



Pastor Malena Duran

Haitian Brethren receive earthquake relief

Brethren Disaster Ministries directed \$125,000 in grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to Haiti following the earthquake on Aug. 14.

A grant of \$75,000 was given to L'Eglise des Freres d'Haiti (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) for emergency relief programming, with support from Brethren Disaster Ministries. A grant of \$50,000 supported the response by Church World Service (CWS).

An initial \$5,000 grant was used to distribute food, household items, and tarps for temporary shelters by the National Committee of the Haitian church when the group traveled to Saut Mathurine on Aug. 19 to support church members.

Additional grants:

- \$50,867 from the EDF completed the Brethren Disaster Ministries tornado rebuilding project in Dayton, Ohio.
- \$40,000 from the EDF supported the CWS program in Honduras for families affected by Hurricanes Eta

and Iota. A grant of \$30,000 was given concurrently to Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG).

- \$25,000 from the EDF continued response to the volcanic eruption of Mount Nyiragongo through the Goma congregation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- \$15,000 from the EDF aided the COVID-19 response of IMA World Health in India.

- \$2,334.39 from the EDF helped Northern Plains District do rebuilding following the 2020 derecho in Iowa.

- \$3,000 from the Global Food Initiative (GFI) helped the agriculture program of the church in Haiti transition to a self-sustaining ministry. A grant of \$5,000 covered costs of an evaluation of the program.

- \$2,000 from the GFI went to a food distribution program of the Alpha and Omega Community Center in Lancaster, Pa.

- \$2,000 from the GFI supported the community garden of GraceWay Community Church of the Brethren in Dundalk, Md.



The National Youth Cabinet gathered Aug. 6-10 in Fort Collins, Colo., at Colorado State University for an onsite visit preparing for National Youth Conference (NYC) 2022: (front row, from left) NYC coordinator Erika Clary, Luke Schweitzer of Southern Ohio and Kentucky District, Youth and Young Adult Ministries director Becky Ullom Naugle; (back, from left) adult advisor Jason Haldeman of Atlantic Northeast District, Hayley Daubert of Shenandoah District, Bella Torres of Atlantic Northeast District, Ben Tatum of Virgina District, Geo Romero of Illinois and Wisconsin District, adult advisor Kayla Alphonse of Atlantic Southeast District. Not pictured: Elise Gage of Mid-Atlantic District, who attended via Zoom.



Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 329 completed orientation at Inspiration Hills Camp in Burbank, Ohio, from July 18 to Aug. 6: (from left) Lydia DeMoss of Bolingbrook, Ill., who will serve at L'Arche Syracuse, N.Y.; Malachi Nelson of McMinnville, Ore., who will serve at La Puente Home in Alamosa, Colo., on an interim basis before traveling to the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan; LeRae Wilson of Denton, Md., who will serve at L'Arche Dublin, Ireland; Erika Clary of Brownsville Church of the Brethren who will serve as National Youth Conference coordinator; and Galen Fitzkee of Lancaster (Pa.) Church of the Brethren who will serve at the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy.



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Mission staff released from custody in South Sudan

Athanasus Ungang, Global Mission staff in South Sudan, was released from prison in August, and his colleague Utang James was released in early September. Ungang and James were among church leaders held for questioning following the murder of a church leader in May, although none were suspects and the authorities did not press formal charges. Although Ungang was released, his US passport was not returned so he has been unable to leave the country. He is a US citizen.

Nigerian church destroyed

The Maduganari congregation of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) lost its church building in the Maiduguri area when it was demolished by authorities. The demolition occurred despite the church having a valid permit. During the demolition, security forces fired shots into the air killing one church member and injuring others.

EYN also is grieving the death of the chairman of its Board of Trustees, Maina Mamman, a minister who died in mid-August.



Edgar Gamito

CDS responds to hurricane and Afghan evacuation

Children's Disaster Services in September sent volunteers to respond to Hurricane Ida and the Afghan evacuation.

Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana on Aug. 29. By that evening, CDS was planning a deployment. The first CDS team of six traveled to a Red Cross shelter in Baton Rouge, La., Sept. 1-2.

As events in Afghanistan unfolded, of particular concern for denominational staff were the evacuees. Many thousands entered the US through specific airports and then traveled to one of seven military facilities for processing. CDS partnered with Save the Children to send a team of seven to New Mexico to care for Afghan children in a military facility, and sent volunteers to help care for children of Afghan families arriving at Dulles International Airport.

Personnel

Brian Bert begins in January as executive director of Camp Blue Diamond in Petersburg, Pa. His appointment follows a 30-year term of ministry at the camp by **Dean and Jerri Heiser Wenger**, who retire at the end of this year. Bert has served as the camp's program director since 2008.

Michael Brewer-Berres began Aug. 23 as orientation assistant for Brethren Volunteer Service at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. She was part of BVS Unit 325. Her first BVS assignment was at Quaker Cottage in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Dana Cassell, pastor of Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren in Durham, N.C., resigned as program manager of the Thriving in Ministry Initiative for the Office of Ministry, effective Sept. 16. She has served in the role since Jan. 7, 2019, managing the Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church program. Previously she was contract staff

for Ministry Formation in the Office of Ministry, coordinating the 2014 Clergy Women's Retreat, helping with a revision of the Ministerial Leadership Polity of Annual Conference that was approved in 2014, and coordinating planning for Ministry Summer Service.

Galen Fitzkee began in August as associate in the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, serving through BVS. He recently graduated from Messiah University. He is a member of Lancaster (Pa.) Church of the Brethren.

Alton Higgs and **Chad Whitzel** completed a year Aug. 13 as assistant coordinators for FaithX, formerly the Workcamp Ministry. They served through BVS.

Kara Miller completed two years serving as a volunteer in the BVS office, first as assistant coordinator for the Workcamp Ministry and more recently as assistant orientation coordinator for BVS.

Doug Phillips has announced his

retirement as director of Brethren Woods, a camp and outdoor ministry center in Shenandoah District, effective Nov. 30. During his 39 years at the helm of Brethren Woods, the camp has accomplished growth in programming and in facilities despite challenges including the ash borer damaging and killing hundreds of trees and the COVID restrictions that preempted the 2020 camping program.

Joshua Rowan began Aug. 9 as IT specialist for the Church of the Brethren at the General Offices. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in computer science.

Naomi Yilma finished July 16 as associate with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, serving through BVS. Her work focused on COVID-19, Advocacy Network on Africa, economic peacemaking, and coordination of the Nigeria Working Group.