



# ● JOY MENNONITE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## Pastor's Corner

The Peace Factory is coming to Oklahoma City. The Peace Factory is a hands-on exhibit of how God's people make peace, developed by the Mennonite Church. The Oklahoma Conference of Churches is the main sponsor for bringing this exhibit to Oklahoma City. It will be here for the commemoration of the bombing of the Federal Building, April 17-10.

The bombing has left its mark on our city, indeed the whole country. The level of fear has risen. There is pain from the loss of loved ones in a senseless act of violence. There is a cry for bringing the perpetrators to justice. One senses a woundedness that is not healing.

In the past century the world experienced the industrial revolution. The industrial age brought a terrible exploitation of workers by the owners and developers of industry. Child labor was not uncommon. Coal

miners and steel workers were exposed to a work environment that ruined the health of many a young man. On the heels of the industrial revolution came the revival preachers. It seems that conditions in the world made people inclined to hear these preachers.

We are now in the age of technology. Technology gave us the atomic bomb and more. For a half century the world was filled with dread and fear. While the fear of a nuclear attack is subsiding, the level of fear is rising for other reasons. In our beloved country we are experiencing an escalation of crime that kills. We are told that the crime rate itself has not risen, but crime with guns, crime that kills, has risen drastically. People express their grievances by killing. It is the crime that kills that is causing people to be afraid. The revival preacher of the past century must now become the evangelist of peace in

our generation.

People have scoffed at those who pattern their preaching and teachings of peace on the teachings of Jesus. We should be aware that this rejection of the way to peace is made with reasonable assumptions by reasonable people. Maybe the reason the church has not produced and sent out the peace evangelists is because Jesus' way did not seem reasonable. Love seems to be soft when we need to be tough. People have a just reason to be angry when their loved ones are killed in senseless crimes. The evangelist of peace must recognize and acknowledge peoples' fear and pain.

We must never pretend that there is not price to pay for peace. It is this high price for peace that has not made sense to reasonable people. Why should the one who suffered the injustice now absorb the hostility and hatred of the criminal in order to break the chain of violence? We

do not promise the end of pain, but we declare that God will be with you in your pain. We declare that love and not hatred will change the world and make it a better place for us and our loved ones.

*Moses Mast*

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Note: If you feel called to help to heal the pain, please read on....

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## THE PEACE FACTORY IS ON THE WAY!!!

The peace factory is coming to Oklahoma City, due to the courageous and tireless effort of many people, including our own, Sadie Mast. This is a biblical, interactive exhibit created by Mennonites to help all Christians connect their faith in God with a life of peacemaking. The exhibit covers approximately 2000 square feet and has six different types of hands-on learning experiences. All ages are invited to bring God's peace to our world. Water and block play, a bean bag toss and play

dough help children learn God's justice, sharing, and cooperation. A computer program helps youth understand their responses to conflict. Adults can learn about militarism, white privilege and responses to crime. Children will receive free balloons and coloring sheets; youth receive buttons and stickers; and adults take home practical information about peacemaking. The Peace Factory is both fun and thought-provoking.

What a great way for Christians in Oklahoma City to

reflect on the events surrounding the violence of the bombing, and to struggle together to spread the message of healing, and of "a better way!" The Peace Factory will be open from Thursday, April 17th, through Sunday, April 20th, from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church, at 1001 N.W. 25th & Western.

Volunteers are urgently needed to staff the exhibits, set up and take them down, help with planning, make donations, and to spread the word about this great event! Plan to attend, and

let any children or youth groups you are familiar with know about this great opportunity. For more information, you may call Sadie Mast at 771-4743, Marge Delaney at 528-0982, or call 525-2928. Also, please continue to remember this effort in your prayers.



## Fellowship

## News

### **Projects:**

March 8th...some of our members assisted in putting in a drainage pipe for Mrs. Taylor.

March 15th...members also assisted in working on a fence for the Powers family.

### **Events:**

March 9th...A Potluck Dinner was held with a team of Basketball players from Abbotsville, B.C., who stayed in the church while in town for a tournament. They blessed us with testimonies and songs, and hopefully we blessed them with a chili dinner!

March 30th...A great Easter service was reported by those who attended. One advantage to being a small group, is the ability to do some "creative" things with worship. Attendees sat around a table and shared testimonies, stories, and the Lord's Supper.

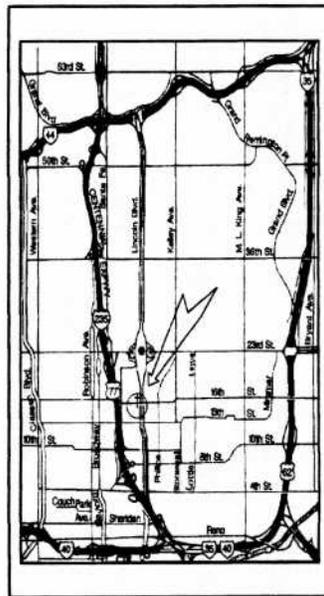
### **Coming up:**

April 17th - 20th...The Peace Factory is in Oklahoma City! Please see the Pastor's Corner

and article on the other page!

April 23rd...Essengo, a Zairian Mennonite Brethren choir, will perform at the Edmond Community Center, on Main Street (just north of 2nd street), and just east of Broadway, at 7:00pm. This should be a great event, as Essengo means Joy in their language. They reportedly "rocked" the World Conference in Calcutta. Plan to be there!

April 27th...A group of attorneys will be on hand after services on this Sunday to hold a seminar on will preparation, and to answer questions.



**Our Worship Service is held every Sunday at 10:00am, at 504 NE 16th**

**Everyone is welcome!**

Thanks to everyone who contributes to this newsletter:

Moses Mast, Pastor's corner... Sadie Mast, news articles... Darlene Powers, mailing list... Bill Klassen, copying and mailing. Published by Cheryl Crichley.

Look for more articles and editorials from our members and friends. We welcome any suggestions you have!

### **Calendar:**

April 19th ...Sat. Workday

April 17 - 20...Peace Factory

April 23rd...Essengo music group...Edmond

April 27th...Will-preparation seminar

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