

**Elections & Olympics aside, is  
there anything else in the world?**

**August 21, 2016**

**James Krabill**

**Raleigh Mennonite Church**



# Global Mennonite membership when my mother was born (1919)

REGIONS	# Congregations	# Baptized Members
Canada	110	17, 297
United States	746	56, 449
Europe/Russia	1,101	150,000
The “rest” of the world	10?	3,000?
<b>TOTALS</b>	Est. 2,000	230,000



Welcome to  
some  
“typical”  
Mennonite  
Christians  
today!



# THIS WE BELIEVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

... that God has a reconciling plan  
in **Jesus Christ**

- ❑ The plan is **COSMIC** (Col. 1:15-20)
- ❑ The plan is **PERSONAL** (Rom. 5:1)
- ❑ The plan is **SOCIAL** (Eph. 2:13-18)
- ❑ The plan is **INVITATIONAL** (2 Cor. 5:17-20)

God's  
plan  
is  
***COSMIC***



For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (Col. 1:20).

# God's plan is ***PERSONAL***

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1).





# God's plan is **SOCIAL**



For Christ himself is our peace, who has made two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility ... He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit (Eph. 2:13,18).

# God's Plan is *Invitational*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ... We are therefore Christ's ambassadors. (2 Cor. 5:17, 18, 20).

The Church as  
**Model and Messenger**  
of God's cosmic plan

**ONE THIRD**

of the world's population  
has *never* heard  
the name  
“Jesus”

# China







# The church in China today



*The Sanjian Church*



**Just last year ... completely demolished.**

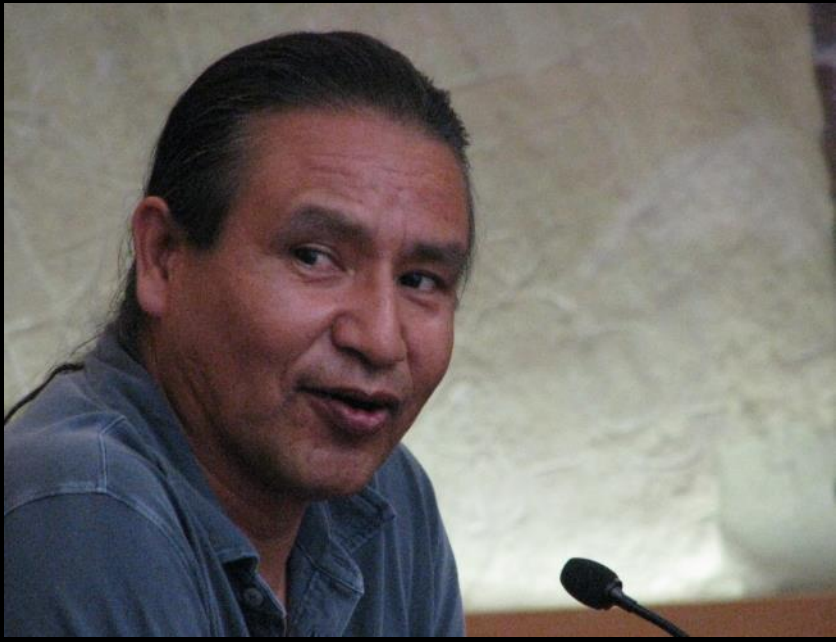


**ONE THIRD**

**has little information  
about Jesus**

**or**

**has deliberately chosen  
not to embrace him.**



**ONE THIRD**

**(2.3 billion)**

**identifies themselves  
as part of the  
“Christian family.”**

# Prairie Street Mennonite Church, my own congregation



# NAVIGATING DIVERSITY

One of our key challenges,  
both within the community  
and within the church

- Formally educated and little schooling
- Relatively wealthy and financially struggling
- English speakers and Spanish speakers
- “Cradle” Mennonites and new believers
- Presb., Bapt., Cath., Pent., unchurched
- Elders and children
- Drive-ins and locals
- Married and singles







Third Grade  
 Hawthorne Elementary School  
 (Elkhart, Ind.)  
 2015-2016



