



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

March 1996

Pastor's Corner

At Joy Mennonite Church we are trying to start a children's club for the children of the neighborhood.

The truly innocent persons of our society or any society are the children. If adults do not provide a good environment for children to grow up in, these children will be seriously disadvantaged through no fault of theirs. I well remember when people believed that the city was a bad environment in which to raise a family. There is wisdom in these old perceptions. There is an old African proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child." It takes a village and not a city. When people move from everywhere and form a city, there are large numbers of people who are not connected to each other. The bad environment of the city is not that people are bad, but the city does not have the family and community structures that are so vital in raising children.

Children learn behavior from simply watching adults. Small children also know when adult behavior is wrong. I remember a family counselor telling me that very small children have a mysterious understanding of what is wrong in family relationships, when adults do not know what the problem is. Children not only know when an adult is lying, they know how much the truth is shaded. This does not

mean that children know how to behave. Without adults that model right behavior children are confused and do not develop emotionally. The bad environment of the city that we were warned about is not that people are bad, but the absence of adults structured into our family lives.

Not all areas of the city are the same. Areas with racial tension and white flight have a greater disconnectedness between people. There are many misconceptions about these blighted areas of the city. Many wonderful people live here. The decay is not caused and sustained by the people who live here, although they also may bear responsibility. The decay is caused more by the problem feeding on itself.

We at Joy Mennonite believe we may be able to help with a children's club. Peter and Kay Brueckner have volunteered to give leadership, and others will help. We tried once for a Saturday morning and no one came. So we will try again with a later time. We invite your prayers for this effort. As Christians we are living under a new law, the law of Christ. This law calls us to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2). When people are in trouble it is a sin to abandon them. What we want for ourselves and our children, we must want for everyone.

Moses Mast

Meditation

As Christians, we try to follow the teachings of Jesus. We spend countless hours studying the New Testament, listening to sermons, praying, meditating, all for the goal of trying to be like him. We spend all this effort and most of our lives trying to follow Jesus. And that is commendable.

What kind of a man was he? Yes, you read it correctly, I asked, "What kind of a man was he?" Let's make a list. Let's see, he liked children, he healed people, he taught people. Yes, he did, but that's what he did, not what kind of man he was. Was he someone that if you saw him at the store, you'd just automatically think "I want to be like him"?

Think about him for a while. I'm limited on how much I can write, but there's no limitation on how much you can think, so take a few minutes or a week and think, then finish reading.

I've been thinking and here are some of my thoughts. First thing was he kept company with some pretty undesirable characters. James and John, the "Sons of Thunder" -- weren't they nasty, sweaty fishermen? I believe there was a tax collector hanging out with him; those guys aren't even too well thought of nowadays. Oh yes, there was a lady of questionable virtue, mentioned now and

again. He even protected her. And there was some mention of publicans and sinners.

Second, I remember that the religious leaders of the day certainly weren't too impressed by him; they spent their time plotting against him. And let's not forget he was not only a convicted criminal, but he was executed as such.

Third, he had quite a temper. He did go into the temple and start turning over tables. And he did curse a tree just because it had no fruit and he was hungry.

So, now, think some more. Jesus walked this planet as a man. To some, he may not have made a good impression. To those who didn't take the time to listen and to check him out, he may not have appeared to be someone that 2,000 years later would have people patterning their lives after him. If Jesus were walking the streets today, what would he look like? How would he dress? What kind of people would be with him? And again, would he be someone who at first glance would make you think "I want to be like him"?

Think about this. And think about it some more, when you are meeting and dealing with people you've not met before. You just never know what's there unless you take the time to see it.

Terry Hostetler

Fellowship News:

Harold Burkholder from Harper, KS has been staying at Mast's while he receives radiation treatments at University Hospital, Monday through Friday, for 6-7 weeks. Our prayers are with him and his family.

Jack O'Neal has received hospital treatment for an asthma attack recently. We hope and pray for his recovery and healing.

Although it is starting slowly, some neighborhood children have begun

Writer Profile: Terry Hostetler was born in August 1954 in Bedford, Ohio. Moving to Kent, OH, he attended schools there through Junior High, where he became quite a sax player in their music program. Oklahoma City became home in 1967, where he graduated from Moore High School in 1971.

During three years in the Marine Corps he learned the basics of land surveying, a profession he hoped to pursue. Accident injuries cut that aspiration short, but that didn't hinder him from being a provider with hard work. He and his wife Donna have four children.

Terry and Donna are charter members at Joy Mennonite Church (in an earlier church Terry was a member of the championship Oklahoma "Bible Quiz Team"), and work scheduling permitting, he is always there to be involved in church projects for others. Terry's compassion and concern for others is well known in his neighborhood as is his desire for fairness and justice, and he will "give the shirt off his back" for those causes.

Terry and I have been prayer brothers for some time.

Bill Klassen

to attend the Saturday "kids' club" being organized by Peter and Kay, with Moses and Sadie's help. We pray for God's guidance and blessing.

Worship News:

The theme for our Lenten Services is "O That Today You Would Hear God's Voice!" -- a time of active listening, with heart and soul, for the life-giving voice of God. Join us!

Jerry Kaiser, Inman Mennonite Church, KS, brought the message on February 25, along with several families who shared special music with us. We appreciated their visit and support as our sister church!

Moses and Sadie will be attending the Pastor-Spouse Retreat in Great Bend, KS, March 1-3. Our speaker here on March 3 will be Troy Wedel, Mennonite Mutual Aid counselor.

Our worship service on March 24 will be led by Randy Smith, Campus Minister, and a group of students from Bethel College, N. Newton, KS.

Coming Events:

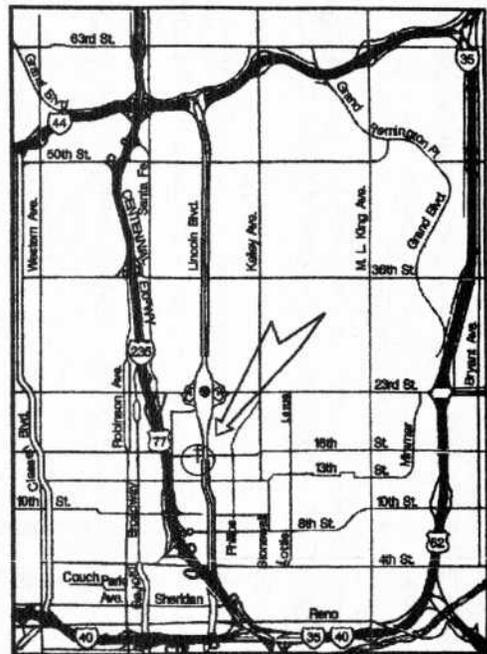
A workshop titled "Beyond Violence" will be held on March 9, at St. Luke's Methodist Church, 222 NW 15th. Call Mast's for more information.

Phone Number Change!

The "799" number has been dropped; our official church number is now **(405) 236-4938**. This number rings at our church building, or is forwarded to Mast's residence when necessary. Moses & Sadie can also be reached at (405) 771-4743. Now we will be able to list our address in the phone book!

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: April Newsletter items are due by Mar. 27. Give to Mike or Darlene Powers.

Dates To Remember:

- Mar 1 World Day of Prayer
- Mar 3 Troy Wedel preaching
- Mar 24 Randy Smith preaching
- Mar 31 Palm Sunday; MCC offering
- Apr 7 Easter

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

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