



Mennonite Central Committee - Saskatchewan
Report to the Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
March 2005

With the support of the Anabaptist faith community and many others, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) works in Saskatchewan, across Canada and the US, and in 68 countries around the world, connecting with people to *provide relief*, to *promote community development*, and to *pursue peace and justice “in the name of Christ”*.

God has blessed us with abundant resources. In our Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches across North America we have talented people, young and old, with hearts that are open to listen and learn, to give and to share. We have time to give to local projects and to offer in service in communities around the world. We have food and materials and money with which to support the work of sisters and brothers world-wide.

In Saskatchewan this past year we finished the re-development of our MCC Centre in Saskatoon. We are grateful to our Executive Director Bruno Baerg and staff, to our Project Manager Peter Schroeder, and over 150 volunteers who provided thousands of hours of their time to complete the project well under budget. Our goal now is to make the new Centre a welcoming place where we may meet and *listen with our hearts*, share ideas, and energize one another for the work.

We continue in Saskatchewan to build relationships with our Aboriginal neighbours, to welcome refugees and newcomers, and to work with many partners in development and peace and justice.

Around the world we continue to respond in situations of great need due to famine, war, and natural disaster. The recent Asian tsunami prompted our constituency to give generously, beyond anything we have ever experienced before.

Specific highlights of the past year include:

- the redevelopment project came in at approx \$87,500 under budget (this included an elevator, sound system, appliances and a number of other things not in the original budget)
- approx 175 people participated in the blessing and dedication of the new Centre
- more than 1500 people have been involved in MCC Centre activity since it opened
- MCCS programme activity reframed as a ‘ministry of reconciliation’
- Resource Development focussed energy on ‘growing givers hearts’
- celebrated 25th anniversary of refugee sponsorship
- ongoing partnerships with Saskatoon Community Chaplaincy & Person to Person
- Asian tsunami response exceeded \$419,000 in donations - plus 500 relief kits
- initiation of a Youth and Young Adult ministry
- strong connections maintained with Bethany College through Christian Service, Internship options and other involvements
- a strong volunteer base enabled ministries like the Thrift Shops, Ten Thousand Villages, Material Resources and the Relief Sale to work effectively
- many opportunities to engage constituents in the work, ministry and passion of MCC

We are grateful to God for support from the Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and invite your continued support, ideas, questions, and prayers for the work of MCC.

– John W. Elias, MCCS Chairperson

– Bruno W. Baerg, Executive Director