



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S CORNER

Holy week is a time

when we remember the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We have traditionally understood the death of Jesus as a unique experience of the Son of God. Because Jesus did not sin, it is believed Jesus died for our sins. This may be true but it is not the whole truth nor is it the emphasis the gospel story gives us. We may not be like Jesus, but Jesus was like us, experiencing life in human form as we do. Jesus faced death with the same fears and concerns as we do.

Before Jesus went to Jerusalem

where he was arrested and sentenced to die, the intentions of the authorities was common knowledge. Some of Jesus' friends did not think he should go to Jerusalem. Just like we, Jesus wanted to avoid going to where his life was threatened, and Jesus would have liked to avoid speaking truth that put his life in danger. As Jesus contemplated how to avoid danger and save his life he came to understand that those who seek to save their life will lose their life for the sake of truth will find it. Jesus also made it clear this did not only apply to him but to all those who seek to live by the divine will.

Are we forgetting our martyr heritage? It would seem to me that only by understanding the martyrs of our time could we understand what Jesus was saying about death. We hear these stories from Central America and Africa and other places. These people too wish to avoid dying. They wish to avoid places of danger and especially they too, struggle with the desire to avoid speaking the truth that will endanger them. But these people also came to understand that by seeking to save their lives in this way the real life within them dies. They went, they spoke, and they died.

Especially relevant, if you ask the people for whom they spoke, "did they die in vain?" Should they have stayed away, remained quiet in order to return to you later? They answer "no". These martyrs are more alive in the hearts of their people now than when they lived.

The Easter message for the year 2000, go where you are called to go, speak the truth, you are called to speak. Death cannot conquer the one who proclaims truth. I hope you have a good Easter, and wish for all of you the joy of those first believers when they found Jesus had risen.

Moses Mart

News

Easter Sunday people from Joy Mennonite had a sunrise service at Hopefield, watching the sun rise over the pond and seeing the ducks and geese swimming in the water. After a regular service at

10:00 we had a potluck and an egg hunt for the children.

April 29 - is Christmas in April in Oklahoma City. This is a day to do repair work on the homes of the elderly. Moses and Terry will be working with Forest Lumber employees

where Terry works.

May 13 - business meeting at the Masts, and a party to repair bicycles to be sent to Central America.

Our Condolences to Martha Shoemaker at the sudden death of her

sister who died unexpectedly from a heart attack.

Remember the Roleys in prayer. Life is difficult when both are not well.



JESUS IS HARD TO ENJOY

By Pete Hammond

I seek Comfort – He invites me to join in his suffering.
 I like acceptance and approval - He calls me to be counter-cultural.
 I assume my right safety – He calls me to personal risk.
 I desire financial security – He encourages generosity.
 I cherish privacy – He invites me to community.
 I yearn for personal significance – He made himself 'of no reputation.'
 I fear being judged and rejected – He knows me fully, and loves me.
 I, like his disciples, want a king who rules and controls all of society-
 He came to be homeless, a friend to the poor, minorities, and children.
 I really like my favorite pillow – He had no place to lay his head.
 I want to prolong a healthy life – He beckons me to die daily.
 I hide in macho male bravado – He weeps for others.
 I love regular good meals – He feeds others.
 I ponder good doctrine – He practices love.
 I crave success – He wants me to oppose evil at all costs.
 I seek out important people – He befriends the despised and rejected.

Jesus is kind 'a hard to enjoy, but what I find deep within me is even more scary.



Joy Mennonite Church is located at 504 NE 16th.

Worship is at 10:00 am

MOSES & SADIE MAST
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