

Joy Mennonite Church



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May 1994

**PASTOR'S
CORNER**

special EDITORIAL
LAUGHING WITH ABRAHAM & SARAH

The Neighborhood work day (clean-up day) on Saturday, 16 April, 1994 was a big success thanks to the hard working efforts of both the Lincoln Terrace neighbors and the volunteer workers of Joy Mennonite Church.

"What blows to Oklahoma from Kansas is not good," someone said, jokingly. The Laughing with Abraham and Sarah Caravan group from Newton, Kansas, hoped to prove this wrong as they did volunteer work through the Joy Mennonite Church in the Menno House where they were staying from April 18 to 24.

Then on 18 April a caravan of volunteers from Kansas arrived. We have begun to move the ship. We don't always know if we are making the right decisions, but then you can only guide a ship when it is moving. We believe we will need to think about setting some guidelines and establishing priorities. We invite your suggestions.

Six senior citizens came to Oklahoma City in a van, furnished by a like-minded couple, with hopes of making a difference in the neighborhood.

Perhaps if I tell you of my background it may help you understand our intentions. I grew up in an Amish family. I still treasure the kind of life I experienced in my home. Amish people work together, help each other, sometimes when there are special needs and sometimes just because there is something that needs to be done. When someone really needed help my father would say: "We are never too busy to help if someone has need."

Moses Mast, pastor of Joy, and his wife, Sadie, made arrangements and worked with the volunteers in the West 16th Street area. Shingling, plumbing, painting, cooking and home visitation have challenged Lester and Winifred Fwy, Ben and Leona Sawatzky, Dale and Elda Bachman, and Muriel Stackley who were excited about the venture and were laughing in the joy of service. Some of the group toured REST, a day shelter for the homeless, and volunteered in the clothing and laundry rooms.

Saturday, 16 April, the local volunteer crew of Joy Mennonite Church removed the old roof and replaced the front section at the home of Sandra Daniels on 18th Street. Other workers removed dead trees and branches around the home of Cornelia Roach on 15th and around the home of Bob Underside in the 700 block on 20th.

The "Laughing with Sarah and Abraham" idea comes from a decision of the Mennonite General Conference at its last general session. As Abraham and Sarah, in the Genesis story from the Bible, laughed with disbelief at God's challenge to them, even so skeptical laughter could precede the venture in helping new or struggling churches.

The Caravan of volunteers from Kansas worked in the neighborhood west of Stiles. The caravan was made up of couples all over seventy years of age. We repaired two plumbing problems and partially reroofed a home and painted another home. We believe most of our volunteer work will be in the same area west of Stiles. We also want to be neighbors and be part of working not only when people are destitute but whenever we can participate to serve needs.

A Saturday craft day, open to anyone, including quilting and the making of banners, jewelry and other novelty items, was held at the Joy Mennonite Church building on the corner of Lincoln and NE 16th. The Sunday morning worship at the same location was conducted by the volunteer group.

Similar caravans have gone with volunteers to Pismo Beach, California, to the new Servant Community Church there, and to Miami, Florida, to the Miami Mennonite Fellowship Church. The next caravan group, again headed by the Fwys, will go to Philadelphia, PA.

(Elda Bachman)

Moses Mast

Mothers' Day



create
peace

Memorial Day

F·E·L·L·O·W·S·H·I·P

Dear Friends,

It was intended that "Easter Reflections" would make up much of this column for May, but that will have to come next month. Suffice it now to say that the Lenten season was a very meaningful fellowship experience highlighted by the family ritual Seder celebration.

Not to short it or duplicate effort, I will get to the "Great News" column now following.



Unlike annual holidays, what Joy Mennonite Church has experienced starting on 16 April through 24 April may be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We will do these things again, but we will have been there before and will better be able to deal with our emotions. What were those things? JMC was blessed with the opportunity to host the Abraham and Sarah Caravan - a group of retirees who are extending their service to their God well beyond their wage-earning years. Traveling the countryside, they assist churches with community "sharing/caring" projects where and whatever the local needs dictate. Their wealth of love, knowledge and experience is inspiration to recipients and other "donor/volunteers" alike, to reach out helping hands in uplifting fellowship.

Through those six days there were numerous opportunities for all of us to work, eat and worship together sharing in this marvelous week. Local community residents helped to make this all happen with coordination of work projects and some ice breaking and acceptance. Their working side by side with us is the bonding for future projects to be effective.

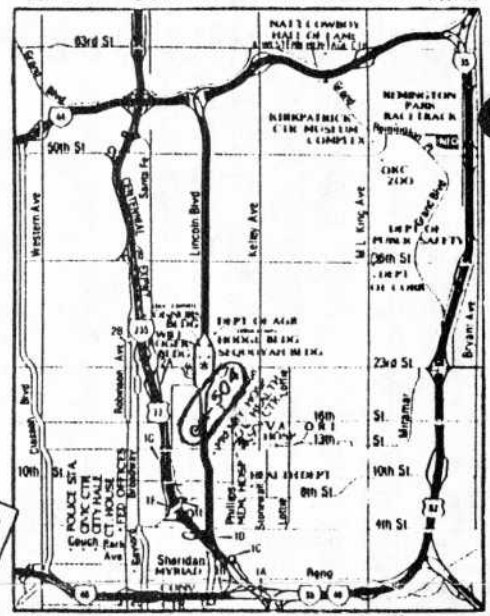
We thank God for all that received and all that gave.

Remember families, past and present, appropriately this Memorial Day -with love. Best wishes to all, *Boe Klassen*

We do hope that churches receiving this letter are also posting them to be seen or read by their church members.



WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun., 8 May Remember Mother's Day
Sun., 22 May JMC Family Outing - Picnic at Zoo
Mon., 30 May Memorial Day
Tue., 14 Jun Flag Day
Sun., 19 Jun Father's Day
Mon., 4 Jul Independence Day

I MUST NOT FEAR. FEAR IS THE MIND-KILLER. FEAR IS THE LITTLE DEATH THAT BRINGS TOTAL OBLITERATION. I WILL FACE MY FEAR. I WILL PERMIT IT TO PASS OVER ME AND THROUGH ME. AND WHEN IT HAS GONE PAST, I WILL TURN THE INNER EYE TO SEE ITS PATH. WHERE THE FEAR HAS GONE THERE WILL BE NOTHING. ONLY I WILL REMAIN. --FRANK HERBERT

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Moses & Sadie Mast 4708 Outpost Dr. Spencer, OK 73084