



Schedule and registration form inside.

Ready... Set... Grow

**MDS ANNUAL
CELEBRATION**

**FRESNO, CALIFORNIA
FEB 23-24, 2024**

mds.org/annual-celebration

Isaiah 61:3-4

FRESNO AREA GUIDED TOUR OPTIONS

Thursday, Feb 22

TOUR #1

MDS Kingsburg Warehouse and Downtown Shops

Come visit the new MDS warehouse followed by a leisurely go-at-your-own pace trip to downtown Kingsburg to visit local shops, eat ice cream and have lunch.

Cost: Free. But bring money for shopping and food. Departs from Butler Church at 9am.



Saturday, Feb 24

TOUR #2

MDS Kingsburg Warehouse, Huebert Citrus Packing, General Grant Sequoia Tree

Grab a pre-made bagged lunch and visit the new MDS Kingsburg warehouse, Huebert Farms – a large citrus packing facility, and head over to see the famous General Grant Tree, the largest giant sequoia in Kings Canyon National Park estimated to be over 1,600 years old measuring 267 feet tall and 29 feet wide.

Cost: \$50 per person. Departs from Butler Church at 11am.

TOUR #3

Blossom Trail

Every spring, orchards outside Fresno burst into bloom. The blossoms are the beginnings of the apricot, nectarine, peach, plum, almond, and citrus crops that will feed California and beyond. But first, they decorate the countryside with a blizzard of petals. This tour will mainly be sitting in a bus observing the blossoms with one stop at Samonian Farms fruit stand and gift shop.

Cost: \$35 per person. Departs from Butler Church at 12pm.

TOUR #4

Leyendekker Dairy Farms, MDS Kingsburg Warehouse

Come and explore a dairy farm that milks 9k cows per day. Along with dairy, they have a stable of Friesian horses imported from Holland. Anyone who has interest in draft horses and wagons will find this tour exciting. The tour will end with a visit to the new MDS warehouse in Kingsburg.

Cost: \$35 per person. Departs from Butler Church at 12pm.

Payment at tour check in. Questions? Contact Mike Hofer 559.859.2349 / mikehofer48@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

Schedule is subject to change. Breakfast is not included.

LOCATIONS AT FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY CAMPUS:

Butler Church – All workshops, celebrations, and Friday lunch

Steinert Campus Center – Friday dinner and Saturday lunch

7-minute walk (0.3 miles) from Butler Church to Steinert Campus Center



Friday Workshops – FEB 23

THEME: Resources Available Across the MDS Network

*Workshops are optional and apply to U.S. regions 1-4
Schedule subject to change.*

8:00am	Doors open at Butler Church
8:30am	Welcome
8:45am	Plenary Session
10:15am	Workshop Session 1 Opt A: Volunteer Roles Within MDS Opt B: Communications Resources
11:15am	Workshop Session 2 Opt A: Volunteer Development: Everyone's Role Opt B: Meet Regional Operations Coordinators
12:00pm	Lunch at Butler Church
1:30pm	Workshop Session 3 Opt A: Strengthen Your Servant Leadership Skills Opt B: MDS Cash Flow
2:30pm	Workshop Session 4 Opt A: Church Contact Person Engagement Opt B: Early Response
3:15pm	Break
3:30pm	Region Meetings

Friday Celebration – FEB 23

4:00pm	Doors open at Fresno Pacific University
5:00pm	Dinner at the University
7:00pm	Welcome at Butler Church Keynote by Pastor Jim Holm Readers Theater Presentation Executive Director, MDS Canada Executive Director, MDS Year-in-Review Video Music: Fresno Pacific University Concert Choir
8:30pm	Ice Cream and Fellowship

Saturday Celebration – FEB 24

8:00am	Doors open at Butler Church
8:30am	Welcome and Celebration Music: Fresno Pacific University's Pacific Brass Special Guest: Aaron Levy, Director of FEMA's Individual & Community Preparedness Div. Region 1-4 Stories and Guest Speakers Binational Board Recognitions 2025 Annual Celebration Invitation Hymn Sing Closing Prayer and Blessings
11:00am	Lunch at the University
12:00pm	Optional Tours

LODGING

The following hotels are available to you at a group rate.
The group rate applies from February 21-25.
(Rates do not include taxes and fees.)

You are responsible to book your hotel room. MDS does not cover the cost. Call the hotel directly to book it and tell them you are with MDS to receive the group rate.

All hotels are within walking distance of Fresno Yosemite Airport and offer shuttle service to/from the terminal.

QUALITY INN / 5113 E McKinley Ave / 559.375.7720
\$85 per night – rate expires February 1, 2024

PICCADILLY INN / 5115 E McKinley Ave / 559.375.7760
\$109 per night – rate expires January 24, 2023

HAMPTON INN / 1515 N Peach Ave / 559.486.1532
\$139 per night – rate expires January 22, 2024
Discount code: Mennonite Disaster Service

FAIRFIELD INN / 1535 N Peach Ave / 559.825.5200
\$139 per night – rate expires January 31, 2024
Discount code: Mennonite Disaster Service

TRANSPORTATION

MDS will provide transport between Butler Church and the hotels listed above. Please indicate on your registration form if you require shuttle transportation from your hotel to Butler Church on Friday and Saturday.

REGISTRATION FORM

Complete this form or register online at mds.org/annual-celebration

We ask that you **register by February 8, 2024** to help us plan for meals and tours. The event and meals are free and open to all. Saturday tours have a cost.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. FILL OUT THIS FORM + TEAR ALONG PERFORATION
2. FOLD IN HALF AND SEAL (mailing address on outside)
3. ADD A STAMP, THEN MAIL

REGISTERED NAME(S)

Registrant 1: First name _____

Last name _____

Registrant 2: First name _____

Last name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State/Prov _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

MEALS

Friday Lunch – Number of people _____

Friday Dinner – Number of people _____

Saturday Lunch – Number of people _____

(Do not mark Sat. if you're taking Tour #2 – a bagged lunch is provided.)

TOURS

Indicate your choice. (Select only one Saturday tour as they run concurrently.) Registering for a tour commits you to paying the cost of the tour (cash or check "payable to MDS") at tour check in. Payments will be accepted by your tour driver when you board the van/bus.

TOUR #1 – THURSDAY – Kingsburg Warehouse and Downtown Shops

Number of participants _____ (no cost)

TOUR #2 – SATURDAY – Kingsburg Warehouse, Huebert Citrus Packing, General Grant Tree

Number of participants _____ x \$50 each = _____
(payable at tour check in)

TOUR #3 – SATURDAY – Blossom Trail

Number of participants _____ x \$35 each = _____
(payable at tour check in)

TOUR #4 – SATURDAY – Leyendekker Dairy Farms, Kingsburg Warehouse

Number of participants _____ x \$35 each = _____
(payable at tour check in)

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Do you require a shuttle from your hotel to Butler Church on Friday and Saturday?

Yes No

If yes, indicate your hotel: _____

Note: Shuttles will only be provided at the hotels listed on this registration form.

WORKSHOPS

Each workshop session has two options. Select one.

SESSION 1 @ 10:15am (select one option)

Option A: Volunteer Roles Within MDS
Number of people _____

Option B: Communications Resources
Number of people _____

SESSION 2 @ 11:15am (select one option)

Option A: Volunteer Development: Everyone's Role
Number of people _____

Option B: Meet Regional Operations Coordinators
Number of people _____

SESSION 3 @ 1:30pm (select one option)

Option A: Strengthen Your Servant Leadership Skills
Number of people _____

Option B: MDS Cash Flow
Number of people _____

SESSION 4 @ 2:30pm (select one option)

Option A: Church Contact Person Engagement
Number of people _____

Option B: Early Response
Number of people _____



If you wish to donate to the cost of the event, make check payable to MDS (write "Annual Celebration" in the memo line) and mail to 583 Airport Rd, Lititz, PA 17543, Attn: Brian Pipkin.



Ready...Set...Grow

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Scan to register online

ADD STAMP
HERE



Mennonite Disaster Service

583 Airport Road
Lititz, PA 17543