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Conférence Mennonite Mondiale

Mennonite World Conference

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To all Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and related churches worldwide
To Mennonite World Conference General Council members and associate members

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On January 21, 1525, the first Anabaptist baptism took place in Zurich, Switzerland. For some years, our global faith family has observed **World Fellowship Sunday** on a Sunday close to January 21, usually the fourth Sunday in January, remembering our common roots and celebrating our worldwide *koinonia*. We invite you to join your brothers and sisters in five continental regions in marking World Fellowship Sunday on January 27, 2008.

Each year, Mennonites from different continental regions prepare material for this celebration. This year, a sister and brother from Tanzania (Hellen Bradburn and Matiku Nyitambe) have taken their turn in the rotation of continental regions in producing worship materials and reflecting life in their part of the world. The theme chosen this year is "Worship and serve the Lord your God." They encourage us to see the deep relationship between worship and service, that to worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth calls us into action, into service.

The materials include suggestions for worship, prayer requests from around the world, an introduction to Tanzania and Kanisa la Mennonite Tanzania (KMT), a map, a story and sermon prompts. We hope these materials will help you plan World Fellowship Sunday in your own national conference and local churches and that they will provide a way of entering more fully into fellowship, intercession, and thanksgiving with and for your global faith family. Mennonite World Conference encourages each conference to translate and adapt (if necessary), copy and distribute the materials to all local churches.

Please visit the MWC home page (www.mwc-cmm.org) to find additional materials including statistics concerning Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and related churches throughout Africa.

Once again, please have someone from your church record how you celebrated the day. MWC would be grateful to hear from you after World Fellowship Sunday so that we can share your experiences and insights with others in the worldwide family of faith.

Grace and Peace,