

2023 has been full of exciting work and meaningful connections as the work of Mennonite Men continues to benefit our communities and congregations. Our three programs—JoinTrees, JoinMen, and JoinHands—continue to thrive as we invite men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus for God’s shalom.

To learn more about our work, download resources, or contribute to our programs, visit mennonitemen.org.

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Mennonite Men

Engaging men to grow, give and serve.

JoinTrees

Planting trees to restore the earth

JoinTrees is our campaign to plant one million trees by 2030. This campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with this JoinTrees campaign, our goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) support vulnerable communities.

Our vision is a healthy, thriving planet where God’s abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation.

The largest project we funded this year was again in Baja Verapaz, Guatemala. Community members were extensively involved in planting and caring for these trees. In this project, 14,104

were reforestation seedlings on badly eroded land, 10,040 were agroforestry plantings, 9,479 were for living fences, 250 for maintaining soil on terraces, and 375 were fruit trees for a total of 34,248 trees.

We now have ten projects lined up to plant 133,585 trees. Most of our projects continue to be agroforestry projects in communities in Latin America and Africa. These agroforestry plantings not only sequester CO2 and help cool the planet but also help restore degraded land, protect intact forests, and support the livelihood of vulnerable communities impacted by climate changes.

To fund these projects, we need \$145,830. Once these projects are funded and completed, our total tree count will be 333,610—one third the way toward our goal of 1 million trees!



JoinHands

Sharing resources for new church buildings

JoinHands is our program for giving and grantmaking. Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we provide grants to help new congregations acquire their first church building. Mennonite Men has given over 2.3 million dollars to new congregations for this purpose.

We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands. We especially ask churches pursuing building projects to give as a way of sharing resources and serving “fair balance” with congregations in need.

Our recent JoinHands grants assisted with church

projects in Burkina Faso and Columbia. One went to Iglesia Menonita Caminando En Esperanza in Bogota, Colombia. The other went to Kodeni Evangelical Mennonite Church in Kodeni, Burkina Faso. In this predominately Muslim context, Muslim youth helped with construction—illustrating Christians and Muslims living together in community.

Our board recently approved a JoinHands grant to assist the Omaha Chin Christian Church (Central Plains conference) with purchasing a used church building. This congregation is connected to a large population of Chin immigrants in Omaha and has a special ministry of assisting people navigate a challenging new life in North America and find a home in the Anabaptist family. We now need to raise funds to make this \$40,000 grant.



JoinMen

Gathering men and promoting their growth

JoinMen provides gatherings and resources from an Anabaptist perspective to promote healthy masculinity, Christian formation and community. We desire that all men find a place of belonging among men who are strong, loving and wise as we follow Jesus in building God’s shalom.

Gatherings provide opportunities for men to join together and engage issues in community. More than an event, these experiences are also meant to encourage participants to be part of an ongoing men’s group and growth process. A full list of gathering themes we offer can be found at

mennonitemen.org/joinmen.

We receive encouraging reports of individuals and groups using our new book *Living that Matters* (Herald Press, 2023). Here’s a response from Chicago: “At Reba Place Church in Evanston, Illinois, a group of men gather once a month to encourage and pray for one another. At the core of our gatherings is the invaluable resource *Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith*. Many of us have a tendency to isolate and disengage, but the book has helped our group grow closer together because of the wisdom that draws us in every time.”

We’ve led several gatherings based on our book and invite your congregation to host one in your community



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