



## PASTORS CORNER

Recently the Inter Faith Alliance of Oklahoma City sponsored a seminar on religious extremism. One of the speakers, a Baptist minister, spoke with passion but also a prophetic voice to his people. All the speakers agreed that the world has changed, not on Sept. 11, but with the fall of communism. It seems that religious extremism grew out of the rubble of the communist demise. Religious extremism is not new, what is new is the political power that the extremists suddenly began to exercise, and what might rightfully be called the onslaught of holy wars. Why did this occur after the fall of communism? May it be the need we have to fix blame for that which does not go right and also the need we have to be right while all others are wrong.

We witnessed the aggressive acts of the religious extremists of the Muslim religion and were appalled. It is difficult to see ourselves in the same light. The winds of religious extremism are blowing in our land too. The most obvious comparison is the way we justify killing innocent people to insure the safety and prosperity of our nation. Just as all nations, our nation has done this for economic reasons in the past. Now we have coupled economic interests with religious beliefs. Our lop-sided sense of justice in Palestine, calling one who is remembered for war crimes and has fresh blood on his hands a peacemaker, is a statement of religious conviction, an extreme conviction widely held in our nation.

The question before the community of faith is this, how do we keep from being swept along by these winds of religious extremism. Our Lord told us to be awake, be alert, lest you fall into temptation. We know the temptation to go with the flow. The temptations in our affluent land are subtle and powerful. Jesus further said we must watch and pray lest the cares of this world lead you into temptation. We know that, even living in a land of abundance, the daily tasks of paying bills and putting food on the table can distract us and lead us into temptation. Lastly, we must begin to bind up the wounds of the suffering. Only by entering the world of the wounded can we free ourselves from the idolatrous consumerism for which we must fight wars to protect.

I hope this finds you enjoying the beauty of spring and wish you a blessed and joyous summer.

*Moses Mast*

### My Friend Sue by Terry Hostetler

Have you noticed a short woman with brown hair sitting quietly in church, sometimes with a teenage boy? Do you know who she is? If you haven't met her yet, you really should. Her name is Sue Laws, the boy is her son Alex. There's a lot I can't tell you about Sue, like how old she is, or where she grew up(although I might have heard but forgot) or how many brothers or sisters she may have. I do know she has a mother, who I believe lives in Pennsylvania, and I might have heard something about a brother in Texas, I think. I do know she has a job, but I don't remember the name of the company or exactly what she does. But I do know she's worked there for a long time. I know her son is a really nice young man, who attends Webster Middle school. Sue's husband, Gary (who died from cancer a few months back) was my friend for many years. He was a very special person, you don't find many like Gary. He also battled with alcoholism and drug abuse for most of his adult life. It wasn't really much of a battle, the drinking and drugs pretty much won for a long, long time. After his first wife died of liver disease, he got worse, it seemed that he felt he didn't deserve to live. Then he met Sue. He also had his own problems with liver damage. Now, I know a person cannot beat alcohol without some real inner strength, in Gary's case he simply didn't have that strength, so he borrowed Sue's. Together they got him straight and that's how they lived, together sharing each others strengths. Gary lived his last few years free from the drinking and the drugs, and he loved it. He thought his new life was the greatest thing since electricity and he gave her the credit for giving him that life. She's pretty special herself. Do yourself a favor and get to know her, you'll be glad you did.

### April Revisited

Is it spring or is it winter? Ahh, the weather in Oklahoma. One day it's 80, and the next it's 50 or lower. But wait a minute and it will change. Hope everyone is getting spring where they are.

Lots happened this month. Grace Roley had her sale on the 2nd and it went very well. Dennis Roley, Grace & Chester's son, has been helping with some remodeling at her house and several people from Joy have participated. Grace has also been blessed with her first great-grandson, a little boy named Carter, born in March.

We extend our sympathies to Ronnie & Judy Perkins on the loss of Ronnie's mother April 24. Judy and daughter Jacqueline had stopped to visit her on the 21st after our trip to Hammon. Funeral services were held on April 26th.

April 21st at Hammon was a wonderful experience. We met early at Joy and carpooled over. Bethel Mennonite Church is mostly Native American and has been connected with Joy for many years. This is Judy Perkins' family church and come to find out one of Moses Mast childhood neighbors was also there. After morning services, we sat down to a fellowship meal and talked some more. Anna found a new baby to play with ( yes, she wanted to bring him home too!), Jack met new friends to talk and try daredevil stunts with, and all of us learned a lot from Bethel Mennonite. We hope to see more of these new and old friends in the future.

### May & Coming Events

May will be busy . Our worship leader for May will be Sue Laws. The preaching schedule is as follows:

5th- Karin Evans, 12th- Bill Klassen travels from Hutchinson,KS with wife Thea, to bring the message, 19th & 26th- Moses Mast. Those of you acquainted with Bill & Thea are welcome to join the fun.

May 12th is also Mother's Day. Call or visit if you can, stop and think about her if you can't. Remember, none of us would be here without a mother. Thanks Mom.

Joy Mennonite is planning for our annual camping trip. We want to go to Red Rock Canyon State Park again this year. Tentative date June 22nd. We hope to have Bethel Mennonite join us there. We always have a good time on our camping trips with food, fellowship, games, and conversation. Call Sadie Mast for more information and come join us.

We are having some great discussions on the book of Romans in Sunday School. Some of those questions really make you think . How would I have reacted in those times in those particular circumstances? How do we react in these times in these circumstances? Something to think about.

Fridays from 12 noon -1 pm are our weekly prayer meetings. Everyone is welcome and even if you can't be there in person, your prayers and support will be felt and appreciated.

Yes, here I go again. Mennonite Relief sale will be Nov. 2nd in Enid. Yes, that's a long time in the future, 6 months away. But 6 months goes really fast and before you know it, November will be here. MCC does so many truly needed things worldwide as well as here in the United States and our support is needed. Be thinking of items to donate as well as items you would like to purchase.

### Final Thoughts Deborah O'Neal

Finally, baby birds! Baby sparrows are so funny looking, all body and beak. The parents are so busy bringing food and fighting off interlopers that I wonder if they have any time to eat something themselves. I keep putting out food, but I'm not sure how much they are actually getting. Yes, I know His eye is on them, but I want to help too. Hey, maybe I'm sparrow MCC. Works for me.

Mother's Day, hmmm. One day that I get lots of phone calls and make some too. See, I have lots of "kids". People that my husband and I have adopted over the years that call us "Mumsie & Pops". We couldn't be prouder of them all and they are all so different. Most people would be a little intimidated if not frightened of some of our "kids", but appearances can be deceiving. Bikers, ex-addicts, dancers, dentists, doctors, lawyers, housewives/husbands, truckers , homeless folk and everybody else. Toasted marshmallow kids, crusty on the outside but sweet on the inside.

I'm glad God sees the inside.  
Hey, come see us and call your mother.

**JOY MENNONITE CHURCH**  
504 NE 16TH OKC OK 73104  
Sunday Services 10:00 am Sunday School 11:30  
All are welcome, please join us as you are able



**Joy Mennonite Church**  
4708 Outpost Dr  
Spencer, OK 73084-2722 (405) 236-4938  
Moses & Sadie Mast 771-4743

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