



Let the dead bury the dead

This blog by Don Clymer appeared in the Mennonite World Review on July 25, 2016. It spoke to me profoundly, and I felt spiritually quieted in a way I have not felt for many months. It is written much more elegantly than I could ever do, so I am passing it on to you in whole, that you might also benefit from his wisdom.

I came to the church meeting distraught by all the negative, hateful messages that had consumed me from following too many political commentaries on social media. Those of us gathered around tables chatted away while waiting for the meeting to begin. As I ranted and raved about the political mess in which our country is embroiled, a brother beside me looked me in the eyes and said: "Let the dead bury the dead."

This really caught me up short. I immediately knew what he meant. The verse he quoted comes from Luke 9:60, and follows with the exhortation: "go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

The political scene as it is playing out in the U.S. has distracted me far too much. Hearing and reading the discussions of others, I can safely assume that we are all too distracted. Our business as Christians is to get on with Jesus' kingdom work, proclaiming the good news. Jesus gave us the formula for this proclamation in his inauguration address in Luke 4:18-19:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

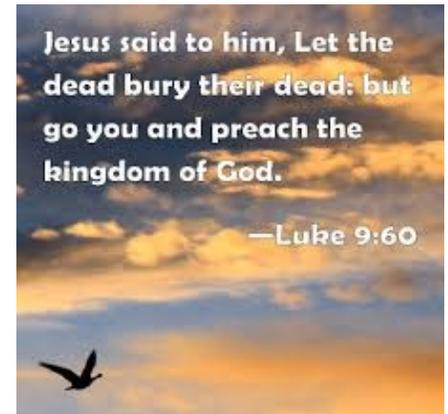
During the same weekend of the church meetings, I listened to a podcast of an interview of Xavier Le Pichon by Krista Tippett on her radio show "Onbeing." Pichon is a world-renowned geophysicist and a devout Christian. After discovering that the continents are dynamic and moving instead of being static, Pichon was at the top of his career as a scientist. However, in his middle thirties, he became disenchanted by how his work consumed him, and how he was "not seeing people in difficulty and suffering." To alleviate what he called his "spiritual crisis," he went Calcutta, India, to work with Mother Teresa for six weeks. From this experience, he ended up working for a community of L'Arche for three decades; a community that works with severely disabled people.

Pichon went from being a world-renowned scientist to cleaning the diapers of people who for the most part have been pushed out of view to the margins of society. He left the comfort of his cushy job and fame to serve "the least of these." He is a model of one who "let the dead bury the dead," to carry out Jesus' mission to "bring good news to the poor." He is proclaiming God's kingdom and making God's kingdom "come on earth as it is in heaven."

It seems to me that we would be a lot less stressed during these anxious times if we would be about the work of God's kingdom, instead of trying to solve everything through allegiance to a false empire. (continued on next page)

Volume 28, Number 16

August 21, 2016



Orrville Mennonite Church
1305 West Market Street
Orrville, OH 44667

Phone: 330-682-5801

Fax: 330-682-5841

E-mail: omcjan@gmail.com

Pastor Bill Seymour

Cell—330-347-7034

Email—omcbill@gmail.com

Web Site for OMC:

www.orrvillemennonite.net

Web Site for

Ohio Conference

of Mennonite Church USA:

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org



(continued from page 1)

During the interview, Pichon stated that he spends one-two hours in prayer every day. This is what sustains him to continue to work with the challenges of the severely disabled. This is also part of kingdom work. If I spent as much time in prayer as I do on social media, I'm sure my anxiety about the political mess would abate significantly.

Let the dead bury the dead, and go and proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Don Clymer is an assistant professor in the language and literature department at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va. He is also a writer, spiritual director and leader of intercultural programs in Guatemala and Mexico. He blogs at [Klymer Klatsch](#), where this originally appeared.

~ Marcia Lewandowski, Missions Communicator

Camp Luz Women's Retreat—*Sharing Your Story*, September 16-18, 2016. Come to enjoy: worship with sisters, spiritual challenges, discussion groups, The Chat Room, relaxation!!! Speakers will be Kim Leichty and Vicki Esh. Brochures with more information about the speakers and registration form are available by the mailboxes or on the camp's website: www.campluz.com. You can also email the camp at info@campluz.com

Mennonite Church USA Announcements

- **Registration is now open for the Women Doing Theology Conference, *I've Got the Power: Naming and Reclaiming Power as a Force for Good***, which will take place November 4—6 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. Mennonite women and women interested in Anabaptism, come. Pastors, academics, activities, students and members of the church, come. Women interested in doing theology—reflecting on God in relation to our lives—come. There is a place at the table for you! Come to listen to the stories of your sisters from all across the country and come to share your own. Come to build relationships. Come to nurture your soul, challenge your mind and find rest for your body. We'll be focusing our conversations and presentations on power: recognizing, honoring, sharing, celebrating and transforming the way we use it. Sponsor: **Women in Leadership Project of Mennonite Church USA. Cost: \$400 by August 31**, which includes a private room and all meals and snacks. Partial scholarships for women of color are available; apply by September 23. See our conference webpage for information on speakers, registration and scholarships: <http://mennoniteusa.org/wlp-conference>.
- **Attention pastors, administrators, business leaders and not-for-profit leaders:** Are you looking for a fresh perspective on leadership? The **Values-based Leadership Program (VBLP)** will not only strengthen your leadership practice from an Anabaptist perspective, but also provide opportunities for self-discovery of the strengths and weaknesses of your personal leadership style. VBLP participants will meet for two sessions at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Mount Pleasant, PA (October 18-20, 2016 and February 21-23, 2017), and also explore leadership practices and theory in their own context. Sponsors include Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Everence, Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Economic Development Associates, Mennonite Education Agency, MHS and Schmucker Training and Consulting. The registration deadline for 2016-17 is August 31. Learn more at www.vblp.org
- **Register now for Deep Faith: Anabaptist Faith Formation for All Ages!** This practical event will empower Anabaptist pastors, teachers and lay leaders in the church to develop a robust understanding of life with Jesus and expand their imagination of faith formation for the 21st century. The cost for the event, which will be held October 6—8 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminar (AMBS), Elkhart, IN is \$125/regular, \$50/student until September 14. Keynote speakers will be John Roberto of LifelongFaith Associates; Rachel Miller Jacobs, assistant professor of congregational formation at AMBS; and Brian Quan, pastor of Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church. Sponsors: AMBS, the Anabaptist Faith Formation Network, Mennonite Camping Association, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Mennonite Church Manitoba and Mennonite Church USA/The Gathering Place. See <http://mennoniteusa.org/deepfaith> for the schedule, plenary speaker topics and 30 workshop offerings!