

REGION V ANNUAL REPORT

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 15: 5-6).

As another year draws to a close, God’s grace and sufficiency have been evident not only in our personal lives, but within the MDS community as well. Volunteers, staff, board members, church constituency, and partner agencies worked together to honour and glorify God.

In 2010, 465 Canadian short-term volunteers and 263 Canadian long-term volunteers responded to needs on both sides of the 49th parallel. Region V has experienced more disasters across the country than we could have imagined.

British Columbia responded to flooding in early spring in Duncan and Cowichan areas. They also responded to flooding in the Bella Coola area in the fall.

Volunteers in Alberta were “the hands and feet of Jesus” as they rebuilt a house after a fire. In mid-June torrential rains caused major damage in the Irvine and Medicine Hat regions. The Alberta unit volunteers were quick to respond with clean up in several affected areas.

Saskatchewan volunteers responded to flooding throughout the summer in many different communities. The unit also hosted the 2010 Summer Youth Program in Shaunavon. Eight youth groups from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia joined with capable leadership to build a year-round facility for Rock Solid Refuge, an organization that works with male teens who struggle with addictions.

In addition to responding to a house fire, Manitoba volunteers were hard pressed to keep up with response efforts due to flooding from early spring to the end of December. Manitobans experienced the typical flooding after the spring thaw. Two months later, the end of May brought heavy rains to an already saturated province with resulting flooding, evacuations, and damage in Emerson, Brandon, and Winnipeg. In October, more rain devastated the Interlake region. Once again these areas experienced flooding and evacuations in mid-December.

A tornado struck Leamington, Ontario, in early June. MDS Ontario unit volunteers partnered with Samaritan’s Purse to clean up.

Hurricane Igor struck coastal areas of Newfoundland with heavy winds and rain in September. MDS investigated and partnered with Christian Disaster Relief, Samaritan’s Purse, and Christian Reform World Relief Committee to clean up and rebuild. This may result in a major long-term recovery effort in spring 2011. Atlantic Canada was pounded with heavy rain/wind storms throughout the month of December with hundreds of evacuations across the area with many folks losing their homes and belongings. Local volunteers responded in timely fashion to clean up.

Between responding to disasters, MDSer’s held dessert nights, unit banquets, CCP workshops, dedicated homes, and more. The Concordia Foundation presented MDS with the Martin Bergen Award for long standing service to society and community in Canada.

The Region V Board met in Pinawa, Manitoba late October. A highlight of the meeting was a first ever meeting between MDS and three partner agencies to plan future joint disaster response efforts. MDS Region V continued to partner with Canadian Mennonite University to offer courses and bursaries in the CMU Disaster Recovery Studies program.

The New Year holds much promise as MDS Region V executive and board experience significant transitions of leadership and relationships between staff and boards. Opportunities to serve God

and one another will only increase and we pray for God's continued presence in our lives and in our collective efforts to minister aid to others in His name.

Ron & Elaine Enns
Region V Co-Directors