



**Video Update – April 2016**  
**Willy Reimer, CCMBC Executive Director**

At the beginning of March, many leaders from across Canada (over 800) gathered in Vancouver for the Multiply conference put on by C2C. That conference – which was to be about helping existing churches multiply, raising up church planters amongst the young leaders who attended – really became a conference about understanding the heart of God and how suffering is tied to what God has called us to do.

I think if we had advertised it as a suffering conference, the attendance would have been quite different. But speaker after speaker, who had not actually connected with other speakers, had a similar theme around “What does it mean to be people of God and to be willing to suffer as Jesus suffered?”

Recently, I read a couple of books by an author by the name of Nik Ripken. Nik said that when we proclaim the gospel, when we provide a gospel witness, we are identifying with those in chains for sharing the gospel in the persecuted church world. When we are silent, we actually identify with those who put people in chains. Think about that.

When I read that, it was a sobering thought. My silence identifies with the persecutors. Not a common thought, not a common Canadian thought. And in our country, where tolerance is increasingly silencing the church (the *misunderstanding* of tolerance is silencing the church), it is time, I think, increasingly, for Canadian Christ followers to raise their voice to proclaim the reality of our risen Lord. Because of what Jesus has done in our lives.

The conference, the Multiply conference, kept raising that issue. One of the passages that was quite profound was Colossians 3:2: “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (ESV). When our worldview, when the way we think, when we take our cues from a horizontal picture from the things that are beside us, the gospel shrinks because we take our eyes off Christ.

When our view is vertical – when we set our mind on the things above, when we are enamoured with our Saviour and our Lord, when we are consumed with the reality of who he is and what he’s done, when we come out of Easter and understand that because of the death and resurrection of Christ anything is possible (Anything!) – it changes how we think and how we live.

So, as we walk into this next season of ministry (I’ve said it many, many places), I think we are living at the most opportune time in recent history because of the search and disillusionment that is happening across our country. Because God is bringing the world to us through the refugees that are coming. And increasingly our churches are engaging with the refugees and having the opportunity to share the love of Christ. Just recently [I was] hearing stories of Syrians asking, “Why are you doing this? Why are you being so kind?”

A vehicle was donated to a Syrian family. They said, "Why would you do this for us? When those who are the same faith as us are trying to kill us, why are you Christians, who are different, doing this?" And the answer was simply, "Because Jesus loves me; Jesus loves you. That's why. Because the love of Christ."

So, my encouragement for you is to truly press into Christ, to simply walk in obedience to the things that he's called you to do as you walk in intimacy with him. To think about how much he suffered for you, and to respond simply in obedience.

And as Canadians, we really need to actually prepare for suffering, I believe. And as leaders, we need to prepare our people for suffering. Because I believe it's coming. As the gospel is marginalized in formal channels, as Scripture is called "hate literature," I think the reality is coming that there will be a squeeze-on from culture. But actually, I think it will refine us. I think it will strengthen us because it will cause us to depend on Christ like we never have before, as we've lived in a very comfortable, affluent world.

So, all that to say: I'm very excited. I'm excited about what's happening in our churches across the country, I'm excited about where the Lord is taking us, and again I encourage you: Colossians chapter 3 verse 2, "Set your minds on the things above, not on the things of this earth."

God bless.