



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S CORNER

The stock market has now passed the ten thousand mark. The rising stock values appear to be a sign of prosperity and security, a time to invest. It has not always been so. I remember when Mennonite people believed that people of faith should not invest in the stock market and seek to earn money without working but believed we should earn our bread by the sweat of our brow. Times change and we may wish to participate in the profit making. If we do participate we should do so with concern and attention to our Lord's teaching about earthly treasure. Jesus warned, do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where your treasure

can rust and decay or be stolen from you. Jesus went on to say that where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Back to the stock market: in the decade of the nineties the market rose three hundred percent. By reinvesting your earnings, investments grew four fold in less than ten years. The result of such a soaring market is channeling America's wealth to a small select group of people. Even though our stock market is open to the average citizen and many of Americas people are investing, the bulk of the wealth belongs to a small group and these have in this decade become unbelievably wealthy. Accumulated wealth changes our perception of the world and reality. As our Lord said, earthly treasures can snare us

and alter our perception of right and wrong. There must be a link between the soaring stock market, the wars we fight, and our exploding prison population. Wars are not necessarily initiated by people with evil intentions but by people who believe they have a right to protect their treasure from rust (devaluation) and from thieves who would take it from them. Earthly treasure can capture your heart, Jesus said.

We continue to hear the stories of refugees from Kosovo. These stories remind us of stories from our Mennonite history, stories we forget too soon. If we are concerned that materialism is capturing the hearts of our people, we can pray for a prophet to rise out of today refugee experience who can see the world and reality in a new light

and speak to us about the perils of our accumulated wealth, something a little different from teaching stewardship. It is my belief that the prophetic voice will come from someone whose experience is different from mine. We may be people who seek to understand and practice right, but just as in the days of racial injustice, white people stood alongside and affirmed those who struggled for justice, but the prophetic voice came from those who suffered the injustice. May God help all of us to hunger and thirst for the Kingdom of God and an end to the suffering and pain of todays world. God be with all of you in your efforts to be people of the Kingdom of God.

Moses Mart

Hey God - I want more!
By Debbie O'Neal

I want a bigger house - a closet for every room, a self cleaning kitchen, two self cleaning bathrooms, four bedrooms with built in maids, a cook who only cooks low fat, low calorie delicious food, an interior decorator and matching furniture.

I want a computer - super fast, high memory, dolby stereo, 17" color screen, internet access, a great printer and unlimited paper for my free computer. I want a new car - bright red which never needs cleaning, white interior. Thirty cup holders, room for ten, tires that never go flat, never ending free gas and a chauffeur.

I want to be thin - instantly. Never exercise again, eat anything I want, never gain an ounce, and look fabulous in all my new clothes - thin. And while we're at it - have that 10 million dollar prize patrol find my house and unload my money. Wow, what a dream that would be - or is that a nightmare? Let's take this

one step at a time. First - Okay God, you're right. Bigger isn't necessarily better, remember Goliath? A bigger house means more room to fill with more stuff and wasn't I just committing my self to living with less so others could have more? Matching furniture - who am I kidding. I have kids and cats. Not matching means easier to replace.

Second - that high tech computer, this from someone who's basically computer illiterate. Surfing the net gives me brain cramp - so I think the basic, cheapo computer will work for now.

Third - new car. Hmmm, that means I'd have to give up my Suburban God gave me. Nope - no way, no how. You don't give up presents and she's a doozy. And come to think of it, she carries nine, that's pretty good and I like driving.

Fourth - thin. Okay God, you win. This is the body you gave me and if I had taken better care of it to begin with, I wouldn't have such problems now.

Fifth - the money. Well, that's the nightmare part. I go nuts trying to be a good steward with what you've already given us. More might drive me right over the edge.

So much for wanting more. Thank God for helping me get the more I already have, a wonderful family, a comfortable home, and inquiring mind, Loving friends and a God that loves me even when I'm wanting more.

Coming Events

May 2nd - Judy Menadue will bring the message. Moses and Sadie will be at Pastor and Spouse retreat.

May 23rd - Pentecost Sunday. A day that Joy Mennonite will use to reaffirm our commitment to Christ and the Church.

A historical tour and Native American fellowship (Hammon OK Mennonite Church) weekend is planned for Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 June 1999 at Cheyenne, OK. A special guide/"storyteller" will recall Chief Black Kettle at the Washita River in November 1868.

News

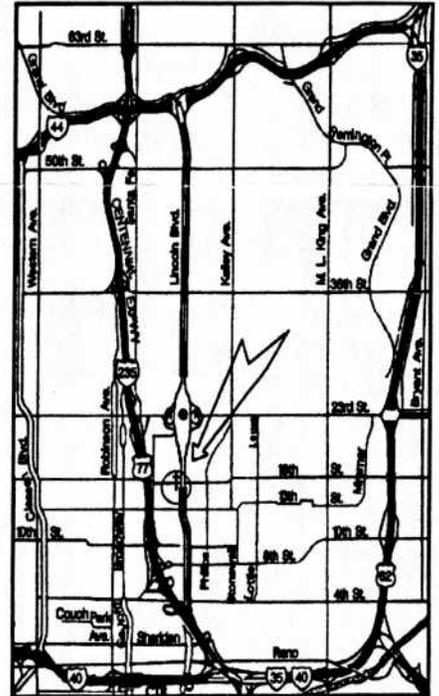
Ethel Posar is back after having a broken pelvis.

April 18 - After church services the deacons and pastor went to the Shoemakers and had a communion service with Del Shoemaker, who is terminally ill

On Good Friday a small group

went to the gardens of Will Rogers Park to remember Jesus' experience from the garden to the cross.

Saturday before Easter, Moses and Sadie and the Bliss Family went to the Wichita Mountains for a day out and the Easter pagent.



Joy Mennonite meets on Sundays at 10:00 am and is located at 504 NE 16th.

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