



Joy Mennonite Newsletter September 2006

Western
District
Conference

The Peace Pole

Sunday, September 24th we planted a peace pole at the Joy Mennonite Church. This was a joint effort by Joy Mennonite and Dennis Watson, who is a member of Oklahomans for Conscientious Objectors and participates in our Friday prayer for peace. The pole reads, "May Peace Prevail On Earth" written in four languages, English, Spanish, Cheyenne and Arabic. Readers from each of these languages were there to read their line and then share their vision for peace. While some planted flowers around the peace pole others wrote their vision for peace on a piece of paper to be used in later occasions. The Japanese man who introduced the idea of the peace pole had a vision of uniting the whole world to pray for peace. Peace makers are dreamers who can envision a world at peace and can even now see what that world looks like. Planting a peace pole is meant to keep that dream alive and in our thoughts every day.

The following poem was written by Joy MC member Cheryl T. Critchley. It was read at the ceremony for the planting of the Peace Pole on September 24, 2006.

Today We Open The Ground

We open the ground,
The womb, this tomb below us,
And the spirits of all who have returned take note of our intent.
They testify to those yet to emerge.
While we, between, however briefly,
Scurry along the surface, doing whatever is so important.
Are they alarmed as I at the prospect of another stone?
Of another post, of countless memorials to the killer and the killed,

And wonder of the two, who is more dead and detached from their souls?

Yet today we plant a prayer for peace.

The remnants of a once-live tree,

And recall one lifted up so long ago, to take from this earth the author of peace.

Then planted, he rose again.

As may his peace rise up with this symbol

To be seen by all who pass by and read and wonder and ponder our purpose.

We cry out in different tongues:

May peace prevail on earth.

As if to bring them together here would erase the chaos of Babel.

For if we do not hear

We cannot understand

And we may begin to fear and envision malevolence and divisions and walls and murder.

Cain and Abel

Forever and ever, world without end.

He came to break the cycle, to teach those who would listen and learn and live.

With this prayer, we do not ask agreement.

We do not question the likelihood of peace.

We state, resolutely, what will be on earth. We plant it to ripen and bloom within us.

Pictures from the ceremony can be seen at the church website. www.JoyMennonite.org

Recent News

In July Moses and Sadie Mast help at the Junior High Camp in Hydro, Okla.

July 30, Bill and Thea Klassen, former members of Joy Mennonite, came to Okla. to celebrate the wedding anniversary of Moses and Sadie Mast. They attended Joy Mennonite on Sunday.

July 30, Jack O Neal with his children, Jack Aaron and Anna visited Joy Church. They attended Joy Mennonite for several years but with their mother have moved to Virginia.

Joy Mennonite purchased a brick placed at the Oklahoma City zoo in memory of Damon Tabor who died three years ago. Damons family and a few from Joy gathered there to remember Damon the evening of the Aug. 26. Damon had been a member of Joy Mennonite.

Joy Mennonite showed the video **After the Cloud Lifted** in our Sunday School hour. This is the story of the struggle people endured in Hiroshima after the atomic bomb. This is a good story that shows the roots of war

and the way to healing and peace. This video is available in the Okla. City Public library and also from MCC.

Willie C Berry died July 23.06. She was a good friend of Us at Joy Mennonite. She had been in ill health for number of years.

James Branum has been receiving a good number of calls from soldiers who feel they can no longer serve in the war in good conscience. Many of them have no idea what they should. James can advise them of the options and the likely outcome of each option.

The Mennonite Relief sale will be held the first weekend in November. It will be held in Enid, Oklahoma

Thanks to those of you who sent us your e mail address. If you have not and could receive it by e mail please let us know. We will continue to send this letter by mail for those who desire a genuine printed and stamped newsletter. E-mail address: mosesmast@aol.com

*May my life's work be a passion for
peace and nonviolence.
May my soul rejoice in the present moment.
May my imagination overcome death and despair
with new possibility.
And may I risk reputation, comfort and security
To bring this hope to the children.*

-- Mary Lou Kownacki

Forever and ever, word without end.
The name to break the cycle, to teach those who would
listen and learn and live.
With this prayer, we do not ask agreement
We do not question the likelihood of peace
We state, resolutely, what will be on earth. We plant
it to open and bloom within us.
Pictures from the ceremony can be seen at the church
website www.JoyMennonite.org

We open the ground,
The world, the camp below us.
And the spirits of all who have returned here none of our
intent.
They testify to those yet to emerge
While we, between, however, we
scoury along the surface, doing whatever is right and
Are they alerted as I am the prospect of another season?
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