

Mennonite Central Committee 2020

Report to CCMBC

One hundred years ago, MCC was formed in faith to help people in crisis. A group of Mennonites, including MBs, responded to the needs of starving people in southern Russia. The founders of MCC were convinced that “to be biblically faithful one must relieve human suffering.” Today, we are working hard to live up to this century-old legacy.

At this unprecedented time in world history due to COVID-19, we want to dig deeper into faith; to recommit ourselves to caring for our neighbours, whether across the street or around the globe, and to be people of service, generosity and peace.

We are reviewing the plans for our centennial events, but there are meaningful ways you can be part of the celebration online at mcccanada.ca/centennial. You can read stories from throughout MCC’s 100 years, and you can even share your own MCC story or post a message of hope during this pandemic.

Peace: As MCC continues to build bridges of peace, we find ourselves back in the very place where our work began. Last spring (when air travel was still permitted), I travelled to Ukraine with the MCC Canada board to launch our centennial celebrations. There, I saw the ongoing importance of material resources, such as relief kits, comforters and canned meat. Amidst ongoing conflict and need, these gifts are tangible signs of peace, reconciliation and hope – from your hands to families around the world.

Relief: In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, conflict and violence have caused displacement and loss of agricultural livelihoods, impacting some 3.2 million people in the Kasai region. This means that families don’t always have enough to eat. With your help, MCC is partnering with three denominations – including MBs – to distribute food, provide funding for children to attend school, start livelihood projects and support trauma healing.

Development: Not only are we helping people deal with the current COVID-19 health crisis through water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects, we’re also helping families manage the effects of a changing climate. In Cambodia, we provide funding for agricultural co-operatives, helping farmers find new ways to earn income from their land. These farmers can now survive the dry season as they earn income from new ventures, such as fishponds. We support more than 3,000 families with this project, funded through our account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

As you meet virtually with sisters and brothers from MB churches across Canada, we wish you God’s peace, hope and unity. Thank you for partnering with us in being the hands and feet of Jesus. We couldn’t do this work without you – including the many board members, staff, volunteers and SALT participants from MB congregations!



RICK COBER BAUMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC CANADA
RICKCOBERBAUMAN@MCCCANADA.CA



MCC partner Natalia Mezentseva, standing, of New Life Charitable Fund, reaches out to Lubov Yarchuk and others. New Life meets basic needs of those displaced by conflict or struggling with issues like HIV, addiction or homelessness. MCC’s work began in Ukraine in 1920. (2013 MCC photo/Matthew Sawatzky)



Tuombe Byadunia, 11, fills his water container from a rooftop catchment system at his primary school in eastern DR Congo. MCC partner Community of MB Churches in Congo (CEFMC) built latrines and rainwater catchment systems to reduce diseases related to lack of sanitation and unclean water. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation....”

— 2 Corinthians 5:18, NIV