



Joy Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S CORNER



Mailing Address:

4708 OUTPOST DRIVE

SPENCER, OK. 73084

Church Telephone No.:

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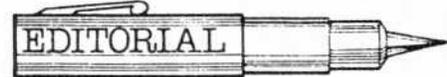
January 1993

I want to dedicate my portion of this letter to the new members and others who may not be members but have chosen to meet with us. You have contributed so much more than just a new face. It is the way each of you is helping to build the body. If we go with the flow we don't need help to hang in there. But serious Christians have never gone with the flow. Some things are terribly wrong in the sight of God but if it doesn't affect us we tend to say it is not so important. If we don't help each other it is certain we will more or less adopt our society's ways, some of which are very wrong. Paul tells us that Christians should speak the truth to each other (Col. 3:9). During the war in El Salvador church workers were frequently detained and sometimes killed. Working for the church was dangerous. One day a Salvadoran church worker asked an M.C.C. volunteer: "What makes you stay in this war-torn country?" The M.C.C. volunteer, somewhat taken aback, said something about being in solidarity with his suffering brothers and sisters. "Do you mean that?" asked the Salvadoran, and then added, "I will hold you to it." Doesn't it seem the Salvadoran understood something about speaking the truth to each other in a way that we don't? The Salvadoran had also said that he had not expected to be alive by that time anymore. His commitment was one in which he expected to die and he was expecting his North American coworker to share this commitment. In our country we tend to soften our commitment. We tend to focus on the good things about each other and suppress the wrong. We tend to be less than truthful with each other. Now that I have said this, I ask myself if I really want you to speak the truth to me. Unless we are serious about our commitment, the truth will offend us. We are like the alcoholic before he is seriously committed to stop drinking and is offended when people speak the truth

to him. But once a person is seriously committed, that person welcomes the truth. So let me again express my appreciation to you who have joined with us, whether by membership or just attending. I hope we can feel how much we need each other. If you live in the Oklahoma City area and look for a place to worship, please feel welcome to visit us. We are trying hard to be an inclusive, welcoming people.

In Christian Love,
Pastor

Moses Mast



Dear Friends,



My goodness - either an expression of shock or surprise - like where did the year go, or an explanation of why I have been treated so good this past year. Of course, the latter is a joke; that is not the way God operates. God is truly good, showing us daily all those attributes that mankind can only with difficulty (frustration) write about.



People kid about being born on Christmas Day. Most of our readers know one such person, and that is nothing to kid around about. Does God give good Christians gifts, or what. Moments ago, on TV from Nashville, a singer stated, "It's not having the Christmas spirit in this season, but having the spirit of Christ in Christ."



Our government, out of context with the church/state issue, is trying to keep religion (Christ) in the closet. Under the protection of the constitution prayer is being banned in schools and other public places, and now (in Oklahoma)

some want Santa banned from schools. In a country whose "legal tender" tells the world "In God we Trust" are going down the tube?

Made to look as though there was no more space, it was really an editor's oversight. The Joy Mennonite Church Support Committee deserved year's end recognition for their prayers and other evidences of their love and dedication to us, our growth and survival. Love and best wishes to them all always.

We have come away from the season where most of us have often wished others peace on earth. While we are not involved in a war per se and there is presently no global conflict in progress, the civil conflicts and other acts of violence we read about daily indicate a serious absence of peace. Churches and church members need to work with our leaders and other world leaders to bring us all "Peace on Earth" and in our communities and on our streets.

Greetings and best wishes for the New Year may reach our readers a day late - timing of the holiday and the pony express will see to that. Have a Happy New Year, full of peace and love.

Bice Klassen



WORSHIP SERVICE
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.

Church Address: 504 NE 16th ST.

COMING EVENTS

- Fri., 1 Jan. '93 - New Year's Day
- Mon., 18 Jan. '93 - Martin Luther King Day
- Sun. 14 Feb. '93 - Valentine's Day
- Mon. 15 Feb. '93 - Presidents Day
- Wed. 24 Feb. '93 - Ash Wednesday
- Wed. 17 Mar. '93 - St. Patrick's Day
- Sun. 4 Apr. '93 - Palm Sunday

Happy New Year

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