

Joy Mennonite Church

July 1992

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Without any doubt, some readers of our "columns" will find them waiting on return from vacation trips to wherever. This should have been a great time that the rest of us are looking forward to - a time of anticipation.

Anticipation precedes all that we contemplate and undertake in our daily lives. In the lives of believers it may be shown in ardent prayer for peace, equal and total justice, brotherly love, and I am sure you can name other times and events that stir the emotion of anticipation.

While we no longer live with a "cold war" and there are no global conflicts presently, the Middle East, Yugoslavia and South Africa remind us that we do not have peace. Daily we read of, witness, or participate in acts of injustice to and with our fellowman.

When the dust has settled, the one ingredient to harmonious and successful living that has been missing, will have been brotherly love.

Corporate presidents, presidents of countries large or small, presidents and directors, members and representatives of worldwide, social or political and professional organizations gather round with their high dollar attorneys to hammer out new shapes and directions for the citizens of the world through negotiations and arbitration.

Try as I may, my recollections don't find an instance where brotherly love has been introduced as a "bargaining chip," and we continue to have wars, hate, strikes, and injustice.

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PASTOR'S
CORNER

Now that the pastoral search is over does not mean we no longer need to concern ourselves about leadership. I hope we will all be concerned about how leadership is carried out at Joy Mennonite. I hope you will participate in defining leadership roles, including the role of pastor. I will try and be sensitive and take your ideas seriously. I encourage you to express your ideas and concerns.

The church can easily fall into the same trap as some small towns who use traffic law enforcement as a means to collect revenue. The actual activity of this law enforcement may be no different from law enforcement that concerns itself for the well-being of its citizens, but the kind of community that develops is the difference. A pastor is not hired to gather the people to give their offerings to pay the pastor to gather the people, and so start a vicious circle. To avoid this kind of vicious circle we, too, begin by being concerned about the well-being of the people in the community. Method and strategy are not as important as caring attitudes. America has one of the largest church-going populations in the world. America also leads the world in some of the social ills of the modern world. If we can begin by caring enough to feel the pain of people around us we can then plan the action. I hope you will feel that the choosing of a pastor is not so much the end of a quest as the beginning of an adventure.

Your Pastor

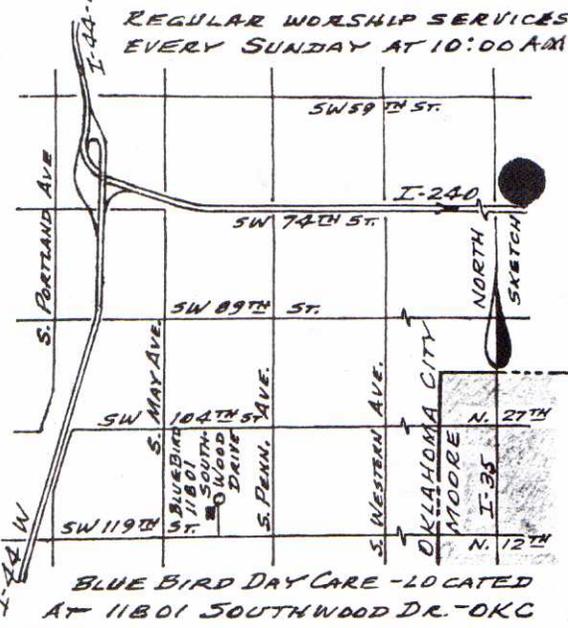
Moses Mast

COMING EVENTS

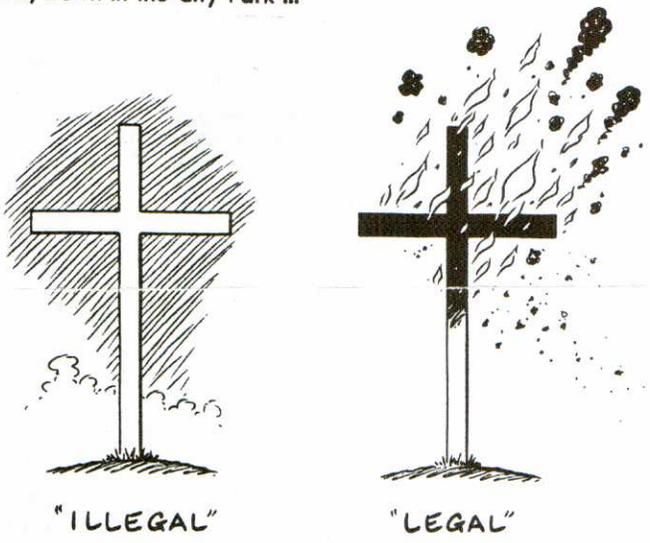
4 JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY (SAT.)

Following our memorial celebration to our independence on the Fourth of July, we will have a long dry spell until our next legal holiday on Monday, 7 September, for Labor Day.

Why, just this last week two decisions have come down from our court system. The church and religion is being phased out of public places (when will it be banned altogether?) in the name of unconstitutionality, but burning of a cross and showing hate and contempt for others has been ruled within our constitutional allowance.



Meanwhile, Down in the City Park ...



Credit to "the SUNDAY OKLAHOMAN" 28 June 1992, and KANG



Sunday, 21 June, was the big day for pastor installation. Peter Neufeld from Deer Creek, for the Western District Conference, did a super job, and Abe Krause from Hydro, for the Oklahoma Convention, topped it off beautifully. Thanks, love and best wishes to both of them. Those who could not attend, and those who didn't, really missed some inspiration and uplift in that service.

The above cartoon tells it all - Jesus, the church and love - 0, and hate and bigotry - 9. If we are in the bottom of the ninth, we need some hot bats, and know where to use them.

Which cross do we wish to see? Which one will we see? Have a great summer.

Bill Klassen

The purpose and result of the service eliminates a ministerial schedule - Moses Mast will bring our service each Sunday at 10:00 AM. Special events and programs will continue to be announced.

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