

Small Group Interaction Questions:

MEANWHILE: The Church that lives and waits
“Hello, Trouble!” 6/7/09
1 Peter 4:12-19

Dear Friends,

If you had asked me five years ago how Christians in America are facing persecution, I would have been hard-pressed to come up with examples other than some legal and political battles we have lost. Today, however, the situation has changed dramatically. It is not only that our culture is becoming more officially secular. These days it is hard to perceive of any other group in American life that can be so insulted with caricature and slandered with impunity than Evangelical Christians. We have truly arrived at the place where Peter speaks directly to us saying, “If you are insulted because of the name of Christ...” Learning to live and thrive as the Living Church in such a context is the whole point of Peter’s letter. I am praying for your strength to stand for Him in the unique pressures of your life.

Pastor Roger

- ① Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. In recent years, where is it becoming increasingly difficult for Christians, and for you, to stand up for your faith and witness in Christ?
- ② What are some of the ways you respond to opposition and pressure against the Christian faith and lifestyle? How are these reactions addressed, rebuked, or encouraged by Peter? What would be considered a “godly” response to this kind of suffering?
- ③ What essentials of your faith would you die for? What would you be willing to suffer for, for the sake of the Gospel?
- ④ Do you think our church will be strengthened or weakened by increasing persecution?
- ⑤ What specific pressure against your faith in Christ do you feel most acutely? Is it from family, friends, the workplace, the school, or the media? Put each person’s name into Ephesians 6:19,20 and pray specifically for each other!