

Mennonite Disaster Service
Annual Celebration

February 10-11, 2023
Lancaster, Pennsylvania



THE JOY OF SERVING

At the work of your hands, I sing for joy. Psalm 92:4

Welcome to the 2023 MDS Annual Celebration!

We hope you enjoy your time together this weekend reconnecting and celebrating the work of MDS across the US and Canada. Thank you to all our volunteers and donors who support the MDS mission.

—Annual Celebration Committee

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Photos: MDS photo collections

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

8:30	Devotions	Jon Carlson
8:45	Workshop 1: Youth Service	Tim Schrag
10:00	Break	
10:30	Workshop 2: Unit Communication	Michele WhiteEagle
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Region Meetings Region 1.....Rock Room Region 2.....Candle Room Region 3Fox Room Region 4.....Apple Room	
2:30	Workshop 3: Unit Equipping	Becky Gochnauer Gabby Bomberger
3:45	Break	
4:00	Listener Feedback	

FRIDAY EVENING CELEBRATION

5:00	Dinner	
7:00	Welcome	Brian Ebersole/Kevin King
	"Songs of Joy"	Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster
	"The Joy of Serving"	Kevin King
	"Sermon on the Mount: The Musical"	Piercing Word Ministries
8:30	2022 Year-In-Review	Kevin King
	"Disasters and Volunteers Everywhere"	
8:45	Fellowship and Ice Cream	

SATURDAY PROGRAM

9:00	Welcome	Brian Ebersole
	Singing	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church musicians
	"Choosing Joy"	Marcus T. Coleman, Jr.
	Singing	
	Stories of Joy from Region 1	Frank Hoover/Connie James & Steven Caucci
	Stories of Joy from Region 2	Ronn Frantz/Braylon Harris
	Singing	
	Stories of Joy from Region 3	Glenn Geissinger Brenda Fox Laura Dube Ted Hostetler Cleo Koop
	Stories of Joy from Region 4	Michele WhiteEagle/ Bruce Forrest
10:40	Break	
11:10	Singing	
	Stories of Joy from MDS Canada	Ross Penner/Denis Sabourin
	MDS Board Report	Wayne Yoder
	2024 Annual Celebration Invitation	Michele WhiteEagle
11:50	Closing Remarks	Kevin King
12:00	Lunch	
2:00	Tour of MDS Office and Warehouse (583 Airport Road, Lititz)	

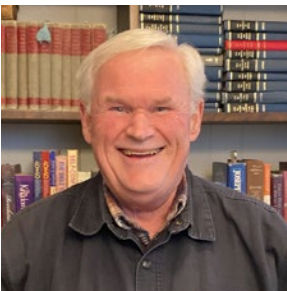
SPECIAL GUESTS



Marcus T. Coleman, Jr. serves as the Director of the Department of Homeland Security Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (DHS Partnerships Center), one of several centers of the White House Office of Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships. Marcus has served at the intersection of building public and private partnerships with faith-based and non-profit organizations for more than 15 years.



Braylon Harris has recently committed to sharing his skills and lending his knowledge to other businesses and organizations through a consulting partnership called Solutionist of SWLA. His latest projects include leading SWLA Responds Disaster Relief Coalition and the development of The Stormwise Foundation for Disaster Relief. Braylon also serves as the senior pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church of Lake Charles, Louisiana.



Bruce Forrest is a teacher, registered nurse, contractor, and pastor. Bruce feels called to be the hands and feet of Christ, spreading the Good News in word and deed. Having participated in local and international Kingdom work, Bruce is thankful to God for the mission of MDS.

WORKSHOPS

YOUTH SERVICE

Facilitator: Tim Schrag

Hear stories of how youth and young adults are engaging with MDS. Brainstorm with your MDS teammates about creating ways to bring youth and young adults into your unit's service opportunities.

UNIT COMMUNICATION

Facilitator: Michele WhiteEagle

Learn effective communication strategies from MDS volunteers that will improve your unit's relationship with Church Contact Persons (CCPs) and board members which can lead to greater involvement with MDS.

UNIT EQUIPPING

Facilitators: Becky Gochnauer/Gabby Bomberger

Come and hear an introduction to the newly created series of resources geared to providing unit and region leaders tools and skills to strengthen their ability to fulfill the MDS mission.

ABOUT MDS

MDS grows out of an Anabaptist/Mennonite perspective of peace, justice, and service. We believe in following Christ daily in life through service to others. At MDS, our goal is to restore hope for survivors of disasters. We do this by recruiting, organizing, and empowering volunteers to repair and rebuild homes of those impacted by disasters in the US and Canada. MDS values faith in action and caring relationships. We believe in and practice a life of service modeled after the life and teachings of Jesus. We engage all disaster survivors, volunteers, and partners with mutual respect, humility, and accountability.

MDS volunteers are known for their collaborative spirit, working with volunteers across the US and Canada, with local congregations, other faith-based organizations, local disaster recovery committees, and government and non-governmental organizations.

MDS responds to communities impacted by floods, fires, tornados, and hurricanes. In addition to these major disasters, MDS also assists those who are vulnerable and do not otherwise have the means to recover.

We welcome all who want to make a difference in the lives of those impacted by disasters, through volunteering and giving. No construction experience or skill is required, just a willing heart and hands. Learn more at **mds.org** or stop by the MDS booth this weekend to learn more!

FIELD REPORTS

The MDS network is spread throughout the US and Canada and is led by Region Board Chairs. MDS is composed of four regions in the US from West to East Coast. MDS responses across Canada are led by volunteers in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Atlantic Canada.



FIELD REPORTS: REGION 1 (EAST COAST)

In early spring of 2022, volunteers from Region 1 began work in Crisfield, MD. This brought rays of hope to four homeowners who had lost their homes in a flood on October 28, 2022. The cause of the flood was a combination of high tides, a full moon, and windy conditions. The first house has been dedicated and the other three are near completion. Work on one or two other houses will begin in January 2023.

On August 31, 2021, flash flooding from over six inches of rain occurred in Hurley, VA. Last fall volunteers began work on three new houses and an addition to another house. The MDS base camp there is an entirely mobile unit bringing some challenges along the way.

The WV Bridge Project continues since 2015 completing over 100 private bridges. In the late fall of 2022, an 18-foot bridge that was steep and challenging was completed in Hanover, WV.





FIELD REPORTS: **REGION 2 (MIDWEST)**

For the past two years, Region 2 has had the largest number of disaster responses in the US. God has provided through our One MDS Network. With local community partners, unit officers, regional and national staff, Project Coordinators, Amish partners, weekly and long-term volunteers, and the members of our Region Board, we have been able to respond at ten project locations in six units. The work of Project Coordinators Tom Smucker, Phil Helmuth, Bruce Kindy, and Clete Yoder has been essential for this to happen, recruited by Darin Bontrager.

Two part-time regional staff persons joined this year: Lorena Richtarsic and Terry Zehr. We welcome new unit officers: Bruce Kindy and Don Jaquet in Eastern Ohio/NW Pennsylvania as well as Eugene Kauffman, Joetta Schlabach, Stan Kauffman, Ken Hollinger, and Duane Maust in Michigan, Chris Erb in Indiana. We also welcome Niels Lichti and Mitch Kingsley to our Board of Delegates and Fred Hershey to the Board of Directors.

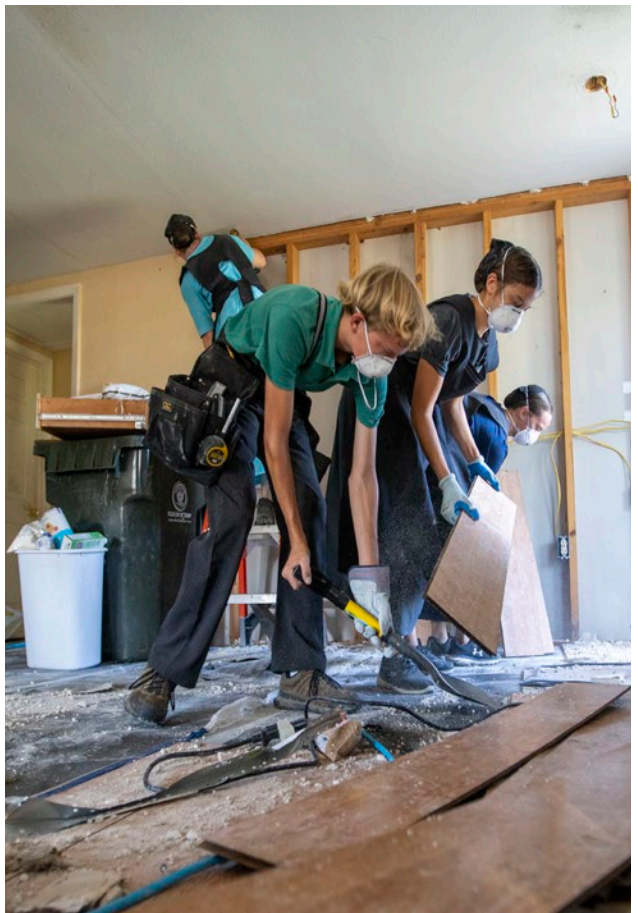
The last week of December in Region 2 was a big week in Holmes Counties. In Ohio, we dedicated a new MDS warehouse and received a new passenger van. In Mississippi, Indiana Amish began roofing repairs.





FIELD REPORTS: REGION 3 (PLAINS STATES)

In 2022 Region 3 has experienced the joy of volunteers overcoming obstacles and doing meaningful work. The delayed permits were finally received for La Posada to get earth moved and foundations built in time for January volunteers from Disaster Aid Ohio. The Colorado Unit found volunteers with the right skills to repair trailers that had 100+ mph wind damage. A youth project in Colorado was a resounding success. The Kansas cabinet shop is up and running, resulting in increased volunteer opportunities. A major project in Red Lake, Minnesota is taking shape.





FIELD REPORTS: REGION 4 (WEST COAST)

2022 brought lots of NEW to Region 4; eleven new homes in Paradise, California, Western Oregon, and Okanogan, Washington; two new projects with Early Response after Typhoon Merbok in Alaska, and Western Washington after winter flooding. We celebrate new beginnings with the September groundbreaking for the Kingsburg, California warehouse, two new first-time Unit Leaders, a new first-time Project Director, RV Crew members, and three new first-time Crew Leaders serving on projects. New fundraising achievements happened as the West Coast Mennonite Men's Chorus raised \$32,000 for California wildfires over four concerts in April. A new collaboration happened in a Bakersfield Hispanic church after city sewer backup damage. All this new happened by the continued hard work and commitment of volunteers and leaders throughout Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and those volunteers from around the US and Canada that came to help us in Region 4, thank you!





FIELD REPORTS: MDS CANADA

Coast to coast, it was a record-breaking year for MDS Canada. An Atmospheric River (major rain event) over British Columbia in November of 2021 flooded several communities in BC. MDS Canada was active in the greater Abbotsford area as well as the town of Princeton. In September 2022 Hurricane Fiona hit Atlantic Canada with a record force. We responded in Sydney and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, and may return there in spring. In between these two disasters, we built four new homes in Monte Lake BC (2021 Bear Lake Fire). All of this added up to record volunteer opportunities in Canada in this last year.





OFFICERS

Region 1 (East Coast)

Phil Troyer, Region 1 Board Chair
Region1@mds.org

Region 2 (Midwest)

Ronn Frantz, Region 2 Board Chair
Region2@mds.org

Region 3 (Plains States)

Tim Schrag, Region 3 Board Chair
Region3@mds.org

Region 4 (West Coast)

Michele WhiteEagle, Region 4 Board Chair
Region4@mds.org

MDS Canada

Henry Warkentin, MDS Canada Board Chair
canadachair@mds.org

MDS BOARD

*Delegates and Directors

**Officers - Board of Directors

Region 1

**Frank Hoover, Groffdale Conference,
(Treasurer)

**Aaron Groff, Lancaster Mennonite
Conference (Vice Chair)

*Phil Troyer, Region 1 Board Chair

*Mannie Flaud, Old Order Amish

Paul Yoder, Beachy Amish

Wilmer Hoover, Weaverland Conference

Ivan Shirk, Member-at-Large

Karen Shelly Smucker, Member-at-Large

Becca Cordes, MC USA

Region 2

**Wayne Yoder, Conservative Conference
(Chair)

*Ronn Frantz, Region 2 Board Chair

*Fred Hershey, Member-at-Large

Mitch Kingsley, Member-at-Large

Scott Soden, Brethren Church

Niels Lichti, Member-at-Large

Dan Yoder, Member-at-Large

Region 3

*Tim Schrag, Region 3 Board Chair

Robert Brenneman, New Order Amish

Elizabeth Troyer-Miller, Member-at-Large

Phillip Bridgewater, Member-at-Large

Lana Tieszen, Member-at-Large

David Zarate, US Mennonite Brethren

Region 4

*Michele WhiteEagle, Region 4 Board Chair

*Sally Unrau, Member-at-Large

Margarita Bloodworth, Member-at-Large

Don Rheinheimer, Member-at-Large

Sue Ewert, Member-at-Large

MDS Canada

**Henry Warkentin, MDS Canada Chair
(Secretary)

*Gerald Dyck, MDS Canada representative

Harold Friesen, MDS Canada representative

Murray Bunnett, MDS Canada

representative

David Brubacher, MDS Canada

representative





A year of restoring hope with love

"Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14



ANNUAL REPORT 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

MDS brought hope...

- Building new homes.*
- Constructing driveway bridges.*
- Mucking out.*
- Restoring forests.*
- Cleaning up debris.*
- Repairing homes.*

On local or national levels, with a few volunteers or hundreds of them, MDS brought a priceless element of hope into the lives of disaster survivors across Canada and the United States.

Thanks to donors and volunteers, MDS, from August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022...

MDS also built trust with disaster survivors and partner organization. As Terri Rubiolo said when she received a new MDS-built home in Concow, California: "We put it in God's hands." Now she and her husband, John, operate a community food assistance program that provides 1,000 meals a week. The hope is spreading!

As Mark Cox, Hope Crisis Response Network logistics coordinator said when he combined efforts with MDS volunteers: "This collaboration is getting people home—that's what it's all about."

We pause to look at a year's worth of statistics—and we give thanks. But we are also still moving, growing and striving for even more creativity, collaboration and community in our responses. Years from now, may disaster survivors be able to count on the values of hope, love, and compassion that define MDS.

MDS volunteers served
38,652 days helping
718 households
recover from disasters.



6,495 volunteers

from across Canada and the U.S. gave their time, skills and compassion

to build

57 new homes,

complete

302 repairs,

finish

281 cleanups,

and build

3 new bridges

for households who experienced a disaster.

This volunteer labor is a value* of

**\$9.39 million USD/
\$12.96 million CDN**

**Statistics from Aug. 1, 2021
through July 31, 2022**
(our 2021 fiscal year)

* Based on a volunteer rate of
\$29.95 USD/hour
— www.independentsector.org

Respond. Rebuild. Restore.

71 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

HYMN TO JOY 87. 87D

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love.
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er bless'd,
 4 Mor - tals, join the might - y chor - us which the morn - ing stars be - gan.

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!
 Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, lead - ing us with mer - cy's hand.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine.
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
 Joy - ful mu - sic lifts us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life!

301 Joys are flowing like a river

87, 87 with refrain

1 Joys are flow - ing like a riv - er since the
 2 Bring - ing life and health and glad - ness all a -
 3 Like the rain that falls from heav - en, like the
 4 See, a fruit - ful field is grow - ing, bless - ed
 5 What a won - der - ful sal - va - tion, where we

1 Com - fort - er has come, who a - bides with us for -
 2 round, this heav'n - ly Guest ban - ished un - be - lief and
 3 sun - light from the sky, so the Ho - ly Ghost is
 4 fruit of right - eous - ness, and the streams of life are
 5 al - ways see God's face! What a per - fect hab - i -

1 ev - er, makes the trust - ing heart a home.
 2 sad - ness, changed our wea - ri - ness to rest.
 3 giv - en, com - ing on us from on high.
 4 flow - ing in the lone - ly wil - der - ness.
 5 ta - tion, what a qui - et rest - ing place!

Refrain
 Bless - ed qui - et - ness, ho - ly qui - et - ness - what as -

Text: Manie P. Ferguson, alt.

Music: W. S. Marshall; adapted by James M. Kirk

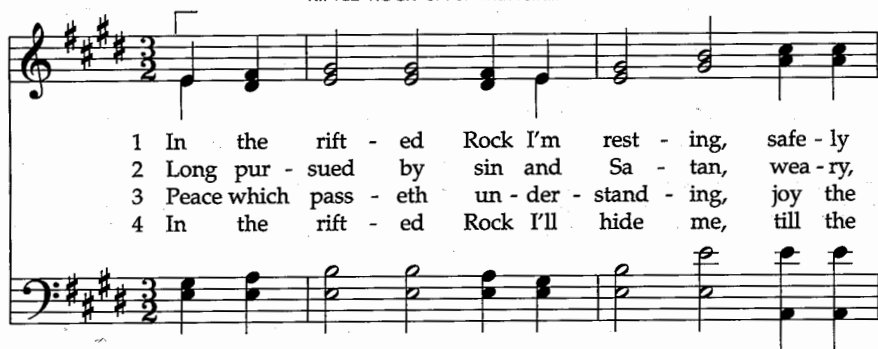
sur - ance in my soul! On the storm - y sea speak - ing

peace to me - how the bil - lows cease to roll!




526 In the rifted Rock I'm resting

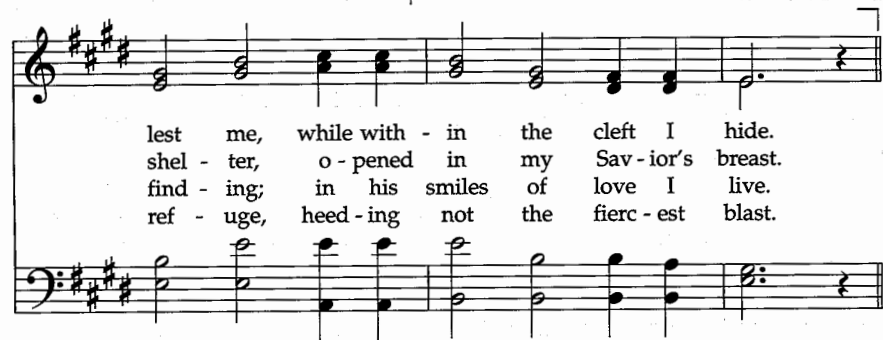
RIFTED ROCK 87. 87 with refrain



1 In the rift - ed Rock I'm rest - ing, safe - ly
 2 Long pur - sued by sin and Sa - tan, wea - ry,
 3 Peace which pass - eth un - der - stand - ing, joy the
 4 In the rift - ed Rock I'll hide me, till the

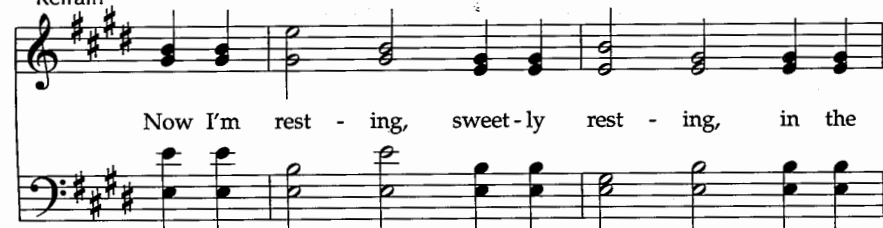


shel - tered, I a - bide. There no foes nor storms mo -
 sad, I longed for rest. Then I found this heav'n - ly
 world can nev - er give, now in Je - sus, I am
 storms of life are past, all se - cure in this bless'd



lest me, while with - in the cleft I hide.
 shel - ter, o - pened in my Sav - ior's breast.
 find - ing; in his smiles of love I live.
 ref - uge, heed - ing not the fierc - est blast.

Refrain



Now I'm rest - ing, sweet - ly rest - ing, in the

Text: Mary Dagworthy James, *The Chautauqua Collection*, 1875
 Music: W. Warren Bentley, *The Chautauqua Collection*, 1875

cleft once made for me. Je - sus, bless - ed Rock of
 a - ges, I will hide my - self in thee.



71 Alleluia, the Great Storm is over

THE GREAT STORM IS OVER* 11 11. 11 11 with refrain

Refrain

G D Em

Al - le - lu - ia, the Great Storm is o - ver, lift

G C D 1 2 Fine

up your wings and fly.

G C G

1 The thun - der and light-ning gave voice to the night, the
 2 Sweet-ness in the air and jus-tice on the wind,
 3 Re - lease for the cap-tives, and end to the wars, new
 4 Hush lit - tle ba - by, let go of your fear, the

C D G C G

lit - tle lame child cried a - loud in her fright.
 laugh - ter in the house where the mour-ners had been; the
 streams in the des - ert, new hope for the poor, the
 Lord loves his own and your moth - er is here; the

C G

Hush, lit - tle ba - by, a sto - ry I'll tell of a
 deaf shall have mu - sic, the blind have new eyes, the
 lit - tle lame chil-dren will dance as they sing, and
 child fell a - sleep as the lan - tern did burn, the

C D Em C D D.C.

love that has van-quished the pow - ers of hell.
 stand - ards of death tak - en down by sur - prise.
 play with the bears and the li - ons in spring.
 moth - er sang on till her bride-groom's re - turn.

*Original title

Text: Bob Franke
 Music: Bob Franke

Text and Music copyright © 1982 Telephone Pole Music

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to the Lancaster Unit and Board for organizing the registration table and gift bags. Thank you to Storm Aid for preparing meals and ushering. We are grateful to Steve Campbell and his team for organizing transportation. Special thanks to the Worship Center staff for allowing us to use their facility. Many thanks to MCCL and Piercing Word for their ministry among us. This event was a collaboration between the Lancaster Unit and Lititz staff that began one year ago. Thank you to all who helped!

Annual Celebration Planning Committee

Mannie Flaud, Lancaster Unit
John Bomberger, Lancaster Unit
Brad Fair, MDS Development Manager
Jesse Huxman, Communications Manager
Brian Pipkin, Executive Assistant





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