



# JOY MENNONITE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## Pastor's Corner

This past month Arun Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, spoke in Oklahoma City. As a child and a teenager, Arun spent time with his grandfather daily and spoke mostly of what he had learned from him as well as about his experience of living in South Africa during the days of Apartheid. I have never heard anyone speak with such passion and clarity about non-violence. Like his grandfather, he did not speak about theory or religious dogma, but a way to live in response to those who have power over you and abuse you. Arun was also made aware of the spiritual basis of Gandhi's belief in non-violence. Arun said non-violence is not a

strategy. I take this to mean not a strategy to win. The objective of non-violence is not to win but to reconcile and bring every person under the umbrella of God's love. I think what impressed me most of Gandhi's belief is that only those committed to non-violence can progress toward understanding truth. Violence is based on deception and trickery. The intentions are to destroy. This kind of aggressive violence we can easily identify as evil at the same time we justify it for achieving our interests. But there is also passive violence that causes suffering and dying. Unless we are very intentional we will be participants in this kind of violence. Passive violence also grows out of our concern for our group or my personal interests and it will do harm to others to protect our or

my interests. This inward focus of our concerns will cloud our vision and impede our progress toward truth. Gandhi also says that if non-violence is to have an impact on the larger world scene, we must first learn to practice non-violence on the personal level, like my relationship to my spouse and my family and to people I relate to on a personal level. To sum it up, what Gandhi says about non-violence begins with a spiritual journey to be in harmony with the God of creation and then reaches out to every human my life will touch. This is exactly like the words of our Lord, The greatest and sum of all the commandments is, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, mind, and soul, and your neighbor as yourself.

We wish all of you happy camping, happy vacation, a happy summer. Maybe we will see some of you at conference of elsewhere. God be with each of you.

*Moses Mast*

### Related note:

Through the end of June, Moses Mast and Cheryl Crichley will be facilitating discussions of Christians & Government during the Adult Sunday School hour. We welcome your participation!

## Moving Day by Peter and Kay Brueckner

Living in a mobile society as we do in the United States moving into a new residence, to a different city or even across the country is not considered a monumental event to most people. For our son, however, moving from a state facility for the developmentally disabled into an assisted living situation in the same small town is probably the biggest single occurrence in his life thus far. Certainly, for us as parents, as well as for his brother and sisters, Robert's upcoming move has become a source of great excitement, and it is wonderful to be able to share in his boundless enthusiasm. For Robert and his family moving

day will be the culmination of years of teaching, training and instructing, as well as frustrations, doubts and much prayer. We are also very grateful for the unceasing investment of time and effort on the part of many that has enabled Robert to reach this goal. Since nothing comes easy for Robert, we expect problems to occur. However, we do not anticipate any unsurmountable obstacle, and as we look back over the years, we have to say that we would never have thought such a move would be possible for him. Sometimes when we think about the past, the stressful, difficult times come into focus. Robert, the unpredictable, hyperactive, intellectually delayed child was our first born son. In short succession there were 3 other children--a brother born 16

months later and twin sisters born 3 years thereafter. The early years seem to have been spent, at least in our minds, in trying to keep up with Robert and teaching the other children to be more self-reliant. Even at young ages, his brothers and sisters realized, without being told, that we all had to watch out for Robert. Family activities had to be very carefully planned with much thought being given to the location, the type of activity, the duration and above all whether or not Robert would go with us or refuse to take part. Shortly before his seventh birthday Robert set fire to the kitchen very early in the morning while the rest of the family was asleep. We decided to find a residential school for him for the summer. He was totally out of control, and the other children had almost been

overcome by smoke. This began Robert's journey in and out of a residential facility which could provide the structure he seemed to need. For several years he stayed at home during the school year, but went away during the summer. The peace that the family experienced during his absences was indescribable. We could sleep without worrying about when he would awaken. It was possible to do things together we could not have done otherwise. In short, we could all relax and enjoy each other's company. On the other hand, we missed him when he was not there. When Robert finished the school year just before turning 12, it was evident that he could no longer live at home. That particular year in school had been a disaster. Instead of the (Continued on back...)

(...Continued) structured classroom environment he needed and which his former teacher had provided, his new teacher believed in "giving the children freedom," as she told us. Our warnings went unheeded, and 1 week he had reduced her to tears. During the entire school year we heard of his exploits--letting the bird out of the cage, taking the fish out of its tank, throwing other children's coats on the roof, going behind the teacher as she wrote on the blackboard and erasing everything, looking through the teacher's desk when she had told the class just to get the scissors out of the bottom drawer, etc. At the same time, he became uncontrollable at home and was miserable. During the years that followed, Robert came home for vacations and on holidays, and we visited him regularly. School instruction was on a 12 month basis. We often wondered what the future would hold for him? Would he be able to have some sort of job? What would happen to him if we were not there? We attempt to reduce stress and pressure on him when he comes to visit. In addition, we have learned to accept the fact that Robert can only enjoy a home visit for a limited amount of time. He loves his brothers and sisters and looks forward to calling them when he comes

home and visiting them whenever possible. Activities are planned that we know he enjoys. Most of all, we have learned to recognize the doors that God has opened for him and for us. Moving into the community is just one example.

### Happenings in our group...

Another grandchild was born to Ralph and Becky Ediger's daughter, Tammy. The name of this new arrival is Isabel Marie.

Judy Menadue is in Wichita for her son's wedding on May 30th, and to see her 5-month-old granddaughter, Alexis.

Beverly Bliss left for Hagerstown, MD, on May 7th, where she will be employed as a speech therapist for the summer. Frank and the children left last Friday evening to join her. They will return in August.

Martha Shoemaker, Ethel Posar, and Sadie Mast went out to brunch together to celebrate Martha's birthday.

The good old VS (Menno) house, our church home, will have a new look! Painting is in progress. Drive by and check it out...

### Concerns...

Ethel Posar has not been feeling as well as she would like lately. Continue to remember her in your prayers.

We should also ask for safe passage for all those who will be on trips this summer.

### Calendar of Events...

June 7....."Christians & Government" in adult SS class

June 13-14...Church campout at Lake Thunderbird

June 21....."Christians & Government" in adult SS class

June 28.....End of "Christians & Government in adult SS class

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Church services will not be held at the Menno House on June 14th due to the church campout!

### The Great Campout!!!

The annual church campout will be held at the usual place on

Lake Thunderbird, the weekend of June 13-14. A special church service will be held at the camp on Sunday. Activities for the weekend will include horseshoes, games, eating, storytelling, singing, swimming, and so on. Menus and assignments are being made. See Moses or Sadie for details.

### Looking ahead...

Western District Conference will be held July 3-5 in Tulsa. Cheryl Crichley will be the delegate for Joy Mennonite.



Joy Mennonite is located at 504 NE 16th, (just west of the oil derrick on 16th, south of the State Capital.)

We meet at 10:00am Sundays.

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