

# VISION 2012

## Youth benefit from Vision 2012

Camp Mennoscah and participation in Mennonite Camping Association affect hundreds of lives each year.

The Resource Library houses over 12,000 volumes which include an outstanding collection of high-quality children's literature. There is a pre-school story hour that meets every Wednesday at 2500 Place. With the new expanded space--to be dedicated on December 2 at 4:00 p.m.--there is ample room for study, reading, and fellowship of young and old. The AMBS Great Plains Seminary has its extension site accessible to students in the Resource Library.

New church plants are meeting the needs of children and youth with pastoral leadership, grants for translation of materials and resources, plus WDC is providing training and education for new leaders.

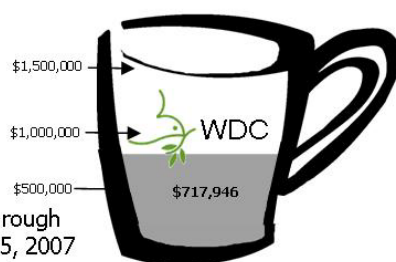
The WDC Leadership Commission just returned from Dallas where we celebrated the third anniversary of Iglesia Menonita Mi Redentor, a church plant meeting in a rented facility. The joy at that service, teeming with little children plus being treated to a "Christian rap" in Spanish by two teenagers, made the evening very special. WDC Vision 2012 efforts support the multi-generational focus of our ministry. Pray for more ways to connect to God's mission in the world. ---Dorothy Nickel Friesen, conference minister

## 2007 Annual Budget Congregational Goal: \$472,300



Totals through  
October 15, 2007

## Vision 2012 3 year Goal: \$1,500,000



Western District Conference  
Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117  
Phone: 316-283-6300; FAX: 316-283-0620  
Email: [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org); Website: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org)



# WDC News

November 2007

## A Pinch of this--a Pinch of that: Good enough for youth spiritual formation?

"The important question about youth ministry is not 'Where are the kids?' or 'What should we do with them when they show up?' but 'What is the nature of our community?' What are the discipleship skills appropriate to those who have moved beyond childhood, and how can a community exhibit those skills in a way that attracts the young and draws them to inspiring mentors in faith? By what criteria will people know if they have developed the religious abilities appropriate to their age?" (from "Christian skill set" by Michael Warren, CHRISTIAN CENTURY, September 7, 2004, p. 25)

"Compared to American adults, teenagers are more likely to report engagement in corporate forms of worship and spiritual expression--such as attending church, as well as participating in small groups, youth groups, and Sunday school. However, young people are less likely than their parents to pray (72% of teens; 83% of adults) or read the Bible in a typical week (31% of teens, 41% of adults)...." "As some of the nation's first digital pilgrims, the research shows that one out of every four teenagers (26%) had learned something about their faith or spirituality online in the last six months...." (from "What Teenagers look for in a church" in THE BARN UPDATE, October 8, 2007 from a study of 13-18 year olds including 2409 teens in 2005 and 617 teens in 2006)

Western District Conference is investing in youth ministry through its Christian camping programming, youth conference ministers, and support of congregational youth pastors and leaders. However, without vital, healthy local congregations, our teenagers will not get the formation experience they need and desire. The challenge to offer a strong and relevant "home" for our youth is ours to take. What's the spiritual temperature of your congregation?

---Dorothy Nickel Friesen, conference minister

**“Discipleship Now”:** The leader is a middle-aged guy with a mountain-man beard, wire-rim glasses, an old T-shirt and jeans. He asks the high school youth to sit around for hours on end and deeply examine their personal commitment to Jesus Christ and their willingness to die to their old self. Once in a while he pulls out his old guitar and leads a folksy Christian anthem. He asks them to share with the other strangers (also high-schoolers) what Christ is calling them to do with their lives. He asks them to pray aloud for each other.

This is the kind of thing most high-schoolers have nightmares about. There is no rock band. There is no power point. But for Discipleship Now leader, Dwight Regier, this method has proven itself time and time again. Youth ask to be a part of this event a year in advance. The ratings on the evaluations are through the roof.

Okay, talking and praying aren’t all that go on! The youth do service with local agencies. They go out to eat in an ethnic restaurant. They stay up late on the last night and play games. Doesn’t sound like magic high-powered youth ministry...but I and other youth pastors can attest from first-hand experience that the Holy Spirit is present at Discipleship Now. Youth come away from this event with a new sense of calling and a passion to be serious disciples of Christ. Discipleship Now is a program of Western District Conference/South Central Conference Youth Ministries. --Doug Krehbiel

#### Other WDC/SCC Youth Ministries (Kansas-Based)

- Meets monthly with area youth pastors for resourcing, networking, fellowship and fun
- Works with Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp to plan and implement Junior High and High School snow camps
- Works with Hesston College to provide *Know Jesus*, a weekend event for Junior High
- Plans a different special youth event each year. This year, an original musical *The Upside Down King* will be presented in six venues across the conference
- Provides Junior High programming at WD/SC annual conference
- Puts on an annual Sponsor/Youth Pastor Banquet to support those who work with youth



*Doug Krehbiel, Conference Youth Minister (KS-based) works 1/2 time. Contact him at: 316-283-6300; dougk@mennowdc.org*

**“Dallas: Not Just a Bunch of Cowboys”:** It’s ten minutes to seven and we aren’t ready to begin the service. The youth scramble to get things ready and the people are full of anticipation. What began as the dream of a few has grown into a movement of the Holy Spirit seldom seen in today’s youth. The youth are members of a variety of Dallas area congregations; Luz del Evangelio, Monte Horeb, House of Healing, just to name a few of the many congregations involved in this project.

Almost a year ago, the youth of these different church groups decided they wanted to worship together and they wanted to do it often. Furthermore, they wanted the services to represent them as much as possible. So they plan the music and the order of service, and one of them takes a turn bringing the Word. In the last year the services went from being a dozen or so youth to being such a large event they can’t find a church big enough to hold them.

So what began as a one-time experiment has now become a monthly event where even adults are starting to attend. The Holy Spirit is truly moving in this metro-plex and with some hard work it will spread deep into the heart of Texas. ---Hugo Saucedo

#### Other WDC/SCC Youth Ministries (Texas-Based)

- Travels to a variety of Texas congregations to maintain relationships
- Works with Dallas area congregations to support youth lead services and events
- Works on the first of what we hope will be an annual Texas Youth Retreat
- Provides Junior High programming at WD/SC annual conference



*Hugo Saucedo, Conference Youth Minister (TX-based) works 1/2 time. Contact him at: 210-854-2533; hugosaucedo@juno.com*