

**Report to Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches  
January 2009**

Someone told me that 'it's a good day when you learn something new'. Since the beginning of September, we've been having many great days! Since taking over the work of Executive Director for Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan (MCCS) from Bruno Baerg, I have seen God at work in some amazing ways. For the past six months I have been rediscovering the numerous ways that MCC and our many partners participate in God's work around the globe.

- On **Appleby Drive** in Saskatoon, children from many nations come together to play, to create, and to hear and sing about God's love at the midweek Kids Club conducted by Dana Barrand and Myriam Ullah. Volunteers from Bethany College, Forest Grove Community Church and other friends of Kids Club enrich this program with their service.
- From Bethany College, students work at various learning and sharing tasks. **Karla Froese** is fulfilling a four month Internship working with Youth and Young Adults. Blanket makers come to the MCC Center for several weeks where they learn to make comforters for shipment overseas.
- Right here in Saskatoon, **Myriam Ullah** conducts Chalols, offering experiential learning experiences for youth. Forest Grove Community Church, Bethany College and West Portal Church have participated in these urban plunge experiences.
- **Stephen Siemens** has taken on the work of Restorative Justice Coordinator. As part of his work, Stephen is working with the Community Justice Ministry Saskatoon and the P2P prison visitation program.

Starting at the beginning of March, **Dave Pauls** will take on the position of **Donor Development Coordinator**. Dave has worked with Bethany College as Director of Advancement and has business experience. Welcome Dave!

**"Living Stones:MCCS Listening and Learning Tour"** began in February. This tour will see Claire and an MCCS board member visit each of the constituency groups, including churches, schools and thrift shops. This will be a time to discover what God is doing in the local and global settings, and to discern how MCCS can cooperate in that work.

**Global Education** continues to enliven the work at MCCS. Regular volunteers come to quilt, to bale quilts, to cut and sew, and to pack kits for shipment overseas. Our Global Education Resource Room contains videos, resource packets and books to help share the news of what God is doing through MCC in response to the needs of world citizens. Staff members are available for speaking engagements and workshop presentations. Please take advantage of the many years of experience and insight that our staff can bring to your churches.

I have highlighted some of the changes and newer programs, but be assured that the ongoing work of Refugee Assistance, Thrift Shop ministry, Aboriginal Neighbours, Low German Ministry, financial and communications responsibilities are continuing to bring needs and human resources together. International programming in some 50 different countries continues because of people like you who pray and contribute to what *God* is doing in our world.

**Thank you** for your many contributions to the work of *MCC*. Your prayers, volunteer support and financial contributions are all a significant part of how *God* works in and through *MCC*. The weaker Canadian dollar and a significant drop in donations in some provinces and states are affecting *MCC*'s ability to respond to people in need. Here in Saskatchewan, we continue to enjoy strong giving patterns. Thank you! We are, however, part of a larger system that is experiencing reductions in giving, and therefore a reduction in work among those in need. We are most grateful for your continued support and ask that you remember those who have less.

For more information on *MCC* and our work, go to [www.mcc.org/sask](http://www.mcc.org/sask), and for international news go to [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org).