



YABs Fellowship Week 2017

Worship Resources

Prepared by the
MWC YABs
Committee for
18-25 June 2017

Theme and texts

a. Theme:
Pursue peace

b. Why this theme was chosen:

This year our theme is centered around one of the Shared Convictions as Anabaptist-related churches within Mennonite World Conference:

The Spirit of Jesus empowers us to trust God in all areas of life so we become peacemakers who renounce violence, love our enemies, seek justice and share our possessions with those in need.

c. Biblical texts:

1 Peter 3:8–12

“Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called – that you might inherit a blessing. For ‘Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. ‘For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’”

2

Discussion Questions:

A. Before reading the passage complete the sentences: “Whoever would love life and see good days must _____. They must _____.” Now read verses 10 and 11 of 1 Peter 3 and compare.

- Why do you think the text addresses speech first?
- Is there a connection between the two? Why or why not?

B. Although in some ways they are all related to each other, take a look at the list in verse 8. Which one of these is the hardest for you?

C. How can you address controversial issues or conflict in a healthy and peaceful way?

- For example, how would you handle Christian/Muslim conflict?
- Tribal conflicts or racial issues? Feel free to address any relevant conflict between different groups of people in your context. Meditate on verses 8 and 9.

D. Think about some of the conflicts or problems discussed in the previous question. Which are the most relevant to you? Brainstorm together with your group to find a way to bring peace in those conflicts.

E. Verse 9 talks about repaying evil with a blessing. Share personal stories or stories you’ve heard of people who have done this and what happened when they did. Are there ways that you indirectly or unintentionally “repay evil for evil”?

F. Verse 10 urges us to keep our lips from “deceitful speech”. What exactly constitutes “deceitful speech”



Jardely Martinez

and what are some practical ways we can work to keep from speaking it?

G. The text calls us to “seek peace and pursue it”. Peace can be found and applied in many different ways; it does not solely translate to the absence of violence. How do you seek, pursue and maintain peace in your life? In your community? In your church?

H. Is it possible to enjoy life and live righteously? Do you consider many “sinful” things fun or more interesting rather than choosing to live a righteous life? Why or why not?

I. The passage talks about us being called to inherit a blessing. Do some digging in Scripture for yourselves and find passages that might refer to this blessing. Make a list of the blessings you find. What is this blessing (or blessings) we are to inherit?

J. According to verse 12, the Lord is attentive to our prayers. End your time together by praying the Lord’s Prayer together and then praying specifically for peace in the world. Use the prayer requests provided to guide your time.



3

Songs:

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

- A. [Build Your Kingdom Here](#) (Ireland/USA) /chords/
- B. [Kyrie Eleison](#) (USA) /chords/
- C. [Hazme un instrumento de Tu paz](#) (Mexico)
- D. [Pero entonces vino Jesús](#) (Argentina)
- E. [The Peace of the Earth Be With You](#) (Guatemala/England) -#24 in MWC International Songbook 2015
- F. [Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe](#) (Kenya) /chords/
- G. [Sa Piling Mo](#) (Philippines) /chords/
- H. [Kirisuto no Heiwaga](#) (Japan) -#22 in MWC International Songbook 2015

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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.



Maka Ngulube



Jardely Martínez

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Share!

Take pictures and share on Facebook and Instagram! #YABs

Fill 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/I0Q0AYwwDX9ymq3B3>

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Additional resources online

www.mwc-cmm.org/yabs

- [YABs Fellowship Week Poster](#)
- [YABs Facebook](#)
- [YABs Instagram: @younganabaptists](#)



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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

Kenya – submitted by Wycliff Ochieng

- Kenya Mennonite Church Youth Council 2017–18 plans
- Kenya Mennonite church fraternity
- Peaceful elections in the forthcoming general elections in Kenya.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – submitted by Felo Gracia

- Praying for peaceful elections that will be held at the end of the year.
- Pray for the young people in the different churches in DRC.
- Pray for the youth committee that is yet to be chosen.
- Pray for provision of funds in order to be able to advance the gospel.
- Pray for the new leaders of the church that will be elected in the coming year.

Tanzania – submitted by Elisante Daniel Lulu

- Tanzania Mennonite Church has five bishops who were ordained in March. We are giving thanks to God that this event went well.
- Pray for the rains: there has been a dry spell in some parts of the country which has led to food shortages.
- Bishop Joseph Mutorela has recently taken up the position of being the chairman of Tanzania Mennonite Bishops Conference. Pray that he will be able to fulfill his duties faithfully according to God’s will.

Botswana – submitted by Ontiretse Bonnye

- Pray for unity among the youth who are struggling with division.
- Pray for the first ever youth camp in April.



Celebrating YABs Fellowship Week 2016 in India.
Photo courtesy of Preshit Rao.

Zimbabwe – submitted by Sineculo Ncube

- Economic healing of the nation.
- Periods of heavy rainfall have resulted in flooding in some parts of the country. Pray for flood victims, that they may recover what they lost and soon settle down in a comfortable environment.
- Pray that the young people will live pure lives and that they will stand on God’s word despite the challenges that they are facing.
- Pray for the young people to be committed to serving in the house of the Lord.
- Pray for all those in leadership of the nation and the leaders of the church, that they may walk in the light of Christ and be united for the sake of God’s kingdom.

Asia

– submitted by Ebenezer Mondez (Philippines)

- Pray for the government of the Philippines concerning extrajudicial killings, war on drugs and the war declared by the government against the Communist Party of the Philippines.



- Pray for unity within the body of Christ.
- Pray for the government of the Philippines as they are planning to bring back death penalty.
- Pray about the ongoing tension between the countries in the South China Sea region.
- Pray for India as some Christians are experiencing persecution in some areas.
- Pray for the continuing guidance of the Holy Spirit upon the workers of the church and that the Lord may protect them from harm.
- Pray for the Middle East as war in Syria is growing and there are still a lot of affected families.
- Pray for peace and that the people may find refuge in God and experience the love of Christ through his children.
- Pray for peace between the Israel and Palestine conflict. May they seek and find genuine reconciliation. May those who are oppressed and vulnerable, those who have been affected by this decades-long conflict find peace and comfort in Jesus.
- Pray that the Lord may spare his children in the countries along the Pacific Ocean – Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan and Indonesia – as the typhoon season approaches.



**European delegates at Global Youth Summit 2015.
Photo: Emily Ralph Servant.**

Indonesia – submitted by Taning Andari Anita Purwidaningsih

- We are now experiencing crisis of tolerance; not only about racism but also inter-religious tensions. Pray for the people especially for Christians, that God may give us more wisdom, strength and the spirit to rely on him in everything we do so that we can bless others and they can see Christ in us.
- Pray for the Christian youth movement in Indonesia, it is the time for the young people to move on and seek peace and prosperity, not only for the city where we live in but also for our nations.
- Pray for the churches (GKMI, JKI and GITJ) as they prepare for the MWC Assembly in 2021.

Europe

– submitted by Jantine Huisman (Netherlands)

- Pray for the people/countries in (Western) Europe that they do not let fear of terrorist attacks overcome their hope and their work for peace.
- Pray for all the European countries that are trying to find a place to live for refugees. Pray that the governments create space for the people who so desperately need a safe and healthy environment.



At Brethren in Christ Church Gaborone, Botswana, YABs picked up litter, did some weeding and cleaning outside our church and had a discussion based on the questions for YABs Fellowship Week 2016. Photo: Ontiretse Bonnye.



Latin America

Colombia – submitted by Oscar Suárez

- We are on the verge of ending the armed conflict between the Colombian state and the FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, a guerrilla movement). In October 2016, the referendum for the Colombian public to accept the agreements made in Havana between these two groups, generated further division across the country between the people who were in favour or against. Now the agreements are being implemented; pray that the conflict will come to an end. In February 2017, the ELN (the National Liberation Army, a different guerrilla group) and the government initiated dialogues in Ecuador in order to reach the end of the armed conflict with this group. Pray that we finally see peace in our country after almost 60 years of internal war. Pray that people will stop killing each other.

Ecuador - submitted by Henk Stenvers, secretary of the Deacons Commission

- The cities of Manta and Portoviejo were particularly affected by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that shook the country in April 2016, killing hundreds and injuring thousands; pray for the congregations who are bringing material aid and trauma healing strategies to assist people affected by the disaster. Pray also for members of Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Ecuatoriana (IEME) who lost homes and family in the disaster.

Haiti - submitted by Pastor Lesly Bertrand

- The Mennonite community in Haiti was affected by hurricane Matthew in 2016. We have two churches in the South that are completely destroyed as well as two others on the central plateau, and hundreds of houses of our church members are destroyed across the country. Two of our pastors are homeless. Once more, we rely on your prayers and understanding!



**North American delegates at Global Youth Summit 2015.
Photo: Emily Ralph Servant.**

North America

– submitted by Larissa Swartz (Ohio, USA) and Tyler Eshleman (New Mexico, USA)

- Pray for healing of the divides in the USA caused by the recent election. (Larissa)
- Pray for the church to remain faithful to and focused on the causes of the kingdom of God and not get entangled in debate or politics that divide instead of unify. (Larissa)
- Pray that our churches yearn for and seek true transformative discipleship and relationship. May we expand our understandings of right relationship with all things (shalom), so that our transformative ways of being seep out into the world around us. Our country needs a church that is alive. Pray that we would be a church that takes seriously the ways of Christ to be agents of love and action within a hurting world. (Tyler)



Testimonies

Wycliff O. Otieno

(Kenya – Kenya Mennonite Church):

My church works together with a church-based non-governmental organization project to preach peaceful coexistence between the two different communities living close to each other through peace clubs.

Elisante Daniel Lulu

(Tanzania – Kanisa la Mennonite Tanzania):

According to me, peacemaking is the activity or the process which supports or leads to solving the problems which is causing conflicts or fear or taking justice away in various ways. So, I will not agree if someone say quietness is always the way of peacemaking, but most of the time doing something for peace is more productive. I also think of the word “peace” as a wide picture of being satisfied socio-emotionally, economically, physically and spiritually. These components of peace depend on each other for a person to be peaceful. If one of these components is malfunctioning, it can be a reason for other ones to not work correctly. I also believe that a peacebuilding process is not easy if the peace builder will not work on the correct component.

As a church, peacebuilding is part of the faith since the in Gospels this is totally supported (Mark 9:50), and the Mennonite faith has strong emphasis on peace actions and life. Tanzania Mennonite Church, apart from some internal conflicts, works on peacebuilding in the community by showing love as individuals, groups or community based organizations to needy people.

As a country, our nation is among ones participating diplomatically to contribute in peacemaking amongst African and other regional countries. Despite some conflicts within, we value peacemaking in our communities, because we can tell how important being peaceful is. So, when we



YABs Fellowship Week worship service in Iglesia Maranata de los Hermanos Menonitas, (Mennonite Brethren) Paraguay.
Photo: Milagro Silgueira.

have some issues, we try to solve by talking to two parties and if it doesn't work we will need help of neighborhood individuals/community or sometimes from government.

In December 2016, I attended a camp with MCC in the Kigoma region, in Tanzania, at “Kabanga exercise school”. This school is especially for people with disabilities, where they were able to study and also do exercise according to what disabilities they have. Several years ago, people with albinism were insecure because of being attacked, killed or their body parts cut under beliefs that the people who do this will be wealthy if they will take the body parts of people with albinism to witch doctors. So, people with albinism were brought to this school and a big wall was built around the compound, and armed police officers are there all the time to secure them. There are various age groups (children, young adults and older people) in the camp and some have been there for years without seeing their family members and friends.



African delegates at Global Youth Summit 2015.
Photo: Emily Ralph Servant.

you, don't hate the one who hates you" "If you have issues with one, don't show it to them" "Give to ones who give to you, don't push your hater when they ask you for something" "Laugh with ones who like to laugh with you, don't be angry at the ones who hate you" "Do good to ones who do well to you, do well to ones who do badly to you as well"

Noémi Steffen
(France – Association des Églises Évangéliques Mennonites de France):

I am doing a two-month internship with asylum seeker families at the Rimlishof (a retreat centre), where I am developing a project about folk tales as part of a school assignment. I've been here for two weeks. I feel like I have already learned a lot, but that there is still much to be learned!

Before I arrived to the Rimlishof, I had a few prejudices against immigrants (for example, that most of them come to take advantage of France). On my first day, I was given documents containing statistics and a book of testimonies of immigrant people in France. The numbers allowed me to get rid of my prejudices. The testimonies moved me. I was shocked to discover the horrors that some people had to go through in their home country or even in the European

LIFE IN THE CAMP: The people with disabilities live a life that feels like kind of a prison. The people with albinism are in the camp with no hopes unless the whole community will change and be educated and environment becomes safe for them. Some of people need counselling to give them hope that they are valued like others. Many young people grow up in the camp with not enough social interaction, leading them to want to escape despite the lack of safety outside. There is not enough of everything in the camp, socially, in infrastructure and even economically. So, they have a shortage of some of very basic needs for their lives and also freedom, which to me feels like a lack of peace.

SUPPORT AND CARE GIVEN DURING CAMP: Apart from basic needs provided to the disabled, there were classes during the camp, and these were topics taught and activities held according to timetable we had: peacebuilding, character building, health, crafts, indoor and outdoor games, and other teachings through movies. People with albinism also had a fun day by going out for a tour to various places, and have lunch at one nice place. Various groups and individuals among the disabled people had time to show talents (singing/dancing). In summary, I would say, peacemaking is: "Love the ones who love



Latin American delegates at Global Youth Summit 2015.
Photo: Emily Ralph Servant.



country where they landed (police brutality, for example).

I was able to understand why these people seek asylum in France and under which conditions they can obtain it (war, persecution for political or religious reasons, etc.). I learned about the process for claiming refugee status and that rarely ends positively.

Families who arrive to the Rimlishof haven't had an easy journey, and they are all waiting to receive refugee status. It can't be easy to have to wait while not being sure your request will be granted.

During those two first weeks, I observed and participated in several daily activities (for example, going to the food bank to get produce to distribute to the families) and in some workshops facilitated by volunteers or interns (cooking workshop, French classes, hiking, etc.). It allowed me to connect with the families and to learn to know them better.

I realized that at the end of the day, these refugees are people like us with good qualities and shortcomings, with expectations (some families would like to have more French classes, others



YABs Fellowship Week worship service in Iglesia Maranata de los Hermanos Menonitas, (Mennonite Brethren) Paraguay.
Photo: Milagro Silgueira.

would like to be given things to do, like gardening). My coworker who is also an intern facilitated a workshop on French citizenship, explaining how French institutions work. We shared about how France and their home countries were different. I had the opportunity to share with the women through a cooking workshop.

I believe these moments of sharing are very important to get to know each other better, to reduce stereotypes and to build a trusting relationship. Furthermore, it's always interesting to discover culinary habits from other countries and personal tastes of each individual because every person has their own preferences that are not necessarily determined by their culture of origin.

This week I facilitated our first storytelling workshop. I read a story and played the guitar as the families enjoyed the "pommes au four" (baked apples) we made in the cooking workshop. I found that moment to be very friendly and warm. This was what I was looking for. To me, folk tales are common to all countries and allow people to come together. I wanted people to volunteer to tell a story they knew. My goal was to highlight the value of each countries' culture and to create a spirit of unity through folklore.



YABs Fellowship Week 2016 joint worship service with Mennonite, Mennonite Brethren and Brethren in Christ participating, in Bogota, Colombia.
Photo: Jardely Martínez.



Celebrating YABs Fellowship Week 2016 in India.
Photo courtesy of Preshit Rao.

**Rianna Isaak
(Canada – Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches):**

I pursue peace in my community by committing to speak truth with love. Truth without love is rude, painful and detrimental to relationships. But so too is love without truth: it's hiding, lying, and enabling unhealthy behaviour. I actively challenge my community to speak truth in love. This builds peace in interpersonal relationships as well as within structures. Speaking loving truth to power creates transparent communication which makes more space for God and less space for oppression. I pursue peace in my country by discipling 33 university-age students. We travel across Canada and learn about structural racism, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and root causes of poverty (financial, relational and spiritual). We build relationship with Anishinabe (indigenous people of Canada) friends and share our stories together learning about history and building into hope. By the end of the year, when all of my community disperses to their homes across Canada, I am confident that they will continue to spread these new attitudes to their home communities, churches and families. My pursuit of / hope for peace in Canada is built on the discipleship of young people.

**Tyler Eshleman
(USA – Mennonite Church USA):**

I am super fortunate because I get to work at cultivating peace at the personal level (for myself and for others) and at a community and inter-personal level. I work at Roots & Wings Community School where we take our students out for week-long trips into the outdoors – giving them the time to explore all of the goodness and awesomeness that nature and our world has to offer. Through these experiences students heal (and I would have to say myself, too). They grow, they become curious, they build relationships, they overcome challenges, but most importantly, they understand themselves at a deeper level. It is through these trips, these adventures that open up and challenge the body, mind and spirit that my students grasp concepts of peace – with themselves, with the Earth/nature, with those around them, and (for some) with their Creator.



YABs Fellowship Week 2016 in Zimbabwe at the Brethren in Christ church. As a youth group, they took time to pray for the global church and split into groups to talk about the discussion questions and then shared together.
Photo: Maka Ngulube