



# Anglican Network in Canada

## First Friday of the Month Call to Prayer – March 2011

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* Philippians 4: 6 ESV

Welcome to our March 2011 First Friday Call to Prayer. Our aim is to provide you with teaching that we trust will enhance your prayer experience and will be an encouragement to you. We will also provide you with praise items and prayer requests coming from within ANiC and the Anglican Communion worldwide.

We encourage you to set aside **the first Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**, as a day of prayer and fasting for the Church in these critical days, ideally gathering with other believers in your parish or region for corporate prayer at some point in the day.

### Prayer Quotes

*God does not delay to hear our prayers because He has no mind to give; but that, by enlarging our desires, He may give us the more largely.*

*Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury 1093 -1109.*

### “SO TELL ME AGAIN WHY PRAYER IS SO IMPORTANT??”

*Dear Friends;*

*The Lord has been stirring my heart, once again, to exhort us within the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) to not give in to battle weariness or complacency with regard to prayer. During the height of the orthodoxy crisis within the Anglican Church of Canada that led to the birth of Anglican Essentials Canada and ultimately to the launch of ANiC, many of us spent countless hours on our knees (both literally and figuratively), crying out in desperation for God’s mercy and direction. We were mobilized to pray in an unprecedented way. And we saw answers to prayer that were both remarkable and frequent. Many of our parishes grew in their experience of corporate intercession, and the biblical mandate to pray became a high priority for all of us.*

*The present danger, as I see it, is that for many of us the battles of diocesan litigation and other distracting entanglements are drawing to an end. We are moving into a more normal church lifestyle that is both a relief and a concern, lest we slip back into old ways and old patterns. The challenges before us are no less daunting than they were in 2002 when the valiant few BC parishes walked out of their diocesan synod over the blessing of same sex relationships. Yes, no less daunting, but different in scope. Just ask your bishop whether he believes that there is any less urgency for prayer now than there was during our earlier struggles! The enemy of our souls has a more subtle agenda than during those days, but he is equally as bent on our destruction; he stills comes only “to steal, kill and destroy” (John 10: 10)*

*In March 2006, exactly five years ago, we published the following article under the same title to encourage ongoing prayer in our personal and corporate lives at the height of the crisis. I believe the message is as pertinent today as it was in 2006, and, indeed, as it was when it was written.*

*Here are some passages from the pen of E.M Bounds, a great hero of prayer from the 19th century. A law student, preacher, pastor, prisoner of war during the American Civil War, Bounds was a powerful writer and spent the last seventeen years of his life in Georgia, reading, writing and praying. He rose at 4 AM daily for many years, and took the command to pray without ceasing very seriously. Here is a man who truly “walked the walk” and that gives his writing both credibility and authenticity.*



### **Praise God ...**

- For the privilege of conversing with our Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere.
- For the shed blood of Jesus that washes away our sins and covers us in His righteousness.
- That our Abba Father delights in us, in communicating with us, and in responding to our prayers.
- For His Word, the Holy Bible, from which we learn about Him and His working in human history.
- For the privilege of engaging in spiritual battle through prayer.
- For the reformation God is working out in global Anglicanism – and the entire Christian Church. In the midst of chaos, He is building His Kingdom and refining His bride, the Church.
- For His blessing on ANiC, for how He has led, and for the future He has planned for us in 2011.
- For our churches, for ANiC, and for the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).
- For the many ANiC “projects” and church plants – the small, but growing congregations of faithful Anglicans – that He is adding to our number.
- For faithful Anglican Primates, bishops, clergy and laity – throughout the Communion – who are standing for truth even when their stand for Christ and His Word makes them targets of attack.

### **Confess if needed...**

- For our personal failings – that which we have done that we ought not to have done as well as that which we have not done that we ought to have done.
- For failing to persevere in prayer – and, even more, for hardened hearts that do not long to spend time with our Heavenly Father.
- For not upholding each other and bearing one another’s burdens.
- For not encouraging and regularly praying for our church and government leaders and for those in positions of authority and influence.

### **Please pray...**

- That we would grow in our love for our Lord and learn to delight in communing with Him in prayer.
- That we would pursue holiness and break the yoke of sinful patterns in our lives.
- That we would have a passion for those around us who need our Lord.
- For the ministries of our churches; that we would become intentional in reaching our communities.
- For **Bishops** Donald Harvey, Stephen Leung, Charlie Masters, Trevor Walters, Malcolm Harding and Ronald Ferris – and their families. Pray for spiritual and physical protection and renewal, for wisdom, and for a daily closer walk with God.
- For our **Archdeacons**: the Venerables Ron Corcoran (Vancouver Island), Dan Gifford (BC), Paul Charbonneau (Ontario), Desiree Stedman (Ottawa region), Paul Crossland (Prairies), Michael McKinnon (New England, USA), and Darrell Critch (Atlantic Region & Quebec).
- For **ANiC clergy** and their families, especially those experiencing spiritual and physical attack. May the joy of the Lord be their strength.
- For those suffering under the attack of the enemy in our congregations and families. Pray for victory in Christ and healing where needed.
- For **new and forming ANiC congregations** as they attend to the many details of organizing and launching a parish – and for other congregations considering joining ANiC.
- For the many **ANiC congregations** that have lost their places of worship or are now facing the possible loss of their buildings. May they demonstrate God’s love to those who persecute them.
- For parishes involved in legal disputes.
  - For the Vancouver parishes and their application before the Supreme Court for leave to appeal.
  - For St Aidan’s in Windsor, ON in its dealings with the Diocese of Huron.
  - For St George’s (Burlington, ON), Good Shepherd (St Catharines, ON) and St Hilda’s (Oakville, ON) in negotiating with the Diocese of Niagara.
  - For a change of heart on the part of the leaders of dioceses pursuing ANiC parishes. May they genuinely seek to work with parishes to reach amicable, mutually beneficial settlements.

- For **Anglican orphans** – Biblically-faithful Anglicans in Canada who feel isolated in liberal churches and dioceses – as well as for those who feel they can no longer remain in the Anglican Church of Canada. May they find Christian fellowship and spiritual nourishment.
- For the recovery of a lively orthodoxy in the **Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC)** and for those who believe they are called to remain in the ACoC to pray and work for reformation and for a renewed commitment to Jesus Christ and His inspired Word.
- For the leaders of the **Anglican Communion Alliance** (formerly Anglican Essentials Federation), **Anglican Essentials Network**, and **Anglican Essentials Canada** as they provide support for orthodox Anglicans still within the Anglican Church of Canada.
- For those in the **Zacchaeus Fellowship** who are giving testimony to the liberation God offers those held captive in sexual sin; for the Anglican Church of Canada to listen to their witness.
- For strength and wisdom for the new Presiding Bishop of the Southern Cone, **the Most Reverend Tito Zavala**, in his many new responsibilities. And for **Bishop Gregory Venables** as he leads the GAFCon Primates and his diocese. For God's blessing on the **Province of the Southern Cone** which graciously provided a temporary "home" for ANiC when we needed Primatial oversight.
- For God's blessing on the **Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)**:
  - For **Archbishop Bob Duncan** (and wife, Nara)
  - For the other ACNA dioceses.
- For **Anglican1000** and those engaged in **church planting** throughout ACNA.
- For the orthodox Primates and bishops – especially those in the **Global South** – who are courageously standing for Truth. Pray for spiritual and physical protection and for discernment, grace and strength as they lead in a torn Communion.
- For growing awareness of the **Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada (ARDFC)**; for churches and individuals to commit to being regular donors; for the ARDFC's malaria prevention work in partnership with the Diocese of Maseno West in south-west Kenya.
- For the **Covenant** process and the realignment underway in the **Anglican Communion**. May the Lord clearly lead and may His will be done.
- For the orthodox **Primates** in the Anglican Communion as they prepare for an upcoming gathering of orthodox Anglicans from throughout the Communion.
- For the **Archbishop of Canterbury**. May he pursue God wholeheartedly and seek the wisdom and discernment he needs to fulfill his responsibilities to the glory of God.
- For **suffering Christians** around the world in conditions of persecution, war, drought, famine, flooding and poverty – especially those in Muslim countries who face discrimination and violence.
- For the **Sudan** and the peaceful implementation of the referendum results – in setting a border with the North, in agreeing on the division of oil revenue, and in the creation of a new government.
- That God would revive us, our church and, ultimately, our nation.
- For **those in authority** over us and who serve our country. Pray for wise decisions that honour the Lord and promote the welfare of **our nation**. Pray specifically:
  - For those in government – both for our elected leaders creating laws and for civil servants in positions of responsibility – that they would uphold righteousness.
  - For judges in our court system who are charged with interpreting and applying laws;
  - For officers of the law and emergency response personnel who daily risk their lives for our protection; and
  - For those who selflessly serve our country in the military as well as for their families at home.



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