



**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

## November 2023

"It is lovely to know that we are a family united by the Spirit of God, and that despite being spread across the whole world, we can bring our petitions for one another before God," says Samuel Martínez Leal, Iglesia Evangélica Menonita de El Salvador.

We invite you to lift up your hearts to God with us, standing in solidarity with each other and taking encouragement from the Spirit of God that unites us in the body of Christ.

In our prayers, we support each other in joy and pain, whether gathered or scattered.

We give thanks for sisters and brothers who come together to pray for our global Anabaptist family through these emails of the Prayer Network.

And join us on Zoom for online prayer hour 17 November. See below for information on this bimonthly online prayer meeting.

"Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth."  
Psalm 78:1

## Prayers



*God shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.* (Isaiah 2:4, NRSVUE)

As followers of the Prince of peace, as people who do not put trust in earthly rulers, we refuse to take sides with political interests, but mourn with all who suffer.

We pray and act for an end to the spiral of violence and injustice in the Middle East, recognizing that favouring one nation or ethnicity to the detriment of another harms the gospel and humanity.

We will speak to governments and religious leaders throughout the world, urging them to seek justice for both Palestinians and Israelis and not simply support one side or the other. We ask nations of the world to stop supplying arms to the warring parties, and to work with the community of nations to seek a just peace.

In the end it will be God who brings healing to the nations. We live into that hope by praying, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" – and by following the nonviolent way of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

[Read more](#)

Pray for the young leaders participating in YAMEN (Mennonite Central Committee and MWC's joint exchange program). Several months into their program, the barrage of new experiences may become exhausting instead of exciting. Pray that they would cultivate friendships – in their placement location, back at home and with other program participants – to manage their homesickness. Pray that they would have the energy and curiosity to continue to make connections in their placement location: at church, in the neighbourhood and in their work.

Pray for the spread of the Word of God. Some regions lack Scripture in their language or do not have ready access to copies of the Bible. Pray for resourcing provision.

Prayer for upcoming general elections

- Switzerland 13 December 2023
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, 20 December 2023
- Taiwan 13 January 2024
- Indonesia (14 February 2024)

We come before the throne of grace, asking God to guide both the voters and those seeking political office. May they aspire to act on values of equality, compassion and integrity. May their hearts and minds be attuned to wise counsel. May they turn away from temptations to corruption or exploitation. May they act with justice. Lord, you said where two or three gather in your name, you are here among us (Matthew 18:20). Hear our prayer.



God of these days

In this time of war, climate change, racial inequity, biodiversity loss and other threats to our creation, we recognize that we are blessed by what you have made, while also dependent on how that creation is cared for.

Renew our spirits, as we work to renew our common home.

[Read more](#)

## Africa

I thank the almighty God who, through joy and peace, unites the entire world.—*submitted by Mubecane Manharage, bishop, Igreja Irmãos em Cristo em Moçambique*

Please pray for Gatumba Mennonite church in Burundi. The region is prone to floods from the Ruzizi River that separates DR Congo and Burundi. Pictured is the temporary meeting house for the congregation, and the tents that provide shelter for displaced persons.—*submitted by Jumanne Magiri Mafwiri, MWC regional representative for East Africa*

Water shortages resulting from by drought have caused power rationing in Tanzania. Pray for creativity and resourcefulness in coping with the shortages. Pray for powerful actors in the world to reduce the fossil fuel usage that is driving climate change.

Praise God for inter-church fellowship. In August, leaders from Meserete Kristos Church, Ethiopia; Kanisa la Mennonite Tanzania; Uganda Mennonite Church; and the MWC president took part in the national convention of Kenya Mennonite Church.

"Let us pray for peace, because this war impoverishes us," says Siaka Traoré, MWC regional representative for Central West Africa. In Burkina Faso, the government enlists young people to serve their country through the military, providing a dilemma for young Christians.

THE COUNTRIES of the Sahel, particularly Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, are in tension with ECOWAS. The risk of clashes still persists through threats from both sides.—*submitted by Siaka Traoré, MWC regional representative for Central West Africa*

Pray for Zimbabwe where cholera has surged. Lack of access to safe drinking water causes disease to spread more easily.

Lord, have mercy on the Volta region of Ghana where river flooding has affected people in the Eastern region. Several farms, fish cages, properties were condemned and many people become homeless in Sogakope, Mepe, Akuse, Agave, Ziweonu, Galo, Sota, Gborgblenukpo, Hawui, Tademe, Sokpoe and many other areas, reports Francis Dzivor, Ghana Mennonite Church president and MWC General Council delegate. Mennonite congregations in Tademe and Dalive were affected.

## Asia

Pray for leadership challenges in some of the Indian member churches.—*submitted by Cynthia Peacock, MWC regional representative for Southern Asia*

Pray for the churches in Northeast Asia: congregations in Japan and Hong Kong especially are aging. Pastors are retiring. Pray for a living spark to renew churches and to draw younger people to choose to follow Jesus in the fellowship of others.

## Europe

Praise God for the meeting of EMLC - European Mennonite Leadership Conference in Barcelona in mid October. "It was a wonderful time together with representatives of 13 National Conferences from 10 countries," says José Arrais, MWC regional representative for Europe.

Continue to pray about the war in Ukraine as it causes human suffering and environmental destruction. May God lead hearts in the way of true peace and justice.

Pray for the preparations to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism in Zurich in 2025. May it be an opportunity of reflection to celebrate the movement's strengths and repent of its failures while also seeking reconciliation with those who have been estranged.

Pray for the preparation for MERK, an inter-Mennonite conference for Europeans, in 2026 in the Netherlands.

## Latin America



We praise God for the opportunity to be part of what God is doing on Earth. God is still in the business of transforming people. For children's day in Brazil, we had an event for children. We transformed our local church into a circus and invited all the neighbourhood to spend the afternoon at our facilities.—*submitted by Fridbert August, AIM, Brazil*

Pray for the migrants who move from one place to another and the risks they face of being easy prey for organised crime.—*submitted by Rebeca González Torrès*

Praise God for those who put effort into printing material in Portuguese. Churches in Brazil celebrate the efforts put into the printing of a new book by John Roth in the Portuguese language: "Stories: How Mennonites came to be" / "Os Menonitas: De onde viemos, quem somos e para onde vamos." 1500 copies of this book were printed using funds from an MWC grant.

Praise God for the peace process in Colombia, especially for the recent Roundtable in which Mennonite theologian Fernando Enns participated as a representative of the World Council of Churches. May the peace process lead to a just and lasting peace so Colombians can live in safety and hope for the future.

## North America

Peace on the political scene in the United States and may justice happen in the government.

Church attendance in Canada and the USA has shifted significantly since before the pandemic. Some people have changed congregations, others have stopped attending at all; others shunned: all need wisdom to discern the ways they are called to change to meet today's challenges and the ways they are called to strengthen and renew convictions and practices.

*Creator God, Brother Jesus, reconciling Spirit, teach us to build peace each day. Help us to see your image in every person we meet – including our enemies. Give us courage to stand up for others by recognizing our interconnectedness.*



Please join us in prayer!

You are invited to join the Deacons Commission and regional representatives on a Zoom prayer call. There will be breakout rooms and a prayer leader in several languages (English, Spanish, French, Hindi).

[Register](#)

## Prayers of gratitude and intercession

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream."  
Amos 5:24

If you would like to share a prayer with us, please write to [prayers@mwcc-mm.org](mailto:prayers@mwcc-mm.org).

Thank you for walking with us in prayer,



**Tigist Tesfaye with the Deacons Commission**

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