



BRINGING HOPE
FROM THE FAITH
THAT WE SHARE

Remembering those who died in MCC service



...Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
(Romans 5:3b-5)

“Real hope lies not in our projects, schemes or anything that we can do. It is that humble faith in God, knowing that He alone is our provider. ...We from the West are not saviors, but only a small part of a changing world. We bring hope: does it stem from the technology that we carry with us or from the faith that we share?”—Mark Day (Died while in MCC service on April 18, 1984)

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Introduction

These brief notes will introduce you to 47 people who died while in MCC service, from the very first in 1920 to the most recent in 2013, arranged by the calendar year to encourage prayers for remembrance.

There are several origins to this compilation. From 1997 through 2008, in each MCC annual meeting a list was read or presented of people connected to MCC who had died in the previous year. For some of that time, the list was referred to as the “Memorial Roll Call.” It included former staff, spouses, volunteers, board members and friends of MCC. The scope was very broad, and for various reasons, the practice was discontinued. However, at some point during those years, a Human Resources staff person, with assistance from the previous records manager, added a designation in the MCC resource database identifying all workers who had died while “in service,” a designation that continues until this day.

Then in 2010, following the violent death of Glen Lapp in Afghanistan, a question was raised, “How many people have been killed while on assignment with MCC?” The question implied being intentionally or violently killed because they were in MCC service, as opposed to dying from accidents or health issues. With that question, considerable internal debate ensued regarding the need for clearer designations about how people died while serving with MCC and appropriate ways to recognize those deaths. At various levels, that debate continues, and this booklet does not attempt to resolve the issue. Rather, the purpose of this booklet is to help us remember those who died during their MCC assignments, regardless of the reason. With only a few exceptions, the cause of death is noted, whether due to health, accident or intentional violence.

Most people included here are from Canada and the U.S. For certain, many people serving in their country of origin other than Canada or the U.S. also have died while in MCC service. We regret that records of those deaths have not been kept. They too lived in

hope and we remember them in spirit, even while it is not possible to individually share their names.

Many of these workers died at young ages, often in the prime of life. Another common theme is their commitment to serving God and others and how that service shaped and impacted their lives and dreams. Our hope is that, as you read about these people, you too will be encouraged in your service.

Note: Various MCC staff have worked diligently to compile the list of those who have died while in MCC service and continue to keep it current. If you know of an MCC worker who is not on the list and you think should be included and appear in this document, please contact the Records Department at MCC.

January

Remembering Rita Wall

Died while in MCC service on January 6, 1993

Rita, who was from Woodstock, Ont., had been facilitating an adult education program in the Berlin region near Santa Cruz, Bolivia, since August 1991. Described as a “pleasant, warm and wise person,” she was committed to developing local leadership so the work could continue independent of outside institutions. On January 4, Rita and two other MCC workers were traveling to their work site in the back of an open truck, a usual, and sometimes only, means of transportation in that area. The truck flipped over while rounding a traffic circle. The two other workers were injured; Rita, age 33, never regained consciousness.

Remembering Joyce Holsopple Gautsche

Died while in MCC service on January 20, 1990

Born in Wauseon, Ohio, Joyce died from complications of AIDS in Denver, Colo., at the age of 30. She and her husband, LaDell, had served with MCC in Jamaica, 1986–1987, where Joyce worked as a nurse and is believed to have contracted the AIDS virus. After returning to the U.S., she and LaDell continued serving with MCC in the Denver Opportunity for Outreach and Reflection (DOOR) program and focusing on other urban community issues in Denver.

Remembering Alana Fife and Hannah Showaker

Died while in MCC service on January 22, 2003

Alana and Hannah went to Indonesia in August 2002 through MCC’s Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program for young adults. Both lived with Indonesian host families while teaching English to primary school students. On January 22, they and two friends hiked to a scenic waterfall near Salatiga, Java. Alana and Hannah were being photographed near the waterfall when a flash flood hit and both were swept away. The Indonesian Mennonite churches provided support in many ways, not only to the remaining MCC workers, but also to the host families, who were deeply stricken by the tragedy. On January 25, more than 300 people attended a memorial service in Salatiga, some traveling hours to be there. Alana, from Winnipeg, Man., was 21. Hannah, 24, was from Newville, Pa.

A NETWORK OF SUPPORT SURROUNDED US

ALANA FIFE AND HANNAH SHOWAKER

(Adapted from a letter)

DAN SAID THE HARDEST THING HE EVER HAD

to do was to call her father and tell him that his daughter's body had been found. While he made the call from the mountain, back at our house we were holding tight to each other at the table and praying for that call.

The front room was full of university students who knew them and the porch was full of neighborhood friends. I spent the day simultaneously phoning both embassies for how to send bodies home, mourning with scores of visitors while Pak Kris and neighbor girls served tea, calling back and forth to our Akron headquarters, talking with host families and Indonesian friends on the phone and at home, calling to see if someone who does worker care can come and do counseling with our team, and planning their memorial service a little on the side.

Alana was a bright and beautiful 21 years old. Hannah was also so precious, 24 years old and wondering what the future would hold and where she would teach.

There is an incredible network of support surrounding us. The host families are devastated, but the church members of the host families have surrounded us. Neighbors came and brought their teenagers to help wash dishes and serve tea. Many university friends and Salatiga youth group members came.

We have not slept yet for two days. Thank you that you are praying for us and for Hannah's and Alana's families.

Dan Jantzi and Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi were MCC representatives in Indonesia when Hannah and Alana died there in 2003. They are currently MCC area directors for Southeast Asia.

February

Remembering Celeste Martin

Died while in MCC service on February 9, 1995

Since 1991, Celeste had served as the MCC children's orientation coordinator in Akron, Pa., organizing activities for more than 240 children, most junior high and younger, while their parents participated in orientations prior to MCC service. She assembled resources about the location where each child was going, organized location-specific games and crafts, wrote letters to children during their MCC assignments, helped prepare children's Lent and Advent materials and created "summer fun packets." Celeste also worked as a server at what was then the Ephrata, Pa., SELFHELP Crafts store tearoom. At age 33, she suffered a massive heart attack, and was in a coma approximately two weeks until her death. Celeste lived with her husband, Sheldon, and their two sons in Ephrata.

Remembering J. N. (Joseph) Byler

Died while in MCC service on February 14, 1962

Born in East Brook, Pa., J. N. had served in various capacities with MCC since 1941. He first went to Europe as a relief worker in unoccupied France from September 1941 to December 1942. For approximately two years, he then directed the hospital units for Civilian Public Service. In 1945, J. N. was named Director of MCC's Foreign Relief and Services section, a position he filled until 1960. He continued to administer the Orphan Support and Educational Assistance programs (forerunners of the Global Family program) until his death at age 67. J. N. was married to Edna Ruth (Miller), who is credited with starting what has now become Ten Thousand Villages.

Remembering Jake Letkemann

Died while in MCC service on February 26, 1975

Jake, his wife, Linda, and their two children, of Clearbrook, B.C., entered MCC service in August 1974, in Jamaica. He served with TAP (Teachers Abroad Program), taking his teaching profession seriously and taking "an interest in individual students." Soon after arriving in Jamaica, Jake began experiencing health problems, which

were diagnosed as cancer. Immediate surgery proved to be too late, as the cancer had already spread to other organs. The Letkemanns wanted to remain in Jamaica, but Jake grew weaker, and in mid-December 1974, the family returned to British Columbia. MCC Jamaica director Ken Snyder noted, “The day Jamaican students learned about Jake’s funeral was a day of open weeping.”

March

Remembering Mark Siemens

Died while in MCC service on March 8, 2005

Originally from Bakersfield, Calif., Mark was the long-time editor of the Peace Office Newsletter, a quarterly publication of the MCC Peace Office. He had earlier completed his conscientious objector alternative service in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mark and his spouse, Jan, later served with MCC in Palestine and Thailand. His sudden death at age 58 was caused by a massive stroke. Mark and Jan lived in Lancaster, Pa.

Remembering Donald Hooley

Died while in MCC service on March 16, 1955

At the time of his death, Donald was serving his second two-year assignment as accountant for the European MCC program in Frankfurt, Germany. A memorial service was held in Frankfurt on March 20, and Donald’s body was returned to his home community in Hubbard, Ore. for burial. MCC leader P. C. Hiebert was delegated by the MCC Board of Directors (then called the Executive Committee) to attend the funeral there. Donald’s death, at age 32, was caused by heart failure during surgery.

Remembering Arthur (Art) Meyer

Died while in MCC service on March 19, 1991

An Ohio native, Art and his wife, Jocele, worked with MCC from 1981 to 1991. They served in Grenada for one year (1981-82) and then with MCC U.S. Peace Section’s Global Education department until the time of Art’s death. Both were long-time Christian environmentalists who wrote and spoke extensively on issues of food, hunger, relief and development. They edited Food and Hunger Notes, a bimonthly MCC newsletter, and coauthored *Earthkeepers*:

Environmental Perspectives on Hunger, Poverty and Justice, published by Herald Press just before Art died of cancer in Cleveland, Ohio, at age 62.

April

Remembering Leon Yoder

Died while in MCC service on April 5, 1965

Originally from Shipshewana, Ind., Leon was 23 years old when he died of a malignant melanoma. After graduating from Goshen College in 1963, he joined the MCC Pax program and was assigned to Indonesia as an administrative assistant. Leon proved to be adept at learning the Indonesian language, and he handled much supervisory responsibility for food distribution in Central Java, as well as accounting and correspondence. He was described as a person endowed with character and talents who gave generously of himself to others.

Remembering Mark Day

Died while in MCC service on April 18, 1984

Mark was doing routine maintenance on a water tower in Buhemba, Tanzania, when he lost his footing and fell to his death. He was 26 years old. Mark had worked in dairy herd management at a rural agricultural training center in Buhemba since November 1981. Originally from Monroe, Conn., Mark wrote about his work and faith just a month before his death. Some of his reflections included: "Real hope lies not in our projects, schemes or anything that (we) can do. It is that humble faith in God, knowing that He alone is our provider. ...We from the West are not saviors, but only a small part of a changing world. We bring hope: does it stem from the technology that we carry with us or from the faith that we share?"

May

Remembering Marie Fast

Died while in MCC service on May 1, 1945

Originally from Mountain Lake, Minn., Marie worked as a nurse with Yugoslav refugee children in Egypt. When she arrived, the

camp was experiencing an epidemic of measles, and Marie was put in charge of an emergency ward with some 200 patients. Later, she and another nurse volunteered to go with a group of refugees who were returning to Yugoslavia. The two nurses were to care for 36 patients, as well as attend to the general health needs of the 1,700 people aboard the ship. The trip there went well, but during its return to Egypt, the ship struck a mine the night of May 1. In her attempt to board a life boat, Marie, age 44, fell into the water. Someone tossed her a life preserver, but she drifted away, and her body was never found.

Remembering Frank Peters

Died while in MCC service on May 2, 1981

Frank was born in Russia and later settled in Winnipeg, Man. He and his wife, Margaret, had been MCC workers in Gouyave, Grenada, since August 1978, and served as MCC representatives since August 1979. Frank taught in a local Catholic school, and he and Margaret were both very active in community and church work. At the age of 57, he suffered two heart attacks and died at a hospital in St. Georges. Then MCC secretary for Latin America Herman Bontrager noted that: "Frank was recognized around the island for his effective teaching at the secondary level.... He loved his students, and they knew it.... He had been deeply involved in Bible teaching with the local church.... His life and work has left a permanent imprint in Grenada and in MCC."

Remembering Monika Stahl

Died while in MCC service on May 4, 1985

Monika, a participant in the International Volunteer (then called "Visitor") Exchange Program (IVEP) from Fernheim, Paraguay, was killed in a two-car accident near Reedley, Calif., on the night of May 4. Another IVEPer who was a passenger in the same car sustained major injuries. A passenger in the other car also was killed. Monika, age 20 at the time of her death, was working in Reedley at the Unruh Guest Home, a residential home for mentally challenged adults. Then IVEP director Doreen Harms wrote that Monika's "letters always contained a note of joy, thankfulness, cooperation and enthusiasm. She wrote regularly each month.... Her fiancé and a new house awaited her return to Paraguay. Suddenly, circumstances interfered."

Remembering C. F. (Cornelius) Klassen

Died while in MCC service on May 8, 1954

Born in Russia in 1894, C.F. died of a heart attack in Gronau, Germany, at the age of 59. It was noted that his death there was very symbolic of his consuming love for refugees, for it was through Gronau that practically all Mennonite people passed in their migration to North or South America after World War II. C. F. had been director of the MCC program in Europe since July 1953. After arriving in Canada from Russia in 1925, he was very active in assisting Russian Mennonites to move there. Later, he served the Canadian Mennonite Board of Colonization and the Canadian Pacific Railroad in collecting loan repayments for transporting refugees to Canada. C.F. and his wife, Maria, lived in Abbotsford, B.C., at the time of his death.

Remembering Harvey Taves

Died while in MCC service on May 11, 1965

Harvey, who for the previous 12 years had served as an administrator of the MCC program in Canada, died of a heart attack in Kitchener, Ont., at age 39. He was originally from Manitoba and began working with MCC as the assistant director of the regional office in Waterloo, Ont. Just a month prior to his death, the provincial inter-Mennonite relief, peace and service committee had reorganized as MCC Ontario and called Harvey to serve as its executive director. Some of the projects in which he was most interested and active were Ailsa Craig Boys Farm; Conrad Grebel College; and the MCC teaching and nursing units in Newfoundland, which he started and administered. Per Lucille Marr's history of MCC Ontario, the unit house/office was in Waterloo until 1961, then moved to a temporary location in Kitchener until the permanent Kitchener location was completed in 1963. At the time of his death, Harvey and his wife Iva, parents of two daughters, lived in Kitchener.

Remembering Krista Hunt Ausland

Died while in MCC service on May 20, 1998

Krista and her husband, Aaron, were taking an early morning bus from Bañado de la Cruz to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, to meet with other MCC workers. According to reports, the bus missed a curve and went over an embankment and down a ravine. Aaron was thrown

from the bus and sustained minor injuries. Krista, along with four Bolivians, was killed. She was 25. The couple began serving with MCC in November 1997. Krista worked as a promoter with women's groups and provided support for rural libraries. Originally from Tacoma, Wash., "Krista approached her MCC assignment with great enthusiasm. People in the community where she lived will miss her deeply," said then Latin America/Caribbean program director Linda Shelly.

HEART SHATTERED LIVES DON'T FOR A MOMENT ESCAPE GOD'S NOTICE

KRISTA HUNT AUSLAND

FOLLOWING KRISTA'S DEATH, AN IMPORTANT gift in our healing was MCC's invitation to Jim and me to come to Bolivia the August after her death in May. We wanted to be with Aaron, our son-in-law, when he returned to close up their one-room adobe house in Bañado de la Cruz. This gave us a chance to meet the significant people in the last six months of Krista's life. Two MCC staff escorted us on the eight-hour truck ride to their village. We drove by the accident site and we were able to stop, place flowers and grieve at the place where Krista died. The swath of damage from the bus careening down the ravine was still evident and it added tangible reality to her death.

One of our MCC escorts had served in the same community earlier and had once lived in the same house. Village women served us a generous lunch. We visited other towns where Krista worked on literacy projects and saw the new library being named after her. We shared a meal with the family where Aaron and Krista lived during language school and they shared their memories of Krista with us.

On our way back to the airport, a large piece of cardboard stuck on the grill of the taxi and flapped wildly in the wind, forcing our driver to pull off the highway. He carefully placed it in the car trunk to protect it from luggage damage, climbed back in the car and said, "*Un regalo de*

la calle”—a gift from the road. He saw treasure in what another person might see as trash.

Each of the experiences MCC staff provided us, including the trip back to Bolivia, gave us lasting treasures and started us on the long road to healing with unexpected gifts. For this we will always be grateful.

A friend sent me a modern translation of a verse from Psalm 51: “Heart shattered lives...don’t for a moment escape God’s notice.” MCC shared their love for us, and God’s love for us and for Krista and Aaron in some practical ways and that eased the sorrow in our broken hearts.

Linda Lawrence Hunt is an author and professor emeriti from Whitworth (Wash.) University and co-founded the Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship (www.kristafoundation.org) after her daughter died in MCC service. The over 260 Krista Colleagues from more than 40 countries include some MCC volunteers. Read more about Linda’s experiences after Krista’s death in her book, Pilgrimage through Loss.

Remembering Wilbur Gerber

Died while in MCC service on May 27, 1970

When he died at age 67, Wilbur and his wife, Mary, were serving in Voluntary Service (VS) at MCC offices in Akron, Pa. Wilbur worked in maintenance and Mary worked in the kitchen. He was a native of Sugarcreek, Ohio, and the couple lived in Kidron. They would have completed their year of VS in one week and were planning to extend their term until December 1970. It was noted in an MCC News Service article that “the staff at Akron will remember Wilbur for his genuine friendliness, his sense of humor in the dining hall and his dedication to the Lord. Whatever he did, he gave his best to do a good job.”

Remembering Carolyn Nance

Died while in MCC service on May 28, 2013

A resident of Winnipeg, Man., Carolyn served as the SOOP

coordinator in the MCC Canada office for 12 years. SOOP provides short-term service opportunities for families and adults of all ages across Canada and the U.S. She and her husband, Brad, had earlier served with MCC in the Lancaster, Pa., Voluntary Service unit and as leaders of the Aberdeen Serving and Learning Together (SALT) unit in Winnipeg. In 2012, Carolyn was recognized for her 15 years of service with MCC and given a gift to commemorate the occasion. She died as a result of cancer at age 64.

Remembering Daniel Gerber

Captured while in MCC service on May 30, 1962

Daniel was born in 1940 in Dalton, Ohio, and had completed two years of college before applying to MCC. At age 21, he chose a three-year Pax program assignment in Vietnam, where he was a maintenance worker in the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) Leprosarium in Ban Me Thuot. On May 30, 1962, Daniel and two C&MA workers were captured by what were believed to be forces of a group later called the National Liberation Front (NLF). The general consensus is that they were killed shortly after being captured. In 2000, the U.S. Central Identification Lab in Hawaii reported that the U.S. government had acquired remains that could have been Dan's, but a DNA sample from a female sibling was needed for comparison. MCC did not receive specific confirmation that the remains were in fact his. The Gerber family indicated they were satisfied that Daniel had been killed and was not a prisoner of war, and that they did not wish to pursue the matter further.

June

Remembering Saúl Murcia

Died while in MCC service on June 9, 2005

When he died at age 50 from a rare type of bone cancer, Saúl was co-director of MCC's Latin America Department, as well as supervising staff and programs in his native Colombia, as well as Bolivia, Paraguay, Jamaica, Haiti and other countries. He was respected for his dedication and willingness to visit and encourage volunteers, associates and partners. Earlier in life, Saúl studied cooking and hotel management at a technical college in Bogotá and then worked on

a cruise ship for seven years. After that, he graduated from Goshen College in 1988, and joined Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) in Texas. Prior to working with MCC, Saúl was U.S. co-director for MVS. He loved to cook, was an enthusiastic “soccer dad” to his two young sons and enjoyed listening to music. Saúl, his wife, Rebecca, and their two boys lived in Akron, Pa., at the time of his death.

Remembering Larry Kaufman

Died while in MCC service on June 20, 1956

Larry grew up in Windom, Kan., and attended Bethel College from 1953-55, majoring in biology. He was in 1-W service with Congo Inland Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo when he drowned at age 21. Larry and another 1-W worker were on a boat trip with several mission leaders visiting outlying areas where missionary teachers were working. The group decided to stop overnight on an island in the Kasai River. Larry waded toward the shore ahead of the boat and apparently stepped off a submerged ledge in the river and was pulled into the current. Despite rescue attempts using inflated tubes, his body was swept away and not recovered. Larry’s 1-W work included maintenance, building construction and youth activities. Following his two-year term, he had intended to pursue further education and then return to Congo.

July

Remembering Donald Wenger

Died while in MCC service on July 1, 1997

Donald and his wife, Ferne, had volunteered at Ten Thousand Villages in Ephrata, Pa., since September 1993, when they moved to Lancaster County, Pa., from Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He worked first as a packer, and then in pricing. Donald was characterized as having “a special ability to make everyone feel welcome and included. He had an openness and friendliness with everyone he met. He was also a self-appointed tour guide, inviting volunteers and staff on many weekend trips.” The Wengers were members of Gilead Mennonite Church in Chesterville, Ohio, and Akron (Pa.) Mennonite Church. Donald died unexpectedly of heart failure at Ephrata Community Hospital. He was 75.

Remembering Marion Nafziger

Died while in MCC service on July 8, 1946

Originally from Waterloo, Ont., Marion was a registered nurse who died on her way to an MCC assignment in India. She was one month shy of her 25th birthday. Marion and another nurse from Illinois left San Francisco by ship on April 27. She became ill, and on June 25, had an appendectomy in Singapore. On July 6, she developed pneumonia, and died two days later. The MCC Board of Directors (then called the Executive Committee) asked the relief administration staff to provide for a marker as a memorial at Marion's grave in Singapore. Executive Secretary Orié Miller was also asked to "appropriately express to the Nafziger parents the committee's sympathy in this bereavement."

Remembering Joe Shenk

Died while in MCC service on July 21, 2005

The son of early missionaries whose own leadership among Mennonites in East Africa spanned more than 40 years, Joe was hit by a truck while jogging in Musoma, Tanzania. He died in a Nairobi hospital at age 67. Joe and his wife, Edith, were serving in a joint leadership training position with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) and MCC at the Mennonite Theological College of East Africa. Earlier, he had served with EMM in Tanzania and Kenya and was MCC's East Africa representative in Nairobi during the late 1970s and early '80s. In addition, he served at Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions and as a pastor. Joe was an outdoor enthusiast who ran eight marathons and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with two of his four daughters the year before his death.

Remembering Eli Miller and Simon Miller

Died while in MCC service on July 23, 1954

Eli, age 20, and Simon, age 23, were Pax program workers in Greece who drowned on the evening of July 23. They were swimming in a lake with another Pax worker and a Greek policeman when the current carried the two into deeper water in the middle of the lake. Their companions were unable to help the men to shore. At the request of their families, the bodies of both men were returned to the U.S. and buried August 4 in their respective church communities. Eli was a

member of the Maysville Conservative Amish Mennonite Church in Mt. Eaton, Ohio. Simon was a member of the Middle West Sharon Old Order Amish group in Kalona, Iowa. An MCC representative attended each funeral. Also, memorial services were held at the Pax units in Greece and Germany, and at the MCC office in Akron, Pa.

Remembering Emma Schlichting

Died while in MCC service on July 23, 1968

Born October 23, 1916, in Weatherford, Okla., Emma died of cancer at age 51. Her work with MCC covered 23 years and three continents. Her first assignment, in 1945, was as switchboard operator in Akron, Pa. She then went to Paraguay as a teacher. This was followed by service in Austria and Brazil as a matron, and in Germany with MCC's refugee work. She also served as hostess and matron in Akron until 1960, when she became administrator of the trainee and sponsorship programs. In a memorial service tribute, William Snyder, MCC executive secretary, noted that "while Emma did not have a family of her own, she became an American mother to hundreds of trainees and to those children around the world who have benefited from her work in MCC's child sponsorship program."

August

Remembering Katherine Dyck and Bertha Kornelson

Died while in MCC service on August 2, 1956

Katherine, 31, and Bertha, 34, were MCC nurses serving in two different children's hospitals in Pusan, the Republic of Korea (South Korea). On the evening of August 2, they, along with several others, went to a rocky ocean beach to have a picnic and enjoy the scenery. According to a report from Donald Klippenstein, MCC representative in South Korea, "Without warning, a monstrous wave swept everyone from the rock...the nurses could not manage to get back to the shore before the next big wave hit them." During rescue attempts, two other people also drowned. Katherine was from Rosthern, Sask., and her body was returned there for burial. Bertha, who was from Abbotsford, B.C., had earlier stated, "If I should die in Korea, I want to be buried there." Her burial was in the Australian Presbyterian Cemetery. Ten years later, her remains

were moved from Pusan and reburied near the top of a hill at the Mennonite Vocational School.

Remembering Siegfried Janzen

Died while in MCC service on August 2, 2005

Siegfried had served with MCC in various capacities over 60 years when he died in Petitcodiac, N.B., at age 84. Born in Ukraine, his mother died when he was 3 years old and the remaining family fled to Canada in 1927. Soon after Siegfried married Margaret Wiebe in 1945, the couple went to serve with MCC in the Netherlands and West Germany. From 1945–50, they helped establish two refugee camps and assisted 6,000 refugees to move to Canada. Siegfried later joined MCC’s community justice work in eastern Canada. Then MCC Maritimes co-directors, Judith and Tom Snowdon, who worked closely with Siegfried over the years, said, “[He] was a pioneer of restorative justice in the Maritimes...who brought many people to a new level of peace with past difficulties.”

Remembering Glen Lapp

Died while in MCC service on August 6, 2010

Glen and nine other members of a medical team were killed in a shooting attack in Afghanistan’s Badakhshan province, while returning from a trip to conduct an eye camp in a rural area. All of the team members worked with an MCC partner organization. The team had been testing and treating people with eye diseases in Nuristan province for about two weeks at the invitation of communities there. Local police said robbery might have been a motive for the attack, but the exact circumstances of their deaths may never be known. Glen, 40, of Lancaster, Pa., would have completed his MCC term in October 2010, and had recently written, “Where I was (Afghanistan), the main thing that expats can do is be a presence.... Treating people with respect and love and trying to be a little bit of Christ....”

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

GLEN LAPP

THE CALL EVERY MCC ADMINISTRATOR HOPES

never to receive came in August 2010. Sketchy information

suggested MCC volunteer Glen Lapp had lost his life in Afghanistan. Confirmation came within days.

Fortunately, such tragic events occur infrequently, but that also means nearly everyone involved operates with almost no prior experience. A plan quickly emerged. MCC staff joined Glen's family in sharing news of the loss with those who needed to know. Staff joined the family in planning for the return of Glen's body. Marv and Mary Lapp's tears mingled with those of MCC staff during a memorial program held 10 days after Glen was killed.

Accounts of Glen's memorial service joined with almost a century of MCC stories of loss and hardship. The institution of MCC proceeded with the ministry expected by its supporters. Other international service workers continued in their service assignments. Organizational systems kept operating. But Glen was not forgotten. A photo of Glen enjoying one his last suppers in Afghanistan hangs at the entrance of the Ephrata MCC East Coast office. MCCers continue to tell the story of Glen's sacrifice.

But the Lapp family sacrifice also continues. Glen no longer shares Christmas stories or reads stories to an expanding family of grandchildren. The Lapp family knows that time slowly begins to mask the pain, but the loss continues to cast a long shadow over the entire family.

To this day, staff members continue to keep in touch with the Lapp family, remembering each year the day of Glen's birth and the day of his death. Both the family and MCC recognize that a shared burden of grief brings a measure of comfort to all of those bearing that burden.

Ken Sensenig is assistant director of MCC East Coast and was one the people who first helped share the tragic news of Glen's death with his family.

Remembering Ethel Krehbiel and Sarah Ann Jantzen

Died while in MCC service on August 21, 1956

Ethel, 24, from McPherson, Kan., was a Voluntary Service (VS) worker at Camp Landon in Gulfport, Miss., where she was a camp counselor. Sarah Ann, 22, from Plymouth, Neb., was also a VS worker at National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. They were killed, and two other women seriously injured, in a vehicle accident near West Chester, Pa., while on a vacation trip. According to police reports, a northbound vehicle glanced off the rear fender of a car in front of it and collided head-on with the women's southbound car. Ethel had been in Gulfport for three years and planned to continue her VS work after the vacation. Sarah Ann had completed a year of VS the day of the accident. She planned to begin nurse's training at Bethel College in the fall.

Remembering Beth Bowman Moser

Died while in MCC service on August 26, 1991

Beth and her husband, David, had served approximately two years in Belfast, Northern Ireland, under a joint appointment with MCC and Mennonite Board of Missions (MBM), the mission agency of the former Mennonite Church. She worked at the National YMCA, and according to an MCC/MBM coworker, "In their friendship and work, Beth and David consistently ignored and crossed all the religious, political and geographic divisions that rule Belfast." At the time of her unexpected death, Beth was completing her MCC term, living in Akron, Pa., and working in a coffee shop there, planning to continue a master's program in counselling in the fall. Her parents indicated that she had a history of heart problems. She was 31. In November, nearly 200 people participated in a memorial service for her in Belfast.

September

Remembering Ron Bietz

Died while in MCC service on September 8, 1997

At the time of his death, Ron was the resource manager for MCC Canada's Food Program. He was scheduled to take over leadership of MCC's food, disaster and material resources program at the

end of 1997. Ron spent 18 years with MCC, first as a volunteer in Bolivia and later in Winnipeg, Man. During his trips overseas, he met many hungry people, which affected the way he and his family lived. He died at age 44, after a 10-month battle with cancer. Shortly before his death, Ron said he had no regrets, except for knowing he would not be around to see his three children grow up. He continued, "I've lived a full life. I feel like I did more in 44 years than some people do in 80. I have a good marriage, a good family, good friends. And I think I made a contribution in the world." At the time of his death, Ron, his wife, Judy, and their three children lived in Winnipeg, Man.

Remembering Otto Jost

Died while in MCC service on September 17, 1973

Otto was regional director for MCC in Reedley, Calif., when he died the evening of September 17, while working in the grape harvest. He was 56. Since 1970, Otto and his wife, Rachel, had together administered the regional office and its activities. Before that, Otto had played an active role in West Coast Relief Sales by collecting and shipping relief goods and volunteering at the Reedley MCC center. John Hostetler, then MCC material aid director, worked closely with Otto over the years. In John's words, "To Otto, the work of the church was a lot of fun.... It was part of his life. We appreciate deeply the contribution he made and the strength of his spirit in the work."

Remembering Ralph Wolfe

Died while in MCC service on September 19, 1982

Ralph, from Salem, Ore., had just begun an MCC assignment in Kenya when he was killed in a vehicle accident near Nairobi. The Wolfe family had arrived in Nairobi in late August and was still in language study. Shortly after dark on the evening of September 19, Ralph was driving a car that ran into a stalled truck left on the road with no lights. His wife, Sharon, and their 6-month old daughter survived the accident, but two friends of the family also were killed. Born in Kenya, Ralph's MCC assignment was to be a Christian religious knowledge teacher at a secondary school in Garba Tula. He was 28, and the funeral service was held in Kijabe, near Rift Valley Academy where Ralph had attended school.

October

Remembering Marvin Frey

Died while in MCC service on October 19, 2008

Marv's career was dedicated to service through 23 years with MCC in Jamaica, Swaziland, Somalia and Lesotho. He also served in Winnipeg, Man. as executive director of MCC Canada from January 1995 to February 2000. When he died at age 60, Marv lived in Kitchener, Ont. and had been the CEO of Ten Thousand Villages Canada for six years. He was married to Ardith (Bauman) for 34 years and the father of two adult sons. Marv's obituary included the following: "When diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer, he faced treatment and a curtailed life in the same direct way in which he embraced work challenges, and his abiding faith and peace were inspiring to all he met."

November

Remembering Doris Janzen Longacre

Died while in MCC service on November 10, 1979

Best known as author of the *More-with-Less Cookbook*, Doris was also a recognized lecturer on world hunger and wise use of the earth's resources. She died at age 39 from cancer. At the time, she was writing the final chapters of a sequel to the cookbook, which was later published as *Living More with Less*. Both books were written as part of her MCC assignment related to food and hunger education. The cookbook was first released in 1976, and at the time of her death, more than 295,000 copies had been printed. Doris had earlier served with MCC in Vietnam from 1964 to 1967 and in Indonesia from 1971 to 1972. She was married to Paul Longacre, had two daughters, and lived in Akron, Pa.

Remembering Irene Weaver

Died while in MCC service on November 11, 1978

Born in West Earl, Pa., Irene died at age 30 due to kidney disease. In 1966, she began working in the Akron, Pa., MCC Voluntary Service office and then served as administrative assistant for Personnel Services from 1973 to 1975. After that, she went to Botswana as

a social worker and hospital administrator but returned home in 1976 when she became ill. She worked as the Akron MCC office manager from 1977 until her death. At the memorial service, an MCC colleague observed, “Irene always wanted to live out a meaningful role of service.... No matter how much she struggled with her own situation, she cared for MCC and gave priority to it.” Because of her deep interest in overseas service, Irene’s family asked that a fund be established in her memory to benefit MCC’s Botswana program.

Remembering Clayton Kratz

Disappeared while in MCC service in mid-November 1920

Clayton was a 24-year-old Goshen College student from Blooming Glen, Pa., when he, Orié Miller and Arthur Slagel were sent by MCC to do relief work in Russia. They arrived there in September 1920, and Clayton was working in the Mennonite colony of Molotschna when the Red Army began advancing on southern Ukraine. He planned to leave the village of Halbstadt for the safety of the Crimea on October 29, but was arrested by the army the night before. Thanks to the efforts of local Mennonites, he was soon released, only to be arrested again about two weeks later. Clayton was last seen being taken from Molotschna northeast toward Kharkov, the Ukrainian capital at the time. Another unconfirmed report from 1922 states that he was accused of being a spy and shot in Alexandrowsk, now Zaporozhye. The details of his death may never be known.

December

Remembering Ruth Jutzi

Died while in MCC service on December 3, 1968

Ruth and her husband, Bruce, began their MCC terms in July 1967. A native of Baden, Ont., Ruth was a nurse who worked with the child sponsorship program in Hong Kong. Bruce was MCC director there. Ruth said she entered MCC service because she felt it would give her a chance to participate in one of the church’s most important tasks. After arriving in Hong Kong, she experienced recurring cases of lung infection and other complications that led to surgery on December 2. She died the next day at age 27.

Remembering Betty Kasdorf

Died while in MCC service on December 11, 2013

At the time of her death, Betty worked in the MCC Canada office in Winnipeg, Man., as Food Security and Livelihoods Manager in the Planning, Learning and Disaster Response (PLDR) department. However, her career with MCC started much earlier with a year of service in Intermento, 1970-71. This was later followed by several terms in Bangladesh and a term in Laos as MCC representative. Betty then worked as Food, Disaster and Material Resources program manager in Winnipeg, Man., from 2001 until that program was incorporated into PLDR in 2012.

Remembering Denise Berkey

Died while in MCC service on December 12, 1990

Denise, who was from Molalla, Ore., began a two-year assignment in Akron, Pa., in August 1987. She worked for several months as a waitress in the SELFHELP Crafts store tea room in Ephrata, Pa., and later served as administrative assistant to the director of SELFHELP Crafts (now Ten Thousand Villages). During its December 1990 meeting, the MCC U.S. Executive Committee passed a resolution noting Denise's commitment to "building the kingdom." After a 14-month battle with ovarian cancer, she died two weeks before her 36th birthday.

Remembering Dan Wenger

Died while in MCC service on December 30, 1989

In February 1989, Dan began a three-year term with MCC in Nicaragua. His primary responsibility was coordinating distribution of material resources. A Lancaster, Pa., native, he was described as an exceptional person who learned Spanish and made friends easily. Dan and two Nicaraguans were killed while traveling with 19 others in a pickup truck on their way to a Mennonite youth retreat south of Managua. The driver lost control of the truck when he tried to pass a slow-moving motorcycle. Dan died within two hours of the accident, at age 23.

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

by Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi

Leader: A cloud of witnesses committed to serving God and serving others surrounds us.

All: *Lord, we remember.*

Leader: Back home, families and churches faithfully prayed for God's protection.

All: *Lord, we remember.*

Leader: Their precious lives seem to have ended in midsentence.

All: *Lord, we remember.*

Leader: Host communities, MCC teams, families, parents and congregations wrestled with God.

All: *Lord, we remember.*

Leader: God's presence through caring global communities gave comfort in times of grieving.

All: *Lord, we remember.*

Leader: We give thanks to God for this cloud of witnesses as we pray and act for the safety of our workers.

All: *Lord, we remember.*

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