AND, PETER, AGAIN THANKS FOR INVOLVING ME AND OVER TO YOU.

» LOVELY.

THAT'S GREAT, STEPHEN.

I'M AMAZED AT YOUR TECHNICAL ABILITY OF JUGGLING ALL THE

DIFFERENT PARTS OF THIS COMPLICATED PROCESS.

BUT THE REAL POINT IS THAT WE ARE HOPING AND WE ARE WORKING

FOR THIS TO BE A FULLY INCLUSIVE FRENCH AND

ENGLISH EVENT.

WE WANT THIS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AND A

GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW PERHAPS IN THE

FUTURE WE CAN CONTINUE CROSS-CANADA CONVERSATIONS IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.

SO THERE ARE TWO PURPOSES REALLY FOR TODAY AND FOR THE CALL TODAY.

WE'RE MARKING 75 YEARS OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

WE WERE FOUNDED IN 1944, AND AS

ONE WAY TO MARK THIS EVENT, WE'RE HOPING TO

-- WE WANTED TO ORGANIZE THIS CROSS-CANADA CONVERSATION

ON THE THEME OF WHAT IS THE PLACE OF CHRISTIANITY IN

CANADA TODAY.

AND THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING TIME TO REGISTER AND TO

PARTICIPATE WITH US.

BUT THAT'S REALLY THE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO HAVE

THAT BOTH MARK THE 75th ANNIVERSARY AND HAVE THIS CONVERSATION

ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

AND SO I'M READY TO MOVE TO THE NEXT SCREEN, STEPHEN, IF YOU WANT TO TAKE US

THERE.

YOU CAN ADVANCE TO THE NEXT POWERPOINT.

I'M HOPING THAT YOU ALL CAN SEE ALL RIGHT THE POWERPOINT SLIDES AS

THEY ROLL THROUGH.

AND SOMETIMES THERE WILL BE A SLIDE WITH A PICTURE OR TEXT,

AND SOMETIMES YOU WILL SEE THE PRESENTERS.

BUT I'M HOPING THIS PROGRAM CAME INTO YOUR

E-MAIL INBOX.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ATTACHED TO THE CONFIRMATION E-MAIL YOU RECEIVED.

AND IT JUST LISTS THE KIND OF TIMING AND THE

TOPICS STEP BY STEP OF HOW THIS, THE DAY WILL

UNFOLD.

SO WE'RE HERE JUST DOING THE WELCOMES AND WE'LL TAKE A

MOMENT TO CENTRE OURSELVES WITH A READING

AND A PRAYER AND A SONG.

AND THEN WE'LL INVITE STEPHEN TO SAY A FEW WORDS

AS PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

AND WE'RE FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF

CHURCHES RECORDED A BRIEF MESSAGE FOR US TOO.

AND THEN WE'LL ROLL INTO THE PRESENTERS.

WE HAVE FIVE OF THEM ON THE LINE.

AND WE'RE HOPING THAT THIS IS NOT ONLY

A PASSIVE LISTENING EXPERIENCE BUT THAT AT A FEW DIFFERENT

TIMES ALONG THE WAY WE'LL CHECK IN WITH YOU ABOUT

--

WITH SOME QUESTIONS AND TAKE A MOMENT FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN US

IN THE CHAT BOX AND IN PLACES WHERE THERE'S A LOCAL GROUP WITH ONE ANOTHER.

OKAY.

SO IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE FINDING THAT PROGRAM BUT

WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT, I SUGGEST MAYBE YOU JUST DROP YOUR E-MAIL

ADDRESS IN THE CHAT BOX.

AND I BELIEVE NICOLE, THE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, COULD SEND IT RIGHT YOUR WAY SO IT COMES IN.

ALL RIGHT.

STEPHEN, ON TO THE NEXT ONE.

THIS IS ANOTHER RESOURCE PAGE THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO

CONSIDER VISITING DURING THE CALL, IF YOU'RE WANTING TO CLICK AROUND AND MAKE A FEW

MORE LINKS.

THIS IS THE PAGE THAT YOU COME TO IF YOU CLICK ON THE OPENING PAGE, THE

LANDING PAGE.

AND THERE'S INFORMATION THERE ABOUT THE PRESENTERS.

THERE'S SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER

26th ECUMENICAL PUBLISH WORSHIP SERVICE, PUBLIC GATHERING

SERVICE, THAT WE ORGANIZED IN TORONTO LAST MONTH, A MONTH

AGO.

YEAH.

SOME NICE PICTURES THERE AS WELL AS IF YOU CLICK ON THE NEWS ITEM THAT COMES

UP AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE, THE NEWS ITEM ABOUT THE

SEPTEMBER 26th SERVICE, YOU WILL FIND, FOR EXAMPLE,

THE REALLY WONDERFUL ADDRESS BY MODERATOR AMANDA

CURRY ON GROWING UP TOGETHER.

IT'S ANOTHER NICE RESOURCE THAT'S BEEN GIFTED TO US AS PART

OF THIS PROCESS.

SO I WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT WEB

PAGE.

ONE MORE EVENT, STEPHEN, PLEASE CLICK ON THROUGH.

SO TAKE A MOMENT TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

AND LET ME INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN

SILENTLY OR WITH OTHERS WHO ARE THERE IN THIS BRIEF ACT OF

ADORATION AND PRAYER.

THIS IS REALLY ADAPTED FROM THE FIRST PUBLIC WORSHIP SERVICE THAT WAS

HELD IN TORONTO IN 1944.

AND THE TEXT COMES FROM THERE WITH A FEW

ADAPTATIONS.

SO LET ME LEAD YOU WITH JUST AN ALTERNATING ENGLISH AND

FRENCH READING AND RESPONSE OF THIS ACT OF

ADORATION.

» GOD IS SPIRIT, AND THEY WHO WORSHIP GOD

MUST WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.

GLORY BE TO GOD

ON HIGH.

GLORY BE TO GOD

ON HIGH.

GOD IS LIGHT.

THERE IS NO

DARKNESS.

GOD IS RIGHTEOUS.

GOD'S NAME IS HOLY.

GLORY BE TO GOD

ON HIGH.

THERE WERE TWO TEXTS THAT WERE PART OF THAT SERVICE,

AND THIS IS ONE OF THEM.

LET ME LEAD THIS, A BRIEF READING, A

REMINDER OF THIS TEXT FROM EPHESIANS

4:1 EVER 7 AND THEN A SECOND PART OF

EPHESIANS COMES NEXT.

THIS IS THE APOSTLE

CALL.

I THEREFORE, THE PRISONER IN THE LORD, BEG YOU TO LEAD A LIFE WORTHY OF THE CALLING TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED, WITH ALL

HUMILITY AND GENTLENESS, WITH PATIENCE, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE, MAKING EVERY

EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.

THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED

TO THE ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING, ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE

BAPTISM, ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS ABOVE ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL.

BUT EACH OF US WAS GIVEN GRACE ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF CHRIST'S GIFT.

UNTIL ALL OF US COME TO THE UNITY OF THE FAITH AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, TO MATURITY, TO THE MEASURE OF THE

FULL STATURE OF CHRIST.

WE MUST NO LONGER BE CHILDREN, TOSSED TO AND FRO AND BLOWN ABOUT BY EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE,

BY PEOPLE'S TRICKERY, BY THEIR CRAFTINESS IN DECEITFUL SCHEMING.

BUT SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, WE MUST GROW UP IN EVERY WAY INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD, INTO

CHRIST, FROM WHOM THE WHOLE

BODY, JOINED AND KNIT TOGETHER BY EVERY LIGAMENT WITH WHICH IT

IS EQUIPPED, AS EACH PART IS WORKING PROPERLY, PROMOTES THE BODY'S GROWTH IN BUILDING ITSELF

UP IN LOVE.

» FOR THIS ONE, THIS IS JUST A SHORT

PSALM.

AND YOU MAY WANT TO JUST HUM

ALONG OR LET ME LEAD YOU IN A SINGING OF LAUDATE OMNES GENTES.

[ ¶¶¶ ]

[ Singing ]

[ Singing ]

[ Singing ]

[ Singing ]

» STEPHEN, COULD YOU SAY A WORD

ABOUT THE THEME AND THE TOPIC TODAY

AND THE EVENT.

» I WOULD BE HAPPY TO.

CAN I JUST MAKE SURE THAT I'M ABLE TO BE SEEN

AND HEARD?

» STEPHEN?

» IT'S LOUD AND CLEAR.

GO AHEAD, STEPHEN.

» OKAY.

THANK YOU.

WELL, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD MY WELCOME TO THAT OF PETER'S.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I'M

SPEAKING TO YOU FROM THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON WHAT'S CALLED AMHERST ISLAND NEAR KINGSTON WHICH WAS

ORIGINALLY KNOWN TO THE

IROQUOIS NATION.

IT STRIKES ME WE COULD HAVE MANY MANY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES

FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST TODAY.

THAT'S PART OF THE EXCITEMENT I'M FEELING NOW AS WE ENTER INTO THESE CONVERSATIONS.

AND I PRAY THAT AS WE MEET

THIS IS ALSO PART OF SEEKING TO LIVE OUT THE CALLS TO

ACTION IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS PEOPLES IN CANADA.

SO AS PETER SAID, THERE'S A COUPLE OF REASONS

WHY WE WANTED TO HAVE AN EVENT SUCH AS THIS.

IT PART OF OUR 75th ANNIVERSARY.

IT REPRESENTS A DESIRE TO CONNECT ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND NOT

JUST IN THE TORONTO ZONE, WHICH WE'RE SOMETIMES ACCUSED OF BEING

TOO CLOSE TO TO TALK ABOUT THE PLACE OF CHRISTIANITY TODAY.

AND WE HOPE THAT IT WILL ALSO HELP THE DECISIONMAKING

PROCESS OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AS WE PREPARE FOR PLANNING

FOR THE FUTURE FOR THE COMING

YEARS.

WE HAVE DONE A NUMBER OF EVENTS THAT LOOK TOWARD

-- THAT SORT OF SPEAK TO THESE QUESTIONS THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE SPEAKING

TO TODAY.

AND THERE WILL BE MORE TO COME.

I WILL SAY A BIT ABOUT THAT IN A MOMENT.

I EXPECT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO LISTENED TO

KANYE WEST'S NEW ALBUM JESUS IS KING THIS MORNING.

IF YOU MANAGED TO GET THROUGH TO TRACK 8, HANDS ON,

THERE'S A KIND OF -- MAYBE AN INDICTING OR COMPELLING

LINE.

HE SAYS, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN HEARING FROM THE CHRISTIANS?

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN HEARING FROM THE

CHRISTIANS?

AND I THINK THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

YOU KNOW, IT'S A QUESTION WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES.

WHAT ARE WE HEARING FROM CHRISTIANS IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE TODAY?

WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TODAY TO HAVE A NUMBER OF EXCELLENT PRESENTERS WHO

COME FROM SIGNIFICANT AREAS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THE CONVERSATION

OF CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA TODAY.

NOW I SHOULD SAY THE AREAS WE'RE FOCUSSING ON ARE BY NO

MEANS EXHAUSTIVE OR COMPLETE.

AND WE'RE NOT EXPECTING OUR SPEAKERS TO SPEAK EVEN SPECIFICALLY ON THE

AREAS THAT WE'RE FOCUSSING ON.

WE COULD NOT EXPECT BISHOP SIMARD, FOR EXAMPLE, TO REPRESENT THE

ENTIRE FRANCOPHONE REALITY OF CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA, NOR COULD WE

ASK MARY FONTAINE TO SPEAK TO THE ENTIRE INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE IN

CANADA.

THESE ARE CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN THEIR AREA WHO WILL ADDRESS THE

TOPIC OF CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA TODAY IN THE WAY THEY DEEM

APPROPRIATE, AND WE THANK THEM FOR THIS AND LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR INSIGHTS

VERY MUCH.

IN ADDITION TO THIS SIMPLY BEING, I THINK, A VERY INTERESTING AFTERNOON AND DEPENDING

ON WHERE YOU ARE, MORNING, REFLECTING ON THE PLACE OF CTV

-- CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA TODAY, THIS IS ONE OF FOUR EVENTS

HELPING THE CCC FOCUS ITS DIRECTION FOR THE NEXT.

IT BEGAN WITH THE EXECUTIVE OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL HAVING A COUPLE OF DAYS OF RETREAT

TOGETHER THINKING OF THIS.

THERE WAS A 75th ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE AT

YORKMINISTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH WHERE THE CANADIAN COUNCIL WAS BORN 75 YEARS

AGO.

THAT WAS IN SEPTEMBER.

AND THE SERVICE WAS PREFACED WITH A GATHERING OF LEADERS FROM THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OVER THE

YEARS, GENERAL SECRETARIES, PAST PRESIDENTS, PAST VICE PRESIDENTS,

CHAIRS AND MEMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMISSIONS.

THAT WAS A VERY RICH CONVERSATION WHICH CONSIDERED THESE QUESTIONS TOO.

WE HAVE TODAY'S EVENT AND THEN THE GOVERNING BOARD IN NOVEMBER WILL CARRY

ON THE CONVERSATION.

PETER SUGGESTED TO ME THAT I JUST MAYBE GIVE A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW

I SEE THIS IN MY OWN CHURCH, THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN

CANADA, WHERE I HAVE SERVED FOR SOME 20 YEARS IN

DENOMINATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

I GUESS FIRST I WOULD SAY THOSE TWENTY YEARS HAVE BEEN MARKED BY THE LEGACY OF RESIDENTIAL

SCHOOLS.

WE'RE STILL LEARNING.

WE'RE STILL WORKING ON A NEW PATH FOR OUR JOURNEY IN LIGHT OF THAT TERRIBLE LEGACY.

TWENTY YEARS HAVE ALSO BEEN A PERIOD IN OUR DENOMINATION AND I THINK MANY

OF CONTINUED DECLINE IN THE CHURCH, AT LEAST BY THE NUMBER OF

WORSHIPPERS WHILE THIS STARTED IN THE LATE '60s, I THINK OUR

CHURCH AT LEAST, WE'RE FINALLY REALIZING THAT IT'S HAPPENING AND TRYING TO

ADDRESS IT.

WHERE WE ONCE HAD A MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT PRESENCE

IN FRANCOPHONE CANADA, I AM SAD TO SAY, I THINK WE HAVE ONE, PERHAPS TWO,

AMONG OUR 900

WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES THAT IS FRENCH SPEAKING OR FRENCH WORSHIPPING AND SO THAT ASPECT

IS VERY IMPORTANT.

OUR CHURCH ALSO AND THE CCC, THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, HAVE BEEN ENJOYING NEW

CONNECTIONS WITH NEW CANADIANS.

SOME OF OUR MOST VIBRANT CHURCHES ARE FILLED WITH NEW CANADIANS.

AND

SOME OF THE NEW DENOMINATIONS WITH THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ALSO REPRESENT

THIS.

SO ALL OF THIS IS TO SAY THAT FOR ME AND FOR OUR CHURCH, AND I HOPE I SPEAK FOR

YOU ALSO, THIS IS A VERY RELEVANT CONVERSATION THAT WE'RE HAVING.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS WELCOMED AT POINTS IN THE PROGRAM.

THERE'S THE CHAT THAT'S BEEN MENTIONED ALREADY.

AND WE'LL BE VERY GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE ANY PARTICIPANT

INSIGHTS BY E-MAIL OR PHONE AFTER TODAY'S EVENT AS WELL.

AND SO I SAY THANK YOU VERY MUCH, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE

REST OF THE AFTERNOON.

AND I THINK I HAVE A FEW MOMENTS TO SPEAK AT THE END.

» THAT'S GREAT, STEPHEN.

EXCELLENT.

SO THAT'S A FANTASTIC WAY TO SORT OF SET THE

STAGE.

AND LET ME JUST INVITE STEPHEN TO CLICK THROUGH TO

A SHORT VIDEO CLIP FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES THAT HE RECORDED EARLIER THIS YEAR TO MARK

THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST, ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, I SEND THE CONGRATULATIONS AND GREETINGS TO

ALL OF YOU AS YOU CELEBRATE THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

YOU ARE A PIONEER.

YOU ARE OLDER THAN THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, AND YOU'RE ALSO A PIONEER IN WORKING FOR

UNITY, FOR JUSTICE, FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN YOUR

COUNTRY AND FAR BEYOND.

WE SEE IN THE CHURCHES IN CANADA A VERY STRONG ECUMENICAL

COMMITMENT, AND WE FEEL IT EVERY DAY AS A STRONG SUPPORT TO WHAT

WE DO ALSO AS THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

THIS WAS VERY CLEAR AND VISIBLE WHEN YOU HOSTED THE ASSEMBLY IN

1983 IN VANCOUVER.

YOU BROUGHT THEN ALSO NEW DIMENSIONS AND NEW AGENDAS FOR

THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

ONE OF THEM WAS THE VERY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FIRST NATIONS AND, THEREFORE,

ALSO TO OUR PROGRAM FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

BUT YOU ALSO HAVE RAISED ISSUES OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION IN

YOUR COUNTRY AND WITH RELEVANCE FOR THE WORLD AND THE MANY OTHER

PARTS OF THE WORLD WHERE SUCH PROCESSES AND SUCH COMMISSIONS

ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.

WE HAVE NOW STARTED PREPARING THE ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES TO BE

HELD IN GERMANY IN KARLSRUHE IN

2021 WITH A THEME CHRIST'S LOVE MOVES THE WORLD TO RECONCILIATION AND UNITY.

IT'S QUITE CLEAR TO ME THAT YOUR EXPERIENCES AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE VERY

SIGNIFICANT IN PREPARING THIS ASSEMBLY AND IN THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF.

TO WORK FOR RECONCILIATION AND UNITY REQUIRES A SENSE OF TRUTH

AND JUSTICE TO BE FULFILLED BUT

ALSO TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO WORK AS CHRISTIANS, AS FOLLOWERS OF

JESUS CHRIST TODAY, SHOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST AND HOW THE LOVE

OF CHRIST MOVES US AND MOVES THE WORLD INTO NEW REALITIES THAT

ONLY GOD CAN CREATE, BUT WE'LL BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE AND TO

WORK TOGETHER AS YOU DO AS CHURCHES IN CANADA.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOUR JOURNEY ALSO IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

[ Music

].

» GREAT, THANK YOU, STEPHEN, FOR MONITORING THAT AGAIN AND

SHOWING THAT.

SO JUST A COMMENT ON THAT, IT'S

GREAT TO HAVE SEVERAL DIFFERENT WORLD CHRISTIANS THAT

WE CONNECT WITH, THE WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE, THE WORLD COUNCIL OF

CHURCHES, THE VATICAN, THE WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORM

CHURCHES, AND THOSE GLOBAL ECUMENICAL RELATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT

FOR THE LIFE OF THE COUNCIL.

AND WHILE THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ARE NOT THE SAME

AND WE'RE NOT PART OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION EVEN, WE ARE ALL

PART OF ONE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT.

AND SO

IT'S GREAT TO BE IN THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER.

OKAY.

SO THOSE ARE, LET'S SAY, SOME INTRODUCTORY PIECES

ABOUT THE EVENT AND THE TIME,

THE TOPIC.

AND I WOULD JUST LIKE TO IN THE PROGRAM -- WE'RE AT THE SECTION THAT SAYS

WHO ARE WE IN THIS CONVERSATION, AND LET ME

JUST SAY THAT THIS IS A TIME

TO SWITCH THE ACTION.

AND THIS IS THE FIRST OF MAYBE TWO OR THREE MORE

TIMES WHEN I'LL INVITE YOU TO JUST PUT INTO THE CHAT

BOX WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT BRINGS YOU

TO THE CONVERSATION TODAY.

IF YOU'RE MONITORING ON YOUR OWN LAPTOP, JUST A SHORT

SENTENCE OR A PHRASE WOULD BE GREAT.

IF YOU'RE MEETING IN SASKATOON OR IN OTTAWA OR SOME OTHER LOCATION AND

YOU'RE WITH A FEW OTHERS, WE'LL TAKE JUST TWO MINUTES OF QUIET

AND TURN TO ONE ANOTHER TO SAY, ACTUALLY, WHAT BROUGHT

YOU HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO HEAR TODAY DURING THE

CONVERSATION?

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING FOR?

AND MAYBE SOMEONE THERE WHO'S CONNECTED TO THE KEYBOARD CAN

PUT IN JUST COUPLE OF THOSE RESPONSES IN THE CHAT BOX TOO.

SO I'M GOING TO GO QUIET NOW FOR TWO MINUTES UNTIL

1:35 ON MY SCREEN WHEN WE'LL MOVE TO LISTENING TO THE

PARTICIPANTS.

SO PLEASE BRING THAT GROUP CHAT BOX TO LIFE.

» SUPER.

SO GREAT TO SEE ALL OF THESE FOLKS, ALL OF YOU CLICKING IN.

AGAIN, LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THAT BOX AND NOTE SOME COMMENTS OR

QUESTIONS AS THEY SHOW UP IN YOUR CONVERSATION OR IN

YOUR OWN MIND AS YOU'RE WATCHING AND FOLLOWING.

OKAY.

SO DRIFTING NOW TO THE PART OF OUR PROGRAM WHERE WE'RE LISTENING TO SOME

OTHER FOLKS WHO HAVE DONE SOME REFLECTION AND PREPARES, THEY HAVE BEEN ASKED TO

SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES FROM WHERE THEY ARE, THAT'S

PASTOR JOANNE LAM AND BISHOP NOEL SIMARD AND DR.

MARIE WILSON.

SOME OF THEIR DETAILS ARE ON THE SCREEN IN FRONT OF YOU AND THEIR BIOS

WERE, OF COURSE, ALSO ON THE POSTER SHEET THAT WAS CIRCULATED.

AND THEY'RE ALSO ON THAT WEBSITE PAGE THAT I POINTED

YOU TO EARLIER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY COME

FROM.

BUT WE'LL START WITH PASTOR JOANNE LAM, AND THEN IT'S BISHOP

NOEL SIMARD.

AND JUST A REMINDER, BISHOP NOEL SIMARD

HAS BEEN ASKED TO SPEAK IN FRENCH EVEN THOUGH HE'S PERFECTLY BILINGUAL.

HE'S A WONDERFUL MAN TO WORK WITH.

I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM HIM.

WE HAVE ASKED THAT HE SPEAK IN FRENCH.

SO BE READY WITH YOUR CLOSED CAPTIONING OR THE

INTERPRETATION IF YOU'RE ENGLISH SPEAKING AND WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW ALONG IN

THAT WAY.

AND THEN DR. MARIE WILSON, I WANT TO MENTION THAT WE HAVE ALSO ASKED HER TO

SPEAK FROM A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

IF PASTOR JOANNE AND BISHOP NOEL AND

PASTOR MARIE ARE

SPEAKING FROM A MINISTRY AND MISSION CONTEXT, WE HAVE ASKED DR.

MARIE WILSON TO REFLECT FROM HER PERSONAL EXPERIENCE BUT ALSO IN THE WAKE OF WHAT

STEPHEN MENTIONED HAS BEEN SUCH A FORMATIVE THING IN THE LIFE OF CHURCHES IN CANADA RECENTLY

IN THE WAKE OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION ON

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS.

SO SHE'S BRINGING A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

WE'LL HEAR FROM THESE THREE, AND THEN WE'LL HAVE A PAUSE AGAIN, A

PARTICIPANT MOMENT CONNECTION PIECE.

AND THEN WE'LL HEAR FROM PASTOR KEN AND PASTOR MARY.

AND THEN THERE WILL BE SOME CONVERSATION AMONG THEM AND THEN

A BIT MORE CROSS-CANADA CONVERSATION.

SO, STEPHEN, IF YOU COULD BRING UP PASTOR JOANNE, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

AND I WONDER.

I HAVE NOTICED THAT WHEN I SPEAK

AND WHEN STEPHEN KENDALL WAS SPEAKING, WE'RE IN SMALL SCREENS

ALONGSIDE MANY OTHER BOXES.

I WONDER IF YOU CAN ENLARGE HER PICTURE SO THAT

SHE FILLS THE WHOLE SCREEN AND THE SAME FOR BISHOP NOEL

ALONG THE WAY.

BINGO.

NICE.

OVER TO YOU.

THANK YOU, JOANNE.

» OKAY.

JUST WANT TO CHECK TO MAKE SURE.

CHECKING, 1-2-3.

» IT SOUNDS GOOD.

AWESOME.

» FIRST, THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

OF COURSE, I HAVE TO SAY HI MOM, HI DAD.

I THINK THE QUESTION THAT WAS POSED TO US IN TERMS OF, WHAT IS

THE PLACE OF CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA TODAY, IS A SIMILAR QUESTION THAT

I OFTEN ASK MYSELF THROUGHOUT THE PREVIOUS 42 YEARS.

WHAT IS MY PLACE IN THE WORLD?

WHY AM I NECESSARY AS A CHRISTIAN, AS A PERSON?

AND SO IT MADE ME THINK BACK TO WHEN I WAS AT THE RIPE AGE OF

TEN AND A HALF.

OF COURSE, I KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE WORLD.

I MOVED WITH MY PARENTS FROM HONG KONG

TO SASKATCHEWAN, IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE PLACE, IT'S MOOSE JAW, SASKATCHEWAN.

AND SO YOU CAN IMAGINE I PROBABLY STOOD OUT IN MOST

PLACES.

AND SO MY MOTIVATION AND PURPOSE OF BEING AT THAT POINT WAS TO BLEND IN.

SO I SPOKE WITHOUT AN ACCENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

AND I DRESSED LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE BECAUSE I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO

STICK OUT.

IT WASN'T UNTIL I WAS ABOUT TWENTY SOMETHING THAT I REALIZED THAT PERHAPS

GOD PUT ME IN THIS CONTEXT TO STICK OUT.

THAT WAS MAYBE MY PURPOSE IN LIFE, TO BRING A DIFFERENT

PERSPECTIVE IN ALL OF THE SITUATIONS AND EXPERIENCES, TO PROPOSE

AN ALTERNATIVE OF LOOKING AT THAT SITUATION

AND ADD A DIVERSITY TO HOW WE SEE THE WORLD AND

THAT THERE IS BEAUTY BEYOND WHAT IS THE STATUS QUO.

SO BACK TO OUR QUESTION OF THE PLACE OF

CHRISTIANITY, I THINK THAT IS PERHAPS OUR TASK.

TO STICK OUT WHERE THERE IS THE STATUS QUO, WHERE THERE IS AN

ESTABLISHMENT OF THAT'S HOW WE DO THINGS

WITHOUT REALLY DELVING INTO THE CHRISTIANITY IN TERMS OF WHAT DO YOU SEE, WHO IS JESUS AND

ALL OF THAT.

IF WE JUST WERE TO SAY JESUS WAS A GUY,

FIRST CENTURY, PALESTINIAN, JEW, WHO JUST FOUND

A FEW PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN WHAT HE WAS SAYING, THIS ALTERNATIVE WAY OF BEING,

THE SOCIAL CHANGE WHERE THE ORPHANS AND THE WIDOWS WEREN'T IGNORED,

WHERE THE POOR WERE UPLIFTED INTO THE CONVERSATION,

WHERE THE PEOPLE THAT WEREN'T SEEN WERE BROUGHT INTO

LIGHT, SO UNTIL THOSE THINGS ARE ALL GONE AND OUT OF OUR OWN

CONTEXT WHERE THERE IS NO LONGER INJUSTICE IN OUR WORLD, THEN PROBABLY THERE IS

STILL A VERY VIBRANT AND NEEDED PLACE FOR CHRISTIANITY.

NOT ONLY IN CANADA BUT THAT ISES SPECIFICALLY TO OUR

CONTEXT TOO.

AND SO WHAT EXACTLY IS THE QUESTION ASKING FOR PERHAPS IS

HOW WE ARE MAKING OURSELVES RELEVANT.

AND SO IF YOU VISIT THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

WEBSITE YOU WILL SEE IN OUR LOGO ON THE VERY BOTTOM AS A REMINDER TO OURSELVES

AND ALSO TO OTHERS THAT WE ARE CALLED TO BE IN MISSION

FOR OTHERS.

HISTORICALLY, WE HAVE BEEN IN MISSION FOR OURSELVES.

AND THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE THE REASON WHY I'M A CHRISTIAN AT THIS POINT, AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR

THAT.

BUT I THINK WE HAVE LEARNED NOW THAT WE NEED TO BE A MISSION

FOR OTHERS, FOR A WORLD THAT IS IN NEED OF CLOTHING THE NAKED,

FEEDING THE HUNGRY, IMPRISONED AND THE LONELY NEEDS

ACCOMPANIMENT.

WHERE WE NEED TO GO INTO THE DARK AND DEEP AND LONELY PLACES AND SIT AND

BE WITH PEOPLE, WHERE WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IN OUR CANADIAN

CONTEXT, WHERE ACCESS TO SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY'RE LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS OR HOW

EVEN WE AS A CHURCH MODEL HOW WE SPEAK ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS IS SOMETHING

THAT IS GOING TO CHANGE THAT STATUS QUO.

THAT PERHAPS WE NEED TO SPEAK ABOUT, HOW DO WE BE WITH PEOPLE AS

THEY ARE FACING END OF LIFE?

THAT NOT ONLY IS A HUMAN RIGHT BUT THAT INTRINSIC PART OF

A HUMAN BEING BEING DIGNIFIED IN THE BIRTH THROUGH THE SPAN OF LIFE THROUGH THE

DEATH IS SOMETHING THAT WE KNOW HOW TO SPEAK TO AND HOW WE CAN

BRING A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

AND SO AS BEING HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST, A MANIFESTATION

OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD, GOD'S MISSION IN THE WORLD, WE ARE

RELEVANT BECAUSE WE DO WHAT WE

SPEAK.

AND SO I THINK IN THE QUESTION OF HOW WE -- WHAT IS THE

PLACE OF CHRISTIANITY, ESPECIALLY IN THE WORK THAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN THE COMMISSION OF FAITH AND

WITNESS, I THINK IT IS TO SHOW A MODEL THAT WE ARE WILLING TO GO

TO A PLACE WHERE WE MIGHT NOT KNOW OR UNDERSTAND.

AS A WHOLE PUNCH OF

PEOPLE AROUND A TABLE, WE PICKED A TALK ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS.

MOST OF US

WENT AROUND AND SAID WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT IT BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE

EXPERTISE.

THAT IS WHERE WE NEED TO SHOW THAT WE WRESTLE WITH THE TOPICS AND ISSUES THAT ARE

RELEVANT TO THE WORLD.

WHAT IS THE GRACE OF GOD SPEAKING TO THE TROUBLE OF THE WORLD?

AND SO IN THAT LIGHT, AS LIBERATED

BY GOD'S GRACE AS ALL SEEN AS CREATION OF GOD AND PEOPLE OF

GOD, MAY WE CONTINUE TO LIVE OUT NOT ONLY IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP

BUT TO ADVOCATE AND TO ACT AND INFILTRATE

ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD IN SOCIETY BECAUSE WE'LL CONTINUE TO LIVE OUT

OUR MISSION TO BE A MIRROR OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE

WORLD.

THANK YOU.

[ Applause ]

» BISHOP SIMARD, OVER TO YOU.

STEPHEN, COULD YOU SWITCH THE

SCREENS?

THERE WE ARE, YEAH,

LOVELY.

YES.

» COULD I MAKE -- I KNOW THAT THE CLOSED CAPTIONERS NEED

TO SWITCH THEIR AUDIO FEED.

OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO LISTEN TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION

AS WELL.

SO BEFORE BISHOP SIMARD SPEAKS IN FRENCH,

I'M GOING TO PUT THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR THE

CLOSED CAPTIONING INTO THE CHAT.

AND IF ANYBODY WANTS TO LISTEN TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION, THEY CAN DIAL

INTO THE PHONE THERE.

AND I'M JUST KIND OF FILLING SOME SPACE SO THAT THE FRENCH CLOSED

CAPTIONER CAN SWITCH FROM LISTENING TO THE TRANSLATOR

TO SWITCH TO LISTENING TO THE ZOOM MEETING.

I NEEDED TO GIVE HER A LITTLE BIT OF TIME

TO MAKE THAT TRANSITION.

I APOLOGIZE FOR INTERRUPTING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

PLEASE GO AHEAD.

» GOOD AFTERNOON AND THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

FOR INVITING ME TO SPEAK TO YOU.

BUT FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES FOR THE

75th ANNIVERSARY AND FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL WORK DONE DURING THE

THE 75 YEARS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO ACCOMPANY THE

MEMBERS, THE LIFE AND THE WORK OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

WHAT IS THE PLACE OF CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA

TODAY?

WELL, I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT THIS, ESPECIALLY WITH THE

VISION OF QUEBEC.

OF COURSE, FRENCH SPEAKING CANADA BUT QUEBEC ESPECIALLY.

AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT FRENCH SPEAKING CANADA, ESPECIALLY

QUEBEC, NOTE AN INCREDIBLE EVOLUTION AT THE

RELIGIOUS LEVEL OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS CHARACTERIZED BY

PLURALISM, PLURALISM THAT WAS MANIFESTED BY

GREATER DIVERSITY OF OPINIONS AND IDEAS,

GREATER DIVERSITY OF

BEHAVIOURS, DIVERSITY OF RELIGIONS.

IN THE PAST IN CANADA, WE WERE -- FRENCH CANADA, IT WAS JUST A

MONOLITHIC BLOCK, MAINLY CATHOLIC.

AND

I HAVE TO SAY, AND EVEN TWENTY YEARS

AGO ON A CHRISTIAN BACKGROUND, CATHOLIC

CHRISTIAN BACKGROUND, WE WOULD SPEAK OF THE GOSPEL, BUT THAT'S NOT THE

CASE ANYONE.

AS WE CAN READ IN THE DOCUMENT PRODUCED BY THE

CANADIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

TODAY, UNFORTUNATELY THERE'S THE DRAMA

FRAGMENTATION THAT DOESN'T ALLOW US TO HAVE A

UNIFYING RELATION.

OFTEN PEOPLE DESIRE OR WANT TO BELONG TO THE CHURCH,

BUT THEY'RE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY VISION OF LIFE THAT'S OPPOSED

TO FAITH, END OF QUOTE.

WELL, PLURALISM, WE'RE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING IN QUEBEC AND FRENCH SPEAKING

CANADA, AND I THINK IT ALSO APPLIES TO ENGLISH SPEAKING CANADA,

CAN BE EXPLAINED BY A VARIETY OF

MOVEMENTS.

IN QUEBEC FOR INSTANCE, INSTITUTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

OF SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS, THEY

USED TO BE CATHOLIC IN THE PAST.

SECULARIZATION

THAT LEADS TO A LIFESTYLE AND

CULTURE WHERE WE HAVE NO REFERENCE TO THE RELIGIOUS OR SACRED

AND ALSO STRIKING DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL

TECHNOLOGY THAT'S LED TO NETWORKS OF CHANGES THAT NEVER EXISTED IN THE

PAST WERE ALL IDEAS AND IDEOLOGIES, ALL THE OPINIONS AND

CONVICTIONS, ALL PHILOSOPHIES AND

SPIRITUALITIES ARE AVAILABLE.

I THINK THAT TODAY WE CAN SPEAK OF INCREDIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF

INTERNET AND SOCIAL

NETWORKS WHERE A LOT OF IDEAS AND IDEOLOGIES

ARE PRESENT.

BUT THE SOCIAL NETWORKS OFFER

PROXIMITY, THIS PROXIMITY IS VIRTUAL.

IT CLOSES PEOPLE OFF IN A VIRTUAL BUBBLE.

IT AN ILLUSION AND FAR FROM REALITY.

WE ALSO HAVE TO NOTE IN THE FRENCH SPEAKING CANADIAN REALITY,

ANTIRELIGIOUS ADVOCACY THAT IS OPPOSED TO RELIGION AND ITS

PRESENCE IN THE PUBLIC SPACE.

WE REALLY WANT RELIGION TO REMAIN AT A PRIVATE LEVEL.

AND, OF COURSE, THE SCANDALS, SEXUAL ABUSE, HAVE REALLY

TARNISHED THE IMAGE OF THE CHURCH AND RIGHTLY SO BECAUSE THESE

ARE DISGUSTING

CRIMES.

BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO GO BEYOND THIS.

THERE IS A TIME FOR

HEALING, OF COURSE.

BUT WITHIN THE CHURCH, WE NEED TO REGAIN OUR

CREDIBILITY.

CATHOLICISM IN FRENCH SPEAKING CANADA DOESN'T HAVE THIS

MONOLITHIC BLOCK APPEARANCE AS WAS THE CASE IN THE

PAST.

WHILE SAYING THEY'RE CATHOLICS, A NUMBER OF QUEBECERS HAVE VIEWS AND

CONVICTIONS THAT ARE VERY DIFFERENT ON FUNDAMENTAL TOPICS LIKE

FAMILY, MARRIAGE, SEXUALITY, MINISTRIES

OF THE CHURCH.

AND I COULD SAY HOW THE DEBATE ON EASTERN

ASIA EXPRESSES VERY

DIFFERENT IDEAS AMONG QUEBECERS WHO STILL SAY

THEY'RE

CATHOLICS.

SO PERHAPS WE HAVE MOVED FROM A CHRISTIAN WORLD THAT WAS A CENTRE

TO THE PERIPHERY.

AND THAT'S DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT.

BUT I THINK THIS IS THE IMAGE OF THE PLACE OF

CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA TODAY.

SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO MAKE

CHRISTIANITY FIND ITS PLACE IN CANADA

TODAY?

I THINK FIRST AND FOREMOST WE NEED TO LIVE

AND ACT AS -- WE NEED TO BE PRESENT.

WE NEED TO BEAR WITNESS.

WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK AND EXPRESS

OUR IDENTITY, OUR

FAITH AND ALSO SPEAK

OF THIS ABILITY TO BE PUBLIC.

THERE'S THIS NOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

THAT COULD BE THREATENED, AND

THEIR ASPECT WOULD BE SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT OR COMMITMENT.

I THINK THAT OUR PLACE AS CHRISTIANS

IN CANADA TODAY WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS LONG AS

WE PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE PUT INTO PRACTICE AND IN

CONCRETE ACTIONS OUR FAITH AND THIS JOY OF THE

GOSPEL.

WE CANNOT ONLY SPEAK AND DO NOTHING.

WE REALLY NEED TO MOVE TO ACTIONS,

ACTIONS THAT TOUCH PEOPLE AND REACH THEM WHERE

THEY ARE.

AND MOST OF ALL, THE UNDERPRIVILEGED, THOSE WHO ARE LEFT ASIDE IN SOCIETY.

WE HAVE TO FIND OUR PLACE IN PUBLIC

SPACE BECAUSE

CHRISTIAN FAITH STARTED WITH A PRESENTATION FROM JESUS CHRIST

WITH THE ANNOUNCING THE GOSPEL IN PUBLIC SPACE.

SO

WE CANNOT SIMPLY PUT

CHRISTIAN FAITH TO A PRIVATE ROOM OR

LIFE IN YOUR OWN PRIVATE HOME.

WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MANIFEST OUR

FAITH, OF COURSE, IN THE RESPECT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DIVERGENCE OF IDEAS

AND OPINIONS.

I THINK WE HAVE TO COME BACK TO OUR SOURCES.

AND SOURCES ARE JESUS CHRIST.

JESUS CHRIST WHO INVITES US TO MAKE A DECISIVE CHOICE AND

FOLLOW HIM.

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS OF THE CHURCH THAT WALKS

TOGETHER.

AND I THINK WE CAN'T STAY SEPARATE ANYMORE.

WE NEED WORK TOGETHER.

WE HAVE TO WALK TOGETHER AND LIVE OUR FAITH FOLLOWING CHRIST

TOGETHER.

AND TO CONCLUDE,

I THINK THAT WE CAN ONLY TAKE THE

MISSIONARY SHIFT, THE MISSIONARY CONVERSION, A CHURCH THAT GOES

OUT, GOES TOWARDS THE OTHERS, TOWARDS THE PERIPHERIES.

I THINK THAT EARLIER JOANNE SPOKE OF THIS, A CHURCH THAT REACHES OUT TO

PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE PERIPHERY OF OUR HEART AND OUR

SOCIETY.

AND, THEREFORE, THE NEED TO WALK ALONG

WITH THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE OFTEN LEFT ASIDE AND

FORGOTTEN SO THEY CAN COME BACK NOT TO US AS A CHURCH TO YOU TO

CHRIST FIRST, WHICH IS THE REAL HEART, THE

CENTRE, THE DRIVER OF

FAITH.

AND I THINK IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES, WE NEED TO BE

CHRISTIANS WHO ARE FILLED WITH HOPE AND JOY.

AND I'M THE SPOKESPERSON OF POPE FRANCIS WHO

SAYS HOW WE HAVE TO STATE, ANNOUNCE, AND LIVE THE JOY OF THE

GOSPEL AND THE JOY OF LOVE.

AND I SAW THIS LAST FRIDAY WHEN

I VISITED THE NIGHT OF THE HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THREE CITIES OF

MY

DIOCESE.

THIS IS THE GOSPEL IN ACTION.

THIS IS THE WAY WE WILL FIND OR REGAIN OUR PLACE, NOT ONLY

ANNOUNCING JESUS CHRIST BUT BRINGING HIM THROUGH ACTIONS

AND LIFESTYLE.

THAT'S TRULY

EVANGELICAL.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

» STEPHEN, YOU SAID TO GIVE THE FOLKS JUST A LITTLE BIT OF TIME

TO SWITCH BACK THE AUDIO FEEDS FOR THE CLOSED

CAPTIONERS.

SO WHEN YOU THINK IT'S READY, STEPHEN, AND THE TIME IS

RIGHT, LET ME INVITE DR. MARIE WILSON TO FILL OUR SCREENS AND

SHARE YOUR INSIGHTS AS WELL.

» THANK YOU, PETER.

I SUSPECT THAT'S ENOUGH TIME.

AND DR. MARIE, WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING WHAT YOU HAVE TO

SAY.

» WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AND I WANT TO BEGIN AND THANK YOU, STEPHEN, FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY.

THANK YOU, PETER, FOR CALLING US ALL TOGETHER WITH THIS GOOD IDEA.

I TOO NORMALLY WOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGING TERRITORY

ON TREATY 8 AREA WHERE I LIVE IN YELLOWKNIFE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND

TREATY 11 WHERE WE ALSO SHARE ANCESTRAL COMMUNITY.

BUT, IN FACT, TODAY I AM ON THE TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE ALGONQUIN.

AND SO I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE

THAT AS WELL.

I HAVE TO ADMIT BEEN STRUGGLING A LITTLE BIT WITH WHAT TO OFFER HERE TODAY.

BUT I DO WANT YOU TO KNOW AS A STARTING POINT WHERE I COME TO THIS

CONVERSATION.

AND THAT IS -- AND I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN SEE ME

FULLY.

I WILL STAND A BIT.

I WAS RAISED IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO IN A

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN TRADITION.

AND THIS IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST POEMS THAT I REMEMBER.

HERE IS THE CHURCH, HERE IS STEEPLE, OPEN THE DOOR

AND SEE ALL THE PEOPLE.

AND IT'S SOMETHING THAT MY FATHER TAUGHT ME WHEN I WAS A VERY LITTLE GIRL.

AND THE REASON I'M SHARING IT WITH YOU IS BECAUSE IT SPEAKS TO WHAT FOR ME, AND I THINK

FOR MANY PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRY PROBABLY EVEN TODAY, WHAT

OUR GROWING UP NOTION OF CHURCH HAS BEEN, WHICH HAS BEEN A PLACE, A

GATHERING PLACE, A REGULARIZED

GATHERING PLACE FOR PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION, FOR SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, FOR

AFFIRMATION OF COMMUNITY, FOR A SENSE OF MORAL

COMPASS AND INSPIRATION.

AND I WAS WELL INTO ADULTHOOD BEFORE I EVEN HAD

ANY KIND OF AN UNDERSTANDING OR AWARENESS

OF CHURCH AS ALSO BEING ABOUT CHURCH

AS PROPERTY OWNER, CHURCH AS INSTITUTION, CHURCH AS

CORPORATION, CHURCH AS ENTITY WITH ENORMOUS

PUBLIC INFLUENCE.

AND THOSE ARE THE PARTS OF CHURCH

THAT BECAME SO PIVOTAL IN MANY WAYS IN THE

UNFOLDING OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES

THAT LED UP TO IT.

SO I WANT TO WHILE SAYING

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, I WANT TO

RECALL BECAUSE IT SPEAKS TO THE CONCENTRATED TIMELINE OF SO MANY THINGS

THAT HAVE HAPPENED THAT IN 1944 MY PARENTS WERE 17 YEARS

OLD.

NEITHER I NOR MY THREE SIBLINGS

EXISTED YET IN THIS

REALM.

AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS WERE STILL ALIVE AND WELL.

IN FACT, AT THEIR PEAK REALLY ACROSS CANADA

AND THROUGHOUT AND IN SOME PARTS OF THE CANADIAN NORTH HAD NOT YET OPENED

UP AND HAD NOT YET BEGUN.

WHILE WE WERE AS CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES COMING TOGETHER WITH

A BOLD AND MORAL PURPOSE, WE WERE IN A

WAY FAILING AT THAT THING THAT BISHOP HAS JUST SPOKE TO SO

IMPORTANTLY ABOUT PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH.

WE WERE STILL IN MANY WAYS DOING THINGS BEHIND CLOSED

DOORS, OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND, AND FOR REASONS IN PART

OF EXPANSION, OF MISSION THAT HAD TO DO

ALSO WITH COMPENSATION AND

SOLIDIFICATION IN THE EMERGING DOMINION OF CANADA.

THAT IS PART OF OUR STORY AS WELL.

IT PART OF THE ANNIVERSARY STORYLINE THAT WE NEED TO BE CONSCIOUS OF.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THESE PAST COUPLE OF DECADES AS WITH SO MANY OTHER

THINGS IS THE FAST FORWARDING OF THINGS.

THE FAST FORWARDING OF OUR AWARENESS, THE FAST FORWARDING

OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THINGS.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO THINK A FAST FORWARDING OF OUR EFFORTS TO DO SO MUCH BETTER

IN SO MANY WAYS AND TO CONTINUE THE GOODNESS THAT HAS ALSO ALWAYS

BEEN PART OF THAT RIBBON OF THE CHURCH HISTORY AS I HAVE EXPERIENCED IT

GROWING UP AS I DID WITH VERY GOOD PEOPLE

WITH VERY CONSISTENT AND PERSISTENT VALUES

AND TEACHINGS.

AND, YES, INDEED, LOVE WAS AT THE HEART OF THAT.

BUT I ALSO KNOW AS A YOUNG WOMAN WHEN I MOVED TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TO MARRY

MY HUSBAND WHO WAS OF A DIFFERENT CULTURE WHO HAD BEEN A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVOR THOUGH

I DID NOT KNOW IT AT THE TIME OF MARRYING HIM, WHO HAD BEEN RAISED IN AN

IMPOSED SYSTEM OF RELIGION WHICH WAS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TRADITION

T ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TRADITION, I MEAN, YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE

VERY FIRST EXPERIENCES I HAD AS A YOUNG BRIDE WAS NOT

BEING ALLOWED TO REAFFIRM OUR MARRIAGE VOWS

IN THE CHURCH THAT WAS THE ONLY CHURCH AT THAT TIME IN HIS HOME COMMUNITY BECAUSE

I WAS PROTESTANT AND HE WAS CATHOLIC.

AND SO EVEN THOUGH WE HAD AT THAT POINT 30 YEARS OF

EXPERIENCE ALMOST OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, WE STILL HAVE GREAT

DIVIDES AND A KIND OF PERCEIVED HIERARCHY OF SPIRITUALITY

IN OUR MIDST.

AND I THINK THAT THAT IS A REALITY THAT EXPRESSES ITSELF STILL

TODAY IN PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY AND PERHAPS BEYOND

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES TO OTHER FAITH TRADITIONS THAT

ARE NOT YET PART OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

OR THAT THEY'RE STILL NOT AT THE TABLE OR THAT ARE STILL NOT IN THE ROOMS.

AND I THINK THAT THAT IS PART OF OUR JOURNEY THAT

WE HAVE BEEN ON THROUGH THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION IS TO SEE

THAT THERE IS NO HOMOGENOUS VIEW

OF ALL OF THIS.

WE HEARD MANY PEOPLE SAY TO US THINGS LIKE

I LOVE MY CHURCH.

THE CHURCH HAS BEEN SO KEY TO MY HEALING.

BUT WE ALSO HEARD PEOPLE SAY I HATE THE CHURCH.

I HAVE NEVER SET FOOT IN THE CHURCH SINCE I LEFT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, AND I NEVER

WILL.

WE HEARD PEOPLE SAY THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SURROUNDED ME IN

CHURCH HAVE HELPED ME FIND MYSELF.

AND WE HAVE HEARD OTHER PEOPLE SAY, ALL I CAN

REMEMBER IS BEING PUNISHED AND HIT WITH A BIBLE.

WE HEARD PEOPLE SAY, OF COURSE, PHYSICAL

ABUSE AND SEXUAL ABUSE AND REFERENCE HAS BEEN MADE TO THAT

TODAY.

BUT WHAT WE ALSO HEARD -- AND THIS IS THE PART I THINK THAT IS THE HARDEST

FOR US TO HEAR -- WE ALSO HEARD ENORMOUS DETAIL ABOUT

SPIRITUAL ABUSE, AND THAT IS THE PHRASE THAT WAS USED BECAUSE

I THINK THAT WE SOMEHOW THINK THAT IF WE HAD JUST BEEN KINDER AND IF WE HAD

JUST BEEN MORE ATTENTIVE AND PERHAPS IF WE HAD BEEN

MORE VIGILANT, WE WOULD HAVE NOT ALLOWED THOSE INDIVIDUALS

WHO DID GREAT HARM TO HAVE DONE GREAT HARM.

SO I THINK THE INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES BEFORE US, WHETHER AS

CONGREGATIONS OR AS A COUNCIL ACROSS THE COUNTRY IS TO SAY

HOW MANY OF THOSE LESSONS FROM THAT VERY RECENT PAST ARE STILL TRIPPING

US UP TODAY?

AND I THINK OF THINGS LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THIS PAST WEEK, MANY OF US WILL HAVE

SEEN IN THE NEWS, IF WE'RE TO TALK ABOUT A LIVING

FAITH, STORIES OF RAMPANT BULLYING AND ABUSE IN OUR SCHOOL

SYSTEMS.

AND YET THAT NOT BEING RECORDED AND THAT NOT BEING DOCUMENTED.

AND SO WE DON'T HAVE PROPER STATISTICS ON HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE

BEING HARMED.

WELL, ARE WE ABLE THEN TO STAND BACK FROM THAT AS A

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND SAY WE ACTUALLY HAVE SOME

EXPERTISE IN THIS AREA?

WE KNOW WHAT THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES CAN BE WHEN SOMETHING WRONG IS HAPPENING,

AND WE DON'T RECORD IT, WE DON'T REPORT IT, WE DON'T TELL ABOUT IT, AND WE DON'T

ADMIT TO IT.

SO CAN WE OFFER THE HARD EARNED EXPERTISE OF THE WORK

OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION AND THE LEARNINGS THAT WE HAVE HAD

TO FACE UP TO AS VARIOUS CHURCH

TRADITIONS AND COMMUNITIES?

CAN WE BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES IN KNOWING

THAT EVEN THOUGH WE HAD A CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WE STILL HAD IN THIS

COUNTRY IN THE VERY SAME TIMEFRAME CHILDREN WHO WERE

BEING SUPERVISED WHILE ANGLICAN CHILDREN

AND CATHOLIC CHILDREN SPENT THEIR RECESSES THROWING ROCKS AT EACH OTHER?

CAN WE BE BOLD ENOUGH TO NOT JUST KNOW

THAT BUT TO STAND BACK FROM OURSELVES AND SAY, WHERE WERE WE NOT

WATCHING?

ARE WE LOOKING IN THE RIGHT PLACES?

ARE WE HOLDING TO PROPER ACCOUNT?

AND ARE WE ACTING -- AND THIS I WOULD SAY IS THE

THING THAT I WONDER ABOUT THE MOST, IS ARE WE

ACTING WITH SUFFICIENT HUMILITY?

WE HAVE AT THE CENTRE OF OUR TRADITION, AND I SHARE THAT, I WAS RAISED IN THIS

TRADITION, JESUS CHRIST AT THE CENTRE OF ALL OF OUR TEACHINGS AND

ALL OF OUR LONGINGS AND ALL OF OUR

BEST EXAMPLES OF HOW WE ARE MEANT TO BE ON THIS EARTH.

AND YET WE KNOW.

AND CAN WE EASILY SAY THAT ON THIS VERY

CONTINENT THERE ARE SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS THAT ARE TEN AND

15,000 YEARS OLDER THAN THE TEACHINGS THAT WE HAVE ALL LEARNED FROM JESUS

CHRIST?

AND NOT TO SAY ANY ONE IS BETTER THAN THE OTHER.

BUT HOW THEN DO WE MAKE A COUNCIL AND A CIRCLE OF SPIRITUAL

TRADITION AND BELIEF WIDE ENOUGH THAT THERE IS PLACE FOR ALL OF US

IN THAT?

I THINK ABOUT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION,

AND I THINK ABOUT THE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND POWERFUL STATEMENTS

THAT WERE MADE BY INDIVIDUAL CHURCH LEADERS ON BEHALF OF SPECIFIC

DENOMINATIONS AND ALSO THE POWERFUL STATEMENT THAT WAS MADE BY THE HEAD

OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AT THE TIME.

AND THE SENTENCE THAT ALWAYS RINGS IN MY EARS IS, BUT APOLOGY

AND REGRET IS NOT ENOUGH.

SO HOW DO WE NOT JUST MOVE ON TO THE NEXT THING AS IF

THERE'S A NEW THING?

HOW DO WE HOLD ONTO THAT BROAD ONGOING WORK

OF RECONCILIATION IN WAYS THAT CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE US AND CONTINUE

TO NOURISH US, CONTINUE TO ENRICH US, JUST AS THE HEALING JOURNEY

OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION AND ALL THOSE WHO WALK WITH US THROUGHOUT

THAT JUST AS WE EXPERIENCE TOGETHER KNOWING THAT IT'S REALLY HARD AND THAT

IT WILL BE FOR THE LONG-TERM?

THE LAST THING THAT I WANT TO SAY

IS, YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAS BEEN A STRUGGLE FOR ME

FRANKLY THROUGHOUT IN TESTING MY OWN

SPIRITUALITY AND MY

OWN CHRISTIANITY HAS BEEN IN WHAT -- IT'S BEEN A DOUBLED

EDGED THING BECAUSE I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SURROUNDED BY LOVING AND CARING PEOPLE.

AND SOME I KNOW ARE ON THIS VERY PHONE CALL.

AND IT HAS CARRIED ME THROUGH SOME VERY TOUGH TIMES IN MY PERSONAL LIFE AND

SOME CHALLENGING TIMES IN THE WORK OF THE TRC AND IN THE

FRANKLY AFTERMATH YEARS SINCE WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN EASY FOR ME IN A LOT OF REGARDS.

BUT I HAVE ALSO BEEN RATTLED BY SOME OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE

LEARNED ABOUT MY OWN CHURCH AND OUR OWN CHURCH

HISTORY THAT WERE NOT TAUGHT TO ME AND

THAT WERE NOT WHO I THOUGHT I WAS IN THAT CONTEXT.

AND SO WE HAVE TO -- WE CAN'T JUST SORT OF SAY THAT WAS THAT AND NOW WE'RE

NOW.

WE HAVE TO THINK HARD ABOUT THOSE LESSONS THAT HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO US.

WHAT DOES SPIRITUAL ABUSE MEAN?

AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN GOING FORWARD?

IS

MISSION A SYNONYM

FOR EXPANSION?

MUST IT BE SEEN THAT WAY?

OR DO WE HAVE A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MISSION MEANS?

I KNOW THE QUESTION OF LAND IS PIVOTAL TO THE ISSUE OF HEALING

FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO HAVE SAID MY IDENTITY IS ATTACHED TO THE

LAND.

AND I THINK OF THE ELDERS, MANY OF THEM, WHO HAVE SAID THE BIBLE IS

WRITTEN ON THE LAND, AND THAT IS WHERE THEY GO FOR THEIR DEEPEST HEALING.

BUT WHAT, WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THOSE LANDS, AND WHAT IF THOSE LANDS

ARE OWNED BY THE VARIOUS MANY CHURCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

HOW DO WE CONSIDER THE REBALANCE OF THINGS IN THAT

REGARD IN AND I KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN SOME BEAUTIFUL BOLD

EXAMPLES.

BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT IT'S NOT A SINGULAR STORY.

IT'S INCONSISTENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

I KNOW THAT THERE'S EXTRAORDINARY WORK BEING DONE

BY THE CHURCHES IN THE AREA OF HEALING, IN THE AREA OF ONGOING EDUCATION, AND

IN THE AREA OF ENGAGEMENT, WIDENING THE CIRCLE.

BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT THERE ARE OTHER AREAS WHERE THE BASICS

OF THE MOST BASIC INFORMATION IS STILL NOT YET KNOWN.

SO IT IS ONGOING WORK.

IT IS UPLIFTING WORK, AND IT IS DEVASTATING

WORK, AND IT IS COURAGEOUS WORK.

AND I KNOW THAT MY OWN COMMITMENT, BOTH AS A

CHRISTIAN, A FORMER TRC COMMISSIONER, AS A MOTHER AND

AS A GRANDMOTHER IS THAT THE WORK I DO IS

WITH LOVE AT THE HEART OF IT.

THE LAST THING I WOULD SAY IN THESE OPENING REMARKS IS WHAT I CARRY WITH ME VERY OFTEN IS

SOMETHING THAT I LEARNED AND WAS GIVEN NOT IN A

BIBLICAL TEACHING, THOUGH IT IS THE SAME TEACHING, BUT FROM AN ELDER IN

OUR VERY LAST GATHERING AT OUR VERY LAST NATIONAL EVENT IN WHICH

THIS ELDER SAID LUCKY FOR US CREATOR

SPEAKS MANY LANGUAGES.

AND LUCKY FOR US, THERE IS NO WRONG WAY TO PRAY.

SO

HOW DO WE ENGAGE IN THAT INCLUSIVE CIRCLE AND TO ENSURE THAT WE

IN RETURN ARE AS INCLUSIVE AND LOVING AND

SUPPORTIVE?

I THINK THAT IS THE ONGOING WORK.

I DON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF A PRESCRIPTION.

I KNOW WE DID OUR BEST TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN THE

CALLS TO ACTION OF THE TRC THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY

TARGETED TO THE CHURCHES WHO WERE PART OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND TO THE WIDER FAITH

COMMUNITY, MANY OF WHOM HAVE DONE REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT WORK OVER THE COURSE OF THE COMMISSION AND

SINCE.

AND THAT IS THE CONTINUING JOURNEY THAT I THINK WE'RE

ALL ON.

» FANTASTIC, DR.

MARIE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

CALLING JUST TO ACCOUNT, CALLING CHURCHES TO ACCOUNT IN THE COMMISSION AND

TODAY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIRECT AND CHALLENGING INSIGHTS

AND REMARKS.

GOOD.

PASTOR JOANNE, BISHOP SIMARD AND DR. MARIE,

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES.

OUR PROGRAM SUGGESTS THAT WE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO LET

THIS SINK IN AND AGAIN TO REFLECT A

BIT, SHARE A WORLD OR TWO WITH THE FOLKS WHO YOU ARE WITH IF YOU ARE

IN A GROUP IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HERE IN MONTREAL OR

ELSEWHERE.

AND I SEE THAT IT'S 2:11 ON MY SCREEN.

SO AGAIN JUST WITH AN EYE ON THE TIME, MAYBE TWO OR THREE MINUTES,

AROUND 2:14, I WILL FLIP US

OVER TO ADD ANOTHER LAYER AND INVITE PASTOR KEN AND

PASTOR MARY TO SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES.

SO AT THIS STAGE, HAVING HEARD THOSE THREE, WHAT RESONATES

WITH YOU?

WHAT TOUCHES YOUR HEART?

BRING THE CHAT BOX AGAIN TO LIFE AND CONNECT

WITH ONE ANOTHER AROUND

2:14, I WILL INVITE PASTOR KEN AND MARY TO BEGIN.

2:14 EASTERN TIME.

» OKAY.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE CONNECTION AND FOR BRINGING THE CHAT BOX AND THE

CONVERSATION TO LIFE A BIT THAT WAY.

I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE PASTOR KEN AND PASTOR MARY TO

ADD ANOTHER LAYER TO THE REFLECTION.

AND JUST A NOTE THAT THE NEXT ONE AFTER THIS IS TO

INVITE PASTOR KEN AND PASTOR MARY AND MARIE WILSON AND PASTOR

JOANNE AND BISHOP SIMARD TO BE IN CONVERSATION WITH ONE ANOTHER

JUST A LITTLE BIT, LET THE PRESENTERS SHARE A BIT OF WHAT STRIKES THEM ABOUT ONE

ANOTHER'S CONTRIBUTIONS.

SO, STEPHEN, MAY I INVITE YOU TO BRING UP KEN

FULL SCREEN.

» GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, PETER AND STEPHEN.

IT BEEN A REAL GIFT TO PARTICIPATE

IN THIS CONVERSATION, TO BE LISTENING TO THE OTHERS.

I HAVE BEEN MOVED AND TAKING NOTES.

AND SO I FEEL BLESSED AND INSPIRED ALREADY.

SO I SERVE HERE IN VANCOUVER.

IT'S A CLEAR AND CRISP FALL MORNING STILL

HERE ON PACIFIC STANDARD TIME.

AND WE HERE LIVE, WORK, AND WORSHIP ON THE UP

SEEDED TERRITORY OF THE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW OR MAY NOT KNOW, THE VANCOUVER FOUNDATION, A SECULAR ORGANIZATION, CONDUCTED A STUDY

TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHAT WAS THE GREATEST SOCIAL PROBLEM

IN OUR CITY, OUR REGION.

AND WHAT CAME UP WAS THE NUMBER ONE ANSWER WASN'T DRUG ABUSE,

THOUGH THAT'S A SERIOUS ISSUE HERE, OR HOUSING OR THE PRICES OF

HOUSES IN GENERAL BUT SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS.

AND SO WHEN WE THINK OF THE PLACE OF CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA, I THINK THAT ONE OF THE

THINGS THAT WE CAN PROVIDE AS DR. MARIE MENTIONED IS A PLACE OF

WELCOME AND INCLUSION.

SOME YEARS BACK, A COUPLE OF AUTHORS FROM THE UNITED STATES CAME TO VISIT OUR

CHURCH HERE IN VANCOUVER.

A BOOK CALLED TRANSFORMING CHURCHES.

AFTER ONE OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES, THE AUTHORS AND I SAT DOWN

AND THEY SAID TO ME, WE HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS KIND OF DIVERSITY IN ANY CHURCH

IN THE UNITED STATES.

HOW DID YOU BECOME THIS WAY?

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU USED TO BE A MONOCULTURAL CHURCH BUT NOW

IT'S VERY DIVERSE.

AND I SAID ACTUALLY WE DIDN'T HAVE A PARTICULAR STRATEGY.

AND ONE OF THE AUTHORS LOOKED AT ME AND SAID, WELL, TELL ME ABOUT YOUR

LIFE.

AND LIKE JOANNE, I WAS BORN IN A FOREIGN PLACE TO CANADA.

I WAS BORN IN TOKYO, JAPAN.

AND I SAID WHEN I WAS TWO OUR FAMILY MOVED BRIEFLY TO NEW YORK CITY AND THEN TO LONDON,

ENGLAND, FOR FIVE YEARS AND THEN TO VANCOUVER WHEN I WAS

ABOUT EIGHT.

WHEN I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, I MOVED TO CHICAGO AND

THEN HEADED BACK TO JAPAN FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS TO WORK IN THE CORPORATE WORLD, MOVED TO

BOSTON TO GO TO GRAD SCHOOL AND THEN HEADED ON TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO

START A NEW CHURCH WITH A FRIEND AND THEN MOVED BACK TO VANCOUVER.

AND ONE OF THE AUTHORS LOOKED AT ME AND SAID, WELL, KEN, WHERE DO YOU FEEL

AT HOME?

AND I SAID, YOU KNOW, HONESTLY, I DON'T FEEL ESPECIALLY

AT HOME ANYWHERE.

I'M A MINORITY HERE IN VANCOUVER.

WHEN I'M BACK IN JAPAN, PEOPLE KNOW THAT I'M NOT REALLY FROM THERE.

I WAS RAISED IN A LOVING FAMILY, BUT I DON'T FEEL COMPLETELY AT HOME

ANYWHERE.

AND THE AUTHOR LOOKED AT ME AND SAID, HERE'S WHAT I THINK YOU'RE

DOING.

BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER FELT AT HOME ANYWHERE, YOU'RE TRYING TO SET

A TABLE HERE WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME, ESPECIALLY THOSE

WHO HAVE FELT HOMELESS OR AN OUTSIDER IN SOME WAY.

AND I SAID YOU'RE RIGHT.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO HERE.

WE'RE TRYING TO SET A TABLE WHERE EVERYONE NO MATTER WHAT THEIR BACKGROUND, NO MATTER WHAT

THEIR LIFESTYLE, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR GENDER OR

ORIENTATION ARE WELCOME, LOVED AND SERVED.

AND SO I THINK THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT CHRISTIANITY CAN DO HERE IN CANADA IS TO SET

A BIGGER TABLE WHERE EVERYONE TRULY IS

WELCOME, LOVED AND SERVED.

JUST TO SHIFT THE THEME FOR A MOMENT, IN THE SPRING, I DID A

14-CITY SPEAKING TOUR OF CANADA.

WORLD VISION HAD ASKED ME TO TRAVEL FROM

VICTORIA TO ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, AND TO SPEAK TO GROUPS OF PASTORS

AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS ABOUT THE SURVIVAL HABITS OF THE SOUL, SPIRITUAL

PRACTICES THAT I HAD WRITTEN ON.

AND I WAS RECENTLY, IN FACT --

IT WAS, IN FACT, LAST WEEKEND, I WAS UP IN HAY RIVER.

SO I WAS BEING HOSTED BY THE ARCTIC

DIOCESE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

MARIE, FOLKS FROM YELLOWKNIFE WERE ALSO AT THAT GATHERING OF PASTORS AND CHRISTIAN

LEADERS.

AND AMONG THE THINGS I LEARNED AS I TRAVELLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY IS THAT NO MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE FROM

A PLACE LIKE TORONTO OR VANCOUVER OR MONTREAL OR A SMALLER

COMMUNITY IN SASKATCHEWAN OR HAY RIVER, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, OR YELLOWKNIFE, OR

THE MARITIME PROVINCES, PEOPLE ARE REALLY BUSY.

AND THEY FEEL LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME, THEY FEEL HURRIED.

AND

SO I THINK THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CAN BRING

TO OUR CITIES, OUR TOWNS, IS

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE THAT INCLUDES SABBATH KEEPING,

THAT INCLUDES PRAYER AND MEDITATION AND HELP PEOPLE EXPERIENCE A DEEPER

SENSE OF BEING CENTRED, A CAPACITY TO KNOW,

PERHAPS EVEN IN A MYSTICAL WAY IN SOME CASES THAT THEY ARE LOVED

AND CHERISHED BY THEIR CREATOR.

WHEN I BECAME A NEW PASTOR HERE IN VANCOUVER, I MET

WITH THEN MAYOR, PHILLIP OWEN, AN ANGLICAN

CHRISTIAN.

AND I ASKED MAYOR OWEN IN HIS OFFICE, WHAT IS THE MORE IMPORTANT THING THAT WE CAN DO

AS A CHURCH FOR THE CITY VANCOUVER?

I WAS EXPECTING MAYOR OWEN TO SAY CAN YOU SERVE THE HOMELESS OR CAN YOU HELP US

WITH WALKING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE WHO ARE DRUG ADDICTED IN

SOME KIND OF FREEDOM.

BUT MAYOR OWEN SURPRISED ME BY SAYING, KEN, THE GREATEST

THING YOUR CHURCH COULD DO FOR THE CITY OF VANCOUVER IS TO POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST

TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

I WAS SURPRISED, BUT I FEEL THAT'S THE GREATEST GIFT THAT WE CAN OFFER, TO POINT

PEOPLE TO CHRIST THROUGH LOVING COMMUNITY, THROUGH PRAYER, THROUGH SPIRITUAL

PRACTICE, THROUGH MISSION THAT IS NOT DOMINEERING

OR SEEKING TO EXPAND OUR EMPIRE FOR THE SAKE OF EXPANSION,

A MISSION THAT SEEKS TO REFLECT THE LOVING AND RECONCILING LOVE

OF JESUS.

» WELL, FANTASTIC.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING, PASTOR KEN.

THAT'S BEAUTIFUL.

AWESOME.

PASTOR MARY WITH HUMMINGBIRD MINISTRIES.

»

YES.

» TELL US WHAT'S ON

YOUR MIND.

[ Speaking Indigenous Language ]

» THANK YOU FRIENDS AND RELATIVES AND THANK YOU

FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

I AM ACKNOWLEDGING THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND WHERE

I LIVE ON THE

WEST COAST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ALL OF THOSE WHO SHARE THE LANDS AND WHO KEPT IT FOR US

THAT WE MAY LIVE HERE AS ONE OF MY

ELDERS HAS SAID.

I AM CREE FROM SASKATCHEWAN.

JUST A SECOND -- I HAVE GOT TO

-- OKAY.

I AM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF HUMMINGBIRD MINISTRIES, A HEALING

AND RECONCILIATION MINISTRY WORKING WITH CHILDREN, INDIGENOUS CHILDREN, TO RAISE THE

PROFILE OF OUR PEOPLE AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

I'M FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

AND I HAVE CALLED THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON THEIR

CONFESSION OF 1994, AND I'M HONOURED AND I'M

HAPPY THAT THEY HAVE COMPLIED WITH THAT REQUEST.

IT HAS DONE MUCH GOOD HERE WITH THE CHILDREN AND THE PEOPLE THAT

WE WORK WITH

ON RECONCILIATION.

I WANT TO ALSO SAY THAT I GRADUATED FROM THE VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF

THEOLOGY WHERE WE WERE ENCOURAGED TO EMBRACE BOTH OUR CULTURE AND OUR

FAITH.

AND THAT WAS A VERY GOOD JOURNEY FOR ME.

IT ACTUALLY FIT VERY WELL WITH MY OWN FAMILY BACKGROUND,

WITH MY MOTHER TEACHING ME THAT WE HAD

TO -- THAT SHE ACKNOWLEDGED AND LIVED AS A

CREE WOMAN.

SHE HAD GREAT RESPECT -- WELL, ACTUALLY, SHE EMBRACED BOTH HER

FAITH AND HER CULTURE.

BUT I WANT TO MENTION THAT THERE WAS A GROUP YOU

MIGHT HAVE HEARD ABOUT,

IT WAS AN ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH GATHERING IN

ALBERTA IN THE EARLY '70s AND THEY CALLED THE CHURCHES TO EMBRACE,

TO ENCOURAGE INDIGENOUS CHRISTIANS TO EMBRACE THEIR CULTURE.

AND THIS WHOLE MOVEMENT STARTED AND ENDED UP

AT VST AND THEIR INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES PROGRAM, WHICH IS A

VERY GOOD IDEA.

THAT WAS ACTUALLY INITIATED BY THE TREATY

CHIEFS IN THE PRAIRIES AND CONTINUES ON IN

BC.

IT REACHED ACROSS CANADA ACTUALLY.

THAT MESSAGE WENT FAR AND WIDE.

AND I SAY THIS BECAUSE IT'S VERY, VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE CHURCH

LEARN FROM INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY AND CULTURES.

THIS IS WHAT WE TEACH THE CHILDREN AT HUMMINGBIRD, TO

EMBRACE THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

THERE ARE MANY BEAUTIFUL THINGS AS CHIEF DAN GEORGE HAS SAID IN

HIS LITTLE BOOK AS WELL.

THAT THERE ARE MANY BEAUTIFUL THINGS ABOUT OUR CULTURES THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN TOSSED AWAY.

IN FACT, THESE THINGS CAN EMBRACE.

THESE THINGS CAN ENHANCE CHRISTIANITY AS SOME OF MY CHRISTIAN FRIENDS ON THE

WEST COAST HAVE SAID.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS, MANY SIMILARITIES AND THINGS THAT

ACTUALLY GO BEYOND WHAT THE CHURCH TEACHES SUCH AS

I HAVE LEARNED FROM THE WEST COAST

LONGHOUSE PEOPLE SOMETHING ABOUT HOW TO VIEW

EVIL.

AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT, YOU KNOW,

EVIL CAN BE QUITE A SCARY THING IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

BUT I HAVE LEARNED SOME THINGS FROM THE WEST COAST PEOPLE,

MANY THINGS.

ANOTHER THING THAT I THINK THE CHURCH CAN LEARN FROM

IS OUR VIEW OF HUMILITY.

THE PRAIRIE TEACHINGS ABOUT HOW THE CIRCLE

TEACHINGS AND WHAT SOME PEOPLE CALL THE MEDICINE WHEEL TEACHINGS, ONE OF THE

PRIME TEACHINGS IS HUMILITY.

AND FROM MY GRANDPA, I LEARNED

THAT THE GREATEST TEACHING IN THE WORLD, THE

MAIN PURPOSE, WE ARE SENT TO EARTH IS TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE

AND TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE BEYOND OURSELVES, BEYOND OUR

CULTURES, BEYOND OUR RACE, BEYOND OUR

CLASS.

IT'S ALL ABOUT GOD IS LOVE.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

IT'S ALL

ABOUT LOVE.

THAT'S THE MAIN THING IS WHAT

I'VE LEARNED.

AND ALSO, THE EMBRACING OF ALL PEOPLE, ALL MY

RELATIONS.

IT'S NOT JUST ALL THE CREE PEOPLE BECAUSE I'M CREE.

IT'S ALL THE PEOPLE, ALL THE RACES, AND EVEN THOSE THAT HAVE DONE US

HARM.

IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT THING, AND I THINK JESUS WOULD AGREE WITH THAT.

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF JUST LOVING

CHRISTIANS.

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF MISSIONS IN TERMS OF MAKING EVERYBODY

LIKE US BUT MAKING EVERYBODY LIKE

WHO WE PERCEIVE JESUS TO BE AND HOW WE UNDERSTAND

HIM.

STEPHEN MENTIONED THAT --

STEPHEN KENDALL MENTIONED THAT, YES, THIS IS ONE PERSPECTIVE OF ONE INDIGENOUS

PERSON.

BUT WE DO SHARE A TERRIBLE HISTORY

IN CANADA.

AND WE DO -- WE COULD

LEARN, WE COULD ALL LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE.

IN OUR -- AND WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO

IN TERMS OF HEALING.

BUT I AM ENCOURAGED THAT IT IS BEGINNING TO -- I'M BEGINNING TO SEE

WHERE THERE'S LIGHT IN THE CHURCH WHERE THERE'S GENUINE

LOVE, THERE'S GENUINE WITNESS OF WHO I UNDERSTAND

JESUS CHRIST TO BE.

AND I'M TRYING TO ALSO -- OH, AND OUR --

WITH OUR CHILDREN, TEACHING THEM OUR CULTURE IS PART OF THE HEALING PROCESS.

IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT HEALING PART OF WHO WE ARE

AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

THE CHILDREN ARE FROM MANY DIFFERENT INDIGENOUS CULTURES.

THEY'RE NOT JUST PRAIRIE.

THEY'RE NOT JUST WEST COAST.

THEY'RE FROM SOME FROM EASTERN CANADA.

WE HAVE WORKED WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE FROM QUEBEC.

AND ONE OF THE THINGS, I THINK, THAT WE HAVE DONE TO HELP THEM AND

THAT THE CHURCH HAS HELPED IS WE TEACH THEM THAT -- WE TEACH OUR

DANCES, OUR POW WOW DANCES, OUR MÉTIS DANCES AND

INVITING WEST COAST DANCES IF THEY'RE WILLING TO TEACH THE CHILDREN.

SO WHAT WE -- WHAT THE CHILDREN HAVE

LEARNED IS THAT -- OR WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THEIR SCHOOL IS THAT THEY NOW

HAVE A CULTURE.

ON CULTURE DAY, THE CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO BE

PART OF THEIR CULTURE DAY.

AND BEFORE THAT, THEY DIDN'T HAVE A CULTURE.

IN FACT, THEY WERE BEING TOLD BY SOME OF THE NEWER CANADIANS THAT THEY SHOULD GO

HOME TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY, TO THEIR OWN LAND.

SO THIS LAND, THIS COUNTRY HAS A LONG WAY TO GO NOT ONLY WITH THE EUROPEAN

CANADIANS BUT WITH THE NEW CANADIANS THAT COME TO THIS LAND AND DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT

US AND HAVE THE NERVE TO SAY GO HOME TO

OUR CHILDREN.

SO THE SIMILARITIES, I GO BACK TO THE

SIMILARITIES, AND THE PURPOSE OF LIFE AND

ALSO THE FACT THAT THE CENSUS, I

READ SOME THINGS ABOUT HOW MANY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE CHRISTIAN.

AND ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THE MAJORITY WERE

CHRISTIAN FROM ALL DENOMINATIONS BUT SOME OF THEM --

LIKE, IT WAS ONLY 2% INDIGENOUS WHO FOLLOW

INDIGENOUS WAYS.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S ACCURATE.

IN FACT, THEY MENTIONED THAT THEY DIDN'T GO TO RESERVES TO

INTERVIEW PEOPLE.

I THINK TO HOLD ONTO OUR INDIGENOUS VIEWS IS VERY, VERY

IMPORTANT.

AND I DON'T MEAN JUST CANADIAN INDIGENOUS BUT PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO

KNOW THE LAND.

AND MARIE WILSON, YOU MENTIONED THE LAND AND HOW

IMPORTANT THAT IS TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE BUT ALSO TO ALL

PEOPLE.

I THINK

YOU MENTIONED THAT IT'S NECESSARY

FOR HEALING AND THAT THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN ON THIS

LAND.

AND SO TRUE.

BUT I ALSO THINK THAT IT'S NOT

A MATTER OF THE LAWS.

YOU KNOW, OUR PEOPLE LOOKED AT THE EARTH, LOOKED AT CREATION, AND SAW THE CREATOR

REFLECTED IN THEM IN THE WAY THE EARTH

IS CREATED.

THAT'S OUR BIBLE.

OUR PEOPLE'S BIBLE IN THE TRADITIONAL TIMES, TO LOOK

AT CREATION AND TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE LAWS MEAN, TO UNDERSTAND GOD

THROUGH HIS CREATION BUT NOT ONLY IN THE EARTH, NOT

ONLY IN THE WATERS AND THE TREES AND THE SUN AND THE SKIES,

BUT ALSO IN EACH OTHER.

AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS LOOK AT EACH OTHER NOT AS WHETHER WE'RE

CHRISTIAN OR NOT, NOT AS WHETHER YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW CHRIST THE WAY I

DO, BUT TO FOLLOW LOVE.

TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART, THE HEART THAT GOD GAVE

US, THE HEART THAT WE COULD ALL CLAIM AND

WE COULD MAKE THIS WORLD A

BEAUTIFUL PLACE.

WE CAN SHED LIGHT ON THE DARKNESS OF RACISM, SHED

LIGHT ON SO MANY THINGS THAT ARE WRONG IN THIS WORLD.

ANYWAY,

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK AND SHARE WITH YOU.

[ Speaking Indigenous Language ]

THANKS.

» THANK YOU, PASTOR MARY, FOR SHARING.

WONDERFUL.

AND POWERFUL.

OKAY.

STEPHEN, CAN WE BRING UP ALL FIVE SCREENS AND MIGHT

IT BE POSSIBLE FOR POSTOR JOANNE AND BISHOP

SIMARD AND DR. MARIE AND PASTOR KEN AND PASTOR

MARY, I WONDER AS YOU LISTENED TO ONE ANOTHER HOW THOSE QUESTIONS

STRIKE YOU.

WHAT RESONATED WITH WHAT YOU HEARD FROM

OTHERS?

AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR CHRISTIANS AND FOR THE CHURCH IN CANADA?

WHAT COMES TO MIND FROM WHAT YOU HEARD FROM OTHERS?

» OKAY.

I SHOULD MENTION THAT WHILE OUR GUESTS TURN THEIR CAMERAS ON, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE

ABOUT 30 SECONDS.

OUR FRENCH -- THE PERSON WHO IS DOING THE FRENCH CLOSED

CAPTIONING IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH HER TELEPHONE LINE.

SHE'S GOING TO HANG UP AND DIAL BACK IN AGAIN AND HOPE

THAT SHE GETS A CLEARER SOUND FROM THE

FRENCH SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATOR.

SO WE'RE JUST GOING TO GIVE HER ABOUT 30 SECONDS, MAYBE A MINUTE, TO MAKE

SURE THAT SHE CAN RECONNECT SO THAT THOSE WHO ARE WATCHING THE FRENCH CAPTIONS CAN GET

AS CLEAR A SIGNAL AS POSSIBLE.

THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENT.

»

GREAT, THANK YOU.

» AND WHILE THAT HAPPENS, I'LL JUST MAYBE MENTION

TOO, JUST PROGRAMATICALLY, PROGRAM AND TIME-WISE, THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO

ENDING AT THE COMMITTED TIME.

WE HAVE GOT ABOUT 25 MINUTES WITH US TOGETHER, AND SO

THAT WILL BE A FEW MINUTES FOR INTERACTION

AMONG THE PRESENTERS.

AND WE'LL GIVE A FEW MINUTES TO LET THAT CHAT BOX COME TO LIFE AND FOR A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS

TO ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPACES AND THEN A THANKS

AND A CLOSING PRAYER WILL END OUR TIME

TOGETHER.

» DR. MARIE WILSON COMING ON

VIDEO.

» STEPHEN?

I THINK HE'S JUST ESTABLISHING THAT TECHNICAL CONNECTION IN THE BACKGROUND

YET FOR A MOMENT.

» SURE.

SO, DR. WILSON, YOUR MIKE IS ON.

» YES.

» HERE.

I WILL GIVE YOU A PROMPT TO START YOUR CAMERA.

AND IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE OUR CLOSED

CAPTIONER HAS REESTABLISHED A PHONE CONNECTION.

I HOPE IT'S MORE CLEAR FOR HER.

PETER, OVER TO YOU.

» GREAT.

WHO WOULD LIKE TO JUMP IN FROM AMONG OUR PRESENTERS?

» YEAH, I CAN LEAD OFF IF THAT'S OKAY.

» PLEASE.

» I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU CAME UP AGAIN, DR. MARIE WILSON.

REALLY

APPRECIATED YOUR INSIGHT AND HAD NOT THOUGHT ABOUT THIS BEFORE, THAT

SOME OF THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE ABUSES

IN THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS, THE BULLYING, THE WORSE THAN

BULLYING, CAN ACTUALLY BE APPLIED IN THE CURRENT

CONTEXT WHERE ANY STUDENTS, COUNTLESS STUDENTS HERE IN CANADA ARE EXPERIENCING THAT KIND OF BULLYING AND

ABUSE.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING THAT.

I THINK THAT WAS VERY HELPFUL AND A WAY THAT DEMONSTRATES HOW THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH CAN SPEAK INTO THE CURRENT CONTEXT AND PERHAPS GOD CAN

REDEEM SOME OF THE SIN AND SUFFERING OF THE PAST IN THAT

WAY.

» WELL, IF I MAY JUST SAY A WORD OF RESPONSE, AND

THANK YOU FOR THAT COMMENT, YOU KNOW, I --

AS WE MOVE INTO LIFE BEYOND RESIDENTIAL

SCHOOLS AS THE FOCAL POINT OF THE STORY, I THINK THE CHALLENGE

FOR US TO SAY IS HOW MUCH OF THAT WAS ACTUALLY

ABOUT THE SCHOOLS AND HOW MUCH OF IT WAS

ABOUT OUR ATTITUDES ABOUT RACIAL AND

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPERIORITY AND HOW MUCH OF THAT IS STILL IN PLAY

TODAY?

HOW MUCH OF IT IS ABOUT OUR USE OF WORDS AND WHAT

WE MEAN BY THEM FROM A PARTICULAR PERSPECTIVE?

I THINK ABOUT, FOR INSTANCE, AS WE -- I'M SURE YOU'VE ALL

WORD THE NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN THAT ARE IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

TODAY HAVING SURPASSED SIGNIFICANTLY

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO WERE IN THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AT THEIR PEAK.

AND SO THAT NOTION OF REMOVING CHILDREN FROM

CULTURE, WHETHER OR NOT FROM DIRECT FAMILY BECAUSE NO ONE IS SAYING WE SHOULD LEAVE CHILDREN

IN HARM'S WAY, BUT FROM CULTURE AND SENSE OF BELONGING AND SENSE OF RELATIONSHIP AND

SENSE OF CONNECTION AND SENSE OF KNOWING WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY ARE

FROM, WE'RE STILL DOING THIS.

AND WE'RE STILL DOING IT.

AND WE'RE OPPOSING THE CHALLENGE NOT TO DO IT

ANYMORE IN COURTS.

AND SO WAS THE LESSON ABOUT DON'T HAVE RESIDENTIAL

SCHOOLS ANYMORE?

OR WAS THE LESSON ABOUT RECONSIDER WITH GREAT HUMILITY

YOUR NOTIONS OF CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL

AND EMOTIONAL SUPERIORITY?

WHEN WE, FOR EXAMPLE, USE AS A REASON FOR

REMOVING CHILDREN, POVERTY.

IS POVERTY A SYNONYM OF NEGLIGENT OR IS POVERTY JUST OUR FAILURE

TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTE RESOURCES IN

OUR COUNTRY?

AND THEN WE BLAME THE POOR FOR BEING POOR BY REMOVING

THEIR CHILDREN.

ARE ADDICTIONS ABOUT ADDICTIONS?

OR ARE THEY ABOUT THE SELF-MEDICATING THAT GOES ON WHEN PEOPLE

ARE LIVING IN SUCH DESPAIR BECAUSE OF THE INEQUITIES AND THE LACK OF

OPPORTUNITIES AND THE LOWER LEVELS OF EDUCATION THAT HAPPEN WHEN CHILDREN

ARE RAISED IN THE CONTEXT OF TRAUMA AND FEAR AND

SHAME?

SO I THINK THE BIGGER LESSONS, I THINK, WE'RE STILL JUST BEGINNING TO

EVEN CONSIDER THEM MUCH LESS LEARN THEM.

AND I REALLY CHALLENGE ALL OF US --

I'M NOT SEPARATING MYSELF FROM ANY OF THIS, THAT

I CHALLENGE ALL OF US TO KEEP LOOKING AND TO --

IF WE HAVE NOT SOMEHOW CHANGED OUR LENSES ABOUT HOW WE GO THROUGH LIFE AS A RESULT OF

WHAT THE WORK OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION HAS TAUGHT US, THEN WE HAVE FAILED

THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY THAT WAS GIVEN TO US BY THE SURVIVORS

WHO ARE THE HEROS OF THAT STORY, WHO DREW US ALL TO ATTENTION

AND HAD TO WHACK US OVER THE HEAD BEFORE WE COULD EVEN BEGIN TO SEE OURSELVES

IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.

AND THAT IS -- WE HAVE BARELY BEGUN THAT WORK.

SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENT.

I JUST THINK FURTHER ABOUT THAT BECAUSE WE'RE INCHING FORWARD.

AS PEOPLE SAY TO ME, ARE WE MAKING PROGRESS?

I I FEEL WE'RE INCHING FORWARD BECAUSE I DO KNOW THAT THERE'S SOME

MAGNIFICENT WORK GOING ON IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

AND I DO KNOW THAT THE REST OF THE WORLD IS LOOKING CLOSELY AT US HOPING FOR

INSPIRATION.

» GREAT.

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ELABORATING FURTHER.

» I THINK THAT IN ADDITION TO THE STORY

AND EXPERIENCES OF THE FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE, WHAT I HAVE LEARNED AS A CANADIAN, AS

I GROW TO KNOW THE

STORY, THAT THERE ARE MY PEOPLE'S STORY IN THIS LAND.

AND I DIDN'T LEARN THAT UNTIL I HAD TO STUDY HISTORY IN A DIFFERENT WAY,

THAT THE RAILROADS WERE BUILT BY THE CHINESE PEOPLE, THE

CHINESE MIGRANT WORKERS THAT REALLY OUT OF DESPERATION THEY NEEDED

TO MOVE.

AND IT WAS THROUGH A SEMINARY COURSE THAT

FINALLY MY PROFESSOR TOLD ME TO STOP WRITING ABOUT THE CHINESE

PEOPLE FROM ANOTHER PERP'S LENS?

WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR PAPER?

HE MADE ME TO WRITE THAT PAPER ALL OVER AGAIN.

AND SO IN THAT, ESPECIALLY THE STUDY TOUR

THAT I HAVE CANADIAN-JAPANESE PASTOR WHO BROUGHT US TO THE

DIFFERENT INTERNMENT CAMPS WHERE SEVERAL OF THE SITES HAVE NO MARKING, HAVE

NO SENSE OF REPENTENS.

I THINK SOME OF THE PEOPLE HAVE TYPED IN THE

CHAT.

WHERE ARE WE AS A PEOPLE IF WE CAN'T ACKNOWLEDGE

THAT WE HAVE STRAYED?

WE HAVE DONE WRONG BECAUSE THEN WE DON'T KNOW WHERE

TO MOVE FROM.

SO, FOR EXAMPLE, I AM STILL LEARNING AND REMINDING MYSELF EVERY TIME I SPEAK I NEED

TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LAND THAT I'M ON

IN OTTAWA IS THE UNSEEDED

LAND OF THE ALGONQUIN AND NISHNAWBE PEOPLE.

I DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO.

HOW DO WE TEACH THAT IN SCHOOLS WHERE WE COME IN AND PEOPLE STILL COMMENT, YOU KNOW,

TO ME?

WOW YOUR ENGLISH IS REALLY GOOD.

AND I OFTEN TRY TO BE FUNNY AND SAY, WELL, YOUR ENGLISH IS REALLY

GOOD TOO BECAUSE I LEARNED JUST LIKE YOU.

WHAT IS IT WHEN WE TALK TO EACH OTHER THAT WE

CAN'T SEE BEYOND WHAT SOCIETY HAS CONSTRUCTED AS

LIMITATIONS?

I APPRECIATE WHAT KEN WAS SAYING ABOUT HOME BECAUSE I MOVED AROUND A LOT

TOO.

AND I THINK PARTLY IT WAS BECAUSE I DIDN'T FEEL AT HOME.

AND IT NOT SOMETHING THAT SOMEBODY ELSE CAN MAKE

ME FEEL AT HOME.

I THINK THAT IN CHURCH, IN CHRIST, I HAVE FOUND THAT I AM

RECEIVED AS I AM, HOWEVER I

AM.

WHAT A GREAT MESSAGE THAT THE MAYOR SAID TO YOU THAT NEED TO LEAD PEOPLE TO

JESUS.

AND SOMETIMES WE THINK WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ELSE,

FILL UP THE BOX FOR THE FOOD BANK AND EVERYTHING ELSE.

WE MISS THE JOB AND THE TASK OF BEARING THE GOSPEL AND LIVING THAT.

SO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THAT

INTO THE CONVERSATION.

» DO YOU WANT ME TO SPEAK IN FRENCH?

» LET ME ASK STEPHEN WHAT WORKS BEST.

» IF YOU'RE GOING TO SPEAK IN FRENCH, BISHOP, THEN

PLEASE GIVE OUR CAPTIONERS 20 SECONDS TO SHIFT

THE AUDIO SIGNAL THEY'RE LISTENING TO.

IF YOU PREFER TO SPEAK IN ENGLISH, THEY WON'T HAVE TO

SWITCH.

» I WILL SPEAK IN ENGLISH.

» THAT'S VERY GRACIOUS OF YOU.

THANK YOU.

» FIRST OF ALL, I THINK THAT WHAT I HEARD, IT'S THAT WHAT WE NEED ON EARTH,

IT IS OUR COMMON HOUSE.

AND WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER.

POPE FRANCIS, YOU KNOW, IN HIS

UNCYCLICAL UNSPOKEN LAW THAT WE SEE ABOUT THE NECESSITY

TO WORK TOGETHER AND TO WORK VERY HARD TO PRESERVE

OUR ENVIRONMENT.

AND I HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE

ECOLOGY.

EVERYBODY HAS A PLACE TO LIVE IN.

AS YOU MENTIONED, I THINK IT'S NOT ON

EARTH, MARE

MARIE WILSON, IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT THE TREES.

IT'S ABOUT THE HUMAN BEINGS.

WE NEED TO SPEAK OF INTEGRAL ECOLOGY WHERE

WE'RE PART OF THE CREATION.

AND WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER AND

TO RESPECT EACH OTHER.

AND I THINK WHAT I HEARD ALSO, WE NEED TO HAVE A

VISION WHERE PEOPLE ARE INCLUDED.

WE CANNOT, YOU KNOW, THINK OF PROCLAIMING THE FAITH

IN EXCLUDEING.

WE NEED TO INCLUDE.

WE NEED A VERY INCLUSIVE WAY

OF WORKING AND PREACHING AND REACHING OUT.

I THINK THAT'S THE WORD ALSO THAT I RETAIN.

TO REACHING OUT TO

THOSE WHO ARE REJECTED FOR SOME TIME BY THE COLONY,

BY, YOU KNOW, NO PLACE ON THE LAND.

SO, YOU KNOW, WE NEED TO TRULY

PUT INTO ACTION WHAT THE GOSPEL IS TELLING

US.

AND SO IT IS A COMMON HOME

AND INTEGRAL ECOLOGY AND ALSO

TO REACH OUT.

FOR ME, IT IS NECESSARY.

OTHERWISE, WE WILL BE

NOT LISTENED TO.

IN ORDER TO HAVE A WORD IN THE WORLD TODAY, WE HAVE TO PROCLAIM THE

GOSPEL INTO ACTION AND IN CONCRETE ACTIONS AND ESPECIALLY

TO TAKE CARE AND AS FELLOW

CITIZENS, THAT THE CHURCH MUST BE LIKE A

FIELD HOSPITAL WHICH IS NOT WORRYING ABOUT, YOU KNOW, STRUCTURES AND TO STAY WHERE IT IS

BUT TO BE ABLE TO MOVE.

SO WE NEED, YOU KNOW,

A MOVING CHURCH

IN ORDER TO BE RELEVANT AS YOU MENTIONED JOANNE, TO BE RELEVANT IN THE WORLD TODAY.

» THANK YOU SO MUCH.

AND MARY FONTAINE, WHAT RESONATED WITH YOU?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

» WELL, I'M GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE COMMENTS THAT ARE

MADE.

I LIKE THE REFERENCE, BISHOP, TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOW IMPORTANT

THAT IS, HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO KEEP

THE -- TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND OF THIS EARTH

FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

VERY IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR US AS

CHRISTIANS AND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FOR SURE.

THE IDEA OF HOME, KEN AND

JOANNE, I LOVE THAT IDEA.

AND IT MADE ME THINK OF SOME

FRIENDS OF MINE WHO ARE HOMELESS.

AND ACTUALLY I WENT THROUGH THAT EXPERIENCE MYSELF A LITTLE BIT IN SEEKING A

PLACE TO LIVE IN THIS AREA.

IT IS SO EXPENSIVE TO LIVE HERE.

I REALLY THINK THAT LIFE SHOULDN'T BE

ALL ABOUT MONEY.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN WE'RE GOING TO LEARN THAT AS HUMANITY,

THAT, YOU KNOW, THE ECONOMY IS NOT THE MORE IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE.

LIFE IS NOT ABOUT MONEY.

IT'S ABOUT LOVE.

IT ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER,

WITH THE LAND, AND KEEPING IT ALL

IN TACT, WORKING TOGETHER, AS YOU SAY,

TO MAKE THOSE THINGS HAPPEN, TO BE OF ONE HEART AS WE

SIT AROUND THE CIRCLE TRYING TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE

PROBLEMS THAT WE ENCOUNTER IN THIS WORLD AS

CHRISTIANS FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE

TO BRING HEALING BUT ALSO TO OURSELVES, NEVER

EXCLUDING OURSELVES FROM THAT EQUATION BECAUSE WE'RE NOT PERFECT AS WE ALL KNOW.

WE

ALL NEED TO WORK ON OUR OWN PROBLEMS, OUR OWN

ISSUES.

I THINK THE -- AND DR. MARIE WILSON, I APPRECIATE ALL YOUR

COMMENT AND THE WISDOM THAT YOU BRING WITH YOU

FROM THE TRC AND YOUR

KNOWLEDGE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE THAT YOU HAVE WORKED WITH AND BEEN PART

OF.

I HAVE ALWAYS APPRECIATED YOUR PERSPECTIVES IN THE

DIFFERENT PLACES THAT I HAVE HEARD YOU SPEAK, ESPECIALLY

WHEN YOU WERE IN VANCOUVER.

IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO DO THIS, PETER.

I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND

YOUR ORGANIZATION AND ALL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE WORLD

COMMUNITY OF REFORM CHURCHES AND THE WORLD

WCC.

I APPRECIATE WHAT ALL THE CHURCHES ARE

DOING THROUGH JUSTICE WORKS LIKE THIS BUT ALSO

AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL THIS IS WHERE YOU FEEL THE

CRUNCH AND THE PINCH BECAUSE IT'S OFTEN NOT

THERE.

PEOPLE IN THE PEWS ARE STILL REALLY LOST AS FAR AS THIS GOES.

THEY'RE NOT -- THEY'RE JUST LEARNING.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THEY'RE STARTING TO LEARN AND ACKNOWLEDGE INDIGENOUS

PEOPLE.

BUT SOMETIMES IT'S QUITE DISCOURAGING BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR

SO MANY YEARS.

AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU KNOW, SOMEONE ASKS YOU A QUESTION THAT YOU REALIZE,

OKAY, ARE THEY -- JUST DIDN'T LISTEN OR, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE

OUT OF THEIR RADAR.

BUT, YEAH, IT'S A HUGE PROBLEM.

AND I KNOW THAT THE MIGRANTS ALSO HAVE A HUGE PROBLEM IN THIS

COUNTRY.

WOMEN ARE CONTINUING TO STRUGGLE.

THE GAY COMMUNITY STRUGGLES.

AND THERE'S SO MANY

PLACES WHERE THE LIGHT CAN SHINE THROUGH THE DARKNESS.

CHRISTIANITY FOR ME TODAY BRINGS -- WHEN I SEE THE LIGHT, THE GENUINE

LIGHT, IT'S HOPEFUL.

IT'S ENCOURAGING.

AND IT'S UPLIFTING TO KNOW WHEN

YOU SEE SOMEONE WALKING THE TALK OF THEIR FAITH.

AND I SAY THAT ABOUT US

CHRISTIANS, BUT ALSO I HAVE SEEN THAT AMONG MUSLIMS.

I HAVE SEEN THAT AMONG PEOPLE.

I WAS A MEMBER OF THE WCRC FOR A WHILE, AND I LISTENED TO LOTS OF

STORIES.

AND THERE IS HOPE.

SO I SEE GLIMMERS OF HOPE HERE AND THERE, EVERYWHERE, AND I'M GRATEFUL

FOR THAT.

» WOW.

AND THANK YOU SO MUCH, EVERYONE, FOR THE LIGHT AND LIFE AND HOPE

THAT YOU HAVE ALL SPOKE ABOUT AND THAT YOU ALL

LIVE.

IT'S 2:51 AND WE'LL MOVE

TO THE SORT OF -- A FEW WORDS OF THANKS AND AN APPEAL AND CLOSING

IN 4 MINUTES AT 2:55.

STEPHEN KENDALL PLEASE BE READY IN ABOUT THREE OR FOUR MINUTES

FOR THAT.

IN THE MEANTIME, IN THE FEW MINUTES THAT WE HAVE

THERE, AGAIN, PLEASE SHARE WHAT'S ON YOUR

MIND.

WHAT'S THE SYNTHESIS?

IS THERE A SYNTHESIS COMMENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE?

IS THERE A CONCLUSION?

IS THERE A QUESTION?

IS THERE A CHALLENGE?

IS THERE SOMETHING THAT WAS ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL FOR YOU?

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO SHARE THAT WITH EACH OTHER

IN PERSON OR IN THE ZOOM CHAT BOX.

AND AT 2:55, I WILL INVITE STEPHEN KENDALL TO STEP RIGHT INTO THE

CLOSING SECTION.

» SO THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

FILLING THE GROUP CHAT BOX, MORE REFLECTIONS

TO THINK ABOUT, CERTAINLY LOTS OF CHALLENGING COMMENTS BUT

ALSO HOPEFUL ONES.

I'M VERY BLESSED AND THANKFUL FOR

ALL OF YOUR PARTICIPATION AND FOR

JOINING THIS CONVERSATION TODAY AND FOR THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES FOR HELPING TO

MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

SO I WOULD LIKE TO PASS THE --

STEPHEN, IF YOU COULD BRING UP STEPHEN KENDALL, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

THERE ARE ONE OR TWO SLIDES YET STILL THAT WE MIGHT USE, SOME

CLOSING COMMENTS AND THANKS FROM STEVEN.

AND THEN THERE'S A BRIEF SLIDE WITH A DONATE BUTTON ON IT TO HAVE

A LOOK AT AND A CLOSING PRAYER FROM THE

WEEKLY PRAYER OF CHRISTIAN UNITY 2020.

THEY SHOWED US UNUSUAL KINDNESS IS THE THEME THIS YEAR.

OVER TO YOU, STEPHEN.

» I DON'T SEE -- YEAH, STEPHEN, I DON'T SEE YOU ON THE PARTICIPANT

LIST.

I WONDER IF YOU HAVE SIGNED IN UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME.

YOU COULD ENABLE YOUR CAMERA AND YOUR MIKE, NOW IS THE

TIME.

» CAN YOU HEAR ME?

» I CAN HEAR YOU, YES.

» CAN YOU TURN YOUR CAMERA ON TOO?

» OKAY, YEAH.

I'M TRYING TO.

IT SAYS YOU CANNOT START YOUR VIDEO BECAUSE THE HOST HAS DISABLED

IT.

» OH, THERE WE GO.

I HAVE THE POWER.

HOW ABOUT THAT?

LET ME SEE IF I CAN ASK YOU TO START YOUR VIDEO.

DOES THAT WORK?

» BINGO.

THERE WE GO.

» WONDERFUL.

» I'M HERE.

WELL, I KNOW WE'RE VERY

QUICKLY REACHING THE END.

I'M SAD ABOUT THAT.

I WANT TO JUST SAY A FEW WORDS OF

THANKS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR PRESENTERS.

JOANNE, YOU SPOKE OF BEING --

THE NEED TO BE IN MISSION FOR OTHERS.

AND THAT WOULD BE THE WAY THAT WE CAN STICK OUT, PERHAPS THE WAY

GOD WOULD HAVE US TO DO.

BISHOP SIMARD, YOU CHALLENGED US TO PRACTICE US WHAT WE

PREACH, REMINDED US THAT CHRISTIAN FAITH CANNOT BE A PRIVATE MATTER AND THAT OUR

SOURCE IN JESUS CHRIST IS THE WAY WE MUST

GO.

DR. WILSON, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING WITH US.

YOU SPOKE OF THIS WORK BEING UPLIFTING, DEVASTATING

AND COURAGEOUS.

AND AS ALWAYS, YOU HAVE BEEN UPLIFTING AND

IN THE BEST WAY FOR US DEVASTATING AND AS ALWAYS COURAGEOUS.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT.

KEN, WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU WITH US AS WELL.

THE

CONCEPT OF SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS BEING

SOMETHING THAT WE MUST RESPOND TO IN PROVIDING A PLACE OF WELCOME

AND INCLUSION THAT INCLUDES HEALTHY SPIRITUAL PRACTICES IS A LEARNING

FOR US.

AND, MARY, I WAS REALLY STRUCK

WHEN YOU SAID THAT IN TRUTH ALL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DO SHARE SOMETHING,

AND THAT IS ALL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE SHARE A

TERRIBLE HISTORY.

I WAS STRUCK BY THAT.

AND

I'LL BE THINKING ABOUT THAT FOR A LONG TIME.

THANK YOU ALSO FOR YOUR TEACHINGS AND YOUR LEARNINGS THAT YOU HAVE SHARED

WITH US FROM OTHER CULTURES ON EVIL AND ON

HUMILITY AND ON LOVES AND THE THINGS THAT ARE SO BEAUTIFUL THAT WE CAN LEARN

FROM OTHER CULTURES.

JUST A WORD ALSO OF THANKS TO STEPHEN FETTER FOR YOUR

WONDERFUL WORK IN THE TECHNOLOGY.

IT SEEMS LIKE THIS IS JUST RUNNING LIKE

CLOCKWORK.

I KNOW BEHIND THE SCENES THAT DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY HAPPEN.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR HOLDING OUR HANDS WHERE NECESSARY AND MAKING ALL OF THE

THINGS WORK.

THANK YOU TO THE INTERPRETERS, THOSE DOING THE CLOSED

CAPTIONING.

ALSO, IT WAS VERY GOOD, VERY GOOD EXPERIENCE ON THE SCREEN SERUM

-- SERUM

CERTAINLY FROM MY PERSPECTIVE.

THANK YOU TO PETER AND THE STAFF AT THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF

CHURCHES.

THANK YOU TO ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE AS WELL WHO HAS PROVIDED SOME FUNDING TO MAKE

THIS POSSIBLE.

AND PERHAPS MOST OF ALL TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE TAKEN

TIME ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON TO JOIN IN WHAT I HOPE FOR

YOU HAS BEEN A VERY STIMULATING AND HELPFUL

AND PERHAPS EVEN HOPEFUL AFTERNOON.

AND, PETER, I GUESS I CAN TURN IT OVER TO YOU NOW

FOR A REMINDER ABOUT THE BUTTON ON CANADA HELPS THAT WE CAN

ALL CLICK TO DONATE

TO THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE CLOSING PRAYER.

BLESS YOU ALL.

» RIGHT, STEPHEN.

THERE'S JUST A COUPLE OF SLIDES THERE.

» SO IT'S, OF COURSE, THE CANADA HELPS BUTTON.

OF COURSE THERE WERE NO FEES FOR THIS EVENT.

WE DON'T EVEN WANT TO TIE THIS APPEAL TO THE EVENT.

BUT ON THE THE 75th ANNIVERSARY, IF YOU COULD SEE YOUR WAY CLEAR TO

INCLUDE THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ON YOUR CHARITABLE

GIVING, THAT WOULD BE -- WE WOULD, OF COURSE, GREATLY APPRECIATE THAT.

SO THERE'S A BUTTON ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE.

CLICK AWAY AND THAT WOULD BE THAT.

HERE'S A CLOSING PRAYER FOR US TAKEN FROM THE 2020 WEEK OF PLAYER

FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

LET ME LEAD YOU IN THIS BRIEF RESPONSIVE READING.

THE WEEK OF PRAIRIE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY IS CELEBRATED EVERY YEAR IN JANUARY

WITH A SPECIAL EVENT BUT CAN BE CELEBRATED AT ANY TIME

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

EVERY YEAR THE THEME IS A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT AND THE COUNTRY DOING THE WORK

IS DIFFERENT.

IN 2020, THE COUNTRY IS MALTA, AND THE THEME IS THAT THEY

SHOWED US UNUSUAL KINDNESS.

MALTA IS, OF COURSE, AN ISLAND IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE

APOSTLE PAUL WHEN HE WAS SHIPWRECKED NOTICED THEY SHOWED UNUSUAL

KINDNESS AND INDEED THAT IS REPEATED IN THE REFUGEES ARRIVING

IN THE ISLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ON A REGULAR BASIS.

SO THAT'S THE THEME AND THE CONNECTION.

I INVITE YOU TO CLICK TO THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN

UNITY OR aweekofprayer.ca WHERE YOU WILL FIND ALL THE

RESOURCES YOU NEED TO MARK THAT AS A COMMUNITY.

SO LET ME READ -- I WILL READ THIS JUST AGAIN, A

RESPONSIVE READING IN ENGLISH

AND FRENCH.

» WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS.

WE HAVE COME TOGETHER AS CHRISTIANS AND FELLOW DISCIPLES.

AS WE YEARN FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY LET US COMMIT OURSELVES ANEW

TO WORK FOR THIS COMMON GOAL.

MAY GOD THE FATHER WHO CALLED US FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT MAKE US TRUE

BEARERS OF

GOD'S LIGHT.

» AMEN.

» MAY GOD THE SON, WHO REDEEMED US BY HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD, EMPOWER US TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE IN SERVING OTHERS.

» AMEN.

» MAY GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO IS LORD AND GIVER OF LIFE, STRENGTHEN US TO ENDURE THE SHIPWRECKS OF LIFE AND REACH THE

SHORES OF SALVATION.

» AMEN.

» MAY THE ALMIGHTY AND MERCIFUL GOD, FATHER, SON AND HOLY

SPIRIT, BLESS AND PROTECT US NOW AND FOREVER.

» AMEN.

» WE WILL SET OUT TOGETHER, TO PROCLAIM THE WONDERS OF GOD'S LOVE.

AMEN! ALLELUIA! AMEN!

THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND JOINING IN WITH US

TODAY.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

WISH YOU A FINE SATURDAY.

GOOD WEEKEND.

SABBATH DAY OF REST AND A BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY

SERVICE.

THANK YOU.

» WELL, AND THANK YOU, PETER.

I'M GOING TO PUT THE -- PETER AND OUR

TRANSLATORS INTO A SMALL BREAKOUT WORK SO THAT THEY CAN DEBRIEF BRIEFLY WITH

EACH OTHER.

WE WILL WISH THE REST OF YOU

WELL AND THANKS FOR JOINING US.