



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

ANiC Bishops' Christmas letter

A [Christmas letter from our bishops](#) says in part: *"The good news of [God's great gift of His Son] cannot be suppressed. We feel compelled to share it with a world of people who have wandered in so many sad directions, never successfully finding what they seek... As we again are restored and made whole this Christmas by Word and Sacrament, may we be granted fresh courage and determination to spread "these glad tidings of great joy which shall be for all people"."*

Audio and video from our ANiC synod is now posted to the ANiC website

Thanks to the work of Jonathan Randoy (video), Glenn Cooper (audio) and Daniel Hartwig (webmaster), video and audio from many synod sessions can now be accessed from our website. You can access the [videos here](#) and the [audio here](#). These include sermons and talks by Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali and others, the moderator's charge and ANiC's strategic priorities. Some sessions were not captured on video, but are available on audio.

Also, photographs from synod, courtesy of David J Robinson, [are posted here](#). Various synod documents and presentations [are posted here](#). And the [St George's Ottawa newsletter](#) has a number of articles related to synod and Bishop Nazir-Ali's visit.

More on the Vancouver-area ANiC parishes' appeal to the Supreme Court

ANiC special counsel Cheryl Chang [was interviewed on AnglicanTV](#) about the parishes' plan to take their appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. She said that, in the most recent decision, the court agreed with the parishes' on four significant points of law, overturning much of the original court decision. However, the court essentially said it could not disrupt the structure of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) so awarded the properties to the ACoC diocese of New Westminster.

Speaking of the decision to appeal, Cheryl said, *"Essentially the issues have been narrowed significantly.... The judges have agreed with us on [the four] points... of the law... The question becomes have they applied the law correctly to the facts of this case in coming to their conclusion. So... in the next court we shouldn't be spending time on arguing points of the law, which we were in the BC Court of Appeal. It's really a case of the application of that law to the facts of this case. And frankly I believe that a lot of the very significant facts were not considered properly or sufficiently."* Please listen to the entire interview!

The Diocese of New Westminster [has posted a statement](#) on its website which says, *"Bishop Ingham has offered to meet with the leaders of the four congregations to discuss how everyone can move forward in keeping with the decisions of the courts and appoint new clergy for these parishes. To date, there has been no response. Bishop Ingham and Diocesan leadership do not believe that there is any need to take any further court challenges, which will incur more expense and anxiety... Diocesan legal counsel will respond to all the actions initiated by the Plaintiffs (ANiC Trustees and Clergy), and under the direction of diocesan leadership will move to ensure that the decisions of the BC Courts will be acted on in the months ahead."*

More media coverage of the BC Appeals Court decision and the parishes' announcement that their legal counsel is preparing an appeal the highest court in the land can be read here:

VirtueOnline – Dec 13 2010 – [Four Anglican parishes appeal to Supreme Court of Canada](#)

Abbotsford News – Dec 13 2010 – [Anglican churches to file appeal in Supreme Court ...](#)

Anglican Journal – Dec 15 2010 – [...congregations... take...dispute to Supreme Court](#)

Church of England Newspaper – Dec 17 2010 – [ANiC to appeal to Canada's Supreme Court](#)
 Anglican Planet – Dec 10 2010 – [Four BC churches lose properties in landmark ruling](#)

Financial update

Back in early June, we shared ANiC's financial needs with you, and God, through you, graciously provided. Now, as we approach the end of 2010, we are reminded that this has been a difficult and financially stressful year for many. That has shown in the finances of a number of our parishes as well as in contributions to ANiC. With great opportunities for ministry all around us, we would ask you to keep your parish and ANiC high on your priorities for prayer and, as God leads you, for financial support. If you wish your gift to be credited during the 2010 tax year, please ensure it is postmarked by December 31st or given through your parish by the end of the year.

Temporary changes to ANiC communications

To accommodate vacations, communications from ANiC will be modified somewhat during January. We are aiming to get out two smaller newsletters during the month focused primarily on ANiC news. Happenings in the broader Anglican world will be covered by the weekly American Anglican Council newsletter which we will forward to those on our distribution lists.

During January, parishes and ministry leaders with news to communicate should note the following:

- ANiC news for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to [Erica Cantelon](#).
- For website updates or graphic design needs, parishes are asked to work directly with ANiC's webmaster and graphic designer, [Daniel Hartwig](#).

ANiC office closed over Christmas

Our office will be closed on December 24 and will reopen January 3. During that time, phone calls will go unanswered and emails unopened as staff members and faithful office volunteers recuperate from a hectic year and prepare for an equally exciting 2011.

***Hiding the Bible in your heart* workshop coming to Moncton, January 8**

Bishop Charlie Masters will present a workshop on January 8 at Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church in Moncton, New Brunswick entitled "*Hiding the Bible in your heart*". Bishop Charlie will then help to officially inaugurate the fourth ANiC congregation in New Brunswick – Christ the Redeemer Quispamsis. This new congregation at Quispamsis joins the three other New Brunswick congregations that comprise Christ the Redeemer: Moncton, Miramichi and Sussex.

Regional church planting conferences planned

ANiC Plant and Grow Conferences are being planned for many regions in the first part of 2011. They are intended for clergy, laity and prospective church planters who are in any stage of discernment, planning or implementation. Dates and locations may change as plans develop. If you are interested in participating, contact the planners, whose contact information appears below. Bring colleagues, find support, and learn both the foundations and tactics of launching healthy new churches! More church planting information is [on the ANiC website](#).

Victoria, BC	February 19	Contact the Rev Sean Love
Langley, BC	March 5	Contact Bishop Ron Ferris
Brandon, MB	late-February (TBD)	Contact Phil Varcoe
Burlington, ON	March 2	Contact the Rev Ray David Glenn
Ottawa, ON	April 2	Contact the Rev Dan Endresen
Montreal, QC	April 30	Contact the Rev Dan Endresen
Moncton, NB	March 14	Contact the Rev Dan Endresen
Marlborough, MA, USA	June (TBD)	Contact the Ven Michael McKinnon

Christmas baptisms: Celebrating new life in Christ!

Over the Christmas season, Good Shepherd Vancouver and Good Shepherd Richmond will celebrate 16 baptisms. Four candidates from the restaurant workers ministry will be baptized on

December 21, four from Good Shepherd Richmond on Christmas Day, and four from Good Shepherd Vancouver on Boxing Day. Praise the Lord!

Vancouver revival conference, Feb 25-27

The ANiC Church of the Good Shepherd (Vancouver) will hold a revival conference, Feb 25 – 27, which will be conducted in English. A children's program will be offered as well.

Theme: *A closer walk with Thee*

Speaker: Dr Dennis Ngien (Professor of Systematic Theology at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto, author and international speaker)

Date: February 25 - 27

Time: Friday and Saturday night, 7.30 - 9.30pm; Sunday, 11am - 1pm

Location: Good Shepherd, 189 West 11th Ave, Vancouver, BC

***The Bishop or the King* reviewed**

[Canadian Christianity offers a review](#) of *The Bishop or the King*, a book written by the Ven Ron Corcoran. The book is available [via the website](#) for Christ the King (Victoria, BC).

Developing relationships in the community

St Paul Anglican Bible Church (a project in Stoney Creek, ON) is 'reaching out'. Members visited 314 homes in their community during December, and were able to speak to 131 people in person. They knocked on doors to wish folks a Merry Christmas, and leave them a *Sharing the Good News of Christmas* gift bag as well as an invitation to have coffee and a chat. In addition, members John and Zandra Pennylegion will host a Christmas Open House between Christmas and New Years, inviting more than 35 couples. John Pennylegion says "we are working hard to live out the mantra 'make a friend, be a friend, then bring that friend to Christ' through presence and an open door policy at our home." St Paul meets weekly at the Pennylegion's home.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

Jan 8 – Christ the Redeemer (Moncton, NB) – [Hiding the Bible in your heart workshop](#)

Jan 25-27 – [ACNA 2011 church planting summit](#) in Plano, TX with speaker Tim Keller

Jan 25-31 – Anglican Communion Primates Meeting (Dublin, Ireland)

Feb 19 – Victoria, BC [church planting workshop](#)

Feb 25-27 – Good Shepherd (Vancouver) [revival conference](#)

Feb (TBD) – Brandon, MB [church planting workshop](#)

March 5 – Langley, BC [church planting workshop](#)

April 2 – Ottawa, ON [church planting workshop](#)

March 14 – St John, NB [church planting workshop](#)

March 21-22 – [Asian Mission inaugural conference](#), Vancouver, BC

March 29-31 – ANiC's 2011 pastors' retreat near Abbotsford, BC

March 2 – Burlington, ON [church planting workshop](#)

April 30 – Montreal, QC [church planting workshop](#)

June (TBD) – Marlborough, MA [church planting workshop](#)

News shorts – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

Archbishop Bob joins other religious leaders in defending marriage

The Anglican Church in North America's primate, Archbishop Robert Duncan, has joined other religious leaders in the US in [signing and releasing an open letter](#) affirming the importance of preserving the uniqueness of traditional marriage. The letter, entitled "*The Protection of Marriage: A Shared Commitment*", was also signed by leaders from Baptist, Catholic, Evangelical, Jewish, Lutheran, Mormon, Orthodox, Pentecostal and Sikh communities in the United States.

One of the letters signatories, newly elected president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Roman Catholic Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, stated, "*The broad consensus*

reflected in this letter—across great religious divides—is clear: The law of marriage is not about imposing the religion of anyone, but about protecting the common good of everyone.”

The letter reads:

Marriage is the permanent and faithful union of one man and one woman. As such, marriage is the natural basis of the family. Marriage is an institution fundamental to the well-being of all of society, not just religious communities.

As religious leaders across different faith communities, we join together and affirm our shared commitment to promote and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We honor the unique love between husbands and wives; the indispensable place of fathers and mothers; and the corresponding rights and dignity of all children.

Marriage thus defined is a great good in itself, and it also serves the good of others and society in innumerable ways. The preservation of the unique meaning of marriage is not a special or limited interest but serves the good of all. Therefore, we invite and encourage all people, both within and beyond our faith communities, to stand with us in promoting and protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

ACNA Governance update

Writing in the [American Anglican Council's December 17th newsletter](#), Canon Phil Ashey discusses the work of the ACNA Governance Task Force in reviewing and adjusting the province's Canons and Constitution which were founded on the principles of “*Biblical essentials, minimalism and subsidiarity*”. He likens those in the ACNA to the first century gentiles – outside the establishment church – and says that the principles of Acts 15 governed the work of the task force. The work of the task force now goes to ACNA's Executive Committee in June 2011 for review. Any approved changes will go to the Provincial Assembly in 2012 for ratification.

News shorts – Canada

Qur'an read at installation of Anglican Church of Canada Dean

The [AEC blog notes](#) a report in the Diocese of Huron newspaper of the installation of the Rev Kevin Dixon, previously of the Diocese of New Westminster. The Imam from a local mosque participated in the London, Ontario service by reading from the Qur'an.

Ten ACoC jurisdictions now openly defy Anglican Communion's Windsor Report

Reporting on the recent decision of the Toronto bishops to bless same-sex unions, [the Anglican Planet states](#), “*The archbishop of Toronto has defied the Anglican Church of Canada, the Windsor Report of 2004 and the Lambeth Conference of 2009 by issuing guidelines to bless same-sex unions. The Most Rev Colin Johnson said that the guidelines will accommodate those in "stable committed same-gender relationships" seeking a blessing of their commitment... Even though the Anglican Church of Canada has not officially approved same-sex blessings, the Diocese of Toronto is now one of ten jurisdictions (eight dioceses, one former diocese and the Military Ordinariate) within the national church that have gone ahead anyway to approve such rites.*”

Parliament votes against criminalizing coercion to have an abortion

This week, members of Canada's parliament overwhelmingly [voted against](#) a private members' bill that would have banned coercing a woman to have an abortion.

Canadians look at joining Communion Partners

[Writing in the Anglican Planet](#), the Rev Dean Mercer, ACoC priest at St. Paul's, L'Amoreaux in Toronto, reports on his and two other ACoC priests participation in a Communion Partners clergy gathering in Florida in November. According to Mercer, “*Canadians came to explore the possibilities of having Canadian representation in Communion Partners or starting a similar group in Canada.*” Bishop Tony Burton, formerly Bishop of Saskatchewan, was a conference leader. Mercer reports that the meeting was attended by a representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Peter Carnley. Archbishop Carnley, a retired Primate of Australia who previously

headed the ineffectual Panel of Reference, has been assigned by Dr Williams as a “...pastoral visitor serving North American clergy and people distressed by recent actions in their churches”. He was to report back to Dr Williams and to the Presiding Bishop of the US Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori.

A [Living Church article](#) on this gathering notes that the Communion Partners fellowship is comprised of theologically conservative clergy still within the Episcopal Church who are “committed to the Windsor Process, supportive of the Anglican Covenant, determined to maintain ties with the Anglican Communion... [but] take the long view and work for the renewal of the Episcopal Church.” However, the author says, “Conservatives who stay at the table often end up as dinner... The other questions are theological. For some voices in the ACNA and the AMiA, conservative clergy in the Episcopal Church are simply those who lacked the courage to leave behind their pension fund. Articulating a theological defense of staying rather than leaving remains a necessary task.”

Other Canadian news

Church of England Newspaper – Dec 17 2010 – [Calgary church goes over to Rome](#)

Winnipeg Free Press – Dec 12 2010 – [Calgary Anglican... parish wants to join Catholic Church](#)

Toronto Star – Dec 6 2010 – [Calgary Anglicans first... in Canada to join Catholic Church](#)

Anglican Journal – Dec 10 2010 – [Calgary congregation votes to join Catholic Church](#)

CTV Calgary – Dec 5 2010 – [St John the Evangelist Anglican Church to join Rome](#)

Vancouver Province – Dec 8 2010 – [Only small minority object](#)

Calgary Herald – Dec 17 2010 – [Anglican Church didn't abandon anybody](#)

News shorts – United States

Texas court again frustrates Episcopal Church legal tactics

A federal district court in Fort Worth has, at the request of the ACNA Diocese of Fort Worth, granted a stay of proceedings in the latest of multiple legal actions initiated by the Episcopal Church (TEC) in various Texas courts. In the words of canon law expert A S Haley, “Once again, in an attempt to do an end run around the State courts, ECUSA had filed in the federal court action a motion for summary judgment, making all the usual “hierarchical” arguments. But once again, their strategy has been rebuffed.” Mr Haley provides a [good chronological summary](#) of the convoluted Texas court proceedings.

News shorts – International

Archbishop of Canterbury criticizes attempts to ban Christian aspects of Christmas

The [Telegraph reports](#) that Dr Rowan Williams has defended nativity plays and carol singing, saying people of other faiths and cultures love the story and respect the message.

Primates Meeting boycott

Drawing from several sources, the [Anglican Planet offers an interesting summary](#) of the state of affairs leading up to the late January Primates Meeting called by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is expected that at least 10 Primates – representing the vast majority of active Anglicans globally – will not attend the meeting in Ireland.

Remaking the Communion in the revisionists’ image

Writing on the [Anglican Communion Institute website](#), Dr Phillip Turner discusses the strategy employed by revisionists in the US Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada to transform the Anglican Communion into something more to their liking. He concludes by calling on the Archbishop of Canterbury to withdraw the invitation to the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and to place on the agenda the matter of Communion discipline in light of TEC’s flaunting of the moral authority of the Communion Instruments.

In discussing the tactics of TEC revisionists in implementing what amounts to a revolution, he lists:

1. Act in a way contrary to established canons and doctrine and then pleading immunity from consequences because the actions were “prophetic”. They then plead for dialogue. “In this way,

dissent expressed as disobedience is portrayed as a mere disagreement that can be sorted out by conversation.”

2. Seek to escape the consequences of their actions by arguing against centralized Communion authority, saying it has no place in Anglican tradition and that provinces have unfettered autonomy.
3. Through political maneuvering, manipulate and reshape the structures of the Communion.
4. Redefine Communion, saying “...that the basis of communion is not so much common belief and practice as it is common mission understood primarily as the alleviation of human suffering and the pursuit of greater social justice... The heart of communion on this view comes down to perpetual dialogue coupled with “mutual ministry,” understood largely in moral terms.

The Covenant and the Anglican Communion

Chris Sugden, [writing in *Evangelicals Now*](#) sets out the two opposing views of the current draft of the Covenant. Then concludes: “*The current Covenant process interminably delays judgement and leaves little hope of discipline and consistency. We are left in a permanent state of dialogue. Endless appeal could be made to conviction, openness, listening and time while actions continue which go against the church’s teaching.*”

In analyzing the forces holding the Anglican Communion together and those ripping it apart, [A S Haley concludes](#), “*The demise of the Anglican Communion is thus a secondary consequence, not a primary one in and of itself. The structure of the Communion arose and flourished while there were churches bent on performing a common mission. That common mission no longer exists -- and that is the demise we should be ruing, not the Communion's. The question is... Exactly who benefits if the church catholic fails again in its mission, and fragments even more in the process? Think about it – and then pray for your church universal. Ultimately, despite what mortals may do or believe important, her fate is in God's hands.*”

The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that the Primate of Japan, in making the case for the Covenant at Japan’s last synod, “*used uncharacteristically strong language, laying the blame for the dissension upon the Episcopal Church (TEC) and Anglican Church of Canada (ACC).*”

News in brief from around the world and around the Communion

Sudan – As the **January 9** referendum on independence for Southern Sudan approaches, please pray for peace and for God’s will to be done. The Sudan is seen as a strategic gateway to central and southern Africa for Islam and has experienced 40+ years of war and political strife. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada has an [excellent prayer alert](#) with important background information and specific prayer requests. The [Anglican Communion News Service also offers](#) background and suggested prayers.

China – The Chinese Communist Party Politburo [is reported](#) to have renewed its efforts to crush unregistered Christian house churches, labeling the house churches a “cult”. A similar crackdown [is taking](#) place in Vietnam.

Iraq – The “Vicar of Baghdad” Canon Andrew White, [tells the London Evening Standard](#) in a highly informative article, “*I have never known it so bad.*” The article explains, “*Last month, letters delivered to the homes of Christians in Baghdad, including many of his 4,000 congregants, from an extremist group calling itself the Secret Islamic Army warned: “To the Christian ... this is your last and final threat. If you do not leave your home, you and your family will be killed.” These explicit threats came immediately after the October massacre at Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad that left 52 Christians dead.*” Canon White adds, “*For Christians in Baghdad, this Christmas is the darkest hour they have ever known. In the past month 112 Christians were murdered in [Iraq](#), compared with 93 in the whole of last year. Just yesterday two elderly people in my congregation were shot dead in their homes, their only “crime” being that they were Christians.*”

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada has issued a [prayer alert](#) regarding the persecution in Iraq. And the [Vancouver Sun tells how](#) the threat of violence has stifled Christmas celebrations in Iraq.

England – The [Telegraph reports](#) that the Church of England is issuing guidelines for how parishes can incorporate commerce into their buildings. *“The Church of England will issue guidance on how naves and vestries can be turned into areas where groceries and household goods are sold... In addition to acting as a shop, it also proposes that churches consider offering others services, including dry cleaning and providing prescriptions.”* Previously post offices had been installed in a number of church buildings. A bishop is quoted arguing that, *“Church buildings may often be the only community space in a village or a deprived urban area and can provide the perfect location for a community-owned shop.”*

Other international news

Telegraph – Dec 17 2010 – [Religion review of the year 2010](#)

Anglican Planet – Dec 10 2010 – [English Synod approves Covenant](#)

Anglican Planet – Dec 10 2010 – [Five CofE bishops join Roman Catholic Church](#)

Church of England Newspaper – Dec 8 2010 – [Dr Williams’ Roman holiday](#)

Soul food

What would Christmas be without Handel’s Messiah?

Dr Albert Mohler has written [a fascinating article](#) on the background to this brilliant composition and the virtually unknown lyricist who compiled the Biblical texts and persuaded Handel to set these to music. Charles Jennens was “greatly concerned to confront the deism that was then spreading so quickly among the educated classes in England in the wake of the Enlightenment. “Deism rejected the self-revelation of God in the Bible, the need of humanity for salvation, the deity of Christ, Christianity’s message of salvation, and any divine judgment to come.”

[LifeSiteNews writes](#) that the YouTube sensation “flash mob” performance of **Handel’s Messiah Hallelujah chorus** in a Welland, Ontario mall has been seen more than 22 million times. If you are one of the few who hasn’t yet seen it, you really must!

Just for fun

Theologians and non-theologians alike will enjoy this “12 Doctrines of Christmas” [YouTube video](#).

And everyone with a Facebook and Twitter account will enjoy this short YouTube video, [retelling the Christmas story](#) for the digital age.

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-25-2001

A CHILD IS BORN

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Thought

“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God.” - C S Lewis

Of interest

Church trends – [Barna Group Research reports](#) six mostly discouraging “megathemes” emerging from their 2010 church research.

- The Christian Church is becoming less theologically literate
- Christians are becoming more ingrown and less outreach-oriented
- Growing numbers of people are less interested in spiritual principles and more desirous of learning pragmatic solutions for life
- Among Christians, interest in participating in community action is escalating
- The postmodern insistence on tolerance is winning over the Christian Church
- The influence of Christianity on culture and individual lives is largely invisible

Eucharist – [Writing in the Anglican Journal](#), Dr George Sumner argues that offering a weekly Eucharist might not be wise in every parish and may even hamper growth. Strictly adhering to this practice may, for example, limit the ability to plant churches due to the lack of ordained clergy to administer weekly Eucharist. StandFirm has an [interesting discussion](#) of the pros and cons.

Creation and worldview – The Christian worldview emerges from our understanding of creation, [Dr Albert Mohler argues](#). He writes: “*Biblical Christianity is not only a faith that involves essential truths; it is the story of God’s purpose to redeem humanity and to bring glory to himself... The Scripture narrates the story in the unfolding of God’s plan and purposes... Every worldview... has a beginning. Without exception, every worldview must give an account of how the cosmos came into being and must answer the question of its meaning... [F]or the most part, everything that follows is contained within the account of origins. Once we know that God is the solitary explanation at the beginning, we can be confident that he will be the one who brings this story to a close in a way that brings him no less glory.*”

Please pray...

For our **bishops and clergy** and their families – especially those battling illness

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

For the legal counsel for the **four ANiC parishes in the Vancouver area** as they prepare the application to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

For other ongoing legal challenges faced by ANiC parishes, including:

- The mediation process involving **St George’s & St Alban’s (Ottawa)** and their former Anglican Church of Canada diocese
- The ongoing litigation involving **St Aidan’s (Windsor)** and the ANiC parishes that were formerly in the **Diocese of Niagara** – and their mounting expenses

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

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

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

For funding of the **ARDFC’s malaria prevention project in Kenya**

For **persecuted Christians**, especially in Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia and other Muslim lands

For **the Sudan** and especially the **January 9th** referendum on independence for the South. Pray for a [fair and peaceful referendum](#), for lasting peace, and for wisdom for Church leaders. Pray also for our ANiC parishioners – especially at St John’s Surrey – with family and friends in the Sudan.

For repentance and revival in **our hearts and in our nation** – as well as a hunger for God and a thirst for His Word

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

For the **Primates** of the Anglican Communion as they wrestle with decisions related to the upcoming Primates' Meeting in Ireland (at the end of January)

And now a word from our sponsor

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:2-7 ESV



Merry Christmas

