



Mennonite
Mission
Network

2023

Beyond



UNIDAS
LA VIDA
AL MALTRATO

Pathways to hope and healing



Art evokes burning bush or pillar of fire

A sculpture, designed and built by 2023 Goshen College graduate Emma Zuercher, was unveiled Aug. 2 at the Mennonite Church USA office building in Elkhart, Indiana. She built the 11-foot sculpture, “Forged Spirit,” under the mentorship of John Mishler, Goshen College associate professor of art.

Memorial signage honors Potawatomi-Miami Trail

Sept. 29, about 120 people gathered to witness the unveiling of signs on the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) campus. These signs identify the Bodéwadmí-Myaamia Trail (using the Indigenous spellings), which connected the Maumee River watershed to the area around the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes and Mennonite Mission Network collaborated with AMBS on the sign-unveiling ceremony.



Paving a path to peace

By Jane Morrow



Currently, our world observes an “International Day of Peace” that encourages 24 hours of non-violence and a cease-fire on September 21 — one day every year.

That’s just twenty-four hours.

Jesus calls us to live out peace throughout our entire lives, not just one day here and there. In the Sermon on the Mount, he encourages his disciples to prioritize the pursuit of God’s righteousness and peace. As the disciples follow Jesus’ call, God’s kingdom begins to take shape around them.

Through his teachings, he envisions a world in which people transcend their selfish desires and prejudices. In that world, conflict, exploitation and violence are a shocking and rare occurrence; environmental stewardship, cultural diversity and universal well-being are sacrosanct; and poverty is a thing of the past.

Peace is not an abstract ideal but a living force capable of healing wounds, forging connections and transcending boundaries.

“Un-peace” creates anguish, war and suffering. It is a product of greed, jealousy and a lust for power. The Doctrine of Discovery provides an example of centuries of exploitation that has left unending anguish, war and suffering in its path.

Editor’s note

The Doctrine of Discovery originated with papal bulls that authorized various European powers to conquer the lands of non-Christians. In 1452, Pope Nicholas V issued the bull *Dum Diversas*, which authorized King Afonso V of Portugal to “subjugate the Saracens and pagans and any other unbelievers and enemies of Christ,” and “reduce their persons to perpetual servitude.” King Afonso V was given the right to take their belongings, including their land, as his own, for his own use and the use of any future kings of Portugal.

This “permission” eventually became an international law that was enforceable throughout the world, including Africa, Latin America and North America.

But that was then. And this is now.

In this issue of *Beyond*, we have included stories from our work across these three continents, to exemplify how the Doctrine of Discovery continues to exploit and subjugate. Poverty, violence, addiction, suffering, land grabs and environmental disasters — these are the outcomes of this “international law.”

When the people of God take seriously Jesus’ call to live lives of peace, there is hope, even in the midst of exploitation. The following stories also bear witness to how this hope is flourishing, through the support and peacebuilding efforts of Mission Network workers and partners across the street and around the world. ■



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COVER: Participants enjoy a Mennonite women’s retreat in Armenia, Colombia where they proclaim, “*Unidas en la vida. No al maltrato* (United in life. No to mistreatment.),” illustrating their commitment as women to undoing violent patterns and naming violence as it occurs. Photo by Xiomara Cintron.



“Action expresses priorities.” — Mahatma Gandhi

By Marisa Smucker

Mennonite Mission Network aspires to be a peacemaking agency and actively works for peace in the world. According to Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary, the definition of a peacemaker is “one who makes peace by reconciling parties that are at variance.” However, if we reflect on this word in biblical terms, being a peacemaker is more specifically about making peace by reconciling with God and with others. In addition, according to the Gospel of Matthew, those who are peacemakers are blessed and will be part of God’s family.

We, at Mission Network, envision peacemaking through action that every one of us is capable of doing.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” — Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

We, at Mission Network, envision peacemaking through action that every one of us is capable of doing. Being a peacemaker does not require any special

abilities, just the will and desire. This identity and intentionality of making peace with God and others permeates every part of our lives: home, work, schools, communities, nations — everywhere. A peacemaker seeks shalom with all people and all of creation.

The word “peacemakers” in Matthew 5:9 is plural. Jesus is talking about God’s children being peacemakers. Peacemaking is a collective action, not just an individual one. It is good for each one of us to be peacemakers. It is even better when peacemakers work together. In this collective activity, we can encourage one another in times of great challenge and return power to those who have been marginalized

and made powerless. Together, we can have a greater impact, by making changes at all levels of society.

Even for those who are rooted in Anabaptist peace theology, living out peace is not easy, and often, we do not go far enough. In spring 2022, Mission Network staff completed a new strategic plan, with “Peace, Justice and DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)” as one of our top seven priorities. This means that we are committed to working toward peace, justice and DEI throughout our work and ministry, including in our internal structures, through our programs and with our partners. This kind of commitment also involves having a desire to learn and grow together. Conversations and interactions with partners remind us that this work is mutual, and each one of us has so much to learn and give.

As followers of Christ, and children of God, we must make peace and justice a priority. As humans, we are not perfect, and we will often miss the mark. Yet we must be persistent in this work, staying alert to God’s activity, with a readiness to learn and grow and always looking for opportunities to be peacemakers. ■

Marisa Smucker

Marisa Smucker
Interim Executive Director



Mission Network board member Sarah Augustine (front left) supports the protection of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) with the Goshen College community, Nov. 9, 2022.



Front: Rev. Shiela Hlobelo, Mama Eulanda Mabusela, Mama Phinah Phokanoka, Rev. Nicky Motsepe, Steve Wiebe-Johnson. Back: Toto Nzamo, Moora Letsoalo, Amukelani Mkwanazi, Pastor Lwazi Macingwane, Oscar Siwali, Mulalo Mahori, Pastor Gosiamo, Bishop Mtshali and Toto Nzamo.

Photo by Wil LaVeist

South African peace leaders determined to be nation's light

By Wil LaVeist



The four-hour power outage that occurred just seconds before the conflict mediator training session began added irony that illuminated the group's purpose and resolve.

The rain and darkened clouds would not dim the light the participants knew they must bring to solve dire social problems in their communities.

"The Bible speaks about caring for the poor and the vulnerable," said Oscar Siwali, founder and director of Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency (SADRA), as he scanned the group of church leaders sitting in a tight circle near the window. "We cannot be quiet at such a time as this."

The conflict mediator training was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the offices of the South African Council of Churches, the organization that Bishop Desmond Tutu once led. Early that morning, Siwali had flown two hours from his home in Cape Town, South Africa, to lead the final session for church leaders to become certified

conflict resolution mediators. SADRA Conflict Transformation, a Mennonite Mission Network partner, offers a three-day certified peace education and training program for church and community leaders across the country, including participants from all denominations. It also offers a four-day version of the training for youth in schools.



Oscar Siwali, founder and director of SADRA.

Photo by Steve Wiebe-Johnson

SADRA has trained more than 2,200 mediators throughout South Africa, since its launch in August 2013, with the majority of these mediators being Christians. A 2010 study by The Pew Charitable Trust showed that 74% of South Africans respect and trust religious leaders and identify religion as important in shaping their daily decision making. Citing these statistics, Siwali, a former pastor, explained that training religious leaders as skilled mediators can lead to particularly powerful community benefits.

Siwali invited the Johannesburg trainees to share how they would apply the skills they had learned in SADRA training sessions. The trainees talked about situations they had encountered, such as sexual violence in homes, bullying in schools and conflicts

between churches. These problems are certainly prominent in other industrialized nations, such as the United States, but they are particularly acute in South Africa, because apartheid's atrocities remain deeply imbedded in current life. During his 2023 state of the nation address, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa even emphasized fighting sexual violence as a priority of his administration.

While South Africa is experiencing increased prosperity since apartheid ended, the country's fragile social order, political climate and infrastructure is equally apparent. For example, the rolling blackouts, called "load shedding," that caused this meeting to be held in near darkness are, in part, the result of a grid, which was built generations ago to service only South Africa's 8% White minority, now buckling, as it tries to supply the needs of the entire nation. These challenges, ironically, also provide an opportunity for the church to bring hope — to be the light of the nation.

Siwali and the trainees pondered whether the church was having enough of a positive impact on South Africa's society, particularly in the Black communities that have been deprived for far too long.

Pastor Gosiamo Choabi, of Johannesburg, urged against generalizing church leadership and acting as though all leaders think and behave the same.

"We tend to take for granted that all church leaders are informed," he said. "We tend to take for granted that all church leaders are activists. We need to identify the critical leaders who are in the know and work together."

Siwali expressed that the church has been too quiet in addressing social problems. Referring to the biblical themes in Esther 4, Siwali said Black church leaders need to take risks and seek community support to relieve suffering. He asserted that, in becoming certified conflict resolution mediators, they were extending SADRA's mission to equip and revive the church — to "take the pulpit back into the community."

This is why Siwali invests in equipping like-minded leaders with systematic, sound mediation training. One example of this type of activism is being done by Eulenda Mabusela and Phinah Phokanoka, at Filadelfia Secondary School in Soshanguve (Gauteng Province) — a school they describe as having a reputation of "shame." There has been tremendous animosity among students, teachers and parents.

"We have had several sessions with teachers, in which

we made them aware of how important they are ..."

Mabuesela said. "We dedicate every Monday to prayers sessions, because we believe God will open doors."

Established in 2013, SADRA is a registered South African non-governmental organization, based in Somerset West, a town in the country's Western Cape Province. SADRA helps foster tolerance and non-violence, using conflict transformation methods, such as dialogue and mediation, to resolve differences. For the past 10 years, SADRA has provided conflict management training to local government officials, community leaders and youth. SADRA peer mediators address issues, such as bullying and gangs in schools. Adult mediators confront intense topics, such as land disputes and union conflicts. SADRA anticipates playing



Photo by Will LaVeist

a major role in the upcoming national elections, which may become volatile.

Siwali gave feedback and suggestions about how their mediation training could be applied in various throughout the community, such as in family courts and divorce courts. Siwali said SADRA received a contract with the court in Cape Town, to help with mediation for spouses. One abusive husband accepted Siwali's invitation to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. He stopped being abusive, and the couple remained married.

As Siwali spoke, suddenly the light returned to the meeting room.

The load-shedding blackout had ended.

Siwali transitioned to leading the group in their certificate ceremony. Upon completion of the program, each graduate handed a certificate to another graduate and spoke words of encouragement and affirmation. ■

SADRA conflict resolution trainer Zanele Kolo conducts a workshop in Secondary School, Cape Town, South Africa. The training takes place in the schools, because that is often where conflict begins, before it is carried home and can turn into community conflict between local gangs. SADRA seeks to prevent these situations from escalating, by teaching skills in school settings, where they begin.



Apache Stronghold continues prayerful struggle to protect sacred places

By Michaela Esau



Situated in the Tonto National Forest of central Arizona, *Chi'chil Bildagoteel*, or “Oak Flat” in English, is a region of significant cultural, ecological and historical importance. It is known for its unique geological formations, diverse flora and fauna, and its significance to multiple Indigenous communities.

The Tonto National Forest was officially designated as a national forest on Oct. 3, 1905, through a proclamation signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. This designation recognized the forest's ecological and recreational significance and the need for its conservation. The Tonto National Forest covers a vast area and includes diverse landscapes, ranging from desert lowlands to mountainous terrain, making it an important and varied ecosystem within the United States' national forest system.

This geographical wonder, 70 miles east of Phoenix, Arizona, has been the dwelling place of the San Carlos Apache and their ancestors for centuries, if not millennia. The Apache Nation is comprised of several distinct groups — all of which are part of the larger Athabaskan language family — and are believed to have migrated to the American Southwest from the north, possibly crossing the Bering Land Bridge thousands of years ago.

Oak Flat is currently under imminent threat of destruction.

In December 2014, Arizona Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake included the transfer of Oak Flat to Resolution Copper — a subsidiary of the multinational mining and metals corporation Rio Tinto — in a National Defense Authorization Act. Resolution Copper plans to use Oak Flat to build the largest copper mine in North America, effectively ignoring the 1905 proclamation and destroying the sacred site.

Apache Stronghold, a grassroots, non-profit

Left photo: Gaan Canyon in Superior, Arizona. Photo courtesy of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

organization, made up of San Carlos Apache, other Indigenous tribes and their allies, are working tirelessly to prevent the land transfer. Under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, they filed a lawsuit Jan. 12, 2015, in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona. The case, known as “Apache Stronghold v. United States of America,” was a legal effort to prevent the transfer of Oak Flat to private ownership for mining purposes. The lawsuit raised concerns about the potential violation of religious freedom and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly the San Carlos Apache Tribe, whose cultural and religious practices are closely tied to the land.

Last year, their case was heard by a panel of three judges at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Apache Stronghold lost this lawsuit in a 2-1 decision. However, the 9th Circuit Court made the rare choice to rehear the case, this time in front of a full panel of 11 judges.

In preparation for this court case, held in March, Apache Stronghold invited people of all faiths to support their lawsuit. The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery answered this invitation. The Coalition, began by a group of Mennonites, consists of volunteers dedicated to repairing the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Christian church. Each year, the Coalition selects an Indigenous-led

partner to support. For the 2022-2023 year, that partner is Apache Stronghold.

The Coalition encouraged churches to sign amicus briefs, or “friend of the court” briefs, that would support Apache Stronghold in their case. Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Mission Network and Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference were among the organizations that signed onto amicus briefs, demonstrating to the court that people of different faiths believe religious freedom should apply to land-based spirituality.

Joan Pepin, an attorney for the United States, stated, in the court case, that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be released in late spring or early summer. The EIS would initiate the land transfer, regardless of whether the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals had released their decision. Upon hearing this news,

the Coalition encouraged people to send email blasts to White House administration. After receiving these email blasts, the United States announced that they did not have a timeline for releasing the EIS. This gave Apache Stronghold more time to try to protect Oak Flat before the land transfer.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has not yet announced their decision on this case. However, the court’s ruling is not the only way to protect Oak Flat. The Save Oak Flat from Foreign Mining

You can continue to support Oak Flat by calling their representatives and encouraging them to support this bill: H.R.1351-Save Oak Flat From Foreign Mining Act.



Photo courtesy of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

Members of Apache Stronghold and the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery held a prayer send-off before the March 21 court case in the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena, California.

Act was introduced to the United States House of Representatives by Representative Raúl Grijalva of Arizona on March 3. This bill would protect Oak Flat from mining and effectively undo the land transfer written into the Defense Authorization Act of 2015. One way people can continue to support Oak Flat is by calling their representatives and encouraging them to support this bill: H.R.1351-Save Oak Flat From Foreign Mining Act

Another way the Coalition plans to continue their support for Apache Stronghold is through Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) training. CPT



Members of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and Apache Stronghold attend the March 21 court case in the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena, California.

sends trained volunteers into tense situations to help prevent violence and peacefully protect people. In September, some Coalition volunteers went through CPT training, to accompany Apache Stronghold at Oak Flat when needed.

Oak Flat is not the only sacred site Apache Stronghold is trying to protect. Mount Graham, known as *Dzil Nchaa Si An* in the Apache language, is a prominent mountain 130 miles southeast of Oak Flat. It is part of the Pinaleno Mountains and is notable for its ecological diversity, including different climate zones and a variety of plant and animal species. It is considered a sacred site and is central to the Apache creation story. The mountain and its surroundings are used for traditional ceremonies, gathering medicinal plants and other religious practices.

In the late 1980s, the Vatican and the University of Arizona planned to build 20 telescopes on the sacred mountain. Three have been built so far, and the Apache are no longer allowed to practice their sacred ceremonies on the mountain. This July, Apache Stronghold held their 31st annual run from the San

Carlos reservation to the top of Mount Graham, to pray for the land and bring awareness to this issue. The Coalition has been working alongside Apache Stronghold in an attempt to help the Apache people regain access to Mount Graham for their ceremonies.

The struggle to protect Indigenous spirituality does not only concern Indigenous Peoples. Wendsler Nosie Sr., leader of Apache Stronghold, believes we are all connected in this injustice. In a March 28 press release, he said:

“We call for an end of the sacrilegious use of any religion to justify the destruction of sacred land, including the sacred religious holy grounds of Chi’chil Bildagoteel where the Apache and other people practice the oldest religion of these lands, to spiritually connect to the same Creator referred to in the Christian Bible and all religious sacred texts.”

Jim Lichti, a member of the Coalition who attended the court case in March, was struck by how his faith has been strengthened in his work with Apache Stronghold.

“They are bringing a new sense of prayer to me: a kind of ‘prayer without ceasing,’ that flows through the earth and each one of us, if we let it.”

This struggle for land-based spirituality is a chance for us to deepen our faith and repair the relationship between settlers and Indigenous Peoples. It is an opportunity to protect creation and follow the lead of people who view creation as a living being instead of a resource. ■

Michaela Esau is a freelance writer for Mennonite Mission Network.



Scan the QR code for more information about Oak Flat and how you can get involved.



Photo by Peter Wigginton

The workshop in Ambato, Tungurahua, Ecuador, is filled with members from the local provincial FEINE chapter.

Peacebuilding efforts continue in Ecuador

By Jane Morrow



Injustice in Ecuador, especially for Indigenous Peoples, has ignited protests, national uprisings and strikes over the past four decades, and they are increasing in frequency. Although

Ecuador's constitution and international law recognize Indigenous Peoples' rights, United Nations experts found persistent gaps in the enforcement of these rights, especially regarding mineral extraction and development in Indigenous territories.

Furthermore, Indigenous communities are typically located in rural areas, where the percentage of people living in poverty is double that of people in urban areas. Poverty contributes to the lack of access to basic services, including health care. This socioeconomic chasm has contributed to unrest.

Mennonite Mission Network has had a presence in Ecuador for over 30 years and, for over 20 years, has supported Ecuadorian partners, through the Ecuador Partnership, which is made up of Mission Network, *Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Colombia* (IMCOL, Colombia Mennonite Church) and Central Plains Mennonite Conference, a conference of Mennonite Church USA.

At the request of the president of the Council of Indigenous Evangelical Nations and Organizations of Ecuador (FEINE), Eustaquio Tuala, Mission Network held a workshop for FEINE leaders, Dec. 8-10, 2022. The workshop was led by Ecuador Partnership

co-coordinator Peter Wigginton and training and resource specialist — church planting Mauricio Chenlo, along with Dr. Julián Guamán, general secretary of *Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Ecuador* (ICME, Mennonite Christian Church of Ecuador). Fifty FEINE leaders participated in the workshop at FEINE's national office, in Quito, Ecuador. The workshop focused on faith and politics, as well as methods of nonviolent direct action and reconciliation.

This initial workshop, and the enthusiastic response of the participants, led to a plan between Mission Network and FEINE to further develop the workshops, by producing written materials, providing training for Indigenous facilitators and working together to lead additional workshops.

Throughout May and June, Chenlo, Guamán and Wigginton led a series of eight workshops, in seven Ecuadorian provinces, with a total of 1,400 people in attendance. The workshops challenged the attendees to consider what Jesus' political platform would be, with key passages including Isaiah 53 and the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Each participant received a copy of *Fe y política, hacia la política de Jesús* (*Faith and politics, towards the politics of Jesus*).

“Through these workshops, we have been blessed to meet and fellowship with

“In a world with climate change, with environmental crises, with an economic system that destroys nature and exploits people. We, as Mennonite churches, can be different, because Jesus Christ called us to love one another.”

— Julián Guamán,
Secretary for Ecuador
Mennonite Christian
Church (ICME)



local leaders and members of many Indigenous provincial federations,” said Wigginton.

The timing of these workshops is significant, because Ecuadorian politics have been in tumult the past several months. In May, the president of Ecuador, Guillermo Lasso, dissolved the National Assembly by decree, and new elections were held in August. A young son of a wealthy banana business mogul Daniel Noboa won a run-off election in October, cementing a more right-wing control over the country for the next 18 months.

This excerpt from *Fe y política, hacia la política de Jesús* offers a summary of the context Chenlo presented in the workshops:

“Palestine was under the control of the Roman Empire and the tetrarch (governor)

Herod. The account of Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel places Jesus’ birth in a concrete political context. Jesus becomes a threat to the powers that be because he embodies the expectations of justice and peace, of shalom that the neediest longed for. Jesus initiates a style of leadership based on service, on missional practices of going out where the people are; of healing, spiritual restoration, forgiveness of sins. These practices are grounded in the core values of God’s kingdom. Jesus initiates a clear policy of service and love of neighbor. The formation of a group of disciples who embody these practices is central to God’s political strategy. It is through the community of believers that God intends to restore all things under one name, the name of Christ!”

After attending the workshops on faith and

In silencing the noise of war, dialogue takes place in Burkina Faso

The Mennonites of Burkina Faso drew upon Anabaptist theology and practice, in refusing to pay war taxes.

Editor’s note: *The government of Burkina Faso levied a tax on all citizens, to fund increased military operations against violent Islamist fighters. La Fédération Des Églises Et Missions Évangéliques (FEME) du Burkina Faso (The Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions of Burkina Faso), a consortium of Protestant churches, is requiring each of its member denominations to contribute toward the amount it will give the government, totaling the equivalent of more than \$56,000 USD. The sum assigned to the Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso was nearly \$3,000. In May, the Eglise Evangélique Mennonite du Burkina Faso (Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso) asked for prayer, as they prepared to meet with FEME President Henry Yé, to explain the Anabaptist stance on peace and non-violence. Siaka Traoré, a long-time church leader, both nationally and internationally, and Calixte Bananzaro, current president of Burkina Faso’s Mennonite Church and its representative to FEME, met with Yé, May 26. Here is Traoré’s report of the encounter:*

By Siaka Traoré



God was with us May 26, when Calixte Bananzaro and I met with Henry Yé, the FEME president.

The purpose of our meeting was to discuss the contribution that

churches were to provide for the war effort. We told Yé that we received the call from FEME to contribute, as requested by the government of Burkina Faso. When the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso received the information, the leaders commissioned Bananzaro and me to dialogue with Yé about the issue. We explained that the Mennonite church is a historic peace church, which has refrained from supporting armed conflict in the past. Therefore, this request to contribute to the war effort put us in a difficult position.

Yé reassured us that the contribution was

politics, many church leaders shared interest in a consistent program for leadership development that would reflect the witness of Jesus as a servant leader. In response, Chenlo, Guamán and Wigginton are continuing to work with FEINE leaders to develop the workshop program further. In mid-November, workshops on church planting were held in Quito and in the Amazonian province of Napo for FEINE leaders.

“We are working together to conduct a survey with church leaders to learn more about what key functions pastors are expected to perform within the bi-vocational paradigm that is common in Ecuador. In addition, we wrote a second booklet, which includes the history of church planters and how to plant peace churches,” said Chenlo.

Peace churches are especially important now,

as organized crime and violence in Ecuador, which has surpassed Mexico and Colombia in homicide rates, continues to escalate. Earlier in November Peter Wigginton organized a peacebuilding workshop, inviting Ricardo Esquivia and Jenny Neme from IMCOL to participate, given their extensive work in peacebuilding in Colombia. Church leaders from the three Mennonite conferences in Ecuador participated, along with leaders from FEINE and other Evangelical churches in Quito.

These reconciliation and justice efforts in Ecuador have been envisioned and developed by FEINE and Ecuadorian Mennonites, along with Mission Network personnel and are partially supported with funds from the Schowalter Foundation. ■



Photo by Peter Wigginton

Dr. Julián Guamán teaches the first part of a faith-and-politics workshop in Callata, Chimborazo, Ecuador.



In 2020, Mennonite World Conference sent a delegation to stand in solidarity with members of the Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso. Pictured left to right are Jürg Braker (Switzerland), Siaka Traoré, Nelson Kraybill (USA), Jean-Paul Pelsy (France), the Mogho Naaba (highest ranking official) of the Mossi people, Abdias Coulibaly, Henry Yé, Léonard Kiswangi (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Didier Bellefleur (France).

voluntary, contrary to what was initially communicated to us about specific amounts. God fought for us, and Yé was open to the possibility that the Mennonite church could promote the well-being of our country in other ways. We asked how we would know that the Mennonite donations were being used for peace rather than war.

Yé said that Mennonites can help internally displaced people. He even mentioned that we could designate our donations specifically for pastors and Christians who are internally displaced. We told Yé that, as Christians, we cannot show preference to one group of people and refuse aid to another group. The church, as the body of Christ, must observe the utmost neutrality in this crisis, in order to have authenticity as peacemakers, both in the current situation, as well as in the future.

We also mentioned that Mennonites have expertise

in peacebuilding and trauma healing, and we would like to offer these gifts to our communities. We told Yé that we, as Christians, must consider the option of dialogue, with each party listening to the other. We must silence the sound of weapons, to listen to ourselves as humans.

The atmosphere of the meeting with Yé was fraternal. We found that we were looking in the same direction when it came to the situation of our country. We thank God, who through the Holy Spirit, led us in this dialogue, and we thank everyone who prayed for this encounter.

May God restore peace to Burkina Faso. ■

Siaka Traoré has retired from national leadership positions with Eglise Evangélique Mennonite du Burkina Faso (Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso), but continues in an advisory role.



A Youth Venture team plays “Down by the banks,” a hand-slap game, with the children of *La Casa Grande* in Benin. It is one of their favorite games. Photo by Darwin Reyes.

Thank you!

**Gracias • Terima kasih • Asante • Merci
Arigatō • Danke • Awa nú kaká**

Mission Network participants, workers and employees are committed to the idea that God’s love has no borders, state lines or restrictions. Your contributions, prayers and time make it possible for Mission Network to share God’s love around the world. Thank you.

Department updates

These updates reflect a sample of Mission Network’s 2023 projects.

Advancement

The Development and Marketing and Communications departments work together to maintain contact with donors and congregations to ensure and grow a steady stream of support, both financially and otherwise. In addition, the Marketing and Communications department develops inspiration and informational communications that remind individuals and congregations of Mission Network’s partnerships and programs across the street and around the world.

Projects

- Emphasize connections with supporting congregations, regardless of their denominational connections.
- Achieve a minimum goal of 1440 moves, which symbolize activities that deepen relationships with donors and churches, per year per representative.
- Expand grant-proposal submissions to various grantors.
- Develop Mission Network promotional video and companion edition of *Missio Dei*.
- Develop peace/dove pins campaign, to remind congregations of God’s calling to pray and work for peace.
- Update the crisis communication plan.
- Update and upgrade the Mission Network website.

Operations

The Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology departments are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization. They develop and implement operational procedures, as well as systems and manage budgets and financial reports.

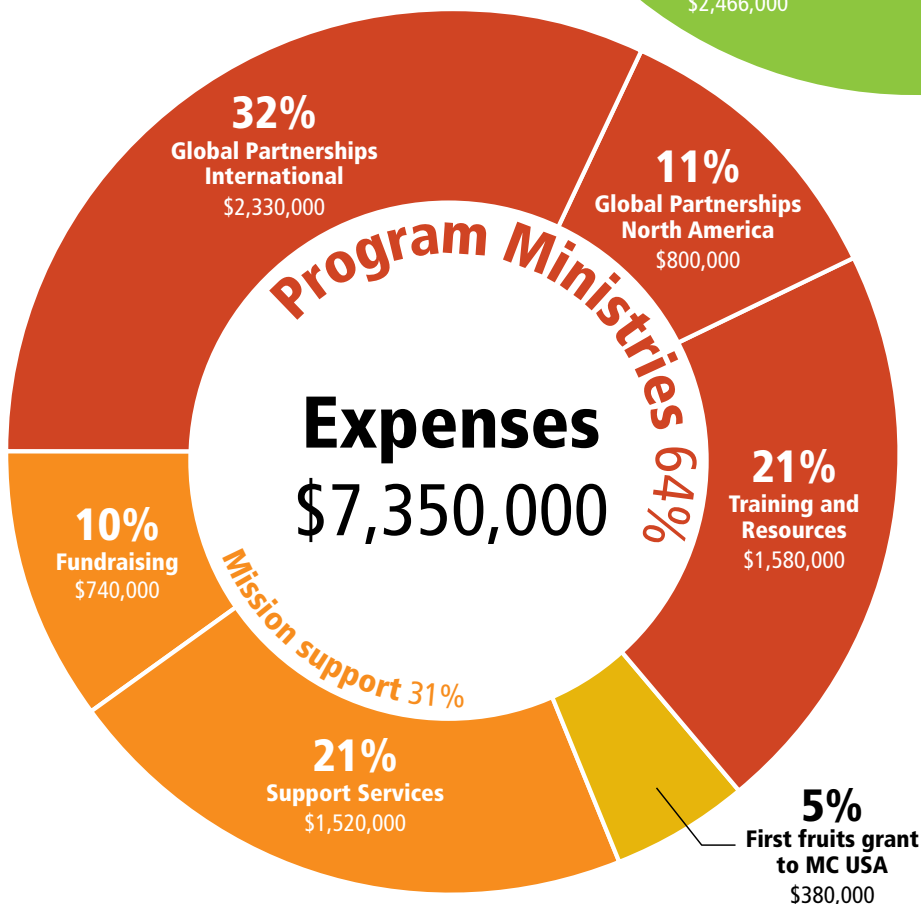
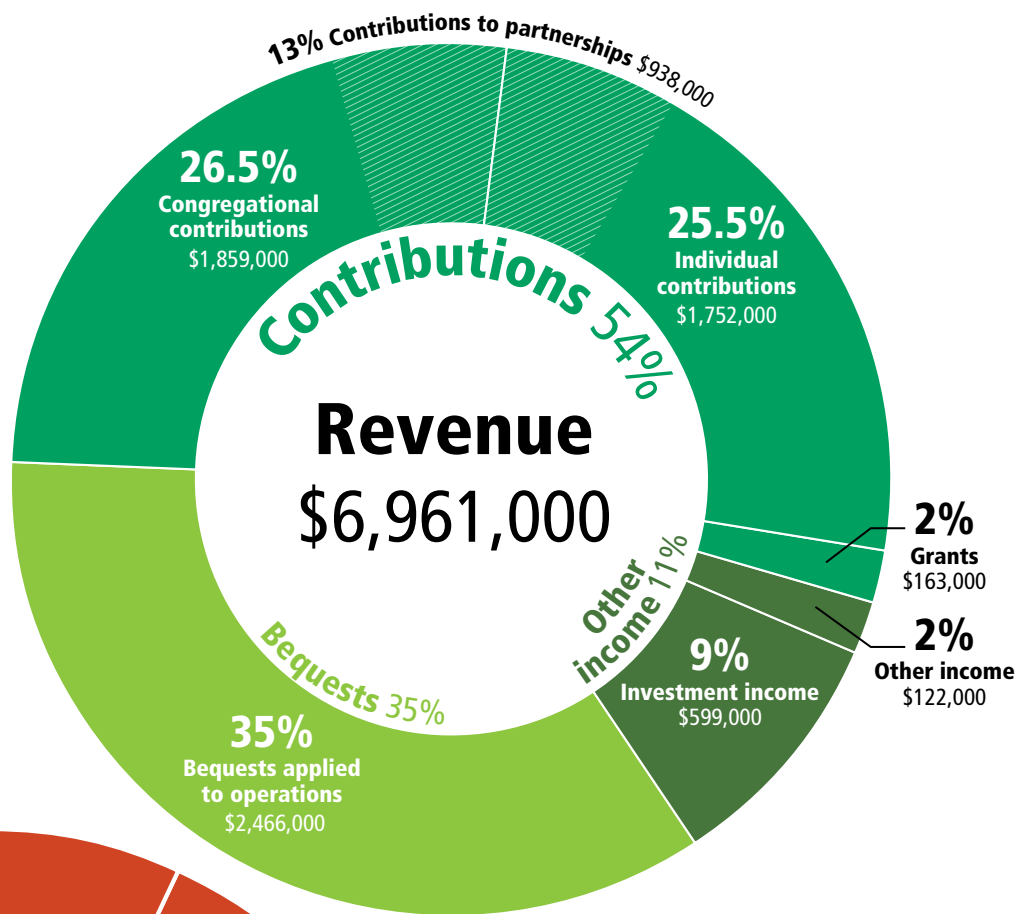
Ventures

Constituent Engagement, Global Partnerships, and Training and Resources departments create and coordinate opportunities for the church to be fully engaged in mission.

Projects

- Maintain and enhance service programs around the world.
- Create a new service program, Just Peace Pilgrimages, for people of all ages to engage and connect with partners in North America and in other countries in the future.
- Develop learning materials and coordinate and facilitate peace workshops in Latin America and India.

Ministry



Additional notes

1. This report is for the **fiscal year** Aug. 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023.
2. The total **value of bequests** received during this fiscal year was \$2,301,000. Bequest funds used in this fiscal year were \$2,466,000.
3. **Other income** includes funding from partner organizations, program fees, event fees, sale of publications and resources, and worker earnings.
4. **Confidentiality policy:** Contribution information in the Mission Network/Mennonite Church USA database will not be shared. Address information may be shared with other Mennonite Church USA agencies
5. The figures provided are subject to a fiscal year audit, to be completed by end of 2023.

Giving

Mennonite Church USA congregations (Aug. 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023)

Allegheny Mennonite Conference	Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference	Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
\$17,320 Six congregations contributed this total.	\$173,275 21 congregations contributed this total.	\$45,892 14 congregations contributed this total.
Atlantic Coast Conference	Mosaic Mennonite Conference	Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference
\$151,550 16 congregations contributed this total.	\$158,277 26 congregations contributed this total.	\$16,663 Seven congregations contributed this total.
Central District Conference	Mountain States Mennonite Conference	South Central Mennonite Conference
\$156,186* 30 congregations contributed this total.	\$24,081 Seven congregations contributed this total.	\$59,779 Three congregations contributed this total.
Central Plains Mennonite Conference	New York Mennonite Conference	Virginia Mennonite Conference
\$239,444 26 congregations contributed this total.	\$15,125 Four congregations contributed this total.	\$125,916 13 congregations contributed this total.
Illinois Mennonite Conference	Ohio Conference	Western District Conference
\$90,795* 15 congregations contributed this total.	\$266,492* 28 congregations contributed this total.	\$172,272 27 congregations contributed this total.

All Mennonite Church USA congregations

\$1,743,536* 244 Mennonite Church USA congregations contributed.

*Totals do not match the sum of conference totals, because dual-conference congregations are recorded in both conference totals.

Contributing congregations not part of Mennonite Church USA

\$178,133 48 congregations contributed to this total.

Giving

Businesses / Estates / Foundations / Organizations

Businesses \$14,717

Everence — Goshen, Indiana
HRM Enterprises Inc — Hartville, Ohio
Lehman Insurance Agency Inc — Ephrata, Pennsylvania
Texas Instruments Foundation — Dallas, Texas

Estates \$2,345,953

Evelyn J. Amstutz Estate — Wooster, Ohio
Steven D. Andres Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Marie Becker Estate — Goshen, Kansas
Marie G. Beechy Estate — Cooperstown, New York
Curtis Bergey Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Mary L. Bontrager Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Ina R. Breckbill Estate — Kidron, Ohio
Jacob Brenneman Family Estate — Hesston, Kansas
Muriel L. Brunk Estate — Kernersville, North Carolina
Ruth L. Buller Estate — Wesley Chapel, Florida
Aaron J. Claassen Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Cora Crossgrove Estate — Goshen, Indiana
David L. Dohner Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Wesley Eilers Estate — Hesston, Kansas
Lloyd J. Fisher Estate — Albany, Oregon
Roger L. Flueckiger Estate — Wolcottville, Indiana
Katherine B. Frey Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Paul A. Friesen Estate — Wichita, Kansas
Kathryn E. Gerber Estate — Tiskilwa, Illinois
Jerry Gingerich Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Naomi R. Gingerich Estate — Lititz, Pennsylvania
Ruth Gunden Estate — Milford, Indiana
Letha Hamm Estate — Newton, Kansas
Ella J. Harnly Estate — Cleona, Pennsylvania
Sara Heacock Estate — Ottsville, Pennsylvania
Rosella E. Holgersen Estate — Austin, Texas
Claudia Lapp Estate — Salem, Oregon
Jay E. Lehman Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Freda E. Litwiller Estate — Lincoln, Illinois
Grace L. Martin Estate — Goshen, Indiana
John R. Martin Estate — Rockingham, Virginia
Wilma M. McKee Estate — Hydro, Oklahoma
Clifford Merk Estate — Freeman, South Dakota
James R. Merk Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Beverly J. Miller Estate — Wauseon, Ohio
Elizabeth A. Moyer Estate — Dayton, Ohio
Mildred Moyer Estate — Souderton, Pennsylvania
Eleanor R. Nickel Estate — Newton, Kansas
Leah Otto Estate — Columbia, Missouri
Sarah E. Palmatier Estate — Arlington, Virginia
Lora M. Regehr Estate — Manhattan, Kansas
Eleanor C. Ruth Estate — Telford, Pennsylvania
Maynard L. Sauder Trust — Archbold, Ohio
Alva J. Schlabach Estate — Goshen, Indiana

Theron F. Schlabach Estate — Phoenix, Arizona
Nelson S. Souder Foundation — Goshen, Indiana
Wilma Stutzman Estate — Kalona, Iowa
Louise Swartzendruber Estate — Thousand Oaks, California
Velma F. Swartzendruber Estate — Hesston, Kansas
Erlene R. Unruh Estate — Newton, Kansas
Robert C. Unruh Estate — Newton, Kansas
Marilyn Voran Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Janet E. Yoder Estate — Goshen, Indiana
Henry Zehr Estate — Goshen, Indiana
William M. Zehr Estate — Hutchinson, Kansas

Foundations \$175,083

Central Indiana Community Foundation — Indianapolis, Indiana
EC Foundation — Archbold, Ohio
Fidelia E Plett Charitable Foundation — Inman, Kansas
Schowalter Foundation, Inc — North Newton, Kansas
SFG Blossom Foundation — Cupertino, California
Tyndale House Foundation — Carol Stream, Illinois
United Service Foundation Inc — Lancaster, Pennsylvania
CP and Izetta Yoder Mission Endowment — Goshen, Indiana.

Organizations \$1,219,051

ACC/DEMZO Partnership Administration (C) — Lititz, Pennsylvania
Amazon Smile
Anonymous Donors to Mission Network — Various
Camp Ithiel — Gotha, Florida
Christliche Dienste — Bammental, Germany
Eastern Mennonite Missions — Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Fellowship of Hope Builders — Elkhart, Indiana
Franklin Mennonite Mission Board — Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
Giving Tuesday NWO — Archbold, Ohio
Goshen College — Goshen, Indiana
Hillcrest Academy — Kalona, Iowa
Landis Homes — Lititz, Pennsylvania
Mennonite Women USA — Newton, Kansas
Mennonite World Conference — Kitchener, Ontario
PayPal Giving Fund — San Jose, California
Virginia Mennonite Missions — Harrisonburg, Virginia



Photo by Linda Shelly

Mission Network worker Alfonsina Finger reads a children's story, titled, *Things Mission Workers Do — Serve Around the World*, at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron, Ohio. Alfonsina and her husband, José Oyanguren, serve with Indigenous churches and communities in the Argentine Chaco.

Do you want a Mission Network speaker to come to your church?
Visit MennoniteMission.net/speaker, and invite our staff
to your congregation to share about mission!



2023 service participants

Just Peace Pilgrimage, Racial Justice

Ruby Sawin, Nicholas Murch, Caroline Murch, Rebecca Murch, Joani Miller, Kathie and Wayne Kurtz, and Jake Williams visit the Southern Poverty Law Center memorial. Photo by Tom Sawin.

Mennonite Voluntary Service

Alamosa, Colorado

Cynthia Boyer, Harrisonburg, Virginia, serving with Rio Grande Hospital.

Alena Miller, Huntington, Indiana, Huntington Mennonite Fellowship, serving with Immigrant Resource Center.

Jacob Myers, Archbold, Ohio, Tedrow Mennonite

Church, Wauseon, Ohio, serving with *La Puente* Home Inc.

Hesston, Kansas

Jakob Lehmann, Manching, Germany, *Mennoniten Gemeinde Ingolstadt e.V.*, serving with Hesston College.

San Francisco, California

Milo Jones, Wichita, Kansas, Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas, serving with Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing.

Rachel Miller, Freeman, South Dakota, Salem-Zion Mennonite Church, Freeman, serving with Homeless Prenatal Program.

Laura Ullom-Minnich, Moundridge, Kansas, McPherson (Kansas) Church of the Brethren, serving with Interfaith Power and Light.

Savannah Walter, Chicago, Illinois, Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster (Pennsylvania), serving

with Homeless Advocacy Project.

Tucson, Arizona

Hannah Nuest, Wichita, Kansas, Trinity Episcopal Church, Lawrence, Kansas, serving with Watershed Management Group and Casa Alitas Welcome Center.

Allison Weaver, Hesston, Kansas, Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston, serving with Literacy Connects.

Magdalena Wenger, Hutchinson, Kansas, First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, serving with Casa Alitas Welcome Center.

Deborah Yoder, Listowel, Ontario, Mennonite Evangelical Church of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, serving with the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.

Service Adventure

Anchorage, Alaska

Rachel Musselman, Harrisonburg, Virginia,

Gehman Mennonite Church, Reinholds, Pennsylvania, serving as unit leader.

Chiara Rempel, Estero, Florida, Summit Gateway, Fort Myers, Florida, serving with Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center and Faith Day Care.

Veronica Schelesny, Bad Sobernheim, Germany, The Bridge Christian Free Church, Bad Sobernheim, serving with Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center and Faith Day Care.

Lukas Tepper, Weil im Schönbuch, Germany, Catholic Church of Weil/Dettenhausen (Germany), serving with Habitat for Humanity.

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Shelby and Travis Clarke, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Beth-El Mennonite Church, Colorado Springs, serving as unit leaders.

Shawna Hurst, Hesston, Kansas, New Creation Fellowship Church, Newton, Kansas, serving with Family Promise

(Interfaith Hospitality Network).

Sam Pluta, Granger, Indiana, Kern Road Mennonite Church, South Bend, Indiana, serving with Our House Inc - Bright Futures Program.

Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Joshua and Stefanie Musser, Newport News, Virginia, Early Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia, serving as unit leaders.

Marie Haller, Oberreichenbach, Germany, Protestant Church Congregation, Oberkollbach, serving with Head Start.

Henriette Preuss, Quitzow, Germany, St Jacobi Church, Perleburg, Germany, serving with Johnstown Christian School and New Day Inc.

Leni Schreiber, Dortmund, Germany, Georgsgemeinde Church, serving with Free Medical Clinic and New Day Inc.

Elias Wolff, Dresden, Germany, Free



Mennonite Voluntary Service — Alamosa, Colorado

Alena Morgunova Miller, Cynthia Boyer and Jake Myers pose for a group photo.

Photo provided

Evangelical Gemeinde, Dresden, serving with Head Start.

SOOP

Karen and Robert Albrecht, Roanoke Mennonite Church, Eureka, Illinois, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Eileen and Merlin Becker-Hoover, College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in San Antonio, Texas.

Jane and Marion Beyeler, Orrville (Ohio) Mennonite Church, served in San Antonio, Texas.

Jeanne and Mark S Birky, Hopedale (Illinois) Mennonite Church, served in San Antonio, Texas.

Rachel and Robert Brenneman, Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in Glendale, Arizona.

John and Laurel Buckwalter, Sojourners Mennonite Fellowship, Belfast, New York, served in Gotha, Florida, and Lincoln City, Oregon.

Brenda Buller, River Oaks Community Church, Goshen,

Indiana, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Anne Meyer Byler and Mark Byler, Open Table Mennonite Fellowship, Goshen, Indiana, served in Macon, Mississippi.

Pat Christopher, St. Georges, Episcopal Church, Germantown, Tennessee, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Adam and Jennifer Cobb and family, Lockport Mennonite Church, Stryker, Ohio, served in Lincoln City, Oregon.

Alessa Deal, Springfield, Ohio, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Lester and Marian Denlinger, Mellinger Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, served in Three Rivers, Michigan.

Mary Lou and Roger Farmer, Washington (Iowa) Mennonite Church, served in Glendale, Arizona.

James and Lila Gascho, Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Lola and Merrill Gingerich, Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Dorothy and Melvin Hathaway, Sonnenberg Mennonite Church, Kidron, Ohio, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Gwen and Timothy Hershberger, East Goshen (Indiana) Mennonite Church, served in Tucson, Arizona.

Andrew Hershey and Yvonne Lefever Hershey, Hershey Mennonite Church, Kinzers, Pennsylvania, served in Gotha, Florida.

Barbara and Marlin Hershey, East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, served in Brooksville, Florida.

Carol and Jay Hershey, Gingrichs Mennonite Church, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, served in Gotha, Florida.

Keith Hitchcock, Metropolitan Community Church of Lehigh Valley, Allentown, Pennsylvania, served in Baltimore, Maryland.

Calvin and Shirley Hochstedler, Kalona (Iowa) Mennonite Church, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Jeff and Kelsey Hochstetler and family, Berlin (Ohio)



Photo by Margaret Upton

SOOP — Camp Ithiel

SOOPer Clark Upton paints the front of the chapel at Camp Ithiel.

Mennonite Church, served in Colombia.

Frankie Huxman, Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas, served in Bloomfield, New Mexico.

David and LouAnn Kanagy, Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold, Ohio, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Ruth Kauffmann and Brian Roots, Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in San Antonio, Texas.

Donald and Shirley Kempf, Salem Mennonite Church, Shickley, Nebraska, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Robert King, Beth-El Mennonite Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado, served in Tiskilwa, Illinois.

Shirley and Vernon King, Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in Tucson, Arizona.

John and Judy Kiewer, Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, Kansas, served in Tucson, Arizona.

Gayle Gerber Koontz and Ted Koontz,

Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in Tucson, Arizona.

Karen and Richard Kropf, Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, Oregon, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Ray and Sharon Kuhns, Chambersburg (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Church, served in Gotha, Florida.

LeRoy and Sherry Mast, Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in Meridian, Mississippi.

Susan Mast, James Street Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, served in Colombia.

Beth McIntyre, Hill City, South Dakota, Salem-Zion Mennonite Church, Freeman, South Dakota, served in Elm Mott, Texas.

Byron Miller and Ellen Kempf Miller, Cedar Falls (Iowa) Mennonite Church, served in Tucson, Arizona.

Darlene Miller, Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Eldon and Gem Miller, Blooming Glen (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Church, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Leon and Lynda Miller, Locust Grove Mennonite Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Mary Sue Miller, Goshen, Indiana, Holdeman Mennonite Church, Wakarusa, Indiana, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Everett and Miriam Ramer, Calvary Baptist Church, Newark, Delaware, served in Montreal, Quebec.

Clayton and Mary Reed, Nappanee (Indiana) Missionary Church, served in Gotha, Florida.

John and Kay Reimer, Mennonite Church of Normal (Illinois), served in Gotha, Florida.

Sue Richard, West Goshen Church of the Brethren, Goshen, Indiana, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Mary Rogan, Salt Lake City, Utah, served in Glendale, Arizona.



Photo provided

Service Adventure — Anchorage, Alaska

Lukas Tepper, *Rachel Musselman, Chiara Rempel and Veronica Schelesny pose for a group photo. *Unit leader



Photo by John Buckwalter

SOOP — Drift Creek Camp

Laurel Buckwalter makes cinnamon rolls for campers.

James and Linda Rufenacht, West Clinton Mennonite Church, Wauseon, Ohio, served in Tucson, Arizona.

Karin E Shinn, Spencer Creek Baptist Church, Chelsea, Oklahoma, served in Tucson, Arizona.

Dianna J Soula, St Peter's Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Ohio, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Kathy and Keith Springer, First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana, Urbana, Illinois, served in San Antonio, Texas.

Bryan and Judi Stauffer, Salem Mennonite Church, Keizer, Oregon, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Sandra Stegman, Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold, Ohio, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

George and Ruth Stoltzfus, Crossroads United Brethren Church, Charlotte, Michigan, served in Americus, Georgia, and Three Rivers, Michigan.

Andrew and Anita Stoner, Oak Grove Mennonite Church, West Liberty, Ohio, served in Meridian, Mississippi, and Glendale, Arizona.

Kathy Straub, Calvary Chapel, Buhl, Idaho, served in Glendale, Arizona.

Patricia and William Strunk, Alden (New York) Mennonite Church, served in Shipshewana, Indiana.

Marge and Will Swartzendruber, Salem Mennonite Church, Shickley, Nebraska, served in Tucson, Arizona.

George and Karen Thompson, Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Carolyn and Enos Tice, Springs (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Church, served in Mt Pleasant, Pennsylvania; Jackson, Mississippi; Harlan, Kentucky; Sturgis, Michigan; Elkhart, Indiana; Divide, Colorado; Tiskilwa, Illinois; Hesston, Kansas.

Linda Trejo-Todd, First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Evelyn Denison Turner, Cedar Falls (Iowa) Mennonite Church, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Roy Unruh, Faith Mennonite Church,

Newton, Kansas, served in Bloomfield, New Mexico.

Clark and Margaret Upton, Mount Clinton Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia, served in Lowville, New York; Gotha, Florida; Harlan, Kentucky; and Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania.

Kathryn Voth, Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston, Kansas, served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

Grace and Nelson Weber, Akron (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Church,

served in Americus, Georgia.

Leon and Louisa Weber, Akron (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Church, served in Americus, Georgia.

Recinda and Timothy Widmer, Washington (Iowa) Mennonite Church, served in San Antonio, Texas.

Just Peace Pilgrimage

Racial Justice tour #1

Tour leader: Arloa Bontrager.

Groups from: College Mennonite Church, and Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana

J Rohrer Bomberger
Dana Bontrager
Daniel Bontrager
Iris Bontrager
Myron Bontrager
Suella Gerber
Becky Horst
Ann Kauffman
Ned Kauffman
Marilyn Lehman
Marty Lehman
Barbara Smucker
George Smucker
Joseph Springer



Photo by Rose Shenk

Just Peace Pilgrimage — Racial Justice

Anton Flores (far right) describes the struggles of asylum seekers in Georgia, during a walking tour in Atlanta, during which he connected current civil rights issues with the historical movement.

Racial Justice tour #2

Tour leader: Arloa Bontrager.

Groups from: Community Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia, and Daniels Run Peace Church, Fairfax,, Virginia

Kathleen Kurtz
Wayne Kurtz
Joani Miller, trip leader
Caroline Murch
Jennifer Murch
Nicholas Murch
Rebecca Murch
Hannah Nichols-Murch
Michael Oyer, trip leader
Ruby Sawin
Thomas Sawin
Rosemary Shenk

Youth Venture

Benin

Bizayehu Bomberger, Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana.

Jackeline Fernandez Lambert, Evangelical Garifuna Church of Houston (Texas).

Rhiannon Harrison, Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, group leader.

David M. Norton, Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana.

Darwin Reyes, Evangelical Garifuna Church of Houston (Texas).

Bethany Saravia, Evangelical Garifuna Church of Houston (Texas).

Shyane Strader, First Mennonite Church of Canton (Ohio).

Indonesia

Christopher Earl Cox, Calvary Community Church, Hampton, Virginia.

Zahria C Elliott, Calvary Community Church, Hampton, Virginia.

Kanaan Graham, Calvary Community Church, Hampton, Virginia.

Alex Guyton, San Antonio (Texas) Mennonite Church.

Andi Santoso and Chialis Thuan, Pleasant View Church, Goshen, Indiana, group leaders.

Portia Stokes, Calvary Community Church, Hampton, Virginia.

International workers

C. Paul and Hildi Amstutz began another two-year term in Paraguay in June. C. Paul is serving as part-time chaplain in the *Capellania Empresarial* program. Hildi is serving as a program director for *Asociación Querit*, leading spiritual retreats and training others in spiritual direction. Together, they are deacons of the Concordia Mennonite Church in Asunción, Paraguay, which is their home church.

Akiko Aratani and Raymond Epp began another two-year term



Photo by Andi Santoso

Youth Venture — Indonesia

The Youth Venture group joined law enforcement, government officials and others to plant trees at Gower Kendeng Pati, to bring awareness to ecological preservation and to prevent flooding.

in Naganuma, Hokkaido, Japan, in January. They are involved in ecological peace education, teaching about regenerative agriculture and local economics. Akiko's home church is Yuai Mennonite Christian Church, Sapporo, Japan, and Raymond's is Bethesda Mennonite Church, Henderson, Nebraska.

Wes Bergen began a new one-month term in Ghana in February. He participated in the life of Good News Theological Seminary, as requested by local leadership. His home church is Morgantown (West Virginia) Church of the Brethren.

Anicka Fast began a two-year+ term in Bussum, Netherlands, in February. She is working as a specialist in church history and missiology in Francophone Africa. Her home church is Hochma, Montreal, Quebec.

James Krabill served for several weeks in Ghana, France, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast and Thailand to teach,

visit partners, participate as a delegate at the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) Mission Commission gathering, present a paper on Harrist hymnology, etc. James' home church is Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Indiana.

Matthew and Toni Krabill began a two-year term in Paris in December 2022. They are working with Paris Mennonite Center, primarily in theological education, as well as maintaining the Center. They continue working to provide Anabaptist theological education online for Francophone regions. Their home church is Whollicare Community Missionary Church, Pasadena, California.

Elena (Buckwalter) Satalaya and Freddy Satalaya began a six-month term in Bolivia in December 2022. They served as pastoral accompaniment, with an emphasis on the Esmirna church, focusing on pastoral ministry and work with youth and children,

including support for the Samuelito Daycare and VBS program. Their home church is Mount Clinton Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Laura Schlabach began another one-year term in Mongolia in December 2022, working at JCS. Her home church is San Antonio (Texas) Mennonite Church.

Karen Spicher and Jae Young Lee began another three-year term in South Korea in January. They give leadership to Peace Building School, Korea Peacebuilding Institute and Northeast Asia Peacebuilding Institute. Their home church is Grace and Peace Mennonite Church, Namyangju, South Korea.

David and Rebekka Stutzman began another two-year term in Mannheim, Germany, in October. They are working in church planting and missional church networking. Their home church is Maranatha



Photo by Linda Shelly

Listening to Indigenous perspectives — Quito, Ecuador

Julián Guamán (in white vest) gestures, as he shares Indigenous perspectives with a small group, during a meeting held before a gathering of 130 Anabaptists from nine conferences in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. This meeting, held in February, was convened, so that the conferences could discern options for working together in theological education.

Christian Fellowship, Reseda, California.

Jonah and Meme Yang began a new two-year+ term, serving Thailand and Southeast Asia. Jonah is working with Friends of Grace Church in areas of discipleship: equipping and empowering youth, families, and communities; and exploring various opportunities in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Southeast Asia in

holistic witness and peacebuilding. Meme is equipping and empowering women, through Sister Care curriculum and tools. Jonah will be translating the AMBS Journey program into Hmong and teaching a cohort of students, starting fall 2023. Their home church is Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Lauderdale, Minnesota.

Bekah York began another new two-year term in Colombia in April. She supports peace initiatives of partners, especially the *Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Colombia* (IMCOL, Colombia Mennonite Church), and the Teusaquillo church's Justice and Peace Committee. Her home church is Belmont Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Indiana.

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LOOKING TO LEARN AND GROW?

CONSIDER A JUST PEACE PILGRIMAGE!

MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace



Three types of tours:



Racial Justice Pilgrimage



Christ at the Borders Pilgrimage



Solidarity With Indigenous Peoples Pilgrimage
(Coming in 2025)

Listen and learn

Mennonite Mission Network invites you and your congregation or group on a pilgrimage! Explore what God is doing to bring about justice and peace in the world, as well as ways you can participate in such movements. Come with your Sunday School class, youth group, friends or just yourself, and join us, as we learn how to walk in solidarity and celebration of life together.

NOV-2023



**Mennonite
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