidated financial report for 2009. All monthly meeting treasurers and other interested members will be invited to attend an afternoon special focus group meeting to be held on March 19, 2011, at the spring Administrative Council at Noblesville Friends.

### Pastors Winter Gathering

The Annual Pastor's Winter Gathering will be held February 19-21, 2011 at the Plainfield Hampton Inn. Peter Sjoblom will continue his discussion on church revitalization. Two additional workshops will be offered on stewardship and healthy pastoral boundaries. The cost for the weekend is \$50 per pastoral family or \$40 if you are commuting. Registrations must be received by January 20, 2011.

### Youth Cabinet Christmas Party

The Western Yearly Meeting Youth Cabinet Christmas Party will be held on Saturday evening, December 11, at the home of Luann & Jim Heald, 6357 S. CR 521 E., Plainfield, Indiana at 4:30 p.m. Youth Cabinet members are encouraged to bring a grab bag gift and their plans for the 2011 Road Shows.

### Christian Education Director

Funding was approved to move forward with a part time Christian Education Director. A Search Committee was approved.

### Marlene Pedigo's Sabbatical

Marlene Pedigo will be on sabbatical January 1 – February 14, 2011. She plans to continue to write peacemaking curriculum for the Kenyan Friends school with her focus upon curriculum for the eighth grade students. Steve Pedigo will be present in the office during this time.

### Monthly Meeting Annual Report Mailing

All monthly meeting clerks are reminded that the annual yearly meeting report packets will be mailed later this month. These packets will include the application for the annual Pastoral Ministry Excellence Grants. Don't miss this opportunity to support your pastor!

### Change for all WYM Treasurers

Church treasurers are asked to send all Western Yearly Meeting Benevolence and Retired Ministers donations to the Western Yearly Meeting Office, Box 70, Plainfield, Indiana 46168 beginning on January 1, 2011. Contributions will no longer be received by the Benevolence or Financial Trustees Treasurers. A special thank you goes to Norman Connell, who is concluding his time as the Financial Trustees Treasurer for Western Yearly Meeting!

### Training and Recording

It was approved for Craig Blair, pastor of Carmel Friends, to enter the Training & Recording process.



*Western Yearly Meeting of*  
**FRIENDS CHURCH**  
 203 S. East Street, P.O. Box 70  
 Plainfield, IN 46168  
 (317) 839-2789

Website: www.westernym.net

Steve & Marlene Pedigo,  
 Co-Superintendents

Steve's E-mail: stevewym@sbcglobal.net

Marlene's E-mail: marlenewym@sbcglobal.net

Steve's Cell Phone: (317) 292-2388

Marlene's Cell Phone: (317) 292-2384

Mariya Jones, Sundesmos Intern

**Address Correction Requested**

**MATERIALS DEADLINE  
 FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:  
 2/21/10, 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, 2010**

- 4 Executive Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- 9 Board of Finance, 3:30 p.m.  
Northern Area Pastors at Book Nook, 6 p.m.
- 10 Southern Pastors at Maple St. Restaurant in Orleans, 5:00 p.m.
- 10-11 Systematic Theology Class
- 11 Training & Recording Committee, 10 a.m.
- 11 Youth Cabinet Christmas Party at the Heald's Home, 4:30 p.m.
- 13 West Central Pastors at Olive Garden, 6 p.m.
- 14 Northern Area Pastors Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Western Area Pastors, 12:30 p.m. at the Beef House
- 20 North Central Pastors, 5:00 p.m. at Charleston
- 27 WYM Office Closed for the Holidays  
Summit Departure from WYM, meet at 1:00 p.m.

### **First Month, 2011**

- 11 Property Trustees, 9:00 a.m.
- 15 WYM Boards, 9:00 a.m.