



**Mennonite
World Conference**

A Community of Anabaptist
related Churches

**Congreso
Mundial Menonita**

Una Comunidad de
Iglesias Anabautistas

**Conférence
Mennonite Mondiale**

Une Communauté
d'Eglises Anabaptistes

Worship Resource

2014 World Fellowship Sunday – Region focus: Asia and Pacific

Theme: Sowing Generously

Money is the way one is paid or reimbursed for the time invested in a particular job. Money comes to represent our very lives given to a project. This is one of the reasons that we give part of our earnings to God's work. We are giving part of our lives to something for which we are prepared to give our whole lives.

Giving support with our finances to our global communion also speaks about the kind of Kingdom we belong to: a Kingdom in which “there is no longer Jew or Greek...slave or free...male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). It is a Kingdom in which nationalisms and financial inequity must be confronted. Sharing financial gifts in our global family is a practical way of encouraging interdependency and mutual love.

Biblical text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

In this text the Apostle Paul uses the idea of sharing financial resources as a way of building unity of faith among God's people. It has to be done with an attitude of joy and gratitude as a response to God's generosity. As a result, those who give and those who receive are blessed and celebrate such blessing in a liturgical way. This is what we hope to see in our 2014 World Fellowship Sunday.

Prayer requests

Pray for Christians in Asia, to be witnesses amidst pluralities, especially in religion. Pray for churches in Asia that are challenged and face difficulties such as forced closures of places of worship, prohibitions on holding Sunday services, and the effects of religiously supported violence and radicalism. Pray also for Christians on other continents, that they may find ways of being faithful amidst their cultures.

Suggested song: Saare Shristi (by Kiran Pradhan, India)
(audio file on MWC website at www.mwc-cmm.org/article/world-fellowship-sunday)

You are the Lord of the whole universe. You are the Protector of the whole universe.
We will always bow before You. We will always sing Your praises.
You are the Creator and Saviour of the whole world. Save us from all danger.
My life is in Your hands, Lord. Allow me to walk in the path.

A symbolic gesture to underline the theme – by Adhi Dharma

In Indonesia, many Javanese churches have a unique tradition of thanksgiving to the Lord called “Undhuh-Undhuh”. Initially, this event served to welcome the harvest time. Most congregations that follow this tradition are in suburban places and they create something like a communal festival. They bring products such as vegetables, fruit and livestock to the church. They have a church service led by the pastor to give thanks for God’s goodness and mercy. Then they bring their products to the yard and sell them. Money collected from the sale is used for social action. In some areas, the church festival becomes a society festival. Many people from other beliefs also engage in this event. There is a spirit of togetherness and caring for others. For churches in urban places, the tradition is modified. In congregations with mostly non-farmers, the form of thanksgiving is by collecting money.

This tradition can be used as a symbol of generosity for World Fellowship Sunday. A week before the service, churches are asked to prepare a decorated table in front of pulpit or some other place in the church, so worshippers have enough time to prepare the best that they can bring to church on World Fellowship Sunday.

The photo below shows a table spread with thanksgiving gifts brought to church during a “Undhuh-Undhuh” festival. Go to www.mwc-cmm.org/article/world-fellowship-sunday to see other pictures of the event from GITJ Jepara.



The following additional resources for World Fellowship Sunday in 2014 are available on the MWC website: www.mwc-cmm.org/article/world-fellowship-sunday

1. Articles providing background and commentary on 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.
2. A photo gallery of a Mennonite congregation in Indonesia celebrating the Undhuh-Undhuh festival.
3. Additional music suggestions.

Worship resources for 2014 World Fellowship Sunday were prepared by MWC staff and members of Mennonite churches in Asia.