

Joy Mennonite Church

Pastor's Corner

This month we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the formation of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). I believe MCC has had a greater impact on the Mennonites of North America than any other church agency. MCC has linked North American churches to the suffering people from famine-stricken and war-torn countries. This linkage, whenever it has happened, never leaves us the same.



Mennonite
Central
Committee

Things have changed a great deal since MCC was formed in 1920 to facilitate the relief effort in famine-stricken Russia. Many of the starving people in Russia were our Christian brothers and sisters, Mennonites who had fled east instead of west as we did. The economic means of 1920 were very different from ours today. There were those who shared what they had not knowing if what they had left would last until the next harvest. Today we have the largest expendable income of any time in history, that is income above our survival needs. Do we still share the compassion and vision of our grandparents who formed MCC? How may we have changed?

Peter Dyck, a long-term MCC worker, tells how he went to an Amish community to appeal for funds. Peter did not understand Amish customs. People had gathered and were sitting in silence. Peter was expecting to be introduced. Instead, someone finally said, "You can begin your talk." After the presentation, they passed a hat and took an offering. People gave liberally. They gave the money to Peter.



"Don't you want to count the money?" Peter asked. "We collected the money for MCC, why would we want to count it?" the Amish bishop replied. Our modern minds ask, why did they not count their offering? A better question for us might be, why do we want to count our offerings? Whether we count our offerings or not, the spirit of Christian giving must focus on the persons in need and not on the gift we present. Jesus said that those who reach out in compassion to those in need will be rewarded by God for their giving of alms. Those who focus on their offering, who give to be noticed and praised for their good deed have their reward and will receive no more reward from God. Paul told the Corinthians that their offerings for the poor were a proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

MCC continues to put us in touch with great human need. We have the opportunity to grow spiritually by the way we respond. Let us be aware of our reasons for giving. Let us consider carefully who we count our offerings.

Moses Mart

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Time



Change

October 1995



Editorial

Dear Friends,

Unbelievable -- I would have affirmed that our last Newsletter went out only last week, or maybe ten days ago. The calendar shorted us a bunch of days putting 1 October on a Sunday, but with some luck I'll come up with something, hopefully no comedy, but also not too much politics.

Speaking of politics, I am in trouble; they talk of this new version of our "New Testament" as being politically correct. Can someone explain that to me? I have been called all sorts of things -- morbid, naive, rebel, unrealistic, optimistic, pessimistic, suspicious, etc. So it's not surprising to me to be suspicious -- of those promoting this revised New Testament, the motives behind it all, and the possibility of any benefits to be derived by anyone.

Although similar, I never heard it referred to as political correction, this same thing has been happening in the American English language that we speak. Personal and human rights groups have been heavy backers of the language changes, but they didn't need to worry about translations. One of God's hands was mentioned -- it happened to be the right one, but had nothing to do with whether you are right- or left-handed -- and God doesn't even care. Also, I can't feature Jesus calling on his Father/Mother -- don't people have more important things to do with their time and effort?

Jim Lange's cartoon in the 1 September 1995 Daily Oklahoman [reprinted with permission on page 2] says it so well -- I'll be very happy with the New International Version that most people understand.

Once again I/we were inspired at the 96th annual conference of the Oklahoma Convention of Mennonite Churches, held this year at Grace Mennonite Church in Enid on 16 and 17 September. Early on in life I was not a conference person, but becoming involved, and feeling obligated to support an organization with attendance, it was soon apparent that much inspiration and enjoyment was derived just from being there, and in that company -- religious or professional. The OCMC is certainly no exception: showing their support of, and sponsoring programs and projects is done with such dedication and determination, one would never know how small this group is, but they are getting a job done. It's great to see the old friends and make new ones each year.

We are back in our "grooves" after the summer and looking to other inspirational events ahead -- Thanksgiving, MCC Relief Auction/Sale and, of course, Christmas. Hope you are all well and happy.

Best wishes to you all,

Bill Klassen

FELLOWSHIP NEWS:

Nineteen people enjoyed a friendly afternoon of bowling Saturday afternoon, Sept. 9 at Windsor Lanes.

Moses & Sadie Mast and Bill & Thea Klassen attended the Oklahoma Convention in Enid, Sept. 16-17. They enjoyed the fellowship (and food) very much!

Moses Mast and Terry Hostetler built a screened-in porch for a needy lady. Moses also worked several days for Habitat For Humanity.

Four persons from our church joined in the annual CROP Walk on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 24.

CROP Donna and Amanda Hostetler, Stephanie Bonner, and Darlene Powers braved the cool weather and occasional showers to walk the six mile route through downtown OKC, starting and ending at the state Capitol.

WORSHIP NEWS:

We celebrated MCC's 75th anniversary on Sept. 24, with an extended worship service featuring MCC stories by Moses Mast and Thea Klassen (who was an MCC recipient after WW II), a video about MCC, and our offering of supplies for two refugee kits and money for

MCC

MCC. The service was followed by a fellowship meal of different ethnic foods.

Remember to prepare your hearts for World-Wide Communion Sunday, Oct. 1.



COMING EVENTS:

Our next church business meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14, at 9am. All members are encouraged to attend. Agenda items should be given to Bill Klassen by Oct. 8.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

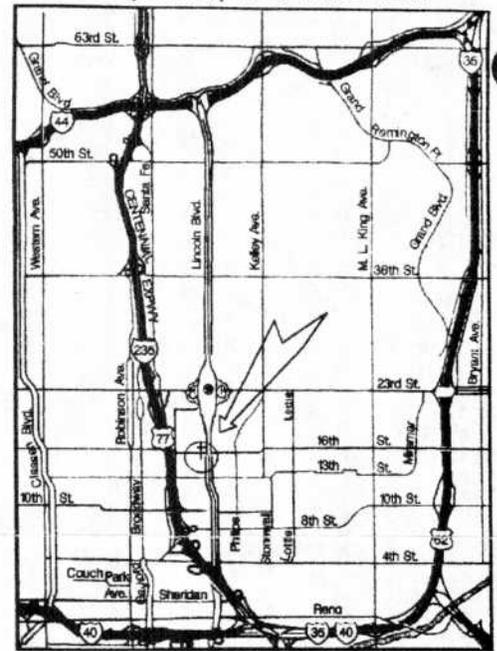
- Oct. 1 World-Wide Communion Sunday
- Oct. 14 (9am) - Church Business Meeting
- Oct. 27-29 WDC annual sessions, Bethel College, North Newton, KS
- Nov. 23 Thanksgiving
- Nov. 24-25 MCC Relief Sale, Fairview, OK
- Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 25 Christmas

CHURCHES: Feel free to post this newsletter for your members to read. Thanks.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS: Moses Mast, Pastor; Bill Klassen, Editorial; Darlene Powers & Sadie Mast, News Items; Mike Powers, Publisher.

Worship Service

Every Sunday at 10 O'clock A.M.



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.
(just west of the oil derrick)

The Gospel According to St. Nitwit-icus



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