



# Birmingham, Alabama

## Address

1517 Hibernian Street  
Birmingham Al 35214

## Telephone/E-Mail

Office (717) 682-5796  
birmingham@mds.mennonite.net

## Directions

Coming from I-20 East  
Take Exit 123 and turn **right** onto  
US-78/Arkadelphia (follow the  
directions below)

Coming from I-20 West  
Take Exit 123 and turn **left** onto  
US-78/Arkadelphia (follow the  
directions below)

Travel 2.2 miles on US-78, then  
turn left onto Hibernian Street at  
the traffic light. Scott School is  
immediately on the left. Turn left  
just past the school and enter the  
school parking lot through the  
gate. MDS uses the school  
kitchen and dining room and the  
RVs closest to that gate.

## Location

Birmingham is located in central Alabama.

## Demographics

Birmingham was founded in 1871, just after the Civil War. Most of the original settlers were of English ancestry and the town was named after one of the major industrial cities in the United Kingdom. In the early days of Birmingham's history, the major industries were iron and steel.

In the 1950's and 1960's, Birmingham became the center of the Civil Rights Movement in the south.

Birmingham is the largest city in the state of Alabama with a population of approximately 200,000 people.

Twenty-five percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

## EF-4 Tornado 2011

Alabama residents saw one of the worst tornado outbreaks ever on April 27, 2011. Over 60 tornados were reported on that day across the state and 243 people lost their lives. More than 13,000 homes were destroyed or heavily damaged across the state.

Birmingham and surrounding areas took a direct hit.

## MDS

MDS has strong connections in the Birmingham area from several local Mennonite affiliated congregations and due to extensive work by MDS volunteers in 1998 following tornados. MDS is currently located at Scott School in the Pratt City neighborhood, just on the edge of some of the most severe tornado damage. The school kitchen and dining room are used for cooking and dining, and volunteers will be sleeping in RV trailers. Current work includes both repairs and building new homes in Birmingham and surrounding communities.