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interview availability

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Retirement is a Time to Give Back Relief ministry Mustard Seed International President Bill Deans challenges retirees to help individuals in need

WHAT:

Retired businessman [Bill Deans](#) says retirement is no time for rest when there is so much need in the world. As president and CEO of relief ministry [Mustard Seed International](#) (MSI), Deans is leading by example. "I've been blessed, and now it's time to give back. Retirement is not an option," he said.

Deans says whether on a full-time basis or a few hours a week, retirees have the time and experience to help charitable organizations. Across the country, formal volunteer activities by adults age 55 and older has been valued at \$44 billion.¹ A Cornell University study published this past February showed volunteering on environmental projects could prompt retirees to get more exercise and improve mental and physical health. With the baby boomer retiree population increasing daily, this largely untapped workforce has years of business skills and wisdom about how to get things done within their communities and beyond.

WHO:

Since 2000, Deans has volunteered his time and expertise to MSI, an organization helping to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people in India, Sudan, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and parts of Eastern Europe. He had previously served as country director for Bosnia with Samaritan's Purse, where he was responsible for development and management of projects to rebuild the lives of people affected by years of war and extreme suffering. He also served as a volunteer for Samaritan's Purse in a project to secure donations of medical supplies and equipment for Rwanda and oversaw relief efforts in the United States following hurricanes Hugo and Andrew.

Over the years, Deans has additionally volunteered his time with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army and Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital Fund, among others.

During Deans' private sector business career, he was president, owner and chairman of the board of J.R. Deans Company, a wholesale distribution company. He also founded, owned and served as CEO and president of Covenant Group, a warehousing and logistics support company; Hope Real Estate, LTD, a property holding company; and Best Insulation and Drywall Company.

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TOPICS: As a man who embodies the term ‘philanthropist,’ Deans is available to speak on the following topics:

- Volunteerism
- Options for retirees
- Humanitarian needs in far away and often forgotten places of the world

**WHEN/
WHERE:** Available upon request by phone or Skype video.

DETAILS: Founded after World War II by missionary Lillian Dickson, MSI is headquartered in Charleston, S.C. Its goal is to send 100 percent of all contributions directly to MSI mission locations, rather than on administrative salaries. The leadership and administrative staff of MSI are all volunteers. They are a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). MSI goes to the places where they believe there is the greatest need, following Lillian’s example to “present Christ to all we meet, to heal disease and all manner of suffering and to love sincerely and deeply those whose lives we are privileged to touch.” For more information, visit <http://www.mustardseed.org>.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Julie Shultz at 972.267.1111 or via e-mail at julie@alarryross.com. Additional information about MSI is available at <http://www.mustardseednews.com>.

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¹ Johnson, Richard W., and Simone G. Schaner. 2005. “Many Older Americans Engage in Caregiving Activities.” Perspectives on Productive Aging Brief 3. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.