



JOY MENNONITE CHURCH NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2002



## PASTOR'S CORNER

Since Sept. 11, 2001 American people have adopted a patriotic frenzy. This patriotic frenzy has moved America to wage a war in Afghanistan against terrorism and is bringing us to the brink of war to overthrow the government of Iraq. We cannot deny nor should we ignore the threat of terrorism in the world. We must also be aware how we may be nourishing the threat of terrorism. Provocative language by national leaders, support of unjust regimes against powerless people, and the hypocrisy of our nation is enraging many people and brings countless new recruits to terrorist organizations. In a few years our nation may be asking, how did we get to this place. The faith community must be asking that question now. I wish to quote from the words of Julius Ceasar, "patriotism is indeed a double edged sword. It emboldens the blood, just as it narrows the mind. And when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood boils with hate and the mind has closed, the leader will have no need in seizing the rights of the citizenry. Rather the citizenry, infused with fear and blinded by patriotism, will offer up all rights unto the leader and gladly so. How do I know? For this is what I have done, and I am Caesar." It should not surprise us that our nation would follow this course in the search for national security. Our concern is the way the faith community has abandoned the Lord and the search for reconciliation and justice for all people. Fear has overcome faith. Love has been surrendered for violence. Trust has shifted from God to our military might. We have traded bread for bombs. We have seen our people recite the pledge of allegiance with all the emotions and commitment that we expect in prayer. For God so loved the world has been replaced with God bless America.

We must prepare ourselves for difficult times. When policies do not work the most common solution is to devote more lives and more money to the failing policy. At a certain point nations become intolerant of any dissenting voice. The citizenry will turn against dissenting voices. Herman Goering, the great Nazi general said, "people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. Tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism."

I wish to encourage you to devote your selves to prayer, especially to pray for the faith community. May God give us wisdom and discernment for the facing of these days.

*Moses Mart*

Betty Personette has been a friend of ours for many years. She is part of the Sojourners group and participates in our Friday prayer meetings. Betty was a faithful helper during the garage sale for Afghan Relief. We were all amazed at the support for this sale. We could not imagine where all the items for the sale came from. Some people, when they saw what the sale was for, brought more items to sell. Some paid extra as a donation. It seemed like the loaves and fishes; what was given was multiplied. Not only did we raise money to rebuild homes, but also made a proclamation and brought a measure of awareness of the victims of the war on terrorism to those who attended our sale. Betty loves to write prose and poetry, so we asked her to write something for the newsletter.

### GARAGE SALE Betty Personette

"If you build it, they will come," echoed in my head as we set up our tables in Joy's front yard loaded with second-time arounds we'd gathered for, as Moses' sign read in broad black letters, "Afghanistan Relief."

Come folks did, from all directions. They swarmed like benevolent bees around our tables picking up a book they'd long searched for, a toy, a blouse, a picture, a chair or some odd thing they hadn't seen before.

Tables, chests, a sewing machine and Moses' building took a trifle longer, but we were open to negotiation so we sold them all except for a piano. (If anyone needs an old but good piano, you can come by Joy.)

As our sale progressed, we told our customers how we hoped to help build a school, buy some wood to heat a hearth or help a mother buy her son or daughter a pair of shoes. We also told them about our Friday prayers for peace.

Then suddenly the same folks we'd sold things to appeared again. They carried their compassion for our cause in sacks and boxes of items for us to sell to make life better for families in Afghanistan.

"We'd like to help," they told us.

We made more money than we expected, and the money will be matched. We met old friends we hadn't seen for a while and made new ones, one of them a Native American woman looking for a Mennonite church.

It was much work, but joyful. We came away with the warm knowledge that all human beings are brothers and sisters and that if folks know about a need, they will pitch in and do what they can. "If we build it, they will come."

**September  
Revisited**

By now you have gathered that the garage was a success. Exceeding our expectations and fulfilling our hopes. To everyone who donated, helped,

and prayed for our efforts, THANK YOU so very much. We raised just over \$2,000.00 and these funds will be matched and sent on to MCC.

Jonathan Majid was our speaker on Sept 29th. He told us of conditions in Afghanistan when his family was still living there and some about conditions now. Mr. Majid is one of the founders of the Afghan Relief Fund. We celebrated with a carry-in dinner after our service and talked a lot more about what we would like to accomplish in the coming months.

Sept. 27-28, Moses & Sadie Mast attended a regional Prisoner Visitation & Support group workshop at the Archdiocese Center here in OKC.

Our condolences to Judy Perkins. Her father, Bob Standingwater passed away suddenly at the end of the month. Our sympathies to Judy, her family, and her mother ,Marcia.

**October  
Happenings and  
Coming Events**

Our preaching schedule for Oct. is as follows: Oct. 6 & 13- Moses Mast, Oct. 20- Roy Evans , Oct 27- Karin Evans.

Crop Walk is coming up on the 27. Hope to see you there. Call Sadie Mast for more details.

And last, but not least, my favorite charity, pet project and just all around real good, feel good happening... MCC Relief Sale is finally here!!!! Mark your calendar for Nov. 1&2 to go to Enid and join the fun. Even if you just go to look at the quilts, you will be enriched, uplifted and inspired. Bring your children and /or your grandchildren and learn more about what MCC is doing for our neighbors around the block and around the world. There are activities for kids and tons of things to look at and LOTS of interesting folks to talk to, not to mention some of the



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best food this side of ... well, let's face it ANYWHERE! Come join us at the 25th Annual Oklahoma Mennonite Relief Sale, Enid, OK at the Garfield Co. Fairgrounds.

**Final Thoughts  
Deborah O'Neal**

Ever wonder why some things happen? I do sometimes. Oh, not like why did I do this thing or that thing, stuff like why did Mennonites

choose OK all those years ago. Why did they settle here and not say, Minnesota or Missouri? I'm glad they did , but I still wonder how they came to that decision. Any ideas? Write and let me know C/O the church.

Well, everything went well for our garage sale. And yes there is still a piano in search of a home. Need one? Call us and we can work something out.

Come see us , we miss you.

**JOY MENNONITE CHURCH**  
504 NE 16TH OKC OK 73104  
Sunday Services 10:00 am Sunday School 11:30  
All are welcome, please join us as you are able

Nonprofit Org.  
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