



Handle with prayer

ANiC news

ANiC and ACNA events calendar

August 4, 10:30am – Alexander Pryor ordained to a deacon, Good Samaritan, St John's

August 5-10 – Anglican 1000 church planting regional conference [in Seattle, WA](#)

September 16-21 – Anglican 1000 church planting regional conference, [Boston, MA](#)

October 17-19 – [Anglican 4th Day Grand Ultreya](#) (Lewes, Delaware)

October 21-26 – [GAFCon 2](#) international gathering in Nairobi, Kenya

October 26, 9am – “*Sex and spirituality... talking about it*” seminar, New Song, Port Perry, ON

October 31 – November 3 – ANiC Clergy Retreat in New England

October 31- November 1 – ANiC Clergy Retreat, St Peter & St Paul's (Ottawa, ON)

November 2, 9am – “*Sex and spirituality... talking about it*” seminar, St Peter & St Paul's, Ottawa

November 9 – ANiC's electronic synod at 1:30pm eastern time

November 5-7, 2014 – Gathering of ANiC synod at a location to be determined

Ordination

Alexander Pryor will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons at [Good Samaritan](#), St John's, NL on August 4 at 10:30am.

You can also see photos taken at the Rev Marty Fraser's recent ordination on this [Facebook page](#).

October 26 & November 2 seminars: “Sex and spirituality... talking about it”

One-day seminars with the Rev Dawn McDonald will be held at:

New Song Church, Port Perry, ON, Saturday, October 26, 9am – 4pm

St Peter & St Paul's, Ottawa, ON, Saturday, November 2, 9am – 4pm

The seminars will address a wide range of issues we face today – personally, in society, and in the Church. The goal is to make the local congregation a safe place to discuss these subjects and discover how Scripture speaks to moral issues.

For the October 26th event, the early-bird registration discount ends September 30. Contact The Rev Bruce McCallum for details. manitou@primus.ca. More information on the Ottawa (November 2) event will be available soon.

Eastern clergy retreat

[St Peter & St Paul's](#) (Ottawa, ON) will host a clergy retreat from Thursday, October 31 through Friday, November 1. The Rev Dawn McDonald will be one of the speakers. Mark your calendars and watch for more information.

ANiC in the spotlight

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) is currently highlighting ANiC as “affiliate of the week” on [its homepage](#). (See the right side of the page.) ANiC is one of 40 denominations and hundreds of individual Canadian churches affiliated with EFC.

ANiC parish jobs

[Good Shepherd \(Vancouver\)](#) is hiring a Cantonese-speaking part-time evangelist whose main responsibilities are to reach out to restaurant workers in Greater Vancouver with the gospel of Jesus and to lead and pastor the Taste of Life Fellowship. If you read Chinese, you can check out the details on the [Asian and Multicultural Ministries \(AMMiC\) website](#).

ANiC parishes have a number of other job openings [posted in the ANiC website](#). Do you know someone who should apply?

Disaster relief

- The Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada has received donations of more than \$4000 for flood relief in Southern Alberta. After consulting ANiC parishes in Calgary, it was decided to channel these donations through the Calgary Salvation Army which is actively assisting those devastated by the flooding.
- ARDF [has raised](#) over \$111,000 on behalf of Tornado victims in Oklahoma. **These** funds are being disbursed through the ACNA International Diocese to a local Anglican parish and are being used to provide immediate relief to those affected, rebuild homes, repair church buildings, and reach out to the local community with spiritual healing.

South Sudan ministry

Father Lexson Maku, who is affiliated with [Church of the Ascension](#) (Langley, BC) is extending his time in South Sudan through to the end of August. Working through the [Afro Canadian Evangelical Mission](#) he is undertaking development work and orphan relief. He asks our prayers as key organizations soon make funding decisions about his projects. You can read Father Maku's testimony [on the ANiC website](#); it tells of his escape from the killing in South Sudan, when he and other young boys ran through the jungle for days without food, through his family's move to Canada, and now his ministry helping to rebuild South Sudan.

Asian and Multicultural Ministries in Canada (AMMiC) video

A [short YouTube video](#) shows Bishop Stephen Leung ministering in AMMiC churches in Calgary. It begins with a service of Good Shepherd (Cantonese) at which the Rev Tom Lo was ordained a deacon and concludes with a Good Shepherd (South Asian) worship service in a lay leader's home.

Parish and regional news

St Peter's Fireside (Vancouver, BC), a plant of St John's Vancouver, is holding its second of three "preview" services on July 21 at 10:45am in the heart of Vancouver at UBC Robson Square Theatre (C300), 800 Robson Street. Get full details [on the website](#) and [watch a video](#) of this exciting work which will launch, God willing, on November 3. Please support this new work of God in prayer and, if God leads, through your participation.

St Chad's (Toronto, ON) will host a worship concert on **August 10**, 7-9pm. The benefit will raise funds for [Welcome Home Children's Centre in Haiti](#). Tickets are \$10. The concert will be held at 260 High Park Ave, Toronto.

Christ The King (Toronto, ON) – On **July 21** at 7pm, Ruth Fazal will be featured in an evening of intimate worship. Ruth is a violinist, singer/songwriter and composer who currently lives in Jerusalem. She will also share about her life in Israel. Christ The King meets at Blythwood Baptist Church, 80 Blythwood Rd, Toronto. The event is co-sponsored by Living Hope Christian Church (Scarborough, ON). All are welcome.

Good Shepherd , Cantonese (Calgary, AB) – Bishop Stephen Leung reports that ANiC's growing presence in Calgary was demonstrated June 30 at the ordination of the Rev Tom Chi Tong Lo to the diaconate. Almost 150 people gathered to celebrate and demonstrate the unity and fellowship among the ANiC churches in Calgary: Grace Anglican, Good Shepherd South Asian, and Good Shepherd Cantonese. Many ecumenical friends from Chinese churches and a local theological seminary participated as well. Bishop Stephen Leung says, "*This was a clear sign of encouragement to the growing ministry of the Good Shepherd Calgary church plant among the Chinese community. May the Lord continue to bless the ministry of the Rev Tom Lo and his people in Calgary.*" See photos [here](#).

Christ the Redeemer (Toronto, ON) - On June 30, two young adults – one from Mainland China and the other from Taiwan – were baptized. Christ the Redeemer only began holding Sunday

Eucharist services in February; however an associated outreach ministry known as [A Quiet Place](#) has been in place since September 2012.

Through *A Quiet Place* multicultural students from the nearby university and others enjoy friendship and food, have opportunity to work on their English, and learn about the Bible and Christianity. Since September, through *A Quiet Place*, contact has been made with more than 140 non-believers, and at least 80 have heard about Jesus' life and teaching. A clear explanation of the Gospel was shared with at least 30 of these. It is through this active outreach ministry that seekers are coming to the Lord, and now, publicly identifying with their Savior in baptism.

Please pray for the two young people, "J" and "Z", who were baptized as they grow in the faith and in their walk with the Lord. Also pray for the ministry of *A Quiet Place* as it extends unconditional love and friendship to its community.

Photos of this multicultural church's first baptismal service are posted on Facebook [here](#) and [here](#).

St Peter and St Paul's (Ottawa, ON), taking advantage of its downtown location, opened its doors to weary crowds on Canada Day. "Thousands of people walk by our doors on their way to and from the festivities on Parliament Hill," said Rector Paul Donison. "It's our joy to offer basic hospitality." For 12-years, on July 1, St Peter and St Paul volunteers offer cold water to those passing by as well as clean washrooms.

Be sure to email your parish news to [Marilyn Jacobson](#). During the summer months, the newsletter will be issued monthly, so please provide your parish news well in advance. Thanks!

Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) news

ACNA high level meetings conclude with note-worthy developments

Private meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury – Our Primate, Archbishop Bob Duncan, kicked off the Provincial Council meetings with an inspiring address – worth [reading in its entirety](#) or [watching on AnglicanTV](#). Highlight included:

- At 4-years, ACNA is now in the "storming" stage of formation – where we work through growing pains and sort out legitimate disagreements. The key is to do this in a godly fashion by remaining focused on our mission "*Reaching North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ*" and vision "*Biblical, missionary, uniting*".
- ACNA is gaining recognition and prominence within the Communion; Archbishop Bob recently spent over four hours privately with the new Archbishop of Canterbury.
- ACNA is committed to promoting and respecting the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death - a commitment expressed explicitly in our Canons. Nearly half of the College of Bishops marched in the 2013 *March for Life* in Washington, DC.
- ACNA is a leading voice in matters of religious freedom and understanding the challenges of a resurgent, radicalized Islam. It is committed to educating members and congregations about the challenges and growth of Islam and to provide ways for the love of God and the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to be demonstrated to all faith groups.
- Recognizing that the suffering and persecution of Christians by other faith groups (especially Islam) is an increasing trend, the Anglican Church in North America stands alongside persecuted Christians especially in the Global South. We must pray fervently for an end to religious violence.

Future growth? – Observers from church denominations which are considering uniting with ACNA attending, including [Bishop Mark Lawrence](#) of the now independent Diocese of South Carolina.

New dioceses – ACNA is committed to moving towards geographically based dioceses. Provincial Council approved the following as new dioceses, some of which are a reorganization of existing dioceses: the Diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others, the Diocese of the Southwest, the Diocese of the Upper Midwest, the Missionary Diocese of All Saints', the Missionary Diocese of CANA East, the Missionary Diocese of CANA West, and the Missionary Diocese of the Trinity.

An Anglican Catechism - The Catechism Task Force presented a draft ACNA-developed Catechism to the College. A working document should be published by the end of the year.

New classical Anglican liturgical texts are nearly finalized. “The Ordinal” prepared by the Prayer Book and Common Liturgy Task Force was given final approval. Initial approval was given for use in the Church of two rites for the celebration of Holy Communion – one that is normative for a Sunday morning service and a shorter one which may be used at other times. Daily Morning and Evening Prayers were also approved for use. Other liturgies are being developed for baptism and confirmation – all of which seek to retain the richness of the theology of the historic Books of Common Prayer but expressed in more contemporary language. [Controversy](#) has been generated, however, by the treatment of the Filioque in the Nicene Creed.

2012 church statistics – Although only two-thirds of ACNA congregations reported their statistics last year, there were a reported 2382 individuals baptized and 1758 confirmed. For every two children baptized, one adult was baptized. Additionally, the number of adult confirmations in 2012 increased threefold compared to previous years. Finally, more than 1900 conversions for Christ were reported for 2012.

Women clergy – The Theological Task Force on Holy Orders is currently working on phase 2 of its study in which it aims to articulate the principles of biblical interpretation that will guide its work.

ARDF – The Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) is the official relief and development agency of our Province. Since its founding in 2005, donors have given more than \$5.5 million to fund 124 development projects in 34 countries. In so doing, ARDF has dramatically strengthened our partnerships in the Global South. In addition to development work, ARDF is engaged in emergency relief efforts around the world and in North America.

A [full report](#) from the House of Bishops is on the ACNA website.

FREE regional training event in Seattle offered by Anglican 1000

Anglican 1000's first [regional training event](#) is in Seattle, August 5-10. Thanks to a grant, full scholarships are available for a limited number of registrants. Hurry to take advantage of this offer. See details [here](#). Register [here](#).

Future regional events [are planned](#) for Boston, Houston, Phoenix, Atlanta, Chicago and Toronto.

Anglican 4th Day Grand Ultreya, October 17-19 in Delaware

The 2013 Anglican 4th Day (A4D) Grand Ultreya will be held October 17-19 at the Virden Center in Lewes, Delaware. See the [A4D website](#) for details.

Primate of Nigeria visits ACNA leadership

Archbishop Nicholas Okoh led a delegation from the Anglican Church of Nigeria in a recent two-day visit with Archbishop Bob Duncan and some ACNA leaders in Pennsylvania. An [ACNA statement](#) said the visit “*provided for a landmark opportunity for extended prayer and conversation between the Primates of North America and Nigeria as well as with senior leaders of both provinces*”.

Hispanic ACNA churches are on the move!

The third annual “Caminemos Juntos!” (Let’s Walk Together!) will be held at St Clements/Rey de Paz Anglican Church in El Paso, TX, August 2-3. The conference is a joint mission initiative of Greenhouse and Anglican1000 to equip Anglicans for evangelism and church planting in the Hispanic community. Currently there are 50 Hispanic congregations in the ACNA, with more forming. More information is on the [ACNA website](#).

Archbishop Duncan denounces US Supreme Court decisions on marriage

In a [media statement](#), our Primate, Archbishop Bob Duncan, said: “*An extremely divided court reflects an extremely divided nation. Equal rights under the law is a bedrock commitment of the United States of America and can often be accomplished by creative legislation. Nevertheless, the definition of marriage long pre-dates the United States and is a given of the created order. The*

motto of the United States is “One Nation under God.” The Christian Church has followed a Lord who meets people where they are, and who loves them regardless of their challenges. The Church has countered the culture throughout most of its history. We find ourselves, both sadly and increasingly, in this position in a nation once seen as a “light upon a hill,” and a “hope of all the earth.””

Dr Albert Mohler [has written](#) on the court decisions and their implications. Ryan Anderson [explains](#) that the decisions do not authorize same-sex marriage, but do move in that direction. Canon Phil Ashey [offers](#) an appropriate Christian response.

Anglican Communion

Chairman of GAFCon chides Archbishop of Canterbury

Archbishop Eliud Wabukala, chair of the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans and Primate of Kenya, released the first of monthly pastoral statements leading up to the momentous GAFCon 2 summit this fall in Nairobi. Today's statement contains an unusually blunt criticism of the Archbishop of Canterbury. In outlining the need of the GAFCon 2 conference, he says:

“...While we give thanks for much that has been achieved, especially in the emergence of the Anglican Church of North America and our Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, we are painfully aware that the Episcopal Church of the United States and the Anglican Church of Canada continue to promote a false gospel and yet both are still received as in good standing by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Furthermore, the Church of England itself, the historic mother church of the Communion, seems to be advancing along the same path...”

The statement also hinted that GAFCon 2 may consider setting up more formal structures. It's worth reading the full statement on the [GAFCon website](#).

A [Church of England Newspaper article](#) on Archbishop Wabukala's rebuke begins: *“The Archbishop of Canterbury has let down the wider Anglican Communion through his half-hearted defense of marriage in the House of Lords debates on the government's same-sex marriage bill...”*

Archbishop of Canterbury tours Middle East

The [Jerusalem Post covered](#) Archbishop Justin Welby's recent trip to the Middle East where he met with Israeli president Shimon Peres and officials in the Chief Rabbinate. In Egypt, he met Pope Tawadros II, of the Coptic Orthodox Church, and Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed el-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar University. He also met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh and Palestinian officials in the West Bank.

Archbishop Peter Jensen retires

The *Brisbane Times*, in a [lengthy interview](#), reports that the Archbishop Peter Jensen of the Diocese of Sydney (Australia) is now retired. His successor will be elected in August. The canons of the diocese required him to retire upon turning 70. Archbishop Jensen has been a prime catalyst for the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (GFAC) and sat on the GAFCon Primates' Council as secretary. The Diocese of Sydney, a historic evangelical stronghold, has been a major player in the global spread and revival of Biblically faithful Anglicanism.

International news in brief

Canada

- The Anglican Church of Canada's (ACoC) General Synod, held earlier this month, was a joint meeting with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada. According to an earlier [news release](#) the meeting, held in Ottawa, focused on issues like *“...resource extraction, homelessness, and how to live out their mission in a time of diminishing church membership”*. The ACoC General Synod decided:
 - [to consider](#) at *“...its next meeting in 2016 a resolution changing the church's law to allow same-sex marriage...”* Canon Gene Packwood, a delegate from Alberta, was

[quoted in the Anglican Journal](#) saying that same-sex marriage is “*manifestly contrary to the teaching of scripture and the liturgy of the church*”.

- [to delay](#) consideration of the, all-but-dead, Anglican Covenant to 2016.
- Campaign Life Coalition has [documented](#) some of the cases of discrimination against Christians in Canada for espousing Biblical/traditional views of marriage and sexuality.

United States – The Diocese of Chicago [has voted](#) to absorb the remnant of the Diocese of Quincy. The majority in the Diocese of Quincy voted in 2008 to leave the Episcopal Church (TEC).

Mexico – Francisco Moreno [was elected](#) Primate of Mexico.

England

- Earlier this month, the Church of England held its General Synod. Decisions included:
 - [Voting to restart and fast-track](#) the legislative process to allow women bishops. While remaining hopeful of future improvements in the legislation, Forward in Faith, representing the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church, [said](#) they were, “... very disappointed that none of the amendments which would have ensured secure provision for those unable to receive the ministry of women as bishops and priests was passed.”
 - [Issuing an official apology](#) “for the failure of the Church of England's systems to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults from physical and sexual abuse, and to listen properly to those abused”.
 - Speaking to the General Synod, Archbishop Justin Welby [raised eyebrows](#) when he called on the Church to recognize that the “*cultural and political ground*” in Britain was changing and to “*accept that there is a revolution in the area of sexuality*”. His tone seemed to chide the Church for not adapting and for harbouring homophobic attitudes. He then announced an initiative to tackle homophobic bullying in Church schools.
- Contrasting contextualizing with compromising, Canon Phil Ashey [notes](#) serious concerns [were raised](#) “by Archbishop Wabukala of Kenya (on behalf of the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans) about both the Archbishops of York and Canterbury's public statements approving same-sex Civil Partnerships during parliamentary debates on the UK's 'gay marriage' legislation, in contradiction to the historic biblical teaching on human sexuality reaffirmed by the 1998 Lambeth Conference.” In his weekly Anglican Perspective video commentary, Canon Ashey [states](#) that Scripture does not allow us to compromise Biblical teaching that offends the culture of the day. He says, “*We don't sacrifice the Gospel in order to be politically correct.*”
- The Archbishop of Canterbury [has begun](#) to do some “house cleaning” at Lambeth Palace, removing his chief of staff and restoring the role of Bishop at Lambeth.
- In an [article in the Daily Mail](#), the Archbishop of Canterbury calls us to hope and to prayer for the expected first child of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Hong Kong - The Hong Kong Anglican Church General Synod has adopted the Anglican Communion Covenant.

Papua New Guinea - Bishop Clyde Igara [has been elected](#) Primate of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.

Egypt – With the ouster of Egypt's president by the military, Bishop Mouneer Anis, Anglican Primate for the Middle East, [released a statement](#) congratulating Egypt and saying “*At last, Egypt is now free from the oppressive rule of the Muslim Brotherhood... This is an answer to the prayers of so many people from around the world... Please continue to pray for protection from violent reaction of the Islamists which already has started. Pray also for unity and reconciliation after more than 1 year of divisions.*” A [Christianity Today article](#) echoes that call to prayer for Egypt and for the Church there.

A [Daily Mail article](#) documenting the intensifying persecution Christians face in Egypt is headlined: *Muslim extremists kill our priests, burn our churches and kidnap our women: How Egypt's Arab Spring dream descended into a nightmare of religious hatred.*

Syria – Rebel jihadi fighters, linked to Al-Qaeda, invaded a monastery and beheaded a Syrian Roman Catholic priest June 23. Factions of the rebel forces have violently targeted Christians in this civil war.

Christians throughout the Middle East have been subject to violence and forced to flee their homelands. The Rev Andrew White who pastors the only Anglican church in Baghdad, Iraq [recently stated](#) that more than 1000 members of his congregation had been killed in the last 10 years. He added that during the last decade, *"Iraq's Christian population had shrunk from 1.5 million to around 200,000"*.

Open Doors, a Christian advocacy agency, was at the Church of England General Synod – and has been lobbying British politicians – to raise awareness of the targeting of Christians by factions of the rebel forces. You can read their (pdf) report, [Syria: church on its knees](#), which states that the Syrian church's current choices are flee or die; however western intervention on the side of the rebels would be a death warrant for this ancient church.

You can [read here](#) about the history of the Syrian church and their current difficulty of being caught between the rebel and government forces. See also a video report from the front lines of Syria and hear how God is at work in spite of the extreme conditions. Above all else, pray!

Nigeria

- [International Christian Concern reports](#) that "In yet another brutal act of terrorism, members of the Islamist Boko Haram massacred 42 students and staff at a boarding school in northern Nigeria.
- [Speaking on TV](#), the Primate of Nigeria, Archbishop Nicholas Okoh condemned the prosperity gospel popular in many churches in Nigeria, saying it was only half true and ran counter to the foundation laid by the missionaries who brought the Gospel to Nigeria – often at the cost of their own lives.

South Sudan

- Leading up to the 2nd anniversary of South Sudan's independence, Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul [called](#) the country to prayer. Huge community-wide gatherings prayed for justice, peace, transformation of hearts, an end to inter-tribal violence, and good governance. South Sudan has been beset by inter-tribal violence, which some attribute in part to the lack of clergy training. One bishop in the Episcopal Church of Sudan said, *"The major challenge with untrained clergy is that they are not able to sufficiently teach Christians to have a good understanding of the Word of God. Many Christians lack the spiritual and social transformation that comes with the Gospel."* Much of the violence is triggered by cattle rustling and refusal to forgive past wrongs – of which Christians are equally guilty.

St John's Theological College has been opened recently to begin to train the many clergy who were ordained during the civil war years despite having no theological training. The [Anglican Communion News Service reports](#) that *"...the new college is still in need of a lot of financial and material support in order to fully mature, stabilise and become self-sustaining. The Bishop has since asked well-wishers around the world to help sponsor some of the students in need of financial assistance. Each student is required to pay a little over £1,000 a year for tuition and other costs."*

Resources

Ministry resources

Church planting – The 2013 conference of [Church Planting Canada](#), a cross-denominational initiative, will be in Oakville, ON, November 19-20. Speakers include Alan Hirsch, Tim Day, Bruxy

Cavey, Jon Tyson, Ying Kai and Dr Bob Roberts. More information is available on the [conference website](#). In addition, a regional event will be held with speaker Ed Stetzer in Sussex, New Brunswick, 29 August 2013. See [here](#) for more information.

Impactful preaching – Andy Naselli provides 10 tips for preaching with more clarity – drawn from *Saving Eutychus*, a recommended new book by Gary Millar and Phil Campbell.

Fleecing the church – Suggesting as many as “*one in three churches has suffered from embezzlement, with the average take exceeding \$100,000*”, Chad Hall [offers](#) tips for protecting your church from theft.

Social media - A new issue of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) magazine *Faith Today* is now available online. The cover story offers fresh ideas about how ministries can use social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and Pinterest. The magazine is free on [the EFC website](#).

False teacher – Tim Challies [offers](#) seven marks of a false teacher:

Resources for Christian living

Modesty – A great [short video](#) for girls and young women tackles modesty from a unique angle – how the male brain works.

Pray for your city – [The Gospel Coalition offers](#) specific ways in which we can pray for our cities and community in obedience to Scripture. Jeremiah 29:7 says: “*Seek the welfare of the city... and pray to the Lord on its behalf...*”

Marriage and morality

- Pastor Mark Dever [offers excellent council](#) in “How to survive a cultural crisis”. In light of the changing cultural moral norms, Pastor Dever advises Christians to not to become defensive. Instead he says, 1) Remember that churches exist to work for supernatural change; 2) Understand that persecution is normal; 3) Eschew utopianism; 4) Make use of our democratic stewardship; 5) Trust the Lord, not human circumstances; 6) Remember that everything we have is God’s grace; and 7) Rest in the certainty of Christ’s victory.
- The John Jay Institute provides a “Primer” for reframing the marriage debate, together with an action plan, which can be [downloaded for free](#).
- The Witherspoon Institute [argues](#) that religious freedom will inevitably decline as marriage is redefined to encompass same-sex marriage.

Naked emperors – Pastor Tim Challies [writes cogently](#) of the lies our culture tells us and how these are exposed when examined in the light of Scripture. “*The Bible is like a pair of glasses that allow the Christian to see the world from God’s perspective. We look at the world through the Bible, and are forced to cry out with it, “But he hasn’t got anything on!”*”

Islam and homosexual activism – Roman Catholic philosopher Peter Kreeft discusses the irony of the simultaneous rise of militant Islam and militant sexual activism. He notes that both have rushed in to fill the “faith” vacuum left by the crumbling of western society’s Christian foundation. See the nine-minute interview [here](#).

Ramadan – This year, Muslims mark Ramadan begins July 9 and runs through August 7. Christians are encouraged to prayer specifically for those of the Muslim faith during these 30 days. You can find resources [here](#).

Soul food

Just for laughs

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially interested when he heard that Eve was created out of Adam’s rib.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, so she asked, "Johnny, what's the matter?"

Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

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Thoughts

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude." A A Milne in *Winnie-the-Pooh*

And now a Word from our Sponsor

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 113 ESV