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Inspired by the Word: A phenomenal vocation

Mennonite Church Canada is a body of many parts. This series of five articles will explore how the Word of God inenires us to become the recoils of God and how explore how the Word of God inenires us to become the recoils of God and how Miennonite Unurch Canada is a pody of many parts. This series of five articles will explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the world around explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the world around explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how, explore how the Word of God inspires us to become the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the people of God and how the University to the University explore now the vvora of God inspires us to become the people of God and flow, as a body empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to transform the world around as a body empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to transform to us to become the striving the stripe of the as a body empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to transform the world around us through various ministries. It begins with God's invitation to us to become the Part I of V

church.

That the vocation of the church is a "phenomenal vocation" is evident in the Bible _Robert J. Suderman

The very first thing you encounter wherever you look is this deep and profound Vocation of being a people of God that will demonstrate to the world what from Genesis to Revelation. vocation of being a people of God in King, God reigns, that God's Kingdom and it means that God rules, God is King, God reigns, that God is all combracing it means that God rules, and the other lates and other lates are lates and other lates and othe Il Illeans that you rules, you is know, you reigns, that you's knigurin and authority are here... It is a phenomenal vocation because it is all-embracing authority are here... It is a phenomenal vocation because it is a phenomenal vocation because it is a phenomenal vocation and compaction. aunumy are nere... It is a phenomenal vocation because it is air embler and compassion.

- from the environment to justice, equality, honesty, and compassion.

To be relevant our society assumes that you have to leave the church behind and go to where the action 'really' is, like the military, the United Nations, governments, businesses, and even cultural super-heroes manufactured by

There is a trend, even by churches, to reduce the church's agenda to the sport and entertainment industries. There is a nemu, even by churches, to reduce the church's agenda to areas of activity that are within their immediate grasp — such as prayer, worship, and caring for the needy within their congregational landscape. wurship, and canny for the newly within their congregational landscape.

Essential as these areas of service are, the church's God-given agenda

is much broader, and its potential impact is very wide. The action really is wherever God's people truly become God's The action really is wherever you's people truly become you's people. According to the Biblical record, all the rest is subsidiary people. According to the Biblical record, all the rest is subsidiary

People. According to the overriding vocation of the church.

– even governments – to the overriding vocation of the church.

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." I Cor. 3:11

As a youth, I heard about how difficult it was for biblical teaching to take n was not biblioat toaching to take root in countries like China and India, while, apparently, it was much easier here in Canada. But the tables have turned. Missiologists have said that today Canada and parts of Europe are the most difficult mission fields, where social and cultural contexts make it dif ficult for people to really believe in what the gospel offers. Now we are living on

the hardest ground.

and that is for God's people to be a faithful church.

A loss of confidence in our biblical vocation is the biggest challenge facing the church. Nobody else is raising this agenda or has it as a racing the church, Nubbody else is raising this agenda or has it as a priority. We're looking at how we form leaders and shape resources. priority. We re lourning at now we form leaves and shape a strong

We're trying to ensure that our liturgy and hymns have a we re trying to ensure that our liturgy and hymns have a strong ecclesiology so that if these are the only theological exposure the ecclesiology so that if these are the important conclusion of the important conclusions and the important conclusions are the important conclusions. ecclesiology so man in mese are the only theological exposure perhave, they will absorb some of the important sense of being the

the world is mind-boggling. What happens to a church is the same The world is mind-boggling. What happens to a church is the same as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes passionate as what happens to an individual Christian is imported as what happens to an individual Christian is imported as what happens to an individual Christian is imported as what happens to an individual Christian is imported as what happens to an individual Christian is imported as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes passionate as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes passionate as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes passionate as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes passionate as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes passionate as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes passionate as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes passionate as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes passionate as what happens to an individual Christian who becomes the christian who becomes the christian who becomes the christian who becomes the christian who are characteristically as the christian who are characteristically as the christian who can be characteristically as the characteristical christian who can be characteristically as the cha as wnat nappens to an manuaual Unnstian who becomes passionall as what nappens to an individual Unnstian who becomes passionall as what nappens to an individual Unnstian who becomes passionally as what nappens to an individual Unnstian who becomes passionally as what nappens to an individual Unnstian who becomes passionally as what as what have a supported to the providing the church.

