Piece by piece in Lebanon | First person: Voices from Syria | A push for safer housing in Haiti
LIVING IN HOPE

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you…(Isaiah 43:2a)

Imagine if strangers broke into your children’s school and forced them to lie face down on the ground. If you thought it would happen again, would you leave home to find protection in another community? What would it be like to find out your house was then destroyed? People running for their lives, families uprooted by war and violence: This is a story repeating itself across the Middle East.

MCC is at work in the midst of the turmoil, sharing God’s love and compassion. Since the war in Syria began, MCC has provided almost $20 million for those in Syria and Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. And MCC is responding to the needs families forced from their homes by violence.

Your gifts are helping provide food, water, household goods, shelter and education for children. They support training in peacebuilding, disaster response and trauma healing.

Even more importantly, your gifts provide hope — to communities and to MCC partners who are reaching beyond tragedy to work for the good of all. We must trust God, pray for all the people and take care of each other, says Rev. Ibrahim Noor of Aleppo. God loves all the people, Noor says, and we must be an instrument of love and peace in this community.

Pray with me that God will spread protection over all the people in this region who are uprooted because of war.

As Christians, we rejoin in God by extending help to all people who need it. As MCC and its thousands of supporters, this is what we do. This is the hope we live in.

J RON BYLER’S EMAIL ADDRESS IS
RONBYLER@MCC.ORG

Volunteer in Bangladesh

A MCC-supported video troupe to educate people in Haiti about earthquake-resistant building techniques.

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MCC news

Find more news at:
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Comforters

A gift that lasts

Each year, the loving work of volunteers in Canada, the U.S. and Europe makes it possible to send tens of thousands of comforters such as these to people around the world, touching lives in places from Haiti to Ukraine.

It’s a gift that’s treasured not just in that moment—but sometimes for 50 years. When MCC began providing relief items in Bangladesh in the early 1970s, patchwork comforters were among the most treasured items and continued to be prized by the next two decades, recalls Abdul Bari, principal program officer for MCC Bangladesh.

Although in 1996 high import taxes in Bangladesh made it more feasible to buy blankets locally, Bari notes he still sees comforters given out more than 20 years ago being used, and he met people who “are still taking care of them as their best gift from MCC.”

Philippines

Food and shelter

“We don’t have enough income, so eating good food is almost a luxury,” says Cantina Velarde, left, receiving MCC canned turkey from La Optimar, right, as part of a food-for-work project.

MCC is partnering with Church World Service in a $2.9-million effort to provide shelter materials and food-for-work opportunities to communities in the Philippines affected by Typhoon Haiyan. This turkey is canned by volunteers in the U.S. and Canada, then shipped to MCC partners, producing some 900,000 pounds of canned meat a year for people around the world.

But distributions such as this one are locally driven efforts, with recipients and the work projects they carry out carefully chosen by members of local shelter committees.

Egypt

Learning to read

In Egypt, MCC-supported classes are giving adults the chance to learn to read and write.

For Magda Samir, shown taking a pop quiz from Tolba Gad Ekladis, it’s a two-fold joy. Recalling a neighbor who accidentally gave a child lice instead of cough syrup, Magda says she’s grateful to be able to read the labels on medications. But she’s also fulfilled a childhood dream of learning.

Growing up in a household where income barely covered the costs of food, she says, the notion of walking to school in a uniform, carrying a bag of books and sandwiches, was far out of reach. But as she enrolled in the classes, “I experienced the joy of learning every day.”

Go to globalfamily.mcc.org to read more about MCC’s education work.

Comforters and blankets

Provide a gift of warmth to people in need.

Use new or nearly new material

Single/twin size preferred (approx. 60 x 80 in); double/full size accepted (approx. 82 x 90 in)

Winter weight preferred (please use new quilt batting)

Knotted with crochet cotton (not more than 4-6 in apart)

Purchased blankets in twin and full size and new, flat twin sheets also are needed.

For drop-off locations, contact your nearest MCC office (see page 2) or go to mcc.org/kits.

Nigeria

Students for peace

Nigeria’s Plateau State once lived up to its name of Peace. Today politically motivated violence is frequent. Bullying is rife in schools, and parents encourage children to avenge family injustices.

Through an MCC-supported peace club project, student leaders are working to turn back the tide of violence. With MCC’s support, partner Emergency Preparedness Response Teams is setting up more than 50 of these clubs in secondary schools, helping more than 2,000 students, their teachers and communities build a culture of peace.

Directions:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you…(Isaiah 43:2a)
Piece by piece

With more than a million Syrians in Lebanon, MCC-supported efforts help refugees stitch together the resources they need and seek to reduce tensions in a nation stretched by the influx of newcomers.

STORY BY LINDA ESPENSHADE
PHOTOS BY SILAS CREWS
(Editor's note: Because of safety concerns, full names are not used for some Syrian refugees in this article, and some names have been changed.)

The garden courtyard in the center of Ahmad and Nisreen’s house in Syria opened to the sky, allowing the laughter of their children and other family members and smoke from the barbeque to waft into the neighborhood.

In her kitchen, Nisreen prepared dinners with meat each day for her nine children, using her full-size stove, complete set of cookware and running water. If she needed bread, she sent one of the children with some cash to the bakery. Feeding the family on Ahmad’s earnings was not difficult.

At least that’s how it used to be—before the fighting between Syrian government and opposition forces in their town of Hama “went crazy,” as Ahmad says. In September 2013, the family fled Syria for Beirut, Lebanon.

“Our house used to be our paradise,” says Nisreen, from the one-room apartment where the 13 of them now live. Their home in Syria has been destroyed. All her husband’s earnings go toward rent—$500 a month.

In one area, thin mattresses are piled next to the windows, where the children entertain themselves day after day because their father fears for their safety outside. The family has gradually collected secondhand appliances, including a stove with one working burner that Nisreen now uses to cook the rice and lentils that Ahmad buys with vouchers he gets from MCC’s partner, Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD).

The family is among about 1.3 million Syrian refugees, half of them children, who left their houses, schools and relatives behind when they came to Lebanon. They traded the fear of being killed for life in tents and crowded, tiny apartments, for high food prices and jobs with long hours and low wages.

And they are outsiders. Resentment is increasing among the 4.3 million Lebanese who initially welcomed their neighbors but now must compete with Syrians for jobs and suffer rents that have doubled, overcrowded classrooms and insufficient public utilities. Syrians feel the hostility.
Since the war began, MCC has allocated $19.8 million to help meet needs in Syria and for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. This includes support for food, shelter and peacebuilding and trauma healing efforts. In addition, MCC is helping congregations in Canada resettle eligible refugees from Middle Eastern countries experiencing conflict and urging lawmakers in the U.S. to work for peace.

In Lebanon, MCC-supported efforts, intentionally trying to relieve the burden on host communities and reduce tensions, also benefit those in need from the local community. MCC-supported trainings in peacebuilding, disaster response and trauma healing help community and church leaders to address conflict that can lead to violence.

In the Daouk area of Beirut, where many Palestinians have lived since 1948, MCC partner PARD offers a summer day camp for 75 children, ages 7 to 12, some Syrian and some Lebanese, with and without Palestinian heritage. In a day, children may prepare songs and dances for a parent program, weave bracelets, draw pictures and play games with water and balls.

For Syrian children, accustomed to learning in Arabic, the day camp, like a kindergarten MCC supports during the rest of the year, helps build the English skills needed to understand teachers in Lebanese schools. And it was designed to build bridges among children of different backgrounds, says Naomi Enns. She and her husband Doug Enns are from Winnipeg, Man., and are MCC’s representatives for Syria and Lebanon. “We wanted all of them to experience what it’s like to be a child,” she says, “minus the boundaries that tell them to act differently because of their ethnicity.”

Increasing cooperation among Syrians and Lebanese is critical in the Bekaa Valley, so close to Syria that on any given day sounds of the fighting can be heard across the mountains.

MCC’s partner, the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training, distributed MCC relief and hygiene kits to 800 families last summer, a quarter of them to struggling host communities and the newly arrived Syrian refugees.

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When Raana, 13, and her brother, Aamil, 9, still lived in Homs, Syria, militants broke into their school and forced them to lie face-down on the floor for two hours. The next day, the family left its newly furnished four-room house and fled to Lebanon. The house was destroyed two months later.

In Beirut, they found a tin-covered room on the roof of an apartment building and eventually House of Light and Hope. This ministry of the Greek Catholic Church and an MCC partner specializes in helping girls, in part to shelter them from the risk of economic and sexual exploitation as they try to earn money for their families.

Raana's mother brought her daughter to House of Light and Hope for educational and social activities, but Raana would not interact. “She wouldn’t speak to any girl her age and she didn’t want to meet new people,” Raana’s mother remembers. “She shut herself away.”

A social worker started sitting with Raana every day and a psychologist worked with her to process her traumatic experiences. After about six months, Raana began to participate in social activities, her mother says, and attended extra classes in the evening to help her succeed in Lebanese schools. “Really, without the organization, I would have been lost. They stood beside us,” says Raana’s mother, who also joined a women’s support group and will soon start job training there.

Like Raana’s mother, piece by piece Syrian parents are stitching together a patchwork of the resources they can find to wrap around their families in the midst of this precarious situation.

MCC’s support, aimed at the most vulnerable people in areas where MCC partners were already working, offers refugees another piece to build upon—sometimes opening the door to larger changes.

In Sikkeh, an area near Lebanon’s border with Israel where many Palestinian Syrians had taken refuge, Fatima’s family spent a year living in a vacant lot of more than 80 tents, made from nylon sheets, curtains and blankets that did not withstand freezing temperatures or flooding. Scabies, hepatitis and lice were common. Diarrhea and illness were frequent dangers, and one infant died.

Working through PARD, MCC used funds from Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development to renovate rooms for 50 families, providing the springboard for other international non-governmental organizations to prepare rooms for 150 more families, says Doug Enns.

Fatima remembers the day she, her husband and four children moved from the tent into a room in an apartment building. “People thought I was going to go crazy because I was so happy,” she says. “I was done with mice and rodents.”

“At least here we have a little dignity,” Fatima says.

“Dignity,” her husband adds, “is when a person lives in his own home. This is my own home, my children around me.”

How you can help

With millions of people forced from home by violence in Syria and Iraq, MCC and our long-term partner organizations and churches are at work, helping meet urgent needs and building tools for peace and healing.

Join us in making a difference. As you read this story and the following pages, we invite you to:

• pray for safety, peace and healing for families in peril and for those reaching out to their neighbors and boldly working to make life better for others in a dangerous time.

• donate to our Syria and Iraq crisis response and join us in touching the lives of families uprooted by violence.

• learn more at mcc.org.

Give a gift—Syria and Iraq crisis response

In countries torn by conflict and violence, your gifts provide much-needed food, shelter and other assistance and bring hope to families uprooted by war. They also support trainings in peacebuilding, disaster response and trauma healing.

Send contributions in the enclosed envelope, give online at donate.mcc.org or contact your nearest MCC office (see page 2).
Voices from Syria

Nearly four years after the start of the Syrian war, we bring you voices from MCC partners who remain within Syria, facing violence and working to help their neighbors.

Aleppo: Rev. Ibrahim Nsier

This morning I woke up early at 4:30 to the sound of a mortar exploding. I said to myself, “A new day is started.”

This is something normal in Aleppo.

I went to the kitchen, hoping to get some tea or Nescafe, but I had an urgent call from one of our members who was injured by the shelling. He needed someone to take him to the hospital. I got my shoes and got to the car quickly.

This is something normal in Aleppo.

This morning I woke up early at 4:30.

I got my shoes and got to the car quickly.

We believe we have a lot left to do in this community. As a community. This is what we do, and this is the hope we live in.

We are called to live in hope. We trust God and we do our job—praying, taking care of each other, reading the Bible and being an instrument of love and peace in this community. This is what we do, and this is the hope we live in.

Please don’t forget us in your prayers.

Rev. Ibrahim Nsier is pastor of the Arab Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Aleppo. MCC, through the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches, supports the church’s work to meet urgent needs and distribute food.

We are not only supporting Christians, we are supporting the whole community to teach them that being a human means having a responsibility to the others. Believe me, we never think in ways that this is Muslim or this is Christian.

We think differently. We think we are here for a message. That means having a responsibility to the others. Believe me, we never think in ways that this is Muslim or this is Christian.

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If I go out at night to have dinner with friends, everything is so expensive. Even when I am with my friends, I hear the sound of violence in the distance, or I remember friends who aren’t with us anymore because they have been killed or have moved out of Syria. I went to an MCC trauma workshop in Beirut and went to Harrisonsburg, Va., to attend the Summer Peacebuilding Institute, but I always came back to Syria because my family and my friends at church are very supportive and because I believe that I am doing a valuable job here. A lot of people are dying and suffering, but it will end at some point.

Hala Al Hamida lives in Damascus, Syria’s capital city, and works for the Syrian Orthodox Church, which MCC partners with to distribute cash vouchers and provide other assistance. Summer Peacebuilding Institute is a program of Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Hom’s Bishop Selwansos Boutros Alnemeh
For most of my childhood, I lived at the St. Mary’s Church in Homs. My father put my brother and me in the orphanage there when I was 6 because he couldn’t take care of us and because my mother was paralyzed. Every day I was in church. The bishop and the priest were with us every day and I liked it. The church became my mother.

If you go outside, you may not come back. Maybe you are walking down the street and something hits you and it might be a bomb. I used to enjoy walking near the church. There is a hidden mystery in its beautiful, historic streets and buildings. The sweet scent of jasmine made me smile. Now the area is marked by war. One day in June when I was at the office, 27 mortars exploded near the church.

When I want to go out, I pray. Everything that I do, I pray about.

I am afraid if you go outside, you may not come back. Maybe you are walking down the street and something hits you and you will die. Staying home is not necessarily safer because a family sitting inside the house could be hit by a rocket.

Getting to work now can take two hours because the bus has to go through so many checkpoints and all the passengers must show their IDs. It used to take 10 minutes.

At the church, I write funding proposals to organizations like MCC on behalf of the bishops because of my English skills. We need funds for so many people as possible. I also help distribute MCC-supported monthly cash allowances to the most vulnerable people living in the community around the church, Christian and Muslim.

A lot of people come to the church, asking for help with medical and with rent. Rent has become so high even people with jobs cannot afford to pay for housing. Some people have lost their jobs or have lost a family member. Some people still have government jobs, but most people just do whatever work they can find.

I also help with summer activities for children at the church two days a week. We do activities like painting, playing games and acting out Bible stories. We are supporting the children by giving them freedom, letting them be happy for a while.

I went on to become a monk and to serve in Brazil, but in 1998, I returned to Homs and became a bishop in 1999. Now I was the bishop helping to care for the orphans at the church and ministering to 20 priests in 30 churches, serving 15,000 families in Homs, Hama and surrounding villages.

Now the war has brought so many losses. The church and the orphanage have been destroyed. The 1,500 years of good relationships among populations has been shattered. People I counted on to support me and the church have betrayed us. About 1,000 members have been killed and many families have moved away. Most can’t return because their houses were destroyed. Forty people from the church have been captured. We have searched for them. We have negotiated with both sides, but still we do not know what happened to them. In May my own brother was severely injured when a bomb exploded inside a church he was visiting. He died from his wounds in September.

I pray every day. I ask God, I plead with God to help me to see what to do, Jesus said come to me all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Every day, I believe it. When I am tired, like today, I believe it. I tell people to pray for the organizations with me, like MCC, and other groups, because the cross is heavy. Simon came to help Jesus with the cross. Now MCC and other organizations are coming to help us. One brings money, one brings food. With everyone, the cross is not as heavy.

Bishop Selwansos Boutros Alnemeh is bishop for the Syrian Orthodox Church in Homs and surrounding areas. MCC, through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, provides food to 1,000 families in this region. While the orphanage was destroyed, MCC’s Global Family education program helps fund schooling and other support for its children, who have been relocated to safer areas.

Deir Attieh: Rahaf Abdo
Even after the fighting began in other parts of Syria, I was not scared. We grew up in Damascus.

I went to the university, saw my friends and attended lectures. I would see my family when they came home from work. Maybe I would go to my grandfather and grandmothers and mother and go walking. In Deir Attieh, anyone could go outside at any time. A girl could go outside at 2 a.m. or a.m. It was not a problem.

Our town had become home to about 13,000 people who had left Damascus. Homs and other cities to escape the fighting. Then, in November 2013, Deir Attieh was attacked.

After the first big explosion, I told my parents, “I can’t live here. I think I will die from fright.” We lived in the base- ment for a month. I was so afraid of dying, and I missed my friends who died.

The worst thing now, even months later, is that I feel afraid of everything. I am afraid to take a taxi alone, because I am afraid some light will happen and I don’t want to be alone. If I take the bus, I sit near the center, not near the windows because that seems more dangerous. At the university, where I now teach, the government soldiers carry weapons. We are afraid the other army will come to fight again. If we hear strong voices, we go away from them. Even though I am afraid, I want to help people in Deir Attieh, like some of my friends did during the fighting—taking food and water to people who needed it.

Through Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (an MCC partner), I was asked to go door to door to survey people and assess their food needs. It is not just the meat that is the most expensive thing that they can’t buy. It’s the fruit, vegetables, milk and cheese. Some people say they go to sleep hungry. It’s very hard to hear. I don’t want to see one of my people, the Syrian children, die because they cannot eat food. I no longer want to leave Syria.

Helping people makes me want to stay.

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I went to the university, saw my friends and attended lectures. I would see my family when they came home from work. Maybe I would go to my grandfather and grandmothers and mother and go walking. In Deir Attieh, anyone could go outside at any time. A girl could go outside at 2 a.m. or a.m. It was not a problem.

Our town had become home to about 13,000 people who had left Damascus. Homs and other cities to escape the fighting. Then, in November 2013, Deir Attieh was attacked.

After the first big explosion, I told my parents, “I can’t live here. I think I will die from fright.” We lived in the base- ment for a month. I was so afraid of dying, and I missed my friends who died.

The worst thing now, even months later, is that I feel afraid of everything. I am afraid to take a taxi alone, because I am afraid some light will happen and I don’t want to be alone. If I take the bus, I sit near the center, not near the windows because that seems more dangerous. At the university, where I now teach, the government soldiers carry weapons. We are afraid the other army will come to fight again. If we hear strong voices, we go away from them. Even though I am afraid, I want to help people in Deir Attieh, like some of my friends did during the fighting—taking food and water to people who needed it.

Through Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (an MCC partner), I was asked to go door to door to survey people and assess their food needs. It is not just the meat that is the most expensive thing that they can’t buy. It’s the fruit, vegetables, milk and cheese. Some people say they go to sleep hungry. It’s very hard to hear. I don’t want to see one of my people, the Syrian children, die because they cannot eat food. I no longer want to leave Syria.

Helping people makes me want to stay.

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A push for safer housing
An MCC-supported video uses a professional comedy troupe to educate people in Haiti about earthquake-resistant building techniques.

BY MARLA PIERSON LESTER  
PHOTOS BY SILAS CREWS

The driving force behind one of MCC’s newest efforts to help Haitians build back better after a devastating 2010 earthquake is an eclectic crew—young men in striped tights, pink pants, shirts bright enough to stand out even against the colorful “tap-tap” minibuses that carry people and goods through the streets of Port-au-Prince.

On screen, the youth reel under the weight of tools, stumble into and shove each other, voices raised in screeching argument—the epitome of what you hope your home construction team is not.

And that’s the point. Tucked between the physical humor and dramatic twists common to Haitian television, the professional comedy troupe in the MCC-funded video Sonje (meaning remember in Haitian Creole) offers a serious message—clear instructions in earthquake-resistant building techniques, an explanation of dos and don’ts that both workers and homeowners can follow.

“There’s this tendency for people to just pray to God for construction without doing the right techniques and methods they need to do,” says actor Ezaie Simon. “But the video is saying that’s not what makes a house strong—it’s understanding, knowledge about how to build well.” That’s a message MCC has worked hard to spread over the past five years. Less than two weeks after the Jan. 12, 2010, earth-
By August 2010, MCC had engineers on the ground checking the safety of public buildings.

Over the following months, MCC teams of short-term structural engineers inspected more than 660 buildings. Including schools, medical clinics, churches, orphanages and some homes. By August 2010, MCC began training masons in earthquake-resistant building techniques. Through MCC, James Mwangi of Paso Robles, Calif., a structural engineer and professor at California Polytechnic University, worked alongside masons, checking construction in progress and instructing scores of building crews in how to best carry out these principles with the materials and challenges they faced on actual job sites.

“When I came here, it was an enormous relief,” Verly Boulevard says of the house he and his family moved into in February 2011 through an MCC-supported project to repair or construct housing for people with disabilities. The family spent months in a tent camp, the children often sick and Boulevard’s fear for them growing as cholera spread. After losing his business in the earthquake, he built an extra room onto this house to rent out to help support his wife Bernadette Louis and children Jonathan, 11; Isabelle, 8; Francesca, 5, and Nodjina, 2 months. “I said, ‘If somebody can come and help me, I need to do what I can to take the next step,’” he recalls. See images from MCC’s response at mcc.org/haitiearthquake.

It’s not often that MCC progress report concerns lead to hiring a comedy troupe. But in this case, the idea fit. It was time for the tenets of safe construction to spread to the public, ideally leading more homeowners, family and friends to view it as their responsibility to ensure that building standards are followed.

And funding a video in the style of Haitian television echoed MCC’s desire for a message that fits Haitian culture and communicated to the most people in the most accessible language, Hildebrand says. The video—a collaboration of Daniel Tillias, a Haitian producer who also is director of MCC partner organization Pax Christi Haiti, with Comedus, a comedy troupe from the impoverished neighborhood where he works, Cite Soleil—was shown on Haitian television on the 2014 anniversary of the earthquake.

Some 450 DVD copies have been printed so far. As MCC explores avenues to show the video more widely in Haiti, artists such as Ronald Jean Batiste say they’re seeing its popularity grow—hearing real construction workers compare each other to the characters to praise good building or call out sloppy work, and fielding requests for the DVD from builders and others.

“It’s a message that masons like Telimont hope will spread more and more widely in Haiti. Everybody needs to know these principles,” he says, “not just the foremen, not just the masons but every body involved in construction.”

Marla Pierson Lester is managing editor of A Common Place magazine. Silas Crews is photographer and multimedia producer for MCC U.S.

MCC’s earthquake response helped support opportunities outside the overcrowded capital, including a vocational school in Desarmes. The business skills Mylande Bozil learned at the school helped her better plan the inventory for her market stand and improve sales.

MCC’s Haiti earthquake response
$16.9 million spent since 2010
$1.9 million dedicated for current and upcoming projects

MCC’s earthquake response continues to show the importance of good building practices in Haiti. Through MCC’s work in Haiti, the country is seeing changes in construction standards. People are beginning to see the importance of using materials and techniques that will make their buildings stronger in the event of another earthquake.

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Serving and Learning Together

Name: Lydia Hogewoning

Hometown: Frankford, Ont. (Grace Toronto Church)

Assignment: Through MCC’s Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program, I serve as a social worker in Durban, South Africa, for MCC partner Refugee Social Services.

Typical day: Filled with appointments at the office, home visits and connecting clients with staff and community services. There are no two days that are the same, and never a dull moment! On Mondays we do intake appointments with new refugees or asylum-seekers, completing a holistic assessment of a client’s situation. Tuesday to Friday, I work with new and returning clients, brainstorming together to put in place short- and long-term plans for their future. Monday’s are filled with appointments to see new and returning clients and learn about their experiences. Typically, we meet clients three times a week and there is always a lot of legislation to keep up with as well. Challenges: The various systems influencing development, equality, reconciliation and quality of life here in South Africa are very complex. Factors like high unemployment, occurrences of xenophobia, bureaucratic backlogs and limited social resources make it difficult for refugees. Joys: Clients! Despite so many barriers and tragic circumstances, they encourage me with amazing representations of courage, strength and self-advocacy. Learning about the complexities facing refugees is fueling my passion for global justice and peacebuilding. I love it every day.

Explores SALT

Through MCC’s Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program, young adults from Canada and the U.S. are immersed in another culture for a year as they serve in fields such as education, agriculture, health care and more. Know young adults (between the ages of 18 and 30) who might be interested? Send them to mcc.org/salt to learn more.

Other opportunities

MCC has workers in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, as well as in Canada and the U.S. See mcc.org/serve, contact your nearest MCC office or follow @servemcc on Twitter to learn about current service opportunities.

MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to Christian faith, active church membership and biblical peacemaking.
Join the fun!

Visit a relief sale this year.
Each one is unique.
They all benefit MCC’s worldwide relief and development work.

mcc.org/reliefsales

activities

- **Spring sales** (February, March, April, May)
- **Summer sales** (June, July, August)
- **Autumn sales** (September, October, November)

food

auctions & craft items

music