

UPCOMING EVENTS

Multiplication Conference Preview

The third National Friends Church Multiplication Conference will be held **August 3-5, 2016** at Barclay College. Visit friendsmultiply.com for details. Discounted registration until June 1st!



A gathering of evangelically-minded Friends leaders, students, and others who have a heart for church planting and who want to be faithful to do our part to fulfill the Great Commission through the Friends Church.

Family Camp 2016

Register now for EFC-MAYM Family Camp, **September 2-5, 2016**. Visit our website at efcmaym.org for more information on the 2016 family camp at Camp Quaker Haven!



A NOTE FROM DAVE'S DESK

DAVID WILLIAMS | GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

One of the greatest blessings that accompanies my role as general superintendent or "lead pastor" for EFC-MAYM is the ongoing opportunity I have to provide personal, tangible support for our ministry to college students. With a home office in Wichita and a field office in Haviland, I have easy access to campus life at both Barclay College and Friends University. This allows me to continue to serve as an adjunct professor at Barclay, as well as a guest lecturer at Friends. And I am deeply grateful to affirm that the leaders at both of these schools are equally committed to exalting our Lord Jesus Christ and putting Him first in all things (cf. Mt 6:33).

While this clear and uncompromising allegiance to Christ has been a cornerstone of the Barclay experience for as long as I can remember, this has not always been the case at Friends. But thanks to the bold initiative of the Friends University Board of Trustees, things have taken a dramatic turn over the past few years. In the spring of 2014, the Board approved a revised mission statement that clearly reaffirmed the institution's core identity as "a Christian University of Quaker heritage" that seeks to "equip students to honor God and serve others by integrating their intellectual, spiritual and professional lives." In the spring of 2015, this was followed by an announcement that the University was hiring a new president who fully embraced the school's renewed identity and mission, a highly capable and qualified leader who was also unapologetic in expressing her deep and unwavering commitment to Christ and his Kingdom.

In July of 2015, Dr. Amy Bragg Carey assumed her new duties as president of Friends University, and I have quickly grown to value her friendship and partnership as a sacred companion on this journey with Jesus. Although she did not come from a Friends background, Amy and her family were eager to learn more about the University's Quaker heritage, and soon found themselves visiting local Friends churches. Over time, they found a home at Northridge Friends Church, where they have become active participants.

But it would be best to let Amy tell her own story, so I would encourage you to take some time to read the letter that you likely already received that provides a firsthand "presidential perspective" on the current state of affairs at Friends University, including an invitation to support Amy and the rest of her leadership team as they seek to usher in a new era of distinctively Christ-centered education for a new generation of emerging leaders.

With one voice, let us give thanks together for every evidence of spiritual renewal on our college campuses, both in Wichita and in Haviland and in every other corner of the Kingdom. And let us continue to pray with one voice, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10).

FRIENDS
UNIVERSITY

DAVID ROBINSON THANK YOU

DAVID ROBINSON | FORMER GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

The last week of April the Ministry Center received a note from former Superintendent Dr. David Robinson who extended his thanks for all the churches that contributed to his special retirement gift: "This is simply a last minute note letting you know that Jan, Carol and I leave in the morning to catch our flight to Dublin, Ireland. I was thinking today what a gracious thing you all did to help facilitate this trip of a lifetime. I am so grateful for the generous gifts from Mid-America Friends that made it possible for us to celebrate in this way. We have no other agenda than to relax, have fun and enjoy the trip. You can pray that we will achieve that purpose and to glorify the Lord along the way."

UPCOMING EVENTS | 2016

- June 4-17 - Camps at Camp Quaker Haven, Arkansas City, KS
- June 22-July 9 - Burundi, Saltshaker Mission Trip
- June 22-July 7 - Nepal, Saltshaker Mission Trip
- July 21-24 - Ministry Conference at Friends University, Wichita, KS
- July 25-August 1 - Wilderness Retreat, Wyoming
- August 3-5 - National Friends Church Multiplication Conference at Barclay College, Haviland, KS
- September 2-5 - Family Camp, Camp Quaker Haven, Arkansas City, KS
- September 16-19 - Youth Pastor's Round Table, Quaker Ridge
- October 5-7 - SCAMP (Seniors Camp), Camp Quaker Haven, Arkansas City, KS
- October 14-16 - Friends Women's Retreat, Galveston, TX
- October 29 - Run for Missions 5K, 10K, Half-Marathon, Haviland, KS

For more information visit efcmaym.org/events

insights

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WICHITA, KS 67213
PERMIT NO. 774

EvangelicalFriendsChurch
MID AMERICA

EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH
MID AMERICA YEARLY MEETING
2018 WEST MAPLE ST
WICHITA, KS 67213

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The upcoming Leadership Institute sessions will be held on **June 6, July 11** and **Aug 1** at 7:00 p.m. (Central Time). To learn how to participate, visit efcmaym.org/leadership-institute.

CAMP QUAKER HAVEN 2016

Kids Camp, Grades 3 – 6

June 4-8 | \$235

Senior High Camp, Grades 9 – 12

June 9-13 | \$235

Junior High Camp, Grades 6 – 8

June 13-17 | \$235



Camper and Counselors Register Now!

AMAZON SMILE | AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT EFC-MAYM

For anyone who shops through Amazon, the Yearly Meeting is now set up to receive a 0.5% donation of the price of eligible purchases through AmazonSmile. Just begin each of your shopping sessions at <http://smile.amazon.com> and choose "Mid-America Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends". Amazon will then automatically donate to EFC-MAYM for any eligible purchases. This is just one new and creative way to support the collective ministries that we do better together in EFC-MAYM. Contact Janet Penna at the Ministry Center with more questions.



HOME MISSIONS UPDATE

RANDY LITTLEFIELD | ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF MULTIPLICATION MINISTRIES

Across Evangelical Friends International, every day we see strong evidence that the Holy Spirit of our God is at work building the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in our world. The Home Mission Board leaders believe that we must be about multiplying healthy disciples and churches across our region, and that it will take all kinds of new churches to reach lost people. With that challenge fresh in our minds, we also know and believe the Holy Spirit is working ahead of us to accomplish the Great Commission.



On their last deputation visit to America, missionaries John and Sangi Vanlal cast a vision of planting Asian Refugee churches in the USA. As the Vanlal's returned to their work, they agreed to make us aware when capable church planting leaders received their visas to relocate here in the states. In early April, I received word that a family from Bhutan who had worked with the Vanlal's in church planting, would arrive from Kathmandu, Nepal to Houston, TX, and were currently planning to settle in Ft Worth, TX near a brother who sponsors them.

I met Pastor D.B. Tamang, who introduced his wife, Sangrita, daughter Nema age 22, and son Silas age 19. Pastor D.B. had completed his theological education in Nepal and had planted three new churches working with John Vanlal. Through the U.S. Government Refugee Relocation program, the Tamang family found a residence in an apartment complex in southwest Ft. Worth, where many refugee families from all cultures find refuge. The Tamang family was introduced to the Home Missions Board in April. I recently learned that they have only three months scholarship on their residence before they have to begin to pay rent. During this short period, they are all currently seeking secular employment, and also attempting to furnish their apartment to get settled.

I have established a coaching relationship with Pastor D.B. They are gathering with several new acquaintances from the apartment complex each week so far and are very excited about what doors God may be opening for further ministry. Please pray for this new work and please challenge your local congregation to consider partnering by connecting with me.

2016 SPRING INVASION REPORT

ADAM MONAGHAN | ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Read the full reports from students and youth pastors on the 153 youth and adults from 15 different EFCMAYM churches who served the Iglesia Amigos of Coahila, Mexico during Spring Break 2016 by visiting the following website: efcmaym.org/category/spring-invasion



DEEP AND WIDE

DAVID WILLIAMS | GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT



"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength' [and] 'love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." - Jesus, Mark 12:30-31

Each spring for the past four years I have had the privilege of teaching "Spirituality and Social Justice," a required course for graduate students at Barclay College who are enrolled in the Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership with a concentration in Spiritual Formation (MATL-SF). A total of thirty students have now completed this course, and my life has been immeasurably enriched through their sacred companionship. I can only hope that they have learned half as much as their professor.

We have shared many holy moments together during the course of our studies, both inside and outside of the classroom, but one of the most formative took place this spring during a service learning experience in Wichita. Our hosts for the day, James and Cheryl, have been called to lead a ministry to the residents who live along south Broadway, an area that has fallen on hard times in recent years. James and Cheryl are no strangers to hard times themselves, having experienced the pain of poverty, violence and addiction in their former lives.

But that was before they met Jesus. "Everything is different now," they are quick to testify, and the only thing they want to talk about is how they can help others find the same hope and healing that they have found through the amazing grace and relentless compassion of our good and beautiful God. So James and Cheryl invest nearly all of their waking hours doing their best to love and serve their friends and neighbors on south Broadway, most of whom would be considered among "the least of these" by the casual observer. But James and Cheryl know better. A still, small voice constantly and clearly reminds them, "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me" (Mt 25:40).

Like so many others before them, James and Cheryl have learned through the school of hard knocks the central truth that we hope all of our students will be able to grasp during their time at Barclay College: Our lives must be transformed in order to be transforming.

This is the core reality that lies at the very heart of the Great Commandment (Mk 12:30-31), what some have referred to as "The Jesus Creed." The deeper our intimacy with Christ, the wider our influence for Christ will be. The stronger the root, the greater the fruit:

The deep experience of the knowledge of God as revealed by Christ ... leads those thus shaken to perform deeds of mercy to their neighbors wherever found. Thus the concern accomplishes the marriage of the inner and the outer; it joins, in miraculous fashion, the roots and the fruits of religion. Where only the roots are emphasized, we have a situation in which people luxuriate in their own religious emotions, developing their inner experiences for their own sake. It is easy for religion to stop here, but when it does, we have little more than spiritual sensuality. It is fundamentally self-centered. Where, on the other hand, only the fruits are emphasized, we have mere creaturely activity, the kind of worldly philanthropy which eventually is little more than professional social service. Friends, in their long history, have often made both of these mistakes, but the major tradition has been the avoidance of both by keeping the connection close ... great sensitivity to social wrongs stemmed directly from a sense of God's presence and sovereignty. The world is helped whenever any man or any group of men demonstrates the power which this close connection makes possible (Elton Trueblood, "A Radical Experiment," William Penn Lecture, Philadelphia, 1947).

Jesus said, "You are my friends if you do what I command" (Jn 15:14), and "there is no commandment greater than these" (Mk 12:31). May we, the people of Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting, be empowered by the spirit of God to fulfill the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment. May our love for God and neighbor grow increasingly "deep and wide" as we continuously embrace the transformational gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. This will serve as the central theme for our 2016 Ministry Conference, to be held July 21-24 in Wichita. I hope you will join us.

We have a dream that all of the small churches in EFC-MAYM felt truly loved, that big churches felt loved, that medium churches felt loved ... what if every church knew their significance ... what if we served the world around us with no concern about our growth, our reputation, or our benefit, accepting whatever fruit God gives us? (cf. John 13:35; 1 John 4:12)

Check out the series of nine articles that are designed to help unpack the practical implications of the We Have a Dream declaration that has been entrusted to us as a family of Friends here in Mid-America. Using Acts 2:17 as a holy compass, We Have a Dream seeks to discern and describe the specific directions that God is currently calling the people of EFC-MAYM to take so that the "dream of the gospel is lived out ... in our local churches, in the communities where our churches serve, and in the family of churches called Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting." Visit efcmaym.org/category/insights to see that full series from David Williams.

