The True Story of the Whole World, pp 154-164
“A missional people”
II Corinthians 5:16-6:2

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In a nutshell....
From the beginning, our study has framed the True Story as that of a good creation gone awry and now being restored. God’s mission is restoration of right relationships of every part of the good creation. God’s people are the first fruits of this ‘new creation’, restored to right relationship with God through Christ Jesus. And now, the role of God’s people is to collaborate with God in this “ministry of reconciliation”. We are to help bring an end to the alienation which resulted from the fall.

The quote below is but one phrase from this article:

https://theglobalchurchproject.com/does-the-missional-church-have-any-future/

How does such a quote align with what we have learned about “The True Story of the Whole World”?

“Spirit-empowered mission alerts others to the universal reign of God in Jesus Christ. It’s embodied in our love for our neighbor, in our rigorous thought, in our missional practices, in our passionate prayer, in our care for creation, in our political holiness, in our personal ethics, in our commitment to justice, and in our Christian spirituality.”

Considerations for being “A Missional People”

Palmer Becker has summarized Anabaptist Christian faith as follows. (link to full article is:

1. **Jesus** is the center of our faith.
   A. Follow Jesus in daily life.
   B. Interpret the Scriptures in the Spirit of Jesus.
   C. Promise highest loyalty to Jesus Christ.

2. **Community** is the center of our lives.
   A. Forgiveness is being essential for community.
   B. Dialogue and group discernment are necessary for the interpretation of Scripture.
   C. Small face-to-face groups are central to the life of the church.

3. **Reconciliation** is the center of our work.
   A. Help reconcile people to God.
   B. Help reconcile people to each other.
   C. Serve as God’s ambassadors of reconciliation in the world.
To ponder....

1. How do you feel about your assignment as ‘collaborator in the ministry of reconciliation’?

2. What is your specific role, at this point in your life, in the above ministry?

3. How might apathy be a contributing factor to the ongoing alienation around us?

4. What particular (unique?) role might be assigned to our congregation in the ministry of reconciliation? Or to ask it differently, why did God put a Mennonite congregation in B/N?

5. Are you aware of a written “statement of mission” of MCN? How does it align with God’s mission as revealed in the True Story of the Whole World?

6. What part of ‘reconciliation’ might we be overlooking as a congregation? One suggestion is that we as a congregation do very little to call individuals into right relationship with Jesus. Respond.

7. A question both playful and serious....what if our church nametags had our name, followed by “ambassador for Christ”? (See II Corinthians 5:20)