



## PASTOR'S CORNER

Soon after the destruction of the World Trade Center a small group of us have been meeting weekly for prayer. For me the value of this time of prayer cannot be measured by counting

the prayers that were answered, rather I see the value in how it has affected my life, not in one day but in this extended time of prayer.

All of us had hoped by prayer and witness a war could be avoided, some feeling more hopeful than others. The war was not prevented. I feel as a reporter once said in another conflict, stopping a war is like trying to dam the waters of the Niagara Falls with a postage stamp, but he said, one must try. Prayer is not about results but is connecting and becoming one with the yearning and concerns of God. This takes time. We have not been nor are we a helpless people, stripped of our rights of self determination or the right to speak our conscience. With a sense of I can make a difference, comes a tendency to think of myself and God as equals. Sometimes I have to ask myself, is this cry to God a prayer or a suggestion. Haven't we all thought at some time that if it was up to me some things would be different? I am an affluent person by world standards, living in an affluent country, learning to pray. At the same time we also felt anchored in a biblical understanding of the sanctity of life and in the teachings of Jesus about loving and praying for our enemies. In these weeks and months of prayer we were also in conversation with others, some who shared our concern and some who did not. Some were reasonable and some were not. Many people saw the world filled with violence and destructive forces, and the need for intervention seems to loom large before us. We in our frail mortal humanity do not know what we must do. For this reason I do not see our conversations with others as debate, with a winner and loser, rather as brothers and sisters in the human family seeking to understand divine truth. War brings a spirit of nationalism to a land that stifles much of our sense of reason, especially if one is guaranteed victory. The majority have made our commander in chief their hero. We however are not the opposition party that would make the leader of our nation the villain. Our calling is not to prevent war or to demonize those who do. Our calling is to sow the seeds of peace, to work at developing a culture of peace. We must address the tremendous fear that gripped our nation after that September day. That fear has seared the conscience of our nation. Our nation has unleashed a flood of violence to eliminate the threat of terrorism that we fear. The victims of modern war are mostly innocent civilians. Our national leaders say we regret the suffering and death we have caused. One can regret and continue the violence forever. God calls us to feel remorse, to

repent. Here the prayer of St. Francis becomes our prayer, "let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." We all have a part in this war. In my house and in my car are the seeds of war. Our hope for peace lies in the assurance that if we plant seeds of peace the seed will grow and some day it will be as Jesus said, a great tree that provides shelter for many to gather under its' branches. In the great calendar of events it is spring time, it is time to plant.

Hope you are having a good start into the summer season.

*Moses Mast*

### Palm Sunday Rap By Cheryl Critchley

Cheryl wrote this for our Palm Sunday service and we all thought everyone should have a chance to enjoy it.

Humility is MEEK, but it is never WEAK,  
You'll find that it is STRONG, and "In-your-face" to what is WRONG.

The PROUD and the ARROGANT  
Are LOUD and IRREVERANT.

They DISrespect the FATHER, who also is our MOTHER,  
Who came to be our BROTHER

In this ghetto called the EARTH,  
He had a humble BIRTH,

His mother was not WED to the daddy of her BABY,  
Because the angel SAID when we came unto that LADY,  
That she would bear a SON, and he would be the ONE.

She was humble and BELIEVED,  
And waited just to SEE.

He came to teach us HOW that we should live TOGETHER,  
He said that you know NOW only LOVE can last FOREVER.  
But they did not UNDERSTAND, and they sought to waste this MAN,

Who did nobody WRONG, which is why I wrote this SONG.  
'Cause there is a DEBT we OWE, for WHAT he lived to SHOW.

We have RESPONSIBILITY to live in CIVILITY.

For if we are to CLAIM that we can call his NAME,

We put to SHAME his LIFE, if we always live in STRIFE.

He gave it up for US, then left us with the TRUST to carry on.

CARRY ON, FOLLOW ME, CARRY ON, FOLLOW ME,

CARRY ON, FOLLOW ME, CARRY ON, CAN'T YOU SEE...

Humility is MEEK, but it is never WEAK,

You'll find that it is STRONG, and "In-your-face" to what is WRONG.

The PROUD and the ARROGANT  
Are LOUD and IRREVERANT.

They DISrespect the FATHER, who also is our MOTHER,  
Who came to be our BROTHER

Now we are all RELATED in the BLOOD of the LAMB.  
So those who think they're BETTER, they only make a SHAM,  
Of this thing called FAITH, cause he SHOWED us how to PRAY

In a very HUMBLE WAY, so there's nothing more to SAY, but  
CARRY ON, FOLLOW HIM, CARRY ON, FOLLOW HIM,  
CARRY ON, FOLLOW HIM...

And be BRAVE to the GRAVE, and not a SLAVE to SIN,  
Cause we can never WIN, in any OTHER WAY.

CARRY ON, FOLLOW HIM, CARRY ON, FOLLOW HIM,  
CARRY ON, FOLLOW HIM...

#### April Revisited

Odd month, April, warm, cold,  
warm. Wish it would make up its

mind. Good Friday services were held on the 18<sup>th</sup> and  
communion was served then also. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr. & Mrs.  
Herman McDaniel, from Mount Moriah Baptist Church in  
Spencer, were our guests. Brother McDaniel was our guest  
speaker and gave a very enjoyable sermon. Of course, we had to  
have a potluck afterwards so we could continue the  
conversations and fellowship. Hey, we're Mennonites.

Moses and Sadie attended two funerals this past month.  
Sadie's sister passed away in Iowa and the following week,  
Moses' brother in law also passed away. Our condolences to the  
Masts and their families.



#### Joy Mennonite Church

4708 Outpost Dr  
Spencer, OK 73084-2722 (405) 236-4938  
Moses & Sadie Mast 771-4743

#### Upcoming Events

This months preaching  
schedule is as follows: Karin Evans  
May 11<sup>th</sup>, Moses Mast May 18<sup>th</sup> &  
25<sup>th</sup>. Our annual campout will be held May 30, 31 and June 1<sup>st</sup>  
Little Axe Park at Lake Thunderbird. Come join us for the  
weekend or just a day. Our guest speaker for that Sunday will  
be John Vrana, a retired Catholic priest. I'm sure we will all be  
blessed and will carry on our tradition of food, fun and  
fellowship.

Well, guess what's coming in just six SHORT months.  
That's right, my favorite charity, MCC Relief Sale. Wasn't that  
apple butter wonderful? And the things I got from Ten  
Thousand Villages for Christmas presents thrilled everyone.  
You know that MCC is doing great things all over the world and  
here at home also. Take a little time and think about what you  
could donate for the sale or what you could buy then to help  
support all that hard work. Hope to see you there.

Hey, guess what goofball thing I did last newsletter? I forgot  
to put in our web-site address and our e-mail addresses. I think  
I had better proofread more closely, huh? Anyway, our church  
site is [www.joy.ok.us.mennonite.net](http://www.joy.ok.us.mennonite.net) and e-mail can be sent  
to Cheryl Critchley at [storyweaver@swbell.net](mailto:storyweaver@swbell.net) or me at  
[mennomomg11@cox.net](mailto:mennomomg11@cox.net) Make sure if you e-mail me you use  
the number one instead of the L key.

#### JOY MENNONITE CHURCH

504 NE 16<sup>TH</sup> OKC OK 73104

Sunday Services 10:00 am Sunday School 11:30

All are welcome, please join us as you are able

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
OKC OK  
Permit No. 2545

Address Service Requested