

MARCH

1994



Joy Mennonite Church

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**PASTOR'S  
CORNER**



In the season of Lent we remember again the road to Jerusalem and the cross taken by Jesus and his disciples. The disciples were people like us, and when they saw the cross at the end of the road they wanted to get off this road. Jesus told them that if they wanted life they must stay on the road with him. "If you seek to save your life you will lose it. If you lose your life for me and the gospel you will save it."

More important than any mission we are called to perform is staying on the road with Jesus. Staying on the road is accepting the risk and consequences of living by a different standard than the world. It is the practice of living in the presence of God. It is making life decisions knowing that we belong to God. It is being one with the heart and mind of God and seeing the world as God sees the world.

I read recently in the Mennonite Weekly Review that we are in transition from a Christian culture to being a non-Christian culture. Is this really true? We recognize that we have a religious culture distinct from the secular culture of America. But where life meets the road we make decisions the same way. The guiding force for decision making in American culture has been and is materialism. The central question is, "how much does it pay," or "is there a profit." We bow before the goals of industry and big business. If acquiring more is our goal it follows that we need a strong military to protect what we acquire. The plunge toward acquiring more has destroyed our community economics. Without the community economy the community finds it hard to survive. The church has been at peace with these economic forces and military powers, in fact many times its blessers.

To stay on the road we cannot participate with the evil powers. The world doesn't mind, in fact will admire us for helping those who get hurt by their pursuit for more and bigger. What the world cannot accept is the refusal to participate. For that they erect crosses. Our first calling then is not some wonderful mission, but to stay on the road, practice living in the presence of God and make life decisions from that perspective.

Moses Mast

Dear Friends,

It finally dawned on me - that with year's end activities and appropriate seasonal thoughts, we lost the issues/opinions portion of the editorial column. Just thinking about issues doesn't cut it - they have to be shared. If these writings have caused any thought or action - wonderful.

Looking back and rereading the last "opinions" issue on allegiance, we dealt only with what it is and how we show or display it (allegiance) but really there is much more to it than patriotism, flag waving, church attendance and preaching on a street corner. In fact, one needs to find out why before any of the rest has a great lot of meaning.

What is it? Who has it? Do all have it? That special feeling when living abroad and one hears reference to the USA, hears its anthem or sees its flag - but wait, I should have said "one of those special feelings," because feelings are emotions. The chances are that the warmth accompanying those feelings is not always the "cloud 9" or euphoric type, but maybe the pain of shame or public embarrassment. And still we persevere in attitudes of hope for more positive images and brotherly love. I have been there.

I'll take a rough guess that a feeling of kinship or belonging generates many of these emotions - good or bad, linking us on the one hand to an often undeserved good fortune or existence we enjoy or, on the other hand, to the conscience that may remind us how miserably we often fail our brothers (or in the Christian context - how sinful we are).

When the feeling of kinship or belonging is not present, or a person is made to feel alien or unloved, does one not tend to become negative, act the part and be unloving or unlovable, and maybe become self- or otherwise destructive?

I am very emotional - those who know me well agree and suggest that I got it from my mother, a Hiebert, and it can be embarrassing - my tear glands activate easily.

I would like to think that is a form of allegiance - others will show it in different ways, but a sharing of joys or sorrows, victories or losses, be they close up and personal or remote like at Lillehammer or Sarajevo or Hebron or Oklahoma City., demonstrates kinship and belonging.

Tap onto the sources of allegiance that will let you - or better, help you - to love more completely.

Have a beautiful Lenten season.

Bice Klassen



create  
peace



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

**F·E·L·L·O·W·S·H·I·P**



In an experiment with our fellowship/worship this Lenten season, with the theme "I will write a new covenant on your hearts," the Lenten Sunday worship services are being put together by one or more families in cooperation as follows:



- 20 Feb. - Moses & Sadie Mast and Cheryl Crichley
- 27 Feb. - Peter Brueckner and Bill Riach
- 6 Mar. - Shirley Watkins and Bill & Thea Klassen
- 13 Mar. - Mike & Darlene Powers
- 20 Mar. - Ralph Ediger and Terry Hostetler
- 27 Mar. - Kay Brueckner, Mei Riach, Grace Roley

On Monday, 7 March, will be the Oklahoma Pastors' meeting at Grace Mennonite Church in Enid.

Moses and Sadie Mast have been invited to attend the Western District Women in Mission meeting to be held on Tuesday, 15 March, at the New Hopedale Mennonite Church in Meno.

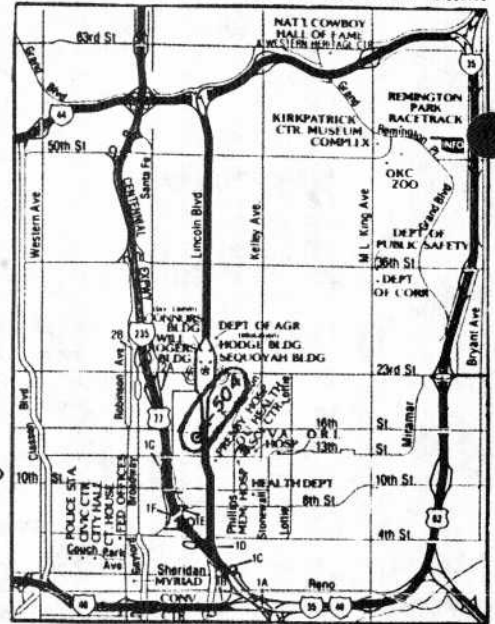
On Friday, 18 March, at 7:00 p.m. the Joy Mennonite Church Support Committee will meet at Deer Creek Mennonite Church.

The Abraham and Sarah Caravan will be arriving in Oklahoma City on Friday, 15 April.

REMEMBER: Holy Communion at the church beginning at 7:00 p.m. on **Thurs. 31 Mar. 94.**



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



Church Address: 504 NE 16<sup>th</sup> St.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Mon., 7 Mar. .... Okla. Pastor's Meeting at Enid
- Tue., 15 Mar. .. Western District Women in Mission
- Thu., 17 Mar. .... St. Patrick's Day
- Fri., 18 Mar. .. JMC Support Com. Mtg., Deer Creek
- Sun., 27 Mar. .... Palm Sun
- Thu., 31 Mar. .... Maundy Thurs
- Thu., 31 Mar.** .... Holy Communion at JMC
- Fri., 1 Apr. .... Good Friday
- Sun., 3 Apr. .... Easter Sunday
- Fri., 15 Apr. .... Abraham & Sarah Caravan arrival

We do hope that churches receiving this letter are also posting it to be read by their church members.

**Joy Mennonite Church**  
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**  
**RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTIED**



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