

# Mennonite Weekly Review

Putting the Mennonite world together

## Asians strengthen Anabaptist identity



Worshippers sing during the Mennonite World Conference Asia Caucus training sessions in Kolkata, India. "When we tired of sitting, we sang!" one participant said. They sang "Jesus Loves Me" in every language spoken by people in the room. Bert Lobe/MWC

## Worshiping against the grain

To go gluten-free, churches eliminate wheat products from communion

By **TIM HUBER**  
Mennonite Weekly Review

When Lovina Rutt was diagnosed with celiac disease in 2000, elimination of wheat products from her diet had repercussions — both in the fellowship hall and the sanctuary.

When the bread was passed during communion time at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind., she simply skipped straight to the little cup of grape juice.

"It was more difficult when we observed communion using the intinction method," Rutt said of dipping pieces of bread in a shared cup. "I think I simply stayed home on those days or simply abstained."

She didn't want to make a big deal about it or cause problems for the lead pastor, at the time her brother Firman Gingerich. "Slowly we went to fewer potlucks and dropped out of going to the Wednesday evening meals because it was so hard to find anything to eat except salad, and sometimes salads included croutons which made even that off limits," she said. "It was just

■ See **Gluten-free**, page 2

## 18 national churches send representatives to India

By **RON REMPEL**  
Mennonite World Conference

**K**OLKATA, India — Strengthening Anabaptist identity, learning more about Mennonite World Conference and proposing priorities for the future were the main issues for Asian members of the MWC General Council at a training session for the Asia Caucus.

Thirty-two people — 29 men and three women from 18 national churches in Asia and the Pacific — attended the event Nov. 15-19 in Kolkata. Vietnam and Australia were the only countries not represented.

A representative from the Mennonite Brethren Conference in Japan, which is not a member of MWC, also attended. Cynthia

**Anti-conversion legislation pending in four states in India poses challenges for the vision of expanding the church there.**

Peacock of India and Bert Lobe of Canada were the conveners, with assistance from Shant Kunjam and Manjula Roul, both from India.

In anticipation of the next gathering of the MWC General Council in May in Switzerland, the Asian Caucus members proposed priorities for the three years leading up to the 2015 assembly in Harrisburg, Pa.

The proposals include strong encouragement to include inter-

faith dialogue as an MWC priority, since interfaith relations are a reality for many of the congregations. Currently MWC engages in dialogue only with other Christian groups.

Other proposals included: work camps for youth, focusing on Anabaptist identity, perhaps in a "mini-assembly" format; workshops on peace as foundational to the gospel, and leadership training; focus on women and their role in the church and

its ministries, perhaps the formation of a network of Asian women theologians; and increased regional exchanges of pastors.

The participants also finalized a proposal for the merger of Asia Mennonite Conference, started in 1971, with the MWC Asia Caucus.

Each of the participants shared what God is doing in their churches and conferences.

A desire to learn more about their Anabaptist identity ranked high on the list of interests named by participants. They expressed appreciation for the sessions on Anabaptist perspectives led by Robert J. Suderman and Bert Lobe of Canada, who had

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## TEA TIME

Goshen student-run business steeped in Mennonite culture

By **SHELDON C. GOOD**  
Mennonite Weekly Review

**W**ith just four simple ingredients, two Goshen College students are hoping to "create a culture" by brewing Menno Tea.

"We don't want to just have teas that taste good but have stories with meaning behind the teas," said Hans Weaver, a junior from New Holland, Pa. "We want to bring people together and create community."

His brewing partner, Niles Graber Miller, is a sophomore from Goshen, Ind.

They've sold about 20,000 bottles of The Original Menno Tea, a simple drink with an ambitious purpose: to create a culture based on living simply and sustainably, valuing diverse traditions and cherishing relationships.

They debuted the drink last March in Goshen. The name and recipe play off the meadow tea Weaver's Mennonite family brews in their Lancaster County, Pa., home.

The tea became a hit at Goshen College last spring, Weaver said. It is now available at 10 locations in northern Indiana and 10 in Lancas-



ter County.

Five cents from every bottle sold goes to the Everence Sharing Fund, which meets basic needs of thousands of families each year.

■ See **Menno Tea**, page 7

## Winding road of loss, love leads old friends together

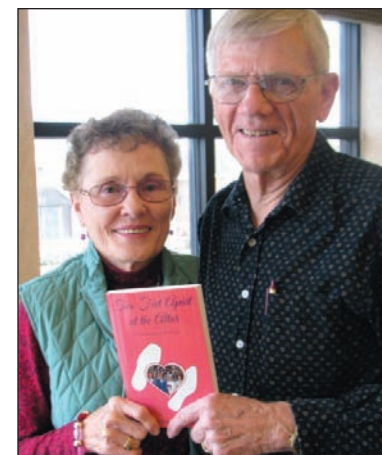
By **Laurie Oswald Robinson**  
For Mennonite Weekly Review

**HESSTON, Kan.** — After Roy Unruh lost two wives in tragic accidents, he struggled to trust that God would provide strength and courage to meet the trials that lay before him.

But he never dreamed his path would include a third marriage, to Mildred Martens. Mildred was the best friend of his first wife, Delores, and also the wife of his best friend, the late Mel Martens.

Today, Roy Unruh and Mildred Martens-Unruh are best friends, as they share married life as 80-year-olds. They tell their story of how God led them down winding roads of loss and love in their self-published book, *Two Feet Apart at the Altar: Four Love Stories and Five People*.

"When tragedy strikes, many



Mildred Martens-Unruh and Roy Unruh

people stop believing in a God who allows bad things to happen," Roy Unruh said in a recent interview. "I grappled with those

■ See **Couple**, page 6



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Argentinian church planters support themselves and evangelize by starting small businesses / 6

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