



LOVE, JOY, PIECE



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Mennonite Central Committee

North American Mennonite Relief Sale Board – Quilter’s Newsletter

From the Editor:

Spring or summer? Whatever season it is, we are well into the season for relief sales. Some are celebrating at the end of their sale and others are just beginning to gather their ideas and product. Suddenly we are sobered by the events happening in China and cyclone relief in the Myanmar and Bangladesh areas.

This issue of *Love, Joy, Piece* is about sharing. As we visit the various relief sales/festivals, I am reminded of our vast support system. Walking through the quilts at the Nebraska Relief sale (an event that has been around for 30 plus years), I was amazed at how many quilts came from areas outside of Nebraska. We sometimes think only “new” sales (sales 10 years or younger) need quilt and/or product donations. When we attend our own relief sale, we think it is unique. If we have the luxury of visiting other sales, we discover we are all working to raise funds for MCC and are supported by our families and friends.

Reflecting on the sharing resulting from the House Block Collection (see www.mcc.reliefsales/quiltprojects), I would like to share a few comments that accompanied the blocks:

~Hopefully you can still use quilt blocks for the making of quilts to be sold at MCC Sales. I’m sending the one I made and it’s a house in the United States. Esther



~Thank you for inviting us to make a block for your house quilt project. It’s a great idea for helping to support MCC. I live in a small log house (which looks nothing like this one) and that is the reason for the brown house fabric. We, in this area, participate in the Black Swamp

Relief Sale at Wauseon, Ohio, and especially enjoy being a part of the quilt auction there. Phyllis

~What a wonderful idea! May I submit two blocks for the MCC quilts? My husband and I had two years of MCC relief work overseas, a year in Italy (Naples), a month in Berlin, and 11 month in Kaiserslautern, Germany. That was great! (1950 – 1952) In Naples there had been bunks and MCC quilts from a previous children’s project so those lovely, very useful quilts were a real blessing! Anna

~May all efforts be continued “In the name of Christ” as MCC strives to do. Jocele~We had such a good time at the Tri-State Relief Sale in McHenry, Maryland, that I wanted to send you a block. Susanne

~These blocks for the heart quilts were made by Diane

Buzman from the town of Los Tajibor about 1 hour drive from the City of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Most of the women in the town do this type of appliqué for pillows or purses as an additional income for their families. The pictures depict animals and scenery common to the area where they live. Cathy.

House blocks arrived from all over Canada and the Canadian House Block quilt will be traveling among many relief sales.

A number of blocks came from Philadelphia, PA, including a block that has become a conversation block. Some people see a Christmas manger scene or Easter with the cross. Colleen Graber, the person who had the vision for the U.S. children’s Homes for Bangladesh Traveling Quilt, immediately noticed the “Green Angel”. Angels came to visit her this past winter while hospitalized including a “Green Angel”.

Blessings and thank you!

Marlys Wiens

IN THE name OF CHRIST

A traveling house block quilt to be sold in Minnesota.

The urban relief sales are challenged at they attempt to educate people regarding the work of Mennonite Central Committee and the story of relief sales being one of the fundraiser arms for MCC’s global work. With MCC’s slogan this year “In the Name of Christ” and the emphasis on housing needs, the Mennonite World Relief Sale of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota to be held in November 2008 is planning a 30-minute emphasis in the middle of the auction on the need for housing in the aftermath of the recent cyclone (tmccrelief.org).



A child will be moving across stage into a MCC Bangladesh house each time \$400 is raised (the cost to rebuild one home). The U.S. Homes for Bangladesh Traveling Quilt will be auctioned during this time. Also the story will be shared that accompanied a LJP house block received from St. Paul, Minnesota relating how a house was won at a HUD event in 1984. Later that day in 1984, she realized it was the 5th anniversary of her abortion and it was God’s way of forgiving her. The block has been quilted and will be displayed and auctioned as an art piece. *What is your relief sale doing to educate the population and attempting to involve the neighborhood?*

Woven Rugs & Blue Jeans Comforter Kits are available from the Akron, PA MCC Resource Center. The rugs are scatter rugs of various sizes. The comforter



kits consist of 200 blue jeans patches including 6 pockets, several brand labels and instructions. Finished size is 65" x 87". You supply the fabric for the back and basic sewing supplies.

Rugs and kits are available to relief sales to resell for MCC and are free of charge.

Sales would be responsible for shipping charges. For more information or to order, contact the resource center at (717) 733-2847 and ask for Evanna.

Doilies in Appreciation of Quilting for Others

During the 2008 North American Relief Sale Annual Meeting in Versailles, Missouri, Elizabeth Raid shared the scriptures from Colossians 3:17: "and whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." She also shared the story from Matthew 25 regarding feeding and clothing those in need. We have so much to learn from each other around the world. Sometimes we are the givers and sometimes we are in the position of being the receivers.

In April 2007 during the Biennial Relief Sale Workshop with volunteers attending from sales throughout Canada and the United States, we exchanged stories and what does and does not go well.

The Central Missouri Relief Sale offered some hand quilting by the Amish and Conservative Mennonites. On the way to the quilt shop in McPherson (in the snow!), our conversation became lively, my background being involved with the corporate world. She informed me "Honey, my horse and buggy doesn't go that far!" We left with the agreement that I would send her some tops and she would need at least three to be worth their time. In September Mary Ella called me one morning, all excited. This was the day that her 70 friends were going to quilt the eight quilts I had sent her! Yes, eight in one day! Various Relief Sales around the country were the recipients of these quilts.

This past February I was in Bellingham, Washington, visiting with an individual involved with the Ritzville, Washington relief sale. She had many doilies (hundreds) and she was overwhelmed as to how she could make quilts from the doilies. As we sat around the dinner table, they asked me to share what I was doing with MCC. Needless to say the eight quilts quilted by the Central Missouri Relief Sale for various relief sales around the United States was a story to share and the fact that I was planning to attend the MCC Relief Sale in Versailles, Missouri. I wanted to take

something along to say "thank you" for their generosity.

I knew that I couldn't make something for 70 ladies although I could and have said "thank you". Saying "thank you" just didn't seem enough but what could I do? Then came the generous offer of, "Marlys, we (in Ritzville) can share doilies with the ladies in Central Missouri." By the next morning, we had 80 different styles and colors of doilies to be delivered to Missouri! The relief sales that have received one of these quilts also say a big "Thank you" to the Central Missouri ladies.

During the North American Relief Sale Annual Meeting, we shared about the sharing happening through Love, Joy, Piece and presented Mary Ella with the 80 doilies. The tears were rolling down her face and she just kept hugging me! The next day at the Relief Sale, the ladies were trying to decide what they were each going to do with their doily. We had touched their hearts with our "Thank you".

Mark your calendars for the next Biennial North American Relief Sale meetings to be held on May 28 and 29, 2009 in Iowa City, Iowa. We look forward to hearing your ideas and hope to see many of you there.

Quilting Retreats:

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Colorado has a spring and fall quilt retreat.

Email: www.rmmc.org/program_schedule.html
phone (719) 687-9506

Oregon has an established and well-attended quilt Retreat. Contact Marlys Wiens for information.

Ideas needed: Wilderness Wind near Ely, Minnesota, is a Mennonite Camp and we are in conversation regarding ideas and/or interested parties for a Quilting Event. The camp is in the Boundary Waters of the United States and Canada in beautiful lake country and the camp is open from June through September with canoeing and backpacking. Contact Kathy Landis through WildernessWind's website www.wildernesswind.org/ or (218) 365-5873 or Marlys Wiens.

Email Chat room

To sign up for the email ***chat room***, please send your email address to Harriet Berg at Daheberg2@aol.com.

Newsletter

To sign up to receive Love, Joy, Piece Newsletter by mail, **in the US** contact mwiens@pro-ns.net or mail to Marlys Wiens, 7310 York Avenue S. #105, Edina, MN 55435.

In Canada, contact Bev Patkau at lpatkau@shaw.ca or mail to Bev Patkau at 227 Valhalla Crescent NW, Calgary AB Canada T3A 1Z8.

For back issues of Love, Joy, Piece, go to www.mcc.org/reliefsales.