

The background is a composite of three elements: a green globe on the left, a white curved shape in the center, and a green and white textured pattern on the right.

# International Witness Sunday Giving Catalogue 2023



# “Knit Together in Christ”

*Ephesians 4:16  
(NRSV) ...from  
whom the whole  
body, joined  
and knit together  
by every ligament  
with which it is  
equipped, as each  
part is working  
properly, promotes  
the body's growth  
in building itself up  
in love.*

As we follow Jesus into God's dream for the world, we are being "knit together in Christ" through relationships across Canada and around the world. This year for International Witness Sunday, October 15, 2023, we want to celebrate and learn about the relationships in Southeast Asia that have been built through Mennonite brothers and sisters in Canada. Partnerships in Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Philippines have all developed as Mennonite Church Canada congregations have led their Canadian family of faith into relationship with churches and conferences in Asia.

Join with congregations across Canada as we look at the threads that are knit together forming a beautiful, warm global family that is a part of God's vision for the new creation.

Celebrate International Witness Sunday October 15 using resources posted here:

- <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/IW-Sunday>

- Invite speakers, either in person or online.
- Join with other congregations to worship and celebrate together.

- Use this giving resource to enable continuing ministry in Southeast Asia.

- Join a Witness Support Network at <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/witness-support-networks> to strengthen your relationship with our global family of faith.

Join God's vision as we are “Knit Together in Christ”.

Jeanette Hanson  
Director, Mennonite Church Canada  
International Witness



# MYANMAR

Your donations will support church workers in both these groups to visit, train, and encourage small groups of believers living through a time of turmoil and danger.

Giving Designation:  
Myanmar

Bible Missionary Church (Mennonite) President Amos Chin describes the ravages of the civil war that carries on. "Our great challenge now is to teach our youth about peace. They become embittered by the killing and want to react." Their church continues to grow and the need for trained leadership to face these challenges is urgent.

Anabaptist Myanmar Conference talks about growth happening in their churches while many need to flee the violence in their area and live in the jungle.



Sponsor a Mennonite Youth Peace Conference	\$500
Provide food for a gathering of church leaders	\$4 per person
Cell phone with data for one church leader	\$100
Bus ticket to visit remote congregations	\$25



# THAILAND

Your donations will ensure the long-term presence of the Poovong family as they network with more than 100 worshipping groups. It also enables Friends of Grace to provide training and leadership development to the many bi-vocational lay leaders of these groups. Help to continue this long-term presence of support and training.

Giving Designation:  
Poovong support.

School fees for Phim and Joseph  
Vehicle repairs  
Gasoline to visit congregations  
Rent

Friends of Grace leadership has asked Mennonite Church Canada to be part of their leadership development. They are creating a vision for Thai-run independent churches with an Anabaptist flavour. They invite us to walk with them. Support Anabaptist Biblical and theological training by teachers from Canada and other parts of Asia.

Giving Designation: Short Term Ministry Resource Workers.

Flight for Canadian teacher to Thailand	\$2300
Meal for group of 4 during training	\$15.00
Translator fees	\$100/day



\$1850
\$550
\$1.71/litre
\$380/month



# PHILIPPINES

As Dann and Joji Pantoja continue to support and train the next generation of leaders for PeaceBuilders community, your donations are needed to facilitate this transition which will be complete in 2026.

Giving Designation:  
Pantoja support

The Malipayon Peace Hub in Mindanao, Philippines, is a dream becoming a reality through your giving! The project includes a new peace and reconciliation training centre for Peacebuilders Community Inc (PBCI), an upgraded processing and farmer training centre for Coffee for Peace (CFP), a new staff house and guest house, and a delivery vehicle. The aim is to raise CDN\$235,000 by March 2024.

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/philippines-transition>

Giving Designation: Malipayon Peace Hub



Meal with Indigenous leaders	\$13
Rent for Pantojas and Coffee Roastery	\$840/month
Gasoline to visit Peace and Reconciliation teams	\$1.42/litre
Mobile WiFi for field work	\$42/month

# VIETNAM

Your gifts will enable Witness Liaison Workers, MCBC pastors Nhien Pham and Garry Janzen, to travel to Vietnam once per year for in-person leadership training and relationship building. Online connections including weekly training classes by Nhien Pham are ongoing throughout the year.

Giving Designation:  
Vietnam



“We need to do this ourselves, but we don’t need to do this alone,” says Pastor Heng vice-president of the Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam. Partnership with Mennonite Church Canada spans nearly 30 years but a new season of openness has brought an invitation to strengthen this relationship.



Flight from Vancouver to Ho Chi Min City	\$2200/person
Bus to visit highland congregations	\$62/person
Meal for 4 church leaders	\$12
Gas for drive to Pleiku from HCM City	\$120 (at \$1.14/litre)



# TRAINING RESOURCES

*“We are Mennonite, but we want to learn more about what that means.”*

*“You need to be faithful in telling us what you have learned, we will figure out what parts of that fit into our context.”*

*“Don’t be so quiet about the gift that God has given you in Anabaptist teaching.”*

Giving Designation:  
Short Term Ministry  
Resource Workers.

*“It is time for the Anabaptist message to be heard in Asia. It fits into our context as a church in the minority.”*

Something is happening in Asia! Messages like these are pouring in. International partners are urging us to step forward and speak out. We are indeed rich in teaching resources and have generous offers from Canadian teachers to share what God has given them to teach. Mennonite teachers in Asia are willing to visit neighbouring countries to share their experience and learning. Your gifts will connect these teachers to the people asking for their input.

*“You are rich in teaching resources. We have other resources we can share with you.”*



Travel from international airport to training site:	\$120
One meal for training class:	\$55
Lodging for teacher, 5 days	\$200



# GIVING INFORMATION

Designate your gifts to one of the projects in Southeast Asia described in this catalogue or to other International Witness programs.

Thank you for your generosity in building up the global church and strengthening relationships where we can share God's gifts with each other. Lives are being changed. Hope is growing.

We need each other as we are knit together in Christ!

Donations can be mailed by cheque to:  
Mennonite Church Canada  
600 Shaftesbury Blvd.  
Winnipeg, MB. R3P 0M4

Donations can be made by credit card on the Mennonite Church Canada giving page:  
<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/giving>

You can also give through your local Mennonite church or Regional Church office.

