



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

July 1996

Pastor's Corner

June 16, Stephany Bonner was baptized at Joy Mennonite Church. In a small church like ours we sometimes feel deprived because experiences like this are too rare. It was a very special celebration for all of us. We felt a kind of spiritual energy bonding us together. It was like Stephany was everyone's child or everyone's sister. Not only did we celebrate the confession of faith of a new believer, but we remembered our own baptism and the commitment we made.

In New Testament language, to baptize and make disciples is parallel language. In our Anabaptist

history the focus of baptismal vows was, do you promise to forsake the world and its enticements and seek to follow the Lord Jesus -- discipleship. It seems to me the current focus is more, do you confess your sins and claim forgiveness by the sacrifice of Jesus' death. This is not necessarily wrong. What really matters is the unspoken understandings that interpret our confession. I do not believe the current unspoken interpretation of this confession explains what it means to be a disciple of our Lord. The current popular teaching in America is that becoming a Christian will enhance your

opportunities for the good life. The New Testament understanding was that being a disciple of Jesus was a risk. Early Christians were at odds with the powers that governed.

One of the ways we can test our commitment to discipleship is to ask, what understanding does the world have about our commitment as disciples. An example: when some Amish families moved to Honduras, it did not take long for Hondurans to learn that these people lived by the law of love and when you steal from them they do not take you to court or seek revenge. We understand that they will, with time, modify their interpretation because of

the changing circumstances from the States to Honduras. It can also be said that in ten years, they did not shrink from this commitment.

The point I want to make is this, that disciples of Jesus will be recognized for differing from the values of the world around them. Some of these differences will be admired and some will be despised. Discipleship is a journey toward God. Baptism is the seal to the vow of discipleship and not some instant formula to guarantee you will go to heaven when you die.

Moses Mast

MCC and Me

by Thea (Janz) Klassen

My first awareness of MCC was probably in 1947, after WW II. My parents, a blind aunt, my youngest brother and I had fled from East Prussia, Germany, in late 1944 and in May 1945 ended up in Lauenburg, a small city 35 miles south of Hamburg. (Eight older brothers and sisters had also fled during the war and ended up in other parts of Germany. Years later we were reunited.) My parents learned that there was a Mennonite Church in Hamburg, and they made contact with their pastor, Rev. Schowalter. We then were informed that, being Mennonites, through that church we were eligible to receive clothes, school supplies, soap and canned food (all scarce or nonavailable commodities at that time) donated by Mennonites in Canada and USA. All items bore the logo "Mennonite Central Committee -- In the Name of Christ." We were deeply touched to get this

assistance from our former "enemies." After wearing homemade clothes, including shoes, sewn from army blankets and parachute material, these "real" clothes were a welcome change, as were the canned foods, after a diet from the community kitchen which included horsemeat. For my baptism in October of 1948 I wore a pretty black dress we had received through MCC.

With Germany still in ruins, my father felt that there was no future there. He also missed the Mennonite community. So when we received announcements through MCC of emigration to Canada, he sent in our application, and in 1951 we received notice to appear at the emigration camp in Gronau, Westfalen, Germany. On physical examination my X-ray showed a spot on the lung (suspicious for TB), and I was rejected. Some of my older brothers went ahead

and emigrated to Canada, but my parents, a sister and younger brother stayed behind with me. They did leave for Canada ten months ahead of me, however. At the MCC camp in Gronau we were told that the camp doctor had just lost his secretary (she had emigrated to Uruguay), and since I had had some schooling in shorthand and typing they asked my parents and me if I would stay at the camp and work for the camp doctor. My parents gave their consent feeling that I would be well taken care of with MCC, and I worked for this doctor for a year, receiving room and board, clothing and a small remuneration. I also had a lot of contact with those at camp waiting for their visas, among them many young people, and it was a fun-filled, carefree time of my life. After one year the camp was dissolved and the MCC unit moved to Bremen, I along with them as their German secretary. In spring of 1954 this unit was combined with the existing one in Frankfurt/Main where I

learned to know my future husband Bill, who was serving in Germany as a PAX boy. My papers were forwarded to an office close to Frankfurt, and upon my examination there I was found to be free of any TB and got the green light for emigration to Canada. In December of 1954 I arrived in Canada.

During my association with MCC I met some of the most caring and wonderful people. I am still in contact with some of them. Many "Who's Who with MCC" people visited the MCC unit I was with, among them Ori Miller, C. F. Klassen and Peter Dyck. Bob Schrag, the recent editor of the *Mennonite Weekly Review*, was a PAX boy at that time and visited our unit in Frankfurt occasionally. Words fail me to describe the debt I owe this fine organization. It has changed many lives for the better. I know it did mine and that of my family. I thank God for its existence.

Fellowship News:

We welcome Nathan Corbett back again this summer, visiting his grandparents, Peter & Kay Brueckner.

Moses & Sadie Mast were in Iowa visiting family and picking strawberries, June 17-22.

Our annual campout was June 7-9 at Little Axe Campground at Lake Thunderbird. We had an enjoyable weekend.

Shirley Watkins has moved to Gulfport, Mississippi, to be with her father. Our prayers

and blessings go with her during this time of transition. May God lead her in finding meaningful employment, also.

Bill and Thea Klassen will represent our church at the Western District Conference annual sessions in Dallas, July 5-7.

Our quarterly business meeting will be Saturday, July 20, at 9:30am, followed by lunch. Then in the afternoon, we will go bowling at a yet to be determined bowling alley. Call Bill Klassen for details.

Laura Powers will be joining the youth group from Lorraine Ave. Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS, for a service trip to La Casa de Maria y Marta in San Antonio, TX, July 19-26.

Worship News:

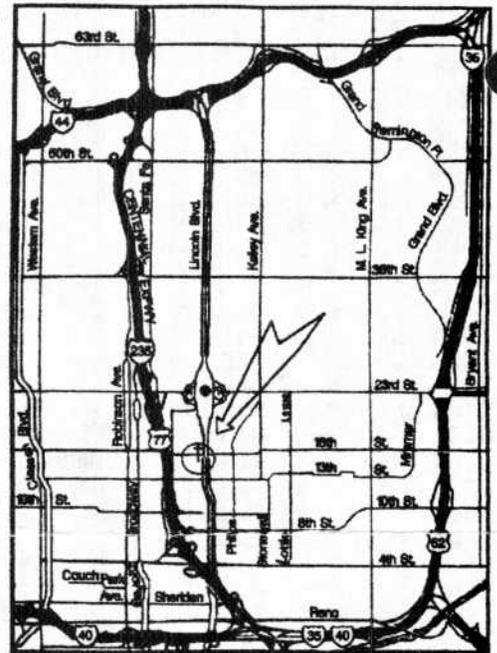
June 16 was a special service. Stephany Bonner was baptized and joined our church as a member. We then celebrated Communion together.

Mike Powers gave the message on June 23.

Reminder: August newsletter items are due by July 24. Give

Worship Service:

Every Sunday at 10 O'clock A.M.



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St. (just west of the oil derrick on Lincoln Blvd.)

to Mike or Darlene Powers.

Newsletter Contributors: Moses Mast, Pastor's Corner; Thea Klassen, Writer; Bill Klassen, Mailing; Darlene Powers & Sadie Mast, News Items; Mike Powers, Publisher.



Calendar

- July 5-7 WDC annual sessions, Dallas, TX
- July 14 Peace Sunday
- July 20 Quarterly Church Business Meeting, 9:30am
- July 20 Bowling in afternoon
- July 27 OK MCC Relief Sale Business meeting, Balko, OK
- Aug 6 Neighborhood Association annual National "Night Out"
- Sept 7-8 WD Women's Retreat, Camp Mennoscah
- Sept 14-15 OK Convention, Herold Menn. Church, Cordell, OK

73084-2722 01

MOSES & SADIE MAST
4708 OUTPOST DR
SPENCER OK 73084

FORWARDING & RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Joy Mennonite Church
4708 Outpost Dr
Spencer, OK 73084-2722
(405) 236-4938



NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
OKC, OK
PERMIT NO. 2545