

Joy Mennonite Church



Mailing Address:

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Church Telephone No.:

(405) 799-7836

August 1994

PASTOR'S CORNER

special EDITORIAL

I visited a person recently who blessed me a great deal. She didn't have much, and what she had was in poor condition. However, it was obvious that she had managed the little resources she had very well. What really spoke to me was the way she seemed at peace with her life and its difficult situations. She understood much more about Paul's teaching on contentment than I do.

Why is it that the poor who suffer more hardship, endure more pain, are often more content than their more affluent brothers and sisters? This, of course, is not always true, especially if their most basic needs are not met, but it is true about many of the world's deprived people. May it be that we who have money expect things to go well, and when it doesn't, we are depressed? Poor people don't expect everything to go well, but when it does they celebrate. May it be that in affluent America we have lost the ability to celebrate? Remember when we used to celebrate birthdays by eating ice cream, and a chicken dinner was special? Now we eat ice cream every day, and what is so special about chicken except that it is low in saturated fat. In our affluence we have lost the ability to celebrate. From whom except the poor are we going to learn again how to be grateful in everything, and learn how to be content in whatever state we find ourselves in, and above everything learn how to celebrate again.

Your Pastor.

Moses Mast

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

August is your last chance at a "summer break" vacation fling. Having had ours in July, we are reminded of how thankful we are for our safe and uneventful return, and to wish the same for all of you.

Part of August will be taken in preparation for return to school, which includes mental attitudes conducive to learning and participating. Hope all are looking forward to those experiences also.

Have a happy and safe summer.

Bee Klassen

As a member of Joy Mennonite, I have been asked to write about my recent trip to Honduras. I have mixed feelings about this as others I know have had more experience in Central America, yet perhaps as a "first-timer" I can bring a slightly different perspective to being there in person.

For those of you who do not know, I was in Honduras in June for about a week, on a study trip with World Neighbors, an Oklahoma City based group which works to eliminate hunger, disease and poverty in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This year World Neighbors has 87 programs in 21 countries. You may be interested in knowing that this organization has collaborated with MCC from time to time on projects, and is currently involved with MCC in Haiti. I work as a volunteer for them when I can, giving building tours and talks, yet that is not my main purpose here.

One objective of this trip was to put faces and names to a few of the people I talk about and try to serve in my own way. I feel that this was accomplished. The memories of the faces of the people in the remote villages, the stories they shared of their struggles and triumphs, and their generosity and hospitality will enrich my life for the rest of my journey on earth. Even with the barriers of language and culture, we connected for awhile, especially the women in the groups who talked of bearing children, and the grief of losing children. Boundary lines of country, race, language, or economic status could not weaken our universal bonds.

I saw many things I would like to have room to talk about, and will be doing so at upcoming speaking engagements, yet I will only mention two additional things I learned. The need for our stewardship of the earth was really brought home to me, as I saw peasants struggling to make a living on steep, left-over land. Deforestation is affecting even the rich people in the cities, as rainfall patterns have changed, and the water behind the hydroelectric dam is so low that electricity is rationed. I saw agricultural projects that worked, fed the people, and nourished, rather than destroyed, the environment. It is difficult to explain to some people what a spiritual experience walking through some fields and forests was for me.

Finally, I was affirmed in what I have felt for a long time; that the lines we have drawn on the maps to divide us, the differences in the hue of our skin, the way we talk and dress, must not stop the flow of love and caring between us. Some of us feel called to mission work, some to giving of resources, some to political activism. It doesn't matter. If we consider ourselves followers of Christ, this flow of love, of His Spirit, must not be obstructed.

Cheryl Cichlaj



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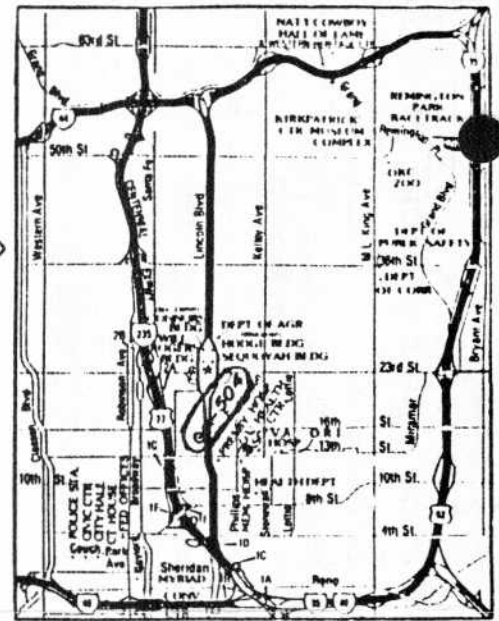
With little fanfare, Joy Mennonite Church slipped into membership with the Western District Conference in Tulsa at the convention 1-3 July 1994. Those in attendance felt it was a good, worthwhile meeting, and we will share a report with you soon on it.

THE YEAR AHEAD

We at Joy Mennonite Church need to continue to work closely with the Lincoln Terrace Association in identifying, treating and curing problems in the general community - there is so much potential there if we just see it.

Moses and Sadie Mast will be on vacation for the next two Sundays (they are on a driving trip to visit family in North Carolina and Iowa). We wish them a great visit with their respective family members and a safe journey and return. In their absence, on Sunday, August 7, Cheryl Crichley will bring the message, and on the following Sunday, August 14, Peter Brueckner will be "ministering" to us.

WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.

create peace

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat., 27 Aug. Monthly JMC Fellowship Outing changed to Arcadia Lake, Edmond
- Mon., 5 Sep. Labor Day
- End Vacations/Back to School
- Sat./Sun., 17-18 Sep. Oklahoma Convention of Mennonite Churches - Eden Mennonite, Okla
- Sat., 24 Sep. Church Work Day - combined with members from Church Neighborhood, Clegg Memorial United Methodist Church and Inman (Kansas) Mennonite Church
- Sat., 1 Oct. Church Work Day - combined with interested members from Oklahoma Churches

Moses & Sadie Mast
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