



# YABs Fellowship Week 2024 Worship Resources

Prepared by  
the YABs  
Committee for  
16-23 June 2024

1

## Theme and texts

**a. Theme:**  
**Mosaic: We are God's handiwork**

**b. Why this theme was chosen:**  
This theme highlights our part in God's greater purpose. Like pieces of tile, alone, we cannot see our value. Sometimes, we may think we are insignificant, but when God puts us together with the right people and places, we fit: we find our purpose and realize our value.

**c. Biblical texts:**  
**Ephesians 2:8-10**  
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)  
**Genesis 1:27**  
So God created humans in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (NRSV)

2

## Songs suggestions:

1. [Potter's hand](#) (Australia)
2. [You're not alone](#) (Canada)
3. [Tú estás aquí](#) (Mexico)

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



3

## Additional resources in this package

- **Storytelling**
- **Prayer**

Ghorbitey Isaac Nii Torgbor



mwc-cmm.org

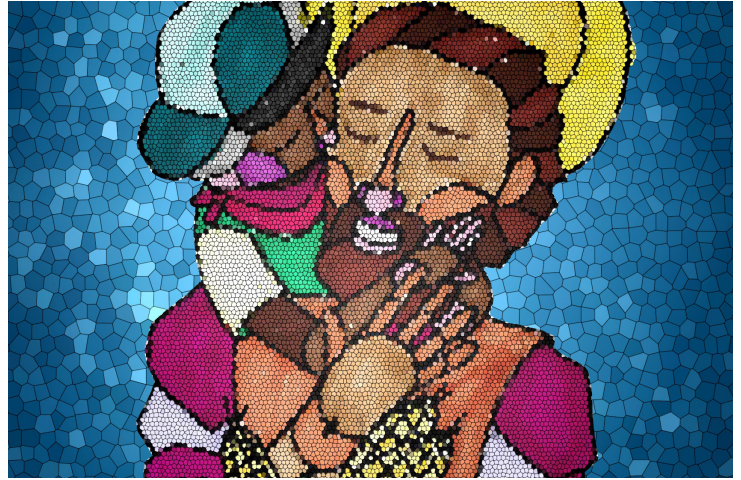
Valentina Kunze





**4 Discussion Questions**

1. How often do you create things with your hands?
2. How do you feel about your creation when you're done?
3. Imagine if the mosaic photo here had pieces that were all identical. How would it look? Which one is more beautiful? Why?
4. What does it mean to bear God's image?
5. As God's handiwork, how are we an expression of God's character or image?
6. What is the purpose of an artwork or mosaic?
7. How do you fit into God's mosaic?



Rodrigo Pedroza

**5 Additional resources online**

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

Greeting videos

Follow our Facebook ([@younganabaptists](https://www.facebook.com/younganabaptists)) and Instagram ([@younganabaptists](https://www.instagram.com/younganabaptists)) for updates during YABs Fellowship Week!

Join our Discord server  
[discord.gg/RzJghptWnS](https://discord.gg/RzJghptWnS)

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



**6 Share!**

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

➡ Send pictures or testimonies through Messenger or email to [yabs@mwc-cmm.org](mailto:yabs@mwc-cmm.org).

✉ Help us prepare for future fellowship weeks and YABs projects by sending your suggestions to [yabs@mwc-cmm.org](mailto:yabs@mwc-cmm.org) or commenting on our Discord server ([discord.gg/RzJghptWnS](https://discord.gg/RzJghptWnS)).



**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.**



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

**Valentina Kunze – South America, chair**  
[valentinakunze@mwc-cmm.org](mailto:valentinakunze@mwc-cmm.org)

**Isaac Nii Torgbor Gborbitey – Africa**  
[isaacgborbitey@mwc-cmm.org](mailto:isaacgborbitey@mwc-cmm.org)

**Kkot-lp Bae (배 꽃잎) – Asia**  
[kkot-ipbae@mwc-cmm.org](mailto:kkot-ipbae@mwc-cmm.org)

**Saskia Horsch – Europe**  
[saskiahorsch@mwc-cmm.org](mailto:saskiahorsch@mwc-cmm.org)

**Felix Perez Diener – North America**  
[felixperezdiener@mwc-cmm.org](mailto:felixperezdiener@mwc-cmm.org)



## Storytelling

### A beautiful mosaic, crafted by God's hand

*The first story below is from one of our brothers in Argentina. He chose to be anonymous because the story involves sensitive topics. We share this beautiful story because it shows how God put together people with different colours and background, creating a colourful mosaic of people. Similarly, Elisante's story is about God drawing people together to find harmony with each other despite different beliefs and practices – right in his hometown in Tanzania.*

### Worthy of being rescued

#### A story from Argentina

A boy came to live with me from a nearby city where he was known as the worst of the worst. His family (who were police officers) treated him very badly because he was known as a thief, took drugs and to get the drugs he was sent to do anything.

He had a very bad reputation in that place.

At one point in his life, he had a car crash and overdose, which led to him being admitted to a rehabilitation center. After fulfilling his time there, he came to live with me – an intermediate point between the centre and the beginning of his complete reintegration into society.

One of the things that impacted him the most of his time here is how his image changed, that God was able to act in his mind and heart – that he was worthy of being rescued.

He was able to forge a new identity. While living with us, he was surprised that people trusted him, and gave him opportunities. He was even known as part of our family here.

One night, he started crying because he couldn't understand how after being the "garbage of his town", he could find a totally different life in the Lord. That filled him with joy.

*By one of our brothers in Argentina.*



Henk Stenvers



## We share a lot of things

### A story from Tanzania

I come from a country that is almost half Christian and half Muslim. Some Christian churches have suffered attacks, especially in Zanzibar, an island off Tanzania's coast. In Zanzibar, the population is 90% Muslim. That area tends to be more violent against Christians, more challenging. And sometimes there is violence even in northern part, in Mwanza.

In these instances, someone who goes to church is killed or the church and everything in it is burned by unknown people. But we usually know that is a group of people with different religious beliefs.

**Talking about peace or about Jesus with Muslim people in my country can be challenging.**

Sometimes they're kind of aggressive when you tell them something that is different from what they believe. This has happened to me in face-to-face conversations and also on social media.

I used to be active in Facebook groups for Muslims and Christians to discuss faith and beliefs. When the Muslims there would use violent words, sometimes the Christians became defensive. And I saw that some Christians could also be violent, using the same kind of language. So the arguments would just escalate.

**But I soon realized that nonviolent words would cool down the situation.**

Whenever the other side would use violent and aggressive language, I would use very polite words. Many times I would say, "I really love what you said and I understand what you say. And I really love you." I would say this even though they were very angry towards the Christians.

If we love the people who don't believe as we believe, it will show love. **If we demonstrate actions of peace and love, they will want to know what we believe.**

I do not blame the Islamic religion, because we have many, many Islamic friends that are very helpful to us. We work together, we eat together. We can eat from the same plate or drink from the same cup. We share a lot of things.

But we do have a lot of differences. Even among Christians this is true.

**So whenever we have misunderstandings, we must come and sit and talk together.** We may have differences, but our differences become less and less as we talk.

*Elisante Daniel Lulu is a Mennonite from Tanzania. He recorded this testimony as part of the Bearing Witness Stories Project during the 2015 Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Watch the video here: [martyrstories.org/elisante-daniel-lulu-tanzania/](http://martyrstories.org/elisante-daniel-lulu-tanzania/)*



Elisante Daniel Lulu from Tanzania shared his testimony of living out a mosaic of diversity as part of the Bearing Witness Project.



(from left): Masanja Amos (Tanzania Mennonite Youths, chair), Gborbitey Isaac Nii Torgbor (YABs representative for Africa), Mushagalusa Mastaki Kendri (from CEFMC, DR Congo), Simon Songe (Member of Parliament of The Republic of Tanzania) at the annual Tanzanian Mennonite youth conference.



## Prayer requests

Irma Sulistyorini



Sharon Dass



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

### Latin America

#### Colombia

- Young people are concerned with mental health and access to work. They face hopelessness regarding the life conditions. Pray for economic resources and opportunities to support and accompany young women to serve in the church where discrimination may limit their possibilities.

### Asia

#### Indonesia

- Pray for the efforts of building a cross-synod Mennonite youth network to prevent sexual violence in the MWC member churches (JKI, GKMI, GITJ) and develop youth groups based on gender equality issues.

### Africa

#### Ghana

- We want YABs across the global family to join us to say thank you to God for his grace and mercy on the continent within this past year. We also want to ask that the Lord continue to protect us from famine, drought and conflict. We ask for God's steadfast love to continue to shine on us.

### Europe

#### Germany

- For Germany, please pray that young people grow in their faith and bring new life to the churches. For Europe, ongoing problems with migration and Asylum politics, pray for politicians to make wise decisions and help refugees to find a safe home.

### North America

#### USA

- Pray for the young people of the churches that they may continue to have interest in leadership. Pray for the upcoming elections (November 2024) and the role of the United States regarding the peace of the world.