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Evangelical Visitor - March, 1984 MCC Annual Report

Glen A. Pierce

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A Mennonite Central Committee publication February 1984 vol 8 no 1

contact

1983 Central Committee

Young Mahmoud draws water from his family's cistern to irrigate olive seedlings and vegetables. In the past he had to haul water by donkey from a village four kilometers away. In 1983 his task was easier. MCC helped his family and 74 other West Bank families repair or construct water cisterns as part of its rural development work.

In India hundreds of people—victims of drought and flooding—repaired wells and roads, built dams and made other improvements. Payment for their work was in food—over 9,000 metric tons of Canadian wheat. MCCers reported: "These were truly locally organized and motivated groups. Projects were selected to benefit the poorest of the poor."

Earlier this year there was hope for returning stability in Chad. MCC had plans to place additional workers there to renew earlier agriculture and other development work. But fighting again disrupted life in that country. The MCC Chad team

observed: "Standing with suffering Chadians will have to justify MCC's continued presence in that country. MCC's direct contribution to Chadian development has been minimal in the past three years due to turmoil. We hope that will change, but this can only be committed to God."

1983 was a year of extremes—drought in Southern Africa, flooding in South America and Asia, continuing wars and civil conflict. In a complex world, finding appropriate ways to respond was a challenge. In many places deepening ties with local churches strengthened MCC.

1983 saw large shipments of material aid: 57.5 million pounds of food and other aid was sent to 36 countries. The largest quantities went to India and Mozambique.

This report is a sample of the involvement of the many MCCers, who worked to do the task God gave them in five continents.

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Olive seedlings, Lebanon

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A harsh natural environment and political violence have long been factors in this continent. 1983 was the second year of crippling drought in Southern Africa. Drought also affected sections of East and West Africa.

In Botswana MCCers reported the drought was the worst since the 1960s and "brought widespread suffering in the rural sector." In Swaziland farmers only harvested 50 percent of the normal maize crop. In rural Transkei people and animals died from drought-related causes.

The suffering was made personal to MCCers in many ways. In Lesotho MCC gave assistance to a church-sponsored garden that was scorched when clear skies continued week after week. An MCCer reported talking to church people about the coming hungry months. They told him: "God will help us. Everyone will share what very little they have, so that all will have enough."

In September MCC agriculturists met in Kenya with African church leaders and agricultural consultants to discuss possible ways to increase African food production. New initiatives recommended at the meeting included rural agriculture and community work programs in Zambia and Botswana, agriculture and water resources work among resettled peoples in Ethiopia and urban gardening and livestock programs in Tanzania. Over 40 agriculturists served in 15 countries.

Ugandan refugees in Sudan show remarkable motivation in improving their lives, MCCers reported. Worker has organized school construction, health care units and community centers for settlements.

Mennonite Missions, a joint MCC/missions program in Botswana, experienced a good year: "Commitment to Christ and to sharing about the kingdom of God has been MM's bottom line. Pursuing this commitment has brought workers into an amazing variety of work/witness opportunities." Community development work included agriculture, education, technical assistance, spiritual ministry.

MCC sent 8,500 metric tons of Canadian Foodgrains Bank wheat to drought victims in Mozambique.

In Sudan four-year-old Tathia learned to walk. Seventeen-year-old Osama leaned to use woodworking tools. They were among 100 handicapped children at Broader Horizons School.

MCCers were instructors at Nigeria resource center. There primary principals and teachers learned more effective ways to teach basic education, and practiced what they had learned in a classroom setting. Beautiful quilts made in North America fill an important need in many countries. In Bangladesh it became increasingly difficult to import the patched blankets. Through a cooperative, local women earned a living, piecing quilts for use in hospitals and orphanages.

That project was one of many job creation schemes in Bangladesh, which has an unemployment rate of over 40 percent. The programs provided jobs for over 1,700 people.

Kampuchea, once the focus of international attention, received very little international aid in 1983, despite continued civil strife and economic hardship. MCCers noted: "The simple fact that MCC recognizes the suffering of the Kampuchean people means much when they are cut off from contact with most of the world's countries." MCC contributed school and health supplies, as well as agricultural aid and foodstuffs.

A health worker in Philippines told of a patient, suffering a chronic disease due to infested water, whose father was gunned to death along with 11 other farmers in his village. The farmers were accused of being supporters of guerrillas. Later representatives of a large company asked the villagers to sell their farm land. "What role does a Christian health worker play in this setting?" the MCCer asked. Does health work involve not only treatment and prevention, but loving support for the fatherless and justice for the powerless?

MCCers vigorously promoted tree planting in the South Lalitpur District of Nepal, where forests and top soil are disappearing at an alarming rate.

Between 150,000 and 175,000 refugees still lived in Thai camps. Three MCCers worked in two camps.

Four MCC English teachers served in China Educational Exchange in Chongquin. Six Chinese visitors studied or taught in North America.

MCC provided tools to Laotian villages for the handicapped and leprosy sufferers. Items included sewing machines, cows, blacksmithing tools. Middle East programs were dominated by war in Lebanon and continuing tensions in West Bank and Eygpt. Israeli/Arab hostilities, rifts in the Arab world and continuing superpower interests in the area gave little hope for quick solutions

to the problems of the area.

MCC staff distributed 110,400
olive seedlings to West Bank farmers.
This enabled over 3,000 farmers
living in 68 villages to plant approximately 1,300 acres of marginal
lands.

Palestinian Needlework Program, once operated by MCC West Bank, and now run as a local cooperative, grew in sales to approximately \$110,000 and gave employment to Palestinian women, who otherwise had few employment opportunities.

MCC increased contacts with the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt. Fifteen English teachers worked in church schools, Two nurses served in a church hospital.

In Lebanon, where violence touched nearly every community, MCC continued agricultural assistance, including water projects, tree seedlings and beekeeping projects.

War disrupted the employment of many Lebanese people. MCC provided loans and grants to help reestablish family businesses.



Education, Egypt



Housing construction, El Salvador



Europ

Central America received high visibility as violence escalated throughout the year. In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. MCC, with local Mennonite, Beachy Amish, Catholic and Protestant partners, assisted refugees fleeing violence.

Work included feeding programs, housing construction and health care. In Nicaragua and Guatemala, MCC worked with Mennonite groups in community development and service programs.

The courage of local church partners gave inspiration to MCCers in difficult times. Central American workers received letters of encouragement from a Catholic catechism class. An MCCer reported joy despite continuing violence because Guatemalan "Mennonites take an active interest in their role as servants and peacemakers. That fact bears witness to God at work within people, which gives hope in the middle of desperation."

Farmers in northeast Brazil did not receive the attention given Central American war victims, but they also knew about suffering. They continued to wait for a severe five year drought to end. During the waiting this year MCC financed a project in which over 80 workers were employed building a massive earthen dam. The dam catches and holds for irrigation the limited rains that do come.

In Haiti women's groups focusing on health, nutrition, agriculture and handicrafts were among most successful community development projects.

Success was mixed with disappointment. Latrine promotion campaign in Bolivia resulted in construction of over 100 new latrines. But many collapsed in flooding.

MCC and Rosedale Mennonite Missions began construction on 250 homes after floods in Ecuador, floods followed seven-year drought.

MCC gave funds to Colombian General Conference and Mennonite Brethren work teams, who rebuilt 14 houses after March earthquake.



Agriculture, Somalia

The 30 MCCers in Europe worked at mission, peace and justice issues. They also represented the North American church in cooperative activities with European partners, especially Mennonites.

Together with Mennonite agencies in Europe, MCC completed a rebuilding project in Italy, which followed the 1980 earthquake. One volunteer remained to assist in ongoing construction.

MCC completed 10 years of direct ministry to *Umstedler*. The number of *Umstedler* (refugees) coming from the Soviet Union has declined steadily since 1977.

Two MCCers worked with those seeking political asylum in Neuberg Germany. Work included spiritual counseling church planting.

Translation and printing of Russian-language edition of Barclay's New Testament Bible commentary continued.

Unique exchange between Romanian Orthodox Church and Mennonites brought two Orthodox scholars to Mennonite theological schools in North America, while MCCer studied at Theological Institute of Bucharest.

English language teachers worked with immigrants and refugees from the Soviet Union, Iraq. Iran and Eastern European countries in a cultural center in Ostia, Italy. They also led Bible studies for young women.

In Germany an MCCer edited quarterly publication of Church and Peace, the peace association of Christian churches, communities and groups.

The joint Mennonite Board of Missions and MCC community in Ireland continued to be a peace witness through formation of a reconciling Christian community. New Irish members were from both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds.

Through research and forums, MCC Peace Section provided resources to people working on matters of international conciliation. A highlight this year was a symposium on "Anabaptism, Oppression and Liberation in Central America." The section sponsored a goodwill visit to four Middle East countries and a peace study tour to the Soviet Union. In the Soviet Union government officials and church contacts urged continuing person-to-person exchanges with the goal of dialogue on international peace efforts.

International understanding was also the goal of MCC exchange programs. In 1983, 79 visitors from 29 countries were hosted by North American families. Forty-three North Americans spent a year with European Mennonite families. A summer exchange program brought 22 Japanese young people to Pennsylvania. Due to strained conditions in Poland, the Polish agriculturists exchange was recessed in March.

The new SALT International program, a oneyear service program for young people, had six participants.

An estimated 30,000 families in 30 countries received income through the growing SELF-HELP Crafts program. SELFHELP is primarily a job creation program for those whose employment options are limited.

1,704 children were able to attend school through the Child Sponsorship Program.



Refugee camp, Honduras



Well construction, Indonesia

	CC
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Income	M
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CONTRIBUTIONS	
U.S. constituency	\$ 6,580,974
MCC Canada	1,896,330
Other	105,047
	8,582,351
OTHER INCOME	
Grants-Canadian agencies	2,356,760
Grants-other	1,127,212
SELFHELP Crafts	2,478,337
Other revenue	1,327,867
	7,290,176
MATERIAL AID IN KIND	
U.S.	2,722,282
Canada	6,613,637
	9,335,919
TOTAL RESOURCES	25,208,446

Distursement

	THE STREET OF STREET STREET
Africa	\$ 5,857,346
Asia	6,890,468
Europe	300,622
Latin America	3,591,636
Middle East	1,514,751
MCC U.S.	1,310,652
SELFHELP Crafts	1,878,965
Administration &	
constituency relations	1,969,221
Other	519,238
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,832,899
Excess of income over expenses	1,375,547
Funds applied to long-term assets	72,125
Net increase in operating	
-	

Material Aid Material Aid From U.S. donors During the past decade MCC has shipped a yearly average of 14.8 million pounds of material aid. This year large wheat shipments, totaling 53.3 million pounds, pushed the total material aid sent to 57.5 million pounds. Most of that wheat came from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Wheat was sent to India, Mozambique, Kampuchea, Haiti, El Salvador, Mauritania and Zimbabwe.

1,303,422

Other items sent included: 489,218 pounds canned meat 1,002,874 pounds milk powder 22,460 blankets and quilts 14,786 school, health and sewing kits

fund balances

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St. S. million pounds.
The largest and sent.
Of many one year.



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	4	3	2	1	2		3	15	Kenya
	1	3	5	1	5		3	18	Lesotho
		1	10	1			•	2	Mozambique
	4	6	16	2			6	34	Nigeria Somalia
	3	1		2			1	4	South Africa
	3	3	2	1	2		1	9	Sudan
	5	3	8	2	1		2	18	Swaziland
	2		0	-	1		_	2	Tanzania
	1	2	2	1	1			7	Uganda
	4	5	1	3	3		1	17	Upper Volta
	2	2	7	3			5	19	Zaire
	2	1	6				5	14	Zambia
	1		5	1			1	8	Zimbabwe
_								16	
	28	12	11	6	9	3	26	95	Asia
	18	6	1	1	2		8	36	Bangladesh
			4					4	China
			1			1	3	5	India
	7		1	1	2	1	1	13	Indonesia
							2	2	Kampuchea
							2	2	Laos
	3	6	2	3			6	20	Nepal
				1	3	1	1	6	Philippines
	s 1947		2		2		3	7	Thailand
	47	11	28	29	11	2	25	153	Latin America
			1				1	2	Belize
	17	4	16	8	1		7	53	Bolivia
	13	1	2	5	3	1	2	27	Brazil
	1						2	3	El Salvador
	3	1		4			2	10	Guatemala
	9	1	2	7			3	22	Haiti
		1			2		2	5	Honduras
	2	2	7	2	2		2	17	Jamaica
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_	2	1		3		1	4	11	Paraguay
	0	3	3	0	15	2	7	30	Europe
		2						2	England
		2				2	1	3	France
					5	_	•	5	Ireland
		1	1					2	Italy
			2					2	Poland
					1		1	2	Switzerland
					7		5	12	West Germany
					2			2	Yugoslavia
-	0	0	18	2	0	1	9	30	Middle East
			15	2			3	20	Egypt
						1	2	3	Lebanon
			3				4	7	West Bank
-	6	20	22	12	113	8	236	417	North America
	3	9	8	4	72	0	22	118	Canada-volunteer
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126 77 145 70 167 16 343 944 Total personnel

The poor, hungry and neglected are not only overseas. MCC U.S., with its commitment to be "A Christian resource for meeting human need" in the United States, faced a growing task in 1983.

In August 1983, a Federal census report indicated that one American had fallen below the official poverty level every 12 seconds.



Haitian refugees, Florida

Those Americans were the special concern of MCC U.S. voluntary service workers, who supported community organizations helping the poor in 15 locations.

In Belle Glade, Fla., two MCC U.S. volunteers worked with Haitian refugees. Noted one, "Services of all kinds are much less available here [in the Glades]."

In Minneapolis, Minn., and Washington, D.C., MCCers worked with Native Americans. Some provided health care; another helped a legal firm prepare documents asking the federal government to restore rights that had been taken away from Native Americans during the colonial period. In Louisiana two MCCers researched the genealogies of Native Americans there, so that these tribes can apply for federal recognition.

In Atlanta, Ga., an MCCer developed a Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP).

Other MCCers helped the unemployed, poor and hungry in Appalachia who are often forgotten.

IMPACT, a program for minority youth established in 1982 as part of MCC U.S. Urban Ministries Office, grew from two participants to five. Participants spent one year developing their vocational skills and receiving on-the-job training—the keys to long-term employment so desperately needed in the minority community.

The Urban Community Development Summer Service program completed a second successful summer. Forty college age youth worked in their home towns with a local church or organization. Their 10-week work projects ranged from church leadership to tutoring from

visiting the elderly to aiding the handicapped. MCC U.S. and the home congregations provided their support.

The Immigration and Refugee Program found sponsors for 150 refugees. The staff person in Washington, D.C., helped immigrants with legal matters and monitored the Immigration Control and Reform Act of 1983, the first comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration policy in 30 years.

Staff members of the MCC U.S. Office of Criminal Justice developed resources for congregations and community groups interested in exploring Christian responses to crime.

They prepared a booklet about the moral, practical and theological implications of the death penalty and a poster reminding people of Christ's words: "Let one who is without sin cast the first stone."

A photo exhibit and drama created in early 1983 highlighted the experiences of prisoners and their families.

In March the MCC truck traveled to 12 cities, delivering 18 tons of potatoes, bouillon soup base, MCC canned beef and flour to church groups and organizations that operate soup kitchens and food pantries. MCC U.S. organized this foodsharing endeavor, which provided over 150,000 servings of food to people in a critical time of unemployment, hunger and poverty.



Renovating homes, Washington, D.C.



Potato sharing project, Ohio



Food bank, Atlanta

MCC Contact/February 1984

Poverty and hunger were not the only concern for MCC U.S.

An intern for the new Mennonite Minority Peace Education Project spent seven months sharing the biblical message of peace with Hispanic, Black and Native American Mennonite youth and their parents. "We are finally addressing the need... but we have only scratched the surface," he said.

Peacemaking characterized other efforts of the U.S. Peace Section. Supporting a larger Christian awareness of the emptiness of nuclear deterrence, just war and "peace through strength" theories, the section participated in two interdenominational conferences: "The Conference of the Church and Peacemaking" and "The Black Church, the Third World and Peace" conference.

Requests for the help of Mennonite Conciliation Services in resolving personal, church and community conflicts increased.

The Committee on Women's Concerns added a Brethren in Christ member.

Mennonite Mental Health Services (MMHS) reached out to hurting individuals through the programs of its eight mental health centers and through its education and consultation services.

In Asuncion, Paraguay, a nurse developed a new program of therapeutic activities at the National Psychiatric Hospital.

Developmental Disabilities, a ministry of MMHS, helped congregations, institutions and parents recognize the contributions, gifts and needs of people with disabilities.



Central American refugees

Research and writing by Development Education staff members about the underlying causes of injustice, hunger and poverty uncovered a growing challenge to MCC

They worked throughout the year helping North Americans to become more aware of global needs and to respond appropriately. They led workshops and seminars. They wrote articles and newsletters.



Washington, D.C.



Outdoor Activity Center, Atlanta

General contributions allocated	\$ 1,300,000	
Designated contributions	242,228	
Grant income	11,500	
VS unit income	418,592	
Refugee Resettlement income	20,730	
MMHS member hospital contributions	38,268	
Meat canner income	109,900	
Other income	14,302	
		2,155,520
Less interdepartmental transfers		184,359
TOTAL INCOME	A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	1 071 161

U.S. Program	\$ 860,254	
U.S. Peace Section	213,484	
Mennonite Disaster Service	96,022	
Mennonite Mental Health Services	142,668	
Development Education	20,559	
Material Aid	235,970	
West Coast MCC	116,569	
MCC Central States	101,883	
MCC Great Lakes	32,201	
MCC East Coast	22,649	
Executive Office	45,155	
Contingency	(15,000)	
Headquarters expense	174,419	
Funds applied to long-term assets	14,281	
TOTAL		2,061,114
Less interdepartmental transfers		184,359
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		1,876,755
Net increase in operating fund balance		94,406

^{*}Does not include SELFHELP Crafts

Akron, Pa.		44
Appalachia		27
Blue Diamond, Ky.	8	
Harlan, Ky.	4	
Hindman, Ky.	3	
Whitesburg, Ky.	12	
Atlanta		10
Florida		5
Belle Glade	2	
Miami	3	
Louisiana		13
Baton Rouge	4	
Ebarb	2	
Jeanerette/Franklin	4	
New Orleans	3	
Minneapolis		4
Reedley, Calif.		2
Washington, D.C.		12

The regional MCCs-West Coast, Central States, Great Lakes and East Coast-made strides at bringing the mission and message of MCC closer to people in the pews.

Regional committees and staff worked together to address local needs. West Coast MCC continued to support a local developmental disabilities program. MCC Great Lakes hired a new part-time staff person to help others become more aware of those who are hungry. Staff there also initiated a program to assist refugees in northern Indiana.

MCC Central States staff interviewed local pastors, listening to their visions and concerns for MCC. MCC East Coast director traveled extensively, initiating contacts with conferences.



MCC meat canning

Volunteers with Mennonite Disaster Service reached out to earthquake, hurricane and flood victims in 16 states. An MDS Summer Youth Squad renovated one floor of a Philadelphia, Pa., building, The Diamond St. Mennonite Church will use this space as a church auditorium and health center for lowincome people.



MDS, California earthquake



Education, Florida

170 MCC workers in 10 provinces; 112 in VS, 19 in SALT (Serve and Learn Together), 31 in Local Voluntary Service.

Inter-church Foodgrains Bank created in April Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCCC) shipped 52.5 million pounds of grain, worth \$6,381,000.

Proposal for multi-year funding from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); moved funding away from project to project basis, gave greater flexibility in applying funds to overseas programs.

Service to families in crisis explored, including involvement in shelters for battered women, alternatives to abortion, ministry to families of

Summer gardeners in 17 Native communities. Addressed government about Native issues.

Produced packet, Informed Prayer and Worship: Light in the Nuclear Shadow. Letter commended Prime Minister Trudeau on peace initiative

Ministry and music tour to Mennonite congregations in Soviet Union in summer.

For more information about Mennonite Central Committee Canada, write to 201-1483 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2C8.

A bright spot on the SELFHELP Crafts map in 1983 was the "Nav Jiwan" Tea Room that opened in the Ephrata, Pa., SELFHELP Crafts store. Nav Jiwan is a Hindi word meaning new life. "SELFHELP brings new life to the producers overseas; the tea room brings new life to tired shoppers," said Allan Sauder, assistant director of SELFHELP. The tea room, which sold a variety of international snacks, also gave SELFHELP staff an opportunity to explain the program to shoppers in the store.

Sales of SELFHELP Crafts in the United States increased 30 percent, and six new MCC-related shops opened, bringing the total to 57.

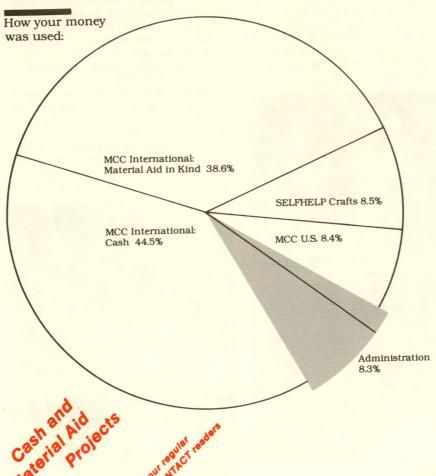


SELFHELP, Bangladesh



Peach drying, Reedley

1983 Total Personnel material aid income 25.2 million Total Potal material Total income 25.2 million Total expenses 23.5 million



For more information about Mennonite Central Committee and /or an audited financial report, write to:

Mennonite Central Committee 21 South 12th Street Akron, Pennsylvania U.S.A. 17501

MCC Canada 201-1483 Pembina Highway Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3T 2C8



(March) Yard goods

Cloth is expensive or difficult to obtain in many Third World countries. Each year MCC sends yards of material overseas so that people living there can learn to sew clothing for their families. MCC prefers sending light or medium-weight fabrics that are colorfast, washable and serviceable. Bolts of material are especially needed, but MCCers teaching in sewing centers can use pieces that are a few yards in length. In 1984 MCC wants to send over 12,000 yards of fabric overseas. You can donate fabric or money to help MCC in this project.

(March) Olive tree seedlings in Lebanon

Fighting in Lebanon dominated the news in 1983. This year MCC staff will help farmers in three villages of southern Lebanon resume farming by making olive seedlings available to them at a subsidized rate. These farmers have

returned to their destroyed orchards after being away for up to eight years because of the fighting.

Farmers there find it easy to grow olives because they are well suited to the dry, arid climate. Olives are eaten or pressed for oil.

Total budget for the project is \$5,000. One seedling costs \$1.75. Please include project number LB 3912 with your contribution.

(April) Health Kits

MCC health kits are distributed in orphanages, clinics and hospitals. Children in classrooms receive the kits along with instruction about basic hygiene. Each health kit should include: a toothbrush, a family-size tube of toothpaste (6 to 7 oz.), a bar of soap (5 to 6 oz.), a nail clipper with file and a hand towel. All items should be placed in a simple 8- by 10-inch drawstring bag when finished. MCC hopes to ship more than

25,000 health kits overseas in 1984.

(April) Books for Uganda's Makerere University

Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, was once the best university by Western standards between Cairo and the Cape. Adolf Enns, MCCer who teaches at the university, recently wrote about the conditions now: "It takes two months to get a new light bulb installed in a classroom and four months to get enough seats, even backless benches, for students to be able to sit in class...people do graduate research in a library that has no current periodicals and virtually no book additions in over a decade."

MCC plans to purchase books for Makerere University in 1984. Total budget for this project is \$1,500. Donations of any amount will be helpful. Please include project number EA 0608 with your contribution.

Please include the following information with all contributions for Contact cash projects:

Name of project:

Your name:

Address: