

Good Morning!

I Was Wrong is the title of a book published about twenty years ago. Written by Jim Bakker, the fallen leader of the scandal-plagued PTL empire, this book chronicled his story and mistakes he had made.

If I ever write a book I'll probably choose a different title but I can think of at least one chapter for which "I Was Wrong" would be a very appropriate heading. What have I been wrong about? (Please, let me answer that!) Well, for 30 years I served as a pastor and never once did I encourage my church to even consider planting another church. I thought that if we regularly filled our sanctuary

(twice) on Sunday mornings, planting another church might be something to consider. But upon reflection, I was wrong. Young couples who wait until it's convenient to have children may never get around to it, and similarly, most of our churches never get around to multiplying either.

Nearly 30 of us gathered for a Pastors' Summit at Knightstown where our speaker, Bob Vajko, told firsthand stories of churches that had birthed churches that in turn birthed churches. I enjoy rubbing shoulders with people who have actually been

involved in church planting. As he spoke I found myself dreaming of a similar seminar being presented in just a few years where Indiana Yearly Meeting would be cited as an example of Kingdom growth resulting from planting churches that plant churches.

A vision to multiply is missing from many churches. To be honest, I've too often been complicit with a mindset characterized by preservation instead of multiplication, but I was wrong. -Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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March 15, 2017

IYM Upcoming Calendar

3/19 *Shaping the Future 2.0, Sycamore Friends, 3 pm*
3/19 *Shaping the Future 2.0, Walnut Ridge Friends, 3 pm*
3/20 *Executive Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm*
3/27 *Nominating Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm*
4/02 *Shaping the Future 2.0, Farmland Friends, 3 pm*
4/02 *Shaping the Future 2.0, Marion First Friends, 3 pm*
4/20 *Bicentennial Committee, IYM office, 6 pm*
4/22 *Representative Council, Kennard Friends, 9:30 am*
4/23 *Iglesia Amigos Process Committee, 3 pm at Iglesia Amigos*

2017 Yearly Meeting Preview:

So there have been times where you may have been reluctant to come to Yearly Meeting Sessions. Maybe you thought it wasn't for you. Maybe you thought it was just a bunch of older folks falling asleep in business sessions together. It isn't like that. It is a time that is for you and about you. It's about what God wants us to be engaged in, together. It's pulling together the churches from our district and getting to know the power of God through community, the body of Christ gathered. Mark Wright will be our speaker, talking about "Show us Your Glory" and Drew & Nikki Drage from Lynn Friends will lead worship. So if you were reluctant in the past to come, consider coming in the present as we talk about our future together. You should be a part of deciding what that future is, and being a part of IYM, July 27-29 at Quaker Haven Camp.

Liberty Friends is searching for a youth/children's pastor. Contact smifar@gmail.com for more information.

Paul Hamrick is no longer serving as pastor at Van Wert First Friends.

C.H.A.N.G.E. Ministries of Farmland Friends invites you to a Night of Southern Gospel and Bluegrass Music featuring My Brother's Keeper, Mountain Laurel, and Sounds of Home on Saturday, March 25 at 6:30 pm. Doors will open at 6 pm, and there will be a free will offering.

Westfield Friends, with other local churches, will provide an Easter Egg Drop on April 8 for children up to ten years of age. Easter eggs will be dropped at Grand Park from a helicopter. On April 22 at 9 am, Westfield Friends will host Becca Clouse, pastor at Rural Friends. She will share about the spiritual discipline of journaling and how this practice can draw people closer to the

Lord. Westfield's pastor, Steve Pedigo, will speak at an Iowa Yearly Meeting event, March 25, in the concluding special revival meeting at Mesquakie Friends Church. Iowa Yearly Meeting is holding "50 Days of Prayer for Revival" which began February 4 with a Concert of Prayer.



Teens at FUM: Are any teens making plans to go to the FUM Triennial this summer? Andrew Heald (WYM) and Pat Byers are on the planning team for the youth program of the event, and they are wondering if any IYM students will be joining them. Please contact Pat if you or any students you know are planning to go.

IYM Sunday: Thank you to each church that set aside time to observe "IYM Sunday" on March 12. A few meetings will be observing it in the coming days. Many Friends were able to learn about the amazing ways God is at work among us. Thank you also for the generous contributions and offerings that are arriving at the IYM office as a result.

Shaping the Future of IYM 2.0: You are invited to learn more about IYM's relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM) and have a voice in what it should look like in the future. All Friends are welcome to participate in one of four Sunday afternoon regional discussions: March 19 at Sycamore, March 19 at Walnut Ridge, April 2 at Farmland, and April 2 at Marion First Friends. Each session is scheduled to begin at 3 pm.

The IYM Missions Committee recently granted scholarships to Friends from Amboy, Maple Run, and Wabash Friends who will be participating in short-term mission trips in the near future. Other IYM churches also have mission trips planned including Lynn and Knightstown.

From IYM Treasurer, Max Smith: Praise God for the blessings He continues to pour out to IYM, including our 2018 Budget Fundraising Campaign. We are looking forward to hearing about all of the IYM Sunday activities across the Yearly Meeting, but prior to Sunday we had contributions and pledges totaling \$42,928.34 which is 42.1% of the \$102,000 goal. Thank you to all who have contributed and those that will be in the future.

Friends United Meeting Triennial: The FUM Triennial in Wichita, Kansas will be held, July 12-16. Register before March 31 and save \$30! To reserve your place now go to <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1877598>.

If you would like to receive FUM's monthly bulletin, *Connections*, they will send issues by email or post to individuals who don't receive it through their congregation. Just email FUM at communications@friendsunitedmeeting.org, or send a note to *Connections*, Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374 and ask to be added to their news list. If there are Friends of your acquaintance who don't receive e-mail but are interested in FUM, consider printing out a copy of the e-news for them.

Representative Council will be held Saturday morning, April 22, at Kennard Friends at 9:30 am. Each church is asked to send your representative(s), but other interested Friends are also welcome to attend.

Our Sympathy

John Punshon, one of the leading voices in the Quaker movement over the past four decades, passed away on Friday, March 10, in England. John was a member of Indiana Yearly Meeting for a time and kept in regular contact with the IYM office.