



### *Handle with prayer*

#### **News – ANiC and AEN**

#### **Bishop Don's Lenten letter to ANiC parishes**

In [his letter marking the start of Lent](#), Bishop Donald Harvey calls us to repentance. He says, "Without that repentance, the ashes many of us received last [Ash] Wednesday are no more than a novelty or outward display. Without it being predominant throughout our services in the next six weeks, we cannot hope to experience the real joy that comes when we commemorate the risen Lord striding in triumph from the tomb, having born our punishment and destroyed the enemy of death... [I]t will be a powerful witness if all of us add the **Collect for Ash Wednesday** into our daily prayer life. I ask that this be prayed sometime during every service, every bible study, every prayer group gathering, and above all when we say our own personal prayers..."

*Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

#### **Message from Bishop Don; three to be ordained to the Diaconate**

*The Order of Deacon is a very real part of the historic, three fold ministry of the Church that has been passed down to us from the very early days of the Apostolic Church (See Acts 6). Although for many years the Order simply became a stepping stone to the Sacred Priesthood, it now has been restored to what it was meant to be – a distinctive and unique ministry of its own.*

*It gives me much joy to see that across our Diocese of ANiC we have a number of practicing Deacons and that in the next two weeks three more will be added to their number. This Sunday I will ordain **Roy Lang** at St Aidan's Church in Windsor. On March 6, **Dwight MacPherson** will be ordained Deacon at All Saints in Rutledge, Vermont and on Sunday, March 7, **Rhonda Cotton** will be ordained at Holy Trinity in Marlborough.*

*Although you may not know these candidates personally, I ask that we uphold them in corporate and private prayers as they approach this important time in their lives and embrace this ministry of servanthood.*

#### **Blog ARDFC fund-raising challenge**

A [regular on the AEC blog](#) is challenging others to match his \$100 contribution to the newly established Anglican Relief and Development Fund – Canada and its initial project: Malaria prevention in Kenya.

#### **Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support**

- Feb 24-25 – ACNA Provincial Executive Committee meeting in Plano, Texas
- Feb 26-28 – St George's (Burlington, ON) – [Spiritual renewal conference](#) with Bishop Malcolm
- Feb 28 – Ordination to the Diaconate of the Rev Roy Lang at St Aidan's (Windsor, ON)
- Mar 2 – St Chad's Bible Study in Etobicoke every Tuesday at 2pm. For info call 416-236-4647.
- Mar 16-18 – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual [ANiC clergy retreat](#) at Cedar Springs (near Abbotsford, BC)
- Mar 18 – [Ministry leadership seminar](#) at Heritage Seminary, Cambridge ON
- Mar 19-20 – St Andrew's (Delta, BC) – Parish renewal with +Malcolm & the Ven Paul Crossland
- Mar 19-20 – Good Shepherd (Vancouver) [is holding a revival conference](#) with Dr Dennis Ngien
- Apr 7-9 – [reFocus Canada](#), a preaching and theology conference, in Burnaby, BC
- April 17-24 – Church of the Good Samaritan (St John's, NL) mission to Guatemala
- June 3-11 – Anglican Church of Canada [General Synod](#), Halifax, NS

June 7 - 11 – ACNA House of Bishops, Provincial Executive and Council meet in Amesbury, MA  
 Nov 3, 4-6 – Clergy day followed by ANiC synod, Ottawa, ON

### News shorts – Anglican Church in North America (ANCA)

#### Anglican 1000 Summit for church planters

More than 300 attended ACNA's church planting summit in Plano, Texas including 30+ delegates from Canada. ANiC participants included the Rev Jim Salladin (St John's Shaughnessy) who provides Bible teaching and the Rev Ray David Glenn (St George's, Lowville) who also spoke. You can see David Virtue's coverage of the event, including a summary of [Archbishop Robert Duncan's challenge](#), a [seminar panel discussion](#) and keynote speaker [the Rev Dr Ed Stetzer's address](#).

### News shorts – Canada

#### Closing churches “could be a boon for arts groups”

A [Victoria Times Colonist article](#) discusses the impending closures of churches on Vancouver Island and the possible uses for the vacated buildings. It indicates that there has been interest from Jewish and Buddhist groups. Other possible uses for the buildings discussed in the article include theatres, day-cares and community centres.

#### 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:

- March 25 - Winnipeg ([Otterburne](#)), MB
- March 26/27 - Caronport ([Briercrest](#)), SK
- April 13 - [Ottawa](#), ON
- April 21 – [Cambridge](#), ON

### Canadian news

Ottawa Citizen – Feb 18 2010 – [Anglicans examine training to bridge divisions](#)

### News shorts – United States

#### More priests “deposed” by TEC

The Episcopal Churches' recently formed Diocese of Fort Worth [has sent letters](#) to 57 clergy in the ACNA's Diocese of Fort Worth purporting to depose them and deprive them “of the right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority of God's word and sacraments conferred at ordination in this Church.”

#### TEC continues ruthlessness in duplicity

Legal authority A S Haley (aka The Anglican Curmudgeon) [exposes](#) the Episcopal Church's ongoing lawsuits against individual vestry members despite claims that “*it is contrary to the policy of The Episcopal Church to seek financial remedies from laypersons, and it has never done so.*”

Also [addressing](#) “*a number of inaccuracies found within the TEC report circulated at the [Church of England] Synod*”, the Rev Marc Robertson's rector of Christ Church, Savannah, Georgia specifically addresses those related to himself and his church. After correcting the record, he says, “*It is a bit awkward to launch into such personal matters on behalf of my defense... Nevertheless, I believe in these conflicted and chaotic times that God is best honored with the truth...*”

#### TEC tithes fund lobbyists

A US blogger, after carefully analyzing the Episcopal Church budget, [has determined](#) that \$6.6 million of that budget goes toward lobbying governments.

#### US Lutherans begin forming new Biblically-faithful denomination

The Washington Times religion report [provides an update](#) on the formation of an alternative to the US-based Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) which is rapidly moving in the direction of the Episcopal Church. She reports that a number of congregations have already begun to vote

on leaving the ELCA for the newly named North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and that NALC will hold its first convocation August 26-27 in Columbus, Ohio,

### **TEC leaders claim action against Diocese of South Carolina due to “misinformation”**

Claiming that the action they have taken – and likely will take – against the Diocese of South Carolina is because “*facts are being distorted and Episcopalians in South Carolina are not getting the truth*”. [A S Haley reports](#) that, in a news conference, the Presiding Bishop said “*I... don’t want the people of South Carolina to rely on erroneous information, provided by other sources... The South Carolina representation of our theology and polity as a whole is not accurate.*” The Presiding Bishop later added that her “*primary concern*” was “*those who have left [the] diocese or are contemplating doing so [while continuing] to exercise control over Episcopal assets*”. You can read [a full account](#) of the TEC news conference on Anglicans United.

### **TEC reports at least three churches closed each month**

[Blogger Mary Ailes](#) points us to an [Episcopal Church report](#) which says, “*According to the Church Insurance Company, every month more than three congregations close their doors for good.*” The obvious question is why an organization already burdened with more buildings than it can use is seeking to take away buildings from vibrant congregations that need those buildings.

### **Bishop Beckwith (Springfield) surprises many with his early retirement**

Springfield (Illinois) Bishop Peter Beckwith announced his retirement, effective February 1, two years before the mandatory retirement age. Bishop Beckwith is a theological “conservative” and has had past association with ACNA. Finding a replacement for him could be difficult given the polarized climate within the Episcopal Church. As the [Springfield State Journal Register reports](#), “*...knotty problems may lie ahead, particularly because whomever local Episcopalians choose as their new bishop must also be approved by a majority of U.S. bishops and standing committees — delegates from Episcopal dioceses around the country.*” Bishop Beckwith did not divulge his plans.

### **Denominational growth**

Reporting on the *2010 Yearbook for American and Canadian Churches* (which reflects 2008 statistics), [the Catholic News Agency says](#), the US Roman Catholic Church saw a 1.5 per cent growth in 2008, while the Mormon Church grew by 1.7 per cent, and the Assemblies of God grew 1.3 per cent. Other denominations shrank including: the Presbyterian Church (3.3 per cent), the American Baptist Church (2 per cent), the Evangelical Lutheran Church (1.9 per cent) and the Southern Baptist Convention (0.24 per cent). “*The Yearbook shows a decline in reported membership of almost all mainline Protestant denominations*”.

### **US news**

Jacksonville News – Feb 13 2010 – [Episcopal breakaways get ‘back to the basics’](#)

Church of England Newspaper – Feb 19 2010 – [Church row over sacking](#) [Re TEC replacing unionized workers with non-unionized workers]

Living Church – Feb 18 2010 – [More lawsuits may emerge in S.C.](#)

### **News shorts – International**

#### **CoE bishops lobby for changes to allow civil partnership ceremonies in churches**

Some Church of England leaders – including some retired bishops – are lobbying in support of changes to British legislation that would open the door to civil partnership ceremonies in churches. The [Times reports](#) that “*The amendment would remove the legislative prohibition on blessings of homosexual couples and open the door to the registration of civil partnerships in churches, synagogues, mosques and all other religious premises... This would in effect end any remaining distinction between civil partnerships and marriage and increase the pressure on the established Church to take a more liberal line on same-sex relationships. It would also deepen the schism in the Anglican Communion over gay blessings and gay ordination... The amendment is expected to be strongly opposed by conservative Christians. Andrea Williams, of the Christian Legal Centre,*

said: *“What is being advanced as an issue of religious freedom today will be used to remove religious freedom in the future. ‘Homosexual activists have made clear that this is not the end. It is a step towards forcing churches to conduct same-sex unions that would go against their beliefs. Changing the law will further blur the distinction between marriage and what the Government put forward as a purely secular ceremony.’”*

### **Anglo-Catholics launch website to promote Roman Catholic offer**

Anglo-Catholic supporters of the Roman Catholic Church’s *“Apostolic Constitution Anglicanorum Coetibus”* have launched a website called [Friends of the Ordinariate](#).

### **Archbishop of Canterbury visits Middle East**

[The Washington Post reports](#) that Dr Rowan Williams, visiting in Jordan, expressed concern for the declining number of Christians in the Middle East – the birthplace of Christianity.

### **International media coverage**

Anglican Journal – Feb 22 2010 – [African churches use mobile phone to ring up growth...](#)

### **Soul food**

#### **God’s created order vs our increasingly antagonistic culture**

**Pornography** – There’s [a new website](#) *“dedicated to providing the most accurate peer-reviewed research on the harm from pornography, along with relevant news and opinion”*. Website founder, Patrick Trueman, Former Chief, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Criminal Division, US Department of Justice, says *“Pornography is a neglected pandemic and it will remain so until knowledge of its destructive forces is widely understood and disseminated. The Pornography Harms website is dedicated to this task of education... Addiction to pornography is now common among men, women, and even many children, bringing life-long consequences. Pornography use is a significant factor in divorce; a contributing cause of the spread of prostitution and the sexual trafficking of adults and children. America is becoming a “pornified” culture...”*

**Abortion** – [LifeSiteNews reports](#) that Parliament Budget Office Kevin Page has released a report that clearly shows the *“disastrous consequences of Canada’s long-term below, replacement birth rate... Canada’s steady 1.5 birth rate, far below the 2.1 replacement rate, [coupled with] an older population, [will create] spending pressures in areas such as health care and elderly benefits... At the same time, slower labour force growth is projected to restrain growth in the economy, which will in turn slow the growth of government revenue. The financial result is devastating, says the report... In order to compensate for the low birth rate the report says there must be very substantial increases in taxation and major cuts to government services, amounting to 14 to 28 billion dollars.”*

The [Duluth News Tribute reports](#) that the woman who threatened a pro-life supporter with a knife outside an abortion clinic in Duluth, Minnesota last November decided not to abort her baby as a result of the words of the pro-life advocate.

**Euthanasia** - Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali has weighed in on the euthanasia debate. In a [Telegraph article](#), he says, *“We should be very wary of changing the legal tradition of the Western world, based as it is on the Judaeo-Christian view of the human person, because of extreme situations which have been given massive media publicity... Our last days are not necessarily lost days... Not only can they be used to recapture the past and to strengthen relationships but also for contemplation and preparation.”* He sites both the evidence of “creep” – where the scope of conditions for which euthanasia is legal expands over time – and the ability of hospice care to manage pain while respecting human dignity. He also says that the 70 per cent of the perpetrators of elder abuse are family members – the very people the proposed UK assisted suicide legislation exempt from prosecution in cases of assisted suicide.

Bishop Nazir-Ali concludes, *“There is an alternative to the vociferous campaign to legalise assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia. This involves using all our science to relieve suffering. It means bearing one another’s burdens and building a society based not on atomistic individualism but on a*

*strong sense of inter-dependence and on the importance of relationships. It requires that we should value the person at every stage of life and be willing in humility to serve them and to learn from them... Let us draw back from the brink. Let us not place ourselves in moral jeopardy and let us continue to protect those who need our protection the most."*

## Resources

The GAFCon theologians have released *Being Faithful*, a commentary on the Jerusalem Declaration in digital format. You [can download](#) the 162-page book for free or purchase it in book form from Latimer Trust or from Amazon. The GAFCon Primates Council have urged Anglicans everywhere to read and study this important work.

A study guide to *The Way, the Truth and the Life* – the first book produced by GAFCon – is also available [for free download](#). And GAFCon's *The Way of the Cross* Bible study series [can be purchased](#) as well.

## **The Shack and evangelicals**

Much has been written about the blockbuster *The Shack*. Two recent additions to the debate are worth considering. [Dr Albert Mohler outlines](#) what he believes are the implicit and explicit heresies in the book – specifically its distorted doctrine of the Trinity and its theology of universal salvation. He says:

*"In evaluating the book, it must be kept in mind that The Shack is a work of fiction. But it is also a sustained theological argument... When it comes to The Shack, the really troubling fact is that so many readers are drawn to the theological message of the book, and fail to see how it conflicts with the Bible at so many crucial points. All this reveals a disastrous failure of evangelical discernment... We desperately need a theological recovery that can only come from practicing biblical discernment... our real task is to reacquaint evangelicals with the Bible's teachings... The Shack is a wake-up call for evangelical Christianity... The popularity of this book among evangelicals can only be explained by a lack of basic theological knowledge among us -- a failure even to understand the Gospel of Christ. The tragedy that evangelicals have lost the art of biblical discernment must be traced to a disastrous loss of biblical knowledge. Discernment cannot survive without doctrine."*

Pastor and author Tim Keller [also weighs in](#):

*"But here is my main problem with the book. Anyone who is strongly influenced by the imaginative world of The Shack will be totally unprepared for the far more multi-dimensional and complex God that you actually meet when you read the Bible. In the prophets the reader will find a God who is constantly condemning and vowing judgment on his enemies, while the Persons of the Triune-God of The Shack repeatedly deny that sin is any offense to them. The reader of Psalm 119 is filled with delight at God's statutes, decrees, and laws, yet the God of The Shack insists that he doesn't give us any rules or even have any expectations of human beings. All he wants is relationship. The reader of the lives of Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and Isaiah will learn that the holiness of God makes his immediate presence dangerous or fatal to us. Someone may counter (as Young seems to do, on p.192) that because of Jesus, God is now only a God of love, making all talk of holiness, wrath, and law obsolete. But when John, one of Jesus' closest friends, long after the crucifixion sees the risen Christ in person on the isle of Patmos, John 'fell at his feet as dead.' (Rev. 1:17.) The Shack effectively deconstructs the holiness and transcendence of God. It is simply not there. In its place is unconditional love, period. The God of The Shack has none of the balance and complexity of the Biblical God. Half a God is not God at all."*

## **Emergent leader shows his colours**

**Brian McLaren** – a leader in the "emergent church" movement, speaker at the 2008 Lambeth Conference, and often mislabeled as an evangelical – is coming under increasing scrutiny with the publication of his most recent book *A New Kind of Christianity*. [Tim Challies writes](#), "In this book we finally see where McLaren's journey has taken him; it has taken him into outright, rank,

*unapologetic apostasy. He hates God... McLaren says he would prefer atheism over belief in the God so many of us see in Scripture... This new kind of...Christianity is no Christianity at all. It is not a faith made in the image of Jesus Christ, but a faith made in the image of a man who despises God and who is hell-bent on dragging others along with him as he becomes his own god... This new kind of Christianity is simply paganism behind a thick coating of false humility and biblical language. It is an expression of rebellion against God far more than it is a pursuit of new intimacy with the Creator."*

[Another reviewer](#) is welcoming McLaren's latest book because it "is drawing lines and forcing people to choose camps", it "demonstrates the hypocrisy of liberalism" and it will force others "within the Emerging Church to clarify their beliefs".

In [his thorough analysis](#), Kevin DeYoung says, this book "*is two steps forward in terms of clarity and ten steps backward in terms of orthodoxy. A New Kind of Christianity, more than any previous McLaren project, provides a forceful account of what the emergent leader believes and why.*" He concludes: *The message of McLarenism is pretty simple: God is love and wants everyone to be kind and inclusive and care for the poor and the environment... In McLarenism there is no original sin, no wrath, no hell, no creation-fall-redemption, no definite future, no second coming that I can see, no clear statement on the deity of Christ, no mention of vicarious substitution or God's holiness or divine sovereignty, no ethical demands except as they relate to being kind to others, no God-offendedness, no doctrine of justification, no unchanging apostolic deposit of truth, no absolute submission to the word of God, nary a mention of faith and worship, no doctrine of regeneration, no evangelistic impulse to save the lost, and nothing about God's passion for his glory. This is surely a lot to leave out.*"

### Worth reading

- If your church is looking for ways to get free publicity, [this article](#) from the diocese of Sydney might give you some ideas.
- On his blog, **the Rev John Richardson** (aka the Ugly Vicar) [tracks the historical development](#) of two wedge issues in the Church of England – the ordination of women and the normalization of homosexuality. He concludes "*The Church of England has, in the past, acted as if compromise were the 'genius' of Anglicanism. History, I suspect, will show the opposite — that far from being its genius, it was the agent of its downfall.*"
- In an interesting related article, **the Rev John Richardson** [examines how](#) the debate within Anglicanism about women's ordination is exposing two "*entirely different concepts of the ordained ministry*". He says, "*At the risk of oversimplification, one of these basically assumes that the pattern of having bishops (who run, or help run, dioceses), priests (who minister more locally, celebrate the sacraments, preach and pastor), and deacons (who are probationary priests), represents the way the church long has been and forever should be. The other takes the view that these same orders are, in the form in which they are found in the Anglican Church, essentially man-made, and therefore dispensable. They may sometimes serve the Church well — they are of its bene esse (its 'well being') — but they are not, in their present form, of the esse (the 'very being').*"
- The Revs Matt and Anne Kennedy [have published the third riveting installment](#) in their account of God's provision when the court forced the congregation of Good Shepherd out of their church building.

### Food for thought

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up.

He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the dollar bill up.

He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air.

"Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty.

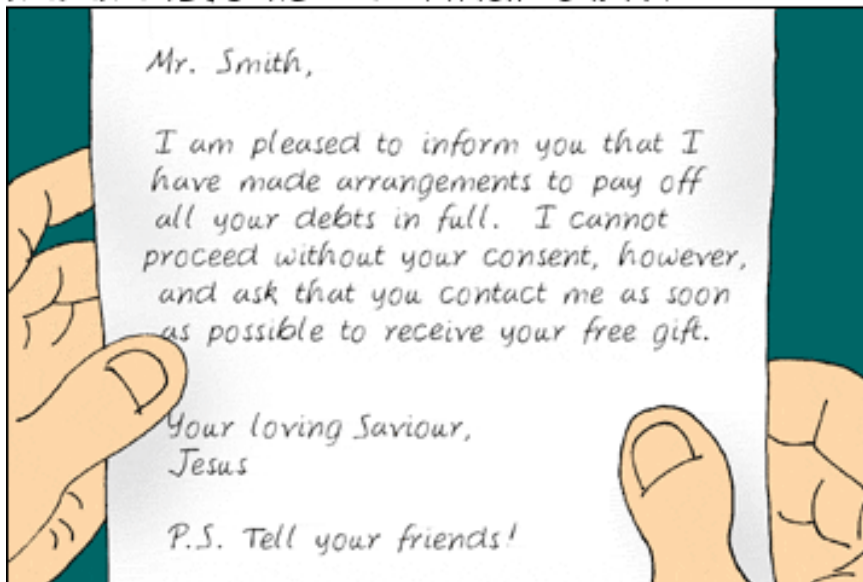
"Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, no matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. To Him, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to Him. Psalm 17:8 states that God will keep us 'as the apple of His eye.'"

The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we are, but by WHOSE WE ARE!

### Just for fun

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Thanks to Mikel Rice

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### Please pray...

For **ANiC projects, church plants and parishes**, especially as they seek to proclaim the Good News to those in their communities who desperately need new life in Christ.

- For the Good Shepherd (Vancouver) revival conference, Mar 19-20 with Dr Dennis Ngien
- For the Church of the Good Samaritan (St John's, NL) mission to Guatemala, April 17-24

For our **bishops and clergy**.

- For **Bishop Malcolm and the spiritual renewal missions** at St George's (Burlington, ON) on Feb 26-28 and St Andrew's (Delta, BC) on March 19-20.
- For those being ordained to the diaconate: **Roy Lang** (St Aidan's, Windsor, ON), **Dwight MacPherson** (All Saints, Rutledge, VT) and **Rhonda Cotton** (Holy Trinity, Marlborough, MA)
- For the Mar 16-18 **ANiC clergy retreat** at Cedar Springs (near Abbotsford, BC)

For legal cases and disputes

- For the **Vancouver-area ANiC parishes** that are proceeding with an appeal of the November 25 court decision.

- 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 ongoing financial contributions to the **Legal Defence Fund** so that legal costs can be covered and just decisions rendered for the future of Anglicanism in Canada.
- 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 granting of charitable status to the **Anglican Relief & Development Fund – Canada**. Pray for sufficient funds to be raised for the Kenya Malaria Prevention Project.

For our fellow Anglicans and other **Christians facing violence, persecution** and natural disasters in Haiti, Nigeria, Congo, Sudan and other Muslim lands as well as in Communist countries, especially North Korea.

### **And now a word from our sponsor**

*The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.*

*Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.*

*Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.*

*He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:*

*“Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”*

*The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! Selah*

*“Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.*

*Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.*

*I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.*

*For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.*

*I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.*

*“If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.*

*Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?*

*Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”*

*But to the wicked God says: “What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips?*

*For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you.*

*If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers.*

*“You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit.*

*You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son.*

*These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.*

*“Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!*

*The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!”*