

## **Introduction to the Day of Prayer of the Movement of Anabaptist Women doing Theology in Latin America**

### **Background**

In order for the Movement of Anabaptist Women doing Theology in Latin America (MTAL) to continue it is important to remember the history that gave origin and purpose for our work.

#### **2003- Zimbabwe Africa**

In a meeting with African theologians, Latin American women felt inspired to initiate a movement that invites reflection on their faith and beliefs from a Latin American perspective. They met, exchanged ideas and their spirits were filled with energy to begin and promote an Anabaptist women's movement. Their dream was to form networks of mutual support with women with or without formal training who serve in the kingdom of God. All knowledge is for everyone, unconditionally and without excluding anyone, and our theological reflection and tasks in the Kingdom are inspired by our daily work together

#### **2004 - 2009.**

The women's movement grew through gatherings for biblical theological reflection held in different places of Latin America; the common thread in the themes was "the ministry of women from the perspective of Jesus of Nazareth."

#### **2009- Paraguay**

Just previous to the 2009 MWC Congress in Paraguay, the first meeting of Latin American women theologians was held with participants from almost every region. Women worked in groups around the question "What do we want from the movement?" Among other activities proposed was the celebration of a Day of Prayer of the MTAL including various needs of women in the countries Latin America.

#### **2010-2017 DAY OF PRAYER**

In 2010, work teams started to form, bearing in mind the challenge of distances, times and diverse contexts. Despite obstacles, the energy and participation has been ongoing. Each year the group in charge prepares and sends the materials and ideas for the next liturgy.

2015 - Harrisburg CMM

"Colorful, diverse languages and imagery." This described the meetings of women in Harrisburg called by MTAL. Five continents were represented, lively affirming "YES" to the global network.

**Countries for which we have prayed in the prepared liturgies:**

May 2010: Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Haití.

May 2011: Cuba, Argentina, Guatemala, Japan (earthquake and tsunami)

May 2012: United States (Hispanics), Bolivia, Belize.

May 2013: El Salvador, Brasil, Puerto Rico.

Mayo 2014: Honduras, Chile and Nicaragua.

Mayo 2015: Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and the activities of Mennonite World Conference..

Mayo 2016: Panamá, Paraguay and Peru

**2017 – global prayers**

A Liturgy of Prayer is introduced recognizing that we are a Global Network and we intend to pray women across the world. The United States, India, Kenya, Uruguay, and Venezuela provided reasons for prayer this year. We hope to include Europe next year.

We invite you to organize a Day of Prayer during the month of May.

Use the suggested resources, and feel free to adapt them to your context and add the elements you consider necessary.

Record the date of your celebration, and do not forget to chronicle the event, share testimonies and take photos. This is what gives life and enriches our Movement of Anabaptist Women doing Theology in Latin America and the Global Network. Please send information to Ester Bornes ([esterbornes@hotmail.com](mailto:esterbornes@hotmail.com)) for the blog

<http://teologasanabautistas.blogspot.com/>

Fraternally,

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