



JOY MENNONITE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Corner

I am writing this newsletter from California where we are on vacation. We began our vacation by attending the Western District Conference at Denver, Colorado. On the way to Denver we visited an old friend in a nursing home in Northwest Oklahoma. An attendant at the nursing home had just returned from an extended stay with her daughter to help care for her ten-year-old son who was dying of cancer. After the child died she returned home. One could sense that while she grieved the passing of her grandson she was at peace with his passing.

When we got to Denver the news of the day was the verdict of the death penalty for Timothy

McVeigh. This was truthfully America's verdict. Both our President and Attorney General made statements of finding the guilty person or persons and nice sanitized words about justice which, interpreted, meant we kill them. For those who claim the death penalty is the biblical model consider what happens in a crime like this. We cannot blame the victims. The horror and the pain is so great it creates an anger and pain that demands retribution. The biblical writings people refer to in support of the death penalty are writings of victims and victims' points of view. Why do Christians, at least, not refer to Jesus' teaching about praying for your enemies or Paul's words about not returning evil for evil?

Now we are in California with my sister. My sister has cancer. Yesterday we went with her to a

cancer support group meeting. Today we will go with her for her monthly chemotherapy treatment. This is life. A ten-year-old has cancer and dies. A man is sentenced to die. A loved one for whom life suddenly becomes uncertain. Paul says, in I Corinthians, "There is an old saying, death is swallowed up in victory." Paul goes on to say, this saying has become reality in Jesus our Lord. This is not some cheap advice for someone like a cancer victim, don't worry about death, you will go to be with Jesus. These are words that grew out of a life-giving practice of living. People who live lives centered on themselves and their personal pleasure are devastated when a terminal illness strikes either themselves or a loved one. Those who have practiced a life-giving pattern of living understand the words about

victory and death. The life-giving persons believe in mercy and forgiveness and restoration. They care about the well-being of others. Life-giving people walk with people in their joy and in their pain. They understand the two sides of life, celebration and mourning. Very significantly, they do not believe God has created us to abandon us at death. Only when this has become a part of our being can we walk with people. Otherwise we feel compelled to give advice, (God help us.)

I hope you are having a good summer.

Moses Mart

(Members and friends are filling in while Moses is gone.)

WARRANTIES TAKEN FOR GRANTED?

Bought a new car, major appliance (or minor), electric machine or tool lately? Chances are you got some sort of limited warranty, maybe as much as four years, on a product that's "dam well worth it" in price.

There is an item around, not on the market and can't be bought, that actually averages a life of 70 +/- years, and consequently offers no standard written warranty, although two models are generally available from the maker for the owner/user. While there are numerous versions world-wide, they are all

standard "equipped" with no special options.

This item is unique: The built-in chemical processing plant produces energy while promoting growth, and is equipped with a waste collection and disposal system not tied to monitored meters and gauges. It develops orderly growth and personality most times and has an uncanny high percentage of near perfect specimen of its own kind during its reproduction cycle, which is done without conventional molds or tool and die makers.

It has a built-in computer system linked together

throughout its make-up, and without a programmer allows for an intelligence development tied to an audio-visual network with the ability to disseminate and comprehend information, form opinions, make decisions (not all perfect and correct) and communicate with its own kind without conventional electrical hook-ups.

It can express its own pain as well as feel that of others, can show and express love or hate, compassion or contempt nearly simultaneously, and with proper motivation can on desire, effort and dedication be compatible with all others of

its kind in peace, regardless of model, manufacturer or place of origin.

A moderate (for most models) fuel supply provides this all when administered with some regularity and some down time for rest, and depending on the quality of fuel and adequate "down periods" it requires a minimum of maintenance - or ranging to an occasional major overhaul or discontinuance.

Breaks normally mend themselves without ordering costly replacement parts (either domestic or foreign), although from time to time parts have (continued on back...)

(...continued from front)
been known to be interchangeable or replaceable.

Think about it! It's your body and mine, and I hear that there are those who debate how or whether to teach creation, and others who deny the very existence of God, the Maker. A pity.

Bee Klassen

On the road...

We pray and wish safe journey to all who are and will be traveling this summer. As mentioned on the front, Moses and Sadie are going a lot of miles, including representing our church at the Western District Conference in Colorado, June 13-15. Bill and Thea Klassen will be attending the Winnipeg '97 General Conference Mennonite Church Assembly, July 6-8, so that we will have a delegate representing us there also. Laura Powers will be at the Youth Convention at Winnipeg '97, July 3-8. We look forward to exciting reports from all of our far-ranging representatives!

Best Wishes...

are in order for Nicole Jenkenson and Damon Tabor, who were united in Holy Matrimony in our church on June 10th. It was a lovely ceremony and we are happy that they chose to be married at Joy!

The Campout...

was reportedly a success! We look forward to our next outing, which will be a bowling party at Windsor Lanes on July 19th, time to be announced.

Oops...

The publisher apologizes to everyone concerned for not having the facts straight about the fill-in speakers while Moses is gone, in the last newsletter. Please see the calendar for the corrected schedule of past and upcoming speakers.

Prayer request...

Mike and Darlene Powers request prayers that they can find a buyer for their house soon, so that they can move to Newton, Kansas by the end of the summer, as Mike has been working in Wichita since January. Let's pray that this family can be reunited again

soon, as this is surely a frustrating time for them.

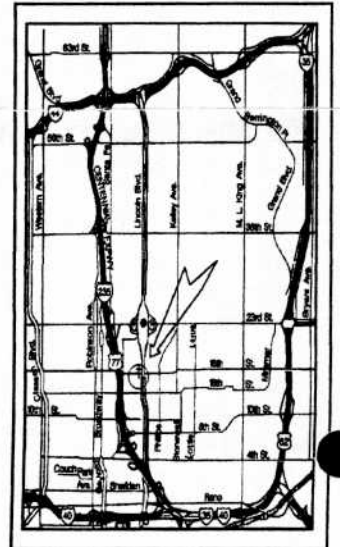
Calendar

- June 15 ... Mike Powers, speaker at Joy
- June 22 ... Bill Klassen, speaker at Joy
- June 29 ... Cheryl Crichley, speaker at Joy, MCC offering
- July 6 Judy Menadu, speaker at Joy
- July 6-8... Winnipeg '97 Assembly
- July 19... Quarterly Business Meeting, Bowling at Windsor Lanes

Peace on Earth...

Before leaving for their trip, Sadie mentioned that July 6th is International Peace Sunday. This follows on the heels of the celebration of Independence Day. Let us contemplate the times and places of conflicts, past and present, and the role of Christ's followers in bringing peace. This might be a good time to reflect on efforts like the Peace Factory, which was recently in Oklahoma City. The following was written by Deng Ming Dao, but perhaps it strikes some cord of familiarity and calling to those of the Christian faith:

"This world abounds in war horses; let the day come when they will be used only to fertilize fields. Our nation hold a multitude of weapons; let us pray that they be shunned as omens of evil. People yearn for power; let us hope that more and more of us will find contentment in our daily lives. Let us listen to our own prayers. It is we who will make them real."



Joy Mennonite Church is located at 504 NE 16th (just west of the oil derrick on Lincoln Blvd, south of the State Capitol.)
Worship is at 10:00 am.

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