



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter



Hurricane Mitch that devastated Central America, especially Honduras and Nicaragua has dominated the news for days. The Church understands it's calling to minister to victims of disaster. We understand this calling is not only to give material aid but also to interpret the presence of God in such tragic events. Victims find comfort to know they are not forgotten by God or by others. We must not interpret the presence of God only to the victims but to all of us, maybe especially to us. There is a mystery to

suffering, especially of innocent people. We must not be so arrogant as to believe we can explain a mystery that has been hidden for ages. Never the less we must seek to make sense of the mystery. The suffering in Central America did not begin with Hurricane Mitch. Mal nourished children are found in every village of Honduras and Nicaragua. Many mothers are left to raise their children alone. Such a mother will earn less than fifty dollars a month. Many people have lived in make shift shelters for years. There have never been enough people that cared to make much of a difference. Now we see an outpouring of

concern. Only a few years ago our country spent more than a million dollars a day in Central America, mostly for bombs and guns. Our rationale for this action was our fear of communist ideology invading our hemisphere. We were almost oblivious to the suffering of the people because of our divided ideologies and broken humanity. Is it possible that humanity could not survive without tragedies that bind us together again into one humanity. The magnitude of the disaster calls for governmental assistance it is far beyond the resources of the church. Yet we believe the church is called to help. Bread and shelter is part of the message

we proclaim. I share with the victims not only for what it does for the victim, but also for what it does for me. It has a binding effect of humans to humans and humans to God. if we were not so sinful maybe this could happen without tragedy, maybe some day it will, but for now we know it does not. I pray that the outpouring of love we see now can be the beginning of healing the brokenness that existed, and will last far beyond the assistance given for the disaster. May God bless all of us as we enter the advent season.

Moses Mast

A History Of the Joy Mennonite Church In Oklahoma City

IN THE BEGINNING (1987):

For the next several newsletters, we will be publishing the history of our church... Joy Mennonite Church is the product of a church planting undertaking by the Western

district Conference of the Mennonite church. The church planters were Mark and Gayle Wiens who began their work in September. Mark Wiens' home church is the Inman

Mennonite Church, Inman KS. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Mennonite Biblical Seminary. They had a son, John 1-1/2 years old in

1987, another son, David was born to them in 1990. **1988-1989** A small group was formed and began meeting at the Wiens'

home at 3028 SW 100th, Okc, and later met at the Jazzercise building on SW 89th. For one year the church planters used "Newcomer Calling" as their method of finding interested people. Early attendants were Russ and Karen LaForce, Kevin and Angela Shipley, Larry and Jana Neufeld, Wayne and Georgene Siemens, Charles and Patsy Broadway, Peter Jantzen, Vickie Hinz, Barbara Raber, Jim and Denise White and Ralph and Becky Ediger, Rick Rhodes and Ellene Andrews, Jean and Alana Sleeth and Deborah Rolen. Others were Billy and Connie Stillwell, Bill and Betty Gripe. Oklahoma congregations (notably Roy and Virginia Dick who commuted from Hydro to begin the Children's Sunday school program) heavily supported the newly formed group as well as the Inman Mennonite Church, who was and is

the sister church to Joy Mennonite Church.

Thea Klassen,
Historian

Joy News

Bill and Thea Klassen and Moses and Sadie Mast attended a prisoner visitation and support group retreat/workshop in Colorado Springs, CO the weekend of Oct. 25th and 26th.

Lester and Minnifred Ewy, and Ben and Leona Sawatsky spent Sat. and Sun. with our church. A potluck was enjoyed by all. They worked here for a while as the Abraham and Sarah Caravan people several years ago.

Nov. 6th - 8th Bill and Thea Klassen had Thea's sister Lillie and husband, Jake Unrau, from Canada as guests.

Nov 7th and 8th Charlotte Warkentine had her two brothers Dwight and Ron and their families from Newton, KS as guests.

Nov. 6th and 7th was the MCC relief sale in Enid. Our church was responsible for the drink booths. Thanks to all who helped! Everyone was needed. The sale was a great success we were kept busy.

The Ralph Ediger family was in Kansas for their daughter Tammy's wedding. To Eric Schulte.

Chester Roley and Del Shoemaker are on the sick list. Let's remember them in our prayers. Becky Ediger's mother is also in the hospital, recovering from a broken hip and a stroke.

Nov. 22nd we had our annual nuts and fruit and sharing services. This sharing this year was filling 15 4 gallon buckets -Relief kits for

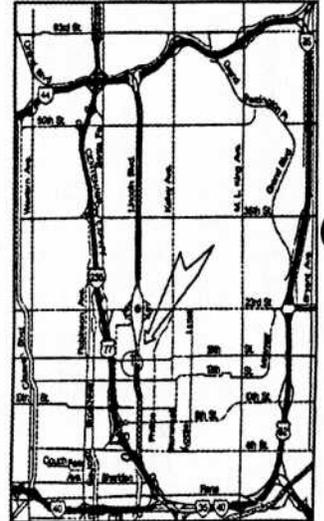
hurricane Mitch survivors.

Coming Events

Dec 7th at 9:30 Oklahoma pastors and spouses meet at Joy Mennonite.

Dec 20th Christmas service and Communion services.

"Make your own pizza dinner" and then go caroling in the afternoon for shut-ins and senior citizens



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