



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

PASTORS' CORNER

The greatest cause of poverty, hunger and sickness is not famine or natural disasters but unjust economic systems and corrupt government. Mennonite central committee appealed to churches through out the United States to speak to the powers that control government and money to think of the poor and powerless people, especially children, as they make decisions that affect the world. The first request was to speak to our congress people in behalf of the children of Iraq. Five thousand Iraqi children die each month from malnutrition and preventable or treatable sickness. It is the result of the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Several persons from Joy Mennonite went to the offices of four of our

congress men to express our concern. We acknowledge we do not pretend to know the solution to the threat of one like Sadam Hussein but we urged them to seek a solution that does not punish the most innocent of all, the children of Iraq. We also state that as a people of faith we believe that we as American people are accountable to God for the suffering we cause and they as congressmen will be countable to God for their decisions as well. The second appeal from MCC is to support what is called Jubilee 2000. Jubilee 2000 is a call to the wealthy nations of the world to forgive debt to the poor countries of the third world by the end of the year 2000. The struggle to pay the interest on their debt keeps poor countries from providing health care and education and

social development for their people. This is a strategic time as the leaders of the world bank and the International Monetary Fund are meeting in Washington DC next month. Joy Mennonite will participate with Pax Christi who is calling for many churches and individuals to participate in writing an open letter to these leaders urging them to seek debt relief for these poor countries. This letter is to be published in a major newspaper. Debt relief for these countries would not be a major burden to America tax payers. The highest amount suggested of our country would be about the same as one B2 bomber. One would think this opportunity would bring a great outpouring of support, and hopefully it will. We also know the great majority will

remain silent. We do not hesitate to speak to government about our concerns. I am thinking about what we told our congress men. If they are accountable to God for their life and death decisions so are we accountable to God for our silence and inaction when we have the opportunity. This has been a hot summer in central Oklahoma. I hope your lives in the spirit are not like my front lawn that has not seen rain for several months. I wish all of you who go back to school a good year and success in your studies and for all of you who are sending your children to school I wish you well as you seek to prepare them for living. Until next month.

Moses Mast

Editorial

By Nicole Tabor

What do scientific discoveries mean? When a scientist says that he or she has dated a fossil back thirty million years, is the scientist wrong?

Can a Christian consider the evidence? This is something many young Christians, including myself, encounter in school. Many educated people are on both sides of the issue. Some are

Christians and some are not. People may ask, how can someone who believes in the bible believe in evolution, when the bible specifically addresses the act of creation? I would like

to ask another question: is the bible science? I believe the bible is the inspired word of God that was delivered to the people in a way that they could understand it. What is so different about being made from

earth, and evolving from species originating from the earth? So what is wrong with believing in evolution if you believe God was in control of it? I consider myself a follower of Jesus with no less sincerity than a traditional creationist. We shouldn't get so worked up over things that can't be proven or disproven. I believe that there is room for both sides.

News

Welcome home to the Bliss family from their summer's work in Oregon and to Cheryl Crichley from her time of studying in Nicaragua.

Also welcome to Florian, an exchange student who is staying in the home of Frank and Beverly Bliss.

August the 1st the Joy Mennonite Church people had a noon meal of rice, beans and tortillas. Trying to experience a little bit of what it would be like to eat only that everyday (and smaller portions than we had) as is the case for many people in the world.

Several members of the church and Nathaniel Batchelder from the Peace House visited 4 of the Congressional office that week

urging our congress people to find a solution to the problem with Iraq that does not hurt innocent children.

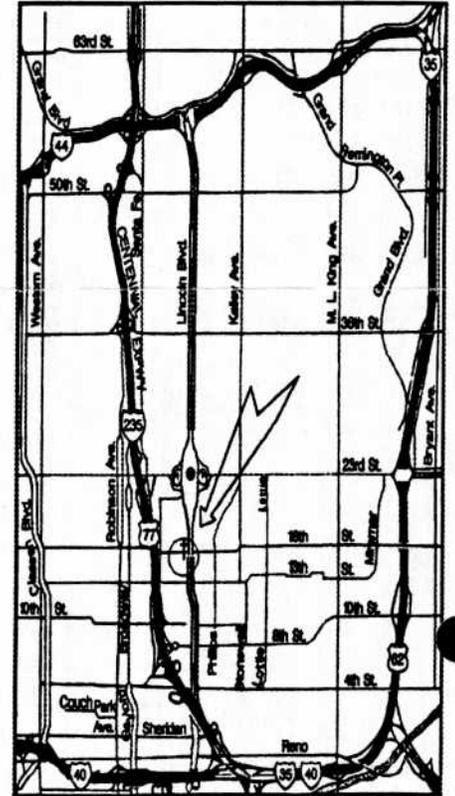
August 15th national M.D.S workers from Guthrie attended Joy Mennonite Church services, followed with a potluck. John Aransi from Nigeria was our guest speaker that morning. He is a chaplain at the Presbyterian Hospital.

Upcoming Events

Sunday September 5th at 6:00 PM, Joy Mennonite Church, Hemispheric Reconciliation Group and Sojourners Group are joining together for a potluck at the Joy Mennonite Church. Cheryl Crichley will tell about her Nicaraguan experiences at 7:00.

September 11-12, a group from the Mennonite church in Salina, Kansas will be with us. On Saturday we plan to repair and paint the garage for the Shoemakers. On Sunday there will be a potluck after Sunday morning service.

September 18-19, Oklahoma Convention at the Bethel Mennonite Church, Hydro, Oklahoma. Everyone is encouraged to attend the convention, and there will be no services at Joy Mennonite that Sunday morning.



Joy Mennonite Church is located at 504 NE 16th. We meet on Sundays at 10 AM.

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