



YABs Fellowship Week 2023

Worship Resources

Prepared by
the YABs
Committee for
18-25 June 2023

1 Theme and texts

a. Theme:
The family I found in my salvation

b. Why this theme was chosen:
This year we want to look back in the story of how we came to know Christ. Every individual has different salvation story. Some came from a different religious tradition and experience a complete transformation after they meet Christ. Some came from a Christian family which means it's hard to pinpoint a specific turning point in life.

Our salvation comes with a community that shapes us, encourages us and makes us who we are. Let's talk about the family we built from our newfound faith.

c. Biblical texts:
Luke 15:4-7
"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

2 Songs suggestions:

1. [Chukesso Wangwiye](#) (South Korea)
2. [You're Not Alone](#) (USA)
3. [Kwake Yesu](#) (Kenya - Swahili)

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



3 Additional resources in this package

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.

Global Youth Summit (GYS), Salatiga, Indonesia, 1-4 July 2022





4 Discussion Questions

1. What does salvation look like for you? How did you come to accept Christ in your life?
2. How did your family in Christ impact your journey to salvation?
3. Who is your biggest influence in learning about Christ?
4. After hearing the Anabaptist stories (in this package), in what ways do you feel encouraged or challenged?
5. What does the message tell you to do in your life right now?



Sam Abhinav

5 Additional resources online

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 Facebook messenger or email yabs@mwc-cmm.org.
- ✉ Help us prepare for future fellowship weeks and YABs projects by sending your suggestions to yabs@mwc-cmm.org.



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 necessarily represent an official MWC position.

Karla Braun



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Storytelling

This year we would like to introduce the story of SangMin Lee: a modern-day Anabaptist who became a conscientious objector and was jailed because of his faith. We will also learn how his family of faith supported him, prayed for him and encouraged him.

Also, we would like to recall a story about the first Anabaptists in Switzerland and how they rediscovered their faith. Despite their circumstances, it was not too late for them to get to know Christ and renew their faith. This was supported by their newfound community and together, like a family, they faced the challenges.

Refusing to be a victim and an offender SangMin Lee, Conscientious Objector

It was one of the passages narrating the week of Jesus' passion that first led SangMin Lee to consider the way of peace. Soon after he became a Christian, Lee was moved by Jesus' teaching to love our enemies, especially his rebuke to Peter for defending him with a sword in the Garden of Gethsemane.

As he learned more about the Christian faith, Lee's commitment to the gospel of peace deepened, putting him on a collision course with the Korean government. SangMin Lee, a 27-year-old member of the Grace and Peace Mennonite Church in Seoul, South Korea, went to trial because of his refusal to fulfill his required military service.

Since the Korean War began in 1950, South Korea has required all able-bodied men to serve for a period of time in its armed forces, with no option for alternative service. In 1953, the war ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, meaning that the peninsula is technically still at war. Indeed, fears of a potential invasion from North Korea remain high.

SangMin Lee became the first Mennonite in South Korea to be imprisoned for his convictions. In an interview, SangMin Lee noted that the training and culture of the military are inherently violent. Being a willing participant in that structure, he said, would change who he is, making him "a victim as well as an offender."

On the basis of his criminal record, SangMin Lee recognized that he would have "a bad



(l-r): Jae Young Lee, director of the Korea Peacebuilding Institute, SangMin Lee, Karen Joy Spicher and daughter. Photo from 2015.

reputation in society" and would likely be barred from many career paths for the rest of his life. Even more painful for him was the realization that his decision would bring him into serious conflict with his family. "I fear that my family will fall apart because of my decision," Lee said.

Yet he remained confident in his convictions. "I want the next generation to live in a better place with respect to individual choices and decisions," he said.

In April 2014, SangMin Lee was sentenced to 18 months in prison for his faith-based refusal to fulfill the required military service. The global church and others who resonated with SangMin Lee's peace witness responded by writing him letters and praying for him. Over the course of a letter-writing campaign supported by Bearing Witness, Justapaz, and Mennonite World Conference, at least 48 people from nine different countries committed to writing letters to SangMin over the course of his imprisonment.



The prayers of many were answered as SangMin Lee was released from prison on 30 July 2015 –three months early! SangMin Lee’s service in the prison’s barber shop was credited to his 18-month prison term, allowing him to leave earlier than his sentence dictated.

SangMin’s case was an example of the possibilities of international collaboration around the issue of conscientious objection. Bearing Witness initiated the letter-writing campaign, Mennonite World Conference frequently sent out prayer requests to the global church during SangMin’s trial, and Justapaz connected SangMin with conscientious

objectors in Colombia who also face hardships for their stance against military service.

At the age of 35, SangMin died 14 August 2022 due to a bicycle accident. He is survived by his wife Song Sem and a young son.

“I’m trying to live a normal life, find a simpler answer to how to live,” he said about half a year after his release in late 2015 at an event hosted by the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism and Goshen College. “I try to be thankful for every day and make each day as important as the last.”

By Elizabeth Miller

A version of this story was first published on www.martyrstories.org. Used with permission. Updated in 2023 by Ebenezer Mondez.

Teach the gospel and hold the faith The Anabaptist Story

In 21 January 1525, a dozen or so men slowly trudged through the snow. Quietly but resolutely, singly or in pairs, they came by night to the home of Felix Manz, near the Grossmünster, Switzerland. The chill of the winter wind blowing off the lake did not match the chill of disappointment that gripped the little band that fateful night.

The dramatic events of the unforgettable gathering have been preserved in The Large Chronicle of the Hutterian Brethren. The account bears the earmarks of an eyewitness, who was probably George Blaurock, a priest who had recently come to Zurich from Chur.

And it came to pass that they were together until anxiety came upon them, yes, they were so pressed in their hearts. Thereupon they began to bow their knees to the Most High God in heaven and called upon him as the Informer of Hearts, and they prayed that he would give to them his divine will and that he would show his mercy unto them. For flesh and blood and human forwardness did not drive them, since they well knew what they would have to suffer on account of it.

After the prayer, George of the House of Jacob stood up and besought Conrad Grebel for God’s

sake to baptize him with the true Christian baptism upon his faith and knowledge. And when he knelt down with such a request and desire, Conrad baptized him, since at that time there was no ordained minister to perform such work.

After his baptism at the hands of Grebel, Blaurock proceeded to baptize all the others present. The newly baptized then pledged themselves as true disciples of Christ to live lives separated from the world and to teach the gospel and hold the faith.

Anabaptism was born. With this first baptism, the earliest church of the Swiss Brethren was constituted.

This was clearly the most revolutionary act of the Reformation. No other event so completely symbolized the break with Rome. Here, for the first time in the course of the Reformation, a group of Christians dared to form a church after what was conceived to be the New Testament pattern. The Brethren emphasized the absolute necessity of a personal commitment to Christ as essential to salvation and a prerequisite to baptism.

By William R. Estep

Originally published on www.anabaptists.org/history.



Prayer requests

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

Latin America

El Salvador

- That we may give priority and recognize the importance of our relationship with God and the service to others, instead of thinking only of ourselves.
- That we can make a noticeable difference in our society; that we can be salt and light wherever we are; and that through our actions we reflect the love of God so through that people will want to come and serve God.
- That in a political context with a lot of hatred and division, young people would act in favour of others through love and actions that generate well-being and health for the community.

Colombia

- For our pastors and national conference leaders.
- The emerging leadership that is rising from the youth and the programs we carry out to develop maturity and leadership.
- The new opportunities for the Kingdom of God to advance in our country through our conference and the generation that is rising up passionate about God's mission.

Costa Rica

- That young people are filled with fire by the Holy Spirit and that they can continue with God despite the family difficulties that it implies in many cases.

Uruguay

- That a new passion may arise, to know God, to read God's Word and be transformed by the Spirit.



Tiz Brotosudarmo

- That we can remain firm in our Christian convictions beyond the pressures of society that is increasingly relativistic.
- That young people can find in the church a place where they feel valued and accompanied.

North America

- For youth to find worth centred in their Creator and not in the approval of others.

Asia

South Korea

- A weapons factory is being built in a rural area of South Korea. Peace activists and Mennonite church is working together to stop it: pray for our courage and boldness.

Hong Kong

- For the people to find the hope as Hong Kong is feeling hopeless in general (mostly because of the government). People are moving to other countries; the church is affected by this migration.



Christen Kong



Ghana

- That we may have relief from economic hardship across the continent.
- That God strengthens the churches in the country to progress even through hard times.

Tanzania

- For God's presence as we evangelize.

Uganda

- That Mennonite Church Uganda may get volunteers (couple or team or individuals) who can help in children's ministry as soon as possible.
- That there may be a Bible school for the training of our leaders.
- That peace and unity would prevail in Uganda despite theological, cultural, social and economic differences.
- That God may bring us a partner in the development of the Mennonite Church Uganda.
- That there would be political stability after a coup began between two groups seeking to unseat each other.

Europe

- That young adults would feel connected to their church and to know they belong to a community of faith.
- That churches would open up to young adults and welcome them.

India

- This year in India we are having elections in our country: please pray that in this election we'll get a government who will work in favour of Christians, treating them fairly. The present government has decided to make India a Hindu nation: directly or indirectly, they are torturing Christians to convert them.

Africa

- That there will be fair processes and wise selectin in all the countries in Africa that will be having their next election in 2024.
- That the youth of the churches in Africa understand more deeply what it means to be of Christ.
- That God would build the churches in Africa both physically and spiritually, for people will try but all to nothing. "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1).
- That God opens ways for employment for the youth of Africa as they seek to support the churches.

