

Dear Friends,

We are Friends. Originally we associated our name as Friends of the Light, and we pride ourselves as Friends of God.

There is another kind of friend that we see in Scripture. Jesus, friend of sinners. That man thoroughly enjoyed hanging with the dirty, diseased, and dying. Actually, that is why He came (Matt 9:12), the healthy have no need for a physician. He came to be with those in need. Tax collectors, prostitutes, fornicators, and liars were a consistent focal point of the God-Man.

“Zacchaeus, you wee little man, wee little man you are. Come down, be with Me. Let’s go eat at your house.”

Zacchaeus was cut off by grace. He was encountered by kindness, and it led him to repentance. His life was hedged by friendship. Mercy found him, loved him, befriended him.

I know we are to be Friends of the Light, and I want that for us. But what if we also contended to be Friends of Sinners? And we may think we are. I think I am, sometimes. But when I stop and think about it, when it comes to really truly being someone’s friend, it requires time and love that I do not want to give.

If you are my friend, I call you, text you, and invite you to dinner. I know your kids, have you in my home, go to the game together, have inside jokes, and on and on.

Perhaps the Friends of a Holy, Powerful, Righteous God should also be Friends of Dirty, Diseased, and Dying Sinners. Call, text, invite to dinner, get to know their kids, have them to your home, go to the game, laugh with them, on and on.

I don’t know, perhaps we can be “Quaker—Friends of Sinners.”

Brock Meyer

Fairmount Friends (of Sinners)

Communicator

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September 17, 2014

IYM Upcoming Calendar

9/27 *Executive Committee Meeting: Maple Run Friends, 9 am*
10/7 *Westfield Area Pastors' Meeting: Hinkle Creek Friends, 9:30 am*
10/8 *Van Wert Area Pastors' Meeting: Bob Evans, 12:30 pm*
10/15 *Marion Area Pastors' Meeting: White's, 9:30 am*

****Work Days at Quaker Haven, Oct 3-4.** For more information, contact Brandon Dennis at info@quakerhaven.com

****Indiana Friends Disaster Service** needs help with work in Blackford County, please contact Don Wimmer at 765-661-0064 or dwimmer@comteck.com or donald.wimmer@gmail.com

****Please pray** for the sale of IYM's Ft Wayne property!

Our sincere sympathy goes to the family of Ken Parson, husband of Irene, who passed away September 14. Ken pastored at Center, Anderson First, and Upland Friends Meetings

Bethel Friends has several activities happening including their fall youth gatherings, a rummage sale to benefit a mission trip, a choir presentation “Come and Fill This Place,” a men’s retreat at Rainbow Christian Camp, a painting class, and a CPR class.

Jericho Friends will host their Autumn Auction and Dinner on Saturday, November 15, 5-7 pm, serving chicken pot pie and ham sandwiches. The auction will start at 6 pm and will include such items as baked goods, gift baskets, meals, handmade items, antiques, services, etc. There will also be a general store featuring homemade baked goods, canned goods, and small craft items. Please join them at 4010 E 100 S, Winchester. If you have any questions, contact Kristi at 570-687-7800.

Manantial de Vida pastor, Isaias Gutierrez (Logansport) along with some of his parishioners, has been traveling to Chicago one to two times per month meeting with a small worship group there. They recently and officially organized as Manantial de Vida Chicago with 19 founding members. Please pray for this new fledgling church.

Van Wert First Friends touched many lives with their seed planting ministries this summer. Once a month the church set up a “parking lot barbeque” which blesses 80-100 neighbors/friends. They also took this to the nursing home where their oldest member (soon to be 100), Velma McGrew, was greatly blessed along with 60-70 other resident and workers. With tears in their eyes, a number of residents shared they had not had a grilled hamburger or hotdog for years. Also they had their first “Totally Free Clothing Garage Sale” and got opportunities to have prayer with those attending. At the county fair they partnered with a number of churches in a program called “Children Choosing Christ” and were blessed to have over 30 children open their hearts to Jesus. Their bi-annual “Free Auto Clinic” will be September

20 where they provide a free oil change and vehicle inspection for 45-50 single moms and widows, fall and spring. Tuesday, September 23, will be their kickoff of Taco Tuesdays, an after-school outreach to neighbor kids. September 24 will begin their 40 days of prayer and fasting, preparing for the harvest from the upcoming Fall Revival with Gary Wright.

A seminar, “Christmas Blitz,” will be presented October 12, 4:30 pm at Maple Run Friends and on October 19, 6:30 pm at West River Friends. These seminars will highlight how we reach people for Christ during the holiday seasons? These equipping sessions will help churches reach the unchurched in their areas, and grow and revive their meetings. These sessions are available to all IYM meetings. This is part of IYM's E&O committee's focus to bring growth and vitality to our local meetings. Who should attend—pastors, M&O and E&O committee members, and any member who wants to see their meetings grow. For more information or register, please call Paul Hamrick at 419-771-9378.

West River Friends will hold their Fall Pork Chop dinner, October 4, 5-7 pm, serving smoked pork chops, potato casserole, green beans, apple-sauce, and assorted desserts. There will be a free-will donation. For more information or carry-out orders call: 765-238-0300 or 765-489-5512. West River Friends is located six miles north of Hagerstown at the junction State Road 1 and US 35.

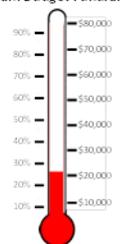
Westfield Friends recently started a Young FriendsZone program through their own support and that of a matching grant from the Indianapolis Center for congregations. This program targets children in grades 5 through 12 who have been involved in their church and hope to learn more about the faith and practice of Friends. The program’s activities include a weekly evening program, special faith-formational activities, and out-of-

Westfield trips to learn more about Friends. Youth will study the Gospel of John and historic Friends who lived out their faith in transformational ways. Their meetings include dinner, singing, lesson, and small group discussions. The grant also included a renovation of space to accommodate these new youth activities.

Pastors: how far apart is the 'unchurched' from the 'churched'? Often we in the church feel we have nothing in common with them. Tom Rainer has some interesting facts about the unchurched in his writings. Let's talk about that in our October meetings as we look towards the season in which many unchurched 'consider' how God can be involved in their lives. *Carol Wright*

A Word from IYM’s Treasurer
With the pledges received in the past two weeks our total is \$21,210, 25 % of our goal. Praise God for his continued blessings on IYM! We hope that all meetings and individuals are seriously considering how you can contribute to the funding of IYM’s 2016 budget. Assessment payments continue to be ahead of schedule as of August 31. With 66.6% of the year passed, we have received 67.64% of assessments. Thank you to all meetings who are current or ahead of schedule. To maintain a good cash flow, it is important that we receive assessments in a regular timely manner. As of August 31, Friends Chapel and Spencer-ville have sent more than 100%, and Bear Creek, Charlottesville, Jericho, Kennard, Knightstown, Peaceful Valley, Rural, Shirley, St. Mary’s, Upland, Van Wert First, Vermillion, Walnut Ridge, West River and White River have paid 100% of their 2014 assessments. **A big thank you for your of support of IYM.**

\$85,000 Goal for 2016 Program Budget Fundraising



\$21,210 as of September 15

Max Smith