



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Primate of the Southern Cone, Greg Venables

[The American Anglican Council newsletter](#) notes that Presiding Bishop Gregory Venables of the Southern Cone has experienced significant adversity recently. Father Phil Ashby writes, *“On the same weekend that his mother passed away, his home was severely damaged by a storm that ruined the roof and made the upstairs uninhabitable. Another storm came through after that and destroyed the porch. Now he is being singled out by Lambeth Palace and ACC Secretary General Kenneth Kearon for potential sanctions for his involvement in providing pastoral care and oversight to churches in North America. Is it a coincidence that this follows his election as Chair of the GAFCON Primates Council? ++Gregory Venables has been a faithful, steadfast friend and shepherd to so many of us here in North America.”*

ANiC has already been able to send a gift of money to Archbishop Greg and his wife Sylvia and we hope to be able to send more. Please remember them in prayer.

St Hilda’s in the news

The [National Post recently carried an interesting feature](#) on **St Hilda’s (Oakville, ON)** and its journey since voting unanimously to leave the Anglican Church of Canada in February 2008. Journalist, Charles Lewis says of the church, *“...a religious revolution has taken place here as profound as anything seen in modern Christian history.”* He adds, *“Their cause... seemed utterly out of step with the predominant Canadian culture.”* Parishioner Paula Valentine and rector the Rev Paul Charbonneau are interviewed and recount the opposition they have faced from their former diocese. The article says, *“Still, despite attacks on reputation, property and finances over the past 30 months St. Hilda’s has survived and perhaps triumphed. From being a lost cause they have become part of a stubborn outpost of orthodoxy that is gaining millions of allies across the globe.”*

Bishop Michael Bird of the Anglican Church of Canada Diocese of Niagara quickly responded with [a letter to the editor](#) in which he challenged the term *“religious revolution”*, saying that St Hilda’s is merely *“part of a small splinter group that represents less than 2% of Anglicans in North America”*. He adds, *“They would have us return to a way of thinking that is much closer to the last Reformation that began in the 15th century, as opposed to moving us toward a new Reformation.”* He concludes his letter with: *“...whether a man loves a woman or another man, or a woman loves a man or another woman to God it is all love.”*

ARDFC and your parish budget

Has your parish included [ARDFC](#) in your next annual church budget? ARDFC is ANiC’s relief and development arm and we’re committed to partnering with Global South dioceses to implement projects that have been carefully vetted before approval.

As we enter mosquito season in Canada...

Next time you swat an annoying mosquito, consider that, for many in tropical countries mosquito bites can be deadly, as mosquitoes transmit the debilitating and potentially fatal malaria parasite. Every year, nearly a million people – many of whom are small children – die from malaria.

For our current project, we have committed to raising \$50,000 through ARDFC to allow a malaria reduction project to go ahead in the Diocese of Maseno in Kenya. Our gifts will finance malaria prevention education for students and healthcare workers and will pay for mosquito nets to protect small children who are most at risk. Please help us help the Diocese of Maseno “take the bite out

of malaria”. Donations [can be made online](#) or by sending your cheque to ARDFC, Box 1013, Burlington, ON, L7R 4L8. More information will be coming to ANiC parishes very soon.

Giving to ACNA

Just a reminder... Canadians giving directly to ACNA will receive a receipt, but that receipt cannot be used for Canadian income tax purposes. If you wish a Canadian charitable receipt for your gift to ACNA, please donate through ANiC and clearly designate your gift for ACNA.

Ottawa area music leader needed

Blackburn Hamlet Community Church (Ottawa, ON) needs a new music leader to begin in September. If you are a Christian who plays the piano or guitar and if you feel God is calling you to this ministry, contact the church for a job description. For contact and church information see www.blackburnhamletcommunitychurch.ca

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

- June 12-22 – St Matthias & St Luke pilgrimage to the Holy Land
- June 20 – St John’s Vancouver confirmation service to be held at St John’s Richmond
- June 20 – Blackburn Hamlet (Ottawa, ON) confirmation service with Bishop Charlie
- July 23 – Holy Trinity (Marlborough, MA) – Ordination to priesthood of the Rev Michael Bickford
- Sept 13-16 – BC Court of Appeal hearing in Vancouver
- Sept 17-19 – St Luke’s – Spiritual renewal with Bishop Malcolm & Archdeacon Paul Crossland
- Sept 18 – St George’s Ottawa, Day of Prayer in preparation for the ANiC synod
- Nov 3 – Clergy day, Ottawa, ON
- Nov 4-6 – ANiC synod with Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, Ottawa, ON

News shorts – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

ACNA adds two dioceses, bringing total number of dioceses to 20

Two new dioceses [were added](#) to the ACNA at Provincial Council meetings on June 9: the Diocese of the South and the Diocese of the Great Lakes. The Diocese of the Great Lakes unites over 1500 Anglicans in 14 congregations located in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. Bishop Roger Ames, currently a suffragan bishop for the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA), is expected to be formally installed in October as the diocese’s first bishop.

The new [Anglican Diocese of the South](#) also currently numbers more than 1500 members in 20 churches in four states: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. Bishop-elect Foley Beach, rector of Holy Cross Anglican Church in Loganville, Georgia will be consecrated this fall.

ACNA Provincial Council report

A [communiqué](#) from the ACNA Provincial Council and College of Bishops’ meeting, held earlier in June, notes that the Provincial Council approved “mission partner” status for the Anglican Mission (formerly know as AMiA) – including the Anglican Coalition in Canada (ACiC). The House of Bishops approved a new missionary bishop position for work among Niobrara Sioux Native Americans, and approved the Rt Rev Derek Jones as suffragan bishop to oversee an increasing number of military and institutional chaplains and chaplain candidates. They also began studying the issue of women’s ordination to the priesthood.

Father Phil Ashe, [writing in the American Anglican Council newsletter](#), recounts the strides taken by the ACNA in its first year: growing global recognition by orthodox Global South provinces; deepening ecumenical relations; nurturing of “*a new generation of thirty-something preachers and teachers... who will both guard and proclaim the faith once delivered!*”

[BeliefNet reports](#), “*For now, the ACNA is focused on laying foundations. Task forces on topics from liturgy to prayer book and ecumenism reported to the council this week. Chief Operating Officer Brad Root, a former entrepreneur, likens the organization to “a start up” in the business world; it aims to grow rapidly and all administrative systems need to be built from square one.*”

ACNA Diocese of Quincy elects bishop

The ACNA Diocese of Quincy [has elected](#) a new bishop. The election of the Rt Rev Alberto Morales must be confirmed by the ACNA House of Bishops. Abbot Morales has been active in world missions, conferences and clergy retreats, and is the founder of St Benedict's Abbey, an ecumenical abbey near Peoria, Illinois.

Two court decisions: in Virginia and California

The Supreme Court of **Virginia** has overturned a pro-ACNA ruling by a lower court on one matter of law and sent the case back to the lower court. Legal commentator, [A S Haley \(aka Anglican Curmudgeon\)](#) [says](#) that the result is that both sides now must “*spend more time and money in trying the issues of ownership*” in the lower court – dragging the case out another two years or more. He adds, “...*the Court's decision today holds little precedential value for the wider issues at stake in litigation in other states between [TEC], its dioceses, and their parishes*”.

In [a news release](#) Jim Oakes, spokesman for the nine ACNA Virginia churches involved said, ““*We are disappointed with today's ruling and will review it as we consider our options. This is not the final chapter in this matter. The court's ruling simply involved one of our statutory defenses... [T]hese properties are titled in the name of the congregations' trustees, not in the name of the Diocese or the Episcopal Church. So we continue to be confident in our legal position...*”

The **California** Supreme Court has agreed to review a 2-1 split decision issued by the Court of Appeals which favoured the Episcopal Church. The earlier ruling had denied St James Anglican Church its day in court. According to a [St James' news release](#), “*By granting the St. James petition, the Court has acknowledged that this property rights dispute is far from over as the Episcopal Church has claimed, and that the Court must decide whether a defendant can be deprived of its property before it has had the opportunity to defend itself with evidence in a court of law.*”

Christianity Today provides [a good analysis](#) of the case.

Other ACNA news

OneNewsNow – June 14 2010 – [CANA supports Episcopalian ban](#)

StandFirm – June 14 2010 – [ACNA receives Atlanta area diocese](#) [Anglican Diocese of the South]

Newburyport Daily News – June 10 2010 – [Local church at center of breakaway...movement](#)

Washington Post – June 11 2010 – [Va. High court rules against Anglican breakaway churches...](#)

Anglican Mainstream – June 17 2010 – [ACNA bishop to preach at Portreath, Cornwall...](#)

Church of England Newspaper – June 4 2010 – [AMiA pulls back from joining third province movement in North America](#)

Living Church – June 11 2010 – [ACNA celebrates its first year](#)

News shorts – Canada

ACoC general synod achieves status quo

AEC blogger David Jenkins, who did yeoman's service reporting from general synod, [wrote in his concluding article for the National Post](#), “*As synod draws to a close, I find myself wondering what it was all for. After so many words, motions, resolutions, procedures, discernments, presentations and earnest pondering... The sexuality resolution, when it finally arrived, was sufficiently woolly to allow the blessing of same-sex unions to continue informally, while avoiding— for the moment at least — censure from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Those who set unity above all saw it as a masterpiece of Anglican compromise... The Anglican Covenant — the document that is supposed to prevent Anglican provinces from making radical decisions unilaterally — will be studied for three to six years... The Anglican Church spends much of its time questioning the faith that has shaped not only it, but the last 2000 years of Western civilization. To fill the void, it has made an idol out of “inclusion”, thereby alienating to the point of exclusion many who are determined to hold fast to orthodox Christianity. The church's quest for relevance has become an accommodation to secular culture and it now finds itself in a market where it cannot and never will be able to effectively compete.*”

Sexuality issue - [Writing in the Anglican Journal](#), Neale Adams (Diocese of New Westminster), complimented Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada for masterfully steering synod away from the rocks – particularly the shoal of the sexuality/blessings issue. Rather than making a decision, synod simply [passed a motion](#) to move the ongoing “dialogue” back to the dioceses, guided by a [”Sexuality Discernment” statement](#) distilled from “indaba” small group discussions at synod. In [a related motion](#), dioceses were asked to “*engage in theological and scriptural study of human sexuality... in conversation with gay and lesbian voices, and with a full range of theological opinion...*” The [AEC blog reports](#) that an amendment to this motion calling for the inclusion of “ex-gay voices” [such as members of Zacchaeus Fellowship] was defeated.

In a [letter to his diocese](#), Bishop Michael Bird (Niagara) comments, *“I believe this statement does represent significant movement in the life of our Church. All of our delegates agree that a new spirit of openness and generosity was felt in our meetings and I am pleased with the acknowledgement and the acceptance of the context for the kind of local discernment that we have undertaken. I also need to say to you that this statement and the desire it expresses to walk together bears witness to the work and leadership that our diocese has offered the wider church.”*

As Mr Adams [states in his Journal article](#), *“In other words, in those dioceses where same-gendered couples are blessed, they will probably continue to be blessed; in those dioceses where the bishop and many of his priests and people object to blessing, they won’t be performed. And the Anglican Church of Canada will continue on as one big family. Maybe not all its members are happy, but the family unit remains intact... Archbishop Hiltz can now send the document... to Canterbury and suggest this is an example of “gracious restraint” that many seem to want.”*

[Another Anglican Journal article states](#): *“General Synod 2010 did not approve the so-called local option that would allow dioceses to grant same-sex blessings. Neither did it take a legislative decision on the matter. It did, however, recognize that local option has been exercised by some and may be taken by others in future, even though “it’s not local option approved by the national church...,” said Archbishop Fred Hiltz, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. “We’re not ready as a national church to say, ‘We’re building this into our doctrine that we approve of same-sex unions,’ ” he told a press conference following the close of General Synod 2010 in Halifax. What synod did say was, “We need to have more conversation”...*

Anglican Covenant – General synod received the final text of the Covenant and [passed a motion](#) to study it at the parish and diocesan level and to consider adoption at general synod 2013 in Ottawa. The motion further asks that work be done on the “theological, ecclesiological, legal and constitution implications of a decision to adopt or not adopt the Covenant”. The [Anglican Journal reports](#) that, the chair of the Covenant Working Group, Bishop George Bruce (Ontario), told synod this final text of the Covenant was *“a very significant improvement”* over earlier drafts.

Other items of interest coming out of general synod –

- [General synod decided](#) to cut costs by paring down the size of the Council of General Synod (CoGS) – the body that effectively governs the church between General Synod meetings. Newly elected members of CoGS include Anglican Essentials Network rector, the Rev Gene Packwood (AEN) of [St Barnabas Anglican Church](#) (Medicine Hat, Alberta).
- The next general synod will [be fully integrated](#) with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
- When general synod was addressed by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (TEC), Katharine Jeffers Schori, the focus was on the close partnership between the ACoC and TEC. In her address, [according to the Anglican Journal](#), she said, *“Our histories have continued to be intertwined. We’ve had quite a lot of consensual border crossing...”* For his part, Archbishop Hiltz said that ACoC members *“value and cherish”* their relationship with Episcopalians and he was *“holding out the possibilities for deeper partnership”* between the two churches.

- The Anglican Communion's secretary general, Canon Kenneth Kearon, [lauded ACoC leaders](#) for their contributions to various Communion initiatives and focused on good works currently undertaken by the Communion. A news conference with Canon Kearon is [on the AEC blog](#).

Anglican Communion Alliance responds with gratitude

In a [cautiously positive response](#), the Anglican Communion Alliance (ACA) expressed gratitude for general synod's status quo decision. However, the ACA did say the "*Statement remains problematic for Anglican Communion Alliance members*" and insisted "*that common life will be jeopardized by any attempt to see the Statement as a license to authorize same sex blessings*". They added that the ACA will encourage the House of Bishops to "*reaffirm the moratorium on same-sex blessings*".

The ACA conclude by announcing "*A conference of revisioning*" on September 25 at St Bride's in Mississauga, ON with speaker Dr Ephraim Radner. They add: "*The Anglican Communion Alliance eagerly accepts the challenge ahead of us. Our aim is to be a center of biblical and spiritual renewal within the Anglican Church of Canada, and we intend to give ourselves to the on-going theological discussion and study of human sexuality that this General Synod has called for and that is so needed in our church.*"

The [Anglican Journal reports](#) that Archbishop Hiltz addressed an ACA gathering during synod:

"The primate took time to speak about all this to a group of about 50 delegates and others at a session organized by the Anglican Communion Alliance, until lately called the Essentials Federation. This group of conservative Anglicans is very much opposed to where they feel the church is headed on sexuality issues. Still, they want to stay.

"They asked hard questions and Archbishop Hiltz gave straight answers. At the end of the meeting, most stood up and applauded—something unimaginable three years ago.

"Of course, it helped that the Primate had chosen to promote restraint. And it helped that some people who attended General Synod 2007 in Winnipeg weren't attending General Synod 2010 in Halifax. Still, the primate wished out loud that former Anglican Church of Canada bishops Donald Harvey, Ron Ferris, and Malcolm Harding might return and help their former church by working with disaffected Anglicans in a shared episcopal ministry."

Other reactions to general synod

Bishop Bill Anderson, Diocese of Caledonia (in northwestern BC) took time from general synod to talk to AEC blogger David Jenkins. This very interesting interview is posted to the blog in two parts: [part 1](#) and [part 2](#). Bishop Anderson reports that he was impressed with the graciousness of the small group discussions but sensed the 'playing field' was tilted with the Primate clearly favouring the 'liberal' position. As an example, the Primate railed against cross-border interventions, but ignored the actions that necessitated those interventions. Bishop Anderson said: "*ACNA and ANiC didn't come into being in a vacuum: they came into existence out of a context that the Canadian church failed – and failed quite badly – to deal with: that was the initiation of doing the blessings in New Westminster.. the primate and the synod of the Canadian church can't have it both ways. They can't say, "shame on ANiC and shame on ACNA, you should not be crossing the border" and still countenance blessings being done within Canadian dioceses.*"

On the ACoC's jettisoning of historic tenets of the Christian faith, Bishop Anderson says, "*A lot of church-speak goes on at [synods]. People talk about doing more evangelism, we need to love, but there's absolutely no depth to those comments... Because we've gone down the road of being very simplistic about those things, we have an incredibly confused unfocussed message... we've lost our moorings... we aren't in agreement on Biblical authority... We've got a church that is madly spinning off in all directions; I think that represents a failure of leadership over decades.*"

Speaking of the leadership of the ACoC, he indicates that as a conservative in the House of Bishops, he is generally ignored. However, he is hopeful, because "*God has raised up some Godly new bishops in the church.*"

Referring to how ANiC bishops were treated by the ACoC leadership, Bishop Anderson laments, *“I’ve seen a number of good friends who have left... And Bishop Harvey was a good friend and a guide to me when I joined the HOB. I see him as someone who has been a man of incredible courage, and I know that it hurt him so deeply to be forced by conscience to do what he did. And there was nothing from this side. It was: “You’ve got a problem; too bad!” There was no sense of... what have we done wrong, that a man of that calibre would feel he had to do what he did... that, to me, is one of the great sins that we’re going to pay for.”*

Dr George Sumner, principal of Wycliffe College – David Jenkins also interviewed Dr Sumner and posted it in three parts to the AEC blog. Dr Sumner shares his views on the proposed Covenant, theological education, and renewal within the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC). On remaining in the ACoC, Dr Sumner said, *“I’m someone who believes that there is a valid calling to remain in the ACoC and to work for and be hopeful of its renewal. And I believe that the ACoC in its formal prayer is an orthodox church... I think the prayer books of the church are recognisably Christian. My exhortation to conservative Anglicans in Canada is to set about the business of building up parishes, dioceses and schools and understanding themselves as servants of the renewal of the church.”* You can see [part one](#), [part two](#) and [part three](#) of this interview.

Sara Plumpton, [in a post submitted to the AEC blog](#) advises orthodox Christians still within the ACoC not to participate further *“in the charade of fruitless ‘dialogue’”* on same-sex blessings. She says, *“... ‘dialogue’ implies that there is something that can reasonably be disputed, or that there is leeway for interpretation afforded by the Scriptures... Either homosexual sex is blessed or it is sinful. The Anglican Church of Canada has already given its blessing to homosexual sex... By participating in “dialogue,” conservative Anglicans legitimize the hypocritical position of the Anglican Church of Canada, which is in fact breaking the moratoria at the diocesan level and in intent at the national level.”* Instead of dialogue, she urges orthodox members of the ACoC to *“...call upon the international Communion to sanction the Anglican Church of Canada for its wilful breaking of the moratoria, for its apostasy, and for its exclusion of those faithful Christians who uphold the authority of Scripture in their own obedient lives [especially Zacchaeus Fellowship members].”*

Other Canadian news

Anglican Journal – June 9 2010 – [Vision 2019 adopted](#)

Anglican Journal – June 10 2010 – [‘A new vision of what church can be’](#)

Anglican Journal – June 10 2010 – [Money matters](#) [General synod hits \$70,000 in sponsorship]

Anglican Journal – June 10 2010 – [Hope within diversity](#)

Anglican Journal – June 11 2010 – [Spirit of God presided](#)

National Post – June 9 2010 – [Anglican gay rights fight accelerates](#)

Vancouver Sun – June 11 2010 – [Anglicans fail to resolve gay-marriage debate](#)

Christian Today – June 8 2010 – [Anglicans in Canada favour dialogue over debate...](#)

Christian Post – June 14 2010 – [Anglican Church of Canada accepts diversity on same-sex issue](#)

Canadian Christianity – June 2010 – [Rwanda’s Kolini visits \[BC\] ‘for fellowship’](#)

News shorts – United States

Is the Presiding Bishop laying the ground-work for a competing Communion?

As Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori travels internationally – visiting Canada, Scotland and England in the last two weeks – her language has taken on the tone of a campaign.

[VirtueOnline](#) [points](#) out that she is emphasizing the reach and power of the Episcopal Church (TEC), telling the general synod in Scotland that TEC has churches in 16 countries: Taiwan, Micronesia, Honduras, Ecuador, Columbia, Venezuela, Haiti, Dominican Republic, the British and US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland. She also notes that TEC is forming “covenant relationships” with other like-minded Provinces – such as Brazil, Mexico, Liberia and the Philippines – and forging mission partnerships with parishes and dioceses throughout the Communion. VirtueOnline notes that later this month her tour will continue to Auckland and Christchurch in New Zealand and then to Australia.

As an aside... For her speaking engagement at Southwark Cathedral, London, the Presiding Bishop [was told](#) that she had to abide by Church of England canons which do not recognize women bishops. As such she could function only as a priest and could not wear her mitre or other symbols of the bishop's office. Defiantly, she carried her mitre under her arm and wore her purple bishop's shirt under her robe (both clearly visible in photos). This perceived slight by the CoE – now [termed "mitregate"](#) – has caused a minor tempest among TEC elites. Immediately prior to her visit, orthodox clergy in the Southwark diocese [wrote the Times](#) expressing their concern at her visit and saying they "seriously questioned the judgement" of the Dean for not withdrawing the invitation.

Has TEC been asked to withdraw from the Instruments of Communion?

The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that, even prior to sending his Pentecost letter which outlined mild sanctions for TEC, the Archbishop of Canterbury sent, on April 17, "a private letter delivered to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori asking her to consider withdrawing from active participation on the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion." A [subsequent article](#) confirms that Canterbury also asked the Presiding Bishop not to attend the next Primates' meeting. However, Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori [subsequently denied](#) that TEC had been asked to withdraw from the Anglican Consultative Council, one of the Instruments of Communion.

Responding to TEC's arrogance

A S Haley, a TEC parishioner who blogs at the Anglican Curmudgeon [suggests that](#), since TEC wants absolute power to decide who it will consecrate as a bishop without any reference to other provinces, other provinces in the Communion should simply refuse to recognize the orders of those within TEC. He says, "It has never been recognized, anywhere in the church catholic, that a denomination in communion with others has a unilateral right to make its standard for ordinations at odds with those of everyone else. To "be in communion" with other denominations means to be of a common mind with them... Recognition of orders in [TEC] by the rest of the Communion must be refused until such time as [TEC] brings its standards of ordination back into line with those of the Communion as a whole."

Former Ugandan bishop joins Bishop Gene Robinson to promote pansexuality

Bishop Robinson and former Church of Uganda bishop Christopher Senyonjo have been making joint appearances promoting pansexuality in the US. The [Institute on Religion & Democracy reports](#) that Bishop Robinson told a news conference: "Where I hope we are headed is to discover the enormous diversity in human sexuality. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were as many sexualities as there are human beings?"

Lectionary omissions

An Episcopal Church (TEC) priest [has noted](#) another glaring omission from his Revised Common Lectionary which quietly skips over Romans 1:26-27, verses dealing with homosexual practice.

Other US news

Religion News Service – June 3 2010 – [Episcopal head lashes out at Anglican 'colonial'...discipline](#)
 Living Church – June 17 2010 – [Communion tensions echo at executive council](#)
 USA Today – June 17 2010 – [For Anglicans and Episcopalians, it's USA v England...](#)
 VirtueOnline – June 18 2010 – [The four humiliations of Episcopal Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori](#)

News shorts – International

Secretary General indicates sanctions of TEC are for pragmatic reasons

Canon Kenneth Kearon, secretary general of the Anglican Communion visited both the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) general synod and the Episcopal Church (TEC) executive council recently. The [Episcopal News Service provides a fascinating report](#) on Canon Kearon's meeting with TEC's executive council. It reports he told them they should have expected sanctioned when TEC defied the Communion and proceeded to ordain a second openly homosexual bishop. "However, he said that in the recent removal of Episcopal Church members from some Anglican

Communion ecumenical dialogues "the aim has not been to get at the Episcopal Church, but to find room for others to remain as well as enabling as full a participation as possible for the Episcopal Church within the communion." He added that the Communion's ecumenical dialogues "are at the point of collapse" and that the last meeting of the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion "was probably the worst meeting I have experienced."

TEC publicly chided by South African ally

The [Living Church reports](#) that the Primate of South Africa, The Most. Rev Thabo Makgoba, in the midst of a recent public address, chided TEC and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori for not "listening to the rest of the Anglican Communion". He added, "People had hoped that those of your bishops who were at the Lambeth Conference would have grasped how sore and tender our common life is. We had hoped that even those who, after long reflection, are convinced that there is a case for the consecration of individuals in same-sex partnerships, might nonetheless have seen how unhelpful it would be to the rest of us for you to proceed as you have done.... There are times when it seems... that your province, or some within it, despite voicing concern for the rest of us, can nonetheless act in ways that communicate a measure of uncaring at the consequent difficulties for us. And such apparent lack of care for us in the Global South increases the stress."

News in brief from around the world and the Communion

Kenya – [LifeSiteNews reports](#) that a rally organized by pro-life and religious groups in Nairobi was bombed twice, killing six and injuring more than 100. The rally was in support of the "no" vote in the August 4 referendum on the proposed national constitution which would legalize abortion for the first time and recognize Sharia (Islamic) law. Muslims comprise only 12 per cent of the population while over 70 per cent are said to be Christians. Rally organizers issued a statement following the blasts accusing the government of the bombings, saying it was part of the government's strategy to discourage opposition. A [second article reports](#) that the US Vice President has travelled to Kenya specifically to press for the passing of the constitution, promising more foreign aid in exchange.

Malawi – The [media headlines](#) first trumpeted the same-sex engagement of two men in Malawi, then their subsequent trial and jail sentence for violating the law of the land, and finally their pardon by the country's president who capitulated to intense pressure from the west. Now [Kenya's Daily Nation tells us](#) that one of the men has renounced the relationship and is engaged to a woman. According to the Daily Nation, the man is "accusing 'hidden hands' of engineering" the earlier same-sex "engagement".

Papua New Guinea – The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea [has elected](#) the Rt Rev Joseph Kopapa as its new primate.

Egypt – A lay pastor and his wife [were shot](#) and left for dead by a gang of Islamic militants, but both survived. Despite the loss of employment and facing mounting medical bills due to their severe injuries, the Christian couple is willing to drop charges against their attackers on condition the government relents and allows them to build a church building in the village.

Nigeria – The [Christian Post reports](#) that the Anglican Church of Nigeria is "the largest active Protestant church in the world" and "grew by over fivefold to its present membership of 20 million in a mere 22 years". In the interview/article, former primate Archbishop Peter Akinola explains how this growth has occurred: by focusing on planting churches in every community, establishing "missionary dioceses", and consecrating as bishops men who were first and foremost evangelists. Archbishop Akinola also says that breaking the dependency on foreign funding was important. He concludes, "We dare not rest ... We must continue mission work, we must continue church growth until Christ comes."

Kyrgyzstan – [Christianity Today reports](#) Christians in Kyrgyzstan are living in fear for their lives as uncontrolled mobs of Kyrgyz roam the streets killing Uzbeks in the politically-motivated ethnic violence. Kyrgyz Christians, at great personal risk, are hiding Uzbeks, who are the minority ethnic

group, in their homes and driving them to safety. Kyrgyzstan is overwhelmingly Muslim and increasingly militant. Pray for the Christians. May their selfless witness bear eternal fruit.

England – Evangelicals [are calling](#) for the CoE general synod to debate the House of Bishops decision to allow divorced bishops.

India – A bishop in the Church of South India [faces new criminal charges](#), this time for fraud and accepting kick-backs from contracts. Bishop Manickam Dorai had been suspended in April by the Church standing committee due to earlier charges of theft of diocesan funds.

Other international news

Times of London – June 8 2010 – [Warring Anglicans removed from ecumenical faith group](#)

Times of London – June 8 2010 – [Commentary: Pentecost and the Anglican schism](#)

Fulcrum (Andrew Goddard) – June 2010 – [Reflections on... Canterbury's Pentecost letter](#)

VirtueOnline – June 8 2010 – [Why the Global South will triumph in the Anglican culture wars](#)

Church of England Newspaper – June 4 2010 – [China opens to the Global South](#)

Soul food

God's created order marred by sin

Sexuality

Former gay activist encourages Christians to love homosexuals – A touching [article](#) written by a man who was healed of his same-sex attractions, discusses how to show true Christian love to those leading a homosexual lifestyle without compromising the Gospel. He writes: *“Does love mean we agree with everything? God forbid. Does love mean we don't feel when people are hurting themselves? God forbid. God's love is as great as His justice... Christians have the blessed opportunity to share in the power of our Savior, and watch His power at work, as He delivers people from their cages.”*

Child trafficking – A [private member's bill](#) specifically addressing those convicted of child trafficking is set to become law, needing only Royal Assent. The bill will amend Canada's Criminal Code to impose minimum sentences of five years imprisonment for offences involving trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years.

Abortion

Is there a link between abortion and autism? [LifeSiteNews reports](#) that a new study suggests a *“...link between autism and aborted fetal DNA in vaccinations...”* The study found that *“autism rates in the US and the UK began to rise when the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine switched from using animal cells to using human cells that had been derived from aborted fetuses.”* Although more studies are planned, it is known that residual human DNA can trigger auto-immune reactions and DNA fragments can enter the nucleus of human cells and integrate with the genome of the cell. Drawing from the [abstract of the study](#), the article says that *“The probability of integration is 1 billion times greater with DNA from the same species than with DNA from another species... The study explained that, as the average human DNA fragment length in the rubella vaccine is 220bp, it would be especially likely to enter the nucleus of a cell. Moreover, 25 of the “recombination hotspots” where the DNA fragment could likely combine are located in some of the autism-associated genes... Thus, such recombination could be one of the causes of autism... [B]efore children received many vaccinations and before vaccines contained aborted fetal DNA, only about 1 of 10,000 children was diagnosed with autism, whereas now 1 of 150 is diagnosed.”*

Interestingly, reporting on the Autism Genome Project results, the [Globe and Mail reports](#) states that, *“After sifting through the DNA of 1,500 families, members of the Autism Genome Project, a consortium of 120 researchers in 11 countries, have made the humbling discovery that the genetic risk factors for autism are different for each person who suffers from it.”*

Forced abortions in China – [LifeSiteNews reports](#) that about 35,000 forced abortions occur in China each day and that China's one-child policy has resulted in the abortion of over 400 million babies.

Resources – for Vancouver-area pastors

- **Theological study group for Vancouver area pastors** – Pastors are invited to *Reading Theology Together*, a study group meeting on Wednesdays (not Mondays) at 8-10am starting September 15. The text is *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem. You can [register here](#).
- **The Gospel in 4 minutes** - An intriguing [video presentation](#) of the Gospel with multiple uses.
- **Sure Foundation project** – The [American Anglican Council plans to launch](#) an 18-month curriculum of courses presented in person and via DVD, designed to respond to the concerns ACNA rectors expressed in a recent online survey. The *Sure Foundation* courses will help a “participating congregation to develop a strategic growth plan with core values, Kingdom vision, a mission that focuses the ministries, and specific time phased objectives that will result in individual lives and whole communities healed and transformed through the love of Jesus Christ.” The focus will be on Christian formation and discipleship, community outreach, missional perspective, and church planting. Father Phil Asheby writes, “If you have ten congregations in your area who would be interested in learning more about The Sure Foundation, please contact me at (770) 414-1515 or pashey@americananglican.org.”

Thought

Children need your love the most when they deserve it the least.

Just for laughs

80-year-old George was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light, but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked 'Is someone in your house?' He said 'No.' Then they said “All patrols were busy. Lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available.” George said, “Okay”.

He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again. “Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot them.” And he hung up.

Within five minutes, six police cars, a SWAT team, a helicopter, two fire trucks and an ambulance showed up – and the police caught the burglars red-handed.

Miffed, one of the officers said to George, 'I thought you said that you shot them!' George replied, 'I thought you said there was nobody available!'

Please pray...

For the **Rev David Robinson** who is being ordained to the priesthood this weekend in Ottawa. For **ANiC projects, church plants and parishes**, and for their proclamation of Good News to those in their communities who desperately need new life in Christ.

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

For **donations to ANiC** to help meet the current budget shortfall.

For funding of the **Anglican Relief & Development Fund Canada's [Kenya Malaria Prevention Project](#)**. Donations are urgently needed to begin this life-saving and life-changing project.

For adequate **funding of the legal cases and disputes** involving ANiC congregations:

- For the **Vancouver-area parishes** appealing the earlier court decision, and for their legal counsel Geoff Cowper & Stanley Martin as they prepare for the appeal to be heard Sept 13-16.
- For the **Ottawa** congregations which are newly embroiled in legal action.
- 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 dioceses** pursuing eviction of and legal damages against ANiC congregations and wardens.

- That we would seek to **glorify God** by our conduct in all court proceedings.

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

For **Christians facing violence and persecution** in Pakistan, Egypt and Kyrgyzstan.

That **our nation** would return to God and His moral principles.

And now a word from our sponsor

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 3:10-4:8