



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S CORNER

We have just finished very trying

time in our history with the end of the impeachment hearings. How each senator voted is not of ultimate importance to me. I would have voted no to impeachment but the no would have been to the process. I am concerned about a mean spirit of vengeance that is manifesting itself in our country that is contrary to the spirit of our Lord. The effort to convict, remove and destroy one who has erred stands in contrast to the gospel that calls for confession of sins but always with the purpose of restoration, healing and wholeness. If such a

process would have been followed my vote may have been different. I share the concern with those who are concerned about a moral conscience that ignores wrong doing as long as the person leads us in establishing a prosperous economy. There was a kind of hypocrisy in Washington that excuses lying if it is not done under oath. Our Lord told us not to use an oath on the basis that all lying is wrong and we in our mortal bodies do not have the power to make one hair white or black. Our Lord also said the truth would make us free. Logically speaking then, deception will enslave us. Some of those who expressed great concern about lying

under oath believed it was right and often necessary to lie to achieve certain goals beneficial to us. We also see the practice of lying for political gain, national security and even increased profits. Some of the lies that were considered excusable had a wide fall out of human suffering but was believed to be right because the fall out was not to us. The early church believed deeply in confession of your sins. The purpose of confession was to resort and heal. Confession of our sins can be difficult. If one has committed a crime, confession may mean a price to pay for your sin. It may simply be embarrassing to confess my sin. That

some will feel shame and guilt may be inevitable. But when the church has sought to bring shame and guilt, the church has erred. The purpose is restoration and healing, and the church should seek to provide such a content for confession. To live openly and not pretend that I am what I am not, is to be free indeed. The impeachment hearings made me sad because we believe a sin was committed but a spirit of vengeance ruled the hearings and now all of America is made to experience the consequences of this spirit. Sadly it is not a spirit that makes us free but rather more enslaved.

Moses Mast

Editorial.. By Damon Tabor

These days it takes a lot to get going. We are bombarded in every way by beliefs and opinions of others. The television is a great transmitter of opinions. I woke up one day, after napping on the couch,

to find a PBS special on TV violence. I've seen a lot of TV violence. Anyone who has watched TV has. I have never thought too much on the subject. The people on the PBS

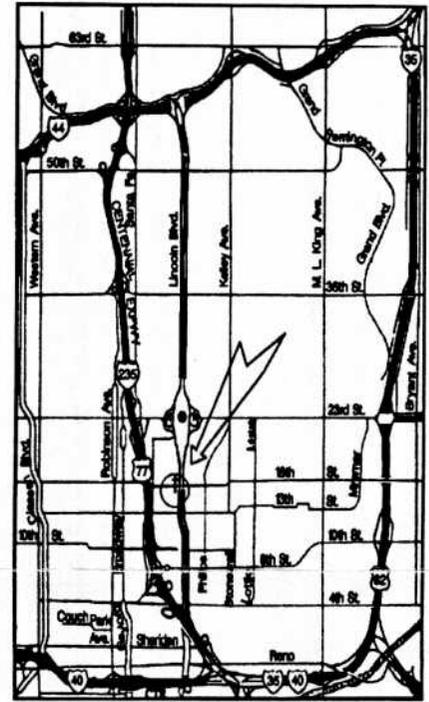
special had thought on it. One group believed that violence on TV is all right and maybe even necessary. It's a part of real life, they said. Another group was opposed to the display of violence. The program went on to play violent scenes from various TV shows.

Maybe it was the fact that I had just awoken from sleep, but the display of violence frightened me. These were shows I've seen, so why was I dismayed by the images? Perhaps because they were being displayed for what they are: violence.



Rogers Park, remembering the road to the cross. We will meet in front of the senior center at 6:00 PM

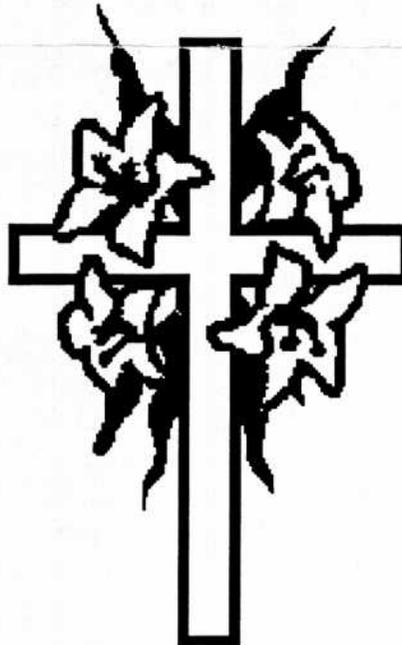
April 3 Some families are planning an outing at the Wichita mountains. Some may stay for the passion play. If anyone wishes to join us for a picnic and fellowship, let us know.



Sunday Feb. 21 Joy church had a pot luck dinner and those interested in joining our mini choir practiced singing Easter hymns. The title is: Unrevealed until its season...something God alone can see.

Feb. 28 Joy Mennonite dismissed our regular service to attend service at the Memorial Road Mennonite Brethren church. This was a special service by Mennonite Central Committee where people spoke of experiences, of sharing the caring face of Christ. There was a special report by Wanda Kraybill who spent six months in Iraq.

April 2 Joy Mennonite is planning a Good Friday service at the Will



Joy Mennonite is located at 504 NE 16th

We meet at 10:00 AM on Sundays.

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