

Nigeria Crisis Response to phase out

A grant of \$225,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund extends the Nigeria Crisis Response through 2024, part of a plan to phase out the program over the next three years. The plan was created in collaboration with the Disaster Relief Management Team of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).

The Nigeria Crisis Response is a joint program of EYN and the Church of the Brethren Global Mission and Brethren Disaster Ministries that, since 2014, has provided more than \$6 million to the work of helping EYN endure an ongoing crisis of violence.

This grant helps shift focus to equip displaced people to better support themselves and their families. As a result,



EYN disaster relief team giving scholarships to orphans.

there is a significant decrease in the food distribution budget and expansion of funding for education, agriculture, home repair, and livelihood programming.

Emergency Disaster Fund gives grants

Haiti and the Dominican Republic

■ **\$143,000** to aid l'Eglise des Freres d'Haiti (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) while the country is undergoing multiple crises that are having a significant negative effect on the church. Some congregations have closed and many families are displaced. The money will provide food distributions at all congregations and preaching points of the church.

■ **\$25,000** to Comunidad de Fe (Community of Faith), the Haitian Kreyol-speaking sector of the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic, for the work to aid Haitians who arrive in the DR often without any money, food, clothing, or shelter.

■ **\$5,000** to Iglesia des los Hermanos, the Spanish-speaking sector of the church in the DR, for its emergency food aid to Haitian refugees.

Ukraine

■ **\$100,000** for Church World Service to aid displaced

Ukrainians. CWS has identified Moldova as a country needing considerable assistance to support large numbers of refugees from the Russian military invasion of Ukraine. CWS also has a new program for displaced people inside Ukraine, focusing on remote villages near Odesa.

South Sudan

■ **\$68,000** for the South Sudan Crisis Recovery Initiative, a revised mission plan put together after executives of Global Mission and Brethren Disaster Ministries visited in November 2023. It focuses on communities with developing Church of the Brethren congregations. Funds will go for food distributions, agriculture, a well for a village school, and a small portion of overhead costs.

United States

■ **\$62,000** for the Brethren Disaster Ministries rebuilding project in Dawson Springs, Ky., following December 2021 tornadoes. This grant completes the project through Aug. 17, 2024.

■ **\$5,000** for Principe de Paz Church of the Brethren in southern California to expand its ministry of supporting families with meals and groceries, to aid those affected by flooding. Extensive damage was caused by a series of heavy rains and floods beginning this past February.

Democratic Republic of Congo

■ **\$40,000** for the Goma congregation of l'Eglise des Freres au Congo to aid 600 families displaced by conflict and violence.

■ **\$30,000** for l'Eglise des Freres au Congo to provide emergency food to 950 households, or about 7,600 people, following flooding of Lake Tanganyika.

Mexico

■ **\$8,800** for the Tijuana Community Center and Bittersweet Ministries to support migrants. Migrants wait in Tijuana for their asylum appointments with the US government, making the city

a gateway for thousands of people seeking to enter the US. The center provides housing and meals for people in need, originally those living locally in poverty and more recently those migrating through Mexico.

Venezuela

■ **\$7,500** for ASIGLEH (the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela) to aid families affected by an epidemic that is killing children in Delta Amacuro State, where the church has a mission point. The unknown nature of the disease is causing fear and desperation. Parents have abandoned homes, crops, and food, hoping to prevent the spread of the disease, leaving many families in need of aid.

Burundi

■ **\$5,000** for the Church of the Brethren in Burundi to provide emergency food to 75 households, or about 450 people, in Gatumba who lost homes in the 2023 and 2024 flooding of the Rusizi River.

CDS deploys during active tornado season

From March through May, Children's Disaster Services (CDS) provided care centers for children in what has become the most active tornado season in the US since 2017. A total of 34 children were served, as of the end of May, with 13 CDS volunteers attending.

In March, CDS volunteers deployed to Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC) in Lakeview and Russells Point, Ohio, following tornadoes that included one category EF3 that killed three people.

Following tornadoes in Iowa late in April, CDS provided volunteers for a MARC May 4-5 in Minden, Iowa.

Overnight May 7-8, a series of tornadoes and severe storms affected Iron County, Mo. A MARC was set up on May 29, to which CDS responded.



A child in the care of Children's Disaster Services at a center in Lakeview, Ohio, following tornadoes.

Personnel

David Banaszak on July 28 concludes his service as executive minister for Middle Pennsylvania District, a position he has held since Sept. 5, 2017. During his years on the Council of District Executives he was on the Ministry Issues Committee. Prior to serving as executive, he served the district as chair of the Ministry Commission, directed Ministry Formation, and was on Standing Committee.

John Jantzi plans to conclude his service as Shenandoah District executive on March 1, 2025. He began in the position on Aug. 1, 2012. As a member of the Council of District Executives, he served on the Ministry Issues Committee and the Ministry Advisory Council and as representative to the Outdoor Ministries Association. He was a member of the Annual Conference Vitality and Viability

Committee 2016-2017 and was on the Compelling Vision Team.

Eric Miller on May 15 concluded his work as executive director of Global Mission. He began in the Global Mission office on March 8, 2021, when he was hired with his wife, Ruoxia Li, as co-executive director. Li resigned several months later. Previously, the couple had worked for Global Mission in China.

Nancy Miner retires Oct. 31 as manager of the General Secretary's office, a position she has held for 15 years. She has worked for the denomination since April 1993, when she first worked in the insurance and communications departments of Brethren Benefit Trust (now Eder Financial). Her work for the church included serving as administrative assistant for the Association of Brethren Caregivers and the Caring Ministries of the Church of the Brethren.

Blaine and Nancy Miner begin Aug. 5 as co-district executives for Western Plains District, half-time. Nancy Miner will work fewer hours until she retires from the General Secretary's office. Blaine Miner holds degrees from Elizabethtown (Pa.) College and Bethany Seminary. He was ordained by Illinois and Wisconsin District and Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Ill., where the Miners are members. His ministry experience includes pastoring Dixon (Ill.) Church of the Brethren and working as a chaplain in state correctional centers.

Jacqueline Claire Flowers of Blacksburg, Va., begins July 15 as director of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives. She holds a master of divinity from Bethany Seminary and a bachelor's in psychology from Argosy University.



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