



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear friends of Joy Mennonite church, as of this

newsletter we are in Saint Louis for a meeting of the Prison Visitation and support group. From here we plan to go to Iowa to see Sadie's sisters and brother. The Bliss family had such a good experience working at a children's camp in Oregon where the whole family was involved in a meaningful way. They will be writing of this experience. God bless all of you. Until next time,

Moses Mart

Camp Meadowood

by Beverly Bliss

This summer our family took a journey that included part of the Oregon Trail. Fortunately, our transportation was an air conditioned car and our lodging a Motel 6. Our destination was a speech and hearing camp near Pendleton, Oregon called Camp Meadowood. Frank applied to many summer camps on our behalf offing the experienced services of a special ed teacher, a speech therapist and six talented and enthusiastic children. Only Camp Meadowood took advantage of this amazing offer. All staff arrived a week before the first session to clean up and set

up, plan programs and speech therapy activities and get to know each other. We met a wonderful group of adults from college age to middle age and one almost retired age. An extroverted personality, a wild sense of humor, a knowledge of numerous camp songs and skits, a love of children and a willingness to work around the clock were the characteristics of the staff. There were counselors, program staff, graduate students in speech therapy and experienced therapists.

The campers came in two groups of about fifty each session. These kids all had difficulties communicating to some degree. Some mispronounced a single sound and others only used a little speech and some sign language. But all kids were able to enjoy the fun activities of camp. They all had some part in a skit, and got to swim, play games, camp out overnight and do things they had never done before. They got to just be a kid: not a handicapped kid, just a kid. They were not teased once all week about their speech or behavior.

All of us had meaningful experiences and special campers that touched our hearts. Cameron was seen all of the first session with one particular camper by him at all times. Hayley was always surrounded by little girls and even woke up one morning with a camper asleep in her bed.

Campers had to reserve a meal in advance to sit with Frank as he was popular with all the campers, but particularly with the teenage girls. Cameron and Kyle dished

out their sense of humor along with the food each meal as they volunteered for kitchen duty. Brandt and Gabriel were popular with the art, sports, boating and archery staff for their help and enthusiasm. Scott made new friends easily with staff and campers and was particularly sought after by the girls, who gave him presents, danced with him and have since called him and written letters. Several of the little girls I taught were very special to me and will always stay in my heart. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of supervising my graduate students and also the stimulation and knowledge gained from interacting with six other experienced therapists.

The greatest Joy Frank and I had this summer, however was the joy of seeing our children shine.

Every one of them has a heart of compassion, kindness and joy.

Our oldest two worked long hours with non-stop responsibility. They learned new skills such as sign language and they showed that they could do whatever was required of them in a job. They showed patience and kindness to all the kids even when they didn't feel like it or if a child was not very lovable. All of the children offered a helping hand to a camper when they needed it. Scott made friends his age and also helped the counselors in his cabin by being a good role model and helping supervise, teach and manage the younger campers. Kyle was reliable as kitchen staff and willing to work where needed. He also contributed his sense of humor to all camp activities. Gabriel helped

with therapy activities when asked, made friends with campers and staff and received many thank you notes from staff for his help in activities. Brandt became a member of one of the cabins each session and was a good model for the campers in participating and activities and following the counselor's directions. He made a particular long time friend who he keeps in touch with by e-mail. The staff were all very friendly to our children and included them in jokes and games. We were regularly complimented on their responsibility, patience, kindness and humor. We were then and are now very proud of all the children and can begin to see the Christ-like adults they will become.

News

Moses and Sadie Mast are attending the annual meeting for Prison Visitation and Support Group.

The weekend of September 4,

Charlotte Warkentine took several of the your to a youth retreat at Camp Mennoscah.

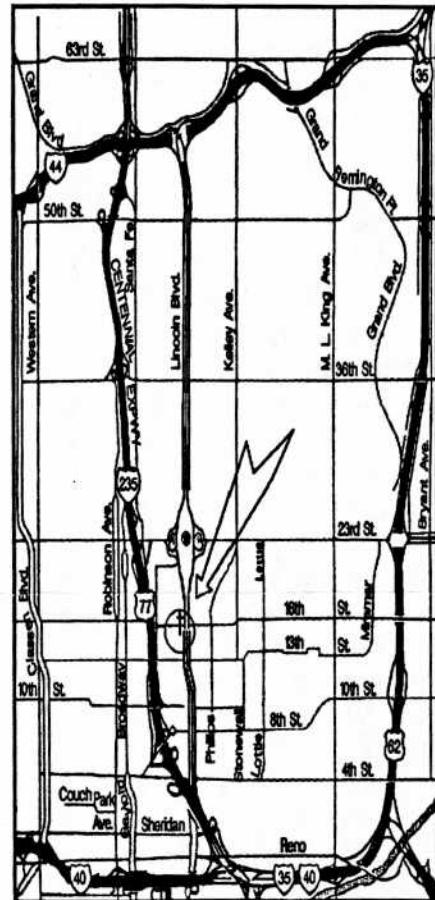
Joy Mennonite was well represented at the Oklahoma Convention to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Oklahoma Mennonite Convention. It was a good week and with quality speakers telling stories of our history and challenging us to remember our faith that was tried by persecution.

Calendar of Events

**Oct 16 9:30 AM
Business Meeting.**

**Oct 22 - 23
Western District Conference**

**Oct 24 2:00 PM
Crop Walk (meet at the capitol steps)**



Joy Mennonite Church is located at 504 NE 16th (Just west of the oil derrick on 16th.) We meet at 10:00 am on Sundays.

Everyone is welcome!

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

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