

PASTORS

The Joy Mennonite Church had its annual campout this past weekend at Red Rock Canyon State Park. The park was full of friendly people. Living in an urban area one gets used to being ignored; not that people choose to be unfriendly, but there are too many people to say hello to. But people we meet in this setting of nature are more friendly. We know from our own experience that a day off from the monotony of work is a thrill, and we are more friendly. May it also be that reconnecting with the earth affects our inner being more than we realize?

A documentary on Public Television told the story of one of the last tribes of Indians in South America who continue to live by their old traditions. Their elders decided they could use some of the tools of the modern world like the steel hoe, but one thing they insisted on - they must not wear shoes. These elders believed shoes would break contact with the earth that sustains them.

Is it possible that at least part of the problems of the modern world grew out of our disconnectedness to the earth? Not only do we wear shocs, we don't even walk, we ride. And if we walk it is much more than shoes that separate us from that is concrete and asphalt. We we know that separation from the earth

by we know that separation from the earth brings stress. People connected to the earth don't take vacations. Is it possible that this separation from the earth can also separate us from God? Do not the scriptures teach us that of all that God created, the human person was God's great concern? May it not be that the great purpose to create the world was to provide an experience to enable us to grow and mature to become one with the heart and mind of God? That which is created is not God but created by God. Therefore we must not worship that which is created but we must revere it. If we don't have a reverence for the earth we will make idols of created things and worship them.

Modern society understands that if I pay for a piece of earth it belongs to me. Instead of reverence for this land as God's gift to sustain us we see its value in monetary returns. When we disconnect ourselves from the earth we tend to lose our reverence for the earth. By doing so we lose the opportunity for this spiritual journey toward God.

Is it possible that the little bit of reconnection with the earth when we go to the park is more spiritual than we realize? Maybe the friendliness is the unconscious result of being just a little bit closer to the intention of God for us and the earth together.

Moses mast



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1994 EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

At this writing you may be on vacation - you may celebrate July 4th in some remote place or at home or with family and friends, but the main thing is that it will be safe and same. This is a holiday that the government may find difficult to tamper with or dictate when it should be celebrated, or why.

Once upon a time a number of our holidays had meaning, a purpose, a following, but commercialism and government (or other) intervention has diminished some to show, convenience, or simply a three-day weekend.

There was once a Memorial Day to celebrate remembrance and family heritage, but now it is no longer important - it has become a day for remembering war dead and heros, and it is okay if it happens to touch on family and heritage. Who knows, Easter may be in danger because Jesus was not a veteran or war hero.

My wife Thea and I make an annual Memorial Day pilgrimage back "home" to Newton and to the final resting place of many of the Klassen family at the Tabor Church cemetery. So much of the significance of the day has been adulterated, lost, or forgotten, that we see few living Klassens that weekend. We are learning to know many who remember the Klassens, but for how long - that generation is also not getting younger.

Many thanks to the Hursts at Tabor for making the celebration so meaningful. Their service theme "remembrance" really hit the spot - those reading this editorial column know how important "remembrance" is to this writer. I thank God daily for my heritage as a Klassen, and suddenly, should I also be "proud" (guarded definition) of my Mennonite Heritage?

Readers also know of my emotions and sentimentality, and programming produced for this type of emotional holiday certainly takes its toll on me - even when it is in a strictly patriotic vein commemorating fallen heros (especially this year in conjunction with D-day's 50th), or a welldone rendition of our national anthem, America, or even "taps."

Then I hope for a tolerant judge if I pass the stereotype test of being a good Mennonite. I get depressed about that until I acknowledge that that is not the issue - being a good Mennonite does not make me a good Christian - but it could work the other way around.

Depending on the comfort level one has with himself, and being at peace and in harmony with ones fellow man may be the indicator of one's spiritual growth level, and how rocky the road might yet be in attaining that desired proper relationship with God and the ability to better follow Jesus' teachings. What does this have to do with remembrance? I visit my "remembering room" frequently and feel

What does this have to do with remembrance? I visit my "remembering room" frequently and feel that without that time and experience I might not have the capacity to love or to appreciate the past.

Hope you are all having a special summer, and when you vacation you will come home safely, refreshed and revitalized.

Have you remembered lately? Best wishes to all -

Beetlassen



(F·E·L·L·O·W·S·H·I·P)

In the "Pastor's Corner" Moses mentioned the inspiration of meeting in fellowship in a natural setting in a natural setting as at the Red Rock Canyon State Park. That is a true statement. The fellowship was truly great, and in a specially called and prepared service Saturday evening, 18 June, JMC affirmed a request from Mike and Darlene Powers and accepted them

as members into our fellowship. They have two children, Laura and James.



Meanwhile, down in Honduras, Cheryl Crichley has spent a couple of weeks working with World Neighbors. We know she will have represented our fellowship and our community well and look forward to her report which we will share with all of you.

create peace

Friday, 1 July, through Sunday, 3 July, are the dates for the joint convention of the South Central and Western District Conferences in Tulsa, OK. It will be then and there that JMC will be accepted into membership of the Western District Conference, making that a very special milestone in our church fellowship and development. We ask your prayers and support.





 Fri. thru Sun., 1-3 July Joint Convention of SW District and WD Conferences in Tulsa, OK
Mon., 4 July Independence Day
Sat., 27 Aug. Monthly JMC Fellowship Outing to Horse Thief Canyon
Mon., 5 Sep. Labor Day
End Vacations/Back to School

Church Address:

WORSHIP SERVICE

HOOGE M DO

TO REMEMBER

EVERY

SUNDAY AT 10 OCLOCK A.M.

HALL OF 15

CTR. MUSEUM COMPLIA

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