



LOVE, JOY, PIECE



March 2008
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Mennonite Central Committee
North American Mennonite Relief Sale Board – Quilter's Newsletter

Homes for Bangladesh Traveling Quilts and Quilt Projects to raise funds for Cyclone Victims

Editor's Note: As many of you may be aware this year's block project is house blocks. If you don't know about our projects or have never seen the travelling Heart block quilts I will give you a little history.

At the Relief Sale workshops in Ontario five years ago, Marlys Wiens and I came up with the idea to have people make a block on a theme and send them to us and we would then make them into quilts to raise funds for MCC projects. To our delight and surprise we received enough blocks to make more quilts than we had dreamed of. What a blessing those heart blocks and quilts have been! See www.mcc.org/reliefsales

As the House block project began God once more placed his hand on this project. MCC needs money to rebuild homes in Bangladesh after a devastating cyclone. I believe God led us to join the House block project by raising funds to rebuild homes in Bangladesh. For more information on the devastation in Bangladesh go to www.mcc.org.

There are two travelling house block quilts. One quilt will travel the relief sales in the States and one in Canada.

We encourage you to make your own house block quilt. Get a group together from your church or friends and make a house quilt of your own design. When I see a house or heart quilt at a relief sale I am amazed at how a project that began with a small idea, with God's help, is making a difference in this world - one heart/house at a time. We thank all of you who have participated in these projects through the making of blocks, bidding at sales or through prayer.

If a house quilt is not scheduled for your local sale, consider making your own quilt and designating the funds to MCC's Bangladesh project.

In March I will be working with a group of high school students at a Mennonite school. We will be creating a house quilt which will then be donated to their local

sale. These high school students will help to build a house for a family in Bangladesh. One community here in Canada giving comfort to a community a world away. To God be the glory great things he has done.

Bev Patkau

On November 15, 2007 Bangladesh felt the full force of Cyclone Sidr. A surge of water killed an estimated 3,400 people and hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless. Crops were destroyed and livestock swept away.

Relief Sales are striving to support Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)'s effort to rebuild these homes. Thanks to many people, young and old, for creating blocks to become quilts, textile projects and wall hangings to raise the funds for this effort.

A few of the comments that were enclosed with the finished blocks are as follows:

- "Blessings are tucked inside these houses."
- "When I saw the notice requesting quilt blocks for houses, I thought I would present the challenge to our Greensburg, KS church women's group. But then the Mary 4, 2007 tornado devastated our town and destroyed the homes of the sewing ladies. My eight year-old granddaughter broke down in tears when she witnessed the devastation. She drew a picture of a house for the block and I did the stitching."
- "After the fires in our home area in California, I was afraid I would not finish this block. Our home was safe – thank you Lord!"

If you or your quilt group would like to complete a project using these blocks to be donated to a relief sale, please contact the editors (contact information below.)

On May 19, 2007, children participating in the children's activities of the Mennonite World Relief Sale in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, drew houses on blocks of fabric to be used to create a future quilt – prior to the Cyclone in Bangladesh. These blocks were incorporated into a quilt that will be traveling among many relief sales in the United States during 2008 to be

used as a symbol on the benefit auctions as bidders are invited to make donations to help rebuild these homes. In November 2008 this particular Homes for Bangladesh quilt will be sold at the Mennonite World Relief Sale in Brooklyn Park, MN. For information on the sale, go to tcmccreliefsale.org or call 612-724-6450.



MWRS volunteers Karen Hauff on left and Colleen Graber on right participated in the project.



In Canada, a separate travelling quilt consisting of blocks submitted by quilters from all over Canada will be shown at many Canadian Relief Sales to contribute to this project as well.

For more information, to book these quilts at your sale or to see how you may become involved, contact Daheberg2@aol.com or (814) 445-6945.

Good Shepherd Traveling Quilt to aid Street Children Around the World

In the June 2007 issue of *Love, Joy, Piece*, we presented the story of the creation of the Good Shepherd Traveling Quilt. (www.mcc.org/reliefsales)

This beautiful quilt will be traveling among relief sales to raise awareness and funds for MCC's program to help street children. MCC is supporting centers to provide food, lodging and help in educating children who have been dropped off on the street or who have left abusive homes. If you would like to book this quilt for your relief sale or would like information as to where it will be displayed, contact Daheberg2@aol.com or (814) 445-6945.



Relief Sale Happenings

Vintage quilts continue to sell well on the auctions.

Oklahoma Mennonite Relief Sale –

Sale attendees vote on their favorite quilt on display prior to the auction and present it as the “*People’s Choice Quilt*” - increases value.

“*Colors Challenge*” – provide a packet of matching colors squares and invite people to use their imagination to create a project – quilt, wall hanging, kitchen sets – you name it! They have a special display of these finished items and then present them on the auction – creates interest.

Quilt Tips & Ideas

- Need some interesting fabric to make baby quilts for low cost? Cut up old receiving blankets to make scrap quilts! They have all turned out beautiful!
- Roll left over fabric strips on an empty toilet tissue roll. Gently, do not stretch, and you won't have to re-iron or search for that certain strip again. Line them up in a shoe box and mark box as to color.
- To make thread behave for appliqué or regular sewing - run your needle and thread through a fresh dryer sheet, folded, and like magic - no tangles nor those tiny, little knots.
- Keep a bar of non-moisturizing soap on the table next to your quilting chair. When you sit down to quilt, thread about ten needles with thread, stick them all into the soap, and Voila!! You have sharp, threaded needles waiting! When finished with each one, stick the empty needle back into the soap! They remain sharp and rust free for ever so much longer!!

[Email Chat room](#)

To sign up for the email *chat room*, please send your email address to Harriet Berg at Daheberg2@aol.com.

[Newsletter](#)

To sign up to receive *Love, Joy, Piece* Newsletter by mail, **in the US** contact mwiens@pro-ns.net or mail to Marlys Wiens, 7310 York Avenue S. #105, Edina, MN 55435.

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For back issues of *Love, Joy, Piece*, go to www.mcc.org/reliefsales.