

On Mission

- 2024 -

A 30 DAY WORLD MISSION DEVOTIONAL



CANON BRIAN MCVITTY



Anglican Network
in Canada

ON MISSION



This ON MISSION 2024 book is a 30 day devotional focused on world missions. Beginning on January 14th use this book as a 30 day count down to Lent (and a way to celebrate World Mission Sunday on February 4th). Otherwise this book can be used at any time of the year. Celebrate all the great things being done in Jesus' name around the world by our parishes.

“Our Diocese abounds with stories of God’s mission ... you will glimpse this as we read this ON MISSION book together and pray for the work God is doing.”

— **Bishop Dan Gifford**

“This ON MISSION book showcases the amazing mission work and global partnerships of ANiC that are expanding the Kingdom of God and relieving much suffering in the world.”

— **Archbishop Foley Beach.**

we are
ON MISSION
globally

ON MISSION

– 2024 –



This book is a 30 day devotional focused on world missions. Each day you will be transported to an inspiring global mission project supported by one of our Anglican Network in Canada congregations. Each daily reading includes an ANiC mission project, a Bible reading and a prayer.

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This book is available as:

- a free download (pdf or e-book format) from the ANiC website
- a printed paperback book from Amazon
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CANON BRIAN MCVITTY

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“Following one of the evening worship services in Kigali, Rwanda, I stepped from the convention centre into the night and I could see small cookfires dotting the landscape on the hillsides beyond the city. This imagery embodies the essence of mission: the Church venturing into darkness, engaging in small yet impactful acts of evangelism and compassion that reveal the radiant light of Jesus, dispelling the world's darkness.”

— **Bishop Dan Gifford (ANiC)**

“I applaud the Anglican Network in Canada that has taken the World Mission Sunday emphasis even further with the publication of the On Mission Devotional Guide book. This book showcases the amazing mission work and global partnerships of ANiC that are expanding the Kingdom of God and relieving much suffering in the world.”

— **Archbishop Foley Beach (ACNA)**

Front Cover Photo: Emma Gruetzner from St. Timothy's Bible Church in Montreal who received our youth mission scholarship in 2022 and was in Kenya for a 2 month mission trip.

Back Cover Photo: The Guatemala team from Good Samaritan Church in St. John's.

Design and Graphics for this book are by Amy Bennet Design at amben@hotmail.com



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bishop Dan Gifford	8
The ON MISSION book 2024 — An Introduction	9
Archbishop Foley Beach	12
Anglican Global Mission Partners	14
The Importance of Prayer for Global Mission	16
Prayer for World Mission Sunday	18
DAY #1: Vancouver to Myanmar	20
Church of the Good Shepherd, Vancouver, BC	20
DAY #2: Vancouver to Myanmar	22
Church of the Good Shepherd, Vancouver, BC	22
DAY #3: Toronto to The Gambia	24
Christ the King Church, Toronto ON	24
DAY #4: Barrie to Cuba	27
DAY #5: Ottawa to the Nations	30
Church of the Messiah, Ottawa ON	30
DAY #6: Ottawa to the Nations	32
The Church of the Messiah, Ottawa ON	32
DAY #7: St. John's to Kigali, Rwanda.	34
DAY #8: St. John's to Kigali, Rwanda.	36
DAY #9: Barrie to Jordan	38
Celebration Church, Barrie ON	38
DAY #10: Victoria to Kalinga, Philippines	40
The Table Church, Victoria BC	40

Reflection #1	43
DAY # 11: St. John's to Guatemala	44
Good Samaritan Church, St. John's NL	44
DAY #12: Ottawa to the Nations	47
St. Peter and St Paul, Ottawa ON	47
DAY #13: Vancouver to Uganda	50
St. Mathias & St. Luke, Vancouver BC	50
DAY #14: Vancouver to Uganda	52
St. Mathias & St. Luke, Vancouver BC	52
DAY #15: Canada to Cuba	54
Reflection #2	56
DAY#16: Napanee to Tanzania	57
St. Stephen Anglican Fellowship, Napanee ON	57
DAY #17: Napanee to Tanzania	59
St. Stephen Anglican Fellowship, Napanee ON	59
DAY#18: Canada to Mozambique (ARDFc)	61
DAY #19: Toronto to The Gambia	64
Christ the King Church, Toronto ON	64
DAY #20: Toronto to The Gambia	67
Christ the King Church, Toronto ON	67
DAY #21: Langley to Uganda	70
Ascension Church, Langley, BC	70
DAY#22: Carlton Place to Kigali, Rwanda	72
Eternal Hope Anglican Church, Carleton Place, ON	72
DAY #23: Carlton Place to Kigali, Rwanda	74

Eternal Hope Anglican Church, Carleton Place, ON	74
DAY #24: Kingston & Napanee to Mali, West Africa	76
Living Waters Anglican Fellowship, Kingston ON,	76
and St. Stephen Anglican Fellowship, Napanee ON	76
DAY #25: Victoria to University Students	79
The Table Church, Victoria BC	79
DAY #26: Victoria to University Students	82
The Table Church, Victoria BC	82
DAY #27: Vancouver to Nepal	85
St. John's, Vancouver BC	85
DAY #28: Vancouver to Nepal	86
St. John's, Vancouver BC	86
DAY #29: Bonavista to South Sudan	88
All Saints, Bonavista NL	88
DAY #30: Chilliwack to Cuba	91
Youth Mission Scholarship	94
What Canadian Teams May Overlook in Preparing for Cross-cultural Ministry	95
Gafcon IV – The Kilgali Commitment 2023	96
Anglican Relief and Development Fund – Canada (ARDF-C)	99

Bishop Dan Gifford

In April 2023 I was at GAFCON IV gathered in Rwanda, East Africa, with over 1,300 Christians from 52 nations representing more than 85% of global Anglicans. Our 12 delegates from ANiC were deeply impressed and encouraged by the work and mission of the Gospel of Jesus through His people around the world in very diverse and often challenging contexts. In our time together there was a deep joy in hearing of the power of the Gospel to bring salvation to all people, and in sharing Jesus' mission together.

Our Diocese abounds with stories of God's mission to His people in our neighbourhoods and to the ends of earth. This work of God is wonderfully multifaceted, spanning from intimate kitchen conversations to local communities, cities, and nations worldwide. You will glimpse this as we read this ON MISSION book together and pray for the work God is doing through our ANiC sisters and brothers, and congregations.

Following one of the evening worship services in Kigali, Rwanda, I stepped from the convention centre into the night and I could see small cookfires dotting the landscape on the hillsides beyond the city. This imagery embodies the essence of mission: the Church venturing into darkness, engaging in small yet impactful acts of evangelism and compassion that reveal the radiant light of Jesus, dispelling the world's darkness. This also portrays the spirit of our ANiC Diocese, for which we are immensely grateful as we recognize each ministry and mission to which God calls us.

May God who sends us out with the Gospel of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, strengthen your faith in Him this Epiphany season as we celebrate God’s saving work around the world through our ANiC congregations.

In the Joy of Christ,

— The Rt. Rev. Dan Gifford

The Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC)

(Burlington ON)



The ON MISSION book 2024 — An Introduction

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.’” (John 20:21)

Travel was severely restricted during the three years of Covid, but thankfully that is behind us which allowed for several long delayed mission trips. Good Samaritan Church in St. John's sent two teams to Guatemala; Canon Howard Edwards visited agricultural projects in Tanzania; and several teams delivered much needed medicine to our church partners in Cuba.

One of the key events of the past year was the fourth gathering of the Global Anglican Futures Conference (Gafcon) in Kigali, Rwanda. This was a personal highlight for me and a valuable opportunity to connect with Anglican

leaders from around the world, including large delegations from the African countries. In this book Bishop Don Harvey reflects on his participation in all of the Gafcon conferences and the Rev. Devon & Sarah Hunt reflect on their first Gafcon.

Readers of the previous ON MISSION books will rejoice in the updates in this year's book. Following several setbacks, fresh water wells were finally completed in Mozambique; a Masters program in Christian Education is about to be launched at the University of The Gambia; and All Saints Bonavista has connected with the new Bishop in South Sudan allowing their partnership to continue.

New in this year's book, The Table in Victoria tells us how they are helping to raise up a new generation of Christian leaders. Larry & Andrea Ceccarelli in Ottawa give us valuable tips on how to begin a meaningful conversation with our muslim neighbours and colleagues.

The daily readings in this edition of ON MISSION are slightly longer than previous years, not because of any hesitation in editing, but because there is so much good ministry being done around the world by our ANiC churches. If you begin this book on Sunday January 14th you'll conclude the 30 daily readings just before Ash Wednesday.

World Mission Sunday this year is on Sunday, February 4th. This is an excellent opportunity to highlight the global partnerships you have, as well as for fundraising. There are liturgical resources and educational materials available for World Mission Sunday at the new wineskins website.

Using the data from the parochial returns that all of our parishes send to ACNA, we have created a Google map showing all the ANiC global mission projects around the world. It is very impressive to see these dots all over the world map. You can access this Google map at: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/e6xZR9rSidzQSCnS6>

One of the benefits of this book is that it stimulates much needed prayer for global missions. Canon Garth Hunt wrote the daily prayers in the previous editions and that torch has been passed to Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy LeMarquand. Grant and Wendy have recently returned to Canada from teaching at Trinity School of Ministry in Ambridge Pennsylvania and are now living just north of Calgary. They have kindly written the daily prayers for this year's edition of ON MISSION. They bring a wealth of experience to our On Mission priority having served in Kenya and Ethiopia plus their teaching years at Trinity.

Be sure to see the back of this book for the seven global priorities of Gafcon; a helpful article on what Canadian mission teams may forget in their preparation to work overseas; and key ways parish outreach committees can be extra supportive of their overseas partners.

Once again my sincere thanks for all those who have shared the wonderful global mission reports in this year's book. Their front-line reports from around the world will inspire you.

The theme of our Synod held in Vancouver in November was "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.'" (John 20:21) This is a

very suitable theme verse for this year's edition of the ON MISSION book and we trust that this book will advance the mission and evangelism of our Diocese.

— The Rev. Canon Brian McVitty
On Mission priority Co-Ordinator,
Anglican Network in Canada (Barrie, Ontario)



Archbishop Foley Beach

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Canada:
Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!
As I approach the end of my ten years as the Anglican Church in North America's second archbishop, one of the accomplishments that I am proud of is the establishment of a designated day to promote and celebrate **World Mission Sunday** across North America. The official day is always the second to last Sunday in Epiphany – **Feb. 4th this year** – but I applaud the Anglican Network in Canada that has taken the emphasis even further with the publication of the On Mission Devotional Guide book. This book showcases the amazing mission work and global partnerships of ANiC that are expanding the Kingdom of God and relieving much suffering in the world.

One of my greatest privileges as your archbishop over this past decade has been the deepening of global friendships throughout the Anglican Communion, especially through the work of Gafcon and the Global South Fellowship of Anglicans. I am humbled by the courageous witness of these global leaders and their people, many of whom live under severe persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. These partnerships matter not only to guarding and protecting orthodox Christianity for future generations, but also to the welfare and flourishing of millions of people. We are indeed better together!

This World Mission Sunday, I ask you to ponder how God might be calling you to share the Good News to fulfill the Great Commission. It could be as simple as an act of kindness to a newly-arrived refugee. Perhaps God is calling you to pray for an unreached people group to hear and believe. For some of you, it might even mean serving cross-culturally full-time, either domestically or internationally. I commend to you the mission entities of the Anglican Global Mission Partners (AGMP) to help you discover where you might be called by God to serve. They are here to help you, but we also need to be there to support them by giving, praying, and volunteering. The full list of these partners can be found at newwineskins.org/agmp.

The Anglican Network in Canada is also an AGMP member and this third edition of the On Mission Devotional Guide book has actually inspired other dioceses and jurisdictions around the Anglican Church in North America!

ANiC's Global Mission Initiative Advocate is the Rev. Canon Brian McVitty, and I commend the good work that he is

doing. You can also visit newwineskins.org to find great resources for World Mission Sunday at newwineskins.org/worldmissionsunday, to get involved in other mission networks, and stay in the know about mission training events and conferences. Let's all commit both individually and corporately to live as faithful disciples of Jesus until all have heard and had a chance to respond to the Gospel!

Lastly, I want to leave you with the Prayer for Mission, that we pray each week:

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ,

— The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach
Archbishop and Primate, Anglican Church in North America
(ACNA) Atlanta, Georgia

Anglican Global Mission Partners & the Global Mission Initiative



Anglican Global Mission Partners (AGMP) was formed over 20 years ago to provide a network for biblical, mission-minded Anglican entities to advance the Gospel globally through collaborative relationships. AGMP is made up of ACNA dioceses, churches and jurisdictions (Church Partners) and North American

Anglican mission agencies, missional ministries and seminaries (Agency Partners). Anglicans serving cross-culturally with non-Anglican organizations can also join as Associate Partners. The Anglican Network in Canada is a Church Partner and you can find out more and link to all the partners at <https://newwineskins.org/agmp>.



The AGMP tagline is “From the Church to the World!” The network has grown to nearly 50 partners with many more ACNA dioceses getting involved as a direct result of the ACNA prioritizing cross-cultural mission through its Global Mission Initiative (GMI). Nearly all ACNA dioceses now have an active GMI Advocate that is part of a team working with me as GMI’s Provincial Leader. The Rev. Canon Brian McVitty represents ANiC on the ACNA’s Global Mission Initiative Advocates team! Contact Canon Brian if you are interested in serving on his GMI team or want more information about some of the new mission training courses designed to educate your congregations.



New Wineskins Missionary Network oversees and coordinates the work of AGMP and GMI. Our website **newwineskins.org** is the hub for mission resources and the place where you can sign up to get involved in one of our six mission networks on anti-human trafficking, the persecuted church, creation care, international student ministry, healing in mission or prayer for all nations. Sign up on New Wineskins homepage to receive notices on upcoming events and training conferences.

The next New Wineskins for Global Mission Conference

is already scheduled for Sept. 17–20, 2025 in Ridgecrest, North Carolina with the theme “Hope for the Nations.” Save the date and start making plans to bring a team to this our largest mission equipping event in the Anglican Communion worldwide! Check out newwineskinsconference.org for details. We have created special resources for **World Mission Sunday** found at <https://newwineskins.org/worldmissionsunday> to raise awareness, prayer and hopefully new missionaries among your congregation!

— Jenny Noyes

Executive Director of New Wineskins Missionary Network
GMI Provincial Leader, Anglican Church of North America
Coordinator, Anglican Global Mission Partners (North Carolina, USA)



The Importance of Prayer for Global Mission

Why do we pray for the world mission of the church? It's really quite straightforward. We pray because we know that the work of God's people in mission will only go forward if God is in the endeavour. Mission work (that is, gospel work that crosses cultures) cannot be done in our strength. We need God's help. So we pray.

When the early Jerusalem church grew, says Luke, it was because “the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). When Paul was admonishing the Corinthian church, he reminded them that the most important thing in mission work was not the workers (Paul, or Apollos, or Peter), but rather it was God who gave the growth (see 1 Cor 3:1–9). We pray for missionaries and for global church leaders because we want to see God working through them, we want to see the church around the world strengthened and built up, and (most of all) because we want to see God glorified.

In Acts 3:1–3 we are given a glimpse of the remarkable church in Antioch. We are told that there were both prophets and teachers there. This leadership team was cross-cultural and, it seems, from a variety of social classes. Two of members, “Simeon called Niger [which means ‘black’] and Lucius of Cyrene” were from Africa. Barnabas was a financially well-off Jew from Cyprus. Saul had been a radical Pharisee who persecuted Christians. Manaen was a member of Herod’s court. This diverse group found unity in Jesus.

This church had already been preaching the message of Jesus to non-Jews in Antioch (11:19–21). The church was already ‘missional.’ But as they prayed, they realized that God wanted them to do more, he wanted them to send Barnabas and Saul out to preach the good news to an even wider audience. So they prayed and laid hands on these newly appointed cross-cultural missionaries and sent them out.

My wife Wendy and I know from experience that cross-cultural mission work can only bear fruit if God's people are praying. More importantly, the Bible tells us that mission and prayer go together. Please use this ON MISSION book as a daily incentive to hold up our sisters and brothers around the world who need God's strength for the work they do.

— The Rt. Rev. Grant LeMarquand
Retired Bishop of the Horn of Africa
Assisting Bishop in ANiC (Innisfail, Alberta)

Prayer for World Mission Sunday

The following prayer is the Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Epiphany (ACNA BCP page 604) and is an excellent theme prayer for On Mission.

Almighty God, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, you revealed the way of eternal life to every race and nation: Pour out this gift anew, that by the preaching of the Gospel your salvation may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Mission Projects

The following prayer can be used for mission projects and societies. (BCP page 651)

Lord Jesus, you commanded us to make disciples of all nations: Bless all those who work together for the spread of the Gospel [especially _____]; make them faithful and true witnesses to proclaim your glorious Name. Send down the grace of the Holy Spirit upon all your people, that

we may give cheerfully of our substance for the evangelization of the world, and that the light of your truth may shine brightly in every place. Hear us, O merciful Saviour, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.

Prayer for Congregations and their Clergy

(from the ACNA BCP page 649)

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant that by this Congregation of _____ and Clergy _____ the pure Word of God may be preached and the Sacraments duly administered. Strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of your truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church, to the honour and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God, who sends us out with the Gospel of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, strengthen your faith in Him this Epiphany season as we celebrate God’s saving work around the world through our ANiC congregations.
— Bishop Dan Gifford

DAY #1: Vancouver to Myanmar

Church of the Good Shepherd, Vancouver, BC

— Bishop Stephen Leung, Rev. Alan Tan, Rev. John Ngai, Rev. Paul Shen, Rev Alvin Ng (Missions' Committee: Nona Leung and Jenny Au)

One of the ongoing global missions that the Church of the Good Shepherd has been supporting is the Karen Anglican Ministry at the Border (KAMB) since 2011. This is an Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada project, and the funds we raised help with the needs of boarding houses which provide food, shelter, care, education and adult supervision for the displaced Karen children and youth on the Thai–Myanmar border.

Because of the continued violence within Myanmar, KAMB reported in autumn 2023 they have to increase the capacity of their current boarding houses, and added two short-term boarding houses to house the growing number of displaced Karen children and youth. We give thanks to our Lord for all of His provision and for the brothers and sisters of the KAMB team and the local church for their love and care in response to the emergency needs of newly arrived students by providing a safe dwelling place and a caring, learning environment for them.

Generous giving to the Mission Fund has allowed the entire parish to become partners in missions such as KAMB and other global mission opportunities. With the support of the Anglican Church in Thailand and the Diocese of Singapore,

we continue to partner with the KAMB leaders as Jesus' followers to share God's love and the hope of salvation across culture and the ocean.

You are invited to remember them in prayer for the following items as shared by the KAMB coordinator in the recent newsletter:

- Pray for peace and safety of the people living in Myanmar during ongoing turmoil
- Pray for the refugees and displaced people along Thai-Myanmar border to have clear future and safety
- Pray for settlement of the new arrivals in the refugee camp

(continued tomorrow)

Bible Reading: Now concerning the contribution for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ² On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come. ³ And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me. 1 Corinthians 16:1

Praying Together Today: Lord Jesus Christ, as a baby you fled with your family and lived as refugees in the land of Egypt; we pray today for the millions of displaced people in our world, but especially for the Karen people on the Thai-Myanmar border; comfort them with your presence, and give them a hope and a future. Amen.

DAY #2: Vancouver to Myanmar

Church of the Good Shepherd, Vancouver, BC

— Bishop Stephen Leung, Rev. Alan Tan, Rev. John Ngai, Rev. Paul Shen, Rev Alvin Ng (Missions' Committee: Nona Leung and Jenny Au)

(continued from yesterday)

Besides giving at the parish level, individual brothers and sisters of Good Shepherd Vancouver continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in annual fundraising activity for various global missions. One of them is the Move for H2O organized by the HOPE International Development Agency, which was founded in 1975. Move for H2O is a fundraising event across Canada that raises money for communities to build sustainable water systems. Participants can either race at their own pace with their chosen activity and event throughout a week or attend a hosted event.

This past summer in 2023, May Cheng, one of our parishioners, participated with her family in the Vancouver Move for H2O fundraising event. Reflecting on her experience, May writes:

As a Christian, we are taught to be kind and giving. I read my daughter bedtime stories teaching her that too, but talking is never the best way to teach a child, but rather, practising the act would be a better learning experience. I've participated in various fundraising activities in the past and found that I've always found joy in the process of

fundraising – doing a small act to make a difference to those in need.

This year, I asked my daughter if she'd like to participate in Move for H2O. I explained to her that there are people in the world who are less fortunate than us, they don't even have clean water. So I asked her, "Would you like to help them get clean water by doing a short run?" Wow, to my surprise, she said a firm "Yes! I'd like to fundraise." We then quickly put together a fundraising promotional video so we can kickstart the process. Our friends, family and co-workers were all delighted to contribute to the cause which gave my daughter Celine much encouragement to participate in the event.

During the entire process of explaining to her what a fundraising activity is, who she is fundraising for, to the actual fundraising process, I felt like God was in it with us throughout. I was amazed and thankful that a two-year-old mind could understand what I was saying and was excited and willing to do it. A two-year-old is often needy and plays the role of a recipient, but this time around, my daughter experienced the role of giving and I can see that she was overflowed with joy because she was able to do something for someone else. I pray that God will continue to speak to her that we as Christians have a mission to love others through kind acts, and fundraising is just one thing she can do.

May the Lord help us and our younger generations to be the light and hope in the world.

Bible Reading: The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. ... You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9: 6 and 11

Praying Together Today: Thank you heavenly Father that you give us joy in working with one another in partnership for the gospel. Bless the work our hands so that those in need will know the joy of the living water springing up to eternal life, given to us in Jesus. Amen.

DAY #3: Toronto to The Gambia

Christ the King Church, Toronto ON

— The Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor

Dr. Glen Taylor helped to start the Christian Studies program at the main University in The Gambia (west Africa). This is a remarkable achievement in that The Gambia is 95% Muslim. The graduates of this Christian Studies program go on to lead congregations, para-church ministries and pursue careers in business and government. Most of these

students receive bursaries from Canadian supporters. This past spring Dr. Taylor was back in The Gambia for the first time in three years to visit the students, faculty and denominational leaders. Here is his report from the front lines:

“Greetings from the Gambia. I arrived on Tuesday afternoon after a long but uneventful trip via Washington D.C. and Brussels. The flight from Brussels to the Gambia had empty seats on it so I was able to sleep for about three hours on the plane. Pastor Benjamin, the liaison for Global Scholars Canada, picked me up and drove me to a missionary compound in the central part of the greater urban area around Banjul. It is great to be back.

Tomorrow I travel to the campus to meet students and observe classes being taught in New Testament and Hebrew. On Friday I am having lunch with the whole faculty and on Saturday and Sunday there are graduation ceremonies and celebrations. Already I have reconnected with several old friends and have met several church leaders to assess their knowledge and impression of the Christian Studies programme. It is well advertised which means Pastor Benjamin has been doing a good job.

Last night I was at a prayer meeting at a local charismatic evangelical church and tonight at a Bible Study at the same. A lovely church of faithful people. I also attended a Roman Catholic mass as a prelude to arranging with the RC Education Secretary for the country. I plan to meet the new Anglican bishop on Monday.

Thank you for your prayers so far. All is going well. Please pray that I will make good and important contacts and that I won't get sick from covid, and especially from the more likely possibilities: food poisoning or malaria. I have malaria pills but the room didn't come with a mosquito net which is an extra level of protection from malaria. (The mosquitos are not numerous so the risk is not high.)

I close to the sound of the call to prayer emanating from a loud PA system atop the mosque tower next door. Satan has an ominous grip on the majority population, a grip that is perhaps all the stronger for being not especially radical. But God is at work in many places here as well, including now in high places of civil administration.

Thanks for your prayer support. Blessings to you all,

Bible Reading: When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. ²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Acts 14:21

Praying Together Today: Almighty Father, you call us to love you with all our heart, mind, and strength; bless those who teach and those who learn in the Christian Studies programme in Gambia; we pray that through their work these students will be built up to bring the truth of your

love and grace to the people of their country; we pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

We are a people of hope, and Jesus calls us to spread this hope to every corner of the world so that one day every tribe, tongue, and nation will proclaim Jesus is Lord!

— Archbishop Foley Beach

DAY #4: Barrie to Cuba

— Canon Brian and Diane McVitty
(ANiC On Mission Priority Co-ordinator)

After three years when there were no trips to our partners in Cuba, there was one visit in 2022 by Canon Barclay and Bishop Trevor Walters and there were five trips down this past year. The purpose of the trips was to deliver supplies (especially medicine) and to visit the clergy. Some of these trips were combined with a holiday. Canon Brian and Diane McVitty flew to Holguin in March and Diane returned the next month with her sister Jude Hodgson.

As we prepared for our recent trip to Cuba we knew that the 20 pound limit for bringing in supplies had been waived since the middle of Covid but we still wondered if taking 100 pounds of medicine from Health Partners International Canada (HPIC), which we had stuffed into two large hockey bags, was going to be too much and too obvious?

We give thanks for God's grace and the prayers of many people. In the Scriptures it says that, "the valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth" (Luke 3:5) to create a way forward without obstacles. All of the obstacles we had anticipated had evaporated.

The trip to St. Mark's Moa to deliver medicine, water filtration kits and Spanish Bibles was such an impactful weekend it's hard to find the words to express what we have seen and felt.

First of all there's the experience of driving three hours overland on a two lane highway as the driver weaves his way around horse carts, ox carts, and transport trucks. Then there were tears of joy, and almost disbelief, delivering the four cases of medicine and supplies to Dr. Lisandra Navarro and as she read over the list of pharmaceuticals.

She confirmed what we had already heard, that the shelves in the drug stores are empty and everyone going to the hospital for surgery has to take their own antibiotics, bandages, etc. The doctors at the hospital don't even have surgical gloves.

I felt so conflicted that weekend. On the one hand our church partners are so appreciative of our assistance and that someone would actually visit them. These personal connections are so important; email is not really a substitute for being together in person.

However, offering hospitality is a sacrifice for them. At our first dinner together there were four of us that sat down at the table despite there being others in the household; there simply wasn't enough food for everyone.

Our church partners were greatly encouraged by our visit. I was delighted to see the church in action as I attended the graduation ceremony of a class of forty Evangelists. The gospel is going forward despite the hardships.

Because the need is so great and there were rumours that the government would once again reimpose the 20 pound limit on what could be brought into the country, Diane McVitty and her sister Jude Hodgson booked a return flight to Cuba the next month. Through the generosity of Celebration Church, Barrie and many others they were able to deliver 300 lbs of medicine.

Bible Reading: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Isaiah 40:3

Praying Together Today: Most merciful Lord, we rejoice that you have called us into relationship with your church in Cuba; grant us the grace to give and to receive, knowing that our partnership in the gospel is a sign of your kingdom here on earth; we ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY #5: Ottawa to the Nations

Church of the Messiah, Ottawa ON

— The Rev. Canon George Sinclair, the Rev. Daniel Avitan, the Rev. Dr. Steve Griffin

Like all of you, we wished that we had more money to support more missionaries! However, we seek to be faithful with what the Lord has provided for us.

Once again, in several cases our missionaries are working in closed and/or semi-closed countries. To allow them to safely continue to do their important work I will have to be vague about some details and use initials rather than their names.

Twelve years ago we sent off P + J to work in central Asia. They worked with a mission agency that helped P to land a professional job in the country. Over the last 12 years they shared the gospel one on one, and worked with a small Christian group on the university campus, and were involved in the local church and some church planting. A year ago they sensed that their time there was coming to an end. We welcomed them back this past summer. They have now resettled in western Canada.

B left Messiah and is back working in Asia. He does translation work, works with students in University, is engaged in one-on-one evangelism, and supports local churches.

N and K work in North Africa. They are involved in "secular" relief and development work. They are also involved in sharing the gospel in their neighbourhood and supporting the work of the local and regional church. N preaches regularly, and both N and K are involved in discipleship.
(continued tomorrow)

Bible Reading: And now we thank thee, our God, and praise thy glorious name. ¹⁴ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from thee, and of thy own have we given thee. ¹⁵ For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building thee a house for thy holy name comes from thy hand and is all thy own.
1 Chronicles 29:13

Praying Together Today: O Lord, as we invest in your mission around the world we do acknowledge that all things come from you and of your own have we given. As we give time, money, prayer, skill and effort to your work we pray that it will be multiplied and effective in sharing your love and the good news of the gospel. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

My wife Wendy and I know from experience that cross-cultural mission work can only bear fruit if God's people are praying. More importantly, the Bible tells us that mission and prayer go together. — Bishop Grant LeMarquand

DAY #6: Ottawa to the Nations

The Church of the Messiah, Ottawa ON

— The Rev. Canon George Sinclair, the Rev. Daniel Avitan,
the Rev. Dr. Steve Griffin

(continued from yesterday)

Trish is working in Uganda with SIM. She is assisting in the care of orphans, and is also involved in the local church.

Norm and Audry are also with SIM, but work in Angola. Audry works as a nurse in the SIM medical centre, and is also involved in pre and postnatal care in the surrounding region. Norm keeps the technical side working not only for the hospital, but for all of SIM's work in Angola. On top of this, they are deeply involved in the local Anglican church, and have helped plant churches.

Judah and Jessie are in Columbia working through Latin American Missions. They are involved in education and evangelism amongst the large number of refugees from Venezuela. They also are involved in the local churches.

Aaron and Michelle work in Israel as part of CMJ. Aaron is involved in the overall life of Christ Church Jerusalem, especially in evangelism. He is also involved with Kanada House, a place for new believers live when they have been disowned by their families.

Finally, we are part of the Ottawa Compassion Collective. We are one of nine local churches in Ottawa working together cross denominationally. We have partnered with

Compassion Canada and Compassion Guatemala to "adopt" a region in Guatemala. As you probably know, Compassion works with local churches to lift children out of poverty in Jesus' name. We have a yearly "Compassion Sunday" and raise money at other times – all money going to either child sponsorship, or Compassion's new initiative to save the lives of newborns through pre and postnatal care.

It is an honour and privilege to be in koinonia with important gospel work around the world!

Bible Reading: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel thus about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace. Philippians 1:3

Praying Together Today: We thank you Lord for the partnership in the gospel that arises amongst churches in the same town. We thank you that nine churches in Ottawa are combining their resources to work with Compassion and thereby lift children out of poverty and bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Bless the Church of the Messiah and their partner churches we pray. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY #7: St. John's to Kigali, Rwanda.

— Bishop Don Harvey

Now that things are far less hectic for me than they were a decade ago, I frequently find myself reflecting over various events I experienced during over 60 years of ordained ministry. I am thankful that so many of these memories were treasured moments when I worked side by side with fellow clergy and the wonderful laity to make the Gospel come alive week by week. While there were times where I, and they, fell short of the mark, for the most part we did well with the gifts God gave us and the responsibilities we undertook in His Name.

One reflection that has been recurring in 2023 takes me back to 2007 when Canon Chris Sugden invited me to represent Canada at a meeting of Primates being held in Nairobi, Kenya to see how we would handle the Lambeth Conference due to be held in 2008, and how we could provide for the many bishops, especially in the Global South, who felt that in conscience they could not attend Lambeth. It was one of the first times such a gathering took place and almost from the beginning we could feel the deep presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst and the warmth of the fellowship we were sharing with one another.

We brainstormed but by bedtime still had no firm plan in mind and so we humbly committed the challenge to Almighty God for His direction.

The next morning, miraculously, we came up with the name Gafcon and put the plans in motion for the first

Conference to take place in Jerusalem in just seven months time.

The rest is history (albeit glorious history) because in the incredibly short space allotted to us emerged an amazing number of delegates from much of the world; the Jerusalem Declaration; and the launching of the new Province to be known as the Anglican Church in North America. Indeed, many of us found ourselves quoting the line from Numbers 23:23 –“What hath God wrought....”

(continued tomorrow)

Bible Reading: The Lord their God is with them, and the shout of a king is among them.²² God brings them out of Egypt and is for them like the horns of the wild ox.²³ For there is no enchantment against Jacob, no divination against Israel; now it shall be said of Jacob and Israel, ‘What has God wrought!’ Numbers 23:21

Praying Together Today: Heavenly Father, through the death and resurrection of your son Jesus you have called your church from many nations to be united in their witness to your truth and love; fill us with your Spirit, give us wisdom as we discern your will, and make us a sign to the reality that you will one day unite all things in heaven and earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Close to 90 percent of Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists will never meet another Christian or see the "beautiful, glorious Gospel lived out in front of them." — Andrew Scott of Operation Mobilization

DAY #8: St. John's to Kigali, Rwanda.

— Bishop Don Harvey

(continued from yesterday)

Bishop Don Harvey: Every five years there has been a Gafcon Conference and this year we had the joy of launching GAFCON IV in Kigali, Rwanda which brought together our experiences of the last 15 years and some decisive policies, which, if carried out, will change the face of the Anglican Communion forever. To be there was the experience of a life time, giving many who have been there from the beginning a sense that at last we really were coming of age and accepting the commission that God has in mind for us. And, above all it was done in the spirit of repentance.

In the early days of Common Cause one of our group complained about all the meetings and conferences which made such great plans and yet few if any of them materialized. He compared our actions to the old nursery rhyme : The Royal Duke of York ; He had ten thousand men; He marched them to the top of the hill; and he marched them down again. Between these colourful parades the soldiers remained in their barracks waiting for the next time to march forth – and, apart from the parades nothing really was happening.

In Kilgali we again marched to the top of the hill in great splendour. The first time we did this (in 2008) we formed our Province and launched a Movement that is calling faithful Anglicans back to the Scriptures and the heritage, built on that Faith that we have received ourselves and then

have been commissioned to take out into the world by none other than Jesus Christ Himself!

It is my prayer that this time our marching forward will be making a difference, and we will have the courage and zeal to bring the decisions and enthusiasm of the group gathered in Kigali – in His Name– to bring His message unadulterated and in its fullness to the uttermost parts of the world. But first it must begin at home.

Bible Reading: Jude, a servant^[a] of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: ² May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. ³ Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 1

Praying Together Today: Almighty God, you are the Lord of the church and the Lord of the world; give us spiritual eyes to see you at work in all the large and small decisions taken for the protection and upbuilding of your people, so that you may be glorified. Amen.

It is so comforting when we ease the pain of cancer patients who also allow us to pray and offer them spiritual relief. They are surprised and grateful for the free offer of these medicines. — a doctor in Cuba (Day #15)

DAY #9: Barrie to Jordan

Celebration Church, Barrie ON

— The Rev. Paul Simons, The Rev. Richard White

The Rev. Richard White has served overseas on several occasions. This is a reflection from his time in Jordan:

“She was a witch, which was why Joseph divorced her. Joseph was my Arabic language tutor in Jordan. This is his story of conversion.

I was midway through my term in Amman. I had gone to Joseph’s house for my weekly lesson. He was shaking, ashen, and confused. Something deeply spiritual had happened and he needed an explanation.

A Palestinian by birth, he had been a successful businessman in an Arabian Gulf country. His wife began to delve deeply into the black arts. An angry, and vindictive woman, she routinely cast spells and cursed Joseph, filling him with dread. A string of bad-luck hit; Joseph’s business partner embezzled their funds and skipped the country. The tension at home was unbearable.

In Islam, witchcraft is grounds for divorce. Joseph left her and moved to Jordan to begin a new business life. But not before the witch drenched him with demonic curses.

The day of my lesson it was clear Joseph was beyond distress. As we sat at his kitchen table to drink tea, he told me the troubling story of his wife and a bizarre account of

what had been happening since our last lesson. He was hearing voices, hissing, murmurs through the house. Things were being moved, relocated. His wife's damning words were coming alive. He looked at me anxiously. Did I believe him? I listened.

Joseph said he did the only thing he knew to do. He desperately needed an end to the voices, to the haunting. He told me he began calling out for help to every Muslim prophet he knew. This included of course Muhammad, but also a string of others – Adam, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, David, John the Baptist, and Jesus (Isa). And then it happened! At the name of Jesus the voices stopped. The blackness was held at bay. He leaned across the table. His eyes searching my face. What was it about the name of Jesus that stopped the evil in its tracks?

It was a golden opportunity to share Philippians 2:8-11, to talk about the Cross, the salvation offered to all through Jesus, and the amazing power of the Name of Jesus. That day Joseph gave his life to Jesus. That day the light of Christ entered Joseph's life. That day he became my brother in Christ and the fruit of his new life began to blossom. That day he began to see a string of prayers answered. That day Joseph moved from a spectre of darkness into the saving arms of God's saving love. His house would be spiritually cleansed and blessed. Given that public conversions were illegal, Joseph was baptized in a secret ceremony witnessed by a select few.

Bible Reading: And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. ¹⁸ Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their

practices. ¹⁹ And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily. Acts 19:17

Praying Together Today: Loving Father, we give you great thanks that the day is coming when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father; give us eyes to see those in spiritual turmoil and distress and give us the wisdom to minister to them the message of your liberating mercy; for we pray in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY #10: Victoria to Kalinga, Philippines

The Table Church, Victoria BC

— The Rev. Andy Withrow, The Rev. Josh Wilton, The Rev. Anna Spray, Rachel Hardy, Emily Charter

The Table Church in Victoria, BC, partners with three mission projects – one local, one national, and one international.

Our local mission partner, Street Hope Victoria (Threshold Ministries), provides soup, sandwiches, drinks, and clothing items to people experiencing homelessness in the Victoria downtown core. In 2023 the new Outreach Director,

Deborah Moyo has grown the volunteer base, and has worked hard to strengthen relationships and build new connections with those that are marginalized and isolated. Despite ongoing issues of addiction and lack of housing, there is evidence of God blessing and taking care of people. One woman who has struggled with addiction recently had an encouraging visit with a daughter whom she hadn't seen in 14 years. Another man who grew up in the foster care system and spent the last few years in a housing situation that was challenging, was able to find housing in a place that reflected and reinforced his ethnic heritage.

Our national mission partner is Alan Thorimbert, an InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) campus minister at the University of Victoria and Camosun College. Over the past year, the IVCF team has been highly successful in their efforts to create a Christ-centered community at both campuses. Alongside regional team members, Alan has been diligently working towards stewarding God's blessings and love for new and returning students through a variety of programming and engagement opportunities tailored to student interests and needs. IVCF Victoria's ecosystem of community engagement and Biblical learning include weekly and monthly programs, which draw a mixture of students from all backgrounds and faiths. In addition to regular campus-based programming, Alan and the Victoria team have been able to plan and host biannual off-campus retreats for students, and support the Leaders In Training programming for the Pioneer Summer camps for youth. Meaningful conversations, eating together, and being led by God's Agape love have made Alan's work with IVCF Victoria a place of belonging and spiritual growth for

Christian and non-Christian students alike. (see also Days 25 and 26)

Our international mission partner is Abundant Grace of God Maternity Center (AGGMC) in Kalinga, Philippines, an isolated area that has historically lacked sufficient health care due to tribal wars and poverty. AGGMC provides free prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care, as well as health education and spiritual encouragement for expecting mothers. Nearly 4,000 babies have been born at the clinic since it was established in 2007. In 2023, the Table helped to fundraise for a new portable ultrasound machine to improve prenatal care, and the clinic also received a donation of an ambulance from the provincial government to provide emergency transportation services at a sister clinic that is located in a more remote area of Kalinga. Clinic staff had a number of successful outreaches to surrounding communities this year and continued to build supportive relationships with other local midwives and birthing centers.

Bible Reading: Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. ¹⁵ Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1Timothy 4:12

Praying Together Today: Most merciful God, you called your first disciples to minister in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth; grant us to see the needs around us, so that those who are far off and those who are near may be reached by word and deed with the message of your love; we pray this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reflection #1

The following are a few reflection questions based on what you have read so far:

1. What mission account has most impacted you, and why?
2. Is there a mission project (or a missionary) for whom you pray regularly? Who? Why do you feel a connection to them?
3. What will your congregation be doing to mark World Mission Sunday on February 4th?

DAY # 11: St. John's to Guatemala

Good Samaritan Church, St. John's NL

— Archdeacon Darrell Critch

In the spring Archdeacon Darrell Critch led two teams from Good Samaritan Church to work with the Arms of Jesus Children's Mission in Guatemala. Good Samaritan has been sending teams for about a decade; this was the first one since covid. The Arms of Jesus Children's Mission is led by Dr. Sam Martin. The staff of AOJ wrote the following note in appreciation for the teams from Good Samaritan.

“Two thousand years ago, Jesus shared the parable of The Good Samaritan. This year 2023, God allowed this parable of the Good Samaritan to come to life again in Guatemala through two teams led by Father Darrel Critch, Rector of the Church. These team impacted the entire AOJ staff, the families they ministered to and the folks in the community who witnessed their humility and service.

It was moving to see these humble people who had travelled from a distant land, wash the feet of the poor, feed the hungry and share the Good news of Jesus Christ not only in word, but also in action. They built 14 homes, changing the lives of families. They taught Bible classes not only to those on the mission Campus schools. The experience of our Staff can be summed up in a simple way: they were gifted by God and had Spirit-filled voices. Someone said, even although language separates us, thanks to their actions we know we are united by something

greater, called love, which causes all to feel embraced by the Arms of Jesus.’

We could write a book on the accomplishments of the Team, but we share two human stories with a sense of gratitude to God for the ministry of the Team and Father Critch.

Modern Day Good Samaritans: Told by Anelia Herrera, AOJ Staff member in Guatemala:

Since I am part of the AOJ Staff, I was able to be part of the many activities carried out for the Good Samaritan’s Team in “Los Encinos” community. They were there to share the Gospel in word and action. When blessing families with bags of food, they noticed a family with two children who had special needs. At the end of the activity, they came close to them and asked them if they could pray for them and they also blessed them with diapers and shoes for the kids as well. The mother was impacted and it was a huge blessing for her to see how these people were interested in helping them and supplying for some of their needs.

Lupita’s Dream is coming true! Told by Aura Floricelda:

I am sharing this brief testimony on behalf of Guadalupe Sule, Lupita, who is my daughter. It is incredible to see how people who do not know us, but have a love for others. The Good Samaritan’s Team is a great example. They did not know anything about me or my family, but they learned about my daughter Lupita who has a terrible deformed foot. They showed great love towards her and said they would try to help her. This was an amazing answer to prayer. I received word that there was a possibility of surgery for Lupita’s foot. This news made us feel very happy because

Lupita's dream has always been is to wear shoes as any other little girl and it is coming true thanks to members the Team. We never told anyone about the dream until now, and we wait to see what God is going to do! Thanks so much for your kindness to my daughter Lupita!

Bible Reading: But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." Luke 10:33

Praying Together Today: Merciful Lord, you sent your son to reveal your heart of love for the world; fill us with the Spirit of Jesus that we may follow him in reaching out in mercy to our neighbours in need, bringing your healing, your your justice, and your grace into every situation; for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY #12: Ottawa to the Nations

St. Peter and St Paul, Ottawa ON

— The Rev. Michelle Terwilleger, The Rev. Dr. Ben VanderHeide

Larry and Andrea Ciccarelli have been supported by our congregation and for over 20 years they have worked in Muslim countries. We asked them to share some key tips about how to start a conversation with our Muslim neighbours and colleagues. Here are key practical insights from the frontlines:

Starting a Conversation with Muslim Neighbours:

“Our family has lived and worked in various countries in the Middle East and North Africa, and we have found our Muslim neighbours to be overwhelming kind, welcoming, and open to making relationships with us. The same is true in Canada! Andrea did English language conversation practice at a branch of the public library in Ottawa for several years. Some participants were from predominantly Muslim countries. The students had two big questions:

1. How can I get a job?
2. How can I make Canadian friends?

So if you want to start a conversation, you may find someone very eager to get to know you!

Break the ice

“A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (John 4:7) There are lots of ways to find common ground with our Muslim neighbour, but the key

thing is to break the ice and actually start talking with someone. It may be that you need a drink of water, or perhaps help opening the door because your hands are full. It may be a comment on the weather. The key thing is to start, and then after some words you can kindly inquire about the person and their life.

Be benevolent

We should really care for our Muslim neighbour and wish the best for him/her. You might observe that the person working at the store is stressed and busy. You might express sympathy with the busy mom with a whining child.

Be appreciative

Believe it or not, God is already at work in the lives of our neighbours before we ever show up! So ask questions about your neighbour's life, background, and beliefs. They will appreciate your sincere desire to get to know them, their culture and background. And with time you will discover the "fingerprints of God" at work in their lives.

Be authentic

Our Muslim neighbours have great respect for people of faith. Don't feel like you will offend them if you talk about prayer, going to church, or so on. They will actually think more highly of you for it! Sometimes an offer to pray for them is welcome.

A few months ago, a Syrian woman who comes to the food bank where we volunteer seemed particularly grumpy. Larry asked her, "Is everything OK? You seem upset." She said she was not able to arrange the visas to visit her father, who lives in another country. She had not seen him in two years.

After saying this, she broke out in tears. Larry asked the woman who directs the (church-run) food bank to come over, give her a big hug, and pray for her, while Larry translated. Our Syrian friend was grateful for our concern. If you have questions, feel free to write us at: chicosoverseas@gmail.com.

Bible Reading: So Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." John 4:5

Praying Together Today: Almighty and most merciful God, many in your world are broken and in the midst of sorrow; may your church be renewed by your Spirit so that we will look not only to our own needs but also to the needs of others; in the name and for the sake of the one who suffered and died for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY #13: Vancouver to Uganda

St. Mathias & St. Luke, Vancouver BC

— The Rev. Angus Wu, the Rev. Walter Wong, Zenia Cheng

Kurt Petersen came to St. Matthias and St. Luke Church (SMSL) as a young man when he moved from his hometown in Manitoba to Vancouver to seek a new career in the film industry. He was called to serve as a missionary in Uganda after a chance visit to the country. In time he established an NGO in Uganda to run his youth mission. His missionary call has also become SMSL's missionary call.

Over the years, SMSL has supported Kurt's work in prayers and we have seen his ministry grow and it has benefitted many young people in Uganda. Financially, SMSL has also supported Kurt's missionary work with our Parish's Mission Fund. As well, individual parishioners and a fellowship group of mainly retirees also support his missionary work financially.

We praise and thank God for raising up Kurt Petersen to be His hand and feet in Uganda, and for giving SMSL the chance to serve Jesus in His Great Commission through this global mission. We pray that many more young people in Uganda will come to Christ through Kurt's missionary work. More on his missionary work can be seen at <https://www.change2change.ca/> Below is an update from Kurt Petersen on his mission.

Bible Reading: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹ For as the

heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:8

Praying Together Today: O Lord, we give you thanks for the mystery that your ways are higher than our ways. As we commit our ways to your guidance we are amazed how you open doors of opportunity about which we had no inkling. Thank you for your hand of guidance on the life of Kurt and thank you for the long term support of St. Mathias & St. Luke which has made this mission possible. All this we offer in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The doctor in Cuba confirmed what we had already heard, that the shelves in the drug stores are empty and everyone going to the hospital for surgery has to take their own antibiotics, bandages, etc. The doctors at the hospital don’t even have surgical gloves. — Canon Brian and Diane McVitty

DAY #14: Vancouver to Uganda

St. Mathias & St. Luke, Vancouver BC

— The Rev. Angus Wu, the Rev. Walter Wong, Zenia Cheng

(continued from yesterday)

Kurt Peterson's work in Uganda is supported by St. Mathias & St. Luke Church; here is some of Kurt's testimony: "It was 2009 in the middle of winter when I took the 30 hour journey from home into the unknown, called Uganda (East Africa). What was independently planned as a 4 week 'make-an-impact' trip resulted in a life-turned-upside-down new beginning.

I was a new actor breaking into the growing film industry in Hollywood North but just as things were heating up, the Lord had very different plans for me.

In 2012 I returned to Uganda distributing mosquito nets, shoes, and started a simple once-a-week youth fellowship which quickly exploded into a full-time youth mission non-governmental organization (NGO). The physical needs of children and youth in the third world country were great, but the spiritual needs were even greater which required a lot more planning, attention, and commitment. Leaving all family, possessions, and job behind I had complete peace, joy, and conviction in doing whatever the Lord wanted in Uganda. I cannot deny that it hasn't been challenging, but the fruits of seeing lives of children and

youth change for the better and surrendering to the Lord is the greatest fruit of all.

Fast forward to today, I can shout from the rooftops with JOY for what the Lord did with my 2009 4 week 'make-an-impact' trip (it actually made a greater impact on me). The Lord imparted His calling as a full-time missionary, leader, mentor minister of the Lord, and best of all a father to two orphaned Ugandan boys whom I love more than I ever thought possible. None of this could I have planned nor predicted – indeed, our ways are not His ways. Trust in the Lord's will, it's always far better than our own. In Christ, Kurt Petersen (Missionary). More on Kurt's missionary work can be seen at <https://www.change2change.ca/>

Bible Reading: All your children will be taught of the Lord; And the well-being of your children will be great. ¹⁴ In righteousness you will be established; You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear. Isaiah 54: 13

Praying Together Today: O Lord, we do give you thanks that as we read yesterday in Isaiah, your ways are higher than our ways, and as we read today, that it is your desire for all children to be taught of the Lord. We thank you how you transformed a four week short term mission trip into a life time vocation and for how you opened a door of opportunity for youth and children in Uganda to be reached with the good news of Jesus. May Kurt's work and the organization change2change continue to impact many lives. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY #15: Canada to Cuba

— A Thank You Letter

Those who visited our partners in Cuba last year delivered over 500 pounds of medicine (plus water filtration kits and other supplies). Much of this was prescription medicine provided by a Canadian pharmaceutical agency called Health Partners International Canada (HPIC). The following is a report from one of the Cuban doctors who received this medicine and distributed it in the community:

“My Dear Friends: We have been working on the delivery of medicines to the members of the church, plus we can say that the community has also benefited a lot. It is a pity that you are not around so that you can enjoy the relief and joy of so many people! It gives pleasure and ennobles the soul to do good to others.

All our congregation, around 82 families, received vitamins, painkillers, antibiotics and other medicines according to the pathologies they present. Brothers and sisters from other Churches were also helped with vitamins and antibiotics, with a prior analysis of each need and their diagnosis.

Patients from the community have been helped to whom, along with the treatments, the Word of God is brought, as in the case of sister Loli, who suffers from Rheumatoid Arthritis. In addition to the medical treatment, she is fed with the refreshment of the Most High on each visit.

On our way to take the Dexamethasone treatment to an asthmatic patient, we found a desperate wife and her

bedridden husband who also needed Dexamethasone, and we were able to share it with him.

It is so comforting when we ease the pain of cancer patients who also allow us to pray and offer them spiritual relief. They are surprised and grateful for the free offer of these medicines.

We offered help to an orphanage. We sent them medicines and a water filter that brought tears of emotion to the director. Each of these little ones will be offered antipyretic and antibiotic medicines and they all received one of the stuffed animals. We have not finished distributing the children's medicine, since many of those who attend our children's ministry do not come with their parents and for safety reasons we do not give it to the children but to the parents.

We have no words to thank you for your tenderness, concern and sacrifice! We know that it was God who put in your hearts the desire to help so many in need and God will reward you for your effort.

Bible Reading: Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹ The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. Matthew 10:20

Praying Together Today: Heavenly Father, your son our Saviour went around doing good, healing the sick, driving out demons, bringing good news to the poor; may we also be instruments of your healing in a suffering world, so that all will come to the one who sends us, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection #2

The following are a few more reflection questions based on what you have read so far:

1. Write out a Bible verse that speaks to you about world missions:
2. What did your congregation do to mark World Mission Sunday on February 5th?
3. Good communication is a key element to the success of mission initiatives. How does your parish communicate with your members about your mission partners?
4. How do you communicate with your partners overseas? Are there ways that communication can be improved?
5. Do you feel inspired to become more involved in world missions? If so, How?

DAY#16: Napanee to Tanzania

St. Stephen Anglican Fellowship, Napanee ON

— The Rev. John Coghlan, Canon Howard Edwards

Canon Howard writes about the work in Tanzania: ACrossMission is one response to God's persistent desire for His Word to be heard to the ends of the earth. In prayer and by providing financial support, ACrossMission provides an opportunity for Christians living in North America's financial prosperity and security to share in the joy of God's work among His people in the poverty and oppression of East Africa. As "western" Christians support these pastors, the work of the Gospel persists and thrives – united in Love, the Light of the word shines in deep darkness. ACrossMission is an opportunity to share in the joy of this work as repentance and restoration happen.

As we pray for and support pastors in God's work, God unites His people in the fellowship of His Church – the fellowship of Love. Paul tells us that this unity is "a matter of equity; your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be equality." (2 Cor. 8: 13-14) He tells us that God has established His Church in both prosperity and poverty and He allows this disparity because by it we are made aware of "the genuineness of [our] Love." (2 Cor. 8:8) God desires that none would have too much and none too little, and allows us to be the mechanism to balance abundance against need. One shares the eternal wealth of repentant restored sinners with the other who distributes

the temporal wealth God entrusts to them in this life – in this God is glorified and the world sees Love lived in the Church.

(continued tomorrow)

Bible Reading: For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints ... I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8: 3 and 8–11

Praying Together Today: Blessed Lord, the creator of all good things; provide, we pray, for the needs of your people: give them their daily bread, send the rain and sun in due season, and provide skill and wisdom to those in authority in every sphere of life, so that people everywhere may glorify you, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Our family has lived and worked in various countries in the Middle East and North Africa, and we have found our Muslim neighbours to be overwhelming kind, welcoming, and open to making relationships with us —
Larry and Andrea Ciccarelli

DAY #17: Napanee to Tanzania

St. Stephen Anglican Fellowship, Napanee ON

— The Rev. John Coghlan, Canon Howard Edwards

(continued from yesterday)

Canon Howard Edwards writes about the work in Tanzania:
In 2023 new opportunities for mission developed – ACrossMission continued its ministry-supporting work and God opened new doors to ACrossMission becoming a mission-sending work.

Through the support of both Canadian and Tanzanian partners land was purchased and cultivated, two deep wells were drilled and a Mission House at Kyawazaru opened as a ministry base for ACrossMission pastors. We thank God for Rev. Gibogo and Rev Odongo and their families who now live and minister in Kyawazaru. Mission House is a strange thing to the people in this community.

First, there is water. Previously dirty ground water was gathered for the local primary school and homes from a stream 6 km away. Now students collect water from Mission House on the way to and from school. They have clean water. The principal recently sent a note celebrating the fact that for the first time in its history, his school is NOT among the worst in Tanzania. Why? Because his students are healthy and in class, not “away with stomach sickness.”

But what shocks the people of Kyawazaru is the water at Mission House is completely free. This is unheard of in their experience. Why would ACrossMission pastors just give

water freely? A great question! The answer is simple – because of Jesus. The free gift of water has made a Gospel-resistant community receptive to hearing about Jesus.

Second, as ACrossMission anticipates its first harvest at Mission House and the giving of flour, cornmeal and cassava to poor homes and the local school our prayer is that this community will be amazed even more as they witness Love lived among them. Our prayer is that because of this they will come to know God, His Love for them, and His desire to gather them to Himself.

We are blessed that ACrossMission pastors have recently been invited to share the Gospel each week with each class at a very large primary school in Kyawazaru. It is exciting to hear of these children experiencing the Gospel in both Word and action.

Our prayer for the next two years is to gather the significant resources needed to plant Mission Houses in three new communities sending six ACrossMission pastors into these new works and sharing in the joy of that work. Contact the Rev. Canon Howard Edwards at ACrossMission@gmail.com

Visit our websites:

<https://www.acrossmission.org/>

<https://www.iamonmission.org/>

Bible Reading: That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. 1 John 1:3

Praying Together Today: O Lord, we give you thanks for the joy we feel as we read about clean water being offered free of charge. We give thanks for mission houses being established to share freely your good news. Bless this work in Tanzania and may good deeds and good news be freely offered in even more villages. May your grace rest upon ACrossMission; in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

The true, orthodox, and faithful way of being a Christian in the Anglican way, is a treasure we should be proud of, not in a self-centered, self-congratulatory way, but as a pearl of great price, for all the world. — The Rev. Devon & Sarah Hunt (Day# 23)

DAY#18: Canada to Mozambique (ARDFc)

— Michael Tweedle (Director - Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada)

Mission work is often just like what St. Paul encountered on his travels. Sometimes things go very smoothly, and sometimes there are setbacks, which might lead us to a better place, or somewhere the Lord wants us more. In Mozambique, there has been calamity after calamity. Cyclone Freddy hit Mozambique early in the year destroying many buildings and wells. Following this, water quality deteriorated leading to the spread of cholera. There have been contested elections in the country, with those in

power not wishing to lose. In addition, there were holdups to the drilling of the 4 new boreholes. Throughout this, the church has been working to spread the good news and bring fresh and living water.

Now the drilling has been done, and the pumps are functioning! Thanks be to God. They will be inaugurated this week.

ARDF Canada's current projects:

1. An ongoing and just renewed support for the displaced Karen people of Myanmar. We support boarding houses at the border in Thailand, where girls and boys find homes (given room and board) while they cross the border to attend school in Myanmar. This is funded almost exclusively by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Vancouver.

2. Church Plant and Girls' Dorm Support Community - Anglican Church of Cambodia (Sen Sok). The Anglican Church of Cambodia has now established a new church in Phnom Penh Thmey. It is located in a growing municipality in the northern suburbs of Phnom Penh. This now allows the diocese to provide church and discipleship services to members, train church leaders, conduct youth and children ministries, and support community development programs to meet the needs of the congregation. The diocese has also established a hostel (dorm) for girls from surrounding poor villages so they have safe accommodations while attending high school in town. This new hostel has the capacity for 20 girls. (This programme continues for approximately another year as rent for the two buildings. The plan is that

at the end of that time they will be self sufficient).
Remaining cost: ~\$16,000 USD

3. The latest project is ongoing in Mozambique. The infrastructure for fresh water has degraded over time and needs replacing. In the northern poorer areas, some have not had access to fresh clean water. The Bishop of Zambezia, (including the areas of Molumbo and Milange) has developed a plan to build four new wells, and refurbish 14 others. The plan was to educate the people about hygiene and sanitation, and get them involved in the running and maintenance of the wells and refurbished springs. At the same time, the plan was to not only give these people access to fresh, clean drinking water, but also introduce them to Him who is the true and Living Water. After a few false starts (described above) this has happened. Both the Living Water and fresh clean water are there (for some the first time ever) in the regions of Molumbo and Milange. Total cost ~\$166,000 CAD, Remaining ~\$80,000 CAD

Let us thank the Lord for our many blessings, and consider how we might be a blessing to others.

Bible Reading: And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ... 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be

faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us. Acts 16: 6–15, ESV

Praying Together Today: Almighty and most merciful Father, you sent your son to preach good news to the poor; give us glad and generous hearts that we may follow in the way of Jesus and reach out to those in need, for we pray in the name of our Saviour. Amen.

DAY #19: Toronto to The Gambia

Christ the King Church, Toronto ON

— The Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor

Warm greetings! I’m writing to give you an update on our joint venture to support students training for Christian ministry at the University of The Gambia, West Africa.

A New Master’s Program: We have big news! The University of the Gambia has agreed to a Masters Degree in Christian Religious Studies. The program is set to begin in February 2024, with five students enrolled thus far!

The Master’s program is something our graduates have long been asking for. It is our hope and prayer that the program will result in a deeper knowledge of God and his Word in this part of West Africa. (It also provides potential for an especially gifted future graduate or two to become faculty members!)

Prof. Layne Turner has postponed his retirement plans to teach in the new Master's program; he writes, "God has done a lot to get the Master's ready to open next semester, after less than a year from the writing of the proposal. I don't believe this would have happened in the previous years. Things are changing for the better."

Changes for the Better: Prof. Turner's words "things are changing for the better," capture my sentiments as I look back on the eight years since the Bachelors program began. Here are some things to be grateful for!

Then: Several church leaders in key positions were tentative and nervous

Now: All in key positions (Evangelical and mainline denominational) are now fully on board.

Then: Cooperation across denominational lines was rare and new, giving some reason for concern (differences in theological emphases, for example)

Now: From all appearances, all such concerns have been alleviated. Moreover, students across denominations know each other and are working together like never before. There is synergy!

Then: Some Christians wondered how Christian Studies might fare in a Muslim-majority university environment

Now: Cooperation is excellent There are no known vocal opponents (witness the Senate's approval of the new MA program and the surprising appointment of a Christian as the new Vice-Chancellor!) And although our strong advocate Prof. Gomez has left the University, he remains a friend in his new post: as Minister of Education for the entire country of The Gambia!

Then: The program was without a proven track record of graduates

Now: Thirty-five students have now graduated and are serving in various capacities— public school teachers of Christian Religious Education, pastors, church planters, military chaplains, and leaders of para-church staff organizations such as YWAM, the Bible Society, and a local discipleship training school called Servants of the Word. Nine more will soon follow!

(continued tomorrow)

Bible Reading: As God's steward, he must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy, and self-controlled; ⁹ he must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it. ¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially the circumcision party; ¹¹ they must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for base gain what they have no right to teach. Titus 1:7

Praying Together Today: Lord Jesus, on the night before you died you prayed that your church would be one, even as you and the Father are one; we thank you for signs of church unity and look forward to day when people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation will gather as one around the throne to give you praise and honour and thanks. Amen.

DAY #20: Toronto to The Gambia

Christ the King Church, Toronto ON

— The Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor

(continued from yesterday)

A shining example of the difference the program is making pertains in the case of John K. Mendy. He started in 2015; it took him seven years to complete his degree as a soldier because the military sent him to Sudan and Mauritania . . . but he didn't give up! He is now the second-highest-ranking chaplain in the Gambian military. A chapel is being built at the army barracks in Yundum.

Update on Finances : By God's grace and with your generosity, Global Scholars Canada was able to forward full tuition payments for all our sponsored students last year. The program's success and growth brings significant new challenges. Tuition for the Master's degree is twice that of a Bachelor's degree (though half the length at two years).

Is there still good value in supporting students? Absolutely! Compared to the cost of bringing a student to North America or Europe for ministerial training, the training is better suited and at least thirty times cheaper! And though more expensive, the new Master's degree offers the potential for some especially gifted future graduates to fill faculty positions in the future. (Although a Ph.D. is generally required of expats, a Master's degree is often deemed sufficient for a native faculty person to reach at the Bachelors' level.)

Join in praising God for:

- the University Senate’s approval of the MA program in Christian Religious Studies
- our ninth year as a program of full-time study and our upcoming fifth year of graduations, this year with nine students

Kindly join in praying for:

- our students, particularly those who are having to balance full-time study with part- (or even full-) time work
- the search for a new Professor, ideally in New Testament Studies
- our Profs: Banny Mange, Shaka Ashcroft, Umaru Tanimu, Layne Turner and Manhee Yoon—for good health, efficient use of time and wisdom and energy to mentor students well
- our crucial University and community liaison, Pastor Benjamin Michael, for continued healing for his eyes, for even broader networking with local churches, for successful completion of his Master’s degree
- for efforts to secure local tuition-fee rates for long-time residents of the Gambia!
- for Global Scholars Canada staff, Peter and Brenda, and for new person to look after financial matters.
- last, but not least, for all who support this work with their prayers and donations.

Bible Reading: I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound

teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. 2Timothy 4:1

Praying Together Today: Almighty Father, you provide apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers as gifts for your church so that all the saints would be equipped for the work of ministry; bless those preparing for leadership in your church, give them the zeal to know you and share the message of Jesus with those around them, that your whole body may be built up in love. Amen.

Because of Jeremy's long track record and deep connections with our church, we are sending a team of St. John's youth to visit Nepal on a short term mission in 2024. ... we can think of no better way to spark this desire in our next generation of leaders than to have them spend time in personal discipleship with a man who truly walks with Jesus. — Susan Pieters (Day #28)

DAY #21: Langley to Uganda

Ascension Church, Langley, BC

— The Rev. Dr. Ken Deeks, Fr. Mark Tubbs, Deacon Richard Roberts

Ascension continues to engage in Mission Outreach. Each year we increase our Mission Outreach budget which is a percentage of our annual parish budget, it started out at 5%, each year we increase this percentage, our goal is to reach 10% and we are getting close.

We continue to divide our Mission Outreach budget into three distinct areas International, National and Local. The amount varies in each category International and local being the largest section.

International:

In the International section we continue to fund the work of Africa Community Service (ACTS). ACTS does community development in Uganda, the key element of their work is providing safe, clean drinking water to local very rural communities which is so important. They also construct latrines for local schools. ACTS also provide health education with each of their projects. We are providing support to two Wycliffe Bible Translators, both members of Ascension. Last year we added Foundation for His Ministry (FFHM) in Mexico receives funding for it's community development work. This year we are planning a parish mission trip to Mexico with FFHM. We continue to

financially support the clergy and churches of the REC churches in Cuba.

National:

We only have two recipients in this category. We financially support the Anglican Relief and Development Fund, Canada (ARDFC) through ANiC. For a number of years now we supported St. John the Baptist, Watson Lake in the Yukon, this is an Anglican Church of Canada parish but they provide much needed support and outreach to a needy local aboriginal community. During the last couple of years we were providing funds to ANiC for church planting but that has been moved to a line item in the parish budget giving Mission Outreach more funds for Mission Outreach.

Local:

Several organizations are supported in Langley and Surrey. We provide funding and monthly food donations to our local Langley Food Bank. We support the Salvation Army Gateway of Hope shelter and recovery, both financially and with a number of volunteers from our congregation. We support financially Hope for Women, a crisis Pregnancy Centre. A new addition this year is A Rocha Canada, a Christian organization working in the field of Environmental Stewardship and Conservation, we will be providing support for a staff woman from Ascension's congregation

Bible Reading: Hezekiah likewise provided cities for himself, and flocks and herds in abundance; for God had given him very great possessions. ³⁰ This same Hezekiah closed the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works. 2 Chronicles 32:30

Praying Together Today: O gracious God, you provide us with all things; give us a spirit of generosity to participate in your care for those in any spiritual or physical need, whether they are people near to us or people far away, knowing that you care for your whole creation and will one day bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY#22: Carlton Place to Kigali, Rwanda

Eternal Hope Anglican Church, Carleton Place, ON

-- The Rev. Devin and Sarah Hunt

This past April, my wife Sarah and I were honoured to attend GAFCON IV in Kigali Rwanda as delegates from the Anglican Network in Canada. What a momentous occasion it was! We experienced firsthand the dawning of a new age in global Anglicanism as the Communion is reformed, renewed and revived in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As I consider my time in Kigali, talking, praying and worshipping with Anglicans from all over the world, I was struck by how easy it is to get stuck in our own cultural silos and not see the big picture of what the Lord is doing on a global scale. I think this is especially true in “the West” where we are in time of perceived irrelevance in our culture at large, where many of us serve in marginally viable, struggling churches. However, this is not the global picture where the Gospel continues to spread despite wars,

persecution and hardship, the likes of which many of us in the West cannot truly fathom.

We need to remember the promises of Isaiah 55:10-11, “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” This is the experience of churches all over the Global South, where in spite of relative material poverty, the church continues to grow and thrive. We need to remember that the church is much bigger than the plot of land that we have been given to tend.

(continued tomorrow)

Bible Reading: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:10-11

Praying Together Today: Heavenly Father, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and you have provided us with a Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord, to be the one mediator between you and nations; open our eyes to catch a glimpse of the of the marvellous diversity of your church, bought with the price of your own blood, following Jesus on the way to the cross; and bring us with all your saints into the fulness of your kingdom. Amen.

DAY #23: Carlton Place to Kigali, Rwanda

Eternal Hope Anglican Church, Carleton Place, ON

-- The Rev. Devin and Sarah Hunt

(continued from yesterday)

I was also struck by the love and joy of my brothers and sisters from all over the world and the genuine delight of being Anglican Christians, receiving the gift of salvation through Anglican patrimony from the missionaries of times past. It is a treasure to be cherished and guarded with the utmost diligence. I was amazed to see hands from across the globe, of every people, tongue, tribe, and nation, raised in worship and praise, to a well-known hymn from times past.

In the West, we have been conditioned by cultural forces to be ashamed of our Christian heritage; encouraged to keep our light under a bushel. We have been shamed into silence, in some situations, rightly so. Of this Lord, we repent, ask for your forgiveness, and confidently receive your forgiveness. Yet I did not experience this in Rwanda, something to be ashamed. The true, orthodox, and faithful way of being a Christian in the Anglican way, is a treasure we should be proud of, not in a self-centered, self-congratulatory way, but as a pearl of great price, for all the world. And in this, we should stand firm, "...and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter." A faith ancient and modern, for a

post-modern world. May the Lord bless you and keep you in your ministry,.

Bible Reading: After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen." Revelation 7:9

Praying Together Today: Almighty and most merciful God, Lord of heaven and earth; we cannot help but be aware of the shortcomings and sinfulness of our past, but we give you thanks that you work even through vessels of clay; we thank you that we are not ashamed of the gospel of our Lord Jesus, who has brought us from death to life and continues to use us for the sake of his kingdom in the power of the Spirit, and it is only in his name that we pray. Amen.

DAY #24: Kingston & Napanee to Mali, West Africa

Living Waters Anglican Fellowship, Kingston ON,

— The Rev. Canon Christopher and Kathy Doering

and St. Stephen Anglican Fellowship, Napanee ON

— The Rev. John Coghlan, Canon Howard Edwards, John Telgmann

Living Waters, Kingston (through their Mission Committee), St. Stephen, Napanee plus individuals locally and across Canada support the ministry of Friends of K. in Canada (Friends).

From 1996–1999 John Telgmann worked for a West Africa branch of Wycliffe Bible Translators / SIL as finance officer and auditor. (Names and some places cannot be mentioned because of security issues.) Following his stint in Africa, John Telgmann periodically returned to perform audits. He always made time during those trips to make the long and uncomfortable journey into remote rural areas, where he met with M.—a former Muslim, now a linguist, Bible translator, and church elder.

In 2009 M. asked Telgmann if he could help their newish small church build and operate a faith-based health centre to bless the village and surrounding area, to lend credibility to the witness of the church, and to save the lives of those, particularly of women with complications in childbirth, who were unable to survive the arduous journey to the nearest regional facility. From this small beginning the “Friends”

charity was launched and clinic construction began in 2011 and doors opened to patients in 2012. Good relations were established in advance with the government regional medical director who agreed to supply medicines at cost on condition that the government clinics would not be undersold.

In 2019, the regional medical director supported "Friends" with the opening of a second faith-based health centre in another village 70 km from the first, where M. and members of his village church had planted a new church. After one year, the operations of both health centres were self sustaining.

Each health centre has a village committee for community engagement with meetings held at least annually. Sourcing qualified nursing staff willing to work in these remote areas has been challenging but with "Friends" 50-50 cost sharing, "Friends" has supported the training of two Xians who commit to working in the supported clinics for 3 years after graduation.

With the support of "Friends", M's group has now planted eight churches in remote villages across the region. As with the clinics, finding trained pastors to minister in these churches has not been easy but Friends have jumped in to support four men to attend Bible School in the dry season (the students cultivate their fields for food in the growing season). Following the success of that program, "Friends" is now providing small stipends to the four graduates (now pastors) as well as three other church leaders.

The ministry of “Friends” has grown from health care, to include church planting support, medical and ministry training and, also, community development initiatives. “Friends” has partnered with several villages and churches to provide from 25 - 75% of the funding for various projects, including a bridge to provide access during rainy season, a water well, health centre additions, relief for displaced persons, benevolent aid, support for a Xian national music association, church shelters (roof) and buildings, and sound systems.

Wycliffe has been a strong partner in the region and “Friends” rejoiced with them recently in the culmination of 30 years of work to translate the New Testament into one of the local languages. The Dedication Ceremony marking access to scriptures in another first language was held in November 2023 with villagers and 1,000 other invitees including local and national government leaders and representatives other Protestant churches in country. Bible translation is ongoing for a neighbouring language group in the region where the second health centre is located. Working collaboratively with Wycliffe / SIL who understand the culture has been mutually beneficial for the Kingdom.

Prayer Requests:

- Peace and security for the country and region.
- Safe travel & good health for John Telgmann as he travels to Mali at the end of January for four weeks
- Growth and maturity of believers and witness to their neighbours.

For further information email johntelgmann1@gmail.com or phone (613) 572-1468

Bible Reading: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Isaiah 60:1

Praying Together Today: O Lord, we hold up before you today the ministry of “Friends” in Mali, west Africa. We give thanks that from the small beginning of one medical clinic established in a remote area, other clinics have been built and churches have been planted. We pray for safety and security for all involved and that you will raise up the nurses and pastors they need. Thank you Lord for this wonderful ministry. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

DAY #25: Victoria to University Students

The Table Church, Victoria BC

— The Rev. Andy Withrow, The Rev. Josh Wilton, The Rev. Anna Spray, Rachel Hardy, Emily Charter

While most of the devotions in this book focus on global partnerships it is worth asking how the next generation of leaders is being raised up? We thought you would be inspired by this report from Alan Thorimbert (Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship) working at the University of Victoria and Camosun College who is supported by The Table Church. Here is his report:

“When I was growing up, I don't remember a lot of teens around my age being very passionate about prayer. Getting any of us to pray, privately or publicly, typically was a bit like pulling teeth.

And yet, isn't cultivating a spiritual life a key part of youth ministry? Or of any ministry? Last year, when I agreed to return to Pioneer to help with the Leader-in-Program, Vanessa Kordupal, one of InterVarsity's high school campus directors, confirmed this to me by telling me that a good LIT program would help teens to begin hearing and discerning how God is speaking to them.

Over the last two years, my key concern for the LIT program at Pioneer has been to think about the spiritual formation parts of the program. This year I did **two new things** to help Pioneer's LITs grow in the practice of prayer.

First, I hosted a session early on in the program on the value and normalcy of boredom. Perhaps an odd thing to teach at summer kids camp, and yet, wow, did the session bear fruit. I taught the students about encountering God through the Ignatian practice of Examen on our trip. For a whole hour and a half, the LITs spent time in silence, walking through a self-guided Examen. When they returned, many came back with stories of how they had encountered. One LIT named it as one of the highlights of the program, due to how the space the Examen gave her the need space to process her emotions around living with the after effects of a concussion. Beautiful! Praise God!

(continued tomorrow)

Bible Reading: And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he

prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him pursued him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, “Every one is searching for you.” ³⁸ And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also; for that is why I came out.” ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.
Mark 1:35

Praying Together Today: Most merciful God, you have promise that when we draw near to you, you will draw near to us; we give you thanks for the gift of prayer and we ask that you will inspire many to see the emptiness of a life without you, and cause them to turn to you, the only wise God and Saviour. Amen.

Notice please that Ezekiel says ‘He sat where they sat.’ This means he took the time to understand the people, their situation and needs. He was honest in the effect of this because the scripture says, “He remained there astonished among them seven days.’ If we are to be effective in our service, the first thing we need to do is to sit down and take the time to understand those to whom we are going to minister. — Dr. Sam Martin (page 93)

DAY #26: Victoria to University Students

The Table Church, Victoria BC

— The Rev. Andy Withrow, The Rev. Josh Wilton, The Rev. Anna Spray, Rachel Hardy, Emily Charter

(continued from yesterday)

“The second innovation this year was to create a small booklet full of written prayers and spiritual practices from the LIT program. The booklet was partially inspired by Every Moment Holy, a book of prayers I find helpful. I called the booklet 'Our Common Journey' and I was not prepared for the influence it had.

A part of Pioneer's program involves passing on the leadership of the morning devotions to the LIT's in the second week. I was amazed at how the LITs repeatedly chose to use the prayer booklet in their planning. Actually, I think the booklet was more helpful for their preparations than the handout document I researched for the LIT's. Repeatedly, the LIT's chose to merge their own ideas for devotions with practices and prayers from the booklet.

However, even more profound, was the ways that the booklet, helped the LIT's discover how their faith in Jesus should lead them to live undivided lives.

One of the most profound moments of prayer was on the first night of the trip when I read one of the prayers from

the booklet titled, "For the First Out-trip Meal". The prayer goes like this:

Are you ready?
looking at the thunder of the packed, frozen soup, you
might not be,
you might be thinking, the camp stove too small,
the propane bottles too few
the hunger of your peers – too loud.
Are you ready?
a miracle is about to collapse into this community
Moroccan stew become the King's feast
provision greeted with whales in the bay
Are you ready, Servant?

As I finished reading this prayer in front of our camp stove, I heard one of the LITs say, "Woah. That's what we're doing here." There were nods from the rest of the LITs.

Boredom and beauty! That seems to be the secret sauce for helping Gen Z grow in prayer. I hope you'll join me in praying for this year's LIT's as they serve at camp this summer:

- Pray for students' curiosity towards our student fellowships and that Jesus will lead them to begin to encounter God.
- Summer Bible Study – Pray that students would encounter God through the study of Ephesians.
- Summer of Fun – Pray for my continued partnership with the Table Church, as we host fun gatherings for students in Victoria over the summer months.
- Pray for students graduating and/or moving on to new programs

- InterVarsity New Staff Training – Pray for me as I begin to prepare to lead a small group for InterVarsity's staff training for our new first-year staff.

Bible Reading: Jesus said, “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ “And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:5

Praying Together Today: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd of your people and you promised that you have other sheep to be brought into your fold; we pray for this generation, that you will move amongst them, show them their need, and reveal to them to come and follow you on the path that leads to eternal life. Amen.

We help care for and support two Nigerian students attending the College of the North Atlantic in Bonavista who are taking plumbing.... They are striking in their African clothes which they wear to worship services. — Rev. Shaun O’Connor (Day #29)

DAY #27: Vancouver to Nepal

St. John's, Vancouver BC

— Canon David Short, The Rev. Jordan Senner,
Susan Pieters.

St. John's Vancouver began sponsoring Jeremy C.'s family when his parents, Don and Nancy, worked as medical and Bible translators in Pakistan for 25 years.

Jeremy's uncle worked in Nepal, and on family visits, seeds were planted which came to fruition twenty years later, when he joined YWAM and then went to Kathmandu with his wife Krista, having their first child born there within a few months of landing. He started with a team of seven, but due to various circumstances, quickly the team dropped down to three. Through these early years of language learning and small beginnings, God was "stripping him of personal ambition."

Though not always easy, Jeremy and Krista have experienced the joy of co-labouring with God, in seeing the lost get saved, and the church activated into a missional lifestyle. Fast forward 10 years, and Jeremy and Krista have five children and oversee 70 YWAM long term staff from over 10 nations.

Nepal is still 95% Hindu and Buddhist, but God is moving powerfully across the Himalayan region. Nepal, by some metrics, has the fastest growing church in the World! This is

a far cry from where things stood 50 years ago, when there were only a few dozen believers in the whole country.

(continued tomorrow)

Bible Reading: Thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, [21] but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand". Romans 15:20-21

Praying Together Today: Lord Jesus, you have taught us to make disciples of all nations; send us out in the power of you Spirit to baptize and teach, knowing that your presence is with us always to the end of the age. Amen.

DAY #28: Vancouver to Nepal

St. John's, Vancouver BC

— Canon David Short, The Rev. Jordan Senner,
Susan Pieters

(continued from yesterday)

Despite the ban on evangelism, Jeremy and his team are warmly welcomed in remote villages where they show the Jesus video. A big thrust for YWAM at this time is Oral Bible Translation, and Nepal is the perfect venue. Thanks to modern technology, a professional team of translators can record the full Bible into audio recordings that can be shared amongst areas with distinct dialects. (Because yes,

no matter how poor, everyone around the world seems to have a cell phone!)

Their portions of the New Testament, only begun this year, are already being checked and once approved, distributed throughout villages.

Because of Jeremy's long track record and deep connections with our church, we are sending a team of St. John's youth to visit Nepal on a short term mission in 2024. Our goal, like Jeremy's, is to spread the good news of Jesus into lives that thirst for him, and we can think of no better way to spark this desire in our next generation of leaders than to have them spend time in personal discipleship with a man who truly walks with Jesus.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to protect and empower: Jeremy, Krista, Jerusha (10), Evelyn (8), Hazel (6), Valerie(4), Finnian (2)
- Pray for churches to step forward and adopt a village in Nepal and sponsor an oral bible translation.
- Pray for the new CrossFit gym outreach in Pokhara, which serves as witness to the 20,000 young men trying to get into the British Army Gurkhas.
- Pray for St. John's youth as they step forward in faith and raise support to visit Nepal.

Bible Reading: I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink; ¹⁴ I hope to see you soon, and we will talk together face to face. ¹⁵ Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, every one of them.

3 John 13

Praying Together Today: Lord Jesus Christ, you taught your disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send out more labourers, because although the harvest is plentiful, the labourers are few; we pray that you would strengthen those labouring to make your word known, especially through the work of Bible translation, and we ask that you raise up more skilled workers to supply your word to those who do not yet have access to the Scriptures. Amen.

DAY #29: Bonavista to South Sudan

All Saints, Bonavista NL

–The Rev. Shaun O’Connor

And the King will answer them, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

These little ones include the children of St. Joseph’s Primary School run by the Diocese of Rokon in South Sudan. Our Parish of All Saints Bonavista, Newfoundland, has continued its longstanding relationship with the Diocese of Rokon which is a member of GAFCON. The school had to close its doors due to lack of funding, but for \$140 CDN per month, or \$1,680 per year, we could provide the salary of one school teacher. The school needs five teachers to operate. Our sister parish of St. Matthew’s Gander, Newfoundland,

partnered with us to pay for two teachers annually. We are looking for other partners to help provide for the other three teachers.

South Sudan has been racked by intertribal conflict and famine since it became a new country in 20___. This has resulted in many migrants requiring the care and support of the Diocese. Its new bishop, the Right Rev. Emmanuel Lomoro, has listed the many challenges facing his people. Our two parishes in Newfoundland got to meet with him via Zoom last year to renew our relationship. He got to meet our Bishop Dan Gifford and Bishop Trevor Walters in person at GAFCON in Kigali. We are hoping that our prayer and support of St. Joseph's School will help the children of St. Francis' Orphanage (named after previous Bishop Loyo) and provide sanitary napkins for young women attending classes.

Our Parish continues to pray regularly both individually and corporately for imprisoned Christians brought to our attention by Voice of the Martyrs. We each write letters to prisoners in Eritrea, Iran, China and North Korea. While we may stumble over the pronunciation of some of their names, we are getting better, and feel a close affinity to them and great joy when we hear of their release. Some have been in prison since the birth of their children two decades ago simply for meeting together. They have not been charged or given a trial. The more people involved in praying for them and sending letters to their governments the better.

Finally, we help care for and support two Nigerian students attending the College of the North Atlantic in Bonavista who

are taking plumbing. We first approached the College to offer any student who did not have a place to go at Thanksgiving a meal with our congregation. Charles (Chibuzor), age 38, a husband and father, and Joshua, age 19, single, came to our Thanksgiving service and have attended since. They also participate in our Alpha program. The high cost of living in Canada has crippled their finances, but we have been able to help them with meals, Food Bank, African foods, winter clothing, and other needs. They are striking in their African clothes which they wear to worship services and Charles plays a wonderful rhythm on the drums. We have become good friends with these, our brothers in the Lord.

Bible Reading: Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? ³⁸ And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? ³⁹ And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:34

Praying Together Today: Heavenly Father, we ask for your grace and mercy on those who suffer for your name; relieve their distress, give them the strength to follow the way of

the cross, and finally bring your perfect justice, for we pray in the name of Jesus who suffered for us. Amen.

In recent years, Americans have spent more money buying Halloween costumes for their pets than the amount given to reach the unreached. — Andrew Scott, president of Operation Mobilization U.S.

DAY #30: Chilliwack to Cuba

— Canon Barclay Mayo (Cuba Mission Society Coordinator)

Canon Barclay Mayo co-ordinates our Canadian work in Cuba and Canon John Boonzaaijer has a similar role for the Reformed Episcopal Church in the United States. Together they made two trips to different parts of Cuba this year to deliver supplies and to meet with the clergy. During covid Cuba suffered severe shortages of food, medicine, fuel and electricity; the situation has not improved very much and many Cubans are leaving the island. This has created considerable challenges for our church partners. Here is a short update from Canon Barclay's recent visit to Cuba:

'We flew to Havana so that we could visit the congregations in this region and to meet with the Archdeacon who travelled in from the centre of the island to meet with us. During covid the Rector of the main church in Havana emigrated to America. We met with Pastor Raudel, his wife

Marta and their family who have taken up residence in the church, along with the remaining leadership. With the help of Pastor Eric and his wife Marisol who lead the Rey de Gloria Anglican Church they have begun to rebuild the Havana congregation. The church's new name is The Reformed Episcopal Church of Buenavista.

Raudel is a charismatic leader who attracting young Havana families and has already brought in three young men interested in ministerial study. One of those, Samuel, is showing particular promise and is probably headed for ordination. TGTG! Pastor Raudel is also a seminary professor, licensed to teach with Moore College and Casa Cranmer (Cranmer House), where he has served for ten years. Raudel has given us a proposal to begin a third study center (Casa Ryle) in the church in Havana as a multi-denominational Bible College which will include the Anglican Track with Casa Cranmer. This is exactly what we were hoping and praying for in this facility and the community! God is faithful and He will build his church.

There is much to be thankful for and even more to be encouraged by. Yes, this is a diocese with significant growing pains and great struggle, but it is a work, we are convinced, that has been established according to God's will and purposes. The Pastors in Cuba and we, the Board of Directors, desperately need both your prayers and financial support. If you have a parish-to-parish relationship with a Cuban congregation, please keep in contact with and encourage them to stay the course. If you aren't now but feel that God might be calling you to get involved in this Cuban ministry, please give me a call at 604-815-8309 or

email at barclay.mayo@gmail.com. Thank you for your prayers... which “availeth much” and for your personal and parish support.

Bible Reading: Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the offering for the saints, ² for I know your readiness, ... As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.” ¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; ¹² for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Under the test of this service, you will glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the gospel of Christ, and by the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others; ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
2 Corinthians 9: 1 and 9–15

Praying Together Today: Send down your grace, heavenly Father both on those in need and on those who have the ability to give; we pray for a genuine sharing in the work of the gospel, knowing that you who have begun a good work in us will bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ; it is in his name that we pray. Amen.



Youth Mission Scholarship

In 2024 we are offering a scholarship of \$1000 for a youth under the age of 25 years who will be on a cross-cultural mission team. Visit the On Mission web page <https://www.anglicannetwork.ca/on-mission> for the youth scholarship application form. Being part of a mission team can be transformational and we want to encourage ANiC youth to have a hands on immersive global missions experience.

Tell us More

If your church is not mentioned in this booklet we would love to hear from you. Please send us a one page summary of what your parish is doing in global missions. We will post this on the ANiC website and we will be pleased to feature it in a future edition of this book.

Also, if you have been on a recent mission team or are involved in a global mission initiative we would love to hear your story and the impact that it has had on your life. We want to share and celebrate the global mission initiatives that are being undertaken by ANiC churches and their members. Please send us a one page account of your experience participating in world missions.

bmcvitty@gmail.com

We appreciate feedback. Tell us what you thought of this year's On Mission book and how it can be improved?
Thanks.

What Canadian Teams May Overlook in Preparing for Cross-cultural Ministry

The Rev. Dr. Sam Martin founded and leads the Arms of Jesus Children's Mission which works in Guatemala, Haiti and Kenya. They have been hosting mission teams for over 20 years (including the teams from Good Samaritan NF). We asked Dr. Sam to share a brief insight on what Canadian teams may overlook in their preparation for overseas work.

To be honest, I was intrigued and excited by the request I received from Canon McVitty to share a few lines on what 'Canadian Mission Teams need to know about third world counties.' This of course is to help in Team preparation. Obviously it would take more than a few lines to do that, but let me share a few simple thoughts that I pray will be helpful to those considering Missions, as well as all of us in our ministry.

So often, I fear, we go to witness and minister to people without having any idea what is going on in their lives. We don't know the issues they are dealing with and the hurts they are experiencing and the results are sad. Of course, with Missions there are cross-cultural issues as well. So what can we do to be more effective?

Can I suggest there is an answer in Ezekiel 3:15 where Ezekiel says, "Then I came to them in the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days."

Notice please ‘He sat where they sat.’ This means he took the time to understand the people, their situation and needs. He was honest in the effect of this because the scripture says, “He remained there astonished among them seven days.’

If we are to be effective in our service, the first thing we need to do is **to sit down** and take the time to understand those to whom we are going to minister. Open the scriptures, pray. Then seek information on the country and people who are waiting for you. Ask the Lord to help you see what He sees, hear the cries He hears, feel what He feels. Then do what He would do! Sit where they sit for a time with Jesus and He will tell you what you need to know!

By they way, the Pharisees were astonished to see **Jesus sitting down** with publicans and sinners. (Mark 2:15-16).



Gafcon IV – The Kilgali Commitment 2023

The Opening paragraphs of the Commitment:

(see the full text of the Kilgali Commitment on the Gafcon website)

<https://www.gafcon.org/news/gafcon-iv-the-kigali-commitment>

Greetings from Kigali, Rwanda, where the fourth Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) met from 17-21

April 2023, bringing together 1,302 delegates from 52 countries, including 315 bishops, 456 other clergy and 531 laity.

We were grateful for the extraordinary hospitality extended by Archbishop Laurent Mbanda and the Anglican Church of Rwanda. We were also privileged to be welcomed and addressed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda, the Right Honourable Edouard Ngirente who spoke of the significance of our gathering.

Our conference theme for 2023 ‘To Whom Shall We Go?’ (John 6:68), along with our Bible studies in the Letter to the Colossians, focused our attention on Jesus, the one in whom all the fullness of God dwells in bodily form, the Lord of all creation and the head of his body, the church (Colossians 1:15–19; 2:9).

Our Chairman in his opening address encouraged us to be a: repenting church, a reconciling church, a reproducing church and a relentlessly compassionate church. This is the church we want to be.

We were reminded that the purpose and mission of the church is to make known to a lost world the glorious riches of the gospel by proclaiming Christ crucified and risen, and living faithfully together as his disciples.

The Gafcon Priorities:

As we considered the future of our movement we welcomed the following seven priorities articulated by the General Secretary and endorsed by the Gafcon Primates.

1. We will engage in a decade of discipleship, evangelism and mission (2023–2033).
2. We will devote ourselves to raising up the **next generation of leaders** in Gafcon through Bible-based theological education that will equip them to be Christ-centred and servant-hearted.
3. We will prioritise **youth and children’s ministry** that instructs them in the Word of the Lord, disciples them to maturity in Christ and equips them for a lifetime of Christian service.
4. We will affirm and encourage the vital and diverse ministries, including leadership roles, of **Gafcon women** in family, church and society, both as individuals and as groups.
5. We will demonstrate the compassion of Christ through the many **Gafcon mercy ministries**.
6. We will resource and support **bishops’ training** that produces faithful, courageous, servant leaders.
7. We will build the bonds of fellowship and mutual edification through **interprovincial visits of our Primates**.

Arising from our conference we encouraged the Primates Council also to prioritize discipleship for boys and men.



Anglican Relief and Development Fund – Canada (ARDF-C)

At the Anglican Relief & Development Fund Canada (ARDF-C), we believe that Christ's command to love our neighbours as ourselves is integrally linked to His commission to go into all the world and make disciples.

**** Outstanding leadership:**

ARDFC projects are select by a Canadian board – under the leadership of Bishop Charlie Masters – from a list of projects that have been vetted and approved by an international board of trustees.

**** Global partnerships:**

Excellent global connections, through ARDF, allow us to identify projects initiated and undertaken by Global South dioceses seeking to meaningfully demonstrate the love of Christ in their communities.

**** Building discipleship:**

We support community-based projects that strengthen our church partners, incorporate evangelism and reflect Christ-centred values and worldview.

**** Careful stewardship:**

Project proposals are rigorously researched and then reviewed by the Primates on ARDF's board who select the projects ARDF will fund. Completed projects are carefully followed-up to ensure the objectives were met.

— Michael Tweedle
Executive Director ARDF-C

This ON MISSION 2024 book is available as:

- a free download (pdf or e-book format) from the ANiC website
- a printed paperback book from Amazon
- a Kindle e-book from Amazon
- a Kobo e-book

Did you like this book? You might be interested in: “Facing Cancer: Forty Days of Healing” by Diane & Brian McVitty. It is based on their personal experience of intense cancer treatments and it is a Biblical encouragement for those in cancer treatment and their care givers. This is a resource that can be given to those beginning cancer treatment and their family members. There are forty short chapters designed as a daily dose of encouragement for forty days, each with a Bible focus, prayer and practical tips.

“Diane and Brian cover all the bases as they navigated the assault of cancer: fear, abandonment, anger, depression and loneliness. The book is real, compassionate, and full of faith ...” — Bishop Trevor Walters (Victoria BC Cancer survivor & caregiver)

Available on Amazon and Kobo.

