

WORLD FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY 2008

WORSHIP AND SERVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

Order of Service

Biblical texts: Matthew 4:1-12; 28:16-18; Mark 16:15; Psalms 27:1

Call to worship

Leader: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Leader: Worship the Lord in holy array; ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

All: He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

Leader: Praise the Lord, O my soul, all my inmost being, praise His holy name.

Songs and hymns of praise—choose 3 songs

Prayers: local and global

See the list of prayer requests from each continent.

Sermon : Worship and service/ministry

Response:

Lord, your name deserves honour, your work deserves our time. You were the perfect example of a servant spirit—always giving, always serving, always honouring your heavenly Father. Help our faith grow and strengthen. Father, shake us and remake us to keep us from standing still and growing stagnant. No matter how old or young we are, you can teach us new ways of doing things. Change must occur to have growth. I'm willing to learn, to serve and worship you with all my heart. Set my heart on a pilgrimage—moving

when you say, "Move! Join me in my work and service!"

All: The God of heaven will give us success. We, his servants, will start rebuilding (Nehemiah 2:20).

Leader: Oh Lord Jesus, I pray that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened that we may know the hope to which you have called us.

Sharing: Invite testimonies or ask several people in advance to share their experiences of service and worship.

Offering: (accompanied with music, choirs, choruses. Congregation goes forward to give their offering.)

Prayer ending with the Lord's Prayer

Closing hymn

Benediction:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28: 19-20). Be constant in prayer. Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, as you worship and serve in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Prayer requests from around the World

Africa

- Give thanks for reconciliation agreements in the Mennonite Brethren Church of Congo and in Kanisa la Mennonite Tanzania. Pray for the consolidation of these agreements.
- Pray for the church in Eritrea which is under great duress.
- Continue to pray for the church in Zimbabwe.

Asia

- Pray for the missionary work of the BJCPM Church (India) in Bhutan and Nepal. A new church was inaugurated in Nepal with the Bodo tribe on August 5, 2007 with 7 baptized members.
- Pray for church growth in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Thailand.
- Thank God that many of the churches in Vietnam have been able to successfully register with local authorities, and that leaders have been able to conduct training courses. Continue to pray for the ethnic minority churches that experience harassment, and especially for the S'tieng ethnic community in Binh Phuoc province whose land has been appropriated by government officials who will likely reap the financial benefits.

Europe

Pray:

- that our congregations and members may grow in faith and find good leaders;
- that our responsibility for this earth and all that is in it may grow;

- that we as Mennonites promote living peacefully with all the different religions and cultures in our continent;
- that we give continued attention to the undocumented people that come into our countries because of persecution, war and violence in their homelands

Latin America

- Give thanks for the Catholic-Mennonite meeting in Colombia.
- Pray for awareness of the reality of poverty, unemployment, and massive migration of Latin Americans seeking new horizons in other countries.
- Pray for awareness of the increasing structural and widespread corruption at government levels in Latin America.
- Pray for the unity, growth and strengthening of the Latin American Anabaptist Church

North America

Pray:

- for wisdom as the church in North America works to find ways to share the gospel of Christ in our increasingly secular culture. Many have left the church and many have a negative attitude about the church.
- for unity among Mennonites and Brethren in Christ bodies. Many issues of doctrine seem to cause conflict
- that we will incorporate young adults fully into the life of the church, listening to them, using their energy and gifts, and not waiting until some future time to do so.

Kanisa la Mennonite Tanzania: background/context

On the map of Africa, Tanzania is located in the eastern part, surrounded by the great lakes. In the north it borders Kenya and Uganda, in the east the Indian Ocean, in the west Rwanda and Burundi and in the south Malawi and Zambia.

Tanzania is a country that advocates peace. Regardless of the diversity in ethnic groups, language, culture and freedom of conviction,

peace has always remained a central issue. Tanzania is a land of many contrasts with natural beauty that ranges from the famous Mt. Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro crater, diverse wildlife, marine resources and mines, to nature and forest reserves in the north and south. Tourism and mining are among the leading industries that increase the country's foreign earnings.

Arts and culture are portrayed in languages, traditional music and songs, dances, food and ways of dressing. Tanzanians have freedom of worship as long as they don't violate the law. The main religions are Christianity and Islam.

Based on the latest census report, there are more than 64,500 baptized Mennonites in Kanisa la Mennonite Tanzania (KMT) with the highest populations located in the Lake Victoria towns of Musoma, Mwanza, Shirati and Tarime. Other regions with Mennonites include Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Morogoro

Worship and fellowship:

The worship service in Tanzania begins with scripture reading from the Psalms and a special prayer led by the pastor. Worship songs and choruses glorifying the name of the Lord and indicating the presence of the Holy Spirit follow. As we continue to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit, whom we believe is holy God himself, we become inspired and gifted. The word is revealed to us and God empowers us for his service.

Despite the diversity in tribe, language and culture, the lively worship unites us in the same mind and purpose for the glory of the Lord. "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise" (Revelation 5:12).

Let us be reminded in our worship to join our

KMT Service Projects:

In order to work objectively to achieve the goals as stated in our mission statement, Kanisa la Mennonite Tanzania focuses on service-oriented programs that respond to societal needs and priorities. Like other churches, our church is working with HIV/AIDS, among other concerns, and has formulated an HIV/AIDS policy. The church's response to HIV/AIDS encompasses training of congregants and pastors on the modes of transmission, care for the infected and abstinence. The church is building on the importance of marriage and spirituality.

Christ came to provide healing to the suffering, so KMT is committed to

and Dodoma. More churches were planted in the towns of Shinyanga, Moshi, Sumbawanga, Tabora, Kigoma, Tanga and Kagera where the number of Mennonites is small but growing.

The church implements specific outreach programs through evangelism and services that are extended to the weak and needy, widows, orphans, the destitute, elderly and the sick. In this context worship and service are linked and remain primary attributes of the church.

voices to that celestial choir.

After the sermon, every believer is invited to repent, believe, praise the Lord or testify how one has encountered the Lord in the highs and lows of life. Presenting offerings and tithes ends the worship service. The pastor pronounces the benediction outside the church.

In worship and prayer, we commune with the Holy Spirit. Paul commends us to the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:13). While in prayer, we sensitize ourselves to the Spirit. We learn to feel God, to be aware of him, to see the Lord rather than our surroundings. "Oh, taste and see the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8).

compassion and care for the sufferers at home and in hospitals. The church has organizations who work with HIV/AIDS patients: the Community Based Health Promotion Programme in Mugumu, the Arusha and Dodoma KMT Church Compassion Programmes, and Community Mobilization Programme in the Lake Victoria Zone. Programs and activities include preventive measures, impact mitigation, advocacy and training on marriage, voluntary counselling and testing, avoidance of high risk behaviours, blood testing and general education.

In addition, the church provides food relief to

vulnerable groups such as widows, elders, orphans, the disabled and people living with the virus. Some church members have established orphanages in Musoma, Arusha and Dodoma to support children whose parents have died from HIV/AIDS. This epidemic has a profound impact on the family, community and different sectors of economy.

Women and youth are the vast majority in the church. They play multiple roles in church development work, evangelism, teaching Sunday school, cleaning the church, singing and implementing income-generating projects

such as tailoring and operating milling machines in Arusha.

The KMT church employs a holistic approach to the prevention of HIV/AIDS. This is important because the church promotes spiritual values and a relationship with God that the secular state cannot provide. The church is obliged to preach the full gospel and teach God's commandments, emphasizing the importance and value of abstinence outside marriage and faithfulness within marriage. The church gives priority to these issues in the light of worship and service to further the work of the Lord.

Resource materials

Story: The plight of rural women

The plight of women is glaring. About one third of rural African households are headed by women. In the countryside of Babati, in the Manyara region, women perform multiple responsibilities from community managing roles to producing children. They do not have technical skills or knowledge and they lack access to health care, water, education and information.

My name is Bahati Musa. I'm 26 and live in the village of Magugu. Since my childhood, I was trained to obey and serve men—my father, brothers and husband. I went to school up to class seven only due to poverty. I was ordered to marry an old man of 50 years as his second

wife. Our tradition dictates that women are always subordinate to men. They have no voice in family decisions. I have four children and the first wife has six. Our living depends on subsistence farming. During insufficient rains, there are no harvests and we are vulnerable to hunger, poverty and malnutrition. My husband is involved in alcoholism and multi-partner relationships. As a result, he has contracted HIV. I am now infected with the virus. My friends pray for us in this difficult, troubled time. We can find inner hope and peace only through Jesus Christ. This is the most disconcerting time of my life because my future is black and void.

Sermon prompts: Service and light to the unreached

Based on the great commission text in Matthew 28:16-18 and Mark 16:15, and Psalms 27:1

The Lord Jesus Christ has called every Christian into the ministry of reconciliation, preaching, teaching and baptizing all people who have not heard the gospel. As we celebrate World Fellowship Sunday, let us announce the good news that Christ has already redeemed his people, that the price for salvation, deliverance, health and prosperity of humankind has been paid.

Let our lifestyles, words and deeds, our

worship in spirit and truth demonstrate to the unreached world the amazing love and grace of God. The glory of God is in our hearts, for we are new creations in Christ. Therefore, let us go into the world and share the good news of salvation. The Holy Spirit will be in charge of the work/service. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1).