



YABs Fellowship Week 2018

Worship Resources

Prepared by the
MWC YABs
Committee for
17–24 June 2018

Theme and texts

a. Theme:
Called to be free

b. Why this theme was chosen:
As Young Anabaptists (YABs), we want to use the third week in June on an annual basis to celebrate our common faith and roots in our different cultural contexts by studying and discussing a passage from Scripture, sharing songs and prayer requests, hearing each other's stories and praying for each other. We've compiled some materials below to incorporate into your own local context, no matter what time you meet during the week. Our prayer is that they help draw you into greater community (koinonia), not only in your local communities, but in your international Anabaptist community.

c. Biblical texts:

Galatians 5:13–26

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

"Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another."

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Discussion Questions:

- A. What does it mean to be free in Christ?
- B. What are some of fleshly desires we ought to overcome, since we have freedom in the flesh?
- C. How can we ensure that the decisions we make are influenced and governed by the Spirit of God?
- D. What does it mean to you to love your neighbour as yourself? As this is "summed up" in the law, talk about this in relation to the 10 Commandments, giving even more specific examples from the Law as you can. Who is your "neighbour" in your context? What does our relationship with the Law look like now that we are free in Christ?
- E. What are some examples of correctly used freedom? Incorrectly used freedom? (v. 13)
- F. Verse 15 is talking about destroying ourselves as a church; how can you relate to that? Have you ever experienced a time of the church body "biting and devouring" each other? What was the root of the problem? Was it resolved? If so, how? Please share what you've learned from that story/experience.
- G. What does it mean to walk by the Spirit? (v. 16)
 - i. List the differences in desires of the flesh and desires of the spirit. (v. 17)
 - ii. As young people who believe in Christ, we aim to live like him, to love like him, and to be like him. How can we do so without succumbing to the acts of the flesh? (vv. 19–21)



Safari Mutabesha

- H. Consider the list of sins in vv. 19–21. What does your culture say about them? Are there some listed here that are "more acceptable" than others? How does your church address them?
- I. Vv. 16–26 could be summed up as "flesh vs. Spirit". How have you experienced this tension between your flesh and the Holy Spirit? Use this as a time for confession (maybe girls with girls and guys with guys) for areas of sin you struggle with, and pray for each other. (Split into male and female groups for sharing.) In doing this, we "carry each other's burdens."
- J. Sometimes truly loving people means challenging them, setting boundaries, saying "no," etc. What are concrete ways to love the people around us? How do you balance truth and love? Does loving believers and loving non-believers differ in any way? If so how?

Take Action: We all have that one (or more) brother or sister in Christ that we don't really agree or get along with. Spend some time in prayer for that person and ask the Lord if there's anything on your behalf you should do to extend love to this person.



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Songs:

These can be sung together or simply listened to and reflected upon. You can find the recordings and chord/lyric sheets below:

- A. [No Longer Slaves](#) (USA) /chords/
- B. [Spirit Open My Heart](#) (Ireland, MWC International Songbook #41)
- C. [Ewe Thina](#) (South Africa, MWC International Songbook, #1)
- D. [Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe](#) (Kenya, MWC International Songbook, #2)
- E. [Herr, Füll Mich Neu](#) (Germany, MWC International Songbook #39)
- F. [Hari Ini Ku Rasa Bahagia](#) (Indonesia) /chords/
- G. [Hay Libertad](#) (Ecuador) /chords/

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Additional resources in this package

• **Prayer Requests:**

Provided below is a list of specific ways you can pray for the local and national churches in other countries.

• **Testimonies:**

Read the stories and testimonies of other young Anabaptists around the world and how they attempt to seek and pursue peace in their contexts. Provided below.



Jose Carlos Salazar



Milagro Silguera

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Share!

Take pictures and share on Facebook and Instagram! #YABs #mwcmm

Also send through FB messenger or email yabs@mwc-cmm.org.

Help us prepare for future fellowship weeks and YABs projects by filling out the feedback form online. Give input on how the YABs Committee can better serve you!

Find it here in both English and Spanish: <https://goo.gl/forms/tivqbTUMinMn1AgF2>

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Additional resources online

www.mwc-cmm.org/yabs

Watch our [Facebook \(@younganabaptists\)](#) and [Instagram \(@younganabaptists\)](#) for updates about online video chats during YABs Fellowship Week!

Kristina Toews



www.mwc-cmm.org

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Prayer Requests

“Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Africa

Botswana – submitted by Ontiretse Bonnye

- Pray for the youth in Botswana to be committed in the church and also for God to help us reach unto different branches within the country. For the youth camps and events to be a success.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – submitted by Felo Gracia

- Pray for the churches of the Mennonite Brethren Community in Congo (CEPMC): this year, there are elections. May the Lord give us the leaders we deserve.
- Pray for unity among the youth of DR Congo.
- Pray for the displaced people of the Kasai region: may the Lord give them what they need and heal their wounds.
- Pray for an end to the massacres of peaceful citizens in DRC.
- Pray for the thousands of children suffering from malnutrition in DRC, so that they can be healthy.
- Pray for DR Congo: presidential and legislative elections are planned in December. May the Lord guide the election process and give peace to our country. May peace be everywhere in our provinces.

Kenya – submitted by Wycliff Ochieng

- Kenya Mennonite Church Youth Council is planning to hold a national conference in December this year. We therefore seek God’s guidance in the planning process.
- It’s rainy season right now in Kenya. We need strength and good health to work in the fields/farms for good harvest to ensure food availability.



Celebrating YABs Fellowship Week 2017 in Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo courtesy of Felo Gracia.

- We also need to put our leaders in prayers for good leadership both at country and church levels.

Zimbabwe – submitted by Sineculo Ncube

- Pray that Zimbabwe can be more financially stable such that young people can get jobs.
- Pray for a generation that will serve God at a time like this one.

Asia

India – submitted by Preshit Rao

- Pray for the awareness among the youth for seminary training.
- Pray for the Christian youth as they are distracted from their studies and are not able to get respectable jobs.

Europe

Lithuania – compiled by Vita Rulinskiene

- Pray for our hearts to be in love with children, teenagers and youth! We understand that children are our future and we want to share our faith with them and help them grow.
- Pray for our summer camps for children and teenagers, that we would be able to share



the gospel with them and their hearts would be open.

- Pray for people who want to spend time with children, invest themselves and become leaders in Sunday school and summer camps.

France – compiled by Inmi Agadé

- May the youth of our churches continue to desire God before anything else and to remain faithful to his Word.
- Pray that young French people can find their place in their local church and in the universal church, and live in fellowship
- Pray that God would equip young French people to be witnesses in their daily lives, among their friends and their families.

Latin America

Mexico - submitted by Crisol González

- Pray for all the Latin American countries. We suffer a lot of violence, especially in Mexico, because of huge social class divisions. I see the theme this year, “called to be free” as a call for service and to seek that everyone has



Celebrating YABs Fellowship Week 2017 in Spain.
Photo: Judit Menéndez

a decent job and education that can provide a dignified living and this way keep so many young people away from the cartel and drug commerce. Greetings and blessings from Mexico!!

North America

– submitted by Leah Wenger

- Pray that we never stop asking big questions.

If you would like us to pray for your region during YABs Fellowship Week, please share your petitions and praise on Facebook hashtagged #YABs.



Youth groups from different congregations of Convención Evangélica de Iglesias Paraguayas Hermanos Menonitas (Mennonite Brethren) congregations came together in Paraguay for a united YABs Fellowship Week service in 2017.
Photo: Milagro Silgueira.



Testimonies

(Democratic Republic of Congo)

- We give thanks to God who spared our congregation of Bukavu which was surrounded by fire from the neighbouring house, but wasn't affected.
- We experience many difficulties at the youth level, thus we have a program for young people this year. We developed projects for them. From 4–8 April 2018, with young people from other churches, we visited youth in the province of Bandundu.



Youth of Communauté des Églises des Frères Mennonites au Congo celebrate YABs Fellowship Week 2017 in Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo courtesy of Jeremie Ngwele.

Eileen Hofer (Switzerland)

My name is Eileen. I am 22 years-old and live in Switzerland. When I was asked if I could share a short testimony on the theme “Called to be free...faith across boundaries,” I immediately remembered this experience.

A little more than two years ago, I had the opportunity to travel to Cape Town, South Africa, and volunteer for eight months in an orphanage supported by the Swiss Mennonite Mission. During this time I lived in Mitchells Plain, one of the largest townships of Cape Town. I experienced many new, valuable, beautiful and funny things, but also sad and difficult things, and was challenged again and again to leave my comfort zone. One of these challenges was the question of security.

In Switzerland, I am used to being able to walk around by myself at all times. In Mitchells Plain however, I was told I should not walk by myself because of the high rate of crime, especially as a young woman. In the beginning, this was difficult for me. I wanted to move freely on the streets,

and struggled with having to walk in groups, not being able to be outside once it got dark, not being able to talk to strangers, and having to hide my valuables.

The orphanage I worked in consisted of several houses, and we volunteers were designated each to one of the houses. Since the houses were apart from each other, we could not actually walk as a group at all times. Thus, I walked to the house I worked in by myself each morning. And each morning I walked past two women talking with each other and mustering me critically. I felt a little uncomfortable walking past them, but I always greeted them and then walked on.

One day, as I was walking past them, they called me towards them. First, I was not sure how to react, since I had been told not to talk to strangers. I gathered my courage and walked over to them. The two women gave me a concerned look and then asked me: “Mag ons vir u bid?” (Can we pray for you?)

I had expected a lot of different things, but not that they would want to pray for me! They told me they were good friends – one Christian and



Celebrating YABs Fellowship Week 2017 in Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo courtesy of Felo Gracia.

one Muslim – and that they met each morning to pray for their neighbourhood and for the whole township. They told me they had been watching me for a while now and did not approve of me walking all by myself, since it was dangerous. So, the two of them had prayed for God’s protection over me since they had first seen me walk to work.

After this, I met up with the women every day on my way to work. We prayed together and got to know each other better. I was deeply touched by this experience which showed me how faith and prayer can overcome the boundaries of language, culture and even religion.

