



July 1998

# JOY MENNONITE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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## Pastor's Corner

When Jesus' disciples were arguing among themselves about which one of them was the greatest, Jesus called a small child to stand among them and said, "except you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

We have had a young boy, Alex, from Honduras with us for the last four months while he is getting medical treatment from the Shriner's Hospital. He had polio when he was two years old and has not

been able to walk since. It reminds us of our time as parents. Our experiences with our children doesn't always make us think of them as models of Kingdom people. If, however, we consider the truth Jesus focused on, the point is well made. Jesus used the child to illustrate that if one has the desire to be great and dominate, and exercise power of ethers, that person must change and become like a child to enter the kingdom of heaven. Children are not perfect people, but in their age of dependency their greatest desire is to be able to trust those who care for them rather

than seek to dominate them. In normal circumstances a child has such confidence in their parents that they feel completely safe in their presence. There is no better way to understand trust in God than to behold the child with loving parents.

As we grow older the world is not so simple. We feel threats of danger around us, but we do not need to lose this trust in our creator, God. We will, however, need to cultivate this trust and we cannot cultivate aspirations of greatness with the desire to have power over others, and at the same time cultivate

attitudes of faith and trust in the God of all who are human.

May the cool breezes of the summer mornings make you a joyful and grateful person, and sustain you through the heat of the day until you see another morning that reminds you of the newness and freshness of the grace of god.

*Moses Mast*

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## Editorial... by Ralph Ediger

On June 1, I retired from 30 years of teaching school. The decision did not come easy, I'm sure I'll miss parts of the profession immensely. I graduated from Bethel College in 1968 and had accepted a position to teach German in Valley Center, Kansas. Before I could ever start the

assignment, I was drafted. I signed up for a 2-year assignment with Voluntary Service in Oklahoma City. There was quite a shortage of teachers in 1968, so my VS assignment was to teach at Douglas High School in northeast Oklahoma City. I was privileged to turn in my teaching paycheck to the VS unit to be reimbursed \$15.00 a month. I loved

my first year of teaching. Oklahoma City Public Schools had just completed a massive study and found that, excluding gym teachers, only 10% of all eight-graders had ever had a male teacher. The school district asked for 200 volunteers of high school teachers to transfer to the middle grades, and consequently 200 female teachers to

the high school. The assistant superintendent asked if I would transfer. I told him I would for 5 years, but then wanted to go back to high school. Those 5 years of middle school turned into the rest of my career.

I wish these 30 years would have given me great wisdom to now pass on to others, but that

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didn't happen. A great part of teaching is accepting the challenge and stick-to-itness. I do, however, have a couple of observations. It seems that in every class I ever taught, there were at least one or two students that pushed to find out exactly where the discipline boundaries were. Maybe it's just human nature. I believe kids have a very keen sense of fairness, and a teacher being perceived as fair will have more success than perhaps one relying on academic intelligence. I don't really think students have changed that much in 30 years. Sadly, I feel parenting has changed greatly. Teaching is more difficult now because a higher percentage of kids have little or very poor parenting. I don't know for sure if retiring was the right thing to do. Teaching

was never boring. Sixth-graders were the absolute challenge. After cleaning carpets in the blue-collar world for a while I may gain even different perceptions. I'll keep you in touch.

*Ralph Ediger*

**Concerns...**

Ethel Posar and Grace Roley have both been ill lately. We continue to pray for them.

**Goodbye...**

Our new friend, Alex, (see Pastor's Corner,) will be moving out of state to stay with another family in July. We will miss you, Alex!!!

**Visitors...**

The Brueckners' grandchildren, Michael and Rebecca, are spending the summer with them. We have enjoyed sharing this visit!

**Recent News...**

The church campout drew crowds of up to 48 people at Lake Thunderbird. Despite the heat and tornado warnings, a lot of good visiting and dining went on!

Saturday, June 27th, a birthday party was held for Robert Brueckner. The Klassens and Masts were there to wish him well.

Sunday, June 28th, a potluck was held after church, and MCC school-health kits were put together for children in North Korea. Everyone pitched in to help, but special thanks to Martha Shoemaker for making the bags, and Nicole Tabor for "stringing" them.

**Trips...**

Moses and Sadie will be attending Conference in Tulsa the first weekend in July. Cheryl Crichley will attend as the

delegate.

Nicole Tabor has been chosen by the Benedictine Sisters in Oklahoma City, to travel to Chiapas, Mexico to make some observations. We hope to hear more about her trip when she returns.



**Joy Mennonite is located at 504 NE 16th, (just west of the oil derrick on 16th, south of the State Capital.) We meet at 10:00 am on Sundays. You are welcome!**

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