



# Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

February 1996

## Pastor's Corner

We are still hearing the stories of the black freedom struggle of the Sixties. It was a struggle so intense and brutal that we can hardly believe it was our story. One story caught my attention. A white person claimed she was not racial because she did not know that blacks were treated so cruel and brutal. A black person responded, "It was happening in your country, and in your community. If you did not know, then you are racial."

We believe things have changed, and indeed they have. The changes for the most part, however, are the result of the struggle of the victims, the black people. Most of the changes are changes of the law and not changes of the heart. The world is not a better place today than it was in the Sixties. America has not repented of its oppressive behavior and the churches are

silent. I believe this may be because of our concept of spirituality. Henry Nouwen, in the book *Gracias*, speaks about recognizing true spirituality in the midst of life. Nouwen notes that instead of finding true spirituality where life is lived, we seek to construct and put together a spirituality as a set of religious beliefs. In this false sense of spirituality we are unaware of the struggles going on around us. The New Testament teaches that true spirituality is to care for the widows and orphans (James 1:27). We are taught to pray "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." True spirituality means joining our hearts and minds to the heart and mind of God. This means we will grieve about and long for the same things that God grieves about and longs for. Most important, we cannot say "we did not know."

*Moses Mart*

**Writer Profile:** *Cristina Kaufman is from McPherson, Kansas and is a member of the First Mennonite Church in McPherson. She is currently studying meteorology at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, and will be graduating in May. One of her favorite pastimes is chasing storms. Cristina keeps in touch with the church because, as she says, she likes being in the company of people of faith.*

*Moses Mart*

## The Holy Spirit

I wonder what it was like during Pentecost years ago when the Holy Spirit descended as flames of fire on the believers. Acts 2 tells us that a violent wind from heaven swept the room and tongues of fire came to rest on each one present. Was the wind terrifying, evoking fear of the Lord or was it a refreshing, cleansing force that swept away the evil? It probably grabbed everyone's attention, announcing the presence of God.

And the flames? Not having been there myself, I often look at the event from an eye-witness point of view and think what an awe-inspiring spectacle it would have been to see tongues of fire dancing on each person. Yet for the believers there that day, the fire was probably more than a dramatic sign solely for observation, it was an event to be experienced with the whole being, a stirring of the mind, heart, and soul.

Recently, the adult Sunday School class has been discussing the Holy Spirit. A comment was made that the Spirit is often spoken about with an impersonal flavor as when we read the story in Acts from an outsider's view. Actually, the Spirit is

very personal, dwelling within us, counseling, comforting, and convicting in an intimate manner.

It is difficult to describe the Holy Spirit in my life. I am tempted to make a great analogy comparing the Spirit to fire. I can talk about the Spirit comforting me and giving me peace, like the soothing warmth and dance of a campfire on a cool, clear night. And I can explain that sometimes when the Spirit teaches and reprimands, the fire burns a little hotter. Even though what I say is true, the words of the analogy are empty. The Holy Spirit must be experienced; observation through the words of someone else has little meaning unless we add our experiences to the story.

I admit that I often take the Holy Spirit for granted. But by hearing the Pentecost story and trying to imagine what they experienced with the anointing of the Spirit, I am made aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life. Take time this week to rethink Acts Chapter 2 from the view of a believer in the room and look for the ways that the Holy Spirit is alive in you.

*Cristina Kaufman*

### Fellowship News:

Cheryl Crichley fell on the ice, Jan. 18, and broke her right leg. After spending a couple of days in the hospital, she is now home. We hope her recovery is speedy and complete!

Bill & Thea Klassen express their love and appreciation to the church fellowship for their "impromptu" celebration for them on their 40th anniversary on 31 Dec. 95 -- a very meaningful expression of the church's love and affirmation to them.

### Annual Business Meeting:

We met Saturday, Jan. 13, at 10am with Larry Brashear, Meno, OK, who is on the WDC Mission Board and is our contact person with that group. After the noon pizza lunch, we held our annual business meeting.

Officers chosen for 1996: Cheryl Crichley, Chairperson, Darlene Powers, Treasurer, and Thea Klassen, continuing as Secretary. Committees are: Worship -- Peter Brueckner, Ralph Ediger, Cristina Kaufman, Moses & Sadie Mast; and Hospitality/Social -- Bill Klassen, Sadie Mast, Grace Roley, Debbie O'Neal. Other appointments are: Special Day Recognition -- Grace Roley; MWR Correspondent and MDS Contact Person -- Bill Klassen; Children's S.S. Teachers -- Darlene Powers, Kay Brueckner, Grace Roley, Sadie Mast; and Newsletter -- Mike & Darlene Powers, and Bill Klassen.

Some of the other business discussed: 1) The Constitution and Bylaws Committee hope to have a

proposal for the next quarterly meeting. 2) Peter & Kay Brueckner expressed interest in starting a time for the neighborhood children on Saturday mornings for the purpose of tutoring, reading help, snacks, and play time. We gave them the go-ahead to begin plans. 3) The Executive Committee was given the job of proposing a budget for approval at the next meeting.

### Membership Classes:

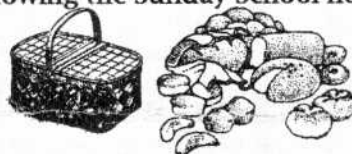
Classes for persons exploring church membership (with current members also welcome) have started. The first meeting was held on Jan. 21, at 6pm, discussing early Anabaptist history. The next session will be on Feb. 4, at 6pm, with Floyd Bartel, WDC Minister, to help explain the General Conference's history and structure. A final session will be scheduled dealing with our local church, led by Moses for prospective members.

A Catechism class for the youth will be starting during the S.S. hour on Feb. 4. Moses will be leading this class, using the new video, "Turning Toward Jesus."

### Worship News:

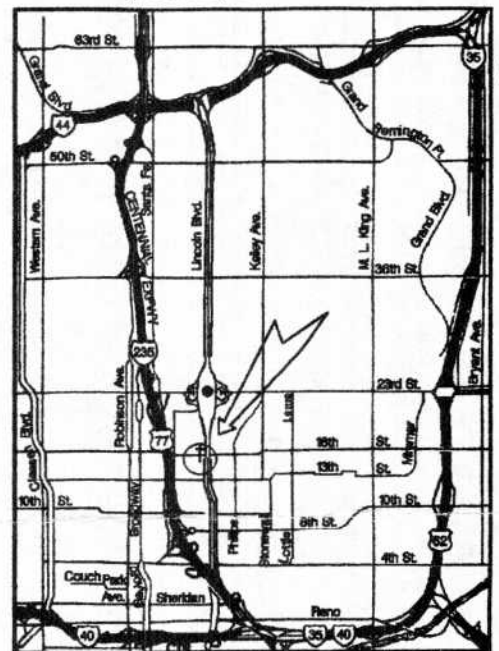
Moses was invited to preach at the Eden Mennonite Church, Inola, OK, on Jan. 28. In his absence, Cheryl Crichley consented to speak to us that morning.

Jerry Kaiser, pastor of our sister church, Inman Mennonite, Inman, KS, will be speaking to us on Feb. 25. We will have a carry-in dinner following the Sunday School hour.



### Worship Service:

Every Sunday at 10 O'clock A.M.



**Church Address:** 504 NE 16th St.  
(just west of the oil derrick on Lincoln Blvd.)

**Reminder:** March Newsletter items are due by Feb. 21. Give to Mike or Darlene Powers.

### Dates To Remember:

- Feb 4 Floyd Bartel, membership class, 6pm
- Feb 25 First Sunday of Lent
- Feb 25 Jerry Kaiser preaching; Church Dinner
- Mar 1 World Day of Prayer
- Mar 31 Palm Sunday

Newsletter Contributors: Moses Mast, Pastor's Corner & Profile; Cristina Kaufman, Writer; Bill Klassen, Mailing; Darlene Powers & Sadie Mast, News Items; Mike Powers, Publisher.

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