

Joy Mennonite Church



**PASTOR'S  
CORNER**

Mailing Address:

4708 OUTPOST DRIVE  
SPENCER, OK. 73084  
(405) 799-7836

Church Telephone No.:

**SEPTEMBER 1994**



In our vacation travels we attended a church of people committed to a Christian ministry to the poor. It was more than a commitment to serve but a commitment to share their lives with these people. Many of the members had bought homes and lived in what was called a slum area. That is a commitment of courage that I admire. However, this church has been in this area for two decades, and yet no one from the community comes to their church services.

I look at this with concern because it seems somewhat like our situation. We have had several visitors from the community but no one has shown any serious interest in being part of our worship community. Will it still be this way after twenty years? If this happens, do we just make an excuse for why it is so? Or perhaps we need to look at this with repentance in our hearts. This is not just a Mennonite problem. The Baptist church in this area is providing a large amount of very valuable services to this community, and yet the pastor told me they hardly attract anyone to their worship services.

Maybe it has to do with being needed. We can't get it out of our heads that these people need our management skills, our fix-it skills, our advice, and our money. We don't sense that we need anything from these people. We humans are pretty good at sifting out what people say and what they mean. We keep saying we learn more about true spirituality from difficult experiences, but we generally don't value the understanding of those whose lives are difficult. May it be that the humility that Jesus, Peter and James spoke about has something to do with listening to those whom the world considers unsuccessful.

Your Pastor,

*Moses Mast*

Dear Friends,

A month ago, in a paragraph about Joy Mennonite Church in this community we acknowledged a potential that needed to be recognized (or seen). Then I heard this sermon about people, about professed Christians, about us. What we most frequently lack is focus. Our experiences with the Abraham and Sarah Caravan may have aided in identifying this need - now all we need is consistent motivation and positive implementation. It may take experimentation to determine if our focus is true and effective.

Our church "work days" will hopefully do two things: For participants we may prove our focus and motivation while providing role modeling with initiative and opportunities to young people for service.

Who said being a follower was going to be easy? Well, Jesus said it - "my yoke is easy and my burden is light," but that comes after total commitment. He also said we must take up our cross - our commitment, but first it must be identified and then lifted, and there is where we stumble.

Pray for us here at JMC and the "work of our church."

When you read this, all most of us will have of the summer just passed will be good memories, and in our sessions of sharing this is also confirmed. We thank God that through all the varied and individual activities and travels involved in those memories there were no serious incidents, and all are safely home.

Let our youth be inspired to accept the challenges of the learning process in this new year and feel the love and support from their parents and all of us.

Best wishes,

*Beeklassen*

**F·E·L·L·O·W·S·H·I·P**



Our last JMC summer family fellowship was a picnic at Arcadia Lake on Saturday afternoon, 28 August. Most of the 19 in attendance went swimming, and a good time was had by all.

Our next fellowship time (aside from the "work day" on 24 Sept.) will be a carry-in dinner Sunday, 25 Sep., after which those wishing can participate in the CROP walk or tour the Harn Homestead in our church neighborhood.

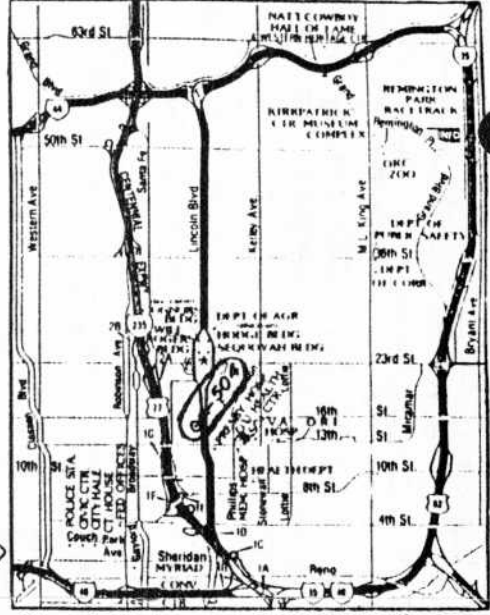
The annual meeting of the Oklahoma Convention of Mennonite Churches will convene at the Eden Church in Inola on Sat., 17 Sep. 1994 and run through Sun., 18 Sep. Try to plan to attend this weekend of fellowship, sharing and worship.

Note the dates for our work days, and if you wish to participate, call (405) 771-4743 for more details.

*create peace*



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



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Mon., 5 Sep. .... Labor Day
- Fri., 9 Sep. . JMC Support Committee  
6:00 p.m. at Joy Mennonite, OKC
- Tue., 13 Sep. Oklahoma All-Mennonite  
Women's Fellowship
- Sat./Sun., 17-18 Sep. . OK Convention  
of Mennonite Churches -  
Eden Mennonite Church, Inola
- Sat. , 24 Sep. .... Church Work Day -  
combined with members from  
Church Neighborhood, Clegg  
Memorial United Methodist Church  
and Inman (Kansas) Mennonite Church
- Sun., 25 Sep. .... CROP Walk
- Sat., 1 Oct. .... Church Work Day -  
combined with interested members  
from Oklahoma Churches

Moses & Sadie Mast  
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Spencer, OK 73084

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