

# Koinonia's Extra News Summary

August 2009

## Church Activities

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**Making School Kits.** Each year MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) receives requests for over 100,000 school kits. Members of Koinonia have been helping by purchasing school supplies and making some of the bags to contain the school materials.

**A Missionary Visits.** Five years have passed since James and Michelle Stabler-Havener came to Koinonia and presented their vision for mission in China. We were happy to welcome Michelle to Koinonia on Wednesday, August 12 for a “salad bar potluck” and Michelle’s presentation about their work in China. Michelle was able to show us photos of their work and of the devastation from the recent earthquake in their area. She told us about the incredible growth of the churches there and how church relief efforts following the hurricane have changed the way that some people think about Christianity in the modern era in China.

**Back to School Talent Bash a Huge Success!** About 150 people, mostly youth and young adults, attended the Aim Right Ministries Back to School Talent Night held at First Baptist Church of Tempe. It was a night for sharing worship, drama, comedy, dance, and music. Our own Conner and Emma C. and Greg H. presented the film many of us saw at church when the youth reported back from conference, “You Have 30 Seconds to Get to Worship,” which was well received. Everyone present enjoyed the evening.

Beginning on September 4<sup>th</sup>, the joyful sounds of young girls will be heard at the church on two Friday afternoons per month. We are happy to announce that **Brownie Troop 482** will be using our facilities from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on those days.

**Yummy snacks!** As usual, the last Sunday of the month brought us snack time sponsored by the MYF. They always outdo themselves in providing tasty treats for us, and all they ask in exchange is a donation to help the youth with their activities and projects.

**Happy Birthday/Anniversary to Us!** Koinonia will be turning 33 on September 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be planning to celebrate, but we will wait until the weather is a little nicer. We’ll let you know as the plans progress.

As we acknowledged the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina slamming into the Gulf states at the end of August 2005, we began plans to continue our work with our partner congregation there, New Orleans Bible Fellowship Baptist Church, through Churches Supporting Churches. We are engaged with them in recovery efforts, which are ongoing, despite anything you may have heard to the contrary. We are hoping to have a mission trip for some hands-on work next June, and we plan to show the film "[Hurricane on the Bayou](#)," hopefully in early November. So far, the date we are looking at is November 7<sup>th</sup> in the late afternoon or early evening, but that depends on our ability to secure a facility for that date and time. We would like all of our members and friends to see this, as we decide our level of commitment to the mission project. More information will be posted once we have secured a facility and determined ticket prices.

## News from members and mission partners

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Missions Commission would welcome your [prayers for a quick recovery](#) following a fall off a horse, experienced recently by Danny Begaye, who is our missionary, along with wife Lillian, at Alpha and Omega Church in Cottonwood on the Navajo reservation. Further difficulties, including a bout with pneumonia, some seizures, and injuries sustained when his car started rolling away before he was in it and dragged him some distance have complicated his recovery. In spite of these problems, they are thankful to have had some recent successes in their outreach to tribal members through meal service and other means.

We have word from our mission partner, [Chandler Christian Community Center](#), that they provided over 58,000 units (a unit is 9 meals) of food in our local community in the 2008 fiscal year and over 50,000 units in the first 6 months of the 2008-2009 fiscal year with a projected 80,000 units for the year. They have discontinued the clothing program and yard sales due to a change in need. In addition to food, 540 children received Christmas gifts through Operation Santa, 322 children were helped with back-to-school needs and 345 homeless persons received services. As one of the groups helping to fund this important mission, it is good to hear that our offerings are having some impact in our local community.

## Other Events and Information

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As part of the Tenth Annual Week Without Violence, October 4-11, the Children's Benefit Foundation, Inc., is sponsoring a [Peace Poetry and Poster](#)

**Contest.** There will be two winners in each age group: 6-11, 12-15, and 16-18. Winners will be announced on September 28, 2009, and invited to attend a “Champions of Champions Recognition Event” at St. Matthew United Methodist Church on Baseline, which will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Guidelines and additional information can be found on our church bulletin board, and further details are available through the Children’s Benefit Foundation by calling 480-820-4507.