



## PASTOR'S CORNER

Last weekend my wife and I were at the annual pastor spouse retreat for the pastors of the Western District Conference in Great Bend, Kansas. We had a delightful time with inspirational presentations and encouraging conversations. In this setting one can feel the pulse of the church better than anywhere. We do not pretend that everything is as it should be, but we felt like the church is going in a good direction. Much of my positive feelings come from our conversation with our younger pastors. Also, Western District has a good number of women pastors which makes for a better discerning body. It also seems to me that women bring certain spiritual insight to the church that men may not.

As one grows older one occasionally has to stop and catch up with oneself. Now when I go to retreat most of the pastors are younger than me. Naturally the reverse was true for many years and one grows accustomed to the reverse. An experience we probably all share as we grow older, we never feel like the older person we saw when we were younger. I also experience something I did not expect, the younger generation can do some things I cannot do. Not only that, many of the tasks we all do, the younger ones can do better than I. As of now this pleases me. However, if a younger person who can perform better than I should invade my territory, I may need your prayers.

The positive side of growing older, we can see time in blocks of five, ten, or twenty years. We understand the most significant ministry is the sustained consistent ministry over a large block of time. We also see examples of how people go where leaders lead them, some for the good and some not for the good. We have seen congregations take on the personality and convictions of their leader. This feels awesome. Maybe the most significant contribution older pastors can make is to impress this upon our younger pastors.

At the retreat, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, our new conference minister was introduced. Very significant was an explanation of how Dorothy was selected to lead our conference. I could not help but compare this with our national political system of choosing leaders. Money had no influence in the selection, unless money was a hidden influence as it can be. Candidates had no opportunity to swing the selection with glowing promises. The committee considered the gifts of the candidate and considered the record and experience of ministry. Dorothy also shared her vision for the conference and the future - a people growing together in love and compassion for each other and for those that surround us. She spoke not of domination but of service. Compare this with our president's state of the union message. Our president spoke of our nations

unchallenged military power. He spoke of our resolve not to be intimidated, but rather to intimidate with a show of our strength. At one point our president referred indirectly to a new policy of assassinations to rid the world of those who threaten us. Every statement was applauded. I thought, my God, these people are leading our nation. The church with divine vision will survive. Our nation, as we know it today, will not survive. Even now, it is literally bursting with pride and is in danger of exploding with arrogance.

I would like to remind everyone that the spiritual walk for peace is planned to continue every Sunday, at 2:00 p.m. until further notice. It will be a silent walk, regarded as a prayer for peace. You are encouraged to bring a sign, but it should be a sign in the spirit of prayer. We have asked that we do not attack any person with a sign or slogan. While we cannot necessarily stop a war, we can proclaim righteousness and truth. The walk will leave from 9th and Robinson.

We returned home from Great Bend, Kansas in a snow blizzard. The first two hours were fun. That was about the extra time it took to make the trip. So we figured our drive home was normal, a bit crazy to take the risk of driving in a snow storm. Blessings to all of you, stay warm, spring is coming.

*Moses Mast*

### Revelations By Karin Evans

For almost two years, I ministered to a woman in a local nursing home, and it was some of the most rewarding work I have ever done in ministry. Her very loving family asked me to visit with her three times a week, and read religious materials to her, which we spent time discussing. This stimulated her mind, and was very therapeutic for her, since it was something she was still able to do after a stroke that left her partially paralyzed. I chose materials such as "The Care of the Soul," and books by Deepak Chopra, and her son-in-law, a Methodist minister, brought a book to the nursing home one day that provided tremendous spiritual insights and growth. It was part of a series by a wonderful author that revealed God's ways and nature like nothing, other than the Holy Bible, has ever done before.

In late 2002, this author's latest book was published, and I obtained it. We enjoyed it greatly, and one night in January, we finished the book. I summarized it for her, and we both got so much out of that book, with myself finding much I could use for sermon material. The next day, my patient went into a coma, and never spoke again. She died a week later. I told her family

that we had finished that beloved book and Elizabeth Raid from the Newton, KS MCC went into the coma. It meant so much to me speaking. Offering that Sunday goes to MCC and

Here are some excerpts from the book, and I will share more in sermons to come:

#### The New Revelations

There are five things you can choose now if changing the world, and the self-destructive direction in which it is moving, is what you wish to achieve.

1. You can choose to acknowledge that some of your old beliefs about God and about Life are no longer working.
2. You can choose to acknowledge that there is something you do not understand about God and about Life, the understanding of which will change everything.
3. You can choose to be willing for a new understanding of God and Life to now be brought forth, an understanding that could produce a new way of life on our planet.
4. You can choose to be courageous enough to explore and examine this understanding, and, if it aligns with your inner truth and knowing, to enlarge your belief system to include it.
5. You can choose to live your life as demonstrations of your highest and grandest beliefs, rather than as denials of them.

These are the Five Steps to Peace, and if you take them, you can shift everything on our planet.

During her memorial service, I spoke about God's faithfulness to me concerning His promise when He said to me in a still, small voice, "I will give it to you," and expressed my gratitude and great respect and appreciation for the woman I had ministered to for two years in the nursing home, because she was greatly used by God in keeping His promise to me!

#### Upcoming Events

Preaching schedule for March is as follows: Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Marcia Yoder Schrock will be our guest speaker. Services that Sunday will be followed by a pot-luck, Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> - Moses Mast, Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> - Karin Evans, Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>, David Worth, MCC personnel



#### Joy Mennonite Church

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and Elizabeth Raid from the Newton, KS MCC will be matched by another fund - the Interfaith Disaster Recovery Group of OKC.

#### Final Thoughts

Deborah O'Neal

As the Beatles said so eloquently, "time is on my side". Time does heal all wounds, if we just let it.

Sometimes we are in such a rush to get SOMETHING going, that we forget that a little time to step back and look at the big picture can really help. Time can give everyone a little breathing space and some perspective on the problem. Traditionally, wisdom comes with age and age is just passing time.

The thing to remember here, is that our time is not God's time. There is a joke where a man asks God how much a million dollars is to Him. God replies, "A penny". The man then asks how long a century is to Him. God replies, "A minute". The man thinks for a second and then asks God for a penny, God says, "In a minute". God's time.

Take a minute this month and wait on God. Yes, it will take more time than you expect, but Rome wasn't built in a day and neither will God's kingdom be built in a day. The time we take now, could well be the time we have later to live in peace and harmony with all of God's creations. He will give us all we need, not necessarily all we want, if we give ourselves and God the time and patience required for His plans to come to completion.

Come see us, we miss you.

#### JOY MENNONITE CHURCH

504 NE 16<sup>TH</sup> OKC OK 73104

Sunday Services 10:00 am Sunday School 11:30

All are welcome, please join us as you are able

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