



Anglican Network in Canada

ANiC Newsletter
23 June 2015

Handle with prayer...

ANiC news

ANiC and ACNA events calendar

June 22-26 – ACNA [Provincial Assembly meetings](#), including College of Bishops, in Vancouver

June 24 - ACNA worship service at [Good Shepherd](#) (Vancouver, BC)

Aug 21 – Sept 3 – [Mission trip to Thailand](#), sponsored by AMMiC and Good Shepherd

Oct 16-17 – [AMMiC](#)-led conference in Vancouver, BC on Asian immigrant inter-generational issues

Oct 20 – Clergy Day in Vancouver at [Good Shepherd](#)

Oct 21-23 – ANiC synod and workshops in Vancouver at [Good Shepherd](#)

May 12 – 2016 March for Life

Rejoicing and praying...

At their June 22 meetings, members of ANiC council were deeply encouraged to hear that, while ANiC had started the month with a projected \$38,000 deficit, that gap has been reduced to \$15,000 thanks to God's gracious provision through generous donors. ANiC's fiscal year ends June 30th and our bishops and council members are praying for God to stir the hearts of more donors to provide the remaining funds. If you'd like to help, you'll find information [on the ANiC website](#).

Praying for our bishops and leaders

This week (June 22-26), our Province, the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), is meeting in Vancouver, BC. Our bishops and leaders are deeply involved in these meetings. Please keep them and the entire Province in your prayers this week.

Bishop Trevor Walters reports a wonderful western clergy retreat in May at the superbly scenic Malibu camp with excellent Biblical teaching, good fellowship and deep refreshment. He also reports a really good trip to Cuba in late May, with other ANiC leaders to visit Cuban Reformed Episcopal Churches and plants. Currently, there are 23 worshipping congregations, seven with 40+ members, 13 church plants and three forming congregations operating as home groups.

Please pray for the meetings this week of our Provinces' governing bodies

Information on the Provincial Assembly schedule is posted [on the ACNA website](#). ANiC is hosting these meetings of ACNA leaders on the University of BC campus from June 22 to 26. The Executive Committee met on Monday; Provincial Council meets Tuesday and Wednesday; and the College of Bishops meets on Thursday and Friday. Please pray for those gathered to wait upon God for His wisdom and humbly obey His leading.

ANiC's **Church of the Good Shepherd** hosts a Eucharist service for these gathered leaders at 6:30pm on Wednesday – and ANiC members are warmly invited.

You can read more and watch the ACNA Provincial Council sessions online [on the ACNA website](#). For those who follow Twitter, the hashtag for this Provincial Council session is **#PCVan2015**.

Synod 2015 in Vancouver, October 20-23

The Rev Canon Dr J I Packer is now confirmed as the preacher at synod's closing Eucharist. He **joins the Rev Dr Craig Bartholomew, the keynote speaker, and the Rev Canon David Short, our Bible teacher.**

Registration for synod opens July 8. We are using the same cost-sharing formula as last year where those who bear the greatest travel and accommodation costs will pay the lowest synod fees.

This helps achieve greater equity and offers a warmer welcome to those traveling from a distance. See the ANiC website [for more information](#).

Ordinations and inductions

Bishop Trevor Walters ordained the Revs Alvan Lewis and Ken Light to the diaconate on June 7 at [Resurrection Anglican Church](#) (Kelowna, BC). Bishop Trevor also led an induction service for the Rev Terry Lamb, Resurrection's new rector.

On July 19 at 4pm, Bishop Charlie Masters will ordain the Rev Mark Story, to the priesthood at [St Aidan's](#) (Windsor, ON). The Rev Story is a retired Lutheran pastor from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. He will serve as honorary priest associate focused on evangelism. A potluck reception will follow the service. All are welcome!

Church planting partner

The ANiC council has voted to work with a Canadian church planting organization known as C2C Network in our quest to build "Biblically faithful, Gospel-sharing, Anglican churches across Canada. One ANiC church, St Peter's Fireside, has worked with C2C since before its inception. You can learn more about C2C [on its website](#) and from [this recent article](#). The name C2C comes from Psalm 72:8: *May He have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!* This same verse inspired Canada's motto which was officially adopted in 1921.

Getting to know J I Packer

There are two new books on the Rev Canon Dr James I Packer due out shortly. You can watch an insightful [20-minute interview](#) with both authors on the Gospel Coalition website.

- [Packer on the Christian Life: Knowing God in Christ, Walking by the Spirit](#) by Sam Storms
- [J. I. Packer: An Evangelical Life](#) by Leland Ryken

Church administrator wanted

[Immanuel Church](#) (Vancouver, BC) has an immediate opening for a part-time administrator to manage the church office, provide support to the pastor, coordinate communication, keep the church's books and give administrative oversight to the children's ministry. More information is [on the church website](#). Additional job openings are [on the ANiC site](#).

Healing workshops coming to Port Perry, ON

[New Song Church](#) (Port Perry, ON) is hosting a unique set of full-day workshops in October led by UK-based author and speaker the Rev Russell Parker. The two workshops are:

October 3 (Saturday) - This session on "**Healing Dreams**" will be of particular value to those interested in the power of dreams in the Christian's life. *"This event is an opportunity to learn how dreams work, and to see how dreams can help us in our own personal growth, and to cultivate a deeper awareness of how visions are birthed in our dreams,"* says event organizer the Rev Bruce McCallum, associate priest at New Song.

October 5 (Monday) - The second session draws on the Rev Parker's expertise in high-level, international reconciliation work and focuses on "**Healing Wounded Churches and Leaders**".

Both workshops will be at New Song Church, 14460 Simcoe St. Register early as space is limited. See the [church website for details](#) including a poster and registration form.

Parish and regional news

[St Matthias & St Luke's](#) (Vancouver, BC) is celebrating its 18th anniversary on July 5 (Sunday) with a Thanksgiving service in the morning with Bishop Stephen Leung and a celebration / fundraising dinner in the evening at a nearby Chinese restaurant. The parish was blessed to be provided with accommodation by Bethlehem Lutheran Church when it left its former church building in 2011. However, the congregation would like to find their own facility so it can expand its multi-

cultural ministry. Now, with its host church planning to redevelop its building, the people of St Matthias & St Luke's are actively pursuing their vision, praying for God's provision and raising funds.

Saint Matthew's (Abbotsford, BC) will celebrate a confirmation service on July 12, presided over by Bishop Trevor, which will see 11 candidates confirmed plus one re-affirmation of vows.

Saint Matthew's also has prepared a helpful booklet in connection with their summer ministry called, '[Psalms for the Summer](#)'. It builds on the importance of the Psalms for our lives and worship. The booklet contains the 9 Psalms appointed for each Sunday in July and August followed by reflections and prayers for use throughout the week. It is intended for individual use as well as for small gatherings of family and friends over the summer. Saint Matthew's offers 'Psalms for the Summer' as [an online resource](#) in the hope that it will draw us nearer to God and offer times of deep blessing in His presence as we sit with the Psalms in unity of spirit.

New church websites have been proudly unveiled by three ANiC churches:

[Christ the King](#) (Edmonton, AB)

[Resurrection](#) (Kelowna, BC)

[Celebration Church](#) (Barrie, ON)

Got parish news? Let the rest of us know about it! [Email Marilyn.](#)

Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) news

ACNA clergy spouse murdered

The wife of an ACNA priest was among the victims of a hate-motivated killing spree in Charleston, North Carolina on the evening of June 17. The following morning, Archbishop Foley Beach wrote on his Facebook page, "*Please join me in praying for the Rev. Anthony Thompson, Vicar of Holy Trinity REC (ACNA) Church in Charleston, his family, and their congregation, with the killing of his wife, Myra, in the Charleston shootings last night.*" *Anglican Ink* [reports](#) that the gunman joined a prayer meeting in an African Methodist church, then, after about an hour, pulled out his gun and shot nine people. Anglican bishops from the Carolinas provide pastoral support and [call us to pray](#). Canada's [National Post newsletter carries](#) a God-honouring first-person account from a member of the Charleston church where the massacre took place. And you [can read](#) the words of family members of the victims, including Rev Thompson, as they extend forgiveness to the murderer.

Symposium focuses on family catechesis

Registration is now open for the Anglican Family Symposium, October 15-17 at Christ Church, Plano, TX. This highly interactive conference seeks to gather clergy, church leaders and catechists to focus on renewing the family as the primary means of catechism and Christian formation. For information on speakers, costs, schedule and registration, [see here](#).

Are you going to this "gathering of great strategic importance"?

Bishop Bill Atwood has written [an engaging article](#) offering a historical perspective and encouraging us all to attend the International Catholic Congress of Anglicans, July 13-17 in Fort Worth., TX.

He writes: "*Now, a great opportunity has arisen to build up the body and build bridges among the faithful... [This conference] is not just a gathering for those who self-identify as Anglo-Catholics. It is for all orthodox Anglicans who see the importance of working together. It's also a great opportunity for evangelical and charismatic Anglicans to see how much we share. In fact, what they will see is that many of us in the realignment drink from all three streams... My expectation is that this is going to be a gathering of great strategic importance for the good of God's Kingdom and the future of Anglicanism.*"



ACNA rector won over by new Catechism

A reluctant "convert" to the new ACNA Catechism, an ACNA rector tells how he is using it in preaching by focusing on 5-6 questions each Sunday. During the sermon time, he has the

congregation ask a question in unison; he then reads the answer and teaches for 4-5 minutes before moving to the next question. See the [Anglican Pastor website](#) for a full explanation.

Trinity School for Ministry nears goal

Trinity School for Ministry [has raised](#) \$12-million in its current campaign. The school needs \$14-million to build a media centre offering online courses, launch a Spanish language diploma in Anglican Studies, and publish a parish-based intensive curriculum for forming lay-leaders.

Falls Church Anglican rumored to have purchased property to build

ACNA's historic Falls Church Anglican (Falls Church, VA) is reported to have purchased a five-acre commercial site at an estimated cost of close to \$31-million, which it hopes to redevelop, building a sanctuary and repurposing. A [local news report](#) indicates the church plans – which were leaked to the media – could run into roadblocks from the local district.

Legal news from Fort Worth

To no one's surprise, the US Episcopal Church [is appealing](#) a court decision awarding All Saints Church (Fort Worth, TX) to the ACNA Diocese of Fort Worth led by Bishop Jack Iker.

Jane Doe laid to rest

The [current edition](#) of the Anglicans for Life newsletter (page 8-9) tells the story of Sandra Cano, better known as "Jane Doe" in a US Supreme Court case that paralleled Roe v Wade and helped open the floodgates for abortion in the US. The article tells how she was manipulated and deceived into being the poster girl in the vanguard for abortion on demand. At her recent funeral, ACNA's Archbishop Foley Beach was one of the speakers.

Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans and Anglican Communion news

Archbishop of Canterbury visits China

The Archbishop of Canterbury concluded an official 10-day [visit to China](#) earlier this month.

International news in brief

Canada

- Both the Manitoba and Ontario legislatures have [quietly passed](#) bills depriving teenagers of the right to seek help for **unwanted same-sex attractions** or transgender feelings. The Association for Reformed Political Action has more information on how this legislation was railroaded through, denying opponents the opportunity for input into the process. The [article](#) also outlines the issues at stake and the relevant research.
- The Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) **Diocese of Montreal** has elected the Very Rev Mary Irwin-Gibson, Dean of St George's Cathedral in Kingston, Ontario to be its next bishop, succeeding Bishop Barry Clark. Dean Irwin-Gibson promised to continue "the diocese's inclusive policy of ordaining partnered gay people." *Anglican Ink* [reports](#) that "Since 1975 the Diocese of Montreal has lost two-thirds of its membership, and its current parochial rolls number 11,000 communicants. Sunday attendance figures have not been released..."
- Bishop Terrence Dance [is retiring](#) from the ACoC **Diocese of Huron**. Effective December 31st.
- Bishop Greg Kerr-Wilson (Calgary) [has been elected](#) **Metropolitan of Rupert's Land** (ACoC).
- A response from the churches most affected by the findings of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission report** can be found on the ACoC [website](#).
- The Evangelical Fellowship is involved in a church-based initiative that is working with the Government of Canada to help assistance to some of the 10,000 **refugees from Syria and Iraq** who are coming to Canada in 2016. Find out [how your congregation can participate](#).

United States

- **US Episcopal Church General Convention** – *Anglican Ink* [reports](#) that, “Deputies to the 78th Episcopal General Convention meeting June 25-July 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah will consider three separate resolutions on Israel and Palestine calling for the church to divest its financial holdings from companies that do business with the Jewish state.”
- Also, 30 bishops and more than 100 deputies have signed a document asking delegates to change TEC’s course, focusing more on evangelism, church planting and discipleship. Surprisingly, the signatories do not include bishops known to be “conservative”. Read more [on VirtueOnline](#). You can get more general information about General Convention [here](#).
- TEC’s **marriage task force** [is recommending](#) General Convention authorize clergy to officiate at same-sex marriages and, to that end, is proposing the marriage canon be revised with gender-neutral language. In light of this, canon lawyer Alan Haley provides a 3-part analysis of the church’s muddled thinking on marriage both in regard to current practice and proposed changes – [part 1](#) & [part 2](#) & [part 3](#). The [June 3 edition](#) of *Anglican Unscripted* discussing this further. Two TEC bishops have surprisingly come forward with [a critique](#) as well.
- Finding itself on the losing side of a series of court decisions in **South Carolina**, TEC proposed an out-of-court settlement to the Global South-affiliated Diocese of South Carolina under Bishop Mark Lawrence. The offer was rejected however. A spokesman for Bishop Lawrence said, “*It was a spurious offer chiefly made to... make them look good in the press.*” Lewis said. “*As a matter of fact, the Presiding Bishop's chancellor is on record as saying they would never settle.... This is not an attempt to end the litigation but rather to disrupt it - and to do so when we are only one hearing away from its final conclusion.*” He added that the offer was not valid as it did not come from those in TEC with the authority to make it and it was sent directly to the parishes, rather than to Bishop Lawrence, showing it was merely a ploy to disrupt the process.
- Two members of the **Anglican Communion Institute**, Ephraim Radner and Phillip Turner, write an [open letter](#) to “*Bishops, Priest, Deacons and Lay Persons of The Episcopal Church (TEC)*” in the context of the growing antagonism with TEC toward those still within TEC who hold traditional theological and moral positions. They conclude: “*...we often wonder why we should serve a particular church that in the form of its prosecuting executive clearly does not want us as its members, let alone its servants and friends. So we ask: does our faithfulness belong here or elsewhere? Our answer continues to be that we must remain in TEC with patient endurance until we are driven out. Alas, it appears that the season of our being driven out has begun...*”
- Texas [has passed](#) legislation that allows churches and pastors to refuse to be involved in any marriage ceremony that violates their religious beliefs.
- A *World Magazine* [feature](#) looks at the shift from shrinking liberal mainline churches with buildings and real estate to growing young evangelical churches that lack property.

Mexico – International Christian Concern [reports](#) growing persecution of Christians in rural Mexico.

England

- **Women bishops** - A fourth woman bishop has been appointed by the Church of England (CoE). *The Independent* [reports](#) that, “*The Rev Dame Sarah Mullally... is to be the next Bishop of Crediton in Devon.*” She is currently Salisbury Cathedral’s Canon Treasurer. “*She was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing and midwifery.*” It is reported that the number of women clergy in the CoE has risen by 1000 over the past decade, while male clergy have declines by 1100. Females still account for less than 1/3 of CoE clergy.
- **Using feminine pronouns for God** – Ruth Gledhill [reports](#) that “*Calls to refer to God as female in official liturgies are growing...as preparations begin for the enthronement of the first diocesan*

woman bishop in Gloucester later this year... Many priests and bishops already substitute "she" for "he" in parish services around the country." *Anglican Unscripted* [discusses](#) this.

- **Marriage doctrine** – The CoE [has been dragged](#) before an employment tribunal by a clergyman who defied church authority and married his same-sex partner. He subsequently had his permission to officiate as a priest revoked. The tribunal has just concluded its hearing. The CoE [issued](#) a tepid statement which said clergy may not ignore church teaching but that the Church was in the process of looking at issues of sexuality.

Giving testimony at the hearing, **Bishop Alan Wilson (Buckingham)** called CoE's teaching on marriage "lousy". He is now facing a revolt from his evangelical clergy. The Oxford Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship and Reform [issued a joint news release](#) calling for the Church of England to uphold the Gospel of Jesus Christ and called attention to the growing tolerance of heresy in the CoE – especially in the case of Bishop Wilson. Quotes from a number of the diocese's evangelical clergy are included in the release. Bishop Wilson [response](#) to his clergy has served only to provide further evidence to support the clergy's concerns..

Later, two prominent Oxford clergymen, including the Rev Vaughan Roberts, rector of St Ebbes Oxford, went on BBC radio calling for the bishop to resign since he cannot with integrity uphold and support church teaching. Both clergymen note that Bishop Wilson's recent statement is consistent with his pattern of publically opposing church teaching. David Ould provides a [succinct summary](#) and calls for prayer for the clergy in this diocese.

- The *Anglican Unscripted* commentators [discuss](#) this **theological anarchy** in the Church of England and provide some behind-the-scenes insight. However, the vicar who infamously allowed Muslim worship in the St John's Waterloo [has been forced](#) to apologize.
- **Church of England shrinking...** *The Tablet* [reports that](#) "The British Social Attitudes survey found the proportion of British adults describing themselves as Anglican has fallen from 21 per cent in 2012 to 17 per cent in 2014, a loss of around 1.7 million. That brings the number of Anglicans in Britain to 8.6 million people... Islam is the fastest-growing religion in Britain. Its population has grown ten times since 1983, to account for around 5 per cent of the total population in 2014. Almost half – 49 per cent – of the population described themselves as being affiliated to no religion." Another source [reports](#) that, in 1983, 40 per cent described themselves as Anglican.
- As the **Anglican Mission in England** [plants more congregations](#), Chris Sugden and Samuel Vinay [write an "apologetic"](#) for evangelicals planting Anglican churches outside the Church of England's official structures, citing John Wesley's example.
- A motion [has been submitted](#) to General Synod calling for liturgical materials to be prepared to mark a person's **gender transition**.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury [will christen](#) the newest royal, **Princess Charlotte** on July 5.
- Based on data from the Office for National Statistics, **aborted babies** [accounted](#) for more than ¼ of all deaths in England and Wales in 2013.

Ireland – Despite the referendum in favour of allowing same-sex marriage, the Church of Ireland's House of Bishops [declared](#), "The Church of Ireland, however, defines marriage as between a man and a woman, and the result of this referendum does not alter this... Marriage services taking place in a Church of Ireland church, or conducted by a minister of the Church of Ireland may – in compliance with church teaching, liturgy and canon law – continue to celebrate only marriage between a man and a woman."

However, during the referendum campaign some bishops [broke ranks](#) and publicly support the "yes" side. Evangelical clergy [have written](#) expressing their displeasure with these bishops.

Mass Resistance tells the [behind-the-scenes story](#) of how the “yes” vote carried the day in the same-sex marriage referendum.

Scotland – The Scottish Episcopal Church General Synod [voted to change](#) its marriage canon to allow for same sex marriages by late 2017. A group of evangelical clergy [issued a news release](#) expressing their dissent and indicated that they would now consider next steps.

Australia

- The Diocese of Wangaratta, like the Dioceses of Ballarat and Bendigo, [will incorporate](#) so victims of clergy sexual abuse will have a legal entity against which to pursue claims. The bishop, however, said he hoped legal action would be unnecessary “*because our processes will already have provided proper avenues for redress.*”
- [A letter](#) signed by Archbishop Glenn Davies (Diocese of Sydney) and 37 other religious leaders – including both Jewish and Muslim leaders – has been sent to the Prime Minister expressing their opposition to possible same-sex marriage legislation. The parliament is looking at redefining marriage as early as August. The letter requested a meeting with the Prime Minister and members of parliament. The Primate of Australia [also wrote](#) urging that, should the Marriage Act be changed, provision must be made to allow clergy freedom to “opt out”.
- The Diocese of Sydney [has created](#) a task force to investigate the problem of domestic violence. This followed concerns raised that the diocese’s doctrine of “male headship” could be twisted by some to excuse domestic abuse.

Turkey is [reported](#) to have shut down Christian schools for Syrian refugee children. Their crime was giving Bibles and Christian literature to students, including some Muslims.

Iraq – Writing in the Spectator, Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali [reports](#) on his visit to Iraqi refugee camps in Kurdistan, saying that despite the horror stories he heard from the refugees, he has seldom seen such “high morale” in a refugee camp. He attributes this to the Christian faith of many. He also prescribes needed action to address the refugee crisis.

You can also watch an informative [news video from CBN](#) about refugees, chased from Iraq by the Islamic State militants, who are currently living in Amman, Jordan. And while these refugees are relatively well cared for compared to those in camps, they too have a lot of challenges.

Eritrea - Eritrea has been described as the North Korea of Africa. Now 100 Christian refugees who managed to escape Eritrea have been captured by Muslim groups in Libya and Sudan. International Christian Concern [reports](#) that 86 were abducted by ISIS as they neared Tripoli, Libya hoping to make the dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossing to Europe and freedom. Another 14 were taken as they neared a refugee camp in Sudan by a Muslim tribe that engages in human trafficking. Please pray.

A [new UN report](#) details why Eritreans are fleeing their homeland at such high risk, paying the highest price in terms of kidnappings and lives lost in the Mediterranean. Eritrea is shown to be a repressive police state with “*systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations*” – possibly constituting “*crimes against humanity*”. People live in fear of arbitrary imprisonment, forced labour, conscription into the army and torture. It estimates that 5000 Eritreans flee the country every day, often paying their life savings to sketchy smugglers. 200,000 Eritrean refugees now live in Sudan and Ethiopia. You can also [read an account](#) of one Christian’s survival of imprisonment and torture.

Egypt – A [report](#) from Egypt tells of trumped-up charges against an extended Copt Christian family, the resulting intimidation and destruction of their property and their expulsion from their homes and village. Although this family was able to return, others do not fare as well. The report concludes, “...*accusing Christians of religious contempt on the basis of weak evidence has become*

commonplace, revealing a serious flaw in Egyptian society and exhibiting a flagrant breach of international law and international human rights treaties."

Kenya – *Christian Today* [reports](#) that "At least 95 schools in northern Kenya have been forced to close after teachers, many of whom are Christians, refused to work fearing attacks from the Islamist militant group al-Shabaab.

Nigeria – Boko Haram's barbaric attacks in Nigeria [continue](#), with more attacks in neighbouring countries as well. *Christian Post* [reports](#) that the terrorists are using 1000 children in Cameroon as human shields in order to deter military attacks. *NBC News* [tells the stories](#) of several of Boko Haram's victims.

Nepal – In early June, three Nepalese pastors [were ordained](#) as Anglican deacons... and one person in attendance made a first-time decision to follow Jesus Christ! In the midst of the rubble, God is raising up His Church. The *National Post* has a [good feature article](#) by two journalists traveling in Nepal on the current situation: 9000 are dead, 16,800 are injured and 500,000 homes were destroyed in the two recent earthquakes.

Refugees – A [UN refugee agency says](#) almost 60 million people worldwide are refugees as a result of conflict and persecution in their homeland. This is the highest number ever recorded. More than half are children. In 2014, an average of 42,500 people became refugees or internally displaced every day. Syrian accounts for a large number of these.

Barnabas Fund has begun "[Operation Rescue](#)" focused on rescuing Christian refugees in danger and working with world governments to get Visas for these refugees and helping them immigrate to and resettle in safe countries. Poland has agreed to take 300 Syrians families.

Resources for ministry

Praying for Muslims – During Ramadan, June 18 – July 17, Christians around the world join together to pray daily for our Muslim neighbours near and far. The *30 Days of Prayer* [website provides](#) new content daily and other resources, including videos, to fuel your prayer.

How do you tell people about your job as a pastor? You'll love J John's hilarious approach! [Watch here.](#)

Preaching – The most recent *9 Marks Journal* ([free online](#)) is focused on expositional preaching and offers sound, practical advice.

Resources for Christian living

39 Articles – Canon Phil Ashey's series of short videos on continues with Article 20 On Holy Scripture – [part 3.](#)

Biographies – On the [Colson Center website](#), you'll find a series of excellent, short biographies of little-known Christians who changed their world throughout the centuries. Wonderfully encouraging!

Soul food

Just for laughs

"May I take your order?" the waiter asked.

"Yes, how do you prepare your chickens?"

"Nothing special, sir," he replied. "We just tell them straight out that they're going to die."

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Thoughts

The Christians I know choose to downgrade their lifestyle in order to upgrade their giving... You can't keep up with the Joneses when you're committed to radical generosity, and I think that's exactly how God intends it. ~ Tim Challies

Whatever we store up on earth will be left behind when we leave. Whatever treasures we store up in heaven will be waiting for us when we arrive. ~ Randy Alcorn

And now a Word from our Sponsor

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

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 complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3 ESV