

Joy Mennonite Church



Mailing Address:

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SPENCER, OK. 73084
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Church Telephone No.:

July 1994

**PASTOR'S
CORNER**



Dear Friends,

At this writing you may be on vacation - you may celebrate July 4th in some remote place or at home or with family and friends, but the main thing is that it will be safe and sane. This is a holiday that the government may find difficult to tamper with or dictate when it should be celebrated, or why.

Once upon a time a number of our holidays had meaning, a purpose, a following, but commercialism and government (or other) intervention has diminished some to show, convenience, or simply a three-day weekend.

There was once a Memorial Day to celebrate remembrance and family heritage, but now it is no longer important - it has become a day for remembering war dead and heroes, and it is okay if it happens to touch on family and heritage. Who knows, Easter may be in danger because Jesus was not a veteran or war hero.

My wife Thea and I make an annual Memorial Day pilgrimage back "home" to Newton and to the final resting place of many of the Klassen family at the Tabor Church cemetery. So much of the significance of the day has been adulterated, lost, or forgotten, that we see few living Klassen's that weekend. We are learning to know many who remember the Klassen's, but for how long - that generation is also not getting younger.

Many thanks to the Hursts at Tabor for making the celebration so meaningful. Their service theme "remembrance" really hit the spot - those reading this editorial column know how important "remembrance" is to this writer. I thank God daily for my heritage as a Klassen, and suddenly, should I also be "proud" (guarded definition) of my Mennonite Heritage?

Readers also know of my emotions and sentimentality, and programming produced for this type of emotional holiday certainly takes its toll on me - even when it is in a strictly patriotic vein commemorating fallen heroes (especially this year in conjunction with D-day's 50th), or a well-done rendition of our national anthem, America, or even "taps."

Then I hope for a tolerant judge if I pass the stereotype test of being a good Mennonite. I get depressed about that until I acknowledge that that is not the issue - being a good Mennonite does not make me a good Christian - but it could work the other way around.

Depending on the comfort level one has with himself, and being at peace and in harmony with ones fellow man may be the indicator of one's spiritual growth level, and how rocky the road might yet be in attaining that desired proper relationship with God and the ability to better follow Jesus' teachings.

What does this have to do with remembrance? I visit my "remembering room" frequently and feel that without that time and experience I might not have the capacity to love or to appreciate the past.

Hope you are all having a special summer, and when you vacation you will come home safely, refreshed and revitalized.

Have you remembered lately?

Best wishes to all -

Bee Klassen



Moses Mast

F·E·L·L·O·W·S·H·I·P

In the "Pastor's Corner" Moses mentioned the inspiration of meeting in fellowship in a natural setting in a natural setting as at the Red Rock Canyon State Park. That is a true statement. The fellowship was truly great, and in a specially called and prepared service Saturday evening, 18 June, JMC affirmed a request from Mike and Darlene Powers and accepted them as members into our fellowship. They have two children, Laura and James.

Sunday Times
GREAT NEWS



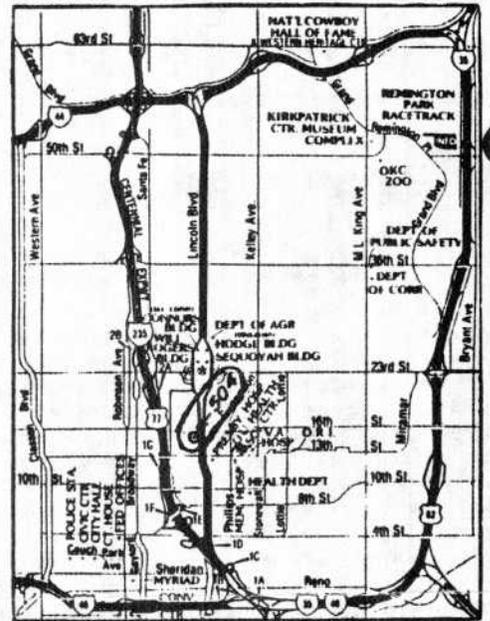
Meanwhile, down in Honduras, Cheryl Crichley has spent a couple of weeks working with World Neighbors. We know she will have represented our fellowship and our community well and look forward to her report which we will share with all of you.

*create
peace*

Friday, 1 July, through Sunday, 3 July, are the dates for the joint convention of the South Central and Western District Conferences in Tulsa, OK. It will be then and there that JMC will be accepted into membership of the Western District Conference, making that a very special milestone in our church fellowship and development. We ask your prayers and support.



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



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Fri. thru Sun., 1-3 July Joint Convention of SW District and WD Conferences in Tulsa, OK
- Mon., 4 July Independence Day
- Sat., 27 Aug. Monthly JMC Fellowship Outing to Horse Thief Canyon
- Mon., 5 Sep. Labor Day
- End Vacations/Back to School



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