

RESPONDING - REBUILDING - RESTORING

....In the name of CHRIST



MDS ONTARIO FALL NEWSLETTER



Ontario Board Update

Since the last newsletter, we are pleased to report that four new board members have joined the board (two resignations), which give ON wider geographical, more Anabaptist conference, and both gender representation. The new board members are [Henry Penner](#) from Aylmer, [Rick Savage](#) from Stayner, [Leonard Sider](#) from Stevensville, and [Sonia Yung](#) from Mississauga. Thanks to [Dick Radstake](#) and [Kevin Bodiam](#) for your service on the board. The updated board listing is attached.

MDS Responds to Leamington Tornado

On Sunday June 6, 2010, at approximately 3AM, an F1 tornado hit Leamington and surrounding areas. Damage was reported from Windsor (flooding) to Wheatley. The worst hit area was in Leamington on County Rd. 18(Seacliff Drive), from Albuna Town line to East Beach Rd.

Several hundred homes and greenhouses were affected, either with roof damage, trees down on homes or on property. Some areas also had no hydro for a few days while crews worked nonstop to restore the power. God was watching over Leamington and area residents though because no major injuries or deaths occurred as a result of the tornado.

Members of local Mennonite churches began helping informally immediately. MDS Ontario board members travelled to Leamington to assess damage. MDS worked with Samaritan's Purse, the local Pastor's and other local organizations to set up a group response. MDS helped to provide 186 volunteers representing approximately 2200 volunteer hours.

On June 19, Samaritan's Purse ended their term and MDS took over as the main relief organization. Remaining jobs were completed and new calls for assistance were assessed and fixed. As of early Oct, there is still one job being finished with help from MDS volunteers.

BINATIONAL PROJECT UPDATE

check out the MDS website
www.mds.mennonite.net
or call 1-866-261-1274 to volunteer.



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

FALL 2010

Hurricane Igor Investigation

Glenn and Esther Buck were asked by Region 5 to travel to Newfoundland Labrador to assess the need for a response to Hurricane Igor. The hurricane landed Sept. 20 – 21, 2010. Unofficial reports indicated wind speeds of 150 km/h with gusts to 180 km/h. Precipitation during the hurricane was approximately 22 cm over a 20 h period. Little wind damage was reported in any of the communities investigated. The majority of the damage was water damage due to run off; homes were flooded and roads were washed out. (road washouts were extreme in many places



Glenn Buck (MDS) Tony Deweerd (CRWRC) and Stephen Joudry (SP) discuss how to coordinate their respective responses so as to maximize the benefits to clients.



requiring major investments of time and money to effect even temporary repairs). Some houses in several communities were deemed “uninhabitable” due to the extent of damage. Some houses were floated off their footings/foundations. In some isolated cases the houses were carried downstream by the flood waters. The majority of homes visited by the team experienced flooding; some as little as 5 cm, however, others were over 30 cm. There was one reported death attributed to the effects of flooding associated with Igor. Many communities had electrical and telephone interruption. Many communities experienced water contamination which prompted boil water advisories. Some fishermen experienced significant damage to their business. In Trouty a local bakery had to curtail operations due to the inability to transport goods and materials; this put about 10 people out of work. In Port Union the local fish processing plant was extensively damaged putting over 100 persons out of work. It is estimated that the plant will not operate for at least one year.

Region 5 Board will convene at the end of October to discuss if and when MDS will respond to this disaster. Members of other NGO’s will be present at the meeting to discuss coordination of resources in the face of this and other disasters.



Early Response Team for MDS ON?

The MDS ON Board would like to develop an Early Response Team (ERT) to respond to a disaster with a group of volunteers who could be called upon to travel to a disaster site and begin working as quickly as possible. The team would be comprised of a group of individuals trained/skilled in tasks that are most often needed early in the recovery / cleanup phase of a disaster (chain saw operation, roof tarping, etc)

The board would like to have a sufficient number of volunteers so that when a request for assistance is received not all members of the ERT would be obliged to go. It is our hope that a body of approximately 30 volunteers could be found. In most cases the ERT would respond to a disaster with 10-12 volunteers who could meet and travel to the disaster site.

When a request for assistance is received the ON BD executive and a local CCP will conduct an assessment to determine if a response is warranted. If the decision is made to respond, ERT members will be contacted by email and/or phone until sufficient volunteers are found who can attend in a timely fashion. Not all volunteers would have to attend every time.

ERT Volunteers should:

1. be prepared to attend some training sessions;
2. have the flexibility to allow them to travel to a site on short notice;
3. be prepared to act as team leaders when regular MDS volunteers arrive;
4. live within a reasonable distance from Kitchener Waterloo

If you are interested in volunteering please contact: Glenn Buck at glennmds@wightman.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (separate attachments)

- MDS ON Board Activities - Jan. to Oct. 2010
- Updated MDS ON Board Listing

**YOUR FEEDBACK AS A CCP
AND /OR CHURCH IS IMPORTANT**
(hammnicholas@hotmail.com)

MDS Ontario CCP
(Church Contact Person)

WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 27, 2010
1:00 – 4:00 PM

(includes refreshments)

**North Leamington
United Mennonite Church**
625 Rd 6, RR 5 Leamington, ON
N8H 3V8

Call toll free
1-866-261-1274 to register