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Anglican Network in Canada (ANIC/ACNA)
Regional Assembly
Vancouver, BC, Canada
April 17-20, 2013

WELCOME SUDANESE/AFRICANS IN ANIC

God wants His followers to treat strangers or foreigners better (Lev. 19:33-34, 23:22, 24:22, 25:35; Zech. 7:10), so that the foreigners can join God's people in worshipping God.

The problem, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Episcopal Church USA has failed to live according above the message in the book of Leviticus 19 and they not welcomed Sudanese/Africans in their Churches in most places. The majority of the Sudanese who have come to America and Canada as refugee or immigrants are Anglican in faith. However, many Sudanese/Africans have joined other churches because they were not welcomed by their own.

What I want to share with this gathering of ANIC is for you not do what Episcopal Church USA and Anglican Church in Canada have done. The Africans/Sudanese and other groups God has brought among you are to be reached with the Gospel as Jesus has commanded His Church with a mission of reaching all nations with the good news (Matthew 28:16-20).

The following are some of the reasons Sudanese/Africans don't come to Church in North America:

1. They feel not welcome
2. The issue of liberalism
3. They are not invited to be involve in the leadership of the parish were they worship.

4. The older Sudanese/Africans need to worship in their language but sometimes they are not allowed by Church leadership.

Because our mission is to express love in Christ and service to one another, I encourage ANIC pastors and every Christians in ANIC to reach Sudanese/Africans by providing services to reach the physical and spiritual of these Christian brothers and sisters (Colossians 3:17).

Jesus says, “The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me (Matthew 25:40).

Also, I want to assure the Sudanese/Africans that the ACNA (ANIC) is a member of the Anglican Communion and the leadership of the Episcopal Church of Sudan has recognized ACNA (ANIC). I encourage Sudanese/Africans in North America to join and make ACNA (ANIC) their church.

Finally, the following are my suggestions for ANIC to make Sudanese/Africans feel welcome in the Church:

1. Love them, extend friendship to one another.
2. Welcome and make them part of the Church community.
3. Help them to be able to get a good paying job or after school work for children.
4. Give them a chance to worship in their language (if they are many in numbers).
5. Involve them in the church leadership.

We (Anglicans) are uniting by the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, the Book of Common Prayer came from the same root, even though every province translates it into their languages. Because of the Book of Common Prayer, the Anglican Church is built on Anglican’s unity globally for the glory of God – and the transforming power of our Lord Jesus Christ. And above all, our connection with World-wide Anglican Communion is through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in Him, we are brothers and sisters. We are one in Christ!