



Waterford Mennonite Church | March 10, 2019

buzz

Where does poetry come from?

As the twenty-one individuals gathered on Feb. 28 for the Eat. Pray. HOPE. event discovered, poetry doesn't only come from theological books, literary anthologies, Youtube and from the hearts of local poets. It also comes from ... us.

Between the plates of "haystacks" we enjoyed, we heard immigration and justice-related poetry shared powerfully by Bill Swartzendruber, Gilberto Perez, Jr, and JE Misz. But then, we also got the chance to write our own personal expressions of lament at the suffering and mistreatment of immigrants and refugees in our country. Participants shared on posted newsprint the line(s) of their individual laments. Those randomly ordered lines then became our collective poem of lament – a faint substitute, a glimpse into the shared experiences of the group that evening. Recognizing the randomness of its arrangement here, this is what is being shared below:

How long, O Lord? Will you ever come back?
If the cries of children in cages don't convince you, what will?

Will I ever be adequate enough, or OK?

When I feel the hunger pains, no food in sight, no bed to lie on ...
where are you, God?

The land is weighed down with history, with searching for a new
beginning.

The land is groaning with pain, with hope for relief.
The land is held in chains, with prayer for freedom.
The land is sighing with burdens, with quest for strength.
The land is crying with sorrow, with hope for joyfulness.

I cry out in outrage and despair to my like-minded choir,
then step out the door, my intentions set higher.
We helplessly look to our siblings of color:
hold on to what we've lost,
even as we blink our indifference past you.
Teach us to feel, to express, to rebel!

Why? Have we not already gone through so much?

My ancestors, my parents,
those [from] whom we stole the land we walk thru,
the slaves who were brought here to build this country,
have we not already suffered enough?

And for what ...
just so that they can finally see that we too are children of
God, we too are human.

Dios de Moisés y Miriam,
did you bring all your hijos and hijas out of Central
American slavery,
just so they could die in the wastelands of Gringolandia?

Oh God ...
evil surrounds, words, noise, hatred, fear, violence,
suffering ...

Are you allowing this? Oh God ...

I cry out, it's all wrong
For they play the wrong song
It is in becoming,
The People of "the Way"
by which we all get along.

It's my country, it's not me!
But I live here
I'm a good guy – Can't you see?
But I live here

O God, you created an earth that is spherical,
free from edges
and we put them in place.
Now we cry out in pain, for the edges have become sharp.

We force academia on miniature adults
no matter what race, religion or color;
Push cerebral intelligence holding to a high cause of standards
with test after test. Why? Well, because.
While babies strive to please beyond developmental means,
jumping years, despite starving, malnourished in play –
with sense, sight, sound, touch held hostage from knowing
deep down,
Life lives love.

– Pastor Neil Amstutz



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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

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The Bereans

We are a pillar of Waterford Mennonite Church; some of our members are charter members. While young at heart, our ages vary between 80 and upper 90's. Except for the one "spring chicken" who is still working for a living, some are still doing volunteer work at Greencroft.

We currently have 12 attending members who come as regularly as their health allows. The same number of people are no longer able to come, instead, we go to them to visit. They remain an important part of our class. Since most of us live somewhere on the Greencroft Campus we can easily stay in contact with each other.

When you see us in the hallway you will find that many of us walk carefully, holding on to walkers and canes, usually coming through the back door to avoid the crowds in the front lobby. Still, we love to talk to you and hear from you.

We are grateful that individuals from other classes are willing to join our class to lead us through the Bible lessons in the Quarterly. It is good for us to be involved in the discussion of the text and to hear each other's thoughts and experiences. We meet in the prayer room; come and join us any time you wish.

About once every three months we try to get together for coffee and tea, sharing and singing. We are still a lively bunch even though we no longer move very fast.

MYF Service Auction Sunday, April 28

Save the date! The annual MYF service auction is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, at 6 p.m., but you can plan on coming for a meal prior (starting at 5:00) served by the youth. The MYF welcomes contributions of services and items from others in the congregation. If you have a service or item to donate, contact Kevin Miller or email wmcmf316@gmail.com, preferably by Sunday, March 31, so we can include in sale bill prior to the auction.

If you purchased an item or service at last year's auction, and have not received your service or item, please feel free to touch base with the youth or family that made the donation. Your satisfaction is important to us!

Join The Lent/Easter Choir

All interested singers are invited to be a part of our Lent/Easter choir. This choir, under the direction of Josh Tyson, comes with the support of the Worship Ministry Team. The choir will sing during our services on March 31 and April 21. There will be approximately five 60-minute rehearsals on Wednesdays in March and April. More information about rehearsals will be coming soon. Interested participants should contact Josh Tyson (email joshua.m.tyson@gmail.com or call (574) 312-9152) by March 11.

