



# LOVE, JOY, PIECE



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Mennonite Central Committee

North American Mennonite Relief Sale Board – Quilter's Newsletter

## From the Editor: *Making MCC Connections*

Summer is a time for family reunions. These gatherings give us time with family because many of us live long distances from each other. My family reunion was at the Diamond Lake Resort in Oregon. We came from New York City; Galveston, Texas; and Minnesota. Some of us drove and some of us from Minnesota took the Amtrak.

During the train rides and during the reunion I had unique experiences and interesting conversations about MCC and the Heart Block Project. During the first day I met Galen, a Mennonite minister, whose cousin had sent an embroidered heart block last year. We soon realized that we had both visited MCC's office in Kolkata, India and Mother Teresa's facility. When the train stopped near Glacier National Park, Galen's mother was there to see Galen and his son. Again, the Heart Block came up because she too had heard about it.

Because I was traveling alone I joined fellow travelers Sue, Dave and Sadie at their table for dinner. All day the three of them watched me quilt as they walked by me. At dinner they had all kinds of questions that provided opportunities for me to tell about my trip to India and the Heart Block Project. I talked about the honor of being at Mother Teresa's facility. Sue had a very surprised and overwhelmed look in her eyes. Sue too had gone to India with a singing group and she began to tell her story of meeting Mother Teresa. We both talked about how simply Mother Teresa had lived.

Later Darrell, a train employee, joined Galen, Sue and me as we talked about India and our experiences. He couldn't believe that we could share such a beautiful experience. He said, "Somehow we had been placed next to each other. It had to be divine because situations like that don't just happen."

The next day I was in the dining car for breakfast and stopped to talk to several Amish families on the train. Yes, the family from Middlebury, Indiana knew about the House Block Project from MCC.

The uniqueness of our family gatherings is that our friends can be included and we have often heard "I've heard about you for many years and now we meet".

During a similar gathering years ago I had met Annie. Annie came to Oregon to join us for a day of quilting and it was so good to see her. One of her first comments was

"It was so good to read about MCC's global relief work and to have your name included in the article that I read during a Northwest flight. Seeing your name helped me to recognize that this was the organization for which your whole family makes quilts for Relief Sales. You make a difference in the world". I was speechless as I had no idea that there was an article in a Northwest Airlines magazine and people could read about our Heart Block project as they traveled the world!

With no cell phone connection available at the resort, out came the computers. Soon, we were discovering the work of MCC in Korea in 1954. Adam, another cousin, had brought recent Korean newspapers including pages of pictures and articles of MCC work in Korea in the 1950's. Adam currently teaches English as a Second Language at the University of Galveston, Texas. Recently he invited several students to his home for dinner and the Korean students saw all these pictures of milk distribution, MCC meat cans and comforters being given to individuals. The students took pictures of the pictures and emailed their families and friends in Korea and they were recognizing themselves in the pictures. Suddenly the Korean newspaper writers were at Adam's door in Texas researching MCC's involvement and the difference the organization made in their history. To see the newspapers with pages designated to MCC 50 years after the work was completed was remarkable. The questions from people in our group were awesome as they tried to get a handle on how Adam's work through MCC affected the lives of

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### Ideas:

Have an Extra Quilt? Please contact us - several Relief Sales would appreciate your generosity!

### Email Chat room

To sign up for the email *chat room*, please send your email address to Harriet Berg at [Daheberg2@aol.com](mailto:Daheberg2@aol.com).

### Newsletter

To sign up to receive Love, Joy, Piece Newsletter by mail, contact [mwiens@pro-ns.net](mailto:mwiens@pro-ns.net) or mail to Marlys Wiens, 7310 York Avenue S. #105, Edina, MN 55435. Canada, contact Bev Patkau at [lpatkau@shaw.ca](mailto:lpatkau@shaw.ca) or mail to Bev Patkau at 227 Valhalla Crescent NW, Calgary AB Canada T3A 1Z8.

people today. The Korean news editors have now provided Adam with a book of many of his pictures and with Korean articles. They have also provided a DVD of the information and we were able to see the television news clip on MCC's work in Korea.

On the train ride back to Minnesota I was watching the beautiful scenery and quilting. A lady down the aisle kept making comments to me. I didn't know how to respond to her questions. Finally, in Minot, North Dakota there was a 15-minute stop and we were encouraged to get out and walk around. She came to walk with me and she shared her experience as a professional musician for the Toronto Orchestra. I asked if I could tell her my story and she subsequently heard about my trip to India with MCC Global Family and how Relief Sales generate funds for MCC's global work. I invited her to participate in the Global Family program by sponsoring a student for \$240 US a year. Her response overwhelmed me, "Why would you stop with sponsoring only one student if the cost was only \$240 a year?" I suggested she attend the Relief Sale in New Hamburg, Ontario and she took the MCC website information. It will be interesting to learn if she attends the New Hamburg sale next year!

My experience convinced me again "That MCC connections are worldwide!"

Blessings and thank you!

*Marlys Wiens*

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### **What Happened to the Heart Block Quilts?**

Many of you included notes when you sent heart blocks and wanted to know what was going to happen to the quilts or the hearts. In April, the North American Relief Sale Board held workshops for Relief Sales. At that workshop more than 15 quilts were distributed to the Relief Sales represented. Some quilts were finished, some were still only tops, and some were only heart blocks. Now, we are working to make quilts and look for other ways that would benefit Relief Sales. If you have ideas on how the blocks can be used besides incorporating into a quilt, please share your ideas. If you would like to assist in making quilts and need some blocks, please let us know. We have been blessed with stories and blocks and I believe God is now using the blocks to serve Him.

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### **Sudan's definition of a "Mennonite":**



The residents of one of the camps for internally displaced (IDP camp) in Southern Darfur, Sudan who received MCC Comforters from North America call the comforters "Mennonites". This was recently repeated by Mary and Rob Haarsager, MCC Country Representatives to the Darfur (Sudan) area. It is a blessing to know that "Mennonites" can bring such comfort.

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### ***House Block Collection:***

We have transitioned to House Blocks. We hope to demonstrate love and caring for others and to improve the quality of life of those around the world.

### ***When people join together we can build a firm foundation.***

Each block should contain a house of any type. We are encouraging house designs from around the world. If the house is representative of a specific country, please include it on the block.

Instructions: Size:

8 inches OR 10 inches finished

8.5 inches OR 10.5 inches unfinished

We encourage you to take ownership of the House Block Collection on a local level to empower or use as an opportunity for outreach at Birthday Parties, Relief Sales or High Teas. Please share your stories and pictures with us. Mail your House Blocks to Bev Patkau in Calgary, Alberta, Canada or Marlys Wiens in Edina, Minnesota.

Flyer available at: <http://mcc.org/reliefsales/quiltprojects/house.html>

*Thank you for making House Blocks and we look forward to hearing your stories! We are about sharing and we want to hear from YOU!*