

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

50 Kent Avenue
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 3R1 Canada
T 519.745.8458
800.313.6226 (toll-free)
F 519.745.0064
W mcco.ca

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Dear Friends in the Anabaptist churches of Ontario,

Greetings of peace, in the name of Christ.

We at Mennonite Central Committee have great cause to be thankful. You in our church community have again chosen to support the vision of “relief, development and peace in the name of Christ” through our collective MCC ministry. For this we are deeply grateful.

We are also thankful that our long and faithful history in places like Syria and Iraq positioned us well to respond to horrific harm. Whether the violence of war, or the plight of thousands of displaced families, we are able to be there with trusted partners and effective response.

Let me mention several MCC highlights of the past year:

- **Relief:** A few weeks ago, a second Typhoon hit the very same region of the Philippines as was hit by super Typhoon Haiyan just 13 months earlier. MCC’s commitment to “more than relief” quickly became wonderfully evident. This from MCC consultant Kris Cruzado: “Pastors who received disaster prevention training in 2014 through MCC partner, **Peacebuilders Inc.**, a ministry of Mennonite Church Canada Witness, used their own resources (vehicles, churches) to make sure everyone in their communities evacuated. They set up a ‘command center’ in one of their churches which also acted as an evacuation center. More than 100 volunteers were mobilized. They also have sent assessment teams to evaluate damage caused by the storm”.
- **Development:** In Waterloo Region, 8 women who have experienced persistent homelessness as well as isolation and vulnerability, participate in life-giving community and receive supports to maintain stable housing through MCC’s Circle of Friends program. Given the success of this program, it has recently been expanded to serve men.
- **Peace:** Volunteers in the MCC-funded **Emergency Preparedness Response Teams** in Nigeria succeeded in preventing the spread of violence after a devastating May bombing in the city of Jos very near the MCC Nigeria office.

...all in the name of Christ

We give thanks that many of you have now finished your “Raising Hope” pledges, and we have a full year in our “new 50 Kent”. Within a few months we expect the building to be completely full, with MCC Ontario enjoying 10 ministry partners from the Anabaptist community sharing our new home! To see this lively community in action, please join us on the first Tuesday of the month at noon for singing in the Atrium.

With your continued support both as congregations and individuals, we hope to meet our ambitious target of over \$11 million to invest in community-changing relief, development and peace in the name of Christ!

MCC is a ministry of the church. We commit to carry out that ministry with the highest standards of effectiveness and good stewards! We are deeply grateful for your role in this ministry.

In Christ’s peace,



Rick Cober Bauman
Executive Director
rickcoberbauman@mcco.ca

For a glimpse of MCC service in the name of Christ, attend our AGM in Aylmer, the evening of June 18, 2015