



**Mennonite
Mission
Network**

The mission agency of
Mennonite Church USA

NOVEMBER 2012

Beyond OURSELVES

CONGO 100 YEARS

PLUS

SOOP breaks records [page 17]

People before projects [page 19]

Joy and hope amidst injustice in the Congo

By Lynda Hollinger-Janzen

Experience life in the Congo as spicy *pili-pili*, the hot pepper used to season greens, that most Congolese eat with their *fufu* day after day—if they are fortunate enough to eat. The intense delight of taste buds is accompanied by a long-lasting burn, all part of the same experience.

In July, I was blessed to be one of a 30-member delegation from North America and Europe who joined Congolese Mennonites in celebrating two milestone anniversaries. We marveled at the hospitality extended to us—dancing processions of welcome, accompanied by gifts of clothes, woven baskets, wild honey and feasts.

Yards away from the heavenly worship, in a cart pulled by a human being, lay the bloodied head of a cow atop the mountain of meat that would feed us, the international guests, first. The leftovers would be shared by hundreds of Congolese brothers and sisters.

Life in the Congo is not sugar-coated. Congolese Mennonites have watched their children and spouses die—from malaria, malnutrition, and firing squads. In the century corresponding to Mennonite presence in the Congo, the Congolese people have endured 13 years of ghastly tyranny under Belgium's King Leopold II, 52 years of colonization, civil wars that go on and on, and 32 years of brutal dictatorship. Now, although there have been improvements on the political front, the economic situation of the average person remains precarious with a per capita income of less than \$400 per year, according to 2011 World Bank figures.

Delegation members, the materially wealthy in the global Mennonite Church, struggled to integrate all aspects of the reality we were seeing. One of us, Rick Derksen, who had ministered in the Congo with his family for 21 years, said, "Most Congolese struggle against poverty and injustice on a daily basis **and** they keep faith, joy and hope alive in the midst of it all."

My prayer for each of us is that we learn from our Congolese brothers and sisters to abandon ourselves in worship that gives us a foretaste of heaven and that includes care for the brutalized and the hurting person. May we learn to receive gifts and share gifts with open hands and hearts.



Lynda Hollinger-Janzen is a staff writer for Mennonite Mission Network.



Photos provided

New Anabaptist voices



Several of the featured writers in the latest *Missio Dei*: Erin Dufault-Hunter, Sue and Hyun Hur, and Sunoko Lin (second from right) and family.

Here's an intriguing question: Will Los Angeles be one of the new Anabaptist centers in the 21st century?

In *New Anabaptist Voices*, the most recent issue of the *Missio Dei* series, one of the seven essayists from southern California raises the possibility.

Matthew Krabill and David Stutzman, both graduate students at Fuller Theological Seminary and the editors of the new issue, write that southern California, with its rich mix of cultures, is a microcosm for what is happening within the church around the world.

They said churches have much to learn from folks who discovered Anabaptism as adults.

"We hope that these stories demonstrate new incarnations of Anabaptism and mission in ways that point to the Spirit's movement among people in the city," Krabill said.

Missio Dei is a series of theological and biblical essays published by Mennonite Mission Network. Those interested in using the resource in small-group or Sunday school discussion can order copies at the MennoMedia website. It is also available free for download in English and Spanish at the Mission Network website. The issue comes with study questions to guide group discussions.



▶ Mobile *Missio Dei*

Download the latest *Missio Dei* as an e-book by scanning the QR code or visiting the website at www.MennoniteMission.net/Resources/MissioDei.

Feedback

▶ Let us know what you think of this issue. What inspires you? Engages you? Infuriates you? BeyondOurselves@MennoniteMission.net



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Cover: Nidlette Mbendji of Chorale Grand Tam Tam from Ndjoko Punda. Photo by James R. Krabill.



Honoring the church in the Congo

By James R. Krabill

In this issue of *Beyond Ourselves* we celebrate 100 years of Mennonite mission and church presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Through captivating photos and essays we are presented here with short, but powerful glimpses into the life and history of the three Congolese church bodies that today comprise one-quarter of a million members within our global Mennonite family.

How can we best honor this remarkable story that is, in our day, contributing to the transformation of Mennonite reality worldwide? Let me suggest five actions we can take during this time of remembrance.

Rehearse. It was my privilege this past July to represent Mennonite Mission Network in the centenary festivities taking place in and around Kinshasa,

Tshikapa, Kalonda, Ndjoko Punda, Nyanga, and Mukedi—important centers of Mennonite activity for much of the past century. These were not names and places central to the mission stories that nurtured my imagination as a child.

Rehearsing the stories of what God has been up to in the Congo has been helping me to round out the Mennonite picture I had heretofore limited to places with which I was more familiar, like India, Argentina, Kenya and Nigeria.

Recognize. It is right and good to recognize the hundreds of North American Mennonite mission workers who have invested their lives and energies in planting and nurturing faith communities in the Congo. Buy a copy of Jim Bertsche's *CIM/AIMM: A Story of Vision, Commitment and Grace* (see page 11), and become acquainted with this remarkable story. To complement what has happened in the Congo, however, you will also need the more recent published account of more than hundreds—representing thousands—of Congolese evangelists, pastors and church leaders who have labored tirelessly to build the church through difficult times (see “The Jesus Tribe,” referenced on page 11 of this magazine).

The “average/typical Mennonite” in our world today looks far more like the 20-year-old women singing in the *Chorale Grand Tam-Tam* than like me ... or many of you.

Reflect. I have discovered that many North American Mennonites know little more about the Congo than what is offered by Barbara Kingsolver—often with over-exaggerated characterization—in her best-selling novel, *The Poisonwood Bible*. We can do better at informing ourselves as God’s people, and it’s time we get up to speed on what has transpired among Congolese churches since the Kingsolver depiction—an era now 60 years in the past. Novels like *Poisonwood* should, however, cause us to reflect on the methods we employ as a church in communicating the gospel. What, for example, will observers 60 years from now say about our culture-shaped approaches to faith-sharing in the early 21st century?

Recalibrate. I took lots of pictures of young adults during the recent festivities in Congo. Why? So that I can begin developing an image bank of today’s “typical” Mennonites. And how’s that? More than two-thirds of the Mennonite world family today live in the global South; in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In addition, if it is true—as some claim—that more than half of the population in those regions is under 25 years of age, then the “average/typical Mennonite” in our world today looks far more like the 20-year-old women singing in the *Chorale Grand Tam Tam* than like me ... or many of you reading this issue of *Beyond Ourselves*.

Rejoice. Getting our heads around this reality will require some recalibration on our part. But until that happens, we can rejoice. Rejoice that, thanks to a myriad of faithful witnesses over the past century, a new family in Christ is being formed, bringing us ever closer to John’s vision in Revelation 7 of peoples from every tribe and nation gathered around the throne and declaring together with one voice, “Salvation comes from our God ... and from the Lamb!”

James R. Krabill provides leadership to the Global Ministries division of Mennonite Mission Network. He served as acting executive director while Stanley W. Green was on sabbatical.

CONGO
100 YEARS



The *Mille Voix* (Thousand Voices) choir led by Bernice Mobutu Bongela greets guests outside the Welcome Center in Tshikapa. Photo by James R. Krabill.



Congolese
Mennonite history
spiced with riddles,
tragedy, faithfulness and

JOY



Benjamin Mubenga Wa Kabanga, president of *Communauté Évangélique Mennonite au Congo* (Evangelical Mennonite Church of Congo), blesses Richard Muteba, one of the 16 pastors who were ordained during the denomination's Golden Jubilee celebration, July 23–27, in Mbuji Mayi. White powder is a sign of spiritual blessing that families showered on pastoral candidates during the celebration.

Historical riddle

100 years of the Mennonite Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

By Lynda Hollinger-Janzen

What do you get when you bring together an African-American Presbyterian missionary, a white Mennonite, and two excommunicated Amish bishops? The beginning of the Congolese Mennonite Church.

The first two Mennonites in Congo were women from the Defenseless Mennonite Church who served through mission agencies of other denominations. Mathilda Kohm began ministry in 1896, and Alma Doering in 1900. Returning to the United States on furlough in 1906, Doering met William Sheppard, an African-American medical doctor serving with a Presbyterian mission that was voicing strong opposition to the atrocities committed in the Congo by

Belgium's King Leopold II. Doering and Sheppard invested the long days of their sea voyage in conversation. These discussions bore fruit six years later when two mission-minded Mennonite denominations called Sheppard to a meeting in Illinois where he passionately described the need for missionaries in south-central Congo to share the good news of Jesus' saving love and to shine a light on the horrors of colonialism.

One of these groups, the Defenseless Mennonites, grew out of a revival in the Amish church in the late 19th century. Henry Egly, an Indiana bishop, had been excommunicated because he preached that salvation was a gift of God's grace. Another Amish bishop, Joseph Stuckey, had a parallel experience in Illinois. As they read their Bibles and obeyed Jesus' call to

discipleship, those who followed Egly and Stuckey joined hands to reach out to the society around them. They began an orphanage, a retirement home, and a hospital in central Illinois. Within a few years, they expanded their ministry to Chicago. Then, in 1912, following Sheppard's plea, they organized the Congo Inland Mission, today's Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission.

Jim Bertsche, who has been an active participant in the Congo for more than half the century of Mennonite presence there, described the actors in this holy drama as "an improbable mix of the Lord's servants" in his history, *CIM/AIMM: A Story of Vision, Commitment and Grace*.

Lawrence and Rose Boehning Haigh, Congo Inland Mission's first workers, were soon joined by Alvin Stevenson, a married man who left his family to serve. The three missionaries threw themselves into hard manual labor to construct the first two mission stations along the Kasai River. The effort took its toll and, before the year ended, Stevenson died of malaria and was buried in Ndjoko Punda, far from his widow and three young children in Illinois.

Hundreds of missionaries followed this trio, increasing the mission stations to eight, and laying the foundations for *Communauté Mennonite au Congo* (Mennonite Church of Congo), the mother of the Congo's three Mennonite denominations.

Today's three Congolese Mennonite denominations

Communauté Mennonite au Congo

(Mennonite Church of Congo)



Membership: 110,000 members in 798 congregations

Headquarters: Tshikapa

First missionaries: Lawrence and Rose Haigh and Alvin Stevenson in 1912

First Congolese church president: Matthieu Kazadi Lukuna in 1958

Primary mission partner in 2012: Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission

"Let us work together to breathe new life into Mennonite evangelization and mission in the Congo. It takes all fingers working together to eat okra sauce, so we commit ourselves to Mennonite unity. Our second century should be a century of strengthening this unity."

—Adolphe Komuesa Kalunga, President

Communauté des Églises des Frères Mennonites au Congo

(Mennonite Brethren Church of Congo)



Membership: 101,600 members in 683 congregations

Headquarters: Kikwit

First missionaries: Aaron and Ernestina Janzen served two terms with the Congo Inland Mission before moving to Kafumba area in 1921, where they developed a coffee plantation to help support the ministry.

First Congolese church presidents: Kilabi Bululu and Kusangila Kitondo in 1974

Primary mission partner in 2012: MB Mission

"My vision for our church is to build a true community that strengthens our leadership as a peace church, to empower local congregations to contribute to the growth and development of the church of Jesus Christ, and to better our partnerships."

—Gérard Mambakila, President

Communauté Évangélique Mennonite au Congo

(Evangelical Mennonite Church of Congo)



Membership: 25,000 members in 110 congregations

Headquarters: Mbuji Mayi

First missionaries: Matthieu Kazadi Lukuna and his wife, Elisabeth Tshitenga, in 1962

Primary mission partner in 2012: Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission

"The future belongs to God. While recognizing this, we want to build a strong, united and dynamic community—a missionary community whose goal is salvation for all people. In order to do this, we need training that will unleash a mental, spiritual and material revolution to overcome our precarious life situations."

—Benjamin Mubenga Wa Kabanga, President



Stepping STONES

The journey of the Mennonite Church in Congo

▼ The beginning

First missionaries to Congo: (Clockwise) Alma Doering (standing), William Sheppard, Joseph Stuckey and Henry Egly.

KEY

AIMM = Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission

CMCO = Mennonite Church of Congo

Background image—a historical display at the Mennonite Church Historical Museum in Nyanga



1912

Congo Inland Mission formed. CIM became Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM), part of Commission on Overseas Mission's ministry.



Left: Lawrence and Rose Haigh. Below: Ernestina and Aaron Janzen.

1971

Fusion agreement. AIMM and CMCO share decision-making.



◀ Jim Bertsche and David Ngongo.

1964

Youth rebel against insufferable conditions, turn against all foreigners and burn mission stations.



1991-1997

Civil wars overthrow dictator Mobutu—great suffering in the land.



2004

Restructuring of AIMM with administrative function moving to Africa.



▲ Benjamin Mubenga, president of AIMM International Central Council.

Mennonite Mission Network partners with AIMM, providing \$35,000/year grant.



▲ **2012**

Bernice Mobutu Bongela leads worship at centennial celebration.

◀ Léonie Khelendende, one of the first Mennonite women to pursue higher education, eventually graduating with a degree in theology.

1962

Evangelical Mennonite Church begins in Mbuji Mayi.

1960

Independence declared. North American missionaries leave.

Luba Mennonites flee violence in Mennonite heartland.



◀ **1958**

Matthieu Kazadi named president of CMCO.

1951

Levi Keidel begins to install short-wave radios, eventually connecting all mission stations.

1921

Janzens begin Kafumba-area mission—beginning Mennonite Brethren ministry in Congo.



◀ **Late 1940s**

Belgium begins to subsidize Protestant education. Mennonite schools flourish. Teacher Louis Makanza (left) with student Bernard Lukusa.



Finding Jesus in the Congo

Delegation participant reflection

By Nancy J. Myers
Photos by James R. Krabill

For most of my adult life I had been putting Christianity on hold, not rejecting it, but not fully embracing it either. There is something, however, about the Congo experience that is drawing me into a less encumbered, less skeptical, less complicated faith.

I come back from Kinshasa with a deeper respect for old-fashioned religion, hallelujah Jesus-love, simple faith. I was getting that already by working with *The Jesus Tribe: Grace Stories from Congo's Mennonites, 1912–2012*. I have to say the stories influenced me. People met Jesus. They were saved. They were changed. God makes things possible that humans cannot achieve.

I was moved by the Congolese Mennonite Christians' practice of praying aloud at every gathering. Perhaps there is no such thing as silent prayer for Congolese Christians because even when people were asked to pray their own prayers, they did so in a full-voice chorus that rose like a Pentecostal cloud to heaven.

Above all, a real faith kinship shone through the conversations we had with many individual Congolese Mennonite Christians. The Congo was a revelation of the truly global nature of the Jesus Tribe. I was able to participate in church and the Christian community there without any trace of discomfort or condescension. It offered me something I needed—joyful fellowship, music, dance, forthright prayer.

Worship in the Congo offered me something I needed—joyful fellowship, music, dance, forthright prayer.



Nancy Myers, a writer and editor of scientific magazines, lives in Buchanan, Mich., and attends Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend, Ind. She and her husband, Vic, worked in the Congo, then Zaire, with Mennonite Central Committee's Teachers Abroad Program from 1971-1974. Earlier this year, Nancy re-visited the Congo with the Congo Cloth Connection, a grassroots movement of Mennonite women bridging the Atlantic Ocean with their love of color, texture and artistry.

Left: *Chorale Evangélique Mennonite* (Mennonite Evangelical Choir) lead the singing during the closing ceremonies, accompanied by Kitenge Kabasele on the guitar.

Right top: Congolese Mennonites and international participants escape the late afternoon heat outside after an all-day centennial celebration in Dibumba.

Right middle: *Chorale Grand Tam Tam* enters the church as graduation ceremonies begin at Kalonda Bible Institute.

Right bottom: Congolese Mennonite pastors pray with Ruth Keidel-Clemens and her husband, Jonathan Clemens, thanking God for Ruth's father, Levi Keidel, who died earlier this year.



Web extras

See slide shows and watch video clips of the celebration by scanning the QR code at left or visiting the website at www.MennoniteMission.net/Stories/BeyondOurselves/Congo.

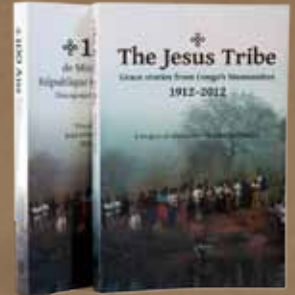


‘The Jesus Tribe’

Congolese stories of faith

By Lynda Hollinger-Janzen

The Jesus Tribe: Grace Stories from Congo’s Mennonites, a compilation of accounts of faithful-ness, takes its name from Charles Kuamba’s powerful Anabaptist testimony. Kuamba, a musician and Mennonite pastor, was known for his counseling and peace-building abilities. For this reason, he was chosen



to help start a new mission station in Kalonda, where interethnic tensions between the Lulua and Luba tribes reached a boiling point following the Congo’s declaration of independence from Belgium.

The Lulua trace their lineage back to the same grandmother as the Luba people do. However, as part of their policy of divide-and-subjugate, Belgian colonizers created a rivalry among the Luba people, distinguishing certain groups as Lulua. When Luba cousins from further east were attracted to Kalonda by jobs in rubber and mining industries, this colonial contrivance led to bloody conflict between the Lulua and the Luba people.

Since the beginning, Mennonites in the Congo have had a strong commitment to establish a church where all people are welcome. So, Kuamba, a Lulua, was asked by church leaders to establish a congregation where all ethnic groups could worship together. While violence raged around them, Kuamba continued to serve the people of his congregation and his village.

One day, a Lulua delegation accused Kuamba of being a traitor to his own people.

“You ask me amidst this hatred to which tribe I belong?” Kuamba said. “I want you to know that your pastor belongs to neither one. Years ago as a young man, I gave my life to Jesus. When I did that, I joined the Jesus tribe.”

One hundred stories like Kuamba’s have been gathered by seven Congolese researchers over the past three years as part of the centennial oral history project. Spending days bouncing along rutted roads on motorbikes, researchers collected stories from some of the Congo’s first Mennonites to edify brothers and sisters around the world with these testimonies of faith, courage and God’s grace.

To purchase *Jesus Tribe* (also available in French) or *CIM/AIMM: A Story of Vision, Commitment and Grace*, contact lola@aimmintl.org or 574-535-0077.

A wide-awake woman

Mimi Kanku, the first woman ordained by the Evangelical Mennonite Church of the Congo

By Jean-Félix Cimalanga Wa Mpoyi. Adapted from *The Jesus Tribe: Grace Stories from Congo's Mennonites 1912-2012*.

Mimi Kanku was the first Mennonite woman to preach publicly in a gathering sponsored by her denomination, Evangelical Mennonite Church of Congo (CEM).

"I have lived my whole life in the church," Mimi said. "I am the one who organized the Sunday school and strengthened the choir. I was at women's conventions and took care to see that CEM women stood up for their point of view."

Mimi was born to a Mennonite family in Kinshasa in 1981. In fact, her congregation leased their worship space from her family. Mimi began

her university studies in commercial sciences, but became convinced that she should study theology, even though it might not lead to a pastorate, as the denomination did not allow for the ordination of women.

"In all kinds of unhappiness that I have known as a woman, mother and servant, and in all the joys that I have had, God alone is my help."

The year 2006 brought many changes into Mimi's life. She married Bellarmin Ngalula and their first child was born. She received a scholarship to pursue theological studies at the Christian University of Kinshasa. She had to man-

age the demands of being a wife and mother along with academic requirements and often very late scholarship payments.

Although she had always wanted to organize big conventions, Mimi never had the courage to try it. It was when she went to university that she had both the courage and the means to do it. She took the challenge on behalf of her community.

"I always want to do better for my church," she said. "I organized our very first women's convention. The theme was 'Woman, Wake Up!'"

This moment was crucial for her because, for the first time, she was in front of a microphone that echoed far from the congregation. Since then, Mimi has led seminars to the great satisfaction of believers and unbelievers alike.

Mimi is not afraid of tackling weaknesses she finds in the church and addressing the consequences of poor leadership. She believes that the Lord gives her everything she needs for all her ministries, past and future.

"In all kinds of unhappiness that I have known as a woman, mother and servant, and in all the joys that I have had, God alone is my help."

On July 26, 2012, during the church's 50-year anniversary celebration, Mimi Kanku was the first woman to be ordained for ministry in the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Congo.

Jean-Félix Cimalanga Wa Mpoyi holds degrees in linguistics and theology. He is married to Jeannette Nzeba Cimalanga. They have three married children and five grandchildren. He is the administrative secretary of Evangelical Mennonite Church of Congo and holds other denominational and ecumenical offices.

Photo by Trisha Handrich

New workers enter service

Mission workers beginning assignments between May and September 2012

DOOR Discern

Atlanta unit

Kendra Allen, Ankeny, Iowa, First Presbyterian Church (Cedar Falls, Iowa)

Rachel Betty, Nashville, Tenn., Brush Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Nashville)

Antonia Lucero, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Benito Miller, Indianapolis

Elizabeth Perry, Birmingham, Ala., Highlands United Methodist Church (Birmingham)

Kenya Phillips, Stone Mountain, Ga., Israel Missionary Baptist Church (Stone Mountain)

Jordan Pounds, Locust Grove, Ga., Higher Living Church (Locust Grove)

Eva Stutzman, Millersburg, Ohio, Walnut Creek (Ohio) Mennonite Church

Chicago unit

Erika Alvarez, Chicago

Danielle Clark, Battle Creek, Mich., Grand Valley State University Campus Ministry (Allendale, Mich.)

Chris Crater, Chicago, First Church of the Brethren (Chicago)

Jade Crenshaw, Chicago, First Church of the Brethren (Chicago)

Abigail Garcia, Chicago, *Roca de Esperanza* (Chicago)

Lakewell Gordon, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Courtney Holcombe, Adairsville, Ga.,

North Pointe Church (Adairsville)

Ronald Purifoy, Chicago

Michael Rogers, Hutchinson, Kan., South Hutchinson Mennonite Church

Michelle Williams, Chicago

Denver unit

Sarah Abeyta, Westminster, Colo., His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Manuel Alvarez, Bell Flower, Calif., His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Katie Flack, Greenville, S.C., Simpsonville (S.C.) United Methodist Church

Jesus Garcia, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Shemeza Habonimana, Aurora, Colo., Meadowood Church (Aurora)

JD Hershberger, Hesston, Kan., Hesston Mennonite Church

Matt Kilian, Clive, Iowa, Heartland Presbyterian Church (Clive)

Rebecca Quezada, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Jeri Salas, Denver

Thien Tai, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Hollywood unit

Dorian Casasola, Los Angeles, Christ the King Catholic Church (Los Angeles)

Romeo Garcia, Los Angeles, Christ the King Catholic Church (Los Angeles)

Kelli Miller, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, St. James Catholic Church (Mount Pleasant)

Christian Montero, Los Angeles, *Alcance*



Photo provided

Dorothy Voth, Caleb Waidelich and Brocia Beachy began terms with Mennonite Voluntary Service in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Victoria Este de Los Angeles

Arthur Penate, Los Angeles, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church (Los Angeles)

Odalys Romero, Los Angeles, Christ the King Catholic Church (Los Angeles)

Kyle Wahe, Palmdale, Calif., First Presbyterian Church (Hollywood)

Miami unit

Raul Bravo, Miami
Makita Rova, Sarasota, Fla., Fiji International Church of Christ (Sarasota)

San Antonio unit

Stephanie Grossnickle Batterton, Iowa City, Iowa

Jim Grossnickle Batterton, Iowa City, Iowa

Joel Castanon, San Antonio

Kendall Jennings, Augusta, Mich., First Presbyterian Church (Richland, Mich.)

Abigail Nickle, San Antonio, University Presbyterian Church (San Antonio)

DOOR Discover

Atlanta unit

Arthur Mennonite Church (Arthur, Ill.)

Bay Shore Mennonite Church (Sarasota, Fla.)

Yellow Creek Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.)

Chicago unit

Avon Mennonite Church (Stratford, Ontario)

Bethel Mennonite Church (Winnipeg, Manitoba)

First Mennonite Church (Bluffton, Ohio)

North Clinton Mennonite Church (Wauseon, Ohio)

Park View Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg, Va.)

Sterling Mennonite Fellowship Church (Winnipeg, Manitoba)

Sugar Creek Mennonite Church (Wayland, Iowa)

Wayland Mennonite Church (Wayland, Iowa)

Denver unit

Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church (Altona, Manitoba)

Bethesda Mennonite Church (Henderson, Neb.)

Ebenfeld Mennonite Brethren Church (Hillsboro, Kan.)

Emmanuel Mennonite Church (Abbotsford, British Columbia)

Faith Mennonite Church (Newton, Kan.)

First Mennonite Church (Hillsboro, Kan.)

First Mennonite Church (Iowa City, Iowa)

First Mennonite Church (Lincoln, Neb.)

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church (Wichita, Kan.)

Whitstone Mennonite Church (Hesston, Kan.)

Zion Mennonite Church (Elbing, Kan.)

Hollywood unit

First Mennonite Church (Reedley, Calif.)

Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church (Harper, Kan.)

Miami unit
Zion Mennonite Church (Birdsboro, Pa.)

San Antonio unit

Holdeman Mennonite Church (Wakarusa, Ind.)

Salina Mennonite Church (Salina, Kan.)

DOOR Dwell

Atlanta unit
Justin Chambers, Grand Rapids, Mich., Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Kalamazoo, Mich.), serving with the Presbyterian Church

Continued on page 14

Marlee Tonks, Greenville, Pa., Hillside Presbyterian Church (Greenville), serving with Outreach and Advocacy Center at Central

Chicago unit

Christian Baucum, Winston-Salem, N.C., First Calvary Baptist Church (Winston-Salem), serving with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly

Sarah Lanzi, California, Md., First Saints Community Church (Leonardtown, Md.), serving with Grace Commons

Kiva Nice-Webb, Fairview, N.C., First Congregational United Church of Christ (Asheville, N.C.), serving with Sarah's Inn

James Potts, Danville, Ill., First Presbyterian Church (Danville), serving with Breakthrough Ministries/First Church of the Brethren

Denver unit

Lacy Morris, Fayetteville, Ark., First Presbyterian Church (Springdale, Ark.), serving with Gathering Place

Kaitlin Schmucker, Sacramento, Calif., St. Marks United Methodist Church (Sacramento), serving with Denver Urban Ministry

Lauren Seyfarth, Littleton, Colo., Abiding Hope Lutheran Church (Littleton), serving with Denver Urban Ministry

Thein Tai, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver), serving with King Adult Day Enrichment Program

Emily Warren, Lexington, Ky., Versailles Presbyterian Church (Versailles, Ky.), serving with African Community Center

Matt Watts, Lugoff, N.C., St. John's United Methodist Church (Lugoff), serving with

African Community Center

Hollywood unit

Kendra Allen, Cedar Falls, Iowa, First Presbyterian Church (Cedar Falls), serving with My Friend's Place

Khalicia Leichty, Albany, Ore., Albany Mennonite Church, serving with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)

Karena Malmgren, Sister Bay, Wis., Sister Bay Moravian Church, serving with GettLove

Drew Peterson, Spokane, Wash., Colbert (Wash.) Presbyterian Church, serving with GettLove

Savanah Walseth, West Fargo, N.D., Edgewood United Methodist Church (Fargo, N.D.), serving with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)

San Antonio unit

Mandelyn Gutierrez, San Antonio, *San Juan de los Lagos Parish* (San Antonio), serving the church community

Brittany Hernandez, San Antonio, Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church (San Antonio), serving the church community

Jamie Karnetsky, Melbourne, Fla., First Presbyterian Church (Palm Bay, Fla.), serving with Catholic Charities

Ashley Morales, San Antonio, serving the church community

Kelsey Penn, Jonestown, Texas, Rolling Hills Community Church (Lago Vista, Texas), serving with Inman Christian Center

Kathryn Sweeney, South Charleston, W.Va., First Presbyterian Church (South Charleston), serving with Peace Pals at Divine Redeemer Church

MVS

Alamosa, Colo., unit

Roxanne Reimer, Walton, Kan., Menno Mennonite Church (Ritzville, Wash.) and Shalom Mennonite Church (Newton, Kan.), serving with Immigration Resource Center of the San Luis Valley

Anna Woelk, Hillsboro, Kan., Goessel (Kan.) Mennonite Church, serving with La Puente Home Inc.

ing with Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly

Elkhart, Ind., unit

Katie Jantzen, Plymouth, Neb., First Mennonite Church (Beatrice, Neb.), serving with Church Community Services

Scott Nelson, Kirksville, Mo., Pulaski Mennonite Church (Pulaski, Iowa), serving with LaCasa

Rebecca Schaller, Rockwell City, Iowa, Southside Presbyterian Church (Tucson, Ariz.)

Fresno, Calif., unit

Bethany Maven, Harrisonburg, Va., Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, serving with Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County

Adrienne Yoder, Goshen, Ind., Akron (Pa.) Mennonite Church, serving with San Joaquin River Parkway Conservation Trust

Kansas City, Kan., unit

Mollie Gunnoe, Portland, Maine, Christ Church (Portland),

Emma Mennonite Church (Topeka, Ind.), serving with Hopi Mission School

Dorothy Voth, Hesston, Kan., Whitestone Mennonite Church (Hesston), serving with Hopi Mission School

Caleb Waidelich, Stryker, Ohio, Lockport Mennonite Church (Stryker), serving with Hopi Mission School

Madison, Wis., unit

Theodore Maust, Lititz, Pa., Pilgrims

The First Mennonite Church (Vineland), serving with Urban Justice Center

Allison Schrag, Newton, Kan., Faith Mennonite Church (Newton) and Shalom Mennonite Church (Newton), serving with Computers for Youth

Rochester, N.Y., unit

Deanna Cender, Goshen, Ind., Holdeman Mennonite Church (Wakarusa, Ind.), serving with Foodlink



Photo provided by Mark Andrew Fenton

MVSeer Mark Andrew Fenton volunteers with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service as a photographer and videographer.

Baltimore unit

Timothy Heishman, Tipp City, Ohio, West Charleston Church of the Brethren (Tipp City), serving with Acts4Youth and North Baltimore Mennonite Church

Chicago unit

Sarah Unruh, Goessel, Kan., Faith Mennonite Church (Newton, Kan.) and Manhattan (Kan.) Mennonite Church, serv-

ing with Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly

and St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Rockwell City), serving with Center for Community Justice and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Osee Tshiwape, Elkhart, Ind., Fellowship of Hope Mennonite Church (Elkhart), serving with Step by Step Ministries and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

serving with Cultivate Kansas City

Melissa Kauffman, Goshen, Ind., Sunnyside Mennonite Church (Elkhart, Ind.), serving with Migrant Farmworkers Project

Kykotsmovi, Ariz., unit

Brocia Beachy, Wolcottville, Ind., Forks Mennonite Church (Middlebury, Ind.) and

Mennonite Church (Akron, Pa.), serving with Wisconsin Historical Society Press

Taylor McCabe-Juhnke, North Newton, Kan., Shalom Mennonite Church (Newton, Kan.), serving with Madison Audubon Society/Renew Wisconsin

New York unit

Katherine Penner, Vineland, Ontario,

Kristeen Goering, Moundridge, Kan., Eden Mennonite Church (Moundridge), serving with Northeast Organic Farming Association

San Antonio unit

Bethany Bowman, Piqua, Ohio, Grace United Methodist Church (Piqua), serving with Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.

Krista Miller, Waynesboro, Va., Springdale Mennonite Church (Waynesboro), serving with Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.

Meredith Thomas, Bellefontaine, Ohio, Bethel Mennonite Church (West Liberty, Ohio), serving with OAICES

Bethany Yoder, Bellefontaine, Ohio, Oak Grove Mennonite Church (West Liberty, Ohio), serving with Daughters of Charity

San Francisco unit

Jonathan Hershberger, Canton, Ohio, First Mennonite Church of Canton (Ohio), serving with Larkin Street Youth Services

Nora Miller, Goshen, Ind., College Mennonite Church (Goshen), serving with Homeless Prenatal Program

Alyssa Schrag, Moundridge, Kan., Eden Mennonite Church (Moundridge), serving with DISH (Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing)

Seattle unit

Ben Baumgartner, Hesston, Kan., Whitestone Mennonite Church (Hesston) and Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Legal Action Center

Daniel Penner, Harper, Kan., Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church (Harper) and Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Grist

Lucy Shirley, Brookfield, Wis., Elmbrook Church (Brookfield), serving with Washington Trails Association

Sioux Falls, S.D., unit

Ryan Goertzen, Newton, Kan., Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church (Goessel, Kan.), serving with Lutheran Social Services, Refugee and Immigration Programs

Kitty Robinson, Silver Spring, Md., Presbyterian Church of the Atonement (Silver Spring), serving with Lutheran Social Services, Refugee and Immigration Programs

St. Louis, Mo., unit

Bradley Sandlin, Valley Center, Kan., Northside Church of Christ (Wichita, Kan.) and Hesston (Kan.) Mennonite Church, serving with Habitat for Humanity St. Louis

Evette Yoder, Phoenix, Trinity Mennonite Church (Glendale, Ariz.) and Whitestone Mennonite Church (Hesston, Kan.), serving with Plowsharing Crafts

Tucson, Ariz., unit

Katrina Goering, Fort Collins, Colo., Columbus (Ohio) Mennonite Church and Shalom Mennonite Congregation (Harrisonburg, Va.), serving with BorderLinks

Jonathan Harnish, Colorado Springs, Colo., Beth-El Mennonite Church (Colorado Springs), serving with Community Home Repair Program of Arizona

Carrie Nelson, Champaign, Ill., First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana (Ill.), serving with Community Home Repair Program of Arizona

Washington, D.C., unit

Alisha Bender, Pittsburgh Mennonite Church, serving with Kid Power

Anne Schrag, Marion, S.D., Salem-Zion Mennonite Church (Freeman, S.D.), serving with Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Bailey Schrock, Wellman, Iowa, Kalona (Iowa) Mennonite Church, serving with Kid Power

Cara Smith, Topeka, Kan., Southern Hills Mennonite Church (Topeka), serving with Education Strengthens Families

Keith Suter, Pandora, Ohio, Grace Mennonite Church (Pandora), serving with Catholic Charities DC

Radical Journey

England unit

Joseph Bates, Red Hill, Pa., Perkiomenville (Pa.) Mennonite Church

Stephanie Ingold, Glendale, Ariz., Sunnyslope Mennonite Church (Phoenix) and Hope Community Church (Minneapolis)

Nicholas Peebles, Chicago, Living Water Community Church (Chicago)

Paraguay unit

Sarah Hofkamp, Peabody, Kan., Zion Mennonite Church (Elbing, Kan.)

Samuel Kauffman, Mountain Lake, Minn., Bethel Mennonite Church (Mountain Lake)

South Africa unit

Abigail Cable, Johnstown, Pa., Kaufman Mennonite Church (Davidsville, Pa.)

Anya Kreider, Akron, Pa., Pilgrims Mennonite Church (Akron)

Kristin Petersheim, Arthur, Ill., Arthur Mennonite Church

Nathaniel Steiner, Massillon, Ohio

Service Adventure

Albany, Ore., unit

Tykan Daly, Anchorage, Alaska, Prince of Peace Mennonite Church (Anchorage)

James Miller, Sarasota, Fla., The Covenant Mennonite Fellowship (Sarasota)

Nadine Wall, Overath, Germany, Evangelical Free Church Overath

Colorado Springs, Colo., unit

Easton Camp, Hubbard, Ore., Calvary Mennonite Church (Aurora, Ore.)

Anja Franz, Sinsheim, Germany, FeG Hoffenheim

Charissa Graham, Circleville, Ohio, Willow Springs Mennonite Church (Tiskilwa, Ill.)

Johnstown, Pa., unit

Derek Christophel, Goshen, Ind., Silverwood Mennonite Church (Goshen)

Janean Pusey, Harrisonburg, Va., Park View Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg)

Colin Reimer, Bossevain, Manitoba, Whitewater Mennonite Church (Bossevain)

Nicole Tyart, Seevetal, Germany, Mennonite Church Hamburg - Altona (Hamburg, Germany)

Philippi, W.Va., unit

Amos and Hallie Cable, Arlington, Kan., Calvary Chapel (Pretty Prairie, Kan.), Service Adventure leaders

Ines Binfet, Lichtenau, Germany, *Freie Christengemeinde Lichtenau* (Lichtenau)

Josiah Dahl, Archbold, Ohio, Pine Grove

Mennonite Church (Stryker, Ohio) and Lockport Mennonite Church (Stryker)

Nathan Peterson, Iowa City, Iowa, First Mennonite Church of Iowa City

Raleigh, N.C., unit

Christina Hershey, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Slate Hill Mennonite Church (Camp Hill, Pa.)

Annika Nachtigall, Paderborn, Germany, *Christengemeinde Stadtheide* (Paderborn-Dahl, Germany)

Emma Nafziger, Pottstown, Pa., Vincent Mennonite Church (Spring City, Pa.)

Lee-Ann Pradels, Strasbourg, France, *Paroisse Protestante St. Matthieu* (Strasbourg)

SOOP

James Bachman, Lowpoint, Ill., Rome Baptist Church (Chillicothe, Ill.), served one month in Divide, Colo.

Mark and Tammy Deitrick, Jersey Shore, Pa., Mountain View Fellowship (Trout Run, Pa.), served four months in Bloomfield, N.M.

Gerlof and Roelie Homan, Normal, Ill., Mennonite Church of Normal, served one and a half months in Elkhart, Ind.

Anne and Bruce Hummel, Millersburg, Ohio, Berlin (Ohio) Mennonite Church, served one week in San Antonio.

Myrna and Robert Johnson, Lakewood, Colo., served two months in Washington, D.C.

Marilyn and Stanley Kamp, Millersburg, Ohio, Orrville (Ohio) Mennonite Church, served four months in Ely, Minn.

Elizabeth and Ronald Martin, Wooster, Ohio, Wooster Mennonite Church, served one week in San Antonio.

David and Joyce McCreary, Emery, S.D., Eighth Street Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), served three weeks in Brooksville, Fla.

Jana and Mike Oesch, Caldwell, Idaho, Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church (Caldwell), served two weeks in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Gregory Oman, Cordova, Tenn., Second Baptist Church (Memphis, Tenn.), served more than two months in Westbrookeville, N.Y.

Edward and Karen Purkey, Deming, N.M., Federal Way United Methodist Church (Auburn, Wash.), served more than three months in Plymouth, Vt.

Alice and Willard Roth, Elkhart, Ind., Eighth Street Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), served one week in Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

Enid and Glenn Slabough, Goshen, Ind., Walnut Hill Mennonite Church (Goshen), served one week in Oliver, British Columbia.

Linda and Troy Teater, Morton, Ill., First Mennonite Church of Morton, served one week in Kykotsmovi, Ariz.

Delmar and Linda Yoder, Morgantown, W.Va., Morgantown Church of the Brethren, served one week in Washington, D.C.

Youth Venture

Santa Cruz, Bolivia, unit

Jeff and Kelsey Hochstetler, Goshen, Ind., East Goshen

Mennonite Church (Goshen), team leaders

Jonathan Burkholder, Warden, Wash., Warden Mennonite Church and Hesston (Kan.) Mennonite Church

Leah Mueller, Halstead, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Halstead) and Hesston (Kan.) Mennonite Church

Genevieve Potelle, Rago, Kan., Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church (Harper, Kan.)

Alyssa Rychener, Hesston, Kan., Hesston Mennonite Church

Kendra Smith, Slatington, Pa., Upper Milford Mennonite Church (Old Zionsville, Pa.)

Jaime Tschetter, Freeman, S.D., Hutterthal Mennonite Church (Freeman)

France unit

Rebecca and Todd Helmuth, New Paris, Ind., North Goshen (Ind.) Mennonite Church, team leaders

Jordan Helmuth, New Paris, Ind., North Goshen (Ind.) Mennonite Church

Hanna Hochstetler, Goshen, Ind., Silverwood Mennonite Church (Goshen)

Katja Norton, Goshen, Ind., Goshen City Church of the Brethren

Kyle Stocksdales, Richmond, Ind., Shalom Mennonite Church (Indianapolis)

Emily Stoltzfus, Goshen, Ind., College Mennonite Church (Goshen)

Clara Wiczorek, Goshen, Ind., St. John's Catholic Church (Goshen)

Jeffrey Yoder, Elkhart, Ind., Olive Mennonite Church (Elkhart)

Continued on page 16

Paraguay unit

Ben and Joy Metcalf, Phoenix, Sunnyslope Mennonite Church (Phoenix), team leaders

Sarah Hostetler, Pleasant Dale, Neb., Milford (Neb.) Mennonite Church

Kira Ramirez, Milford, Neb., Milford Mennonite Church

Britton Troyer, Milford, Neb., Milford Mennonite Church

Bryli Troyer, Milford, Neb., Milford Mennonite Church

South Africa unit

Adam and Karen Graber Roth, Goshen, Ind., Assembly Mennonite Church (Goshen), team leaders

Drew Frey, Goshen, Ind., Pleasant View Mennonite Church (Goshen)

Taylor Mirarchi, Quakertown, Pa., Plains Mennonite Church (Hatfield, Pa.)

Nola Prough, Goshen, Ind., Pleasant View Mennonite Church (Goshen)

Greta Slabach, Middlebury, Ind., Pleasant View Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.)

Anchorage, Alaska, unit

Elizabeth Martin, Wakarusa, Ind., Olive Mennonite Church (Elkhart, Ind.), team leader

Casie Allebach, Harleysville, Pa., Towamencin Mennonite Church (Kulpsville, Pa.)

Marlene Allebach, Harleysville, Pa., Towamencin Mennonite Church (Kulpsville, Pa.)

Georgia Ernst, Telford, Pa.

Hailey Hagen, Telford, Pa., Towamencin Mennonite Church (Kulpsville, Pa.)

Whitney Longacre, Quakertown, Pa., Finland Mennonite Church (Pennsburg, Pa.)

Grace Whiteford, Goshen, Ind., Olive Mennonite Church (Elkhart, Ind.)

Brownsville, Texas, unit

Randy Christopher, San Gabriel, Calif., Pasadena (Calif.) Mennonite Church, team leader

Ethan Christopher, San Gabriel, Calif., Pasadena (Calif.) Mennonite Church

Casey Gibson, Eagle Rock, Calif.

John Jones, Altadena, Calif.

Jacob Lightford, Pasadena, Calif., Pasadena Mennonite Church

Joshua Lightford, Pasadena, Calif., Pasadena Mennonite Church

Fort Myers, Fla., unit

Kassidy Love, Goshen, Ind., Life Spring Community Church (Goshen), team leader

Aaron Dunmore, Claysburg, Pa., Martinsburg (Pa.) Mennonite Church

Ashlynn Good, Hesston, Kan., Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church (Inman, Kan.)

Kristin Spalding, Lancaster, Pa.

Los Angeles unit

Mayeken Kehr, Kalona, Iowa, First Mennonite Church (Iowa City, Iowa), team leader

Jordan Coslett, Halstead, Kan., Crossroads Community Church (Halstead)

Elizabeth Curtis, Colmar, Pa., Line Lexington (Pa.) Mennonite Church

Taylor Lehman, Hooversville, Pa., Kaufman Mennonite Church (Davidsville, Pa.)

Tess Lommers-Johnson, Baltimore, North Baltimore Mennonite Church

Matthew Rodenberg, Halstead, Kan., Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church (Inman, Kan.)

International

Janis and Sheldon Burkhalter completed a one-month special assignment at Nazareth Village in Israel. They are members of Zion Mennonite Church (Oregon).

Brian and Donna Miller, along with their four children, completed a 10-week special assignment in Erdenet, Mongolia. Brian assisted local ministries in construction projects while Donna led a women's group and volunteered at a center for children with disabilities. They are members of Martins Creek Mennonite Church (Ohio).

Lane Stopher began a three-year term in design and oversight of organizational systems for networking, advocacy, and communication at the War Trauma Center located in Novi Sad, Serbia. He is a member of Central Mennonite Church (Ohio).

Angela Williams began a one-month special assignment teaching at *Meserete Kristos* Church in Ethiopia, and at Lighthouse Outreach, an interdenominational Bible college in Kenya. She is a member of Pasadena (Calif.) Mennonite Church.



Photo provided

In Udayapur, Kamala Devi Damai (bottom left) and her family members are among the Dalits who now have better relationships with their non-Dalit neighbors because of the Toilets for Peace program.

Toilets for peace

Nepal sanitation program restores broken relationships

In rural Nepal, a sanitation project dubbed Toilets for Peace has helped clear the air between an oppressed group and its higher-caste neighbors.

In Udayapur, Kamala Devi Damai and her large family are among the lower-caste Dalits living in rows of small, mud-built houses. Her children and others had been relieving themselves along roadsides or in fields owned by non-Dalits. This angered their high-caste neighbors, many of whom have latrines. But the Damai family and other Dalits saw no alternative, given their lack of land and financial resources. This situation even caused tensions among Dalits as they all endured the foul odors and stepping in much more than

brown mud.

In 2009, the Dalit Sahayog Samaj (Dalit Help Society), with financial and technical support from the United Mission to Nepal (a Mission Network partner), built 30 toilets, or outhouses, on a strip of public land adjoining the fields in the community. About 75 households and 210 individuals have benefited. Care Nepal, a separate organization, had previously provided about 10 toilets, said Bimala Shrestha, who at the time was the program officer for Peace Building with United Mission to Nepal and helped to launch the program.

“Their broken relationship was restored,” Shrestha said. “In our small supports, we could see big changes in their communities.”

Philippine floods

Mission workers assist with relief

When the Philippines was lashed with record monsoon rains in August, mission workers Barbara and Tad Wulliman joined about 20 staff, faculty and students of Faith Academy in securing food for families whose homes were flooded.

Don Mackay, the campus chaplain at Faith Academy, where the Wullimans serve, collected cash donations and drew from the campus compassion fund, and then worked with a local pastor to identify families who were in the most need. The Wullimans and others from the school then took the money to a local grocery store to buy staples—soup, crackers, coffee, sardines, candy bars and rice—and distributed food from the second floor of a church building. Families were also invited to attend a worship service.

“The pastor reported to us that families are now attending the church as a result of this gospel love that was shown to them,” the Wullimans wrote in an e-mail.

According to news reports, flooding from monsoon rains killed at least 90 people and affected 2 million people in this South Pacific country of 92 million.

“We saw a bathtub used as a boat and folks fishing in the streets for their supper, as fish pens were destroyed and millions of edible fish were now up for grabs,” they wrote.



Faith Academy staff and students line up sacks of food and supplies for distribution to communities affected by flooding.

Photo by Tad Wulliman



Photo provided by Oesch family

Sisters Lorren and Sadie Oesch help slice and dice fruits and vegetables during their SOOP assignment.

Many cooks = good SOOP

2012 to see record-breaking numbers of SOOP volunteers

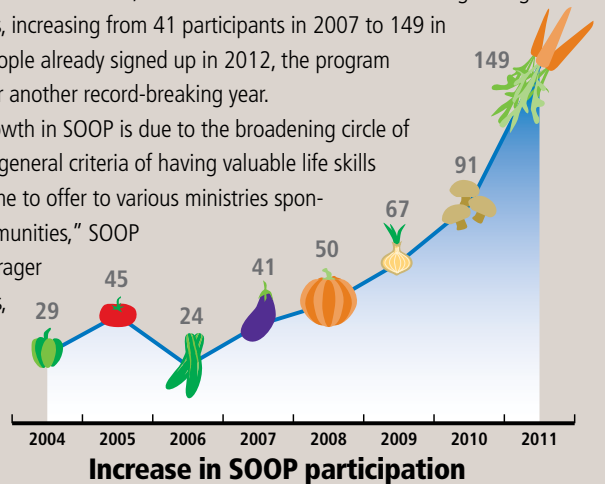
Michael and Jana Oesch wanted to give their four kids a “taste of service.” So they signed up for SOOP.

The Caldwell, Idaho, family served for two weeks at the Fraser Valley Gleaners warehouse in Abbotsford, British Columbia, in July, slicing and dicing fruits and vegetables to be dried, mixed and distributed to people in developing countries.

Jana, 43, explained that she and Michael, 41, were looking for a short-term service assignment in Canada that would also include their children, whose ages range from 9 to 16. With flexible assignments and 77 service locations throughout the United States and Canada to choose from, SOOP seemed to fit the bill.

The Oesches are in good company. SOOP, a Mennonite Mission Network service opportunity for adults and families, is one of Mission Network’s fastest-growing volunteer programs, increasing from 41 participants in 2007 to 149 in 2011. With 140 people already signed up in 2012, the program appears to be in for another record-breaking year.

“Part of the growth in SOOP is due to the broadening circle of people who fit the general criteria of having valuable life skills and windows of time to offer to various ministries sponsored by faith communities,” SOOP director Arloa Bontrager said. “Young adults, empty-nest adults, and families are among the expanding circle.”



Remember who you are

Urban congregations identify key practices for urban congregations

Leaders from urban Mennonite congregations have met three times since 2010 in an effort to tease out what it is that makes churches successful. They have identified 10 important attributes.

Successful urban churches:

- Know their identity.
- Have a vision.
- Have a missional spirituality.
- Focus on discipleship (Christian formation for new believers), and understand the relationship between evangelism and social connections.
- Develop and relate to a diverse Christian community.
- Understand holistic witness in their respective context.
- Have sound stewardship practices and knowledge (financial, practical, church management).
- Have a plan for leadership development.
- Work at undoing racism.
- Develop strong partnerships.

Mennonite Church USA leaders will hold seminars for urban leaders during the next Mennonite convention in Phoenix in July 2013.

 Follow
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the latest news.



Participants in the March urban ministry consultation in San Antonio. Front, from left: Bishop Leslie Francisco III, pastor at Calvary Community Church in Hampton, Va.; Nicole Francisco, co-pastor at Calvary Community Church and a member of the listening committee; Lorie Hershey, pastor of West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship; Esther Vazquez, pastor of House of Healing

Mennonite Church in Dallas; Heidi Aspinwall, associate executive director of DOOR; Cyneatha Millsaps, pastor of Community Mennonite Church in Markham, Ill.; James R. Krabill, Mennonite Mission Network senior executive for Global Ministries; Sunoko Lin, pastor of Maranatha Fellowship in Van Nuys, Calif. Back, from left: Esdras Ferreras, pastor of *Sonido de Alabanza* in Cicero, Ill.; Glen

Guyton, director of Finance and Convention Planning for Mennonite Church USA; Marty Troyer, pastor of Houston Mennonite Church; Matthew Krabill, a member of the listening committee from Los Angeles; Sally Schreiner Youngquist, from Reba Place Fellowship in Evanston, Ill.; Leonard Dow, pastor at Oxford Circle Mennonite Church in Philadelphia.

Photo provided

People before projects

Relationships are central to service

By Ariel Ropp



Over the years, I have participated in a range of service projects: teaching English as a second language, weeding community gardens, playing word games with seniors, you name it. But of all those experiences, the thing I remember most is not the work itself—it's the people.

Last year, for instance, I spent five weeks teaching English to seminary students in the small lakeside village of Nyabange, Tanzania. My memories of our grammar lessons are fuzzy. I couldn't even tell you the name of the English textbook we used. But one thing is certain: I will never forget the friendships I formed with my students and fellow teachers. Whether it was catching up between classes or discussing religion over cups of chai at our daily tea breaks, my time at the seminary was most meaningful when I was making genuine connections with the people who worked and studied there.

Of course, labor itself is still important—it provides the impetus for going on service assignments in the first place. However, when we value work output at the expense of relationships, we undermine the real reason we are called to serve: sharing the love of Christ with all of God's children.

Relationships, I've learned, are at the core of service work—and of life. As a goal-oriented introvert, I often find it easier to focus on a task and tune out everything else, to the point that I can forget who I am even serving. It has taken me years to realize that getting to know people is just as important as the actual work I'm doing with them, and sometimes even more so. In Tanzania, my students and co-workers were grateful I was there because they valued our relationship. In fact, I probably learned as much from them as they did from me—perhaps more.

Making meaningful connections, especially with people we don't know or who we consider "the other," frequently requires more time and energy than we would like. It is risky and, quite frankly, it's scary. In the end, though, the effort is worth it because we learn more about ourselves, humanity and, ultimately, God. We learn there is much more "us" than there is "other."

Ariel Ropp, from Schaumburg, Ill., is a senior at Goshen (Ind.) College studying communication and psychology. She completed an internship in the Mission Network marketing and communication department this summer as part of the Service Inquiry Program.

Encourage one another

Creating covenants with Congolese

By Ervin Stutzman



This issue of *Beyond Ourselves* focuses on significant anniversary celebrations that took place in the Congo this summer, so I will take the opportunity to highlight the relationship between Mennonite Church USA and two Mennonite denominations in the Congo. We have developed a covenant with *Communauté Évangélique Mennonite* (Evangelical Mennonite Church), which celebrated its 50th year of ministry this summer. We are pursuing a similar relationship with *Communauté Mennonite au Congo* (Mennonite Church of Congo), which celebrated its 100th year of ministry.

The relationships between our national denominations demonstrate what we designate as church-to-church relationships. These relationships stand in contrast to relationships such as church-to-mission, or mission-to-mission connections. Each of these can be helpful in its own way.

These two Congolese churches and Mennonite Church USA are three of approximately 100 national denominations in the fellowship of churches known as Mennonite World Conference. As such, we benefit from the opportunity to share fraternal fellowship and encourage one another. To that end, Evangelical Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church USA have agreed to the following covenant:

As brothers and sisters in the global church, we desire to grow in our practice and our understanding as part of the body of Christ, following 1 Corinthians 12 and the example of the early church in Acts 2:41-45 and Acts 4. As a witness to our love of God and our neighbor, we, the Evangelical Mennonite Community and the Mennonite Church USA, commit ourselves to the mutual sharing of gifts through face-to-face encounters in the following areas:

1. Mutual visits by diverse groups in our churches, such as pastors, women, youth, businesspersons, choirs, etc.
2. Response to each other's specific needs according to our gifts and capacities, such as:
 - a. Call, training, and empowerment of pastors.
 - b. Nurture of women in leadership.
 - c. Increased commitment of youth in the church.
 - d. Exchanges of experiences in the training and practice of sharing our faith, church planting, and peace.

The Mennonite Church of Congo hopes to adopt a similar covenant with Mennonite Church USA. This only seems natural since many people within Mennonite Church USA have served in the Congo or hosted people from the Congo in their homes.

It's not easy to traverse the obstacles created by significant differences in language, geography and culture. But by God's grace, we can bridge those barriers, and find deep meanings in the connections between us.

Ervin Stutzman is executive director of Mennonite Church USA.



**Mennonite
Mission
Network**

The mission agency of
Mennonite Church USA

Annual Report
2011–2012



Thank you!

Because of your commitment and generosity, we are able to carry out our mission to share all of Christ with all of creation.



Clockwise from top left: The 2011 Botswana Youth Venture team included Vanessa Silverman, Lacey Brinegar and Leah Amstutz. Micah Yoder works on reading skills with Chase at KidReach after school program during Service Adventure in Philippi, W.Va. Teresa and Charles Geiser, members of Hively Avenue Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Ind., pray during Mennonite Mission Network's Day of Prayer in May. Minnie Kahuki (left) and Ann Nyambura Kahehu (right) attended the Limuru Pastors Association workshop on healing and reconciliation in Limuru, Kenya.



Above: Tomoki and Angela Yamanaka, along with their children (left to right) Taira (age 5), Mirai (age 3), Yoshiki (age 4) and Keira (newborn, not pictured), serve in Asahikawa City, Japan. Right: Scott Kempf served with Mennonite Voluntary Service in Tucson, Ariz., at the Tucson Community Food Bank.



Giving

Mennonite Church USA congregations

Allegheny Mennonite Conference \$32,592 14 of 29 conference congregations gave an average of \$2,328	Gulf States Mennonite Conference \$2,625 4 of 12 conference congregations gave an average of \$626	Ohio Conference of MC USA \$771,393* 53 of 77 conference congregations gave an average of \$14,555
Atlantic Coast Conference* \$206,684* 14 of 35 conference congregations gave an average of \$14,763	Illinois Mennonite Conference \$222,577* 22 of 49 conference congregations gave an average of \$10,117	Pacific Northwest Menn. Conf. \$98,043 19 of 37 conference congregations gave an average of \$5,160
Central District Conference \$216,576* 28 of 46 conference congregations gave an average of \$7,735	Indiana-Michigan Menn. Conf. \$539,233* 53 of 76 conference congregations gave an average of \$10,174	Pacific Southwest Menn. Conf. \$39,712 16 of 44 conference congregations gave an average of \$2,482
Central Plains Menn. Conference \$304,675 35 of 54 conference congregations gave an average of \$8,705	Lancaster Mennonite Conference \$60,024 12 of 174 conference congregations gave an average of \$5,002	South Central Menn. Conference \$167,305 11 of 26 conference congregations gave an average of \$15,210
Eastern District Conference \$92,472* 8 of 16 conference congregations gave an average of \$11,559	Mountain States Menn. Conf. \$68,685 13 of 22 conference congregations gave an average of \$5,283	Southeast Mennonite Conference \$21,995 7 of 29 conference congregations gave an average of \$3,142
Franconia Mennonite Conference \$248,599 28 of 41 conference congregations gave an average of \$8,879	New York Menn. Conference \$19,916 7 of 16 conference congregations gave an average of \$2,845	Virginia Mennonite Conference \$181,684 24 of 71 conference congregations gave an average of \$7,570
Franklin Mennonite Conference \$627 1 of 13 conference congregations gave \$627	North Central Menn. Conference \$7,924 5 of 11 conference congregations gave an average of \$1,585	Western District Conference \$368,410 46 of 70 conference congregations gave an average of \$8,009

*Figure includes contributions from dual conference congregations.

Giving

Businesses // Foundations // Organizations // Estates

Businesses

\$451,886.64

Ambery Corporation	El Monte, Calif.
Custom Mobile Equipment Inc	Baldwin City, Kan.
Dana B. Davidson CPA Co PC	Northbrook, Ill.
Dogwood Hills Tree Farm	Middlebury, Ind.
Dutch Flats Farm	Wooster, Ohio
Excel Industries Inc	Hesston, Kan.
Golden Oven Coffee Shop	Davidsville, Pa.
Harper Industries Inc	Harper, Kan.
Harrison Hauling Inc	Goshen, Ind.
Hauder Services LTD	Boise, Idaho
Hoss's Steak & Sea House	Duncansville, Pa.
HRM Enterprises Inc	Hartville, Ohio
Janzen Trucking	Elbing, Kan.
Keim Lumber Company	Charm, Ohio
Kratz Enterprises Inc	Souderton, Pa.
Lacher & Associates Insurance Agency	Souderton, Pa.
Layman Diener & Borntrager Insurance Agency Inc	Harrisonburg, Va.
LCC International Fund Inc	Harrisonburg, Va.
Miller Poultry	Orland, Ind.
Pettisville Grain Co	Pettisville, Ohio
Riegsecker Cabinet Co	Shipshewana, Ind.
Roth & Troyer Construction Inc	Milford, Neb.
T S L Industries Operations LP	Kola, MB
Trace Worldwide Corporation	Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.
Veada Industries Inc	New Paris, Ind.
Willowdale Apartments Ltd	Fredericton, NB
Ag-Land FS Inc	Green Valley, Ill.

Foundations

\$150,372.67

EC Fund (West Clinton)	Archbold, Ohio
Hospira Employee Giving Foundation	Princeton, N.J.
Mennonite Foundation of Canada	Winnipeg, MB
Schowalter Foundation Inc	Newton, Kan.

Other organizations

\$183,346.48

Mennonite Church Canada	Winnipeg, MB
Andover Community Church	Andover, Vt.
Boynton Mennonite Church	Hopedale, Ill.
Butter Valley Community Church	Bally, Pa.
Calvary Evangelical Mennonite Church	Washington, Ill.
Carlisle Evangelical Free Church	Carlisle, Pa.
Charleswood Mennonite Church	Winnipeg, MB
Church of the Nazarene	Seward, Ark.
College Community Church-Mennonite Brethren	Clovis, Calif.
Community Bible Church Inc	Olathe, Kan.
Community House Church	Washington, D.C.

Community United Church of Christ	Morton, Ill.
Cornerstone Church	Garden City, Kan.
Covenant United Methodist Church	Bath, Pa.
Croghan Conservative Mennonite Church	Croghan, N.Y.
Ebenfeld MB Church	Hillsboro, Kan.
Fairview Mennonite Church	Fairview, Mich.
First Evangelical Free Church	Wichita, Kan.
Garden Valley Church	Garden City, Kan.
Germantown Mennonite Church	Philadelphia, Pa.
Gibson City Bible Church	Gibson City, Ill.
Grace Community Church	Great Bend, Kan.
Grace Community Church	Dallas, Ore.
Grace Community Church of God	Auburn, Ind.
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	New Orleans, La.
Grace Indonesian Christian Fellowship	Sierra Madre, Calif.
Iglesia Evangelica Menonita	Aibonito, P.R.
Indian Valley Faith Fellowship	Harleysville, Pa.
Ivanhoe Reformed Church of the Reformed Church of America	Riverdale, Ill.
Liberty Christian Fellowship	Hays, Kan.
Lifegate Fellowship	Elizabethtown, Pa.
Living Branches	Lansdale, Pa.
Maple City Chapel	Goshen, Ind.
Maturing Pilgrims Group	Perkiomenville, Pa.
Messiah Lutheran Church	Madison, Wis.
Mountain Song Foursquare Church	Indian Hills, Colo.
New Testament Fellowship of Pensacola Inc	Pensacola, Fla.
North Oak Community Church	Hays, Kan.
Peoples Community Church	Berea, Ohio
Petitcodiac Mennonite Church	Petitcodiac, NB
Pine Grove Church	Bowmansville, Pa.
Pleasant View Mennonite Church	Millersburg, Ohio
Pleasureville United Methodist Faith Promise	York, Pa.
Protection Mennonite Church	Protection, Kan.
Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Skyline Acres Baptist Church	Fredericton, NB
Tabor United Methodist Church	Woxall, Pa.
The Great Commission	Greenville, S.C.
Victory Chapel Cowboy Church	Mountain City, Tenn.
Washington Japanese Christian Church	Rockville, Md.
Way of Life Community Church	Mobile, Ala.
Winnetka Bible Church	Winnetka, Ill.
Second Reformed Church	Pella, Iowa
Well Wishers Club	Warsaw, Ind.
Youthworks! Incorporated	Minneapolis, Minn.
ACC/VEMZO Partnership Administration	Akron, Pa.
Bethany Mennonite Women	St. Catharines, ON
Bethel College	North Newton, Kan.
Brethren in Christ World Missions	Grantham, Pa.
Canada Helps Organization	Toronto, ON
Central District Mennonite Women	Goshen, Ind.
Central Plains Mennonite Women	Kalona, Iowa

Christliche Dienste

Christopher Dock Mennonite School	Bammental, Germany
Eastern Mennonite Missions	Lansdale, Pa.
Eastern Mennonite University	Salunga, Pa.
First United Church of Christ	Harrisonburg, Va.
Global Gifts	Sugarcreek, Ohio
Landis Homes	Indianapolis, Ind.
Mennonite Mission Network Auxiliary	Lititz, Pa.
Mennonite Women USA	Elkhart, Ind.
Mission Fish	Newton, Kan.
Northwest Ohio Partners In Mission	San Jose, Calif.
Ohio Mennonite Women	Wauseon, Ohio
Virginia Mennonite Missions	N Canton, Ohio
Wolof Witness Support Team	Harrisonburg, Va.
Wood Green Mennonite Church	Fredericton, NB
	London, England

Estates

\$1,201,225.20

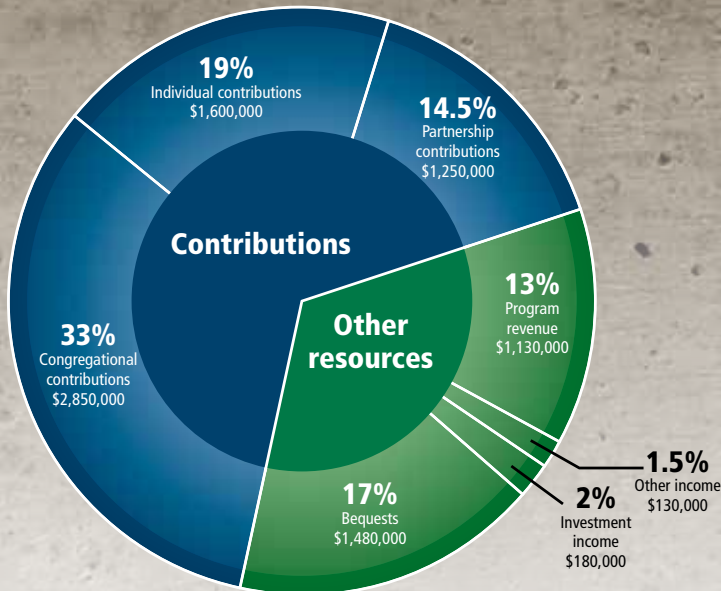
Bartel Estate, Lawrence A.	Souderton, Pa.
Beltram Estate, Frederick E.	Gainesville, Fla.
Bergey Estate, Curtis	Goshen, Ind.
Blosser Estate, Wilma	Goshen, Ind.
Bontrager Estate, John I.	Goshen, Ind.
Brenneman Family Estate, Jacob	Lenexa, Kan.
Brunk Estate, J. Irvin	Phoenix, Ariz.
Claassen Estate, Aaron J.	Goshen, Ind.
Claassen Estate, Virginia M.	Goshen, Ind.
Crossgrove Estate, Cora	Goshen, Ind.
Detweiler Estate, Edna	Goshen, Ind.
Drawbond Estate, Joseph	Goshen, Ind.
Eigsti Estate, Clayton	Goshen, Ind.
Farmwald Estate, Sarah E.	Marysville, Ohio
Gehman Estate, Anna A.	Goshen, Ind.
Gingerich Estate, Jerry	Goshen, Ind.
Halteman Estate, Ellis B.	Goshen, Ind.
Hamsher Estate, Kathryn	Goshen, Ind.
Headings Estate, Dorothea G.	Bluffton, Ohio
Hooley Estate, Esther A.	Middlebury, Ind.
Horst Estate, Laurence M.	Goshen, Ind.
Jantz Estate, Joe	Shoreline, Wash.
Kauffman Estate, Earnest	Goshen, Ind.
Keidel Estate, Levi	Ft. Wayne, Ind.
King Estate, Trennis	Lincoln, Neb.
Kleinsasser Estate, Elizabeth B.	Goshen, Ind.
Kropf Estate, Ivan	Goshen, Ind.
Lapp Estate, Erma	Goshen, Ind.
Lehman Estate, Betty K.	Goshen, Ind.
Liechty Estate, Fredrick	Goshen, Ind.
Liechty Estate, Paul S.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Lind Family Trust, Clifford	Harrisonburg, Va.
Lohrentz Estate, John	Newton, Kan.
Lohrentz Estate, Susie	Newton, Kan.
Miller Estate, Harvey W.	Chesapeake, Va.
Miller Estate, Lloyd R.	Goshen, Ind.

Moon Estate, Ivan	Goshen, Ind.	Rohrer Estate, Milton	Goshen, Ind.	Steider Estate, Kenneth W.	Hesston, Kan.
Moser Estate, Dwight D.	Berne, Ind.	Rush Estate, Wilmer	Goshen, Ind.	Stucky Trust, Regina	Marion, S.D.
Moyer Estate, Mildred	Souderton, Pa.	Ruth Estate, Mary E.	Goshen, Ind.	Troyer Estate, Dana O.	Three Rivers, Mich.
Nafziger Estate, Edith	Goshen, Ind.	Sawatzky Estate, Ruth	North Newton, Kan.	Troyer Estate, Loretta H.	Monona, Wis.
Nafziger Estate, Florence	Sun City, Ariz.	Schrock Estate, Ada P.	Archbold, Ohio	Troyer Estate, M. Arlene	Goshen, Ind.
Neer Estate, Joe E.	Goshen, Ind.	Schrock Estate, Mary E.	Goshen, Ind.	Welty Estate, Russell	McDonough, Ga.
Nice Estate, Mary V.	Morrison, Ill.	Selzer Estate, Lahla U.	Goshen, Ind.	Widmer Estate, J. Glen	Goshen, Ind.
Palmquist Trust	Highland Park, Ill.	Shenk Estate, Kenneth M.	Goshen, Ind.	Yoder Endowment Fund, Ora	Goshen, Ind.
Peters Estate, Henry G.	Mountain Lake, Minn.	Slatter Estate, Grace E.	McMinnville, Ore.	Yoder Estate, Marjorie M.	Goshen, Ind.
Preheim Estate, Otto	Goshen, Ind.	Smith Estate, Mary V.	Filer, Idaho	Zehr Estate, Henry	Goshen, Ind.
Reeb Estate, Arthur H.	Goshen, Ind.	Sommers Estate, Clayton	Goshen, Ind.	Zehr Estate, William M.	Hutchinson, Kan.
Rigney Estate, Carl J.	Goshen, Ind.	Souder Estate, Nelson	Goshen, Ind.	Zook Estate, Alfred	Goshen, Ind.

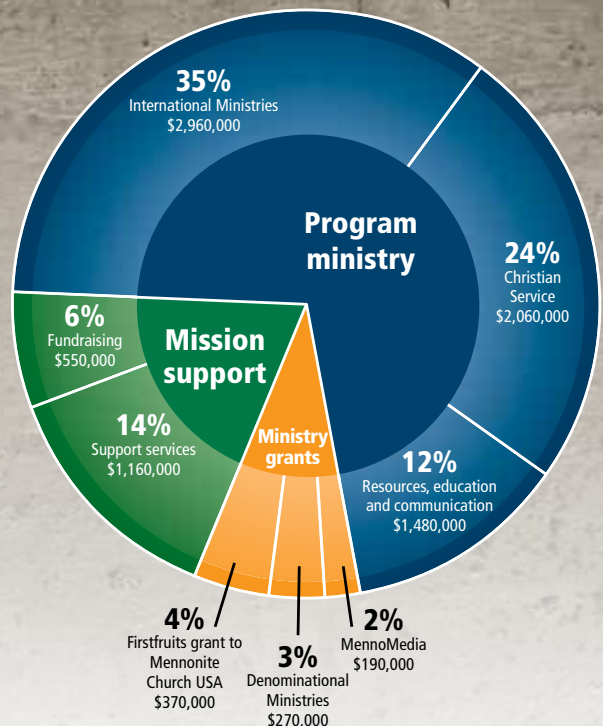
Ministry

How we received and used your gifts

Operating income
\$8,620,000



Operating expenses
\$8,620,000



Additional notes

1. Mennonite Mission Network 2011–2012 fiscal year was Aug. 1, 2011, to July 31, 2012.
2. The total value of bequests received during the 2011–2012 fiscal year was \$1,263,000. These funds are used over a four-year period.

3. Program revenue includes funding from partner organizations, program fees, event fees, sale of publications and resources, and worker earnings.
4. In addition to operating fund programs, \$150,000 was dispersed to short-term projects funded by special contributions.
5. Cash held in reserve as of July 31, 2012, totaled \$3,720,000.

6. Confidentiality policy: Giving information in the Mission Network/Mennonite Church USA database will not be shared. Address information may be shared with other Mennonite Church USA agencies.



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Much like the gospel story of the boy sharing his loaves and fishes, your gifts given through Mission Network can be multiplied and used to share God's love.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son...

—John 3:16

PO Box 370
Elkhart IN
46515-0370

C12-0447/0-2012



Mennonite Mission Network

The mission agency of Mennonite Church USA