continued from page 4

Pennsylvania 2015 Update

Preparations are moving forward for the MWC Assembly, Penn- sylvania 2015, to be held at the Farm Show complex in Harris- burg, Pennsylvania, USA, from 21-26 July 2015.

At the MWC Executive Committee meetings held in May 2013, “Walking with God” was selected as the theme for the next assembly. The theme will work with biblical texts and our own stories and experiences of joy and grief – stories that will encourage us to continue our walk with God and invite others to walk with us.

The daily program will start with the Mennonite Brethren Church of Chocó on the west coast of Colombia, and participants in the Weaving Hope agricultural project. Weaving Hope is an alternative crops project run by the regional Mennonite Brethren Church supporting over 200 families in the cultivation and processing of food crops such as rice and cocoa (for making chocolate), providing an alternative to coca – peacebuilding and community development at once.

In May 2013, many participants of this project lost most, if not all, of their family as a result of aerial fumigation by the Colombian government. The Mennonite Brethren Church is working to call to those responsible and find government compensation for those whose crops were destroyed, and is asking for prayer and solidarity from the global Anabaptist family.

Give a gift to MWC

Your prayers and financial gifts are deeply appreciated. Your contributions are important. They will:

• Enable expanded communication strategies to nurture a worldwide Anabaptist movement.
• Strengthen our communion’s identity and witness as Anaba-iptist Christians in our diverse contexts, and
• Build up community through networks and gatherings so that we can learn from and with one another.

Go to www.mwc-cmm.org and click the “Get Involved” tab for prayer requests and on the “Donate” tab for multiple ways to give online.

MWC leaders at a tour of the Farm Show complex in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA, site of the 2015 assembly.

For more details on the Assembly, visit www.mwc-cmm.org

Staff members were asked to continue imagining how the “lunch per year” idea might be adapted or expanded. They were also asked to continue imagining ways in which the Fair Share formula could be made more effective. Any change to the funding formula would not come into effect until 2016.

Executive Committee takes action

In addition to discussions about networking opportunities and fundraising possibilities, the MWC Executive Committee also:

• Affirmed the appointment of Rodrigo Pedroza García of the new Youth Anabaptist Committees.
• Accepted a first report from the Local Churches of Mexico as the new chair of the National Youth Committee.
• Approved the appointment of a staffperson to relate to North American MWC members.
• Created a task force to propose how MWC can come to part-time representation for Europe and Asia and to the Pacific, and representation for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean is also in the works.
• Naturally, such plans are contingent on securing the necessary funding. MWC has developed an “opportunities budget” to identify the costs of increasing its networking capacity, but without new revenue streams, MWC will not be able to implement it.

In response to the financial challenge, the Executive Committee reviewed the current per-member Fair Share formula, which is designed to cover the MWC operating budget and the Travel Fund – a total of around $985,000 per year. According to reports, however, only about 25 percent of this amount comes in, so not every member conference pays the requested amount.

• No one is so poor they can’t give the equivalent of one lunch per year,” noted César García, MWC general secretary. If that were to happen, he added, the bylaws goal could be achieved. Staff members were asked to do further work on how the “lunch per year” idea might be adapted or expanded. They were also asked to continue imagining ways in which the Fair Share formula could be made more effective. Any change to the funding formula would not come into effect until 2016.

Executive Committee plans for MWC future

Akron, Pennsylvania, USA – At their meetings 23-28 May, the Mennonite World Conference Executive Committee discussed important issues, such as networking capacity and fundraising possibilities. The Executive Committee consists of two representatives from each continent in which MWC has member- ships, and meets once a year to do business. This year, they met near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA, site of the Assembly 2015.

After discussion on the May meetings was how to make MWC more than a mission, Faith and Life, Peace and Deacons) and through the appointment of a staff person to relate to North American MWC members.

Currently, the four commission secretaries are paid a modest part-time salary for less than one day per week. The North American regional representative also serves part-time. Plans are underway to increase the budget so that we can cover the travel costs of the national coordinator, as they are fully covered in the MWC office in Bogotá, Colombia; she has been replaced as North American representative on the YABs Committee by Lani Prunés of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Executive Committee members plant a tree at the Mennonite Central Committee Welcoming Place in Akron, Pennsylvania, USA, site of their May 2013 meetings. Taking their turn placing sod around the tree are (from left) Cisca Mawangu Ibanda (DR Congo), Ron Penner (Canada), and Kristina Kalunga (South Africa).

continued on page 6
Facility & Equipment 21%

Total Pennsylvania 2015 expense budget: $3,310,540

Pennsylvania 2015 Income Budget

Financial Snapshots

The budget for the Pennsylvania 2015 assembly was based on a break-even attendance figure of approximately 6,000 (5,000 from the Global North and 1,000 from the Global South) meaning that the final registration will need to be at least at this level to break even or have a surplus. MWC anticipates (and can accommodate) between 7,000 and 10,000 to attend the five-day gathering in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA.

Sign Up to Stay Connected

Write Info@mwc-cmm.org to sign up for a monthly e-alert called MWC Info and to get on the list to receive MWC’s bimonthly newsletter and magazine by regular mail or by email: Courier/Correo. These are available in English, Spanish, and French.

When signing up for either or both of these publications, give your name, full address, country and language preference. Also take time to be informed and inspired through the MWC website (www.mwc-cmm.org) and through the MWC Facebook page.
Mennonite women are seeking support to pursue theological studies. A cloth market in the exhibit hall of the Mennonite Church USA convention, held 1-5 July in Phoenix, Arizona, will fund scholarships for women preparing for ministry in the CMCO.

The Congo Cloth Connection, a project of Michiana Friends of Congo, conducts African fabric markets to promote peace and security. The project will give scholarship priority to women like the Kalonda students, who come from regions far from the capital city of Kinshasa.

“Mennonite women are seeking support to pursue theological studies,” said Thérèse Tudiakuile of Congo. The project will give scholarship priority to women like the Kalonda students, who come from regions far from the capital city of Kinshasa.

“Mennonite women are seeking support to pursue theological studies,” said Thérèse Tudiakuile of Congo. The project will give scholarship priority to women like the Kalonda students, who come from regions far from the capital city of Kinshasa.

The mother of five is currently preparing for ministry in the capital city of Kinshasa.

From left: Students Thérèse Tudiakuile, Charlie Kasha Kamba, and Marie-Louise Tumba Yama in class at Kalonda Bible Institute. Photo by Joseph NKongolo.
On May 21-26, 2015, the Mennonite World Conference (MWC) will hold its global assembly in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA, site of the 2015 assembly. The theme of GYS is “Called to Share: My Gifts, Our Story, Our Gifts!” Explained Tsigit Tesfaye Gasalge of Ethiopia, YABs.

**Pennsylvania 2015 Update**
Preparations are moving forward for the MWC Assembly, Pennsylva- nia 2015, to be held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA, from 21-26 July, 2015.

At the MWC Executive Committee meetings held in May 2013, “Walking with God” was selected as the theme for the next assembly. The theme will work with biblical texts and our own stories and experiences of small gatherings of people from different areas of the world who will have the opportunity to meet, discuss relevant topics and build relationships. Afternoon sessions will vary, from workshops to opportunities to sports to local tours. Each evening will feature a worship service with a focus on a different continent every day. During the worship service we will share our gifts and learn from each other. Plans have also been made for children and youth programing.

**Give a gift to MWC**
Your prayers and financial gifts are deeply appreciated. Your contributions are important. They will:

- Enable expanded communication strategies to nurture a worldwide network of peacebuilding and community development at all times.
- Strengthen our community’s identity and witness as Anabaptist Christians in our diverse contexts, and
- Build up community through networks and gatherings so that we can learn from and support each other.

Go to www.mwc-cmm.org and click the “Get Involved” tab for prayer requests and on the “Donate” tab for multiple ways to give online.

**Prayers**
Pray for the Mennonite Brethren Church of Chocó on the west coast of Colombia, and participants in the Weaving Hope and agricultural project. Weaving Hope is an alternative crop project run by the regional Mennonite Brethren Church supporting over 200 families in the cultivation and processing of food crops such as rice and cacao (for making chocolate), providing an alternative to drug cultivation – peacebuilding and community development at all times.

In May 2013, many participants of this project lost most, if not all, of their crops as a result of aerial fumigation by the Colombian government. The Mennonite Brethren Church is seeking to call those responsible and find government compensation for those whose crops were destroyed, and is asking for prayer and solidarity from the global Anabaptist family.

Pray for Archbishop Mar Gregoriou Yohanna Ibrahim of the Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo and his travelling companion Archbishop Boulous Yazigi of the Greek Orthodox Church of Aleppo, who were taken by unknown assailants on 22 April as they returned from the northern area of Syria close to the Turkish border where they had undertaken humanitarian work in an already-complex country. From that time there has been no confirmed news from them or about them.

MWC is connected to the Syrian and Greek Orthodox churches, and through the appointment of a staff person to relate with North American MWC members.

**Pray for Archbishop Rodrigo Pedroza García of the Mennonite Church in Colombia.**
Jesús García, who was hidden in the Colombian jungle, was recently asked to continue imagining and thinking about how the “lunch per year” idea might be implemented. They were also asked to continue imagining ways in which the Fair Share formula could be made more effective. Any change to the funding formula would not come into effect until 2016.

**Executive Committee takes action**
In addition to discussions about networking cuts and fundraising possibilities, the MWC Executive Committee also:

- Affirmed the appointment of Rodrigo Pedroza García of the Mennonite Church in Colombia as a member of the Young Anabaptists Committee, replacing Carolina Toews, who is now serving as web communications worker in the MWC office in Bogotá, Colombia; she has been replaced as North American representative on the YABs Committee by Lani Pruneda of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Planted a tree on the grounds of the Mennonite Central Committee

**Executive Committee plans for MWC future**
Akor, Pennsylvania, USA — At their meetings 23-28 May, the Mennonite World Conference Executive Committee discussed important issues like networking capacity and fundraising possibilities. The Executive Committee consists of two representatives from each of the four regions, and Life, Peace and Deacons and the appointment of a staff person to relate with North American MWC members. Currently, the four commission secretaries are paid a modest part-time salary for less than one day per week.

Prayer leaders at a tour of the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA, site of the 2015 assembly.

Preparations are moving forward for the MWC Assembly, Pennsylvania 2015, to be held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA, from 21-26 July, 2015. The theme of GYS is “Called to Share: My Gifts, Our Story, Our Gifts!” Explained Tsigit Tesfaye Gasalge of Ethiopia, YABs.

Among Mennonite World Conference members plant a tree at the Mennonite Central Committee Welcoming Place in Akron, Pennsylvania, USA, the site of their May 2013 meetings. Taking their turn placing soil around the tree are (from left) Csica Mawangu Ibunda (DR Congo), Ron Penner (Canada), and Adi Walujo (Indonesia). Photo by Janet Plenert.

**Registration for Assembly will start in August 2014, both on-**
line and through printed forms. Registration with a full meal for an adult from the Global North will be roughly $257 US; for participants from the Global South, roughly $90 US. Family discounts and sponsorships will be available. Housing options will include hotels and dorms with area families, dormitories and hotel rooms of different price ranges. Shuttle service will be arranged from hotels, dormitories and meeting points for home stays.

For more details about As-**
sembly 2015 and to view the latest issue of “Pennsylvania 2015 News,” visit the MWC website at www.mwc-cmm.org

**Volunteer or donate**
To volunteer or donate, please go online. Or mail your gift to Mennonite World Conference at 28A No. 16-41 Piso 2, Bogotá, Colombia; she has been replaced as North American representative on the YABs Committee by Lani Pruneda of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

To volunteer or donate, please go online. Or mail your gift to Mennonite World Conference at 28A No. 16-41 Piso 2, Bogotá, Colombia; she has been replaced as North American representative on the YABs Committee by Lani Pruneda of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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