Just Doing Our Job

We’re speaking for the truth. Even when it hurts.

The story of the situation surrounding Mike Dunavant’s resignation has not been fun for Weather Vane staff. We have learned things we were not happy to learn. We have devoted dozens of precious end-of-semester hours to follow up leads, verify sources, and produce what we hope is the most balanced coverage we can write.

Why? Because this is what Weather Vane is all about. As the primary uncensored student-run publication on the EMU campus, we have a responsibility to speak for the truth. Our audience, the students of this university, deserve to know the facts of this case. And further, we believe that this is better for EMU.

Is it healthy, when something like this happens at EMU, for there to be no more official record of events than a vague mass e-mail from the president’s office which raises more questions than it answers? This sort of thing only fuels destructive rumors—which nobody needs now or ever. Enter Weather Vane, an organization devoted to providing the most unbiased, factual account of events on campus. If the EMU campus is going to talk about the most unbiased, factual account of events on campus, it is our job to set out the facts before anyone else. And further, we believe that this is better for EMU.

It is not pleasant. It is, in fact, very hard work. In this case, it has involved among other things tracking down a Houston-based sportswriter by telephone at 2 a.m. But, when the dust settles, let no one accuse us by telephone at 2 a.m. But, when the dust settles, let no one accuse us of not having worked. We were not happy to learn. We have devoted dozens of precious end-of-semester hours to follow up leads, verify sources, and produce what we hope is the most balanced coverage we can write.

Don’t Worry, Be Happy

By Andrea Kniss

Columnist

The old cliché has become all the more trite if that’s possible in recent weeks and months here at EMU. “Don’t worry; be happy!” Yeah, right. Our hearts are heavy; perhaps with resentment toward the U.S. government, concern for those affected by violence and war, sorrow at injustice, or a combination of all these and more. A better cliché might be, “What is this world coming to?”

But perhaps the world is no different than it’s always been, shrouded in the darkness of human sin. War isn’t a new concept as long as we look to earth—only powers to eradicate “evil,” there can be no true and lasting peace. Humans will never rise above our sinful nature. This isn’t a limited “time of trial.” The darkness we live in is permanent.

To not worry, to “be happy” under these circumstances would be...judicious.

In a sense, we have warded off despair with videos, speeches, protests, and vigils promoting anti-war sentiment. We pray and light candles. We assemble relief kits. The word “peace” has become more prevalent in Mennonite conversation these days. Yet the turmoil runs deep.

We mourn because sin—within the world and within ourselves—has created a vast chasm between humans and God.

Yet we know that Christ, “who had no sin,” took all the weight of our humanity upon himself to bridge that chasm (2 Corinthians 5:21). So I’m going to suggest that perhaps it’s time to stop mourning and do the unthinkable...celebrate!

Jesus has conquered—not wants to conquer, or will conquer—but has already offered light and new life despite our sinful nature. Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 15:54: “When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’”

Furthermore, while we dream of and work towards reconciliation here on earth, we must be careful not to presume that peace is a product of human endeavors: rather, it’s a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). And—surprise—so is joy!

I believe Christians have a responsibility to confront not just the outward act of war, but also the anxiety which fuels it. As long as we live in a dark and weary world, our faith requires that we proclaim with joy the whole gospel of Christ. Isaiah 61:1-3 is a great example of such a response:

“2The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—and bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.”

The battle against sin has already been won, because Christ fought it for us and has broken the chains of death. Celebrate! It’s exciting! Be encouraged by Jesus’ words in John 16:23: “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

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The Weather Vane

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