

## Osler Mennonite Church – “Stepping into Leadership to Embody God’s Kingdom”

by Rick Block , CFGB      NOV 5, 2017

- Welcome, role as Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) Rep, also member of MCC constituency
- Joys of connecting with many people across this province, and amongst many denominations...reminder that CFGB is well respected Ecumenical organization working together to end hunger in the world.
- This morning’s message stems from a mix of connecting what we read in Scripture with our interactions with grassroots supporters, I call it **Stepping Into Leadership to Embody God’s Kingdom**
- Reminder of God’s Spirit via Jesus conversation with Nicodemus - the Spirit blows where it will, and it makes its presence visible – as it blows thru us, may we “tremble” (make ourselves heard, known) as the Aspen does...this brings tangible impact and gives deeper/richer meaning to our tangible world...
- **Food is one of those tangible elements, as well as a basic human necessity** – unfortunately there is much imbalance when it comes to food access and security. Do we have enough food in this world to feed everyone? What do we see when food supplies run short?
- UN FAO – declares the link between PEACE and FOOD SECURITY...hence food can be a vehicle to help build peace.....
- **Peace in its fullest understanding (from a Biblical perspective) is known as SHALOM**, and is one of the ‘actors personified’ in Psalm 85.....
- Scripture is the history and writings / teachings that bear witness to God’s work in the world and His message to we His people.
- Both the lives of Biblical characters as well as ours come to life the more we grasp the continuity and linkage between all of us...the times of blessing, times of hardship, dependence on God’s love and provision.
- **WHERE do we see FOOD used as a means to build peace?**
- **Story of Joseph.....select readings from Genesis 40, 45, and 50**
  
- **What do we learn? Can we relate? How might this move us....?**
- Joseph was placed into a position where he had the opportunity to step into leadership to embody God’s kingdom...**that being the preservation of life for many**, including the emerging Hebrew nation
- **Share an example** of food as a means to build peace....work of CFGB member MCC in Lebanon
  - Food is much more than just sustenance
  - Food opens doors...as we all know!
- Jacque and I are honoured to have this role to share what we bear witness to...**We see God’s people all over the world stepping into leadership to embody His kingdom**, to provide for those who are suffering from a lack of food. May this encourage you, and may you be blessed in the coming week.