



**Mennonite
World Conference**
A Community of Anabaptist
related Churches

**Congreso
Mundial Menonita**
Una Comunidad de
Iglesias Anabautistas

**Conférence
Mennonite Mondiale**
Une Communauté
d'Eglises Anabaptistes



World Fellowship Sunday in 2014

The resources made available to congregations in 2014 can be found at:
<http://www.mwc-cmm.org/article/world-fellowship-sunday>

Stories and photos of World Fellowship Sunday celebration in...

- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- India
- Netherlands
- United States

Celebrating World Fellowship Sunday 2014

In Brazil



The Mennonite Church in Janga, Brazil, celebrated World Fellowship Sunday on 26 January 2014. Fabio Carvalho shared, “We followed the worship resources that were provided by MWC. It was a great time to remember our global family of faith. During the worship service the congregation was invited to take time to pray for churches in Asia and churches around the world. We also had a time of asking the congregation to offer a donation to MWC.”

Celebrating World Fellowship Sunday 2014

In Canada



(Above) Wilmot Mennonite Church in Ontario, Canada, celebrated World Fellowship Sunday on 19 January. Arli Klassen preached on 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and they had a special offering for MWC where congregants were encouraged to put their one lunch offering into a brown paper lunch bag, and then to carry it up to the front and put it in the basket. Arli shared that she "loved hearing the sound of all the rustling lunch bags as everyone got their money out and put it into their bags." Brown paper lunch bags is a very North American idea, as all older North Americans will recognize those brown paper bags as lunch bags. Photo: Dave Rogalsky.



At Valleyview Mennonite Church's World Fellowship Sunday worship service, a special offering was taken in support of the "One Lunch" program. Paper lunch bags were distributed at the beginning of the service and participants were asked to contribute to this special offering. During the morning offering, the children gathered the lunch bags. They also shared a presentation of the MWC Shared Convictions, which you can find [here](#).

Len Rempel (left) shares with us, "A blessing to be a part of World Fellowship Sunday at two churches - East Zorra Mennonite and Grantham MB," In Ontario, Canada, on Sunday, 19 January.

First Mennonite Church in Kitchener, Ontario

At First Mennonite Church in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, they featured World Fellowship Sunday on both 19 and 26 January, with a special offering received at a shared lunch. Photos: Tom Yoder Neufeld.



(Left) Noramy Gonzalia takes on new responsibilities with youth as part of a WFS worship service.



(Above) As part of the WFS celebration, there was sharing about their sister church in Monte Santo, Colombia.



Children's time for WFS with words from Desmond Tutu, and the next week with a story from Botswana.



Celebrating World Fellowship Sunday 2014

In Colombia



Sandra Báez, a pastor of the *Torre Fuerte* Mennonite Brethren Church in Bogotá, Colombia, shared these photos of the World Fellowship Sunday celebration in their church. She noted, “It was a very special time. Here we are weaving a network that represents our global church united through the love of Christ. We prayed for our churches in Asia and the Pacific and took an offering for the invaluable work of MWC.”



(Left) *Teusaquillo* Mennonite Church in Bogotá, Colombia, celebrated World Fellowship Sunday with prayers for believers around the world, special music and stories, and a one lunch offering for MWC. To see a video from this service, [click here](#).

(Right) On WFS, Angela Arango Parra and her son Felipe Vargas Arango, of the Mennonite church of Ciudad Berna in Bogotá, tend the church’s garden as an example of sowing generously and with love. Angela also shared about the importance of love in tending plants. This was an example in the sermon about “who sows generously, reaps generously” based on the suggested text of 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. The congregation also prayed for the global Anabaptist family and shared a one lunch offering for the work of MWC.



Celebrating World Fellowship Sunday 2014

In Democratic Republic of Congo

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo -

Responding to the call from Mennonite World Conference (MWC), the Mennonite churches of DRC celebrated World Fellowship Sunday in their respective parishes on 24 January 2014. They took this opportunity to invite their members to internalize and promote Mennonite identity and to consolidate the fraternal communion between the Mennonite communities of Congo.

As a reminder, the celebration of World Fellowship Sunday primarily aims at consolidating the Mennonite identity, the fraternal communion between the Mennonite churches, as well as the maintaining links with other communities and Christian organizations.



In Kinshasa, on Sunday, 9 February, 2014, at the initiative of the regional leaders of the *Communauté des Eglises des Frères Mennonites au Congo* (Congo Mennonite Brethren Church – CEFMC) and the *Communauté Mennonite au Congo* (Mennonite Community in Congo-CMCo), as well as Mrs. Cisca Ibanda, a member of the MWC Executive Committee, the congregations rose up as a single body to celebrate this day of fraternity and solidarity through a worship of togetherness. This was organized in the local parish CEFMC Mafuta in the presence of many guests and delegates of the CEFMC and CMCo communities, the Secretary General and Legal representative of the CMCo, Rev Dr. Komwesa, as well as the MCC representative in DRC, Mrs. Suzanne Lind. Nearly 470 delegates

from various local parishes, pastors, moms, and lay executive partners of the church attended this celebration. The Reverend Müller Nduzi, Coordinator of the Urban Conference of the CEFMC / Kinshasa, extended a welcome to all participants.

Madam Cisca Ibanda spoke to thank the members for having responded to this celebration in such large numbers. She then proceeded to read the message from the MWC General Secretary, César García, addressed to all members of the Mennonite world family before clarifying the purpose of this celebration. She used this opportunity to explain the work and activities of MWC for the communities and their members. Finally, she invited each delegate who was present to contribute to the work of the MWC by giving the equivalent of the cost of one Congolese meal. The amount was visually represented at the service by a display of the materials of a basic Congolese meal, the basket of the homemaker from Kinshasa, which is generally composed of a fish *mpiodi*, *pondu* (cassava leaf), *bitekuteku* (vegetables) and *fufu* (cassava flour paste).



Meanwhile, Reverend Dr. Komwesa praised the planning and organization of this day by urging delegates, specifically the leadership of our congregations, to take ownership of this event in the future. He promised the Assembly to invest with his colleagues for the resumption of the activities of the *Comité National Inter Mennonite* (National Inter-Mennonite Committee – CONIM) to improve the experience of the fraternal communion between Mennonites of Congo.

The message was brought by Reverend Mukambo, Regional President of the CMCo. He took his inspiration from the Word of God in 2 Corinthians 8: 1-9, joining the MWC recommended theme, "sowing with generosity," and invited Congolese Mennonites to follow the example of the Christians of Macedonia. In response to this appeal a total of \$953 US was collected in support of MWC. The participants were also filled with great joy to have had this opportunity to worship together. At the end of the service, Madam Cisca Ibanda thanked the assembly, the leaders of the communities and the guests as well as those who responded to the call of the Secretary General with generous contributions. This event has shown that our communities are able to support, contribute and participate effectively and actively in the life of the MWC.

Photos and text courtesy of Cisca Ibanda and Charlie Malembe

Celebrating World Fellowship Sunday 2014

India

The BETHEL, Brethren in Christ (B.I.C.) Church, Cuttack, Odisha celebrated World Fellowship Sunday on February 2, 2014 with great joy and gratitude unto the Lord.



Congregational Singing - Saare Shriti Ke Swami Tum Hi Ho

Rev. Dr. Bijoy K. Roul gave a short introduction of world Fellowship Sunday. He said that World Fellowship Sunday is celebrated every year in Anabaptist related churches around the world on a Sunday close to January 21 or the Fourth Sunday in January. The Anabaptist Churches celebrate World Fellowship Sunday, around the world with Thanks giving in remembrance of the very First Anabaptist baptism that took place in 1525 in Zurich, Switzerland.

We the Anabaptists are privileged to worship the Lord freely, but let us remember our brothers and sisters who do not have the freedom to worship their Creator or to have fellowship with other believers.

On January 26, 2014 (Sunday) we the Indians had celebrated the Republic Day of India. We are blessed to come together this morning (February 2, 2014, Sunday) to celebrate our world-wide Koinonia.

Special Prayer was offered for them who are opposed, oppressed and persecuted because of their faith, who had suffered and evacuated during the Phailin cyclone in India and are victims of other disasters.



Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession



Praying for Global Family

The youth Fellowship of the church presented some worship songs in Odia and Hindi.



Rev. Bijoy K. Roul encouraged the congregation by sharing the word of God taken from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, based on the theme "**Sowing Generously**".

He emphasized on the following:

1. Give what you have in your hand to give. God is the one who makes all grace abound toward us and provides us sufficiency in all things. All things are beneficial for our lives come from God's hands.
2. We are given sufficiency - even "bounty" so that we might do good works, we are blessed in order to be a blessing to others'.



Rev. Dr. Bijoy Roul sharing the Word of God

3. The God who gave us seed is the one who meets our basic needs, multiplies our seeds sown into an abundance. We must give unselfishly and generously without any thought of our own benefit. Our acts of mercy must be done cheerfully. (Romans 12:8), Jesus said, Freely you have received freely give (Mathew 10:8).

It is necessary to thank other people for their gifts to us, but it is even more necessary to thank God for their Gifts, for their generosity.

Generous giving meets the material needs of others but also produces a spiritual result, Many thanks giving to God. May you become rich in every way, so that you can share generously with others.

How great is our Lord! We have no lack in Him only potential! (Luke 5:6-7)

The worship was closed with prayer and benediction.

Indeed the Lord gave us a blessed time of worshiping, sharing and rejoicing together.

With Thanks and Prayers,

Shared by:

Manjula Roul

Member of Bethel BIC Church, Cuttack, Odisha

Celebrating World Fellowship Sunday 2014

In the Netherlands

Leeuwarden, The Netherlands -

Greetings of peace were shared by the youth of Mennonite churches in Indonesia and Mennonite churches in Friesland, the Netherlands, at the World Fellowship Sunday celebration held at the Mennonite Church in Leeuwarden, 19 January 2014.

Greetings here given on behalf of the three Indonesian synods:

Gereja Injili di Tanah Jawa (GITJ), Persatuan Gereja-Gereja Kristen Muria Indonesia (GKMI), and Sinode Jemaat Kristen Indonesia (JKI), along with an invitation to connect through

Facebook, Twitter, and e-mail and to build a stronger relationship as a global family in faith. Youth leaders from GKMI Synod's 'Youth for Peace Movement,' called on the churches to strengthen the connection in the global Mennonite family and to work together on peace, through a video message. The youth from Friesland also prepared a video to send in response during the church service with the twenty-two gathered



churches from the province of Friesland, where Menno Simons originated from, who wrote wishes for the Indonesian church. "A true feeling of being a global family, as was expressed by many".

By Gerlof Born

Celebrating World Fellowship Sunday 2014

In the United States



Corvallis, Oregon – Members of Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship observed WFS by using MWC worship materials and by collecting the costs of a single lunch in their community, as part of the special WFS offering. “We appreciated the opportunity to remember and celebrate our connections to the global Anabaptist family,” wrote Cathleen Hockman-Wert, a member of the congregation, in a letter to MWC.

(Above) On 26 January 2014 César García spoke at North Fresno Church, Mennonite Brethren, as part of their World Fellowship Sunday celebration.



(Above) “One Lunch” offering bags from the World Fellowship Sunday celebration at College Community Church Mennonite Brethren in Clovis, California, USA, on 26 January 2014.



(Above) On Sunday, 26 January at a meet and greet with Cesar Garcia, hosted by Paul Quiring, Bill Braun, pastor of College Community Church Mennonite Brethren, presented their church’s “One Lunch” offering. This event brought together about 30 people representing three churches (College Community Church Mennonite Brethren, Mennonite Community Church, MC USA, and Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church), plus representatives from MCC West Coast, Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary and MB Missions.



(Above) Gordon Smith, pastor of Mennonite Community Church, MC USA, presented their offering for MWC to Cesar Garcia in Fresno, California, USA.