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Learn about Indonesian Mennonites before Assembly 17
A Cloud of Witnesses offers resources for Mennonite World Conference 2022

HARRISONBURG, Va. — Every six years, Mennonite World Conference (MWC) hosts a global assembly. On July 5–10, 2022, MWC will celebrate the 17th assembly of Mennonites from all around the world in Semarang, Indonesia. In preparation for the event, author John D. Roth traces the 170-year history of Mennonites in Indonesia as well as the cultural and religious history of the country in *A Cloud of Witnesses: Celebrating Indonesian Mennonites* (Herald Press, September 2021).

Intended primarily as a resource for those traveling to Semarang for the 17th MWC assembly, *A Cloud of Witnesses* includes a map of north Central Java, where the conference will be held, a sampling of recipes, practical travel tips, reference notes on culture and language and tourist sites, and other resources that may be useful for both attendees of the MWC assembly and armchair travelers.

The global assembly, which in the past 25 years has taken place in India, Zimbabwe, Paraguay, and the United States, offers opportunities to learn more about the host country and its churches. “The churches of Indonesia offer a fascinating window into the richness of the global Anabaptist-Mennonite church,” writes Roth.

Indonesia is home to the oldest Mennonite community outside of Europe and North America. Three Indonesian church conferences—the Gereja Injili di Tanah Jawa (GITJ), Gereja Kristen Muria Indonesia (GKMI), and Jemaat Kristen Indonesia (JKI)—are serving as hosts for the 2022 MWC. The history of these three groups reaches back to the middle of the nineteenth century. *A Cloud of Witnesses* offers a brief introduction to these conferences (or synods, as they are known in Indonesia) within the larger context of Indonesian history and culture.



John D. Roth is professor of history at Goshen College, editor of *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, and director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism at Goshen College. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago. Roth’s many books include *Choosing Against War: A Christian View*, *Beliefs: Mennonite Faith and Practice*, *Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be*, and *Practices: Mennonite Worship and Witness*. Roth lives in Goshen, Indiana.

To schedule an interview with John D. Roth, contact LeAnn Hamby at 540-908-3941 or LeAnnH@mennomedia.org.

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