



**Mennonite  
Church**  
British  
Columbia

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To all MCBC Congregations:

Welcome to the wonder and mystery of Advent.

MCBC supports and encourages your congregation to follow the recent enhanced restrictions of the BC government and the Provincial Health Officer requirements stipulating no indoor worship services. We affirm the MCBC constituency for following the prescribed courses of action prescribed by the health authorities to mitigate the impacts of Covid19.

The media has focused on congregations in BC and other provinces that are vigorously communicating a message that they have a right to continue to attend worship services under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms despite the provincial health order.

MCBC does not believe that this perspective is consistent with the message of love, concern and community that Jesus teaches us.

On Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, one of our MCBC pastors, Frank Berto, from Living Hope Christian Fellowship, was interviewed on the Lynda Steele Show on the radio station CKNW where he spoke about the Christian commitment to the love of Jesus and the willingness of churches to follow the provincial health orders which will benefit our fellow BC citizens.

Key messages from Frank:


1. I am very embarrassed by the churches that are fighting against provincial guidelines on gathering during the pandemic;
2. Jesus calls us to serve our community – and to do like him – to think of others first;
3. To insist on “our rights” is completely contrary to the Christian ethos of “doing to others as we would have them do to us”;
4. Jesus completely surrendered his “rights” for our sakes;
5. The Bible insists that we submit to government authorities in order to make the church “good citizens”.

At the end of the interview, the co-host, Eric Chapman, said: “Frank, you make me want to go to church”. If you want to listen to the five minute interview, follow this link to an audio vault file for November 30, 2020 at 4:49 PM: [https://globalnews.ca/pages/audio-vault-cknw/?fbclid=IwAR3N5OUMsy9K5M\\_sQgiFInqK-dcwBnPcO1SpdAA7Is1oBC5cVwalLVzdH84](https://globalnews.ca/pages/audio-vault-cknw/?fbclid=IwAR3N5OUMsy9K5M_sQgiFInqK-dcwBnPcO1SpdAA7Is1oBC5cVwalLVzdH84)

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 3:11*

MCBC wishes your congregation many blessings as Advent begins under circumstances which encourage us to embrace God's grace, mercy and wisdom.

Mennonite Church BC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerry Grunau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gerry Grunau

Moderator

[On behalf of the MCBC Executive]