



**Mennonite
Mission
Network**

The mission agency of
Mennonite Church USA

**Allegheny Conference
of Mennonite Church USA**

May 2012

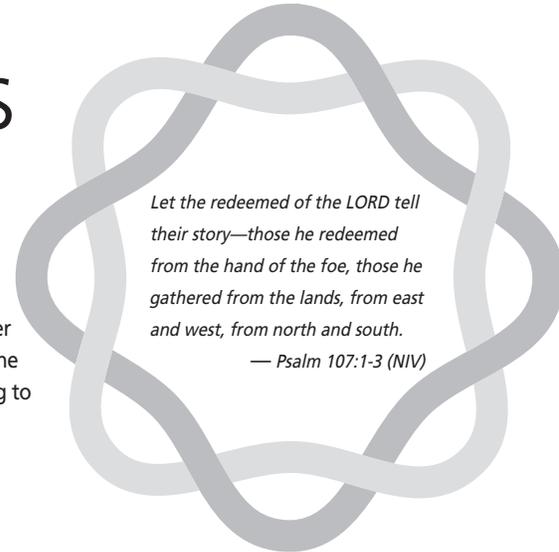
Stories that **shape** us



You responded to the call. You became a partner in God's mission. You gave of yourself, volunteering your time; you gave of your time, praying for God's purposes to be fulfilled; you shared your resources. And we at Mennonite Mission Network celebrate the privilege we had to be your partner in opportunities to be instruments of God's healing and hope in the world. We are honored to join with Allegheny Mennonite Conference in responding to God's call and telling the story of the hope we share through Jesus Christ.

Stanley W. Green

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Executive Director
Mennonite Mission Network



Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

— Psalm 107:1-3 (NIV)

Allegheny Conference in mission

Mennonite Mission Network celebrates the ways that we and Allegheny Conference worked together to share the good news of Christ this past year. Thank you for your faithful participation in mission.

Allegheny Conference and Mission Network working together

Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Church USA joined Allegheny Conference for two listening sessions in the past year, one with the Western Region pastors' group and one with the Eastern Region group. These listening sessions provide a way for national church agencies to hear and understand the needs of local congregations.

Partnerships

Two Allegheny Conference congregations—Martinsburg Mennonite Church and Morgantown Church of the Brethren—offer their prayer and financial support to mission workers Bruce

Yoder and Nancy Frey and their children in their work in West Africa.

Mennonite Mission Network also joins with Maple Grove Mennonite Church and University Mennonite Church in a partnership with Good News Theological College and Seminary in Ghana, West Africa, and the Mennonite Church in Ghana.

Program participation

Allegheny Conference sent seven volunteers into Mission Network Christian Service programs last year: Serving in the Colorado Springs Service Adventure unit are Brent and Kirsten Estep of Kaufman Mennonite Church; with Service Adventure in Johnstown is Matthew and Melanie Alwine of Thomas Mennonite; with MVS Tucson is Emma Stahl-Wert of Pittsburgh Mennonite Church; and Del and Linda Yoder of Morgantown Church of the Brethren served with SOOP in Washington, D.C.

In addition, Allegheny Conference hosted 25 volunteers. The MVS Washington, D.C., unit enjoyed the services of six volunteers from Illinois, Kansas, Virginia and Washington. Service Adventure Johnstown

hosted seven service workers from Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Germany; while the Philippi Service Adventure unit hosted eight from Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Ohio and Oregon. The SOOP International Guest House site was pleased to have Elaine and Larry Short from North Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon, Ohio, along with Allegheny Conference's own Del and Linda Yoder of Morgantown. Allegheny Conference also hosts a second SOOP site: Laurelville Mennonite Church Center.

Mission Network stories from around the world

Mission Network shares the story of Jesus through teaching, training leaders, and providing resources for congregations. Here's a glimpse into some of the ways that Mission Network and our friends, associates and partners have been telling the good news:

In the past year, more than **200 Mennonite Church USA congregations** engaged in partnerships with **50 individuals, couples and families** serving in international locations.

Mission Network **Christian Service program applications remain high** as young people continue to have interest in Mennonite Voluntary Service, Radical Journey, Service Adventure, Youth Venture, and DOOR. SOOP, a service program for adults and families, continues to grow by leaps and bounds.

Long-term Mission Network worker in Spain, **Dennis Byler**, released the third book in his trilogy on understanding the Bible. The book, written in Spanish, serves as a resource for Anabaptists (and others) in Spain and beyond.

In July 2011, **Kuaying Teng**, the denominational minister of Asian Ministries for Mennonite Church USA, met with Laotian Ambassador Seng Soukhathivong at the ambassador's home at the embassy in Washington, D.C. After several meetings over the years with Laotian top officials, this meeting was a vital step in securing a diplomatic visa, as well as crucial government support, for Teng's ministry of reconciliation among the Laotian people.

Mission Network volunteers **Erica Hartman and Kelsey Hartman** spent

time in Ecuador teaching peace education to children. Sponsored by Quito (Ecuador) Mennonite Church, the monthly workshops attract nearly 50 children ages 3 through 11, and feature songs, games, theater, crafts, and discussions to teach the children how to be peacemakers.

Mission Network associates **Ray Epp and Akiko Aratani**, directors of Menno Village in Japan, offered help to those affected by the March 2011 earthquake and resulting nuclear threat. The husband-and-wife team made Menno Village, a Christian community involved in agriculture and education, available as a temporary home for evacuees.

In the face of potential civil war in Ivory Coast, **Martine Audéoud and her husband, Gary Wittig**, Mission Network associates, model a different way of being. Audéoud leads a post-traumatic healing and reconciliation training project, where church leaders learn systematic ways to counsel those who have been ravaged by war, to forgive in order to heal communities and help the nation move toward unity.

Together, in these and other ways, Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Church USA—along with you—have partnered together this year. Visit our website, **www.MennoniteMission.net**, to learn more.

A blessing

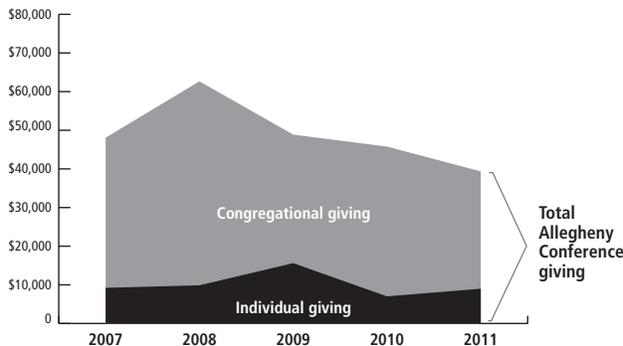
Allegheny Conference,

It is my prayer that God bless you this coming year as you continue to be the face and hands of God in your communities, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. And may you experience God's deep peace and joy as we collaborate together in God's mission around the world.



Sheila S. Yoder

Sheila S. Yoder
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