

People often greet me with questions like, “How are you doing, Bruce?” or “How are things going in ministry?” On any given day, I might have four or five completely different answers that are all true expressions of my reality as a pastor, husband, and father. The challenge is giving an answer that might be helpful for the person in their context. This is also my challenge in writing about this season in our Canadian MB story – there are multiple truths in tension.

God is humbling us

The truth that I want to focus on is that God is humbling us. Humility is something that God brings into our life – often through pain and disappointment. But it is also a posture and pattern of our choosing. We see both expressed in 1 Peter 5:5b-7 (NIV):

“All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

If I have learned anything in my time as moderator, it’s that we should not waste an opportunity to be humble. Thankfully God has given us a few unplanned opportunities over the years – though others might call them challenges. The good part is that it has fostered a greater dependency on God among our leaders, especially me.

I was reminded of many of these humility opportunities as we were going through the exercise of looking at our financial story over the last six years. As leaders, we didn’t always get it right. And we need to apologize for that. We will be providing a report to the annual meeting where we do just that.

I also found the exercise really helpful in pointing out what makes the MB family special. A couple of things stood out for me.

We have strong, godly leaders

I have been reminded, again and again, what remarkable, godly people I get to work with across our MB family. Though no one may ever accuse us of being like-minded on issues or execution, there is a strong undercurrent of unity in our passion for Jesus and his mission in the world. At the forefront are women and men with diverse gifts and personalities united by a common bond to follow Jesus faithfully. I see that in our pastors, in our lay leaders, in our Executive Board, and across our provincial, national, and agency leaders.

We’re passionate about our co-mission

All of us really do want to change the world! God has called us to a great co-mission with him and with each other. We are called to serve in community together, each bringing our gifts and strengths, complementing each other. We need healthy churches and healthy leaders in order to engage God’s mission together in risk-taking obedience. Elton has done a great job of leading our national ministry team in the development of a more holistic collaborative ministry framework to guide us.

We continue to need humility

Not only do we need both passion and collaboration, but we also need humility. God is humbling us. But may we also humble ourselves in order to honour God and move forward together. We definitely still have challenges, but with humility and God’s grace, we bring the truth of our shared values to the forefront.



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