

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY 2020 QUILT  
(photo reference guide)



In 1946, MCC began gathering Christmas bundles, packages for children containing clothing, hygiene supplies, school supplies, a small toy and often a New Testament, to ship to Europe and other locations. From 1946 to 1978, nearly 1 million Christmas bundles were given to children in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.



Over time, MCC has worked to honour the skills, traditions and strengths of local communities. In 1946, Edna Ruth Byler, with her husband Joe on an MCC trip, saw the beauty of needlework Puerto Rican women made but had no place to sell. She took action. The simple act of bringing pieces home to sell to friends and neighbours in Akron, Pennsylvania, sparked a pioneering fair trade enterprise. It grew into Ten Thousand Villages, providing access to sustainable income and life-changing opportunities to artisans in dozens of countries, including Pedro Torres (pictured in 1999) in Walata Grande, Bolivia.



Pax worker Richard Lambright (second from left) of Lagrange, Indiana, teaches canning techniques at the MCC cannery in Tsakones, Greece in 1956 or 1957, helping people preserve meat, fruit and vegetables for winter use.



Buffalo Gals perform at the We Are All Treaty People celebration which MCC Manitoba helped sponsor. It took place at The Forks on September 2018. It was billed as a way of building and celebrating relationships and raising awareness around Treaty 1 using food, storytelling, crafts, music, and dancing.



MCC provided olive tree seedlings to farmers in Lebanon, Jordan and the West Bank (present-day Palestine) in 1979 and 1980, part of a larger response to meet urgent needs after conflict in the region. In addition to the loss of lives and homes, land and water resources were destroyed. Here, children help unload a truckload of olive tree seedlings being distributed by MCC in southern Lebanon in 1980. MCC provided 10,000 seedlings at a reduced cost to more than 300 farmers in nine villages, along with planting instructions and follow-up visits.



Herve Alcina (left), MCC's logistics manager in Haiti, helps with the distribution of relief items in the community of Bingo, in Haiti's Jean Rabel commune (municipality) after an earthquake struck the area on October 6, 2018.



MCC's first relief kitchen in south Russia opened in Khortitsa on March 16, 1922. It was one of 140 MCC-supported feeding centers in southern Russia that distributed 25,000 rations daily at the peak of the relief efforts.



For 100 years Mennonite women have been making quilts for MCC



In the 1920s, people in southern Russia (present-day Ukraine) were bearing the consequences of years of unrest. The Mennonite community in the U.S. and Canada came together in response and MCC was born. Congregations collected money, gathered food and sewed clothing. Volunteers are shown unpacking a shipment of six railway cars.



In response to the refugee crisis following the end of the Vietnam War in 1979, MCC was the first agency to sign a private sponsorship agreement with the Government of Canada, leading hundreds of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in Canada to sponsor and resettle thousands of refugees across the country. Victor Neumann, MCC representative in Songkhla, Thailand, stands with the Vietnamese Boat People. Mothers of the children in this picture were abducted by pirates.



For 100 years, volunteers have provided comfort through millions of stitches for MCC, from sewing clothing or other relief items in early years to making comforters such as this one, which was received by a Japanese family sometime around 1950.



In the 1920s MCC sent tractors and seeds to southern Russia (present-day Ukraine), to help with the harvest.



Mennonites load wagons with emergency food, including tins of milk, in Platovka, Russia, in 1923. Several hundred wagons were needed for some of the larger transports. Through MCC, D.R. Hoepfner, who took this photo, oversaw feeding operations at one relief site.



Through MCC's Teachers Abroad Program (TAP), which began in 1962, hundreds of MCC teachers were placed in church-run secondary and teacher training colleges in newly independent African countries including Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe.



Arriving by horse or camel, hundreds of people from surrounding areas flock to Teriturenne, a village in central Chad (pictured in 2016), to celebrate a new well that MCC helped to build. Through the decades, thousands of gatherings like this have marked the gains that communities have made through partnering with MCC.



In the U.S., Mennonites in Virginia and in Kansas began experimenting with mobile meat canning, launching efforts that helped families in Europe in the 1940s, and today generate nearly a million pounds of canned meat for families in need worldwide every year.



Men from Hopedale (Illinois) Mennonite Church volunteer with MDS in Illinois, after a tornado struck on April 21, 1967.



Germany 1949 MCC community centre in the Kreuzberg section of Berlin, Germany hosted a sewing circle for local women. They gathered twice a month to sew and knit clothing for people in need in their community.



One of many MCC thrift stores across the country.



By working with partners who are rooted in local communities, MCC harnesses the power of people who know the area deeply. In Iraq's Ninewa plains, for instance, years of economic upheavals and conflict have reduced honey production. But MCC partners knew the quality and taste of honey produced there was once famous and that people were willing to pay a premium for it. After receiving beehives and training, Liza (pictured in 2015) and her husband Benjamin began producing honey that they could sell for five times the cost of imported honey.



2004 - Children in a Sunday school class in Kitchener, Ontario, worked together to sew a comforter. Jan Adams (left) brought the class this picture of Amira Martic (right) shown in a camp for displaced people near Zenica, Bosnia. She is wrapped in the comforter the class made.



School kits are distributed in Kampuchea (present-day Cambodia) circa 1983. The U.S. government had a ban on trade with Kampuchea and Vietnam and initially denied a request to send school kits. Mennonites throughout the U.S., including schoolchildren, wrote to government officials, asking them to allow the kits to be shipped.

Permission was granted, and eventually more than 96,000 school kits were shipped.



From the beginning, MCC has invested in the big picture of what families and communities need to thrive — not just for now but for decades and even generations to come. In Bangladesh in the 1970s, when families relied on rice and could afford little else, MCC introduced new, nutritious and sustainable crops and supported job creation programs.

Currently, in Indigenous communities where dropout rates are high, MCC supports preschools so that Megha Baski, Prity Murmu and others (pictured in 2017) can begin learning in their own language, helping them to better succeed in school and build a brighter future.



Following the Korean War in the 1950s, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) was one of the poorest countries in the world. Food, fuel and electricity were scarce, and there was massive unemployment. In addition to MCC feeding programs, the Mennonite Vocational School, established by MCC relief volunteers near Daegu, trained hundreds of

orphans in areas such as agriculture, metalwork, carpentry, printing and drafting. In 1959, a student feeds rabbits in the school's agriculture program. 40 rabbits were loaned by Church World Service and Heifer International to the school for their agricultural projects. The school returned one rabbit for each rabbit loaned as the project expanded

Photos and captions (abridged) courtesy MCC

Photos were selected by the quilt designer, Lynda Toews, attempting to cover a variety of MCC endeavors in several times and places. The construction of the quilt was a joint endeavor by Lynda Toews & Cheryl Warkentin of Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba.