



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Helping relief efforts in Haiti

If you would like to help the relief efforts in Haiti and don't need an income-tax deductible receipt, you can give to the (US-based) [Anglican Relief and Development Fund](#) (ARDF) or one of many Canadian Christian organizations working in Haiti. (For a list, see the [Evangelical Fellowship of Canada \(EFC\) website](#). ANiC is a member of EFC.) ARDF-Canada expects to receive charitable status from the federal government in several weeks and will be able to issue income tax-deductible receipts but because of the urgency of the crisis, we suggest you channel your giving through one of the other organizations with established work in Haiti.

ARDF (US) is working in partnership with World Relief, the humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals and a large well-established relief agency. World Relief has had a long presence in Haiti, empowering the local church with health, economic and social development, and has skilled, trained staff on the ground working to respond to disaster. They are providing urgent medical care to hundreds of injured people in Port-au-Prince and have also set up feeding centers in partnership with local churches – providing hot meals for hundreds of hungry earthquake survivors.

For background reading on Haiti, a [column in the New York Times](#) provides an interesting analysis. The author says, "This is not a natural disaster story. This is a poverty story. It's a story about poorly constructed buildings, bad infrastructure and terrible public services." An [article in the Times](#) also discusses the culture of fatalism – derived from the prevalence of voodoo in this country where 80 percent claim to be Catholic – and how this will be an impediment to recovery.

Please pray for the people of Haiti, for Christians working to meet their urgent needs, and for the safety of those helping the victims of the earthquake.

Clergy retreat registration now open

Clergy can [register online](#) for ANiC's annual clergy retreat. For more information [see our website](#).

Date: March 16-18

Location: Cedar Springs Conference Center, Sumas, Washington (just minutes south of the border near Abbotsford, BC)

Speaker: The Rev Canon David Roseberry, rector Christ Church Plano (Texas), who is spearheading ACNA's church planting thrust – accompanied by his wife Fran

Church planting summit, February 22-23, Plano, TX

The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) is committed to launching 1000 new churches by June 2014. (See [1000 churches Proclamation](#)) To move us in that direction, a [church planting summit](#) is planned for February 22-23 in Plano Texas. Bishop Don Harvey [wrote in his Epiphany message](#) that he would like to see many potential ANiC church planters at this conference. Please contact [the Rev Ray David Glenn](#) for information or to indicate your interest. Please pray for God to birth new congregations across Canada and the US and to equip them with His chosen leaders.

Vancouver area congregations continue to discuss and seek God's leading

Meetings and discussions continue at all four ANiC Vancouver-area churches involved in the dispute with the Anglican Church of Canada's Diocese of New Westminster. Although an appeal to the November 25 court decision has been filed, this simply keeps all options open for the parishes which were facing a 30 day time limit for filing an appeal. Please pray that a decision on whether to proceed with the appeal will be reached soon.

Meanwhile, the Diocese of New Westminster [is appealing](#) as well, asking for a review of the part of Judge Stephen Kelleher's decision which awarded to the ANiC parish a \$2.2 million bequest left by a Church of the Good Shepherd parishioner for the building fund of that congregation. "This is not a surprise", said Cheryl Chang, Chancellor for ANiC. "We are grateful to God for the unity of the four congregations in making the decision to file the appeal together. We are particularly grateful for our brothers and sisters at the Church of the Good Shepherd who knew this was a risk and yet stand united with us."

In related news, the Diocese of New Westminster [also announced](#) it is closing two more churches – St John the Divine in Burnaby and St Richard in North Vancouver. A [Canadian Christianity report](#) notes that "*almost three quarters of the parishes in the New Westminster diocese may be unsustainable*" as measured by the diocese's strategic plan. The report notes, "*As a general rule, the strategic plan asserted that to be sustainable, a parish requires a minimum of 100 active adult members and weekly attendance of 70... [and] about 130 parishioners contributing regularly.*"

Consecration books

Work on the book commemorating the episcopal ordination of our three new bishops is complete and the first order has gone to the publisher. If you ordered a copy, your book(s) should be shipped by the end of the month. You can see the complete book [online here](#). And you can still order a copy (for later delivery) on ANiC's website [order page](#).

Invitation to pray at Crossroads Centre

ANiC members and friends are invited to join a prayer group which meets from 10am until noon each Wednesday at the Crossroads Centre in Burlington (where ANiC's office is located). [Email Jude](#) for information or call 1-866-352-2642 extension 4015. If you're not able to join the group in Burlington, please consider joining them in spirit by setting aside time to pray for ANiC, our Province and our Communion. Thank you for your faithful intercession on behalf of the ANiC.

Dr Packer's catechesis "crusade"

Speaking in Dallas, ANiC's theologian emeritus, Canon Dr J I Packer is [reported by the Living Church](#) to have said that catechesis is "*Packer's last crusade in this world.*" Dr Packer said, "We are drifting back into paganism... Ongoing learning is part of the calling of the Church. It has to be taught in all churches at all times." Teaching doctrines of the faith needn't follow the question and answer format established centuries ago and enshrined in the Book of Common Prayer, he said. A format similar to that used for Alpha courses would be preferable, he suggested.

AMiA Archbishop visits Newfoundland

Archbishop Yong Ping Chung and his wife Julia will be the guests of Bishop Don and Trudy in their home in St John's from Jan 21-25 during which time the Archbishop has a number of public engagements. These engagements include:

- An open forum and Q&A time with Bishop Don to discuss the future of the Communion.
- Preaching at the combined services of the two ANiC congregations on Sunday, January 24.

Archbishop Yong Ping Chung lived in St John's for five years and took his ordination training there, so is well known. He is the former Primate of the Province of South East Asia and is now associated with the Anglican Mission in the Americas (AMiA).

On January 25, Bishop Don and Trudy will accompany the Archbishop and Julia to the [AMiA Winter Conference](#) in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Parish and project news

Toronto Centre ANiC Project – On December 13th, the people of the Toronto Centre project spent the day at the Yonge Street Mission in downtown Toronto preparing for and helping serve Christmas dinner to the mission's clientele. Bishop Don also joined the group as they ministered to the Yonge Street community. You can [see photos here](#). Toronto Centre Project meets every 2nd Wednesday at 7:30pm; the next meeting is January 27. See their [webpage and flyer](#) for details.

Eternal Hope Christian Fellowship, (Carleton Place, ON) – The longest active ANiC project – which is entering its third year of holding regular Sunday worship – recently held a special vestry for planning and visioning church growth. The members are committed to building their music ministry, study groups, and outreach to the unchurched through community involvement, as well as raising their visibility in the Lanark County area. Their goal is to double membership this year from the current 18 members. They have just completed an Alpha course, and have started a second mid-week Bible study group with a third anticipated. They would appreciate your prayer support.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

- Feb 26 – 28 – St George’s (Burlington) – Spiritual renewal conference with Bishop Malcolm
- Mar 16 -18 – 5th Annual [ANiC clergy retreat](#) at Cedar Springs (near Abbotsford, BC)
- Mar 18 – [Ministry leadership seminar](#) at Heritage Seminary, Cambridge ON
- Apr 7-9 – [reFocus Canada](#), a preaching and theology conference, in Burnaby, BC

News shorts – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

Vancouver renewal mission

St Simon’s Anglican Church (ACiC) is holding its annual Renewal Mission on March 5-7 at Harvest City Church, 7416 Victoria Dr, Vancouver, BC. Speakers include Pastor David Carson, Dr David Demian, De George Johnson and the Rev William Beasley. For more information see [the online brochure](#). Register by emailing [the Rev Ed Hird](#) or calling 604 929- 5350

ACNA bishop to offer opening invocation at US national pro-life march

On January 22, 200,000 pro-lifers are expected to gather in Washington, DC for the annual [March for Life](#) at which Bishop Martyn Minns, of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA) a diocese in the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), will offer the opening invocation.

News shorts – Canada

News from the Anglican Church of Canada

Bishops ask general synod to consider Covenant – The [Anglican Journal reports](#) that the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) House of Bishops is recommending the meeting of general synod in June consider the final draft of the Anglican Communion Covenant. They do not, however, push for adoption of the Covenant.

More and deeper layoffs expected – The [Anglican Journal reports](#) that deeper budget cuts are coming in the ACoC which will translate into further staff layoffs.

Primates Theological Commission holds last meeting – The Commission, comprised of 12 theologians, will be on hiatus after 15 years of work following its final meeting January 20-23. A [news release](#) indicates Archbishop Fred Hiltz is considering other models for approaching theological work. This Commission became deeply involved in the same-sex question but wasn’t able to achieve consensus. The final meeting will focus on responses to its [Galilee Report](#) which summarized the Commissions thinking on the same-sex issue.

Christian leaders Connection events

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada – of which ANiC is a member – will be holding [an excellent one-day seminar](#) in more communities across Canada. These seminars address the theme "*Being Evangelical in a Complex World: Stats, Facts and Trends*". New dates and locations are:

- January 19 - [Edmonton](#), AB
- January 21 - [Calgary](#), AB
- January 25 - [Toronto](#), ON
- February 16 - [Belleville](#), ON
- March 25 - Winnipeg ([Otterburne](#)), MB
- March 26/27 - Caronport ([Briercrest](#)), SK
- April 13 - [Ottawa](#), ON

News shorts – United States

Mere Anglicanism conference, January 21-23

This year's [Mere Anglicanism conference](#) in Charleston, South Carolina, is focusing on "Human identity, gender and sexuality: Speculation or revelation". South Carolina Bishop Mark Lawrence says, "Some of the major scholars, spokespersons, and authorities on these matters in Anglicanism today will be presenting lectures..." The conference theme was chosen in response to Bishop Lawrence's challenge following the Episcopal Church's recent general convention, when he said:

Why are we losing this whole issue of human sexuality – both as a culture and as a church? We are approaching this whole issue as if it is in a vacuum, rather than in the whole context of human sexuality. And I think that until we, as a Church, begin to deal with our own compromises we will always come across as somewhat hypocritical...

When we recognize that the divorce level among evangelicals and godly Christians is almost at the same level as the rest of the world; when we recognize the pervasiveness within the church of those who tinker with this or that in terms of sexual compromise – the things they allow themselves to engage with, in terms of computers or television – we are in need of a profound repentance. We must recognize that we cannot keep putting forward this standard for gay and lesbian people yet allow ourselves to live in such profound compromise ourselves. There's a spiritual thing at work here of which I don't think we've plumbed the depths, and it's time we paused and looked at that.

We don't do much thinking about the purpose for which God made us as sexual beings, and then begin to answer that question philosophically and biblically. Sometimes we take a few verses out of the Bible and put those forward and forget that from the Book of Genesis forward it says that God has made us male and female in God's own image, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined with his wife and the two become one, all the way to the Book of Revelation when the whole thing concludes with the "marriage" of Christ and His Church! We're not just talking about seven passages of the Bible, we're talking about the profound thrust of all of human history which began with Adam and Eve, male and female, and concludes with Jesus and the Bride – the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. These are profound things we are dealing with and we need to put this whole controversy within that context.

Conference speakers are to include: Dr Paul McHugh (psychiatrist), Bishop Michael Nazir Ali, Dr Robert Gagnon (New Testament professor and expert on homosexual issues), Dr Edith Humphrey (theologian), Archbishop Robert Duncan, Mike McManus (columnist and founder of "Marriage Savers") and the Rev Mario Bergner (founder of Redeemed Ministries).

US church in the news

Religious Intelligence – Jan 13 2010 – [LA rebuffs Anglican conservatives](#)

Christianity Today – Jan 14 2010 – [Land and Building Wars](#)

News shorts – International

Anglican Covenant

The [Rev Charles Raven endorses](#) Archbishop Moses Tay's adamant opposition to the Covenant. In a recent article, the former Primate of Singapore has said, "*It cannot be of God because if you try to keep the light and darkness together, righteous and immoral together to say we are a church, it's disparaging the meaning of covenant.*" The Rev Raven says the problem with the Covenant is that it is "self authenticating". "*Its doctrinal content is so generalised and non-binding and the disciplinary element so dependent upon consensus that what is to be held as genuinely Anglican has no meaningful confessional reference... Moses Tay is clearly not interested in debating the pros and cons of short term ecclesio-political tactics. He is asking the deeper question of the nature and necessity of spiritual discernment. While it is true that the final version of the Covenant has been commended as a means of discerning the nature and seriousness of disagreements... the fact remains that the overriding aim of the Covenant is not faithfulness, but institutional unity.*"

Meanwhile the [Fourth Anglican Global South to South Encounter](#) is planned for 19-23 April in Singapore. The aim of this summit of Global South Primates is stated to be: *“to affirm the Anglican Covenant as the basis in intensifying the ecclesial life between churches in the Communion, and explore ways churches should stand firm side by side in one spirit and with one mind for the faith of the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ.”* The last of these meetings was held in Egypt in 2005.

News from around the Communion

Church of England – The revision committee charged with redrafting legislation on women bishops [missed its deadline](#). As a result, February’s General Synod will not deal with this matter.

The [Telegraph reports](#) that a proposal that will be debated at the February synod is, *“whether the Church should provide same-sex couples [where one partner is a clergy person] with the same financial benefits as are awarded to married couples... At present, the Church bars clergy from being in active gay relationships, although it bowed to pressure to allow them to enter civil partnerships on the condition that they are celibate... Around 200 priests are believed to have entered civil partnerships since they were introduced in 2004 and the move to provide greater pension benefits for their partners could cost the Church millions of pounds.”*

Uganda – [Religious Intelligence reports](#) that the government of Uganda has backed away from controversial legislation that imposed harsher penalties for homosexual acts. The Church of Uganda had come under intense international pressure because of the proposed bill. However, church leaders indicated they opposed the harshness of the penalties in the legislation and were working quietly behind the scenes to influence the government. The bill may be redrafted.

Sudan - The Archbishop of Canterbury has joined Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul (Sudan) [in drawing attention](#) to the faltering peace process in the Sudan and the urgent need for international community to intervene before the situation spirals back into civil war. Dr Williams called on the international community to urgently mobilize to guarantee free and fair elections. Episcopal Life Online reports that *“Sudan’s 20-year civil war, which claimed more than 2 million lives and displaced about 7 million people, came to an end in January 2005 when the CPA was signed by the two warring parties -- the Government of Sudan in the north and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement in the south. Despite initial hopes for the success of the peace agreement, southern Sudanese leaders have been frustrated by the northern government’s refusal to live into its major terms, including sharing oil revenues, drawing fair borders and the building of infrastructure.”* Violent attacks on villages, churches and mission work have escalated in south Sudan in the lead up to the April multi-party elections – the first to be held in the country in two decades.

In London, Archbishop Deng Bul [outlined the causes](#) of conflict in Sudan and the urgency for immediate international action. He is also [reported by the New York Times](#) to have pointed a finger of blame at China, a major importer of Sudanese crude oil. Archbishop Deng Bul said, *“China is looking only for minerals, they are looking for economic benefit. That is all. That is damaging the country.”* He called for China to use its economic clout to encourage peace in the country, saying it was to China’s advantage to have peace in the region.

Recife – The Diocese of Recife (in Brazil but under the Southern Cone) is growing despite legal action brought by the Province of Brazil. Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti [writes](#), *“The number of confirmed members and regular communicants has more than doubled since its traumatic axing from the liberal Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil (IEAB) five years ago. In 2005 the diocese had 1,488 communicants, today there are 3,240. The number of baptized members is 2,010 and the total membership of the community stands at 5,250 members. Over the past 5 years Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti has confirmed 2,025 people (407 in 2009), 90% of whom were newcomers to the Anglican church. In 2005, 32 clergy were excommunicated by the Brazilian Province, today, thanks to the hard work of 6 diocesan training institutions the number of clergy in the diocese stands at 60, in whose care are 46 congregations and social projects in 9 Brazilian States.”*

International news

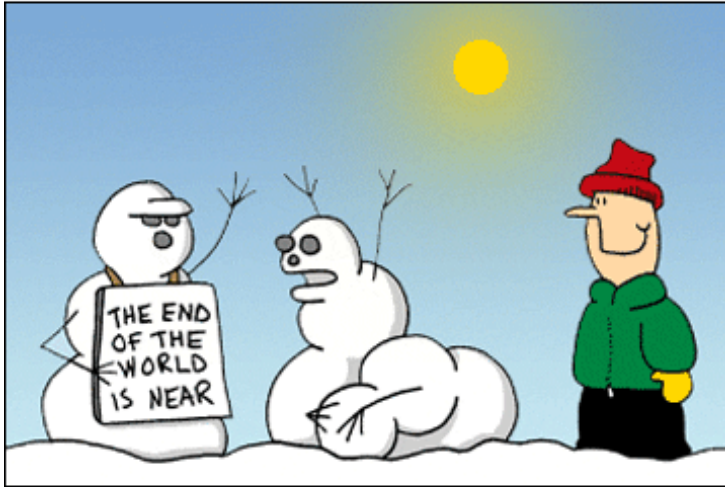
Washington Post – Jan 15 2010 – [Pope defends invitation to Anglicans to convert](#)

Catholic News – Jan 15 2010 – [Morality offers solutions without impeding progress, says pope](#)

Soul food

Just for fun

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Manhattan Declaration goes viral

The [Manhattan Declaration](#) – an affirmation of fundamental truths about justice and common good and a call to defend the Truth, the sanctity of human life, the dignity of traditional marriage, and freedom of conscience and religion – is closing in on 400,000 signatures, but is aiming for 1 million. You can sign online or download sheets to collect signatures. If you've signed the declaration, consider encouraging others to do the same; if you haven't check it out. It is now also on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). They've produced a brief [study guide](#) and provide an excellent [list of resources](#).

The cost of family fragmentation

Several family advocacy groups have combined to research and [produce a report](#) on the economic cost of the breakdown in families in the US called, *The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing*. The report, written by an economist, states “*But marriage is more than a moral or social institution; it is also an economic one, a generator of social and human capital, especially when it comes to children.*”

By measuring the causal link between family fragmentation and poverty, the report estimates “... that family fragmentation costs U.S. taxpayers *at least \$112 billion each and every year, or more than \$1 trillion each decade...* These costs arise from increased taxpayer expenditures for antipoverty, criminal justice, and education programs, and through lower levels of taxes paid by individuals who, as adults, earn less because of reduced opportunities as a result of having been more likely to grow up in poverty... Even programs that result in very small decreases in divorce and unwed childbearing could yield big savings for taxpayers.”

Encouraging missionaries

The [Gospel Coalition offers](#) 10 ways we can encourage our missionaries:

1. Pray for them and let them know that you are praying
2. Send “real” mail and care packages
3. Pray for the people the missionary serves
4. Recruit others to pray and support the missionary's work
5. Visit them intent on serving them and their ministry
6. Communicate with them regularly, keeping them up-to-date on family news

7. Ask questions about their work
8. Continue to minister to them and provide pastoral care
9. Provide financial support
10. Encourage them when they are on home assignment

Worth reading

The [AEC blog is asking](#) people to contribute a list of the books that formed them and that they'd recommend to others. See what others are saying and add your list.

Dr Albert Mohler, in "[Air conditioning hell: How liberalism happens](#)", writes that "Theological liberals are absolutely certain that Christianity must be saved...from itself" and "the doctrine of hell serves very well as a test case for the slide into theological liberalism."

Please pray...

For the people of **Haiti** and for all those seeking to help them. May God grant strength and wisdom.

For our **ANiC projects, church plants and parishes**. May we share the Good News with those around us who need to meet our Lord & Saviour.

For our **bishops and rectors** – especially for **Bishop Don** in his new role as Dean of ACNA as well as for the meeting of our bishops and leaders on January 12-14.

For **Bishop Malcolm and the spiritual renewal mission** at St George's in Burlington, Feb 26-28.

For the legal cases

- For the **four Vancouver area ANiC parishes** and their lawyers who are considering proceeding with an appeal of the November 25 court decision. May God grant clarity and unity.
- For the **Windsor case** (involving St Aidan's) which is being dealt with in London, Ontario.
- For all the **congregations** involved in court proceedings and disputes. Pray for peace for the **wardens and trustees** who are on the front lines and bear the burden of risk and responsibility. Pray for a continued focus on, and blessing upon, their ministry in the midst of this turmoil.
- For sufficient contributions to the **Legal Defence Fund** so that legal costs can be covered and the churchwardens and trustees are not at personal financial risk. The Ontario parishes, in particular, need greater financial support at this time.
- For the **leaders and parishioners of the dioceses** pursuing eviction of and damages against ANiC congregations and wardens in court.
- That **God will be glorified** in all court proceedings.

Praise God for the interim negotiated agreement with the Diocese of Niagara providing stability for **St George's, St Hilda's and Good Shepherd**.

For the granting of charitable status to the **Anglican Relief and Development Fund – Canada**.

For our fellow Anglicans and other **Christians facing violent persecution** in Zimbabwe, Somalia, Nigeria, Sudan and other Muslim lands as well as in Communist countries, especially North Korea.

And now a word from our sponsor

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.