

## Growing congregation

### Family Life Assembly needs more space as it adds members

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Almost eight undeveloped acres in Fort Bend County will soon become the new home for a growing Katy-area church cramped for space.

Leaders of the Family Life Assembly of God Church are close to finalizing the purchase of land on Roesner Road near Greenbusch Road and Westheimer Parkway. The congregation has outgrown its facility at 1012 S. Mason Road.

"I am thrilled with what's happening at the church," said Senior Pastor Albert Cortez. "We are looking forward to impacting Katy of course with the Gospel — that's our main mission — and strengthening the family of Family Life. We want this to become a real Family Life center."

During a recent special meeting, 93 percent of the congregation members approved the decision by the church's board of directors and building steering committee to purchase the land.

Leaders are working on design plans for the construction of a new building which is expected to seat up to 400 people and include more classroom space.

For almost two years, the congregation has been planning to relocate to accommodate growth.

The church began with only a few families meeting in a member's home in 1987 and now has about 260 people attending Sunday service. All areas of the church, including children's and youth ministries, are growing, leaders say.

"We want to be able to accommodate the growth, and the new building is more elbow room to do what we have to do," said Cortez, who has led the church for four years. "We want to be stewards of what our assignment is and we are committed to the Katy community. The Lord has provided for us to be able to stay in south Katy."

#### Cramped for space

Since 1991, Family Life Assembly of God has been meeting at its site on South Mason Road. The property was originally a car dealership, but was transformed to a church campus as a sanctuary was built.

The church owns about 1.6 acres that consists of the sanctuary, a building for offices and classrooms, and portable buildings for the children's ministry, said Eddie Foster, church executive pastor.

Surrounded by local busi-



TONY BULLARD: FOR THE CHRONICLE

**LEADING THE WAY:** Senior Pastor Albert Cortez of Family Life Assembly of God Church in Katy has worked on a long-range growth plan.

nesses and retailers, the church has limited parking space for its members and guests.

"With all of our neighbors around us, we have agreements to use their parking as overflow, and in exchange, during the week they use our parking," Foster said. "It has been working out well, but our classroom space is completely full and our sanctuary could probably hold some more people."

Leaders decided there was no room to expand at the current location and began searching for available prop-

erty two years ago.

A building steering committee found potential sites and determined the area on Roesner Road would be a good fit for the congregation as south Katy begins to grow.

"We believe there's a lot more growth for us to achieve in having a new facility so we can more effectively minister in the Katy area," he said.

#### New building designed

The facility on Mason Road is for sale, and construction on the new building at Roesner Road is expected to begin later this year after

the existing property is sold, Foster said.

Leaders are working with Century Builders to create a master plan, which will include three phases, he said.

The church also began a three-year capital campaign last year to raise funds for the new building, and has already received more than \$360,000 of a pledged goal of \$875,000.

Construction of the new facility is expected to cost \$2.5 million.

"We're pinching ourselves that this happening," Cortez said.