

MEN & BOYS RETREAT

This year's Men & Boys Retreat at Camp Quaker Haven is April 29-May 1 at CQH. The theme for this year's retreat will be based off Mark 1:11. All kinds of fun and fellowship are planned, including great new adventures! Bring sons, grandsons, nephews, or that special little guy you mentor, and join us for a "guys" week-end to be remembered! Retreat brochures and registration forms will be available soon. Contact Pastor Rich Miller at Glen Elder Friends Church with questions: ksmillers@nckcn.com 785-545-6332. Brochures will also be available at efcmaym.org.

COMING UP IN FRIENDS CHURCH MID AMERICA

Jr. High Bible Quiz: April 2, Friendswood Friends Church

Jr. High Bible Quiz: April 30, Finals at Northridge Friends

Men and Boys Retreat: April 29-May 1, Camp Quaker Haven

Pastor's Sabbath Retreat: May 9-12 at Allenspark, CO

Kids Camp: (grades 3&4) June 4-7

Junior Camp: (grades 5&6) June 7-10

Senior High Camp: (grades 9-12) June 10-14

Junior High Camp: (grades 7&8) June 14-18

Saltshaker Sinaloa: June 23-July 7, Sinaloa, Mexico

EFC-MAYM Ministry Conference: July 21-23, Wichita, KS

FUNDING THE WORK OF GOD

"According to the latest reports by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy and the Empty Tomb* on 2010 giving, almost one third of all charitable giving went to religious organizations. The average percent of income given to churches was 2.08% to congregational finances and .35% to special offerings, for a total of 2.43%. So...if giving were at the level of the tithe the church would have four times the financial resources. We wonder what that could mean for the work of God in the world."

-Pete Flaming, Everence (formerly MMA)

Evangelical Friends Church
Mid America Yearly Meeting
Friends Ministry Center
2018 Maple
Wichita, KS 67213

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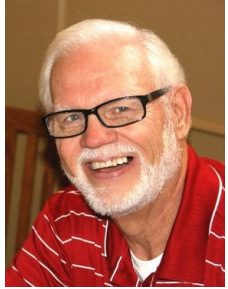
INSIGHTS

April 2011

A PUBLICATION OF EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH MID AMERICA

ENLARGING THE TABLE

We've had a great time around our table for about 140 years. There has been a "family" atmosphere here in Mid-America Friends with churches that are connected, often with ties of family kin and great friendships developed through relationships at camp, college and in church gatherings. We've experienced the laughter and joy as well as the grief and pain. And, over the years, we have had to remove some leaves from the table as there are now fewer churches in rural areas and people have moved away from proximity to us. So, as we think through enlarging our table, you and I face some interesting challenges.



The Home Missions Board has recognized that planting new churches is essential for the table to be enlarged and has begun tackling the task of church planting initiatives. We have been attempting to answer some of the significant questions. Let me tell you; it isn't as easy as we first thought.

Here are some of the questions we face: How do we bring people to the table that are new to the family, and outline our procedural steps to people who are unfamiliar with Friends and "how we do things?" How do we explain "Yearly Meeting", which is both an organizational name and how often we meet? How do we explain what "recording" means to the unfamiliar? (I just opened an email from a prospective pastor wanting our "Recording Handbook". Naturally, we don't have one.) What does it take to become a Friends pastor, or church planter? How do we outline the steps to becoming a fully recognized church? How is decision-making handled?

Jeff Nagell, pastor at Booker Friends, wrote in his "pastoral letter": "I believe God is about to enlarge our table. Those at the table may not be able to trace their pedigrees back to George Fox or Robert Barclay. New opinions will emerge. Questions will be asked that we all assume had been answered long ago. The question is, will those who don't agree still be family? Will they still be welcome at the table?"

The family may not consist today or tomorrow of what it was yesterday. But let us all pray and work, so that our table may be large enough to accommodate all the family members desiring to be a part.

David J. Robinson,
General Superintendent



OTHER NEWS FROM MID AMERICA:

- Jaime & Lydia Tabingo, EFM missionaries in the Philippines, will be coming to the USA this Spring and would like to travel and speak in Mid-America churches June 20-July 1st. Roy Twadell, EFM Muslim ministries, would like to travel and speak in Mid America churches May 9-31st. If your church would like to invite either of these missionaries to attend your Sunday services, Sunday school classes, small groups, youth groups, Friends Women groups, area gatherings, or any other special gathering, please contact missions@efcmaym.org to request one of these missionaries to be at your church. The Missions Mobilizers team is helping to coordinate these schedules.
- Check out friendsmission.com for the latest updates and news on EFM missionaries and mission fields. You can find several great tools and resources there, including an excellent video on the Rwanda Orphan Scholarship fundraiser as well as the new Featured Missionary and Featured Country section.
- Celebrate with us new pastoral leadership in Mid America Friends this year: at Rose Hill Friends – David & Desiree Crisp, and at Springfield Friends/Lone Star Community Friends – Trish Edwards-Konic.

SALTSHAKER

Saltshaker 2011 will be going to the EFM mission in Sinaloa, Mexico, June 23-July 7. Saltshaker is an advanced missions trip experience for high school and college students. A required orientation for all participants is June 7-10 at Camp Quaker Haven. There are still spots on the team available. Submit application and \$150 deposit immediately. See friendsyouth.com for more information.

JR. HIGH BIBLE QUIZ

The third Jr. High Bible Quiz of the 2011 season was held on March 5th in Derby, KS. There were 14 teams from 8 churches. Argonia Blue took home the 1st place ribbons by defeating Crossroads (2nd place) in overtime, while Haviland Blue took 3rd place by outscoring Haviland Red (4th place). The next quiz will be hosted by Friendswood Friends on April 2nd over Matthew chapters 1-11. The finals tournament will be April 30th at Northridge.

NINE MYTHS ABOUT CHURCH PLANTING

#3 Myth: There's no room for another Friends church in our area.

FACTS:

- Most new churches are reaching out to a completely different age, ethnic, or demographic group than our existing churches.
- New church plants are reaching out to unchurched people, not trying to "shuffle the sheep" from one church to another.
- The ministry style and worship of a new church will be very different from the existing churches and will draw new people.
- The statistics show that more churches of the same denomination in an area actually strengthen each other's ministries. Both churches often end up growing substantially and can more readily transform a community.

Our Home Missions Board will print one myth at a time in the Insights over nine editions. To see all nine myths go to efcmaym.org. Remember that churches successfully plant churches (rather than yearly meetings planting churches)! This is adapted from an article recently published by the Evangelical Covenant Church of America.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Church Leadership Institute for Ministry began a new interactive audio/video experience with eight participating sites in February. Jim Towne (Associate Pastor from Friendswood Friends) will continue teaching the third and final session of the course, "Worship Leadership" on Monday, April 4. He will focus this session on the importance of communication in worship leadership, especially concentrated on the discipline of preparation for teaching and preaching. During the first half of the session, he will be joined by Russ Merck, who will be speaking about effective means of communication.

The May 2nd session will start the three-month course "Theology and Church History," with the teaching of Barbara Worden (Professor of Spiritual Formation and Gender Studies at Houston Graduate School of Theology).

The live video sessions begins at 7:00 p.m. and concludes at 9:00 p.m. A time of fellowship and refreshments at the sites will begin at 6:30. Contact Dave Kingrey dkingrey@efcmaym.org 316-461-4616 with any questions.

2011 CAMPS AT CQH

Kids Camp (grades 3&4) June 4-7 \$165

Junior Camp (grades 5&6) June 7-10 \$165

Senior High Camp (grades 9-12) June 10-14 \$205

Junior High Camp (grades 7&8) June 14-18 \$205

All grades designate grade completed. Registrations will be due May 18 with a \$50 deposit. The theme for Camp this year is "GO". See friendsyouth.com for more information and to register.

MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2011

Mark your calendars for the 2011 EFC-MAYM Ministry Conference which will be July 21-23 on the campus of Friends University in Wichita, KS.

Insights loves to celebrate the local church. Please submit news of special activities and reports from your local church to efcmaym@efcmaym.org.

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