



Emergency Financial Aid for Nigerian Church

At their fall meeting, the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board approved up to \$1.5 million to begin funding an emergency response fund to the church in Nigeria. An allocation of \$500,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund was approved. The board also decided to commit \$500,000.00 from reserves and up to another amount of \$500,000 from reserves as a matching challenge to donors. The Southern Ohio District Board has approved a donation of \$10,000.00 from District reserves (recently increased through receipt of some assets from the recently closed Poplar Grove congregation) to the Nigeria Crisis Fund which will be matched by an amount set aside by the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. **The Board is asking congregations and district individuals to consider gifts to this special fund as well.** More information about EYN (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), including how this money will be used can be found at the denominational website (brethren.org).

Disaster Ministry Updates

2014 in Review--As we reflect on 2014, it stands out as a very busy year for S. Ohio BDM. We sent fourteen crews, totaling 159 volunteers to New Jersey for Superstorm Sandy recovery. They worked at rehabbing houses in Spotswood, and both rehabbing and working on new builds at Toms River. The expenses of these trips were covered by S. Ohio BDM through funds raised at the annual Ice Cream Social and donations from congregations, individuals, and businesses. There was no monetary cost to the volunteers who served. Working with Church World Service, we sent 40 Baby Kits, 75 Baby Blankets, 425 Hygiene Kits, 504 Clean up Buckets, and 643 School Kits.

Together as a district, we have shared God's love and made a difference in the life of disaster survivors. All are welcome to join in this ministry. Monthly meetings are usually the first Thursday of the month at Mill Ridge Village Community Center, 1000 Mill Ridge Circle, Union, OH 45322. Fellowship time is at 6:30 P.M. and the meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. Our January meeting is on the second Thursday, Jan.8, due to the holiday. Thank you to all for supporting S. Ohio BDM.

Volunteers Needed: Crews of 26--Brethren Disaster Ministries continues to work in New Jersey with Superstorm Sandy recovery. It's over two years now since the disaster, and many are still in need of housing. Thank you to those who responded for the **December 7 - 13 trip. We sent seven** volunteers to join workers from other districts. We now need volunteers for our regularly scheduled trips of **February 15-21 and March 15-21**. There is much to be done with the Sept. 1 deadline for completion of twelve houses in Toms River. To meet this need, a second house is being opened for lodging volunteers, and our crew size is being increased from fifteen to twenty-six. We need many

workers! For more information or to volunteer, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or [click here](#) to email. Please consider this opportunity and share it with others.

Sewing Bee and Assembly of School Kits On Saturday, January 24, come join brothers and sisters as we sew school bags and assemble school kits for Church World Service. The Sewing Bee is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM at the Eaton Church of the Brethren, 1407 N. Barron Street. Sewers need to bring their sewing machine. Others are invited to bring scissors for cutting out school bags or baby gowns. We'll also be assembling School Kits, using the bags that have already been sewn. Come join in a time of fellowship and service. Lunch will be served.

Donations Needed for Cleanup Buckets-- Church World Service has a continuous need for Clean Up Buckets. We are now purchasing items for buckets that will be assembled in March 2015. We appreciate and thank you for your support of this project. [Click here](#) to make donations through the Southern Ohio website. Checks may be sent to: District of Southern Ohio Church of the Brethren, 2293 Gauby Rd., New Madison, OH 45346

Camping and Retreat Commission Updates

Summer Camp 2014 Wrap up video is available on YouTube. [Click here](#) to view or download and use for promotion of next year's summer camping program. Registration will open very soon. Be watching for more information.

Youth Winter Adventure--There's still a few days to register youth for the upcoming District Youth Winter Adventure sponsored by Camping and Retreat Commission. Led by Jon Keller and Seth Hendricks, the daily schedule will include meals, worship, tubing, tobogganing, skiing, hiking, devotions, games, etc. Unsure about skiing? There will be lessons for beginner through advanced skiers. Still unsure? Spend your time hiking, tubing, or tobogganing instead of skiing. Registration deadline is December 31, 2014.

Watch for more information . . .

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, January 11, 2014 at the Salem Church of the Brethren. Invitations will be mailed during the first part of January. *A Maple Syrup/Pancake Day* is being planned for sometime in February.

For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, the Southern Ohio District (sodcob@brethren.org) or you can always visit our website: www.sodcob.org. In addition to this publication, we also email a monthly newsletter. To request a newsletter simply email your request to the same email address. If you would like to add your event to either the website, this publication, or the monthly newsletter please email your information to sodcob@brethren.org before the 15th of the month.

