



# YABs Fellowship Week 2021 Worship Resources

Prepared by the  
MWC YABs  
Committee for  
20–26 June 2021

1

## Theme and texts

**a. Theme:**  
**Perseverance**

**b. Why this theme was chosen:**

With the whole world struggling with the changes that COVID-19 has brought in a variety of different ways, we focus on the biblical understanding of perseverance in difficult times. We encourage each other with how young Anabaptists around the world have responded to and persevered in life and faith during 2020 and into 2021.

**c. Biblical texts:**

Romans 5:3,4

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (NIV)

2

## Songs suggestions:

1. [Still by Hillsong](#) (Australia)
2. [Dakilang Katapatan](#) by Arnel De Pano (YouTube) ([English Translation](#)) ([Philippines](#) - Tagalog)
3. [Neevunte Nakku chalu](#) (India - Telugu)
4. [Psalm 121](#) (Mandarin)
5. [Gracias a Dios por la Vida](#) (Colombia - Spanish)
6. [Tebe pane muj](#) (Czech Republic)
7. [Ndinobuda Pakaoma](#) (Zimbabwe - Shona)
8. [Confiaré en Tu Amor](#) (Mexico - Spanish)
9. [Waymaker](#) (Nigeria)
10. [God I Look to You](#) / [Al mirarte a Ti](#) (USA - English & Spanish)

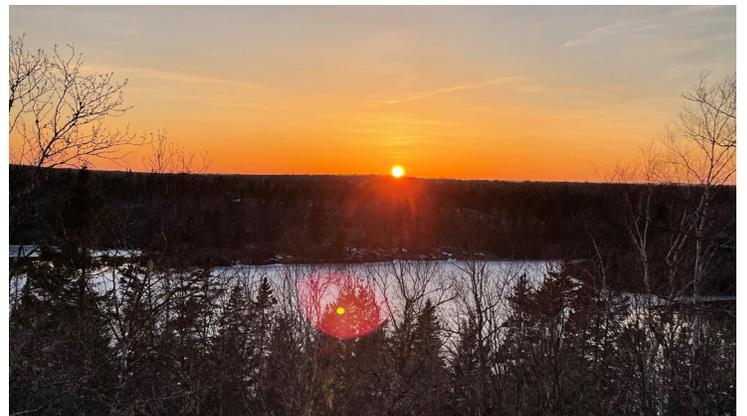
*Please check your church's copyright protocols before using these songs in public gatherings.*

3

## Additional resources in this package

### Discussion questions

- **Testimonies:**  
Read testimonies of young Anabaptists around the world persevering in hope.
- **Prayer requests:**  
Young Anabaptists from around the world share concerns and joys for communal prayers.





**4**

**Discussion Questions**

1. What are some scenarios that have required you to persevere? Discuss with members of your group.
2. What/who encourages you to move forward despite difficult circumstances?
3. What does it mean to “glory in our sufferings”? Have you been able to “glory” in any of the difficulties you’ve faced in life?
4. What do you understand to be the connection between suffering, perseverance, character and hope? Does the order have any importance? Why or why not?
5. COVID-19 has brought many challenges for all of us and affected everyone uniquely. Share some of the difficulties you’ve experienced because of the pandemic and how you were able to persevere during the last year. Take some time to share some of the unexpected blessings that came because of the difficulties and changes of the pandemic.
6. How do you find hope in the midst of trials?
7. Which stories in the Bible or from which characters do you find inspiration to persevere?

**5**

**Additional resources online**

[www.mwc-cmm.org/yabs](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/yabs)

Follow our [Facebook \(@younganabaptists\)](#) and [Instagram \(@younganabaptists\)](#) for updates during YABs Fellowship Week!

Post your photos, videos and comments as you celebrate YABs Fellowship Week.

**6**

**Share!**

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

Also send through FB messenger or email [yabs@mwc-cmm.org](mailto: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 our feedback form [here](#) in English and Spanish.

The biblical texts, prayers, song suggestions, sermon ideas, testimonies and other resources in this package have been prepared by members of MWC out of their experience in their local context. The teaching does not necessary represent an official MWC position.



Karla Braun

Contact Information for the YABs Committee:  
**Feel free to contact us with any questions at [yabs@mwc-cmm.org](mailto:yabs@mwc-cmm.org).**

Larissa Swartz – North America, chair  
[swartzgirl2010@gmail.com](mailto:swartzgirl2010@gmail.com)

Oscar Suárez – Latin America  
[oscar95suarez@gmail.com](mailto:oscar95suarez@gmail.com)

Makadunyiswe Ngulube – Africa  
[Maka\\_Ngulube@msn.com](mailto:Maka_Ngulube@msn.com)

Jantine Brouwer-Huisman – Europe  
[huisman.jb@gmail.com](mailto:huisman.jb@gmail.com)

Ebenezer Mondez – Asia  
[ebenezermondez@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezermondez@gmail.com)



## Prayer Requests

Young Anabaptists from around the world share concerns and joys for communal prayer.

- Pray that God may give direction and purpose to all the youths worldwide that have been overwhelmed by the pandemic and everything brought by it. Pray for Zimbabwe, that God may intervene in our economy and provide adequate opportunities for youths to thrive.  
—*Sineculo Ncube, Zimbabwe, 20*
- May we join hands and pray for sanity in this generation and above all a God-fearing generation. May we find a cure for COVID-19 so that we may go back to our normal lifestyle. May the good Lord restore good leadership in our churches, good guidance to our church leaders and make his people walk and do things that praise his holy name.

I request prayer for unity for my country, Kenya: we are a year away from the general elections. During these times, there are conflicts and tribes turning against each other – may this not be the case this coming election.

Pray that young people would experience spiritual growth and life breakthrough.  
—*Valary Otieno, Kenya, 23*

- May God continue to raise up youth that are willing to go against the grain in order to follow Christ.  
—*Elvin Sieber, Argentina, 28*
- That youth and young adults would follow Jesus for real, and reach out to connect and encouraging local and global communities in engaging, authentic, relevant ways.  
—*Lia Kauffman, USA, 26*
- Pray for young people to find a suitable job in their fields.  
—*Harries Rill B. Macalatan, Philippines, 23*
- Pray for romantic relationships that start in the church, that the youth will be able to stay pure.  
—*Sol Silva, Argentina, 21*

- I pray that the church in the USA would seek first to be aligned with the kingdom of God. I pray that the church will experience unity and an overflow of love that reaches out and impacts the nation.  
—*Abigail Martin, USA, 21*
- Pray for the equality for all the citizens of India. Pray for the farmers who are resisting new laws. For Christian youths who are distracted from the church and Christian values, pray for God's wisdom and knowledge. Pray for new believers facing persecution. Pray for Christian institutions, especially schools and hospitals.  
—*Preshit Rao, India, 25*
- Pray for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar – that there would be peace and freedom in the land.



Consejo Juvenil Menonita in Ecuador celebrates YABs Fellowship Week with a Zoom call in 2020. Photo: supplied

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



## Testimonies

### Africa

- I first experienced God's purpose in my life during the COVID-19 lockdown last year. Most of the churches were closed and I would read my Bible at home. When the churches were opened for worship again the routine was a little different from the normal service we had before COVID-19. Anyone was allowed to share Bible verses that were encouraging them during the hard times.

I didn't know I could stand and preach to the congregation. **Yes, I did it** and gave me a fulfillment and the urge to do it more. I realized that's my calling and it's something I would love to do more. So help me God.  
—Valary Otieno, Kenya, 24



Participants planted a tree when the General Council met in Kenya in 2018. Its perseverance reminds the local congregation of the global family. Photo: real foto Kenya

### Latin America

- The youth from Sanabria, Córdoba, have survived a year of being physically separated due to the pandemic but we are united in our love for Christ. Despite only being able to see one another's faces via social media, our friendships and fellowship went from strength to strength. As the days went by, we saw

that physical separation was weakening us emotionally. We knew that there was strength in unity, but from where would our strength come? Our strength came from the Lord who is our ready help in moments of trial.  
To God be the glory.

—Damaris Soto, Argentina, 26

- At the end of March 2020, we were forced to put a stop to our youth meetings thanks to lockdown. Our hope for the year had been to get together more often and this seemed to put paid to those plans. We began to think about how we could counteract the difficulties that this presented to the group. We were especially worried about how so much free time was affecting us youth and we thought that many of us were in danger of backsliding.

We came up with the idea of sharing a devotional every morning via Instagram Live. As we built up steam we invited other people and groups from elsewhere in Argentina to join us. It turned into something beautiful because not only did we get to know our own group from the city better but we also got to know other youth from Argentina.

To our surprise, the youth group began to grow and many of our friends on Instagram were able to hear about Jesus. At first only a few of us attended, but with persistence the numbers grew. Now that we can meet together again, we see God's hand working in this situation. God is faithful.

—Elvin Sieber, Argentina, 28

- During the compulsory quarantine, we were unable to share mate, hold discipleship talks or Bible studies with the members of our congregation. Being together at church was a deep need of ours, but the joy we found



in the midst of this lack was discovering God's omnipresence and omnipotence. God consoled us, hugged us, encouraged, instructed, healed and restored us through the work of the Holy Spirit in our intimate relationships with God, as well as prayer-by-phone with pastors and leaders.

We witnessed the Holy Spirit restoring and transforming lives and bringing about reconciliation even as we were "locked" in our houses. These experiences and testimonials caused a complete paradigm shift. We understood Matthew 18:20 so much better. Jesus is present in every home, in the midst of the families that invoke God's name.

—Sol Silva, Argentina, 21

- 2020 was an atypical year for everyone. All kinds of obstacles got in the way of our normal, everyday lives. Initially we limited the work that we had been doing over the years; possibly because of some fear and insecurity along with strict protocols. Even so, we saw God's glorious hand at every turn and this gave us the strength to keep fighting the good fight of faith.

Although getting together physically was impossible, we found other ways to do it. We held our meetings on Zoom and Google Meet. At the same time, pastoral visits were made to the members of the church. All the members were encouraged to worship the Lord in their homes while the days of quarantine were very strict and social contact was reduced to zero.

In spite of it all, with the permission of the authorities, we were able to carry out a number of projects. Sunday school was started and the teachers were encouraged to keep teaching the children. In a poor community located 10 kms from our church building we were able to do some outreach by giving some workshops (individual classes for the school children, hairdressing, gardening, and others). Whole families were blessed and

many reaffirmed their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We were also able to hold a gospel outreach. We celebrated the church's anniversary, and also the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have learned that no matter what happens, the Lord will still move his children to preach the good news. So, we invite all the youth to keep going and not stagnate in your faith. Thank you very much.

—Damaris Soto, Argentina, 21



**"To enjoy the descents on a bike, you have to persevere on the ascents." Oscar Suarez rides bicycle up la Martinica mountain bike trail in the Colombian Andes near his home city Ibague. Photo: supplied**

## North America

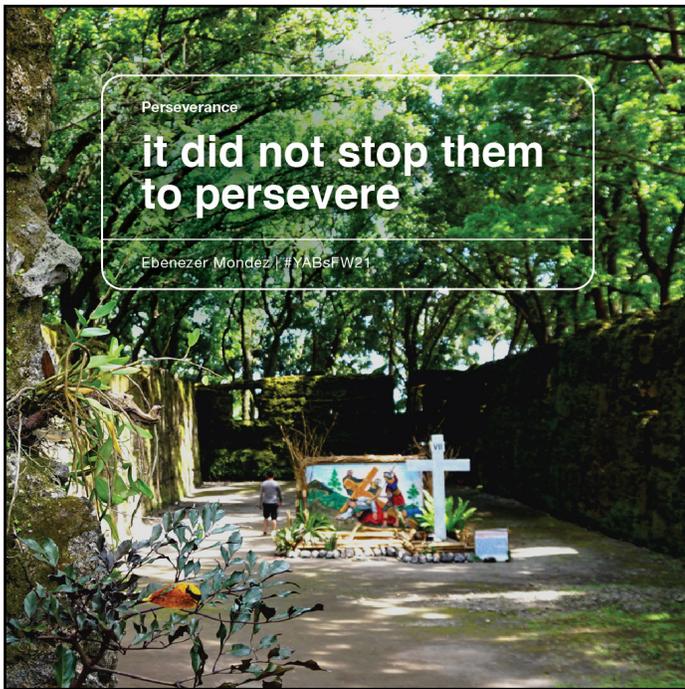
- At the beginning of 2021, I contracted COVID-19 and had to be briefly hospitalized with associated issues, then quarantined at home. It was a major low in my life, as I don't get sick often, but I found joy through my roommate who took care of me. Since recovering, I have become more thankful for my body and all that it does to keep me alive. Little things are significant: I find joy in working out, because during COVID-19 I wasn't strong enough to. I find joy in chopping onions, because previously I couldn't taste or smell.
- Lia Kauffman, USA, 26



## Stories of perseverance from the Bible

- Maka — Daniel
- Nezer — Job
- Larissa — Moses
- Oscar — Joseph
- Jantine — Esther

View videos on social media and the YABs Resources section on the website [mwc-cmm.org/yabs-resources](http://mwc-cmm.org/yabs-resources)



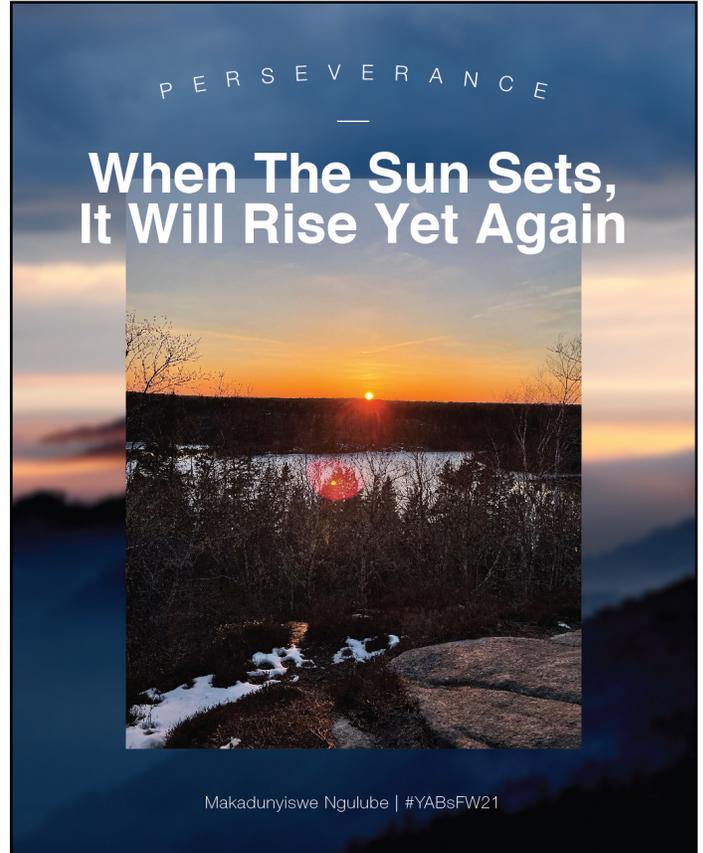
### Camiguin: the island born of fire

The tiny, seven-volcano island Camiguin in the Philippines, created by continuous eruptions thousands of years ago, now boasts hot springs, waterfalls and fertile soil producing bountiful harvests of sweet fruits.

Camiguin's first and oldest church was destroyed in an eruption that killed thousands of residents 150 years ago. Today, the ruins are a place of prayer and a tourist attraction.

"The people of Camiguin are one of the most resilient people I ever met. Though the Island was constantly threatened by earthquakes and volcanic eruption it did not stop them to persevere," says Ebenezer Mondez, Philippines.

Photo: Ebenezer Mondez



### Bluff wilderness trail, Nova Scotia, Canada

A reminder that even when the sun sets, it will rise yet again. Hence there is always something to look forward to.

Photo: Makadunyiswe Ngulube

