



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

One day spiritual life conference to precede synod

[ANiC's 2011 synod](#) will be in Victoria, BC on November 3 & 4, preceded on November 2 by both a Clergy Day and a concurrent spiritual life conference for laity. Online registration will be available after Labour Day. The synod hotel is the [Victoria Marriott Inner Harbour](#) and the negotiated ANiC rate is \$129/night. Billets will also be available. Mark the days on your calendar and plan to come!

Welcome to ANiC

Bishop Donald Harvey has welcomed the Rev Stephen Ashton into ANiC and given him a licence to officiate within ANiC. The Rev Ashton announced his decision to leave the Anglican Church of Canada to his parish in Halifax following the Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI's move to embrace same sex blessings.

Saint Matthew's move to new home

The congregation of Saint Matthew's left their long-time building and walked the short distance to their new premises on Sunday, 10 July 2011. The people of nearby Grace Church have opened their building to Saint Matthew's following the Supreme Court of Canada's refusal to hear the appeal of the four Vancouver-area ANiC parishes, including Saint Matthew's, of a lower court decision to award ownership of their properties to the Diocese of New Westminster.

In the service of departure held in the old building, Saint Matthew's rector, the Rev Mike Stewart welcomed those assembled saying:

Welcome to this historic occasion not only in the life of this church but also historic for our Community-for the Anglican Community Worldwide and for the Whole Body of Christ scattered throughout the globe.

What we participate in today is the consequence of our stand for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which we have sought to be faithful to and bear witness to in fellowship with God's one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church with all of you who are here today. The courts of this land have ruled that the building belongs to the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Diocese of New Westminster.

We therefore leave this building that has been a place of worship and witness for so many years. Our love for this building is great but our love for Jesus Christ, our belief in the Authority of the Holy Scriptures and our desire to maintain and uphold the great tradition of the Christian Church is greater. We believe that the Cloud of God's Holy Presence goes before us and behind us. We will follow Him!

The congregation then walked to their new church building, lead by the crucifer, their rector holding high the Bible, Bishops Don Harvey, Stephen Leung and Ron Ferris, Archbishop Lazar Puhalo and a fellow clergyman from of the Russian Orthodox Church, Father Michael Gillis of Holy Nativity (Antiochian) Orthodox Church, a number of Anglican clergy, and other ecumenical supporters. The service then continued at Grace Church with a capacity congregation of 450-500 people. Bishop Ron Ferris preached and Bishop Don Harvey presided at the Eucharist. Bishop Ron's message was: "go" in obedience to God, "travel light", letting go of physical and emotional entanglements that would weigh us down, and "do the will of the Father". You can find video of Bishop Ron's sermon [on the Saint Matthew's website](#) and text of his sermon [on VirtueOnline](#); photos of the event are [on the ANiC website](#).

News coverage included articles in the [Abbotsford News](#) and [Abbotsford Times](#). An Anglican Church of Canada member [wrote the Abbotsford News](#) with her spin on events and the Chancellor of the Diocese of New Westminster engaged in a discussion of this letter [on the AEC blog](#).

St John's Vancouver's plans take shape

On [its website](#), St John's Vancouver notes that the congregation will relocate to the facilities of Oakridge Seventh Day Adventist Church – which is within about two kilometres of its current location. While mid-week ministries will move earlier, the Sunday worship services are expected to move later in September, with the last services in the old buildings on September 18 and the first services at the new location on September 25. Please pray for new space to be found quickly for St John's office needs, as the Seventh Day Adventist building can't accommodate their offices.

Bishop Don reappointed as Dean of ACNA

At the recent ACNA House of Bishops meeting in Long Beach, CA, ANiC's moderator Bishop Don Harvey was reappointed to another one-year term as dean of the province. Congratulations Dean!

St Hilda's parishioner confronts human trafficking

Christina Bender, a young adult from St Hilda's (Oakville, ON), is organizing an awareness campaign for human trafficking with a display planned for August 3-4 at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto. The display, titled *Unveiling the Myths*, is designed to expose the horrendous crime of modern slavery in our country and, through building public awareness, bring it to an end. One million children are thought to be trapped in the sex trade worldwide. And now a new crime is emerging: child abduction for the purposes of organ harvesting. For more information on human trafficking and how to be involved in the initiatives to stop this injustice, go to [Unveiling the Myths online](#) and visit the display in Toronto which launches of the human trafficking awareness campaign. Several informational videos are now posted to YouTube on [human trafficking](#) and [child organ harvesting](#).

Mission team members return, but leave their hearts in China

The Asian Mission in Canada team has returned from Sanmenxia, China where they invested two weeks in the lives of mentally and/or physically handicapped orphans. [Writing on their blog](#), team members say, *"...we didn't want to leave. Orphans have a way of getting into your heart and it is so easy to love them as your own. I think we almost love them that little bit extra because they are disabled orphans. They have become a part of us, so it hurts to leave them behind... They have given each one of us a precious gift; they have taught us so much about our Father and His great love. When you are holding an orphan everything else in this world really fades away. With great simplicity and without knowing it, they have given us the gift of who they are with their unique personalities and disabilities. We are changed as a result."*

Bishop Stephen Leung, who leads ANiC's Asian Mission in Canada ministry, hopes to repeat both the Thailand (to Karen refugees) and China (to disabled orphans) mission trips within the next two years. Please start praying now about whether you should be part of these teams next time.

Harry Robinson eulogized

ANiC member Dr Donald Lewis wrote [a compelling eulogy](#) for the late Rev Harry Robinson, one time rector of St John's Shaughnessy that was published in the Globe and Mail on July 4. He notes that St John's was in serious decline when Harry became rector but, *"On his retirement in 1992, it was the largest Anglican congregation in Canada."*

Parish news

[St John's \(Vancouver, BC\)](#) has a young adult's mission team currently working in India, returning on July 27. And in August a second team comprised of three families from St John's will be in Malawi working with St John's partner Diocese of Upper Shire. Pray that the team members will serve God faithfully and that He will use them to further His Kingdom and change lives for Him. Pray for the safety and health of all.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

July 22-24 – [St Matthias & St Luke's](#) church camp with Bishop Don
 July 23, 7pm – Ordination at [Good Shepherd Vancouver](#) of the Rev Paul Leung and Mr Anson Ann
 Aug 5-6 – [ACNA Grand Ultreya](#), Sewickley, PA
 Sept 12-14 – [Simeon Fellowship annual gathering](#) in Dallas, TX (of ACNA clergy & church planters)
 Sept 22-25 – A traditional silent retreat is planned for ANiC's clergy in New England
 Oct 15-17 – A clergy retreat with Bishop Nazir-Ali will be held at St Peter & St Paul's (Ottawa)
 Nov 2 – ANiC Clergy Day, Victoria, BC
 Nov 2 – ANiC laity conference, Victoria, BC
 Nov 3-4 – [ANiC synod](#), Victoria, BC
 Nov 10-11 – [Liturgy & the Arts conference](#), Durham, NC
 Mar 6-8 – Anglican 1000's [2012 Church Planting Summit](#) in Plano, TX.
 June 7-10 – ACNA Provincial Assembly, Ridgecrest, NC

ANiC in the news

Anglican Planet – June 27 2011 – [Supreme Court rejects appeal](#)

On the front lines: Growing and planting churches

ANiC parish profile: St Bede's Anglican Church (Kinosota, MB)

The rising water on Lake Manitoba isn't expected to crest until next week but is already threatening parishioners' homes. However, St Bede's church building will likely be spared, says the Rev Jona Weitzel. In 1922, the building was moved from the lakefront to higher ground due to flooding. Houses are protected by hastily erected dykes and sandbags, but already, when the east wind blows, the waves threaten to spill over.

Kinosota, a rural remote community on the west shore of the lake, is two hours north-west of Winnipeg and one hour east of Dauphin. It is one of four ANiC congregations in Manitoba. The parish was founded in 1842, so next year will celebrate its 170th birthday.

The parish is doing "very well" reports Jona, with a membership actively engaged in serving parish ministries and an average Sunday attendance of 38 people – including children. Attendance doesn't begin to reflect membership however, as many members work in the larger communities and come home to Kinosota irregularly. Other parishioners have seasonal work that takes them away for long stretches. However, bi-weekly Sunday congregational lunches allow parishioners to stay closely connected.

On October 2, Bishop Trevor will come to confirm five more young people. And the upcoming Vacation Bible School (VBS) is expected to attract up to 35 children, including many from the community as well as parishioners' young relatives who choose this week to visit. The church is known in the community for caring for those in need, especially for offering financial help to those who have to travel to Winnipeg for medical treatment.

"Joining ANiC is the best move we could have made," says Jona. We feel well loved and cared. Bishop Don, for example, has already visited three or four times. We're so grateful that we had a place to go when we realized the Anglican Church of Canada no long reflected our Christian values." Demonstrating the ANiC family spirit, two years ago, the youth of St George's Burlington spend part of their summer vacation helping St Bede's, first with vacation Bible School, then painting graffiti-covered buildings in the nearby community of Amaranth and building friendships with community youth. Jona says she's seen a real change in the youth of that community since. Many are now going to a church youth group and the freshly painted buildings remain graffiti-free!

News – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

World magazine: *Anglican resurgence in North America*

An [article in the World magazine](#) begins, "*Anglicanism has begun a global and North American reformation, according to Archbishop Robert Duncan of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)...*" Is calls the ACNA "*a province-in-formation within the worldwide Anglican Communion,*

the ACNA” and notes that it “unites 100,000 Anglicans in nearly 1,000 congregations across the United States and Canada and represents four former Episcopal dioceses.” It adds that “...in spite of property lawsuits, the ACNA grew from 706 to 952 congregations during its first 18 months, and of the nearly 250 new churches, at least 130 were new church plants.”

Baptisms in ACNA noted

The July 6th weekly [Anglican Perspective video](#) notes that the almost 1400 adults baptised in ACNA churches in the past year – most of whom would be people who have recently come to Christ.

ACNA Hispanic ministry conference

Caminemos Juntos!, a Consultation on Hispanic/Latino ministry in North America is planned for August 12-13, 2011 in Chicago. See the [Anglican1000 website](#) for details.

More ACNA news

ACNA – [Anglican1000 replanting Biblical Anglicanism in North America](#)

News -- Canada

Lutheran national convention approves same-sex blessings

The national convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCiC), meeting July 14-17, [approved](#) a social statement approving same-sex marriages and the ordination of non-celibate homosexual clergy. Solid Ground Ministry, the counterpart to Anglican Essentials Canada, worked to oppose these changes to the churches teaching and practice. A disheartened Lutheran, [writing to the AEC blog](#), asks our prayer support as orthodox Lutherans now face difficult decisions.

The Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) [actively supported](#) the ELCiC national convention with ACoC staff providing communication and website support – much as ELCiC staff supported the ACoC National Synod last summer.

In a [response to these decisions](#) by ELCiC, the leadership of the Lutheran Church – Canada (LCC), the second largest Lutheran body in Canada, wrote an open letter to ensure Canadians understood that the decision of the ELCiC does not represent the theology and position of many Lutherans in Canada. Noting that “nearly 40 percent of Canadian Lutherans who worship every week belong to congregations outside the ELCiC”, they write to affirm the Biblical and historic teaching on marriage “...as the lifelong union of one man and one woman... In holding this position, LCC is not speaking from the margins, but from the overwhelming consensus of Christian churches for the last two millennia, and also from the mainstream of ecumenical conviction today... We want Canadians to know that... there are Lutheran Christians in this country still deeply committed to the Bible as the authoritative Word of God, and still dedicated to its clear witness on human sexuality, marriage and standards for ministry.”

The Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations [also responded](#) comparing the ELCiC to the proverbial prodigal son and calling on Christians to pray that they would “come to their senses and return home”.

Same-sex blessings begin in the Anglican Church of Canada’s Diocese of Toronto

An email from Bishop Colin Johnson informs his clergy that the “first blessing of a same-sex union according to the [Pastoral Guidelines for the Blessing of Same-Gender Commitments](#)” took place last week. [St John West Toronto](#), one of three churches in the diocese with “formal permission to offer same-gender blessings”, was the venue for the event. According to Bishop Johnson’s email another six churches, selected by the bishop, are considering joining their ranks.

“Ex-gay” support groups threatened with loss of tax exempt status

[LifeSiteNews reports](#) that the New Democratic Party, now Canada’s official Opposition, has passed a resolution at its party convention calling for the removal of charitable status from “ex-gay” organizations. [Commenting on this](#), the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada says such a move would be the beginning of “a very slippery slope” and would be “a potential attack on the heart of

all... types of... [faith-based] ministries, not just those offering services to gays and lesbians.”
[Zacchaeus Fellowship](#) is a Canadian Anglican ministry to ex-gays and those struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions.

In a similar vein, a man who came out of the gay lifestyle, [writes](#) that “...because even one ex-gay proves that homosexual behavior is not innate or immutable, the gay lobby’s fear of their former members results in false claims and attacks aimed at preventing homosexuals from exercising their right to self-determination. They cannot bear to have even one homosexual leave homosexuality... I know because I am ex-gay myself. I suffer more harassment as a former homosexual than I ever did as an out and proud homosexual.”

More Canadian news

Anglican Planet – June 27 2011 – [Six bishops unite in ‘gracious restraint’](#)

News – United States

Texas governor calls on US leaders to pray and fast on August 6

Texas governor Rick Perry [has called](#) on all states governors as well as President Obama to join him in declaring August 6, 2011 as a Day of Prayer and Fasting, seeking God’s wisdom in addressing the issues facing the US. Predictably, this [has drawn fire](#) from secular humanists who are attempting to use the courts to block it.

Surprisingly, contrary to established wisdom, the so-called principle of “*separation of church and state*” was instituted by the founding fathers of the US to ensure government did not unduly interfere in the affairs of the church not, as commonly thought, to keep government untainted by religion. In fact, numerous presidents have repeatedly, through the years, declared days of prayer and fasting. American Christian historian David Barton, from his [thorough analysis of historical documents](#), declares that “‘*Separation of church and state*’ currently means almost exactly the opposite of what it originally meant.” He adds, “*The Founding Fathers were so emphatic in their belief that that prayer was to be an integral part of daily public life and public service that by 1815 they had called the people to pray 1,400 times! ...originally Congress... began every session with two continuous hours of prayer.*”

New York diocese tells clergy they must marry their same-sex partners

Now that the state of New York has legalized same-gender marriages, several bishops in the state are telling their clergy in same-sex relationships to marry their partners [reports the Episcopal News Service](#). Bishop Lawrence Provenzano (Long Island) has given these clergy nine months to marry or live apart. Bishop Mark Sisk (New York) told his clergy that he expects those in same-sex partnerships to marry “in the spirit of the opportunity provided by this new law”. He said this was “*an especially high priority for priests and deacons because in their ordination vows they promised to pattern their lives and that of their families and households “in accordance with the teachings of Christ” so that they may be “a wholesome example” to people.*” While five of the six Episcopal Church bishops in the state of New York are ardent supports of this new legislation, the Diocese of Albany’s Bishop William Love recently [wrote his people](#) to remind them of the diocese’s stand that marriage is exclusively between a man and a woman.

Presbyterian minister calls on clergy to reconsider their vows

Following the decision by the Presbyterian Church of the US (PCUSA) to ordain those actively involved in the homosexual lifestyle, an ordained minister [writes her fellow clergy and lay members](#) to inform them that she is voluntarily setting “*aside my ordination until my denomination repents of its corporate sin and returns to a shared standard of ordination aligned with the Scriptures.*” In an eloquent and insightful letter, the Rev Carmen LaBerge, President of the Presbyterian Lay Committee, writes, “...*the elimination of all explicit standards of sexual behavior for church leaders require that each ordained officer in the Presbyterian Church (USA) reconsider their vows... I will not participate actively nor passively as any presbytery or congregation within the PCUSA ordains or installs anyone who persists in behavior defined by the Bible as sin. As one who knows God’s*

righteous decrees I cannot approve of those who do not practice them and thereby place myself under the same condemnation (Romans 1)."

More US news

Church of England Newspaper– July 14 2011 – [Questions remain for Nevada on abuse case](#)

Church of England Newspaper – July 8 2011 – [Silence from NY on clergy abuse case](#)

News – International

Church of England General Synod

Having just returned from a trip to Africa, the Archbishop of Canterbury is [reported by The Independent](#) to have told the Church of England General Synod that the dedication of church members in the Congo “*left me wanting to be a Christian*”. He talked of the “*transforming*” work of the church there, where members had daringly rescued young people conscripted by militias.

General Synod also [was confronted](#) with demographic challenges and declining church membership. One member noted that some studies suggested the Church of England would be “functionally extant” in 20 years due to its aging congregants, who today average 61 years old. The [Telegraph adds](#) that “*In the last 40 years the number of adult churchgoers has fallen by half, while the number of children regularly worshipping in public declined by 80 per cent*”. The average number of parishioners in church on Sunday in the Church of England is now 1.13 million.

Historical perspective on leadership and evangelism in the Church of England

Speaking at the UK conference, the Rev John Richardson [offers an interesting overview](#) of evangelicalism in the Church of England over the last 65 years. He recounts the ebb and flow of various evangelistic movements within the Church and traces the beginning of different streams of evangelicalism in England. In the second half of the 20th century, he says, evangelicals “... *found themselves as a minority within an organization whose outward style was predominantly Anglo-Catholic and whose underlying theology was increasingly liberal.*”

The Rev Richardson decries the division among evangelicals and the failure of evangelicals to use their influence to transform and equip the Church to proclaim the Gospel. He points out that “...*with good leadership, it is possible even for the Church of England to get its priorities right. But the sad truth is that we have generally had bad leadership... Evangelicals ought to be at the forefront of evangelism. It is only a ministry which seeks conversions that deserves the label ‘evangelical’. But they ought also to be aiming at nothing less than making the Church of England itself ‘evangelical’.*”

More on the Anglican Mission in England (AMiE)

Welcoming the [Anglican Mission in England](#), the Rev Richard Coekin of the [Co-Mission](#), a group of London Anglican churches which have been in impaired communion with their bishop since 2005, [said the AMiE](#) is committed to re-evangelising England through the biblical Gospel and the power of God. He says the doctrinally orthodox and missionally minded clergy in the Church of England are often marginalized and obstructed in their ministry, under-represented in the House of Bishops, and ignored in the halls of power. Co-Mission churches, he says, have longed for orthodox episcopal oversight that will support Biblical teaching and their church-planting movement. Finally, they will receive this oversight through the Church of England bishops in the AMiE.

While the AMiE has met with hostility from the Archbishop of Canterbury and other institutionalists, the Rev Coekin says AMiE is neither strange nor novel. He says, “*AMiE is simply another mission society established within the Church of England for the evangelisation of England... A.M.I.E. has been established to enable orthodox clergy and congregations to remain Anglican as we engage in gospel mission. Its doctrine is the historic Anglican understanding of the Bible... It is run by a steering committee with a panel of English Anglican Bishops... who are all signatories to the Jerusalem Declaration. They are willing to provide different aspects of Anglican oversight for clergy*

and churches across England... A.M.I.E., like other such legally constituted societies in the Church of England, is certainly not a rival or alternative denomination."

The Rev Coekin's goes on to recount how, because of their impaired communion with their diocesan bishop, he and three ordinands flew to Kenya so the young men could be ordained to the diaconate by the Primate of the Church of Kenya for ministry in England. The Archbishop of Kenya and AMiE are now calling on the Archbishop of Canterbury to recognize the ordinations of the new deacons.

A [recent Anglican TV conversation](#) between veteran Anglican journalist George Conger and Kevin Kallsen touches on the leadership deficit in the Church of England and the creation of the Anglican Mission in England.

Anglican Consultative Council loses last shreds of credibility

The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that the Archbishop of Canterbury's barring of members of Churches in violation of the moratoria from ecumenical councils is proving to be a sham. It reports that one US Episcopal Church clergy who had been dismissed from a council has subsequently been restored, doing the same work, but now given the title of consultant". By contrast much of western church life was "*self-indulgent*", he said.

From around the Communion and the world

Sudan – On July 9, South Sudan became an officially recognized country, and was soon admitted as the 193rd member of the United Nations. But important issues remain – and peace is illusive.

The Reverend John Chol Daau, a priest in the Episcopal Church of Sudan, in a [report on South Sudan](#) says: "*As the new nation of South Sudan gains its independence, there are many concerns awaiting its leadership. These include issues with borderlines between the South and North, the rules of citizenship, the national debt, and plans for the sharing of oil. South Sudan lacks many basic services and infrastructure, such as health care, clean water and an education system. Most of the population in South Sudan lives under abject poverty. However, there is no doubt that the people of South Sudan are hopeful to celebrate their Independence Day on Saturday despite the lack of adequate functional institutions and systems. Many South Sudanese are devoted and eager to take part in building their devastated nation.*"

In their [pastoral letter](#) released to coincide with the celebration of independence by the South, Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and the House of Bishops gave God the glory for the Independence of the South and reminded everyone that peace was still elusive and much work was yet to be done. The bishops committed the Church to meet the spiritual and physical needs of Sudanese, and urged everyone work for peace, reduce the devastating effects of tribalism, and promote equality of opportunities, human rights and access to justice. While the vast majority of Christians live in South Sudan and the Church is headquartered there, the Episcopal Church of Sudan still encompasses both Sudan and South Sudan. The Anglican Church in North America [has posted](#) a prayer of blessing on South Sudan.

Alarming, [there are now reports](#) of massacres within Sudan, just north of the new border. Satellite images show newly dug mass graves in the south of Kordofan state which lies along the new border but within the North's boundaries. The reports tell of bombing and mass systematic killings of civilians in this area by the (northern) Sudanese armed forces and militias – as the north tries to eliminate southern sympathizers. The [New York Times reports](#), "*Much of the violence is focused on the Nuba people, a mostly Christian minority that fought alongside the south during many of the decades of its 50-year independence struggle.*"

An [Episcopal News Service article](#) quotes Bishop Andudu Adam of the Diocese of Kadugli saying, "*...friends, brothers and sisters, children, my flock, have been killed mercilessly and are lying now in mass graves in Kadugli.*" The article also suggests that the scene of the mass graves is adjacent to the Episcopal Church of Sudan compound in Kadugli.

Please continue to pray – especially for Christians in the Sudan along the border.

Horn of Africa – The UN has declared a state of famine in Somalia, while large areas of Uganda, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya are also experiencing a crisis brought on by severe drought. A [Barnabas report](#) notes that in southern Ethiopia food prices have risen 60 to 100 per cent since March. An [article in the Anglican Journal](#) says that a refugee camp in Northern Kenya built for 90,000 people now is struggling to handle 360,000 Somalis – many of whom walked 15 or more to reach the camp. Another camp for Somali refugees is in Ethiopia. [Associated Press reports](#) that the al-Shabab, a militant Islamist group that controls much of south-central Somalia, is preventing aid agencies from reaching 2.2 million desperate, starving Somalis and calls the UN declaration of famine is nothing but propaganda. Do pray!

Nigeria – [Barnabas Aid reports](#) that Islamist militants, who are associated with al Qaeda, “are stepping up attacks in Northern Nigeria with churches and Christians among their main targets”. These attacks are expected to escalate at the end of July as the Islamists mark the anniversary of their leader’s death. Earlier in July, two churches were bombed with four deaths and many serious injuries. In June, “Another church in Maiduguri was bombed twice in the space of a week; ten people died in the blasts... Some churches are reportedly shutting down or rescheduling their services in a bid to outmanoeuvre militants who plan their attacks around service times to cause most carnage.” The Islamists issued a statement in June saying that their “commandos” had completed training in Somalia and would now be “stepping up attacks in the coming weeks in all northern states”. Nigeria’s president is considering declaring “a state of emergency in Borno State to bring the escalating situation under control”. Pray for Christians in Nigeria.

Egypt – The [Assyrian International News Agency reports](#) that Islamists in Egypt are kidnapping young Christian girls and using sexual coercion to force their conversion to Islam. Father Filopateer Gamil of St Mary’s Church in Giza claims that, “The number of Christian girls abducted and coerced into converting to Islam since the Egyptian “January 25 Revolution” has skyrocketed.” The revolution has emboldened Muslim Salafists “who believe strongly that converting a Christian Infidel is in some ways like earning a ticket to paradise – not to mention the earthly remuneration they get from the Saudis... The investigation by Egypt4Christ, carried out under secrecy, exposed a highly organized Muslim ring centered in the Fatah Mosque in Alexandria. The investigation also uncovered a systematic “religious call” plan, where young Muslim males in high school and university are urged to approach Coptic girls in the 9-15 age group and manipulate them through sexual exploitation and blackmail.”

Israel – Arab states are pressing for a United Nations resolution in September to unilaterally declare a Palestinian Arab State in the West Bank and Gaza. [According to Canada Free Press](#), creating a Palestinian state, however, would ignore existing international law, the UN’s own Charter and Security Council Resolutions, and the half million Jews now living in the territory suggested for the Palestinian state. The report states, “Until the PLO and Hamas revoke their Charters calling for the destruction of Israel - the UN should refuse to entertain passing any resolution recognizing any Palestinian Arab state.” In response, a [Restoring Courage Event](#) will take place in Israel, August 21-24, to show global support for the country.

India – A fascinating [article in Christianity Today](#) tells how the rapid social and economic changes in India have opened the door to the Gospel and millions have come to faith in Jesus Christ over the past few years. Author Tim Stafford writes, “Today, broad economic and cultural reforms are sweeping Indian cities, and villages feel the spirit of change. Indians are choosing new ways of life—and many more are embracing the gospel and following Christ... The newly Christian India is found mostly at the bottom rung of society... typically poor and illiterate “broken people” (the literal meaning of Dalit).” Estimates of the number of Christians among India’s population (of more than one billion people) range from 58-79 million.... The 2001 Indian census placed Christians at just over 2 percent of India’s population. But currently, Operation World puts the figure near 6 percent and notes that “Christian researchers in India indicate much higher results, even up to 9 percent.”

However, "Operation World counts 2,223 unreached people groups in India, over five times as many as there are in China, the next most unreached nation." Praise God for what He is doing!

More international media coverage

Church of England Newspaper – July 8 2011 – [Archbishop's arrest warrant quashed](#)

Living Church – July 18 2011 – [Co-Mission plays role in AMiE's launch](#)

Church Times – July 8 2011 – [Lambeth rebuke for Kenya ordinations](#)

Soul food

Community outreach opportunity

Community outreach – Sunday, September 11 is the 10th anniversary of the tragedy in New York City. This day presents an opportunity for our churches to connect with our communities. Consider honouring first responders in your community – fire fighters, police, paramedics and search and rescue personnel – by inviting them to your service on September 11. In the service, the church could express its appreciation, pray for and commit to continuing to pray for these people who often put their own safety in jeopardy in order to serve and protect us. Like the idea? Start planning now, so you can get the invitations out in good time. If your church is in a large community, you could partner with other like-minded churches in the area to send joint invitations and then "divvy up" those who accept the invitation.

Resources

Why Anglicanism? – The ACNA Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic has compiled and released a booklet of very short essays on the meaning of Anglicanism entitled "Why Anglicanism?" You can [download it from their website](#).

Winning the right to witness by caring for the poor – In the [July 20th Anglican Perspective video](#), a two minute segment put out by the American Anglican Council, Canon Phil Ashey very effectively speaks to the Biblical imperative to care for those in poverty. Using Isaiah 58 as his text, he says that in caring for the poor, hungry and homeless, we transform communities and earn opportunities to witness for Christ.

Abortion: Chuck Colson in his [July 8th Break Point commentary](#) addresses the "Tragedy of sex selection abortion". He clearly draws the link between the 160 million "missing" women in the world – women who were never born – and sex slavery. This female deficit has fueled the sex trade and resulted in young girls in impoverished countries being sold into sex slavery.

Marriage – Dr Jennifer Roback Morse, [speaking at a conference](#) in Hong Kong of Western and Chinese scholars gives an excellent presentation on the ancient Christian teaching on family, love and marriage.

Just kid-ding

Catching her in the act, I confronted our 3-year-old granddaughter, "Are you eating your little sister's grapes?" I demanded. "No," she replied innocently, "I'm helping her share."

Little boy: "Oh, Grandma, I sure am happy to see you! Now maybe Daddy will do the trick he has been promising us."

Grandmother: "What trick is that?"

Little boy: "He told Mommy that he would climb the walls if you came to visit us again!"

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming... again. He asked his mom, "Where'd we get him?"

"He came from heaven, dear," his mom said sweetly.

After a moment's thought, Johnny glumly replied, "No wonder they threw him out!"

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Food for thought

It's amazing what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit.

Please pray...

For ANiC synod planning and preparations.

For our **bishops and clergy** and their families – especially for Ceri Hynes, Howard and their children. Pray that God would be pleased to grant healing.

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

For ANiC congregations settling into new facilities. Praise God for His provision.

For ANiC churches still involved in litigation and property disputes with Anglican Church of Canada dioceses, especially **St Aidan's (Windsor)** and the judge who is heard and is now deciding their case. Also pray for **St George's (Burlington, ON), St Hilda's (Oakville, ON) and Good Shepherd (St Catharines, ON)** who face threats of further court action.

For **ARDFC's new Congo project** which is helping war-torn communities become reestablished and promote peace-making. May God use it to bless Congolese and bring many to Christ

For an end to the horrific crime of human trafficking

For peace and an end to the killing in the **Sudan**. For God's hand of protection to cover His Church.

For **persecuted Christians** in **Egypt** and **Nigeria** who are being terrorized by Islamists.

For the nation of **Israel**. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

For the **GAFCon Primates & Fellowship of Confessing Anglican** leaders as they plan meetings of Biblically faithful Anglicans in 2012 & 2013. Pray also for the new Anglican Mission in England.

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

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

And now a word from our sponsor

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."