

## **REGION III ANNUAL REPORT**

Region III has been spared from major disasters in 2010, but the region has had its share of storms and local disasters. We are so thankful and praise God for dedicated volunteers who are willing to accept the responsibilities of investigation and organization on short notice.

Work continued in Iowa from previous flooding. Floods in 2010 seriously tested dams and levies in hard-hit areas near Delhi, Iowa. Oklahoma had spring flooding and several tornados in and around the Oklahoma City area. Wadena, Minnesota was struck by a tornado which the local unit investigated and local volunteers managed the workload.

In late summer, a storm with heavy rain and hail hit the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation at Eagle Butte, South Dakota. The project was placed on high priority since winter can come early in that area. Several car loads of MDS volunteers from South Dakota responded along with a number of other faith based organizations. Duane Tieszen, Unit Chair, reported that MDS volunteers were the first to arrive at the project and were met with a degree of apprehension from the community, but barriers were quickly broken and good relationships built. The work was completed quicker than was expected. The Montana unit also investigated flood damage at the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation but determined no follow up was needed by MDS.

The Arkansas unit trained to become certified as an official Search and Rescue Team. This certification allows them to take the lead role in future search and rescue events in the densely wooded hills of Arkansas and Missouri.

An F3 tornado struck northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri on Friday, December 31. Within hours, a team from Arkansas was on their way to investigate the damage. A large group of volunteers were on site by Monday morning to clean up.

The Region III annual meeting held in Roach, Missouri, was a spiritually uplifting time. Daniel Swartzentruber became the new Secretary and Treasurer. Thank you, Morris Yoder for your commitment these past six years.

We appreciate and thank the Lord for the commitment and dedication of so many people in our region who are willing to respond quickly and represent MDS with a Christ-like caring attitude.

Al and Jan Kroeker  
Region III Directors