



JOY MENNONITE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S CORNER

understand how one comes to choose to be a martyr/witness. We look at suffering and death as something to fear and not as a source of freedom and joy. To understand the role of the martyr/witness, we look to stories from other countries like Africa or Latin America. The powers of the world are not concerned about a religion that preaches about sin in an abstract form, but will not tolerate one that asks the powers to prevent the sin that leaves people wounded and suffering for their

enrichment. We can learn from people like Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador, who was told that if he did not soften his message he would be killed. He knew this was true, but firmly believed he must keep preaching truth. Stanley Rother, a missionary to Guatemala, was told that if he did not leave he would be killed. He returned to the state but could not rest until he returned to his flock in Guatemala, and as he knew would happen, he was killed. We learn from these

people that their decision may be a struggle, but as Jesus said, "Only then is one truly free." The decision did not fill them with dread and apprehension, but as Jesus said it would, it sent them freedom and joy.

May this be the season in which we can strengthen our resolve to take up the cross and follow our Lord. May it also be a time when we can resolve to stand with those in other places who have accepted the role of martyr/witnesses. May the rising of the Easter sun bring great joy to all of you.

Moses Mast

For whatever reason that we say Jesus died, we must understand that Jesus died a martyr's death. He died for what he preached and lived. Jesus was emphatic when he said, "If you want to follow me, you must also die to self. Take up your cross and follow me."

In our experience of life, we find it difficult to

A Profile... of Ethel Posar by Bill and Thea Klassen

Ethel Loucks Posar is a native of Canton, McPherson Co., Kansas. She is the youngest of ten children and attended Canton public schools and the Spring Valley Mennonite Church there, where she was baptized in 1942.

During her younger years she was very active in her home church and in music - teaching Sunday School or as chorister in her home church, and singing with her

sisters as the Singing Loucks Family, or other family singing.

Working in a printing shop in Hesston, KS, she met James, her husband-to-be. They were married in 1957. They had two children, Robert and Veronica; Ethel has four granddaughters (two each from Robert and Veronica.)

Ethel and James lived and worked in Hesston and central Kansas until 1962.

They continued to attend the Spring Valley Mennonite Church. Employment took them to Oklahoma City and central Oklahoma for a number of years. Ethel and

James were very active in organizing and starting the Spencer Mennonite Church in the early and mid 60's, meeting in their garage with Bill and Betty Mast and others for a period until a church building was built. James was active with boys' clubs and youth activities for a number of years.

A vocational move took them to Houston, TX, in 1981, where they attended the Houston Mennonite Church.

When they returned to Oklahoma City in 1990, James' health was failing, and following his passing in 1996, Ethel started regular

attendance at Joy Mennonite Church, subsequently becoming a member in 1997.

Ethel loves people, makes friends easily, enjoys fellowship - serving rather than being served, hostessing, and volunteering in hospitality situations where she resides. Not only has she a "green thumb" in growing plants, but the feeling and ability for restoration or revival of "dying" plants as well.

Her love for God and His church and for fellowship and music shows clearly in her life, and Joy Mennonite Church thanks God for her.

News...

Arun Gandhi will speak at the Church of the Servant on April 18th at 7:00pm. The topic will be Non-Violent Strategies. This is certainly a timely topic, and a qualified speaker.

Mark your calendars!

The quarterly business meeting for Joy Mennonite Church will be held on Saturday, April 18th. The time will be announced, usually in the morning, (but not too early!)

Good fellowship, food, and accomplishments...

The workday at the Hammond Church on March 7th was rained out, but there was a good turnout on Saturday, March 28th. Groups from several neighboring churches were there to help, and great food, including frybread, was served. More roofing remains to be done, so don't feel too badly if you missed this one. Another date will

be announced.

The Peace Factory...

was in Carlsbad, New Mexico on March 17th - 23rd. Moses and Sadie had a good week helping out there. Moses preached there Sunday morning, and their pastor, Amzie Yoder, will preach here at Joy on April 19th, the Sunday after Easter. Peter Bruekner filled the pulpit at Joy on March 22nd.

Welcome!

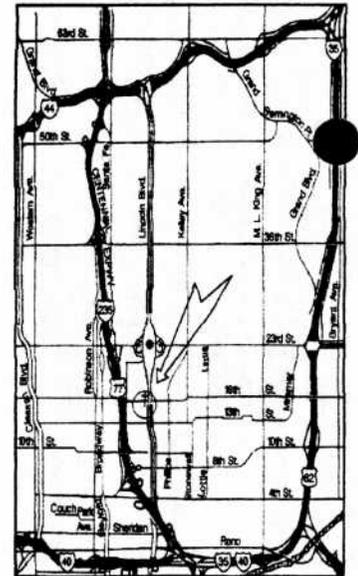
Alex Cortex, who is 13 years old, and from Honduras, is staying with Moses and Sadie while he is recuperating from surgery. Moses will be taking a trip with Alex and a group of Shriners to their hospital this week. To Alex we say, "Bienvenidos," (although he prefers to speak English here!)

Alex and all the rest of the young people who are now attending our church services, with or without

physical challenges, continue to challenge and bless us all with their presence and their enthusiasm. Please continue to pray that we can help to guide them as God would have us to do.

Happy Easter...

In this season of Lent, we have taken turns being in charge of the worship here at Joy. Families and groups have been quite creative, and some have used drama and readings to make this season more real for us. As we continue to contemplate the path of our Lord, which led to the cross, may we all seek to find the best way to follow him, in this busy and confusing world.



Joy Mennonite Church is located at 504 NE 16th (just west of the oil derrick on 16th.) We meet at 10:00 am on Sundays.

Everyone is welcome!

MOSES & SADIE MAST
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