

October 2003, *Equipping*



“Let’s Pray”

So begin our family meals, church picnics, planning meetings and worship services. And as we begin our church year, as churches of Mennonite Church Canada, I would like to say “Let’s pray.”

But let’s pray, not as little ceremonials, to begin things, nor like a little warm religious sauce poured over our activities, to legitimize them. Let’s pray for God’s kingdom to come, God’s will to be done, because without God’s working, our efforts will most certainly fail; this is not a quaint bit of pietism, but a theological truth.

First, let’s pray for ourselves. This does not betray a selfish individualism, but personal realism. A rabbi once said, “I pray only when I’m in trouble. I pray all the time. I’m always in trouble.” Let’s pray for open eyes to see what God is doing, so that we can consequently work in harmonious response to God’s working.

Let’s pray for our churches, for unity and for compassion: unity, that we will honour and love one another, compassion, that we will be able to truly welcome those God sends to us.

Let’s pray for those folks who belong to our church families, but with whom we strongly disagree, such as those we find on the opposite end from us on the homosexual issue.

Let’s pray for our denomination and its leaders, both in your area conference and in Mennonite Church Canada. Pray that the missional vision will not falter, but grow and lead us through the challenges ahead. Let’s pray for the unity and integrity of our church.

Jesus prayed before important developments, such as the choosing of his disciples; he prayed during times of crisis, witness Gethsemane; and he prayed regularly, choosing opportunities for solitary prayer.

Like Jesus our Lord, let’s pray.

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