



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Lenten pastoral letter

Bishop Don Harvey, ANiC's moderator has written a Lenten Pastoral letter to his Clergy and their congregations. The letter is [posted on ANiC's website](#). In his letter, Bishop Don urges us to focus on renewal, the "zeal we read about in the Acts of the Apostles, when the new young church 'turned the world upside down'". This renewal, he says, will take "place when we learn to 'rend our hearts and not our garments and return to the Lord our God'". He recommends we reread, slowly and prayerfully, the Penitential Service for Ash Wednesday ([page 611 of the 1962 Book of Common Prayer](#)) and devote the 40 days of Lent to prayer – corporately and individually.

Last chance... Clergy retreat, March 29-31

[Online registration](#) closes **March 17!** ANiC's annual clergy retreat is March 29-31 at lovely Cedar Springs, WA, just across the border from Abbotsford, BC. The speaker is the [Venerable Michael McKinnon](#), ANiC archdeacon for New England and rector of [Holy Trinity](#), Marlborough, MA. His topic will be "*The transforming power of the Word of God*". Full information [is on the ANiC website](#) including the [tentative agenda](#).

Church planting conferences head to Central Canada

After two inspiring conferences in BC, ANiC's regional church planting conferences are heading east. There are open to both clergy and laity. Register now!

Ottawa, ON (see brochure)	April 2	Contact the Rev Dan Endresen
Burlington, ON	April 6	Contact the Rev Ray David Glenn
Montreal, QC	April 30	Contact the Rev Dan Endresen
Moncton, NB	May 28	Contact the Rev Dan Endresen
Marlborough, MA	June (TBD)	Contact the Ven Michael McKinnon
Brandon, MB	TBD	Contact Phil Varcoe

Japan disaster relief

If you wish to contribute to the disaster response in Japan, you may wish to channel your donation through the Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada (ARDFC). You can [donate online](#) via CanadaHelps or send your cheque to ARDFC, Box 1013, Burlington, ON, L7R 4L8. Please clearly designate your donation for Japan relief work. Thanks! Those living south of the 49th parallel may find it more tax-efficient to donate through the US-based [ARDF](#).

ANiC parish and clergy news

[Church of the Epiphany](#) & [St Peter by the Park](#) (Hamilton, ON) are co-hosting a Palm Sunday parish family event, billed as a "*time of fun, food and fellowship*". The event will allow members of ACNA area churches to get acquainted with each other and Bishop Don Harvey – as well as prepare for Holy Week. ANiC and ACNA parishioners are invited. See [the poster](#) for details.

Date: April 17, 3pm

Location: St John United Church, 195 E 38 St, Hamilton (where Church of the Epiphany meets)

[All Saints \(Rutland, VT\)](#) just celebrated its 2nd anniversary as well as seven baptisms.

[Emmaus \(Montreal, QC\)](#) – **The Rev Keith Ganzer**, who is currently serving at St John's Vancouver, has been appointed the next rector of Emmaus begin June 26. We pray God's blessing on both Keith and the people of Emmaus.

Welcome! Bishop Don has licenced **the Rev James Bennett** (Orillia, Ontario) as a priest in ANiC.

Heading south – ANiC’s three suffragan bishops – Bishops Stephen Leung, Charlie Masters and Trevor Walters – will be in Pittsburgh March 16-17 for a conference led by Archbishop Bob Duncan.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

- March 21-22 – [Asian Mission inaugural conference](#), Vancouver, BC
- March 25-26 – ACNA’s *Rekindling the Fire: Power in the Church Conference*, Akron, Ohio
- March 25-27 – [ACiC renewal mission](#) in Vancouver
- March 29-31 – ANiC’s 2011 [clergy retreat](#) near Abbotsford, BC
- April 2 – Ottawa, ON [church planting workshop](#)
- April 6 – Burlington, ON [church planting workshop](#)
- April 7 – Calgary, AB – AEC’s “*Transformational discipleship in the 21st Century*” conference
- April 9, 10am-noon – Barrie, ON – Quiet morning for clergy and spouses at Celebration Church
- April 9, 2pm – Barrie, ON – Official launch of Celebration Church
- April 12-14 – [Gospel Coalition conference](#), Chicago, Illinois
- April 30 – Montreal, QC [church planting workshop](#)
- May 28 – Moncton, NB [church planting workshop](#)
- June (TBD) – Marlborough, MA [church planting workshop](#)

ANiC in the news

Ottawa Citizen – February 24 2011 – [Conservative... parishes formalize split from Ottawa diocese](#)

On the front lines: Church plant and project profile

Many ANiC lay leaders, priests and even a bishop have taken up the Anglican1000 challenge to share the Gospel in new ways and focus on mission and church planting. This exciting and sometimes overwhelming vision has spurred on ANiC church planters – lay and ordained alike – to work hard as they trail blaze, excited to see what the Lord will do. With every newsletter we hope to offer a window into this ministry. This time we profile the Church of St James in Lennoxville, QC.

Church of St James, Lennoxville, Quebec

[St James’](#) is entering week number 11 since being accepted as an ANiC church plant led by the Rev Jess Cantelon. After six years of ministering in Israel, Jess, Erica and their three young boys moved to Lennoxville last fall to plant a church. Erica reports:

“It is indeed a season of humble beginnings – and it couldn’t be more exciting! The Lord brought us here step by unexpected step. He gives Jess a dream. A little church plant seed begins to take root. A tiny sprout is beginning to poke through, reaching for the light.

“We’re been meeting in the beautiful Quebec House of Prayer since last fall. We didn’t have an official launch; we simply started. Some Sundays, a couple young families came; on other Sundays, Jess preached his sermon just to me. Now attendance reaches up to 25 people.

“The Lord is softening hearts. Some members of St James’, who have not attended a church in eight or ten years, now come with a Bible tucked under their arms. Some come wanting to give their tithe. Timid people pray during the intercessory prayers. New immigrants with beautiful accents read the scriptures aloud. Most of our members were not attending church prior to joining us at St James’.”

Pray for us and all the young plants and projects of ANiC.

News – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

ACNA parish St James (Newport Beach, CA) is back in court

[According to the Orange County Register](#), an ACNA Newport Beach church is back in court seeking clarification on an earlier ruling. “[St James Anglican Church](#) in Newport Beach went back before the state Supreme Court Tuesday in the latest chapter in its long-running battle with the Episcopal Church.” The complex case has gone back and forth between the trial judge, the state Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. St James would like the opportunity to introduce in

evidence a 1991 letter written by its former Episcopal Church diocese in which the diocese explicitly waived claim to the church property.

ACNA Diocese of Pittsburgh offers to negotiate in good faith

In an [open letter](#), the ACNA diocese of Pittsburgh has offered guidelines for negotiations with the Episcopal Church (TEC). The diocese has been locked in litigation with TEC, but is now suggesting a way the two parties can work together to seek a negotiated settlement. The letter recommends the negotiations be characterized by the principles of mutual recognition, mutual forgiveness, and mutual blessing and release, and that the negotiations seek by three goals:

- Assure that all the parishes and each diocese can survive and thrive;
- Enable us all to move past litigation and focus on our respective missions;
- Demonstrate our commitment to be at God's best as we work to resolve our differences, mindful of the public and private impact of our disagreements.

They ask that we join them in praying for fair and godly outcomes to the negotiations.

Anglican1000 explored

In an interview [posted on VirtueOnline](#), Anglican1000 staffer the Rev Daniel Adkinson discusses *Anglican1000* – a catalyst for the planting of churches in North America in response to our primate's challenge to plant 1000 new churches in five years. While a number of ACNA church plants are not currently registered with Anglican1000, they do know of 120 new works since 2009, with many more in the "pipeline".

The Rev Adkinson says, *"...we are all humbled and excited about the momentum of this movement. It feels like we have a tiger by the tail and we are just running to keep up... This vision for missional Anglicanism has certainly caught hold of our imaginations as the way forward. It is so encouraging to see our leaders inspired by and working towards this new future instead of looking in their rear view mirror and overly focusing on the past struggles."*

He also talks about the recent *Church Planting Summit* attended by 350 leaders and church planters. The keynote speakers *"... both focused on how church planting finds its moorings in the Mission of God - in the overall work of God as he reconciles and restores. They looked at church planting as a vital part of participating in this work with an emphasis on the Great Commission - focusing on those disconnected from God, on proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples."*

ACNA diocese elects two more bishops

The Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANANA) – a diocese of the ACNA and a missionary initiative of the Church of Nigeria – has two new bishops-elect. [ACNA's announcement](#) states: *"Archbishop Robert Duncan of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) had the pleasure today of announcing the election of the Ven Julian Dobbs and the Rev'd Canon Dr Felix Orji as suffragan bishops. These bishops-elect will serve the ACNA and its member jurisdiction the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANANA), which was founded by the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion."* Bishop-elect Orji once served as an assistant priest at St John's Vancouver before moving to a parish in Texas.

More ACNA news

Salem News – March 7 2011 – [Breakaway Anglican church buys former Catholic property](#)

Church of England Newspaper – March 11 2011 – [No break with CANANA, Church of Nigeria says](#)

News – Canada

ACA and Anglican Essentials Calgary sponsor conference, April 7

The [Anglican Communion Alliance](#) and [Anglican Essentials Calgary](#) are sponsoring a conference with Canon George Kovoor on April 7 entitled *"Transformational discipleship in the 21st century"*. The conference will be held at Entheos Retreat and Conference Centre (242032 Range Road, RR 40, Calgary, Alberta. Contact the Rev Jonathan Gibson to register: Call 403-279-3105 ext 3 or email staugcal@aol.com.

Open Communion debate surfaces

[Writing in the Anglican Journal](#), the Rev Dr Gary Nicolosi, of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC), argues for open communion, seeing the Eucharist as merely a family meal that should be welcoming of all visitors. However, ACoC doctrine officially calls for only baptised church members to receive communion.

Dr Nicolosi writes, *“Do we invite them to church for Sunday dinner and tell them they cannot eat the food? ...In Canada, a growing number of the population is not baptized. Included are people from different religious traditions or people with no religious affiliation at all... Open communion increasingly is seen as a way to build a bridge between the church and the unchurched. If people are “spiritual but not religious”... then the desire for transcendence experienced in sacramental worship may well draw them to church... I term this “experiential evangelism”...”*

A [National Post story](#) on the issue reports, *“In an interview, Rev. Nicolosi noted the Church is losing 13,000 members a year and that those who remain now have an average age of 60. He estimates that just 500,000 Anglicans are left in Canada, down from 1.3 million only a few decades ago.”* However, the article continues, *“Rev. Ephraim Radner, professor of historical theology at Wycliffe College, an Anglican seminary in Toronto, rejects the idea that changing 2,000 years of tradition will make the Anglican Church stronger. “The Eucharist isn’t a welcoming exercise,” he said. “It is about Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. It’s not a meal like any other meal.”* The Rev Murray Henderson, a rector in Toronto and a leader of the Anglican Communion Alliance (ACA) is also quoted saying, *“We need to have the courage to convert people to Christ, to have some discipline, and then we can invite people to the communion table. It’s not about a lack of hospitality, but asking people to first make a commitment to Jesus.”*

The [AEC blog spotted](#) the Rev Dr Michael Pountney’s comments following this National Post article in which he said *“Would taking away yet another element of what has made Anglicanism a powerful force over the centuries really improve the brand image and attract more customers? Could they really put more backsides in pews if they reduced further all distinctions of difference between going to church on a Sunday morning and going to a community social club? Can dilution and diminishment win the day? ...It may be that the cause of the disastrous decline in membership of the Anglican Church of Canada is that – in its headlong rush to include every latest fad – it can no longer promise anything; not even lively faith in a living God.”*

The issue will apparently be discussed when the ACoC House of Bishops meets in April.

The [AEC blog hosts a discussion](#) on the issue.

News – United States

Irony of Anglican “dialogue” portrayed

An [animated video](#) portrays a hypothetical conversation between an Episcopal Church bishop and a Bible believing parishioner. The very short video deals with *“staying in relationship”* despite disagreements over moral issues. However, the bishop seems to think that Christian dialogue cannot include any reference to Biblical admonition on the issues in question. The video would be funnier if it weren’t so real.

News – International

Prayers for all those in Japan affected by the earthquake and tsunami

The Primate of the Anglican Church in Japan, Archbishop Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, [issued a statement on March 14th](#) telling of the difficulty he has had contacting bishops and churches in the devastated areas.

He says that, in Tohoku diocese, *“There is particular concern for two churches: Isoyama St Peter’s Church in Fukushima Prefecture and Kamaishi Shinai Church and the kindergarten in Iwate that were close to the sea. Priests have been frantically trying to confirm that their parishioners are safe...[S]ome churches in Kita Kanto diocese have been reported to have been*

damaged also. [In] Tohoku diocese the church is planning to establish an emergency relief centre within the diocesan building... At a Provincial level I am working to establish a structure for responding to this unprecedented natural disaster as soon as possible. This will include providing relief and sourcing volunteers and funding to help with the restoration of the affected areas.

“Prayer has power. I hope and request that you pray for the people who are affected, for those who have died and for their families. Pray for the people involved with the rescue efforts, and in particular pray for Tohoku and Kita Kanto dioceses and their priests and parishioners during this time of Lent.”

A [March 15 report](#) from the Church in Japan says “*there are no casualties among clergy*”, however churches have been damaged. The [Anglican Journal has a report](#) as well. Another [Anglican Journal article](#) provides insight into the Buddhist and Shinto religions that dominate in Japan.

The National Post has a [short poignant article](#) entitled “*Where is God in the wake of the world’s misery?*” It brings to mind 1 Cor 13:12 (ESV) “*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*”

A prayer for Japan can be found [on the Desiring God website](#).

Understanding Dr Williams’ theology – Recommended viewing!

Speaking at a Mere Anglicanism conference in South Carolina, the Rev Charles Raven discusses the Archbishop of Canterbury’s theology. In [an interesting address to the conference](#), he says that Dr Williams’ seems to believe that God is largely unknowable; while God is real, we can’t say much about Him with any degree of confidence. The best theology, according to Dr Williams is “*the noise of someone falling over things in the dark*”.

The Rev Raven also discusses the state of the Communion. He says that the problem with Dr Williams’ focus on a process of ongoing dialogue tacitly reduces Anglican ecclesiological identity to “*our capacity to keep talking. In other words, it’s conversational rather than confessional.*” He then contrasts the hermeneutic of Thomas Cranmer and Rowan Williams, saying Cranmer exhibited “*hermeneutic confidence*” and “*ecclesiological pessimism*”, while Williams exhibits the reverse. He says the Dr Williams “*dialectical approach to truth*” is “*a deadly experiment*”. “*The wages of ecclesial synthesis between the truth and the lie are death.*”

The Rev Raven wrote a recently released book on Dr Williams’ theology called *Shadow Gospel*.

Canterbury writes the Primates

In [a recent letter](#) to the Primates of the Anglican Communion, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, discusses January’s Primates meeting in Dublin. He says, “*The recent Primates’ Meeting in Dublin did not set out to offer a solution to the ongoing challenges of mutual understanding and of the limits of our diversity in the Communion... In recent years, many have appealed to the Primates to resolve the problems of the Communion by taking decisive action to enforce discipline on this or that Province... The unanimous judgement of those who were present was that the Meeting should not see itself as a ‘supreme court’, with canonical powers, but that it should nevertheless be profoundly and regularly concerned with looking for ways of securing unity and building relationships of trust.*”

A view of the Communion from the ACI

The Anglican Communion Institute (ACI) is coming to the view that the Communion is broken. In [an article posted last month](#), Dr Phillip Turner writes, “*...one is forced to conclude that none of the supposed “Instruments of Communion” have been able to address the divisions in the Communion in a satisfactory manner. This series of failures has left the Anglican Communion with no effective means to sustain unity among its autonomous provinces.*”

He then suggests that the orthodox majority Provinces are not united in their approach to church unity – and that this division is also found among the orthodox in North America. The two approaches, he labels: “*relational*” and “*confessional*”. ACNA, he says, takes a confessional approach while the ACI and Communion Partners favour a relational approach.

Dr Turner then chides the orthodox for focusing on “*political wrangling*” at the expense of engaging in theological work on Communion ecclesiology (Church unity). He says, “...*those in dissent have, like their opponents, abandoned theological work and given themselves to political strategies. They have failed to construct a theological rudder to carry them through this storm, and as a result resistance remains of a largely pragmatic rather than a thoroughly theological sort.*”

Around the Communion and the globe

New Zealand – Searchers [have not found](#) any earthquake victims in Christchurch Cathedral. They had expected to find up to 22 bodies. The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that: “*A majority of the buildings in the city’s central commercial district have been damaged and over 2,500 people have been reported injured in the quake, and more than 160 of them in serious condition. Damage to the churches of the Diocese of Christchurch has been severe, with 26 parishes reported as being in “a bad way.” The rubble at the base of the cathedral’s spire was over 30 meters deep, rescue workers report, and progress in removing bodies from the “broken heart” of Christchurch has been slowed by aftershocks.*”

England – The [BBC reports](#) that 600 clergy and parishioners have left the Church of England for the Roman Catholic Church’s *Anglican Ordinariate*. The Rev Ed Tomlinson told the BBC, “We couldn’t continue to be Christians in a normal sense when we were in a maverick Church that kept changing the rules to appease the common culture.” [Another report](#) places the number at 900.

Sudan – Samaritan’s Purse, a relief and development agency founded by Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham, has agreed to rebuild 34 Anglican churches in Wau Diocese, according to the [diocesan website](#). (Hat tip to VirtueOnline)

The ecumenical Sudan Council of Churches has [issued a statement](#) detailing their growing alarm at the resurgence of violence in some states as well as unresolved government and constitution issues. They ask for “*the international community to step up efforts in helping to address the most urgent humanitarian needs of the suffering people, but likewise we urge our governments... to fulfil their duties in providing security to all people.*”

The [Church of England Newspaper also reports](#) that the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan has issued a statement urging a speedy resolution to border disputes “as well as finding an equitable solution to questions of “citizenship, Sudan’s foreign debt, and oil.” The article provides excellent insights, such as:

“The allocation of revenues from Sudan’s oil fields has yet to be negotiated. Over 98 per cent of the south’s government budget is funded by oil revenue and the reserves lie mainly in the south and in the disputed border regions. However, all of the Sudan’s oil pipelines run north, giving the Khartoum government the power to turn off the south’s income spigot at will.

“Sudan’s \$38 billion foreign debt, amassed by Khartoum to fund the 1983-2005 civil war, divides north and south. The north is seeking forgiveness of its debt from international lenders, but no accord has been reached, while southern leaders object to having to pay for the costs of the war waged against them.”

Egypt – Violence against Christians seems to have increased since the populist uprisings in February. Individual Christians and several monasteries have been attacked. The [Washington Post reports](#) that Muslim men attacked a group of Christians protesting in Cairo the burning of a church near the city; 13 people died in that one incident. There are also reports of imams calling for the killing of all Christians. The [Cranmer blog](#) states that “Egypt’s 10 million Coptic Christians

are being religiously persecuted under the cloak of political chaos". [Compass Direct News](#) and [Persecution.org](#) have detailed accounts.

Eritrea – [Barnabas Fund reports](#) that at least two Christians have died in prison due to deplorable conditions and refusal of medical treatment. One had been imprisoned after being caught reading her Bible in her bedroom. More than 100 Christians have been imprisoned already this year. It reports that "*Thousands of Christians are believed to be imprisoned without trial in Eritrea's notorious detention system... Eritrea's Christians are among the most severely persecuted in the world...*" They are beaten, feed little, deprived of water, and keep in such small cells that they can't even lie down to sleep.

Ethiopia – [Persecution.org](#) reports that Islamic mobs have burnt 69 churches, a Bible school, an orphanage and 30 homes of Christian leaders in attacks that killed one and seriously injured scores of Christians in western Ethiopia. More than 10,000 Christians in this predominantly Muslim region have been displaced by the violence. [Another report suggestions](#) that war could soon engulf the Horn of Africa as Iranian-backed al-Shabaab Muslim extremists seek control of the entire region.

Pakistan – [Compass Direct News reports](#) that a Christian mother of seven who was kidnapped last August, raped, beaten and chained to a tree, has been freed after a daring raid in a dangerous, "no-go" region which is under the control of Muslim extremists. She reported that there were about 10 other women held in captivity with her – all of whom were severely abused for refusing forced marriages to Muslims.

India – The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that more than 100,000 Christians from 45 denominations gathered in Mangalore for a rally to protest the lack of action and justice in the face of repeated attacks on churches by Hindu extremists. Meanwhile, [Compass Direct News tell us](#) that in Orissa state attacks on Christians by Hindu extremists have resumed – with a reported 15 separate incidents in the last three months. Attackers are emboldened by police inaction and are destroying Christian's churches, homes and crops, as well as severely beating believers – including children.

South Africa – [VirtueOnline](#) has a good article on the Rev Dhenis Stafford, an orthodox priest in a liberal diocese who ran afoul of this bishop and had to resign his parish, St Michael's and All Angel's in a suburb of Cape Town. The root of the problem seems to have been the bishop's jealousy over the church's ambitious growth plans.

Libya – The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that the Archbishop of Cape Town is calling for the South African government to condemn Col Muamar Gaddafi's violation of international humanitarian law. The African National Congress (ANC) government in South Africa has close ties to the Libyan dictator, dating back to his support for Nelson Mandela and the ANC. In 1999, Nelson Mandela stated that South Africa "*would never turn its back*" on Gaddafi.

Other international headlines

Church of England Newspaper – March 4 2011 – [Central African archbishop elected](#)

Church of England Newspaper – March 4 2011 – [Bishop banned from entering Israel](#)

Anglican Communion News Service – March 4 2011 – [Bishop of Jerusalem to take court action over visa refusal](#)

Soul food

Just for fun

Three young children were sitting around the lunch table at school. One says, "*My dad's a lawyer. People pay him \$200 for a letter with his opinion on it.*"

Another responds, "*My dad's a doctor. He scribbles prescriptions on a little sheet of paper and people pay him \$300 for it.*"

The third chimes in, "*My dad's a preacher. He writes a few notes on a napkin, tells everyone, and it takes eight people to collect all the money.*"

Growing churches

On the Anglican1000 website, you'll find an [article summarizing highlights](#) of a session at a recent interdenominational [church planters'](#) conference in Atlanta. The session featured Shaun King offering insights on how church planters – and existing congregations – can use social media effectively to reach their communities. For example, he says that, using the advance search function on Twitter, you can insert key words to find people in your community who are requesting prayer – and connect with them.

Great ministry resource – Highly recommended!

Invest a few minutes to explore the wealth of exceptional, creative and professionally produced ministry resources at [SermonSpice.com](#). You'll find short, inexpensive videos with real punch, which are appropriate for use in all sorts of church and ministry settings. As an example, look for “**Reverse**”, a highly-effective, creative, two-minute evangelistic tool. There are also videos appropriate for Lent – and other important dates on the church calendar.

Hell and the Bible

High profile emergent church leader Rob Bell has now joined the ranks of fellow emergent church leader Brian McLaren in openly questioning established Biblical doctrines and espousing what many say is a sort of universalism. In his soon to be released book, *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*, Bell denies the doctrine of hell – or at least redefines hell to remove the sting. Although the book hasn't yet hit the bookstores, Bell has triggered a storm of reaction. Tim Challies has an [in-depth review](#) and [Justin Taylor of the Gospel Coalition](#) has a series of posts on the dangers this doctrinal revisionism.

Dr Albert Mohler [also offers a very helpful review of Bell's book](#) in the context of a brief history of “liberal” theology. He says, “*The liberals did not set out to destroy Christianity. To the contrary, they were certain that they were rescuing Christianity from itself... We have read this book before. Not the exact words, and never so artfully presented, but the same book, the same argument, the same attempt to rescue Christianity from the Bible... Rob Bell uses his incredible power of literary skill and communication to unravel the Bible's message and to cast doubt on its teachings.*”

Dr Mohler demonstrates Bell's selective use of Scripture and shows that Bell's theology ignores the problem of sin and the need of a Savior. Bell affirms God's love but denies His justice and holiness. Dr Mohler says, “*...any human effort to offer the world a story superior to the comprehensive story of the Bible fails on all fronts. It is an abdication of biblical authority, a denial of biblical truth, and a false Gospel... We dare not retreat from all that the Bible says about hell. We must never confuse the Gospel, nor offer suggestions that there may be any way of salvation outside of conscious faith in Jesus Christ. We must never believe that we can do a public relations job on the Gospel or on the character of God.*”

You can read what J C Ryle, a much-loved 19th century Anglican pastor, had to say about the “Eight symptoms of false doctrine” [here](#).

In another, two-part article, Dr Albert Mohler tackles the unpopular and neglected Christian doctrine of hell. He notes that there are several factors that have led to the undermining of the doctrine: a radically altered view of God that diminishes His holiness and sovereignty; an altered view of justice that removes the concept of retribution; and a denial of personal responsibility for wrong doing.

He concludes [his second article](#) by says, “*The revision or rejection of the traditional doctrine of hell comes at a great cost. The entire system of theology is modified by effect, even if some revisionists refuse to take their revisions to their logical conclusions. Essentially, our very concepts of God and the gospel are at stake. What could be more important?*” And he ends [the first article](#) with, “*Our responsibility is to present the truth of the Christian faith with boldness, clarity, and courage — and defending the biblical doctrine in these times will require all three of these virtues. Hell is an assured reality, just as it is presented so clearly in the Bible. To run from this truth, to reduce the*

sting of sin and the threat of hell, is to pervert the Gospel and to feed on lies... [T]here is no way to deny the Bible's teaching on hell and remain genuinely evangelical. No doctrine stands alone."

Of interest

Repentance – This week's American Anglican Council's short [Anglican Perspective](#) video focuses on repentance. Canon Phil Ashley says that Biblical repentance is not just feeling badly about our sins but turning from them and turning to Jesus. As we enter Lent, he says, we should intensify our focus on spiritual disciplines and use them to draw closer to Christ.

Word of God – Have a look at [this inspiring short view](#) from West Papua, Indonesia. You'll see the joy of people who are receiving the Bible in their own language for the first time – and experience their deep reverence for the Bible.

Gendercide – Building on an article by historian Niall Ferguson, [Dr Mohler explores](#) the potential for social upheaval and militarism resulting for the growing gender imbalance in Asian countries where baby boys are preferred and baby girls are more likely to be aborted.

Abortion – An alarming [article in the National Post](#) reports on a study of abortions in Ontario in 2007. It states that, for every 100 live births, 37 babies were aborted. The rate among teens aged 15-19 was much higher. *"For every 100 babies born to Ontario teens, 152 are aborted."* And one in five teens 15-19 reporting having already had at least one abortion. The article continued, *"Most Canadians are unaware that teens don't need parental consent to have an abortion... In fact, most Canadians – 80% according to a 2010 Angus Reid poll – don't even know we have no legal restrictions on abortion. For the record, abortion is fully legal in Canada at any stage of pregnancy, for any reason, and for any Canadian citizen, and taxpayers pay for almost all of them."*

Marriage – In response to possible legislative moves, an Australian organization has posted [a video](#) on the importance of traditional marriage.

Thought

"Our culture is doing to sex what people who chew with their mouths open do to food." – Douglas Wilson (quoted by Pastor Mark Driscoll)

Please pray...

For our **bishops and clergy** and their families

For **ANiC projects, church plants and parishes**, and for their proclamation of the Good News to those in their communities who desperately need new life in Christ

For the [Asian Mission conference](#) March 21-22 in Vancouver, BC

For the four Vancouver-area ANiC parishes and their legal counsel as they await the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada on their application for leave to appeal

For other ongoing legal challenges faced by ANiC parishes, including the ongoing litigation involving **St Aidan's (Windsor)** and the ANiC parishes that were formerly in the **Diocese of Niagara** – and their mounting expenses

For all the **congregations** involved in court proceedings and disputes. Pray for a continued focus on, and blessing upon, their ministry in the midst of this turmoil. Pray for peace for the **wardens and trustees** who are on the front lines and bear the burden of risk and responsibility

For the **leaders and parishioners of the ACoC dioceses** pursuing eviction of and legal costs against ANiC congregations and wardens

For donations **to the ANiC legal defense fund which** supports parishes in disputes with their former dioceses

For the implementation by the Diocese of Maseno West (Kenya) of the [malaria prevention project](#), sponsored by the **ARDFC**. May God use it to bless Kenyans and bring many to Christ

For the people of **Japan** and **Christchurch, NZ**. May they turn to God and find comfort and hope

For **persecuted Christians**, especially in Egypt, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, India and other Muslim and Hindu lands

For countries in **Africa and the Middle East** where radical Muslims are seeking to leverage the political instability to gain control

For a speeding resolution to outstanding issues in **the Sudan** and a peaceful division of the country

For repentance and revival in **our hearts and in our nation**, for a hunger for God and His Word

For all those in positions of leadership and influence in the **Anglican Communion**, that they would seek to honour and obey God above all else

For the **GAFCON and Global South Primates** of the Anglican Communion as they plan for meetings of orthodox Anglican leaders

And now a word from our sponsor

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:18-39 ESV