

Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

May 1996

Pastor's Corner

"Vision: Healing and Hope"

We are going to take four Sunday mornings to look at the Vision: Healing and Hope, adopted by the General Conference Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Church at the joint assembly last year. We easily affirmed a vision of healing and hope but in practice we struggle with how to offer healing to those we disagree with. We especially struggle when we feel that to offer healing is condoning a sinful practice.

CBS showed a movie, Harvest of Fire, on Sunday evening, April 21. This movie was the story of the burning of

barns in the Amish community of Pennsylvania. This movie was a great story contrasting the hurtful effects of the ban and the practice of shunning, and the healing effects of a forgiving community. It turned out an Amish youth set the fires when the girl he loved told him she could no longer see him because he was in the ban. When the young man confessed, the Amish surrounded him with support as he faced criminal charges in court. It seemed the movie makers idealized the Amish as a people who do not look for revenge or hold grudges.

The movie makers however also saw the

effect the ban has on Amish life. They saw the ban as causing hardship and nourishing divisions among them. The ban is actually a way of putting teeth into discipline. We must know however that the ban does not leave them without a choice on how to apply the ban. They have legalistic ways of not making the ban a great hardship, or if they choose to, they can ruin someone financially.

As members of the church we love each other but sometimes we also hurt each other. Just like the Amish in their practice of the ban, we have choices in disciplinary action. Here are several principles I believe might help. First, I don't have to be right. Why do we have such a need to be right?

Second, we find it so easy to make decisions to protect the image of our church. Healing and a good image can be in conflict. Third, remember what Jesus said, why do you worry about the splinter in your brother's eye and you have a log in your eye? We are called to be our brother's keeper, not his judge.

In our life together conflicts do erupt, especially when people are serious about their life and faith. We would have less conflict if people would be more indifferent. To be spiritually healthy we must experience periodic healing. We should actually be less worried about occasional conflict than the lack of the will to extend healing to one another.

Moses Mast

Our Servant Pastor

Moses Mast was born into the Amish community at Thomas, Oklahoma in July 1936. By age 16, Moses was away from home and working. In 1958 his choice of alternate service (I-W) was to work with Indians in Ontario for two years. There he met his wife-to-be; they were married in 1960 and Moses and Sadie continued their service ministry at Ignace, Ontario in the isolated Indian communities in that area for 1.5 years.

Together they studied at the Ontario Bible Institute in Kitchener from 1962 to 1964, after which they continued to work with the Alberta Indians through the Mennonite Board of Missions until 1971.

Moses became licensed as a minister in 1972, ordained in 1973 as pastor at Spencer (OK) Mennonite Church, where he pastored until 1986. After a year at seminary in Elkhart,

Indiana, Moses and Sadie spent 1987 to 1990 with MCC in Honduras, Central America, working with refugees.

Moses is a carpenter -- a builder, and continued this vocation then until Joy Mennonite Church invited him to our ministry here in Oklahoma City in June of 1992. Considered to be a "half-time" minister (in spite of his many hours in church and related work) he

continues his trade as builder in the church neighborhood as well as in the greater Oklahoma City community.

Moses believes strongly that his calling was to a ministry of "many kinds of service" which he practices daily. From the pulpit he is strong on the practical and living Christianity centered around peace and justice.

Bee Klassen

Fellowship News:

The Mast and Powers families were in Kansas the weekend of April 13-14 to visit the Kansas MCC Relief Sale in Hutchinson. Moses also preached at the Inman Mennonite Church on April 14.

April 20 - 27 was a busy week for our church and the neighborhood. Saturday, April 20 was a workday and lots of cleaning up was done and trash put out for the following week's "Big Junk Pickup" in the neighborhood. The video, Challenge to Violence, was shown at our church on Tuesday evening by the neighborhood association, with a good turnout. On Saturday, April 27, the neighborhood association and our church hosted a picnic at the historic Harn Homestead, to celebrate together.

It is interesting to note, especially for those of you who have helped with neighborhood work projects, that a few years ago there were eight boarded up houses on the street to the west of our church. Six of those houses have now been fixed up and have people living in them again. The next to last one is currently being worked on. Several of the neighbors have expressed gratitude to us, but we have only been a spark to get the neighbors working together

to improve their community. And we must give thanks to God for leading us and them.

Congratulations to Jared Austin and Trish Treadevay on the birth of their daughter, Micayla Ashleigh Austin, on April 14. Becky and Ralph Ediger are the proud grandparents.

Worship News:

Although the numbers were small, the service was a great experience for those who attended the Maundy Thursday service at Leland Clegg Methodist Church, April 4.

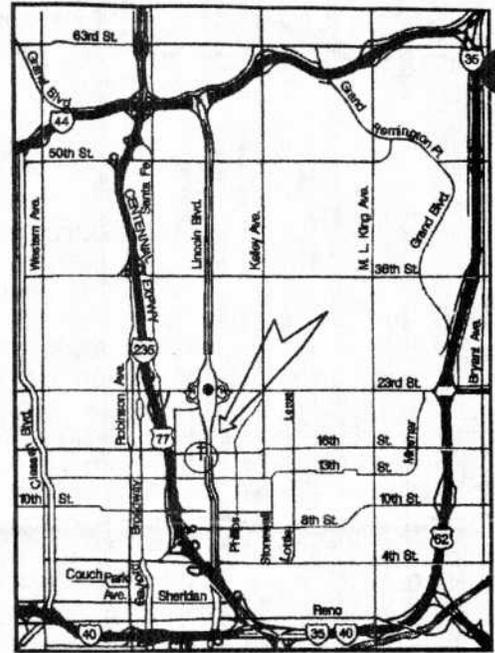
We are using the Vision: Healing and Hope as the basis for our worship services, April 21 through May 12.

Coming Events:

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| May 11 | Cristina Kaufman's graduation from OU |
| May 12 | Church Dinner to celebrate with Cristina, special offering for her summer trip to Columbia |
| May 16 | Ascension Day |
| May 26 | Pentecost Sunday |
| June 7-9 | Annual Church Campout, details later |
| June 30 | Quarterly offering for MCC |
| July 5-7 | WDC annual sessions, Dallas, TX |
| July 7 | Peace Sunday |
| July 20 | Church Business Meeting |

Worship Service:

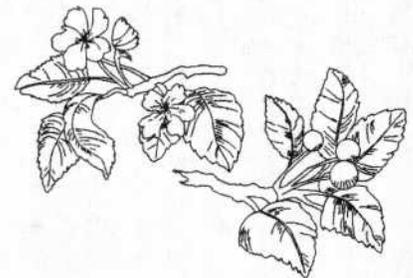
Every Sunday at 10 O'clock A.M.



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

Reminder: June newsletter items are due by May 22. Give to Mike or Darlene Powers.

Newsletter Contributors: Moses Mast, Pastor's Corner; Bill Klassen, Profile & Mailing; Darlene Powers & Sadie Mast, News Items; Mike Powers, Publisher.



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