



E-news of the Global Food Crisis Fund

www.brethren.org/genbd/global_mission/gfcf.htm

July/August 2008

Brethren donors contribute to recovery in China and Myanmar

To assist people left homeless and hungry this spring by massive storms in two Asian countries, the Global Food Crisis Fund issued grants of \$75,000 to partners delivering on-the-ground aid.



Amity Foundation/ACT International

May disasters wreak massive toll in Asia.

In China, a grant of \$30,000 is helping to rehabilitate drinking water systems in five communities. In Myanmar (Burma), a grant of \$30,000 to Church World Service was designated for the purchase of rice seed. A grant of \$15,000 to Heifer International is to assist 1,700 poor Myanmar families in achieving sustainable sources of food and income by 2010. Recovery measures carried out by Church World Service in China and Myanmar received further Church of the Brethren support from the Emergency Disaster Fund with grants totaling \$100,000.

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Foods Resource Bank joins in \$100,000 grant for North Korea

Foods Resource Bank along with four of its members have joined the Church of the Brethren in providing the first of three annual \$100,000 grants to the Ryongyan food security program in North Korea. The grant is designed to expand productivity on four large cooperative farms with which the Global Food Crisis Fund has been partnering for five years.

For 2008, the Church of the Brethren as lead sponsor of the Ryongyan program allocated \$42,500, an amount matched by Foods Resource Bank. Other contributors were Mennonite Central Committee, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Committee on Relief, and Lutheran World Relief. All funding came from proceeds of Foods Resource Bank growing projects. As initiator of the Ryongyan program, the Church of the Brethren rejoices over growing support for a venture aimed at dialog and reconciliation as well as sustainable food production.

Rio Coco program establishes training centers in Nicaragua

Along the Coco River that borders Nicaragua and Honduras, a new program has been launched by Church World Service and the Church of the Brethren, working with Foods Resource Bank and four of its members. The program is establishing demonstration centers where interns learn improved farming practices, then return home to instruct others.

One of the Rio Coco leaders, Carolina Azucena, will tour the US in July, visiting Annual Conference in Virginia, the Foods Resource Bank annual meeting in South Dakota, ECHO rural development center in Florida, and growing projects in several states. She is one of four overseas partners to be hosted by Foods Resource Bank this summer.



A team member from the Wiwinak training center in Nicaragua holds a pepper plucked from "the world's smallest farm"—an elevated tire.

Ben Aluma/Foods Resource Bank

'Menu for the Future' on table for NYAC and NOAC

"Menu for the Future," a discussion course for small groups, is a resource that will spark workshop sessions at both the National Young Adult Conference and National Older Adult Conference this summer. It is also a highly recommended curriculum for small groups in congregations. Its six sessions guide participants in examining their role as eaters in the global food marketplace. A collection of essays and articles prompts lively discourse and nurtures relationships that build support for behavioral change.



At NYAC at Estes Park, Colo., Emily O'Donnell will conduct a workshop on August 13 based on the "Menu" offerings. At NOAC at Lake Junaluska, N.C., Jan Shrock will lead a similar session on September 4. Both workshops are sponsored by the Global Food Crisis Fund.

Consisting of 108 pages handsomely formatted, "Menu for the Future" is published by the Northwest Earth Institute, Portland, Ore. Copies may be ordered from Brethren Press, 800 441-3712, at \$18 each. The guide will also be available at Annual Conference and the NYAC and NOAC events.

Farm labor organizer to speak at Richmond Annual Conference

An insider view of how faith, immigration, and farm labor come together will be presented at the Richmond, Va., Annual Conference by Baldemar Velásquez, president and founder of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), AFL- CIO. He will speak at the Global Ministries Dinner on Monday, July 14, at 5 p.m. A second generation US farm worker, Velásquez is a foremost advocate for the nation's estimated 1.8 million farm laborers. The dinner is sponsored by Global Mission Partnerships.

Regnuh '08: A child's garden of artwork urges turning hunger around

More than a hundred drawings on the theme of "Regnuh: Turning hunger around" submitted by children in Church of the Brethren congregations will appear on the web this summer. The electronic version is also to be part of the Global Food Crisis Fund exhibit at Annual Conference. For the web coverage, visit www.brethren.org/genbd/global_mission/gfcf.htm, or go to www.brethren.org and click on "photo journal".

Incorporated in the drawings of young artists, ages 6 to 14, are scriptural texts, prayers, mottoes, conservation tips, humor, and acrostics. Typically, Brittany Anderson, 12, from Calvary Church in Shenandoah District, portrayed a young girl in tears and added the caption: "God provides abundantly for us. Some others aren't that lucky. They need your help." In synch with an Annual Conference appeal from the 300th Anniversary Committee, Miller Kines, 9, from the Oakton Church in Mid-Atlantic District, illustrates the scene below that urges, "Drop your food in the food drop!"



Drawing by Miller Kines