Salt for His Horses
by Michael Himlie, BVS Unit #303

Hello, and welcome to a story of people thirsty for Christ because of the humble work of the Brethren; because of the quick thinking from a brother in Christ to draw the water from the Rock into the hearts of homeowners around the country. As my year of BVS begins I am certain what ministries can be found through the work of Brethren Disaster Ministries.

Bill Gay, president of the American Recycling Foundation and a village gardener in Alaska, shared a story about his experience with a homeowner while serving at a BDM site. This homeowner nervously asked when the ‘presentation’ of the Bible will be. Gay paused, and responded, "We will talk to you about anything you want. We will even stay after the workday and talk, but we are not here to push the Bible on you." After some thought the homeowner came to Gay and began to ask about Christianity and Brethren heritage. A day like this makes volunteering that much more fulfilling. To bring words of Christian love into a house is an important step in building a home.

A pastor from the Southern Ohio district told me that we can lead a horse to water but cannot make it drink. However, he says, we can plant salt in its seed. This fits in quite well with BDM’s mission. We cannot make a non-Christian drink but we can make them thirsty for the love of Jesus by living and breathing God’s word.

Every time BDM builds a house the homeowner receives so much more. They receive smiles from hundreds of volunteers throughout the building process. They receive hope for tomorrow. They receive God's grace and accept it into their hearts. They receive countless hours of Christian fellowship ringing joyfully in every room. Most importantly, they receive a house transformed into a home through Christian acts of service.