

VISION 2012

Fire Destroys Minister's Apartment

On Wednesday, September 8, Joy Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, experienced a fire in both the unattached garage and its second floor apartment. The fire started in the garage with a gas leak that traveled to the hot water heater in the apartment, causing an explosion resulting in a fire in both areas. The entire structure was declared a total loss.

As a house church, one of their ministries is to provide reasonably priced apartments for young adults in need. These apartments are made available to those doing special ministry work or finishing their education for a career in a special ministry. James Branum, Joy's Minister of Peace and Justice, was the occupant of the garage apartment and was not home at the time of the explosion and subsequent fire. In addition to the loss James experienced in the fire, the apartment was looted the next day of the few items that escaped damage from the fire.



Joy Mennonite Church would appreciate your prayers. Pray for James as he faces this challenging time and pray for the congregation as they discern what God desires of them as stewards of his earthly property.

--Charlotte Warkentine
Joy Mennonite Church

2010 Annual Budget
Congregational Goal: \$467,624



Total through
September 15, 2010

\$203,246

Vision 2012
Goal: \$1,500,000



\$1,158,884

Western District Conference

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WDC News

October 2010

Texas Youth Gather

The Western District Conference Texas Youth Ministry Team planned and hosted the first Texas youth retreat on September 3-5 at the Lakeview Camp and Conference Center in Waxahachie, Texas. Associate Conference Minister, Gilberto Flores was instrumental in calling out this new leadership group from the WDC congregations in Dallas.

The retreat was a "blast" with Celestial Gravity, a worship band from Houston, Texas, leading times of singing. Ryan Koch, pastor of Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas, spoke on the theme of "Living with Love in a Broken World." He opened his heart to the youth in a very special way, and the youth actively responded. The youth bonded with the leaders of their congregations, and the activities nurtured relationships among the youth groups from the different WDC congregations in Texas. This was reflected in the Saturday night talent show where youth from different churches joined together to create plays and music groups and showcased many other talents.

Our goals for the Texas Youth Ministry Team are to develop strong leadership for the local congregation and to establish fellowship among the diversity of youth groups in Texas. Our hope is to bring this group to Pittsburg to join the MC USA gathering next year.

--Sandra Martinez, Texas Administrative Assistant

Luz del Evangelio Church Nears Completion

Members of Iglesia Menonita Luz del Evangelio, Dallas, Texas, are working hard on the completion of their new church facility with a sanctuary seating capacity of 300 plus. Contractors put up the main structure and the heating, air conditioning, plumbing and electrical. The congregation is now working on the interior – texturing, painting, and staining. Pastor Juan Limones hopes that the congregation will be able to meet in the new facility by Thanksgiving, but realizes that Christmas might be a more realistic goal. The worshipping congregation of 150 projects saving \$200,000 in costs through their volunteer labor.



July 2010

Photo by Linda Ewert



September 2010



Photos by Pastor Juan Limones

Youth in Sister Churches Band Together

The Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, Kansas, youth group combined building relationships and service with a trip to visit our sister church, Luz del Evangelio, near Dallas, Texas, this past July 7-11. They worked together, played together, worshiped together, and attended the youth activities at Western District Conference at Waxahachie.

Together they carried stone for outside walls, dug ditches for sprinklers, and hung sheetrock - helping their sister church with the construction of their new church building. They played soccer in the new church parking lot. They spent time sharing life experiences with each other and praying for each other. Worshiping with their sister church was an invitation to connect with God and one another in new ways.

Through the generosity and hospitality of their sister church and the willing, helpful hands and hearts of the Alexanderwohl youth to visit them, help them, and spend time with them - each was blessed by the other. Attending the conference youth activities together gave them another experience to share with each other and an opportunity to build relationships with the broader Mennonite church. On the way home to Kansas, the youth were “texting” each other and talking about when they will get together again. It was an inspiring, uplifting time for everyone!

-- Linda Ewert, Associate Pastor, Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church



Photo by Amy Flaming