

IOWA  
STATE BEREAN  
SOCIETY



1898 - 1973

Berean Pledge

"Trusting in the Lord for strength, I hereby promise that I will try to follow Christ as my example, and endeavor to take some active part in the services of the society, attend church and Sunday School, and help in all Christian work whenever and wherever I can."

(Adopted at the second annual meeting of the Iowa State Berean Society  
Waterloo, Iowa, August 15, 1899)

Berean Motto

"Search the Scriptures daily."

Berean Slogan

"We stand for unity, truth and righteousness"

Iowa Berean Benediction

"Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people; O visit me with thy salvation; that I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thy inheritance." Psalms 106:4, 5

(Chosen for the Iowa Bereans by Bro. A. J. Mychaner)

National Berean Benediction

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glor with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever." Jude 24, 25

## HISTORY OF THE IOWA STATE BEREAN SOCIETY

The Iowa State Berean Society was organized at Marshalltown, Iowa, in August of 1898 in connection with the 11th annual meeting of the Iowa State Conference of the Church of God in Christ Jesus. The next year the conference site was moved to Waterloo, where sessions have been held annually since then. According to the minutes of the conference the organization took place on August 15, but according to the Berean Society minutes it was August 23.

The name of the society was "Berean Society of the Church of God." It was the aim of the leaders that the young people would be like those citizens of ancient Berea who "received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so." (Acts 17:10-12)

The constitution adopted provided that "this society is chiefly for the young people, but all who are seeking for Bible truth and Christian character may become members." Its object was to encourage the young people of the Church of God to "study the Bible for truth, and in every way to appropriate its doctrinal and practical truths."

Officers elected in 1898 were as follows: Hester Cummins, President; Oscar Larsh, Vice President; Ora Beebe, Secretary; Pauline Eychaner, Treasurer.

Meetings were held each year during the annual church conference. Usually one day was designated as "Berean Day" when the young people were responsible for the program for the entire day.

In 1923 the society celebrated its 25th birthday. The minutes of that year include this note: "Instead of having the regular program in the afternoon, the Berean sermon was given then by Bro. J. W. Williams, and in the evening the Bereans presented a pageant showing the growth of the Church of God and of the Berean Society in Iowa. Sr. Leona Larsh (now Mrs. Leona Conrad) planned the pageant, and Bro. A. J. Eychaner wrote the history which was read during the pageant."

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The minutes for 1930 contain this notation: "The By-laws, as adopted in 1898, were read. Then suggested by-laws were read. Motion made and seconded that the suggested constitution and by-laws be adopted as our new governing form. Unanimously carried." No indication is given as to what changes were made.

In 1931 it was decided to have a Cradle Roll Department, and the following year it was reported that 25 children had been enrolled. A bank and a cradle roll certificate had been sent to each. Cards were sent to each member shortly before conference reminding them of the conference and urging them to come with their banks for the children's offering. The minutes indicate that Bro. Arlen Larsh, who was conference guest speaker, congratulated the Iowa Bereans for being the first society to provide for a cradle roll department. We now understand that we are the only state Berean society to do so.

In 1934 the decision was made to form a Junior Berean Department. Cradle Roll members were promoted to the new department when they became six years of age. There were eleven promoted that year. Later the junior members were promoted to the senior Berean department upon reaching the age of 12. These promotions have been a part of the annual Berean program since that time. The offerings of the cradle roll and junior Berean members made a significant contribution to the state Berean funds, which also included dues paid by the senior Bereans. Often 50 or more children participated in the children's offering, and it usually amounted to \$50.00 or more.

In February of 1937 through the enthusiasm of the state Berean president, Helen Brown (now Mrs. Walter Tempel) the Bereans began a monthly publication. Because of the Berean motto, "Search the Scriptures daily" this was called THE SEARCHLIGHT. Other officers that year were Ann Patrice Prime, Vice President; Barbara Fish, Secretary; Delbert Jones, Treasurer. Berean officers through the years have kept this paper searching, and adult church members have been generous in their financial support. There were 80 copies of that

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first Searchlight sent out, but now we have a mailing list of over 250.

In August of 1943 the Bereans adopted a new constitution. This document was prepared with the assistance of Bro. Alva Huffer, who worked in Iowa that summer. The new constitution provided for two vice presidents with duties designated as follows: The first vice president shall act as an activities director. He shall keep on the lookout for any plan of study, any way of raising funds, or any other activity the Bereans may promote, and contact the second vice president. The second vice president shall contact all Bereans and interested individuals to organize local societies. He shall receive reports from the local societies and shall send these on to the secretary who keeps them in his books. He shall send reports to the national society.

The golden anniversary of the Iowa State Bereans was celebrated in 1948 with an appropriate program. Two of the original officers were present: Mrs. Hester Cummins Berry and Mrs. Pauline Lychaner Prime. At one end of the dinner table were seated these officers and at the other end the officers elected in 1948: Richard Torry, President; Dorene Allard (Dahms), First Vice President; Melissa Lage (Fraser), second Vice President; Winifred Moore (Bitler), Secretary; Orien Sealine, Treasurer. In 1947-48 there were 31 Berean members, 53 Junior Bereans and 53 Cradle Roll members.

In about 1956 or 1957 the length of term was changed from one year to two years for the officers, and the election was staggered so that some were elected one year, others the following year.

The first record found of a youth rally was in May of 1949 at Waterloo. There were 22 young people registered on Saturday and more the following day. Bro. Otto Dick brought a team of students composed of Orville Westlund, Leon Driskill and Dean Moore to be workers at that rally. In 1951 a National Berean Youth Rally was held at Waterloo on April 28-29, with Orville Kinsey and Darrell Laddock as teachers and speakers. In April of 1954 when a youth rally was held at Water-

loo there is mention of a traveling trophy given to the group with the largest attendance.

In 1954 a youth director was appointed, with Roy Humphreys serving in that capacity during 1954-1955. Four rallies were held that year: Stanhope in October, Koszta in January, Waterloo in April, and Stanhope in July. Clinton Sealine was appointed youth director the following year (1955-56) and Linford Moore in 1956-57. Except for one year when he lived in California, he held that position continuously until 1968. Nyle Sealine was director for that one year, and Michael Hale was chosen in 1969. There were active youth groups during most of this time at Gladbrook, Koszta and Waterloo, with a local youth director at each place. Rallies were also held at Marathon and at Stanhope, usually in connection with a quarterly conference.

In 1955 we find the first mention of an invitation from the Minnesota Bereans to share in their summer camp and fall youth conference. We do not know whether any Iowa youth accepted these invitations that year, but we do know that in 1958 some Iowa youth attended the Minnesota youth camp, and since then many Iowa Bereans have attended both junior and senior Minnesota youth camps and also a number of rallies. Minnesota young people have also participated in some Iowa rallies and retreats, thus fostering a closer fellowship among the Iowa and Minnesota groups. They have also shared a bus to transport them each year to the International Berean Youth Conference in Indiana.

In 1966 three amendments to the constitution were adopted: (1) That a Projects Chairman be elected to be a member of the Berean Board; (2) That a scholarship be established for Oregon Bible College; (3) That money be donated toward the dining hall fund each year. The office of Projects Chairman was abolished in 1970. The ODC scholarship was awarded in 1966 for the first time and was given to Loretta Bartz. The following year the scholarship was given to Penelope Stetzer.

Just what happened to the traveling trophy seems to be a secret, but in a copy of The Searchlight it was found that Koszta won it in the fall of 1960. That

fall three Iowa Bereans attended a national rally at Dixon, Illinois.

The first mention found of a Bible Quiz team was in February of 1961 under the direction of Bro. Linford Moore. A quiz was held at a youth rally in Waterloo in April of 1961 with Ralph Rosenberger of Gladbrook joining the Waterloo team of Robert Bormes, Vincent Bartz, Penny Stetzer and Gary Bormes, while the Koszta team was composed of Lerle Danskin, Sheryl Cronbaugh, Roger Heller, Largo Cronbaugh and Gary Cronbaugh. The first Iowa team to take part in the national competition consisted of Stanley Schaefer, Annette Schaefer, Theresa Oettel and Joni Stetzer. They were coached by Anita Hale and placed 3rd in the national contest in 1970. Lynn Schmidt of Marengo, a member of the 1972 and 1973 Iowa teams, was chosen as a member of the National All Star Quiz Team in 1973, an honor given to those quizzers who show outstanding ability even if their teams don't win.

The spring youth rally became a "retreat" in 1966 and was held at Camp Wapaton near Janesville, Iowa. Minnesota youth joined the Iowa Bereans at the same camp site in 1967, 1968 and 1969. In 1970 the spring retreat was held at Riverview Park in Cedar Falls, which has been the meeting place for the General Conference for four years. In 1971 Camp Hartman was chosen as the location for the spring retreat, and this was also used in 1972 and 1973. It is near Rainbow Drive in Cedar Falls and is very conveniently located.

In 1972-73 monthly rallies were held in Gladbrook, Stanhope, Koszta and Waterloo with the aim of drawing the young people closer together with more frequent get-togethers. Attendance averaged between 35 and 40, and participation was enthusiastic. Retreats were held in October at Koszta and in May at Waterloo. 10 Iowa Bereans attended the International Youth Conference in Indiana in 1973. The group seems to be growing and becoming much more involved than it has been recently.

The first Iowa State Youth Camp was held in 1973 during the week of June 24-30. A total of 36 were present, including campers and counselors. Location

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was the Raccoon River Bible Camp a few miles north of Ralston, Iowa. Campers were present from Koszta, Dexter, Waterloo and Omaha, Nebraska. This first attempt at holding a state youth camp was considered a success and it is hoped it can be followed by more in the years to come.

In 1968 the attendance for Berean Day was so disappointing that it was decided to move Berean election and business to Saturday, but even that has failed to bring about the desired result of sufficient attendance by the youth to conduct the Berean business systematically. There was no election in 1970, and it was not held until April of 1971. Again in 1971 it was impossible to hold election at conference time. On the other hand, more Iowa youth have attended the International Berean Youth Conference. It seems inevitable that the interest generated there should carry over into enthusiastic leadership at home. We hope our youth will remember the purpose of this organization: "To study the Bible for truth, and in every way to appropriate its doctrinal and practical truths," and that they will continue to "Search the Scriptures daily" and to spread the light of the gospel wherever they go in these perilous times, always watching and praying for the return of their Lord and Savior.



#### Dedication

This booklet is dedicated to Sr. Blanche Harland, whose many years of untiring service have kept the Iowa State Berean Society and The Searchlight going, and whose many hours of research have made this booklet possible.

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THE IOWA STATE BERLEAN SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD  
Officers 1898-1973

Elected	President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
8-23-98	Hester Cummins	Oscar Marsh	Ora Beebe	Pauline Eychaner
8-15-99	"	"	"	"
8-22-00	Oscar Marsh	Greenleaf Allard	Ora Beebe	Pauline Eychaner
8-20-01	Greenleaf Allard	Harvey Hilsabeck	Label Lincoln	"
8-21-02	"	Ernest Palmer	"	"
8-27-03	"	G. Eldred Marsh	"	Elva Chapin
8-25-04	Oscar Marsh	Viva Moore	Greenleaf Allard	"
8-26-05	Frank Marsh	Elva Chapin	"	Pauline Eychaner
8-22-06	Greenleaf Allard	"	Sadie Clark	Clem Robbins
8-21-07	"	Della Nowlin	Adelle Starbuck	Ferne Moore
8-27-08	Eva Stearns	"	"	"
8-26-09	George Herrick	Leo Hokes	"	"
8-15-10	Eva Stearns	Viva Moore	Alma Roose	"
8-23-11	"	Leo Rock	"	"
8-29-12	"	"	"	"
8-29-13	Leland Roose	Merle Dickinson	"	"
8-25-14	"	"	"	"
8-25-15	"	"	"	"
8-24-16	"	"	"	"
8-23-17	"	Adelle Starbuck	Layne Hoar	"
8-23-18	Herman Hunt	"	"	"
8-23-19	"	"	Blanche Allard	"
8-26-20	Gladys Swanson	"	"	"

8-25-21	Gladys Swanson	Adelle Starbuck	Blanche Allard	Ferne Moore
8-24-22	"	Laurice Findlay	"	"
8-16-23	"	"	"	E. L. Swanson
8-21-24	Blanche Harland	Esther Sealine	Lora Oaks	Arthur Fish
8-27-25	"	"	Lora O. Reinhard	"
8-20-26	"	"	"	Sidney Jackson
8-25-27	"	"	"	Adelle Starbuck
8-23-28	"	"	Margaret Ellis	"
8-22-29	Sidney Jackson	"	Rosa Sealine	Blanche Harland
8-26-30	"	"	Ward Williams	"
8-27-31	Esther Sealine	Alta King	"	"
8-23-32	"	"	"	"
8-24-33	J. Arthur Johnson	Eldridge Ellis	Lora Reinhard	Esther Sealine
8-23-34	Ronald Howe	Kenneth Starbuck	Doris Cronbaugh	"
8-22-35	Helen Brown	Ann Patrice Prime	Evelyn Cronbaugh	Delbert Jones
8-20-36	"	"	Barbara Fish	"
8-26-37	"	"	"	"
8-16-38	Delbert Jones	"	"	"
8-24-39	"	"	"	Wilma Williams
8-22-40	"	"	"	"
8-21-41	Barbara Fish	Delbert Jones	Norma Brown	"
8-27-42	Wilma Williams	Bonnie Boyanovsky	Ann Patrice Prime	"
8-26-43	Cleo Williams	1st Bonnie Bowen	Jarret Moore	Richard Torry
		2nd Wilma Knodie	Winifred Moore	"
8-24-44	Richard Torry	1st Bonnie Bowen	Winifred Moore	Kathryn Fish
		2nd Ernest Barnum		

8-23-45	Beverly Phillips	1st Ann Patrice Fletcher	Melissa Lage
8-22-46	Melissa Lage	2nd Paul Williams	Orien Sealine
8-21-47	Melissa Lage	1st Beverly Phillips	Richard Torry
8-26-48	Richard Torry	2nd Blanche Harland	Orien Sealine
8-25-49	Richard Torry	1st Dorane Allard	Shirley Slaymaker
8-24-50	Richard Torry	2nd Donald Sealine	Orien Sealine
8-23-51	Orien Sealine	1st Dorene Allard	Sandra Reinhard
8-21-52	Orien Sealine	2nd Melissa Lage	Lary Stauffer
8-20-53	Orien Sealine	1st Dorene Allard	Dorothy Nelson
8-19-54	Donald Sealine	2nd Orien Sealine	David Lundquist
8-18-55	Donald Sealine	1st Mary Stauffer	Nyle Sealine
8-23-56	Pat Tempel	2nd Linford Moore	(1 yr.)
8-22-57	Pat Tempel (1 yr.)	1st Mary Stauffer	
		2nd Linford Moore	
		1st Richard Torry	
		2nd Dorothy Nelson	
		1st Donald Sealine	
		2nd Clinton Sealine	
		1st Roy Humphreys	
		2nd Orien Sealine	
		1st Pat Tempel	
		2nd Leroy Schaefer	
		1st Donald Sealine	
		2nd Clinton Sealine	
		1st Russell Rosenberger (2 yrs.)	
		2nd Lowell Cronbaugh (2 yr.)	

8-21-58	Nyle Sealine (2 yrs.)	Connie Rosenberger (2 yr.)
8-20-59		
8-18-60	Nyle Sealine	
8-17-61		
8-16-62	Lerle Danskin	
8-15-63		
7-30-64	Largo Cronbaugh	
8-12-65		
7-25-66		
7-27-67		
8-1-68		

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1st Terry Cronbaugh	Karmen Heller
2nd Lowell Cronbaugh	
1st Roger Heller	Rachel Williams
2nd Ralph Rosenberger	Robert Bormes (to finish term.)
1st Roger Heller	Penelope Stetzer
2nd Stephen Moore	
2nd Ralph Rosenberger	(to finish term.) Sheryl Cronbaugh
1st Ralph Rosenberger	Loretta Bartz
2nd Roger Heller	
Larcene Clark, President	
Denise Reinhard, Secretary	
Dennis Clark, Treasurer	
Largo Cronbaugh, Projects Chairman	
Steve Fedde, 1st Vice President	
Gordon Oettel, 2nd Vice President	
Kendra Taylor, Secretary	
Penny Stetzer, Treasurer (to finish term)	
Dennis Clark, President	
Don Laurion, Treasurer	
Larcene Clark, Projects Chairman	

8-16-69

Bradley Sealine, 1st Vice President  
Stanley Schaefer, 2nd Vice President  
Joanne Cronbaugh, Secretary

7-18-70

No election

4-23-71

Dennis Clark, President  
Kitty Tempel, Treasurer

8-7-71

No election

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Annette Schaefer, President  
Cecilia Moore, Vice President  
Mia Downing, Secretary  
Bernie Lawrence, Treasurer.

For three years the office of secretary was divided into two offices: recording secretary and corresponding secretary. Only the recording secretary is listed. Corresponding secretaries were: 1901 - Oscar Larsh; 1902 - Bessie Holloway; 1903 - Emma Allard. Beginning with 1943 there were two vice presidents. Beginning with 1957 the terms of office were changed to two years with election staggered so that some were elected one year, others the alternating year.