

Communicator

Charles Johnson will be concluding his ministry at Spencerville Friends this summer.

John Key, pastor of Maple Run Friends, is the new Executive Director of CSI Ministries. Headquartered in Muncie, Indiana, CSI seeks to bring people closer to Christ through short term missions. Contact John at jkey@csiministries.org to learn how to partner with CSI Ministries.

Rob Schwarze, pastor of Hemlock Friends, is also an assistant coach for Oak Hill High School's girls' basketball team. The girls team, ranked #1 in class 2A, attended Hemlock on Sunday, January 29 and were treated to a meal provided by the church.



Leon Amstutz, a member of Upland Friends, is now serving with Son Set Solutions. This missionary organization is partnering with Friends in Turkana by establishing a Christian radio station that will bring the gospel to the refugees and tribespersons in this remote and arid region of northwest Kenya.

Lauren Reynolds, Laura Key, Cara Burnham, Eric Dale, Max Smith, and Pat Byers will be representing IYM as they visit East Africa in late February and early March. Please pray for this team as they visit current ministry partners in Kenya and look for ways to develop new ministry partnerships in Tanzania.

Solar Powered Radios; The IYM missions team going to Africa in February will be carrying a dozen solar powered radio receivers that will enable remote tribes and refugees in Turkana to hear the radio broadcasts mentioned above. Individuals, Sunday School classes, USFW groups, or churches who would like to provide one or more of these radios can do so for just \$40 apiece. Send your contribution to the IYM office and mark it for "Turkana radios".

Flourish, a celebration and workshop for pastors and stewardship leaders will be held March 2-3 at Quaker Hill conference center in Richmond. Sponsored by Everence and Friends United Meeting, it will include a complimentary Friday evening dinner where you can learn more about resources and services available through Everence. At Saturday's workshop, participants will gain useful insights to help them evaluate their current stewardship programs and establish a holistic stewardship ministry plan. For more information contact Kelly Kellum at kelly.kellum@everence.com.

CE News:

Winter Sneak, Feb 2-4 at Quaker Haven Camp

Please pray for the students and Youth Leaders at the Winter Sneak retreat at

Quaker Haven this coming weekend. It's not too late to get signed up! Register at Ohcouthprogramming.org.

Thanks to all the Pastors (and Pastors' spouses) for the wonderful **Mid-Winter Retreat**. It was a great time of fellowship, prayer, teaching, and worship. Pastors, if you have not done so already, please fill out the survey on Retreating you received by email. That will help us in planning future retreats.

Missions Giving Update; In the last issue of the Communicator we reported that over 95% of our 2017 missions giving goal had been met. We are pleased to report that some late contributions resulted in our goal of \$105,225 being exceeded by \$450! We thank God that IYM Friends generously met over

100% of both program assessments and missions goals for 2017.

Advancement Committee — If someone asked you what does Indiana Yearly Meeting do, what would you say? How long would you have to think about it, before you could give an answer? Here's one possible answer. IYM's purpose statement - IYM is all about "creating environments that empower churches and individuals to be disciples and to make disciples of Jesus Christ." Still not sure? Unclear about what that means?

Here is another possible answer to that question. IYM provides ways to care for and encourage pastors. IYM offers multiple opportunities to assist congregations to grow spiritually and numerically. IYM provides a vibrant youth program which includes Quaker Haven Camp. IYM seeks avenues to support global missions, church plantings and disciple-making.

Are you still curious? Over the next few weeks, keep your eye turned to the Communicator for more detailed answers. What does IYM do?

Groundhog Retreat – All men are invited to a "Groundhog Retreat" Feb. 9-10 at Quaker Haven. Lloyd Stangeland, president of Quaker Men International, will present about the work being accomplished by Quaker men in Kenya. The retreat will begin with dinner on Friday (6:30 pm) and continue through lunch on Saturday. Cost is \$60 which covers lodging and three meals. Register by Feb 5 at 574-834-4193.

Riley Friends, IYM's newest

worship group will begin worship Saturday, Please group meeting town



Group, will regular services on February 10. pray for this that will be in down-Greenfield.

Maurice Shugart, a long-time member of Bethel Friends and active leader in Indiana Yearly Meeting, passed away Jan 22 at the age of 97. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to his family.

Good Morning!

One Sunday morning a pastor preached a powerful message, which his fervent young associate brought to a close with the following instructions: "Let us bow our heads, close our eyes, and sing 'Open Our Eyes, Lord.'" (*Naomi Belingg, Colombo, Sri Lanka, Christian Reader, Lite Fare.*) I smile at the associate's ill-chosen words, but the message of the song he introduced was on target.

I recently noticed something in Luke 24:31, where it describes the experience of two men who had been walking with the recently risen Jesus on the Emmaus road. They didn't even

recognize who they were with until "their eyes were opened." Just a few verses later, as the risen Christ appeared to the disciples, we are told, "then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures." In Ephesians 1:18 Paul wrote, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened..."

Yesterday our IYM secretary, Betty, was struggling to change the toner in an office printer. She was desperate enough that she asked me for help. I'm no expert, but I took a quick glance and asked her if the instructions printed inside the unit

showed how to do it. She immediately laughed and "her eyes were opened." Shortly the toner was installed, and peace returned to our office.

We often struggle in our churches, wondering how to be thriving congregations, all the while unaware of guidance from God himself already printed for our benefit. Instead of praying for the next gimmick to ignite revival, maybe we should just pray for God to open the eyes of our hearts.

-Doug Shoemaker

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IYM Upcoming Calendar

02/2-4 *Winter Sneak, Quaker Haven*
02/06 *Missions Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm*
02/08 *Pastors' Toolkit, Bethel Friends, 10 am*
02/9-10 *Groundhog Retreat, Quaker Haven Camp*
02/15 *Advancement Committee, IYM office, 4 pm*
02/19 *Program Committee, Conference Call, 6:30 pm*
03/03 *Committee Day, Upland Friends, 9am*
03/08 *Pastors Toolkit at Knightstown Friends, 10 am*
03/12 *Executive Committee at IYM Office, 6:30 pm*

IYM Sunday will be April 15, 2018. Watch for more information about this day where we seek to remind our members and attenders of the benefits of being part of IYM.