

# The Mennonite



# Worker

Our mission:

- \* following the nonviolent teachings of Jesus
- \* the creation of a new society within the shell of the old,
- \* deep mutuality between all people and creation itself,
- \* defiance to empire in all its forms, and
- \* passionate and joyful living.

of Oklahoma City - [www.mennoniteworker.org](http://www.mennoniteworker.org)

February 24, 2013

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## Is a picture really worth a thousand words?

For this issue, we will be telling the story of the last few months mostly through pictures.

For our next issue, we are asking for submissions (short essays, letters or other responses) on the following questions:

- What does being an Anabaptist/Mennonite mean to you?
- Can a person be a faithful Christian but also practice another faith at the same time?
- What would you want the children of Joy Mennonite to learn in our soon-to-be children's program?
- How has scripture functioned in your life? Has it been a blessing, a curse or a bit of both?
- How do you understand the connection between action and spirituality?

Besides these questions, we are also looking for the following types of content:

- Recipes

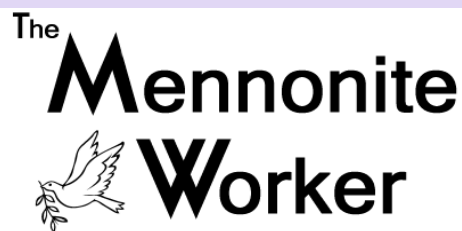
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Stefan Warner engaged in prophetic protest action against the Keystone XL Pipeline (story on page 9)



### Our newspaper's mission:

1. Sharing the nonviolent teachings of Jesus
2. Encouraging the creation of a new society within the crumbling shell of the old
3. Recognizing the deep connection that exists between all people and creation itself
4. Defying the values of empire
5. Nurturing lives that are full of passion and joy

This newspaper is published by the Minister of Peace & Justice at Joy Mennonite Church. Our readership includes members and friends of our church, as well as fellow travelers in our city and elsewhere. We seek to publish content that reflect our values and/or encourage critical thought on issues of concern to us. Unless otherwise stated, opinions expressed in this newspaper reflect the views of the author alone, and not the official position of Joy Mennonite Church or this newspaper.

**Contact us:** If you have news, opinions, recipes, cartoons, photos or other items that you would like see in the next issue, please contact us at:

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All past issues are archived at  
**JoyMennonite.org**  
and at **Mennoniteworker.org**.

### From page 1—Is a picture ...

- Gardening tips
- Stories
- Drawings
- News
- Bible Studies
- Photos
- Book reviews

So please don't hesitate. Please send your submissions to us at [joymennonite@gmail.com](mailto:joymennonite@gmail.com). Also remember, submissions are welcome not only from members/attenders of Joy, but from any of our readers.



**THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT  
THAT YOU SHOULD  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER  
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU**

*Some of the artwork in this issue is by Ade Bethune from the Ade Bethune Collection, St. Catherine University Library, St. Paul, MN 55105*

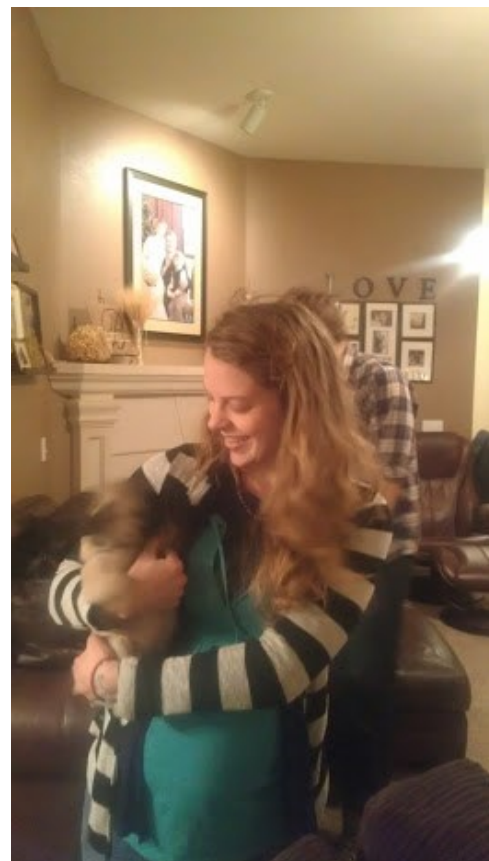
*Unless otherwise noted, content from The Mennonite Worker may be shared and used in other non-commercial publications.*

# Twenty Years of *The Mennonite Worker*?

You heard that right!

The Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter (aka *The Mennonite Worker*) has been published for 20 of the last 22 years!

You can read all of the past issues of this publication by going to [mennoniteworker.org/print-issues/](http://mennoniteworker.org/print-issues/)



## From Missio Dei to Mennonite Worker

*MW Editor's note: This news is from our friends (and fellow MCUSA congregation), The Mennonite Worker of Minneapolis. Their pastor, Mark Van Steenwyck had discussed with me the idea of using the name of "Mennonite Worker" for their community. I of course said "yes" as the idea of the Mennonite Workers is modeled after that of the anarchistic Catholic Workers (see discussion of this in our previous issue). We hope other communities also adopt this name.*

**Reprinted from: [www.mennoniteworker.com](http://www.mennoniteworker.com)**

When we started Missio Dei in 2003, we had no idea where the next nine years would lead. Back then, we were a kinda hip urban church startup. Within a year, we were a small congregation of about forty people. But it didn't feel right. The core community at the time wanted to go deeper into Jesus' radical way of life. And so, a year into forming a new church, we killed Missio Dei and started over as an intentional community. Volumes could be written about the challenges of that process, but I'll spare you the awkward details and jump to the next major turning point in our journey.

As we started embracing practices like peacemaking and hospitality, we quickly discovered that we felt alone. We wanted comradery, and so we formed a relationship with the Mennonite Church USA. Mennonites are people with a rich history of peacemaking. They take the Sermon on the Mount seriously and have (to varying degrees of suc-

cess) sought to live into the radical implications of Jesus' life and message. So we became Mennonite.

Over the past 9 years, we've found ourselves rubbing shoulders with a lot of Catholic Workers. We've discovered that, while our theological convictions often line up with our Mennonite siblings, our politics and our practices look very Catholic Worker. For the past few years, our primary friendships have been between both Mennonites and Catholic Workers. To communicate the meaningfulness of these two great friendships, we've changed our name from Missio Dei to the Mennonite Worker.

There are also mundanely practical reasons for the name change. "Missio Dei" is a pretty obscure Latin phrase for most folks. We've been asked "what is that Mexican for?" (this statement alone has several things wrong with it. It has also been pointed out (repeatedly) that we sound like we're named after an Irish barmaid (Missy O'Day). I get the Irish part, but I have no idea why folks consistently assume that a woman named Missy O'Day would work at a bar. My Irish grandmother would be offended (rest her soul). My favorite has been the way in which our name has been routinely misspelled. One example is "Miseo Dei" (miseo is Greek for "hate" while Dei is Latin for "God"). Another is "Missio Die" which comes across like a threat.

For these reasons (and more), we felt a name change is an order.

### Mennonite Worker Seminary News

*The Mennonite Worker Seminary is an informal unaccredited "people's" seminary. We are modeled after The Tierra Nueva People's Seminary (Burlington, WA), The Alternative Seminary (Philadelphia) as well as other models of education including Unschooling which focus on student empowerment and democratic forms of education.*

#### Spring 2013 News:

Last semester Zach and James did a beta trial run of a study of Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*, but with a special focus on the role of religion (as a force for both oppression and liberation) in the story. We had a good experience with it but feel that we need more participants for this to be a workable project.

One possibility is that we may do courses via an online learning platform (such as moodle — the same software used by many other colleges and universities). If you might be interested in taking an online class later this spring, please contact James at [joymennonite@gmail.com](mailto:joymennonite@gmail.com).

# Joy Mennonite Church Community News

## A Baby Boom at Joy Mennonite!

We are proud to announce the birth of baby Valentina to Katherine & Tyler.

Our community is also expecting three more babies in the near future!!!



## Joy hold membership classes

For the last few Sundays, Zach and others have been leading a series of Sunday School classes on the topics of: Anabaptist history, our congregation's history, Anabaptist ethics, and what it means to be a member of Joy. If you would like to be come a member of Joy but did not get to attend these classes, we will be providing other opportunities to either participate in the classes in the future and/or cover the material through a series of persona meetings. If you are interested in this, please see Zach.



## Joy Mennonite sings at the Oklahoma MCC Relief Sale

Joy Mennonite Church performed three songs as part of the Friday night program at the Oklahoma Mennonite Relief Sale.

Thanks go to Kristen for organizing this endeavor.



## Other News

We have a lot more news to share, but we will do it with pictures throughout this issue rather than with words.



# Cooking Corner

**Editor's note:** Please send your favorite recipes to me at [joymennonite@gmail.com](mailto:joymennonite@gmail.com). I'm especially hoping for ethnic Mennonite recipes (i.e. peppernuts, borsht, Russian pancakes, etc.) and some vegan/vegetarian recipes.

## Challah Bread

*From Becky Branum*

*Taken with permission from:*

*[ourlasthomelyhouse.com/2012/12/12/the-bread-project-challah/](http://ourlasthomelyhouse.com/2012/12/12/the-bread-project-challah/)*



*MW Editor's note: This is the same Challah bread that we have served at the Branum family's Shabbat dinners.*

Stir 1/3 cup sugar into 2/3 cup warm water then add 2 packets of yeast. Let sit to proof for at least 10 min.

Melt 2 Tbs of butter in a 1/4 cup measuring cup then add olive oil to make a full 1/4 cup.

In stand mixer with paddle attachment, mix the butter/oil with 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce, 1 egg, and 1 1/2 teaspoon salt.

In separate bowl, sift or whisk together 1 3/4 cup whole wheat flour, 2 cup white flour (and if wished up to 2 tsp of a mixture of spices – cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and cardamom all work well).

With stand mixer on stir, slowly add flour mix in 1/4 cup increments. Dough should be pulling together into a semi-ball shape but should still be very soft. If you wish you could also try adding dried fruits or nuts at this point.



Turn dough out onto a clean surface coated lightly with olive oil, then use oil covered hands to knead several minutes until smooth. Then place dough into a glass bowl (glass in my trials really worked much better than metal) and cover and let rise in a warm place for at least an hour.

After dough has risen, turn out onto oiled surface again and knead for 1-2 minutes, then shape into any shape you can imagine. Then traditional shape is three long strips braided together, but photos of challah shaped into anything from simple spirals to menorahs to even turkeys are out on the internet, so let your imagination run wild, or let your child run wild and shape any crazy shape they want. This recipe will make two medium sized traditional loaves.

Lightly sprinkle cornmeal on a baking stone then place your shaped dough on top, or shape directly on the stone. Cover and let rise for 20 min more. Finally whisk one egg and brush over all of the exposed surface of the loaf.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 min uncovered until the egg wash sets. Then tent with foil and cook for another 30 min (at least 40 min total). If you are making a big or thick shape you might need to increase the cooking time for up to another 20 min checking frequently to make sure surface is not browning more than you wish.

Let cool uncovered and eat it while warm if at all possible. If you decided to save it, the bread should last in a sealed container at room temperature for 3-4 days

## Good soups nourish the family

**By Bob Waldrop**

*reprinted with permission from*  
<http://www.bettertimesinfo.org/13soups.htm>

Soups are a staple in the diet of everyone who wants good food that doesn't cost much money. Making your own soups saves money. Most leftover soups can be used in casseroles. Instead of a can of cream of mushroom soup, substitute 1-1/2 to 2 cups of your favorite leftover creamed soup. This is a real money saving tip, as canned cream soups -- while great for

taste, nutrition and convenience -- add to the cost of a casserole. Make soup every week, and hide some of it in the casseroles. Your family will truly thank you.

*(MW Editor's note: Several of these recipes have stock as an ingredient. You can use canned stock or broth but it is much better to make your own. Find out how in the previous issue of The Mennonite Worker or by reading: <http://www.bettertimesinfo.org/4stock.htm>. If you do use the store-bought stock, it is best to use the reduced sodium kind as most store-bought stock or broth has way more salt than the homemade kind has in it.)*

### Split Pea Soup

2 cups split peas | ham bones or bacon ends and pieces | 8 cups hot water | garlic, onion, celery, salt, pepper

Combine all ingredients and bring to boiling point. Reduce heat to simmer and cook for at least 2 hours. The longer and slower it cooks, the better it is (add water if necessary, don't let it scorch.)

### Cream of Vegetable Soup

1 C cooked vegetables | 4 cups milk | chopped onion | 2 tsp butter | 2-3 tsp flour | salt and pepper

Saute onions in butter, stir in flour, salt, and pepper. Add mashed cooked vegetables, cook one minute, slowly add four cups milk, cook until hot throughout (don't boil). Variations: Creamed Corn Soup, use two cans creamed corn in place of mashed vegetables. Cream of Tomato Soup, add 2 cups tomato juice in place of mashed vegetables, and add 2 tsp of sugar, reduce milk to two cups.

### Cream of Mushroom Soup to Use in Casseroles

1 cup chopped mushrooms | 2 cups stock | 2 cups milk | chopped onion | 2 tsp butter | 2-3 tsp flour

Saute onion and mushrooms in butter, add flour, cook until bubbly. Add broth and milk, heat until hot throughout, use in casserole instead of canned soup.

### Best-Ever Potato Soup

2 stalks chopped celery | 1 tsp melted butter | 2 carrots, sliced | 2 cups milk | 1 medium onion, chopped | 4 medium potatoes, cubed | 3 cups chicken or vegetable stock



Saute celery and onions in butter until tender. Add carrots, potatoes, and stock, cover and simmer about 20 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Remove from heat, mash vegetables with potato masher, add milk and re-heat until ready to serve. Variations: (1) when you add the water, season with ½ tsp thyme, some garlic, ½ tsp rosemary, ¾ tsp seasoned salt, add 1 cup grated cheese when milk is added. (2) Add ¼ cup ketchup and ½ cup peanut butter when milk is added, stir and heat over low heat until it is all well mixed.

## Cheese Soup

2 tbsp. chopped onion | 2 tbsp butter | 2 tbsp flour | 2-3 cups milk | 1/2 cup cooked carrot, minced | 1/2 cup cooked celery, minced | 1 cup shredded cheese.

Saute onion in butter, add flour and milk to make a thin white sauce. Add salt, pepper, carrots, celery and cheese, mix well and heat until steaming.

## Cabbage Patch Soup

1/2 lb hamburger | 2 large onions | 1 large can tomatoes | 4 cubed potatoes | garlic powder | 1 head of cabbage | 6 carrots | 1 can tomato juice | salt, pepper, cumin, chili powder

Lightly brown hamburger, cover with or beef stock. Add chopped cabbage, sliced carrots, onions, tomatoes (and liquid, if using canned or stewed) and juice, simmer one hour. Add potatoes and seasonings. Continue cooking until potatoes are tender.

## Vegetable Soup

1 small head cabbage, shredded | 1 onion, chopped | tomatoes | 4 potatoes, cut in cubes | 1 green pepper, chopped | 2 tbsp butter | Thyme, rosemary, basil, parsley, oregano

Put in kettle with 3 cups boiling water or stock. Add salt and pepper to taste, cook until potatoes are done.

## Lentil Soup

2 cups dry lentils | 1 quart water or stock | 2 quarts Brown Soup Stock (or other soup stock, broth, or bouillon) | 1 diced potato | 1/8 tsp ground cloves | parmesan cheese | salt to taste | 1 tbsp. white vinegar.

Soak the lentils in one quart water for two hours. Place with water in soup pot with stock, potatoes, carrots, vinegar, salt, and cloves. Cook over low heat for three hours. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese in bowl before serving Alternative seasoning: eliminate cloves and vinegar, add rosemary, thyme, basil, oregano, sage, a bay leaf, and crushed red pepper.

## French Onion Soup

6 large onions, sliced very thin | 4 tbsp butter | 8 cups beef stock | 1 cup white wine | 2 tsp flour | 1 sprig each of parsley and thyme } 1 bay leaf

Cook onions in butter on low heat for 10 minutes. Uncover, sprinkle with a pinch of salt and ½ teaspoon sugar of salt, continue cooking until onions caramelize (turn a rich dark brown) BUT don't let them burn, the onion cooking may take 30 minutes. Add 2 tsp flour to onions and butter, and cook for another 4 or 5 minutes. Add 1 cup white wine or 1 cup of stock, let thicken, add the rest of the stock and herbs and simmer for ½ hour. Remove herbs after cooking. Cut some bread into two inch squares (French bread is good for this) and sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Brown the toast in the oven. Put a square of toast in each soup bowl. Reheat soup and pour in bowls. Add a teaspoon of parmesan cheese on top of each bowl.





## Stefan Warner Arrested in protest of Keystone XL Pipeline

*Adapted from a story posted at:  
<http://gptarsandsresistance.org/2013/02/11/breaking-lifelong-oklahoman-youth-pastor-suspended-from-kxl-construction-equipment-locked-to-machinery/>*

On February 13th, Stefan Warner (a member of Joy Mennonite Church and youth pastor at Church of the Open Arms UCC) locked himself to machinery being used to build the toxic Keystone XL tar sands pipeline through Creek land by treaty near Schoolton, OK. Warner is taking action to protect the North Canadian River and the health of the towns and land it runs through from being irreversibly damaged by diluted bitumen (tar sands) leaks and spills, as well as to send a clear message that the current day colonialism and disregard for the health and sovereignty of indigenous peoples in Alberta and along the pipeline is unacceptable—from a Christian perspective, as well as a human perspective.

Tar sands pipelines have a horrendous track record: the existing Keystone 1 pipeline leaked twelve times in its first year, and at least thirty times to date. In 2010, the added dangers of tar sands pipelines were demonstrated by Enbridge's Line 6B pipeline spill of over a million gallons of diluted bitumen into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. The Kalamazoo Tar Sands spill is the costliest inland spill in United States history, draining the oil spill coffers and placing the \$800 million and rising price tag onto the backs of local and federal taxpayers. But it is not the monetary burden that weighs heaviest; the toll on human life, health and local ecosystems is immeasurable, and in the immediate, the toxicity of the diluted bitumen and undisclosed proprietary chemicals has proven devastating.

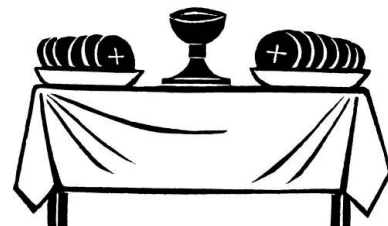
In addition to the immense dangers posed by the Keystone XL, TransCanada has been misrepresenting the economic effects of the pipeline. The majority of construction jobs are temporary and have been filled by Wisconsin-based contractor Michel's, not Oklahomans and Texans. Despite TransCanada and the State Department's rhetoric of energy independence, the diluted bitumen transported by the Keystone XL is destined for export to foreign markets after being refined in Gulf Coast refineries, and the National Resources Defense



Council asserts that the KXL will increase domestic gas prices.

“I grew up in a town where the North Canadian River runs right through, and we can't let the North Canadian become another Kalamazoo,” said Oklahoman youth pastor Stefan Warner. “I figure folks have to take action to stop our beautiful Oklahoma from being marred by a foreign corporation, and stand up to fight big corporations who think that poisoning people and stealing land is acceptable so long as they make a profit.”

Warner is acting with Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance, a coalition of Oklahomans and allies fighting to prevent construction of the Keystone XL which will bring dangerous and toxic diluted bitumen from the biome-consuming Tar Sands gigaproject to refinery communities in the Gulf. This action comes in the wake of dozens of similar actions which have actively fought construction of the Keystone XL in Oklahoma and Texas. In light of reports of shoddy welding by TransCanada whistleblower Evan Vokes and the recent release of photographs depicting holes in the weld of a pipe buried in Texas, the struggle to keep the Keystone XL from being completed is even more urgent.



# Apocalypse Christmas

This was shared as part of our special Christmas service on December 23rd....

by **Rebecca Branum**

Reprinted with permission from:  
<http://ourlasthomelyhouse.com/2012/12/24/story-apocalypse-christmas/>

“Karen, I’m headed back to my pile of charts. Can you make sure a note gets left for the cleaners about the floor in room 3. Thanks.” The doctor headed to her office where only the faintest smudge of orange-gold through the window could attest to the crisp, bright day that was now passing. Sighing at the large stack of paperwork left to be completed before the last full working day before Christmas could be considered over, she knew that tiny glimmer of daylight would be long gone when she finally walked out the door.

“So, the world didn’t end today I guess!” The round smiling face of the nurse Karen popped in the door frame. “Day’s not over yet, at least not in South America.” Dr Rose shot back with a smile, making Karen laugh and sigh. “I guess that’s true. I sure had trouble writing the date all day though. My brain just didn’t want to keep 12/21/12 straight. If you see something in there dated wrong, please correct it for me. Well, if you don’t mind, I was thinking of locking up now and finishing the day’s totals first thing on Monday, since it will probably be a slow half-day.”

“No problem.” said the doctor, already back bending over her work, pausing only to call down the hall as the nurse scurried away. “Hope the Christmas concert goes great!”

Soon enough minutes had passed that the doctor was sure she must have long had the dark building to herself, when the sudden sound of a door opening and shutting and the fluorescent hall lights buzzing into a glaring brightness outside of the office door, brought her immediately to her feet with a quickened pulse.

“Karen?” she called hesitantly, reaching for her phone. Just because everyone in town knew the little free mission clinic kept no cash or narcotics didn’t mean some desperate person might not think something of value could be found there after dark. She had the number for the local police almost dialed when she heard a reassuring voice call back, “It’s me, Dr Rose, everything’s OK, but you better come quick though.”

Trotting up the hall, following the lights, she rounded the corner to the front lobby, and saw the good nurse kneeling next to a snow-covered figure hunched in one of the padded chairs. It was a dark haired girl, dressed in a far-too-thin woolen coat whose rough surface held snowflakes clinging in moist clumps and whose buttons could never have closed over the girl’s bulging pregnant belly. By her side was a anxious looking teen, not nearly old enough to be called a man, dressed in nothing warmer than a sweater. Neither of them could have been far past sixteen. The doctor could sum the general story up in the beads of sweat on the girl’s forehead and the white knuckles gripping the nurse’s hand.

The nurse started chattering in a low but cheerful voice. “I had locked up the front door and gone to my desk to make notes on a couple things that I didn’t want to forget on Monday, when I remembered I hadn’t checked the specimen deposit box. You know the last time it snowed the box iced shut and the driver couldn’t get specimen’s out. So I went out the front to make sure today’s blood had been picked up, when I found these two out in the parking lot. No car. Looks like they walked a ways to get here.”

“Contracciones?” the doctor asked no one in particular. “Sí, sí, para one hour,” answered the young man hesitantly.

As the girl’s knuckles began to soften and relax, everyone in the room seemed less tense as well. “Me llamo Doctora Rosa. Let’s see if we can move you to

an exam room so I can check you out. Examinarse?"

The girl spoke not a word, throughout, but the young man sought her eyes before every word he said as if mutely asking her permission before answering any questions. In a series of questions and answers back and forth in broken English and Spanish on both sides, the story slowly expanded from the bare facts to a bigger picture. No matter the language, patients from all backgrounds just had a tendency to tell Doctor Rosa more than they really intended.

Juan Martín and Maria were from a village near the Rio Conchos, north and east of Chihuahua, Mexico. Life had been hard in this impoverished area increasingly under the control of the Sinaloa Federation, whose clashes with the Juarez cartel for power and influence were taking lives on a daily basis. These two saw no peace in the future for their homeland, and when they had found out about the baby, they knew their future was now only nine months away. They couldn't stay. Under cover of darkness, they had set out with hope of finding their way to Lincoln, Nebraska, where his cousin had a room and a job for him. Juan never mentioned the crossing, but he did say that after arriving in the states they had been delayed some months in the far south working as day laborers saving all their pennies, and though the statements were vague and clipped, it seems that they may have barely escaped arrest more than once. A week ago, they finally scraped together enough to buy parts to make a clunker car Juan had earned in exchange for work actually run. It was missing a window, but it had gotten them as far as this northern Colorado town, when it had finally died at a rest stop. The only prenatal care Maria had to speak of was a time in early summer, before the baby even started showing, when they had worked for a wise elderly woman, they called "Senora Betty," who had known immediately that Maria was pregnant and had said the baby would likely be born before the year came to an end and had given them a few gifts and advice. It seemed like she was the only person along their way who had been excited about their baby.

Under the gentle care of Karen, who replaced a cold coat with warm blankets and soft pillows and filled

both their hands with warm instant cocoa and left over cookies, the contractions began to subside. Dr Rose explained that this was probably an early false labor brought on by cold and stress, but Maria was already dilated some and the baby was good size, head down, probably due any day now.

"You need to find a warm place tonight to rest," she urged them, explaining that if the contractions came back they should time them and when they were less than two minutes apart for more than an hour they should go to the hospital. At which they both locked eyes with each other and then dropped their heads. "You know the hospital won't refuse treatment even if you can't pay," the doctor mentioned casually. Juan Martín's eyes, however, were full of suspicion, clearly speaking of his wariness to be involved with any sort of authorities. "Mañana, I will work to make the car go. We will be safe with our familia." The determination in his face made it suddenly seem much older, and touched the doctor's heart. "Well, in that case, please take my cell phone number, if you have any problems while you are in town, you could call me directly."

As they gathered up to go, Karen supplied them both with better coats from the lost-and-found box and made plans for them to return tomorrow for a recheck and to spend an hour doing prenatal teaching. As Doctor Rose stood staring at the desk still full of paperwork but also with a clock blaring an incredibly late time, Karen's face appeared again, "Poor things, eh? Babies having babies. I'm glad we checked her out; I just hope it doesn't make us both late to church. I just want to let you know I'm going to drop them off at that cheap motor inn near where their car is so that they don't have to walk. They should be able to get a room there for the night." The doctor nodded. "OK, thanks for telling me. Be safe, Karen. I think I'm walking out now too. There's no way I can finish this all and make it home in time to get my little angels ready."

A few hours later, after a hasty supper and a rush to the church, the doctor was still mindful enough of the day's last encounter to keep an eye out for her colleague. As soon as she walked into the concert, she

was relieved to see Karen safe and well in the choir. Most of the town seemed to have turned out for the celebration, and the church was overheated and overcrowded enough to make an escape into the frosty night feel good after the long cookie and cider after-party was finally over.

"I'm so proud of you girls! Stop right here. I want to get a quick picture of you all in your angel wings in the snow. The lights on the church are making you shine like real angels!" A couple of takes were required to get just the right shot of the squirmy little ones, then off came the wings and on went the coats to the sound of whiny complaints. "No, you can't fit in your car seat with angel wings on, they'd get squished!" When suddenly the cell phone rang.

"This is Dr Rose." "How close are the contractions?" "Well, I really doubt the baby is coming this quickly, lets go over the things that could be bringing the contractions....is Maria warm, has she been resting, how much fluids has she drank so far uh.. quantos liquidos. I see. Have you thought more about going to the hospital. Yes, I can hear what you mean, I understand how that could be scary for you."

As she talked, the doctor's hands were plugging in safety straps and her eyes were on the two little girls faces. "Mommy, is it a baby! A baby gonna be borned tonight?!" shouted the youngest one. The older girl's face lit up as well as she took the cue to proudly recite her line from the concert., "And you will find the baby wrapped in swabbling clothes and lying in a manger!" The littlest giggled with glee, "Mommy gets to help born the baby Jesus!" and they both broke into a jumbled up chorus of Glorias.

The doctor suddenly found tears in her eyes and a glance to her husband let her know that all was well. "Juan, are you at the Motor Inn? Oh, well tell me the address where you are staying. Ok, I'll be there to check on Maria in just a few minutes." She turned to her husband, "Thanks, babe. It shouldn't take long, just a scared couple of teen parents. I see Officer Mitchell's patrol car here in front, he must be on duty. I'll ask if he can drive me over, that way you can take the girls straight home and you'll know I'll be safe."

A few minutes later they were cruising along in the patrol car. "Are you sure you got everything you need, Doc?" "Well, I've got the emergency bag I keep in my car which has gloves. I'm sure you've got emergency supplies too. I really think gloves are all I actually will need. This is most likely just a quick check for reassurance sake. It's her first baby, and her contractions faded quickly this evening. It would be a miracle for her if she was ready to deliver this quickly. You remember what first labor is like, right?"

"You better believe it. My Marcy was so glad you were there to help her out. Twenty five hours of labor, I still don't know how women do it?" the ruddy faced young officer smiled and shook his head. "How is little Billy doing these days? I haven't seen him since his last check-up." The smile got even wider, "Oh he'll be walking any day now! He's outgrown his first carseat and is going through clothes sizes like crazy... Say, I thought that address you read was a bit fishy. Are you sure you got the number right?"

They were both staring at the sign for Save-a-Lot Storage when they saw a figure struggling up the block through the thick snow. "That's him! Wait here and let me talk to him" said Dr Rose, jumping out of the car. "Hello! Juan! It's Doctora Rosa," She said cheerfully as she trudged up to him. "Look, I brought my friend, Officer Mitchell, with me to help drive me, just in case there was any kind of emergency. I don't want you to worry. He's not here to ask you any questions or get involved, he's just here to give me a ride."

It was a subtle warning sign to her that something was different this time when Juan Martín didn't even blink an eye. "Vamos! Hurry!" was all he said as he led the way into the rows of storage units to a small one somewhere in the middle where he yanked open the heavy sliding door.

On a makeshift pallet on the floor of the half-empty metal-walled square was poor Maria, still quiet, but in obvious distress. The doctor was on the floor by her side in an instant feeling the strength of the contractions through the girl's thread-bare but still clean shirt when the Officer's car came rolling up through the

snow.

“Sorry Doc, it took me a bit to find the emergency key that Old Marcus has us keep so we could check on any trouble here at night. Whoa,” he said as he sized up the situation. “I thought you said they were gonna be staying at the motor inn, you gonna tell me there literally was no room in the inn?!”

“I’d rather think it was a matter of no money for the room. We’ll sort it all out in a minute, right now I need you to bring me my bag, I left it in the seat.” From there it was a matter of only moments for gloves to go on and the whole situation laid bare. “Wow, she’s really progressed,” the doctor said with eyes towards the Officer in slight dismay. “Her water has broke and she’s fully dilated; the head is nearly crowing with this contraction.”

“Uhh...What does that mean?” was the shocked reply. “It means this baby is coming now. I need all the emergency supplies from your car including a flashlight,” said the doctor calmly. “Well, maybe that won’t be necessary. I’ll just call dispatch for an ambulance first. They could be here in less than five minutes and they’d have all their supplies ready,” he turned in purpose to go. “Wait, Bill, wait!” said the doctor struggling to her feet. “Look at them. They can’t afford an ambulance. They can’t even afford a \$39 hotel room.” He turned back, “Well you can’t just deliver a baby in a storage locker when there’s a perfectly good hospital right here in town! It’s just too risky.” The doctor stepped close, her voice firm but pleading, “These two can’t afford a hospital, and most likely they weren’t born in one themselves. Babies are born at home all the time. Anyway, hospital could be the death of these two. You know when the hospital finds out they are undocumented and unable to pay someone will end up whispering it in the sheriff’s ear and he just won re-election on anti-immigration. He’s been down to the clinic board meeting complaining that we shouldn’t care for undocumented patients since we have a small grant from the county. You want to talk risky, if they get sent back to where they came from everyone will know they were able to successfully make the crossing, the cartels will target them. They’ll be sitting ducks.” Bill’s eyes were now on the young

man, holding the girl’s head up so that it didn’t have to lay in the dingy matted blankets. “Come on, Bill, it’s nearly Christmas. If there’s any time we should remember that some kids could even be born in a barn and still turn out OK its at Christmas. Just bring me everything you’ve got.”

Only a short space of time later, with a metallic emergency blanket for a bed, the little Martín baby girl made her entrance into the world the same way all babies do. Dried and warmed and wrapped, with both parents arm’s around her, the doctor finally was able to step back and the officer shut off his bright torch. The dim, naked bulb overhead cast a weak orange beam down on the little family, and the reflected sparkles off the shiny blankets made the threesome seem to faintly glow.

And at just that moment, the church bells down the street began to chime. Twelve long peals rang out through the brisk night air, but the little family didn’t seem to notice.

“You know my neighbor has a little mother-in-law house in his yard empty. He and his wife are really generous. I’ll call and see if they’ll let the mom and baby stay for a few days, and Marcy would be glad to have someone to give Billy’s clothes and carseat to.” The Officer lifted the heavy metal door and glanced around and chuckled. “Well, I guess those Mayan’s got it wrong. World still seems to be here. Nothing’s changed.”

For a moment Doctor Rose joined in his relieved laugh. It felt good to laugh in the moonlight and relax now knowing the baby was healthy and safe, but she rather quickly sunk her voice into an almost whisper. “Maybe, maybe, but who knows, really. What’s that song say, ‘Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end’? For these two, this is the end of life as they knew it. Everything will be changed for them now. And so in a distant way, everything will be a little changed for all of us. It’s the end of a world without this baby. She’s here now, and the world will be different for it. Heaven knows with the week our country has had, maybe we should regret that nothing much has happened to change the world to-

day. Maybe we should feel ashamed that we all waste time looking to some apocalyptic comet to change our course because we all feel too small and weak to do it ourselves” Her voice grew stronger as she laughed at her own seriousness. ”Boy, listen to me, I must be tired now! I guess all I’m trying to say is maybe if we all don’t wake up to the world utterly changed, we shouldn’t blame it on the Mayans.”

“Maya. Te amo este nombre.” The doctor quickly looked over to the face of the new mother to catch the first words she had heard the girl say. Patting her baby and smiling, the girl said clear and strong, “Maya Rose Martín.” The doctor and the Officer looked at each other in wonder, and then each smiled back, a world-changing kind of smile, and with tears in her eyes the good doctor simply said “I love this name too!”











**Joy Mennonite Church—Community Directory Questionnaire**

*We are asking that all members and regular attenders complete this questionnaire.*

*We will be using the information for two purposes: (1) we will be creating a new membership directory (in both print and both password-protected web formats), and (2) we are in the process of creating an updated and accurate membership list in anticipation of our upcoming annual membership reaffirmation service. Please feel free to share as little or as much information below as you see fit. Please fill out one form for each adult (or young adult) in your family.*

*Please complete this form and give it to James Branum. You can also email it to us (joymennonite@gmail.com), mail it to us (Joy Mennonite Church, 504 NE 16th St, OKC, OK 73104):*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children in your household (names, ages and birhdays): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other family members in your household: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever joined Joy Mennonite Church? If so, approximately when did you join?:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you also a member of another religious community? If so, which one?  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are not yet a member, would you like to become one?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be added to our announcements email list? \_\_\_\_\_

# Membership Guidelines of Joy Mennonite Church

*Taken from ARTICLE III of the Joy Mennonite Church Constitution  
(The full constitution can be read online at: [www.JoyMennonite.org](http://www.JoyMennonite.org))*

We hold to a high view of membership that is rooted in the persecution experiences of the early Anabaptist movement and our desire for deep and intimate Christian community.

## A. Membership Categories

### 1. Full Membership

This membership status is open to those followers of Jesus who seek to follow the nonviolent principles of the Kingdom of God, who are open to the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit, who have received Christian baptism as the symbol of their commitment and covenant, and who are committed to being part of the community of Joy Mennonite Church.

### 2. Associate Membership

This membership status is for people who support the work of Joy Mennonite Church and want some formal tie with our congregation.

### 3. Dual Membership

We will accept as both full and associate members, those who are members of another faith community.

## B. Expectation of Members

Church membership carries with it responsibilities as well as privileges. As members are able, they shall attend services of worship, participate in the ministries of the church; support the church's programs with spiritual and material resources; attend the business meetings of the congregation, and be a part of the fellowship and congregational life of the church. All members shall be eligible to participate in the business meetings and hold elective office, but only full members may vote on constitution amendments and for decisions regarding the calling or termination of staff.

We as a congregation accept that our members will not agree on all issues. We encourage our members to follow their conscience in their understanding of the way of Jesus.

Because of our belief in the reconciling love of Jesus, no person will be denied membership on the basis of their socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration status, or disability.

## C. Reception of Members

### 1. Reception of Full Members by Baptism

Persons may become members of Joy Mennonite Church upon baptism as a confession of faith, after the following takes place: (1) a vote of acceptance by the congregation, (2) the new member pledging to take on the responsibilities of church membership and (3) the congregation pledging to provide pastoral care and support to the new member.

### 2. Reception of Full Members who have already been Baptized

Persons who have already been baptized may become a member of Joy Mennonite Church by presenting a letter of transfer from another church, and/or by sharing a personal confession of faith. Persons wishing to become members who have been baptized as infants may be received by letter of transfer or reaffirmation of faith, provided they have confirmed their baptism as an adult believer.

Reception of full members who have already been baptized shall be made after: (1) a vote of acceptance by the congregation, (2) the new member pledging to take on the responsibilities of church membership and (3) the congregation pledging to provide pastoral care and support to the new member.

### 3. Reception of Associate Members

Persons who wish to support the work of Joy Mennonite Church and want a formal tie with our congregation may be accepted as an Associate Member, upon written request by the prospective member and a vote of acceptance by the congregation.

## D. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be concluded by death, letter of transfer to another church, voluntary withdrawal, or by action of the Congregation.

If a member violates the duties and responsibilities of church membership, thereby disrupting the fellowship or destroying the witness of the church, the Congregation shall seek the restoration of the member in the spirit of Matthew 18: 5-7 and I Corinthians 13. If this fails, the Congregation shall terminate the person's membership upon a 2/3 vote.

## E. Restoration of Membership

Any person whose membership has been terminated by the Congregation may be restored by the Congregation.

## F. Annual Reaffirmation of Membership

An annual time of reaffirmation of our membership commitments will be made on an annual basis.

Members of the congregation who choose not to reaffirm their commitment and/or who have not attended a worship service in the last year will be transferred from the Full membership rolls to the Associate membership rolls.

# The Mennonite Worker



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Oklahoma City, OK 73104



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