

May 2009, *Equipping* #96



Living Inside Out... Colossians 3:12-17: Assembly 2009, Saskatoon, June 5-7

I continue to reflect on this important passage as we prepare for our Assembly 2009 in a few more weeks. Last time I highlighted the fact that this passage comes in a framework of thankfulness/grace. Whatever we do, whoever we are or want to become, is because of the work of God's grace and is a genuine motive for our thankfulness.

As we approach the Assembly, I think: What would it be like if we used this text as our framework for meeting together? What if we would instruct our Listening Committee to pay attention to how seriously we modelled the instructions in these verses? Just imagine an Assembly where the predominant mood would be:

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Lowliness
- Meekness
- Patience
- Forbearing one another
- Forgiving each other
- Love
- Allowing Christ's peace to rule over us because we are ONE body
- Allowing God's Word to dwell richly in us
- Admonishing each other with wisdom
- Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
- Being thankful
- Doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus

What an awesome Assembly we would have. I would eagerly anticipate such an Assembly.

I would what? I DO look forward very much to Assembly 2009 because I KNOW that this is indeed the spirit in which we will gather. And it surely will be a rich spiritual experience.

At the Assembly:

- We will encourage each other to read, study, and interpret the Bible effectively for the sake of being a faithful church;
- We will be inspired by initiatives that encourage church growth and church health among us;
- We will be informed about the many dynamic ministries, partnerships, and initiatives that are possible by our joint efforts;
- We will be challenged by the difficulties we face and the complexities involved in being Christ's church in Canada today;
- We will discern each others' gifts and commission various among us to particular service and ministry;
- We will worship together and affirm our people-hood in God's presence.

Yes, please do come to Assembly 2009 and participate as you can. You do not need to be a delegate to participate. You are welcome. Our hope is, of course, that this rich instruction from our theme text will be foundational for our life together, not only during Assembly, but during the entire year, in each of our congregations. May God bless our efforts to that end.

—Robert J. Suderman, General Secretary, Mennonite Church Canada