

ON MISSION

- 2023 -

A 30 DAY WORLD MISSIONS DEVOTIONAL



CANON BRIAN MCVITTY



Anglican Network
in Canada

ON MISSION

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– 2023 –



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.

While this book can be used at any time of the year, one suggestion is to begin it on January 23rd. There are 30 days from January 23rd to the beginning of Lent and there are 30 devotions in this book. World Mission Sunday (February 5th) is in the middle of those 30 days. Celebrate all the great things being done in Jesus' name around the world by our parishes.

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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I could not think of a better time of the year to celebrate and highlight world missions than in this important season between Christmastide and Lent. World Mission Sunday offers us a chance across North America to consider what each of us can do to advance the Kingdom of Christ around the world ... This year on World Mission Sunday, I ask you to ponder how God is 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 us, it might even mean going across the world.

— **Archbishop Foley Beach**



Comments on last year's On Mission book:

I'm loving the On Mission book! It's helping me to get to know our diocese and have a better sense of connection. Our ANiC churches are all so different, with different approaches to mission. — **Pam**

I just finished reading today's On Mission story and as usual was moved by the work and outreach of yet another Anglican Network church. The work of the great commission is going forward and I realize that there is so much more that can be done as a part of World Missions. — **Gay**

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Bishop Dan Gifford

Jesus taught us that his Gospel is for every culture in the world when he taught his disciples in Matthew 28 “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” It is a great privilege for us in ANiC to be partners with God in His worldwide mission and to see His Gospel transforming people of every culture and language.

Many congregations in our diocese have partnerships with churches overseas that deeply bless the Gospel work of God’s peoples in many different cultures. Wonderfully, through these partnerships, ANiC churches are finding that God’s mission and ministry is strengthened in their own church family as their hearts are gripped by the Gospel of grace.

This book is a window into these international relationships that will give you a deeper sense of the marvellous work that God is doing in His world through church families across ANiC. I heartily commend this book to you and encourage you to use it for the 30 days before Lent (and beyond!) to pray for the work of international mission through the churches of our diocese.

May God use your prayers for the building up of his church throughout the world, and may he deepen your confidence in His Gospel that is the power for everyone who believes.

— **The Right Rev. Dan Gifford**

Bishop – Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC)

Archbishop Foley Beach

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! I am writing to bring your attention to the upcoming World Mission Sunday in February during Epiphany. Epiphany is a season where people, like the original Magi, are enlightened to the Good News that Jesus is the Promised One—the Messiah.

I could not think of a better time of the year to celebrate and highlight world missions than in this important season between Christmastide and Lent. This day offers us, throughout ACNA, a chance to consider what each of us can do to advance the Kingdom of Christ around the world. People outside the Christian faith can look at world events from the past year and feel hopeless. Even believers, when we look at circumstances and not at Jesus, can become discouraged and paralyzed at the great needs that surround us.

The need to advance the Kingdom is not only an international concern; it is also a domestic one. Only China and India have more people without a saving knowledge of Jesus than those living in the United States right now. Psalm 2 aptly describes the situation both then and now:

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed...

Only Jesus satisfies our greatest needs. I am so thankful that Psalm 2 does not leave us in a hopeless state. Instead, we witness a Messianic promise given to Jesus by the Father:

The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

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

This past fall at the New Wineskins Global Mission Conference, the 111 vision was cast to challenge every Anglican to **Be the One** who shares their faith, to **See the One** around you who needs to hear that Jesus loves and died for them, and to **Share the One True God**. This **Be, See and Share – 111 vision** is easy to remember and calls each of us to live life on mission for Jesus in this dark world.

This World Mission Sunday, I ask you to ponder how God is 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 us, it might even mean going across the world.

If you are prayerfully considering short-term or long-term opportunities to advance the Kingdom of Christ, I encourage you to contact your diocese's Global Mission Initiative Advocate and visit newwineskins.org to learn more. You can also find great resources for World Mission Sunday at <https://newwineskins.org/worldmissionsunday>. Let's accept the 111 challenge both individually and corporately 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)



“Why is it that some Christians cross land and sea, continents and cultures, as missionaries? What on earth impels them? It is not in order to commend a civilization, an institution or an ideology, but rather a person, Jesus Christ, whom they believe to be unique.”

— John Stott

On Mission 2023 — Introduction

"Tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvellous works among all the peoples!" — Psalm 96:2

Welcome to the 2023 edition of the ON MISSION book. The production of this book enables us to celebrate the international mission work being done by our Anglican Network in Canada churches around the world.

We launched this project last year featuring 22 mission projects which sparked the interest of others to get involved. This year we are thrilled to profile 30 different projects from our churches share their mission work around the world. I want to thank all the Rectors and Mission Committee chair–persons who, in the midst of a busy fall season, sent in such wonderful material. More of this year's profiles are from the frontlines and several of them share new methodologies which embody cultural sensitivity. Our ANiC churches are advancing the kingdom of Christ in remote corners of the world.

While this book can be used at any time of the year, one suggestion is to begin it on January 23rd. There are 30 days from January 23rd to the beginning of Lent and there are 30 devotions in this book. World Mission Sunday (February 5th) is in the middle of those 30 days.

While no congregation should be spread too thin, it is worth noting that many congregations mention the blessings and benefits that they are seeing from their global mission partnerships. The Rev. Sean Love on the west coast says, "At St. John's we have found that the more we extend God's grace,

the more we experience his grace!” And Archdeacon Darrell Critch on the east coast says, “One might think that funding this sort of international mission work might negatively impact our parish’s ‘bottom line’, but the truth is, the very opposite happens ... it is true, the more you give, the more you will have, for the Lord Himself said, ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive’. This has certainly been our experience at Good Samaritan.”

Archdeacon Darrell goes one step further and says that the single greatest contributor to their church growth has been the sending out of mission teams to Guatemala.

Let me draw your attention to days 1 and 28. These were written by 20 year old Emma Gruetzner from St. Timothy’s Bible church in Montreal who is last year’s recipient of the youth mission scholarship of \$1000. She writes about her experience of being on a YWAM Mission team in Kenya. And if you want to know how Emma’s parents felt when they heard that their 20 year old daughter was going to Kenya and would be missing Christmas and her birthday, you can read about their reaction on day 19.

You don’t want to miss the five minute video we produced profiling Emma’s mission work in Kenya. You can watch this on the ANiC Facebook page or website. In 2023 we will be awarding two more youth mission scholarships of \$1000 each; please see the back of this book for more information.

Last spring, Pam Bales from Oakville wrote to me saying that she not only enjoyed reading about the world mission projects each day, but the On Mission book gave her a greater sense of unity across the Diocese. We are learning about parishes we

may never visit and together we are praying for their good success.

Canon Garth Hunt is our National Prayer Coordinator for ANiC (recently retired). I want to thank him for his Holy Spirit led composition of each of the daily prayers. This further encourages us to be a people of prayer across the whole Diocese. For each of the 30 days in this book I have also included the name of the Rector so that you can pray for each of these congregations and their clergy. This will help all of us to engage in the national mission of ANiC from coast to coast.

If your congregation is wondering how to begin in world missions, I would suggest one of the following simple steps. Either contact Canon Barclay Mayo who will link you with one of the Cuban clergy whom you can sponsor for about \$100 a month. Or, contact the Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor and sponsor a theological student in the Gambia for about the same amount. Or, contact the Arms of Jesus Children's mission and sponsor one of their children in Guatemala or Haiti. These are easy ways to get started in world missions which will make a huge difference in the lives of those living in such poverty. For Sunday Schools, sponsoring a child is a great way to open their eyes to life in other countries. It will teach them to pray for their sponsored child and the mission agency. As always, regular communication is essential for the success of these partnerships.

World Mission Sunday on February 5th is an ideal time to promote the global mission partnerships & projects in which your parish is engaged. It's also an ideal time to fundraise for your parish mission projects.

To inspire young people in your congregation to be involved in global missions you may want to show the short video profile of Emma Gruetzner: <https://www.anglicannetwork.ca/news/2022/12/8/on-mission-podcast-ep-02-youth-scholarship>
Other materials for World Mission Sunday, including worship resources, litanies and video clips, are available from the New Wineskins website located here: <https://newwineskins.org/worldmissionsunday>

We welcome you to the 30 day ON MISSION travel guide for 2023, as we journey together to mission projects all around the world.

— **The Rev. Canon Brian McVitty**

On Mission — Diocesan Priority Co-ordinator (Barrie ON)
Anglican Network in Canada



Anglican Global Mission Partners



Anglican Global Mission Partners (AGMP) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year! AGMP is a true marriage between our dioceses (Church Partners) and

North American Anglican mission agencies, missional ministries and seminaries (Agency Partners). AGMP was formed

to provide a network for biblical, mission-minded Anglican entities to advance the Gospel globally through collaborative relationships. You can find out more and link to all the partners at <https://newwineskins.org/agmp>.

AGMP has a new look and logo, but our tagline is still From the Church to the World! The network has grown by more than 50% over the past year 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 Global Missions Advocate that is part of a team working with GMI Provincial Leader Jenny Noyes. Ideas from monthly GMI calls and AGMP networking led to every diocese having the opportunity to gather for separate meetings at the fall New Wineskins Conference – a historic first!

The AGMP Partners had a strong presence at the New Wineskins conference hosting the kick off ice cream social, leading MAP Talks, speaking in plenaries, exhibiting, holding missionary care retreats, and sponsoring the 5th South East Asia Symposium, highlighting its strong relationship with the Diocese of Singapore and their six country deaneries. Check out videos and photos from the 2022 “One Mission” conference at <https://newwineskins.org/2022-conference-materials>.

Consider using these resources and more on World Mission Sunday: <https://newwineskins.org/worldmissionsunday> to raise awareness, prayer and hopefully new missionaries among your congregation!

The Anglican Network in Canada is an AGMP Church Partner member and Canon Brian McVitty represents ANiC on the ACNA's Global Mission Initiative Advocates team!

— **Jenny Noyes.** Executive Director of AGMP
Anglican Church of North America



The Power of Prayer in Missions – Canon Garth Hunt

This is the second year that Canon Brian McVitty, chair of ANiC's On Mission priority, has compiled inspiring reports from many parishes to be used in conjunction with World Mission Sunday on February 5th. The chances are pretty good that, if you're reading this book, you already believe that prayer is a vital, foundational ingredient in fruitful mission work.

Last year, we published a few quotes on the strategic importance of intercession from people who were out in the mission field, seeing first hand how prayer changes things. Here are a few more such quotes to encourage and inspire us to pray fervently through these 30 days of on Mission:

“God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil.” – Mother Teresa

“To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees.” – Billy Graham

“We can reach our world if we will. The greatest lack today is not people or funds. The greatest need is prayer.” – Wesley Duewel, head of OMS International

“Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work.” – A.B. Simpson, founder of The Christian and Missionary Alliance

“The man or woman at home who prays often has as much to do with the effectiveness of the missionary on the field, and consequently with the results of his or her labour's, as the missionary.” – R. A. Torrey, Congregational evangelist and pastor

“In no other way can the believer become as fully involved with God's work, especially the work of world evangelism, as in intercessory prayer.” – Dick Eastman, president of the USA National Prayer Committee

— **The Reverend Canon Garth Hunt**

National Prayer Coordinator, ANiC (retired)

(quotes taken with appreciation from “Just Disciple” by Bethany International)



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 our 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.

One of the best things we can offer our non-Christian neighbours is sincere prayer out of a heart of love. We have found that Muslims in particular are very receptive to prayer offered for them.

— Larry Chico (Day #27)

DAY #1: Montreal to Kenya

St. Timothy's Bible Church, Pointe-Claire QC

— The Rev. Daniel Endresen

Emma Gruetzner is the 2022 recipient of the Youth Global Mission Scholarship. Emma writes here about her two-and-a-half months on a mission team in Kenya. See the five minute video podcast of Emma on the ANiC Facebook page or on the ANiC web page.

Emma writes: My great adventure began last summer. At the time I was struggling with many things in my life. After two long years of living in a pandemic-stricken world combined with multiple spiritual and personal challenges, the Lord called me to leave Quebec and venture into the unknown. Therefore, I hesitantly paused my own plans of attending university and decided to fly across the world to Hawaii to do a Discipleship Training School with YWAM Honolulu. Youth with a mission (YWAM) is a Christian missions organization which mobilizes young missionaries to spread the Gospel to the unreached world.

Last September I enrolled in a Discipleship Training School (DTS.) This six-month course was composed of two phases: lecture and outreach phase. During the first 3 months (lecture phase) I attended lectures, participated in evangelism, interceded on behalf of the nations and learned so much about God and myself. Practically, these three months equipped me with the necessary tools to become a missionary to a third world nation.

The next two and a half months consisted of putting what we had learned to practice, by going on a cross-cultural mission trip to Kenya! In December of 2021 I left for Africa with an incredible team of fellow missionaries, ready to minister to the people of Kenya. We had a long flight ahead of us, and after hours spent looking out of the window of a plane and in airports, we finally made it to Kenya. Upon arriving in the capital of Nairobi we journeyed through rural Kenya via bus for 8 hours, before we reached our first location.

For over 2 months we ministered to people in 7 different locations, from the border of Uganda on the western side of Kenya to the coast in the east. We worked with widows and in orphanages, led a church service every Sunday and participated in street evangelism. We spoke in conferences and testified in schools. We had the privilege of witnessing over 500 salvations, and of seeing the Holy Spirit move in deep, tangible ways. These people inspired me; their deep faith and beautiful smiles, even amongst immense poverty and devastating situations, was nothing short of remarkable. These people are true miracles.

One of my favourite testimonies from Kenya happened in our last location on the coast, in the village of Ukunda. In this location, we were evangelizing to the people of a very rough neighbourhood. Many of them were drunk, and the area was dirty and deep in poverty. A group of us along with a translator were witnessing to a small gathering of approximately four people. Among them was a young woman, probably not much older than us. We shared the Gospel with them and extended the gift of salvation. The woman's response was that she didn't

want to lie to God by accepting Him now, and then turning back to her bottle later.

We had the privilege of sharing the truth with her; Jesus was the solution to her drinking problem. He was the guidance she needed to overcome her addiction. Right there and then she decided to accept Jesus into her heart.

After she had finished praying with us I could see a gradual look of emotion wash over her face; it was almost like we could see the Holy Spirit tangibly working within her from the outside. Tears began to stream down her face, and as I approached her to comfort her she said, “I am pregnant, and I didn’t know what to do until now. But you have given me hope. I feel different already.” Those were some of the most impactful words I have ever heard. My purpose was so amplified; I was sharing the incredible gift of hope in Christ.

On February 19th 2022 we left Kenya and flew back to Hawaii to graduate, forever changed and marked by this beautiful country. After graduating I left the island and flew back to Montreal. On March 1st 2022 I stepped out of the airport into a snowstorm.

Bible Reading: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

— Jeremiah 29:11.

Praying Together Today: Heavenly Father, we give you heartfelt thanks that You continue to call young people from every corner of the planet into Your ministry of redeeming the world. Thank You that 20 year old Emma Gruetzner was such a

responsive youth, and we thank You for her profoundly meaningful time with YWAM in Kenya. We pray for each of those who met Christ in their various outreach opportunities, especially the pregnant woman from the village of Ukunda, that the Holy Spirit would continue to teach them and draw them ever closer to Jesus. Protect them from the seductive wiles of the evil one, and fill them with a contagious joy as they share their story with others. In the mighty Name of Jesus, we ask these things. Amen!

DAY #2: Langley to Uganda

The Church of the Ascension, Langley BC

— Fr. Ken Deeks and Br. Deacon Richard Roberts

The Church of Ascension is looking to increase our Outreach budget this year. We still divide our Outreach into three “zones”, Local, National and International.

We provide funds to ARDF-C and we support the Northern Church of St. John’s the Baptist Thrift Shop of Watson Lake in the Yukon ministering to the aboriginal needy. This year we also allocated funding to ANiC Church Planting.

We provide funding to the Africa Community Technical Service (ACTS) providing clean, safe drinking water to rural villages in Uganda. ACTS report: “last January, a group of donors made a commitment to invest in our infrastructure in Uganda – a truck, a few motorcycles, training, and more staff. This allowed us to go from 1 team to 2, which enabled us to reach 20,000 in the

first ½ of 2022. One project is happening in Isingiro, a district with the 8th largest refugee settlement camp in the world, bringing in about 2,000 new refugees per month. The district is bursting under the weight of trying to provide basic infrastructure. Partnering with them is a critical way we can add leverage to their dollars and yours together. This project launched on October 26, 2022. It will serve a population of 13,000+ composed of 9 villages, 3 primary schools, and 1 health clinic. When complete, 71 fresh water wells and 7 latrines will have been built! Praise the Lord.”

We provide funds to two Wycliffe Bible Translators both affiliated with Ascension; one person is working locally and the other is in Brazil with his family working with the Sebo people, currently translating the Gospel of John.

We financially support the Cuba Mission and we also support the Foundation for His Ministry operating in Mexico.

Bible Reading: The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

— John 4:11–15

Praying Together Today: Almighty God, we acknowledge that we can do nothing of eternal consequence without You.

Thank You for inspiring by Your Holy Spirit the parish members of the Ascension to embrace these varied outreach initiatives at the international, national and local levels. Father, we ask You to provide guidance, financial resources, and intercessors who will uphold these distinct ministries. Bless the individual recipients of these gifts, especially the children, that they may know of Your saving Love and Grace. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

DAY #3: Mississippi Mills to Lanarck County

Grace Anglican Church. Mississippi Mills ON

— The Rev. Trudy Hardy

In 2021 Grace Church financially supported Mission & Outreach: ANiC Church Planting; Living Water Healing Streams; Lanark County Foodbank; The Ottawa Mission; Anglicans for Life; The Salvation Army; Interval House; ARDFC and the Cuban Mission; plus the Rev. Trudy Hardy was given funds for local mission field in helping families in need.

Interval House is one of our Outreach programs which is a shelter for abused women and their children. We provided personal gift bags for 18 women. Grace Church provided Interval House with a Thanksgiving meal for 30 people which included all the trimmings. Support for the maintenance of running the home included a gift of 15 new sets of bedsheets. Please see below the letter of thanksgiving from Interval House.

“The compassionate staff and volunteers at Lanark County Interval House & Community Support strive to make the shelter as joyous and festive as possible for the women and children who reside here over the holiday season. The emergency shelter is open throughout the holidays and is staffed 24 hours a day. Since residents often feel especially vulnerable and downhearted at this time, our support workers give extra time and energy to ensure that each resident feels secure, hopeful and loved. Thanks to Grace Church so much for all your support!”

Bible Reading: Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

— Luke 6:38

Praying Together Today: Thank You, Abba Father, for the opportunity that Grace Church has embraced to touch the lives of those, both locally and internationally, with the transforming truth of the Gospel of Jesus. We think specifically of the Lanark County Interval House and those in the desperate need that brings them there. Bring comfort and the sense of “feeling safe” to all that take refuge there. May Your Peace pervade all that happens, we pray. We give You thanks, Father, as we offer these prayers in the Name of Jesus, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

DAY #4: Pembroke to New Zealand

St. Luke's, Pembroke ON

— Archdeacon Tim Parent and Deacon Jane Parent

At GAFCON in Jerusalem in June of 2018 Bishop Charlie Masters arranged a meeting between some of us in ANIC and a group of Anglican priests from New Zealand. Bishop Charlie hoped that we might be of encouragement to these clergy as they were struggling to find their way through an assault on orthodoxy in their diocese.

At that meeting I met The Reverend Al Drye and we became friends.

Within a few months Al, together with his wife Naomi and their family, stepped out of their diocese and formed the parish of St. Paul's in Rakaia New Zealand (near the city of Christchurch). For the last four years the two of us have held zoom meetings every couple of months for prayer and mutual encouragement.

I think Al and I have both learned much from each other as we have shared honestly about our strengths and weaknesses, our successes and failures in ministry. We have sought to spur one another on as disciples of Jesus and in the proclamation of the gospel. We have marvelled at how similar life and ministry can be even on opposite sides of the globe. The reality of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church has been driven home to us.

When St. Paul's was created, we at St. Luke's in Pembroke, Ontario became their companion parish. St. Luke's sent them a communion set for use in their new congregation. We pray for

each other regularly, and exchange news and prayer requests. We held a joint prayer meeting online with members of both churches and have prepared videos for each other's services. A couple from our parish was able to visit Al and his church shortly before the pandemic hit.

Al began a sabbatical in November of 2022. We were thrilled that he was able to visit us in Canada for 2 weeks at the start of his time off. He arrived in Ottawa just in time to attend our ANIC synod in Ottawa where he met many bishops, clergy and lay members of our diocese. He talked to many of us about his sabbatical study topic i.e., training leaders for gospel ministry, particularly in small communities. He brought greetings to our synod from his bishop and diocese (Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa/New Zealand), and Bishop Dan and the synod prayed for him, his parish and diocese.

Al then joined us for over a week at St. Luke's during which he preached one Sunday, led a workshop on small group bible study, and gave a gospel message to our youth group. We made sure we had lots of time for fellowship, informal sharing and prayer, and we even got to an Ottawa Senators hockey game (Al and his family are avid hockey fans – who knew? Now there will be at least one Sens jersey in New Zealand!).

Before Al left us, he presented St. Luke's with a beautiful banner made in St. Paul's depicting the Bible as the sword of the Spirit – the banner now hangs in our church building.

It was a wonderful to have Al visit us. I hope I might visit him one day Lord willing. I thank God for our partnership in the gospel, and for the amazing reality that when we belong to

Christ, we also belong to His glorious body the church which truly spans the globe. Alleluia!

Bible Reading: Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

— Philippians 1: 3-6

Praying Together Today: How amazing is the Body of Christ, dear Father, when we function under the direction and power of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for the Reverend Al Drye and his new parish in New Zealand. Thank You for the brotherly friendship that has been forged between Al and Archdeacon Tim. May that continue to be a great source of encouragement and fellowship to each man.

We pray for the parish of St. Paul's in Rakaia as they walk through the early stages of taking a stand for the Gospel. Protect them, we pray, from the fiery darts of the enemy and criticism from their former diocese. May they find great joy in Your presence, and may there be a great harvest of new believers! In Jesus' Name. Amen.

DAY #5: Richmond to Cambodia

St. John's, Richmond BC

— The Rev. Sean Love and the Rev. Guy Bellerby

Saint John's Richmond is committed to supporting the work of mission partners domestically and internationally. Part of our support is in the form of prayer and regular updates, ideally from people representing the work of these partners. Part of our support is financial. Our goal is to be generous as God has been generous to us and to remember the needs of those with whom we have relationships where ever they are in the world.

In 2021 we happily increased our external giving in two ways. First, we have increased our regular budgeted external support to include a church plant, and secondly, we used \$5000 from the memorial fund for a one time donation in support of Saint Thomas Summerland church plant and for Kaja Bakken in her evangelism and discipleship work with the University Christian Mission at the UBC campus.

Just as God is relentless in his love for the lost and the least, we seek to share his compassion and grace beyond ourselves. We have found that the more we extend God's grace, the more we experience his grace!

St. John's Richmond serves and supports several local and overseas partners through donations of time and money. Some of our parish groups are involved directly with some of these partners

In 2021 our main financial support went to four mission partners:

- 1) Ratanak International (Cambodia): Ratanak International was founded by St. John's Richmond member Brian McConaghy. We support this mission financially, with prayer, and by people from our church helping locally or in Cambodia. This international organization is dedicated to working with the Khmer people of Cambodia, empowering them to rebuild their country.
- 2) Two parishes on the island of Roatan, Honduras
- 3) Vancouver Airport Chaplaincy: YVR is Richmond's largest employer and sees over 20 million passengers annually. The airport chaplaincy is a key part of the community at YVR, bringing Christ's love to many employees and travellers in times of distress and joy.
- 4) Artizo Institute: For over a decade, St. John's Richmond has been a training base for over a dozen young leaders who now serve all over Canada and the US. We partner with the Artizo Institute to help train able, faithful, innovative and confident men and women to know and understand the Bible, lead effectively, proclaim the gospel, and be able to train others to do the same.

Part of our mission is to send out most of those we train to other churches. For example, Dan Hsu was an intern at SJR from 2009 until 2011. Dan is now working at Pacific Grace Mandarin Church

Bible Reading: And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with

others. As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.” For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

— 2 Corinthians 9: 6–10

Praying Together Today: Almighty God, You who own the cattle on a thousand hills and who has promised to provide all of our needs according to the riches in Christ Jesus, pour out Your blessings upon the people of St. John’s Richmond and the varied outreach ministries that this parish supports. Thank You for their faithfulness, both in financial giving and in steadfast prayer, and may there continue to be rich and lasting fruit from all their endeavours. Bring a harvest of new believers in Christ, and through His wonderful Name we pray. Amen.

DAY #6: Barrie to Panama

Celebration Church, Barrie ON

— The Rev. Paul Simons (Anne Harrison, Missions Chair)

In 2011, retired Barrie architect Howard Walker and his wife Mariela established a charitable foundation and began their work in Panama. Their focus has been amongst the Guna Yala people who live on a string of islands off the Caribbean coast of Panama, close to Columbia. Celebration Church has been a supporter of their work both in prayer and finances since this beginning.

Some of their first projects focused on economic development. An eco tourist lodge was established as well as a fish co-operative. They provided assistance to the local evangelical church. More recently they have been hosting eye clinics and dental clinics on the island. The following is an update from Howard & Mariela Walker in Panama:

The Guna island of Achutupu is inhabited by about 2000 people and is lacking in many of the human needs required for daily life. Minimal health care, mostly for births, is provided by a small clinic. Concern for the effects of poor oral hygiene and future tooth decay resulted in the association of a local Christian Guna family with like-minded believing practitioners from Minnesota.

In the first year of clinics 450 elementary school students received attention. The latest figure is close to 800 Pre K to Grade 12,

Over the years, high-tech equipment has been filling the spaces of the make-do wooden structures. Construction of a new multi-facility clinic by supervised labour from the community is set to begin in 2023. God Willing.

Guna Yala is a virtually autonomous province within the Republic of Panama.

Its chiefs demand obedience to their traditional religion and rituals. Attendance is mandatory at every evening meeting and penalties are exacted for absence, either in money or physical labour. Denominational churches are acceptable, although with yearly stipulations, and charges or expulsion for

non compliance. Achutupu Guna Yala is one of a network of 7 evangelical churches in it's administrative region.

Formal relations between the Panama and the Guna people can be described as peaceful co-existence,– Regulations vary between the two, with each being sensitive to protection of their sovereignty, creating many daily hurdles.

O Lord, we thank you for removing the obstacles in our path as we seek to follow your will along our journey, as we praise You for the the opportunity to serve You in this way.

This work is undertaken through two charitable foundations: Fundacion Uaguitupu and Fundacion Save a Smile.

Bible Reading: Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹ Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

— Romans 12: 10–13

Praying Together Today: Eternal God, You sent Your son, Jesus, to die for the sins of the whole world and that includes 1000's of groups, tribes, and indigenous peoples that we have never even heard of. How amazing is Your love! Bless, we pray, the peoples of the Guna island of Achutupu and those who minister to them with practical care, like dental services, and also with the sharing of the transforming Gospel of Jesus. Thank You for the caring parish of Celebration Church as they support this Biblical outreach initiative. Through Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

DAY #7: Abbotsford to Rwanda

Saint Matthew's Abbotsford, BC

— Archdeacon Mike Stewart and the Rev. David McElrea

We have a seven member Outreach Group who advises Parish Council regarding financial support for our local and international ministry partners. At this time, with COVID restrictions, we provide ministry updates to the congregation through the weekly Friday News emails.

Jesus Himself has given two criteria to guide our decisions as to the ministries we should support. And this we strive to do.

The first is Matthew 28:19-20 "Go make disciples..." so we extend our outreach by partnering with other ministries that tell the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The second is Matthew 25:35 "I was hungry and you gave me food...", so we partner with ministries that help poor or disenfranchised people groups.

Saint Matthew's Outreach, as well as individual members of the parish sponsor one of our young church members for her peacebuilding and disaster response position with SALT in Beirut Lebanon. As a Peacebuilding and Disaster Response Assistant, Joefin provides administrative and technical assistance to humanitarian relief and peacebuilding programs for displaced persons and community members in Lebanon, the Middle East, and North Africa. She aids in planning and directing disaster response, crisis management, interfaith peace building, and early recovery activities.

We have a long association with Embrace Rwanda; a ministry to Rwandan mothers and families started by Hilary King in 2007. Hilary King writes:

We are celebrating 15 years since I first visited Rwanda and see now how God has blessed and grown the Healthy Mums Program (HMP) from small beginnings at one site to 145 associations spread across 14 districts of the country. Who could have imagined that we would now have over 3,000 families in the program with many thousands more already graduated after their 5 year participation in the HMP?

Our NGO status has also been renewed each year and this has been as a result of the excellent administration and reporting from our Rwandan Headquarters. The Rwandan leadership have excelled in keeping all aspects of the program running and flourishing despite the challenges of lockdowns and other COVID restrictions that they faced. Where possible they were able to keep the preschools open for the over 8,000 young children and help the mothers group together to ensure that they could continue the feeding program for the preschool children.

The local Healthy Mums Program (HMP) associations also excelled in their ability to work together to grow crops and have good harvests generating funds for their families. Our “Mother Leaders” in the local associations received additional training from our Field Officers to enable them to teach the women and their husbands many skills that improve the life of the family.”

Bible Reading: And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But

when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

— Mark 10:13–16

Praying Together Today: Dear Lord Jesus, how You loved (and still love) the children! You wanted them to always have open access to You. So, we thank You so much for Hilary King and the work of Embrace Rwanda amongst needy mums and kids. How amazing is the growth of this work! Lord, continue to provide the volunteers and the financial assistance required for the expansion of this vital work.

We also pray for Joefin and her work in Lebanon as a Peacebuilding and Disaster Response Assistant. Grant her great wisdom for this highly sensitive task, and may she see Your hand at work in all she does. Blessèd be Your name, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY #8: Toronto to the Gambia

Christ the King, Toronto, ON

— The Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor (Sandra Guinness)

Christ the King has a Mission Committee of four persons who select our mission partners, communicate with each one on a monthly basis to encourage them, and distribute funds from our annual mission budget to their sending organizations. The

mission partners, in turn, send us their prayer requests, and our intercessors pray for them during our Sunday services each week.

We currently have several mission partners:

The Rev. Jacob Cole, in The Gambia, Africa, who is taking a four year course in Christian Studies at the University of The Gambia. CTK is providing Jacob's tuition expenses as well as covering the cost of his travel, books and photocopying.

The following is a prayer request from the Rev. Jacob Cole:

“Good day to all of you and be rest assured that am always thinking of you. We had been very busy as we received in audience the Archbishop of Internal Province of West Africa Jacque Boston. He visited the Gambia and made many courtesy calls to some Government departments and confirmed about 25 candidates. We as a parish will be having a mega Africana/ harvest thanksgiving service on 27 Nov. 2022. Please prays for us as we seek God's face and blessing for a successful thanksgiving celebration. I have also resumed my studies at the University. As I am in in my 4th and final year. I ask for your prayers. We have still not been able to elect a bishop for the Gambia. In 3 months time we will be going to elect one. Pls pray for us that the right person will be chosen IJMN.

The Gambia is stable, however the prices of some basic commodities continue to rise and the average people cannot afford to live a decent and comfortable life . Pray for the church in her witness to the gospel to continue to be salt and light in a world hostile to the gospel. I wish you well and my God bless you all.” — Canon Jacob Okiki Cole

Norm and Audrey Henderson, Canadians, serving at the CEML hospital in Lubango, Angola, where Audrey is a nurse and Norm is the IT guy. The Hendersons helped plant a church in a small nearby village, Candjambumba.

A couple for whom we have prayed and supported financially since our inception, Reverend Gus and Marliese Ketola, who are fluent in Arabic, English and French, and have served in several African countries but now teach English to Arabic-speaking refugees in London ON with a Christian witness.

The pastor of the Hesed Community Church, which serves three small villages outside Yangon, Myanmar, who has an extensive caring ministry for the Buddhist people in these villages and beyond. The church has experienced huge growth in the last two years due to the political persecution in the country; they have now bought a piece of land and anticipate building a larger place for worship and ministry.

A SAMS missionary family from Belize, studying at Wycliffe College, David and Mary-Beth Alenskis. They are praying about their next posting when David completes his PhD.

Ben Ding, doing a one year internship with Ambassadors for Christ, is reaching Chinese International students on the York University Campus.

Our Mission Committee includes one individual who is learning Arabic and may become a mission partner in the future, another individual who can minister in four languages and is an itinerant evangelist and apologist in Ontario, Quebec

and South America, plus two individuals who have served on the boards of several Christian organizations over the years.

Bible Reading: And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name; make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted. “Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.”

— Isaiah 12: 4-5

Praying Together Today: As you pray, please read over the wonderful list of individuals above who are supported by Christ the King. Name each one before the Lord.

Almighty God, sometimes it seems as if the devil is having total sway in the world. But You are at work always and in so many different places! Thank You for each of these Christian believers who are responding to Your call to “make known Your deeds among the nations”. Bless each one, we pray – meet their temporal needs, provide for them financially, protect them from the wiles of the enemy, and may their joy be delightfully contagious to all they care for. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

In no other way can the believer become as fully involved with God’s work, especially the work of world evangelism, as in intercessory prayer.” – Dick Eastman

DAY #9: Victoria to the Philippines

The Table Church, Victoria, BC

— Pastor Andy Withrow, Pastor Josh Wilton, Emily and Michelle.

"Mission 2 Mission" exists to connect our local Table community with the broader community of God by supporting organizations who are aligned with The Table's values of sharing God's love and message of reconciliation. The Table community seeks to build relationships with them through prayer, financial support, and regular engagement, and in doing so, we hope to help the Table community to see God at work in other places and bolster our collective learning.

Liz Snell, who is a member of the Table Church community, works for L'Abri. L'Abri, which means "the shelter", is an international community that provides a place for people of all beliefs to ask honest questions about life, faith, and God. L'Abri is founded on the belief that the God of the Bible is present and that his truth is accessible and applicable to all of life. Liz has been working for L'Abri since 2016. There, Liz teaches, meets with students one-on-one, hosts discussion meals, and helps run the household. Liz is currently running a series of workshops at the Table Church exploring "boundaries" in our personal lives. Folks from the Table Church regularly participate in the Friday night lectures at L'Abri, and Liz recently participated in a missions panel at the Table exploring the nature of modern missions in a world that is suspicious and antagonistic towards missionaries.

Website: canadianlabri.org
canadianlabri@gmail.com

Email:

Abundant Grace of God Maternity Center (AGGMC) is a charity birthing home in the Philippines that was established by Georgia and Achao Macad in 2007. The vision for the maternity center is to share God's love with the families through maternity care. People in Kalinga have historically had very minimal access to medical care. In fact, before the maternity center opened, most local women delivered their babies at home on their own, without any prenatal care or an attending doctor or midwife. Many of these women and babies died due to complications that would have been easily preventable with adequate care from a qualified midwife.

Since opening in 2007, over 3000 babies have been delivered at the Abundant Grace of God Maternity Center at virtually no cost to the families and over 25 local midwives have been trained with lifesaving skills. In 2012 the sister clinic in the remote mountains of Bugnay, Tinglayan was opened. The financial support from the Table Church assists with the expenses related to the purchase of medical supplies for the AGGMC. We recently held a fundraiser to purchase a Doppler for the maternity clinic, and Georgia and her family, who are currently on furlough in BC's lower mainland have visited our church and shared with us about the AGGMC. Georgia was also able to participate in our recent missions panel, sharing her experiences of being involved in missions in a culturally sensitive manner.

Website: www.gthemidwife.com

Bible Reading: About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. The woman became pregnant and

gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

— Exodus 2: 1-4

Praying Together Today: Lord Jesus, we are grateful for the varied ministries of the Table Church in Victoria, thinking specifically of Street Hope Victoria. We thank You, too, for the decades-long ministry of L'Abri and for Liz Snell's service there. Continue to bless their work done in Your Name, Jesus. Today and tomorrow, we will also pray for the inspiring ministry of the Abundant Grace of God Maternity Center (AGGMC) in the Philippines. Just as Moses was set adrift in the Nile, so are scores of new-born babies and pregnant mums at great peril. Thank You for Georgia and Achao Macad who began this life-saving work. Provide the financial support, we pray, that would allow such maternity centres to be established in many other regions. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DAY #10: Victoria to the Philippines

The Table Church, Victoria, BC

— Pastor Andy Withrow, Pastor Josh Wilton, Emily and Michelle

(continued from yesterday)

Here is the story of one mother who was assisted by Abundant Grace of God Maternity Centre:

Vicky, aged 42, began coming for prenatal care during her last month of pregnancy. Due to Covid she had not left her home for almost the whole 8 months prior. Vicky and her husband Anthony are from a small village where Vicki works as a farmer in their family rice fields while her husband Anthony looks for extra work as a labourer to help meet their family needs. When asked about their monthly income Vicky told us that between both of them they take in about P2,500 per month (\$50USD).

This was to be Vicky's 7th pregnancy and 6th child (she suffered one miscarriage). Four of her previous five children had been born at home with only the help of a neighbour who had experience in helping women during childbirth. Her last child, born in 2009, was delivered with only the help of her husband.

When she came to us for prenatal care with this pregnancy I asked her why she had decided to deliver at a facility this time. She told me that she felt something was different with this pregnancy and she didn't feel as strong as she used to.

During prenatal care we were able to monitor her hemoglobin and provide her with iron vitamins as well as screen her for infections and other complications.

On September 8 , early in the morning, we received a text from Vicky asking us to pick her up because her labor had started. One of the staff midwives accompanied our ambulance driver to her village and picked up Vicky and Anthony and brought them back to the clinic. Vicky laboured for most of the day and was closely monitored for some elevation in her blood pressure. Finally, at 8:00 at night Vicky delivered a big (4.4 kilos!) baby boy!

Immediately after the baby was born Vicky started to hemorrhage. The two midwives attending to her called in another midwife for back-up and immediately started another IV with fluids while administering uterotonics to stop the bleeding. Within a few minutes the midwives were able to completely stop the bleeding and stabilize Vicky. They monitored her closely for the next 24 hours in case she needed to be transferred to a higher level of care.

Vicky recovered well and within the 24 hours was packed up and asking if she and her new baby boy could go home! We checked her hemoglobin and since it was within normal limits and she did not show any signs of being weak or exhausted we took her home to continue recovering.

All of the staff were so thankful that Vicky had listened to her instincts telling her that this pregnancy was different and that she should deliver at a facility. If she had decided to deliver at home again, because she was so far from a hospital and because she bled so much and so quickly after the baby was born, we are sure she wouldn't have survived the birth.

How do we engage in mission work in a culturally sensitive way? Georgia at AGGMC says: "For myself, I feel that missions

are meant to be a way to share God's love with the world in a practical way. The good news of the gospel is that God came to tell us that He loves us and is for us – I believe that when we care for those in need of justice, we are showing them what it looks like for someone to be for them.

Unfortunately, as missionaries we can sometimes think that we have all the answers and that can be dangerous. I believe that God will already be working wherever we go in the world. Maybe if we are open to learning how people in different contexts and cultures already see God at work then we can grow together instead of coming in with all the answers.”

Bible Reading: Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.

When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

— 1 Corinthians 9: 19–23

Praying Together Today: Almighty God, Creator of the vast and magnificent universe, we are awestruck by both Your immensity and Your intimacy, that You care so amazingly for one unknown woman, Vicky, and the young lad she was

carrying. Thank You for the work of the Abundant Grace of God Maternity Centre in the Philippines that was created for just such needy women as Vicky. Through the midwives there, You saved her life, and no doubt countless others. May You be given all the glory for this gracious expression of Your mercy and love. Through Christ, our Lord. 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 5th?

DAY #11: Wilsonville to Egypt

St. Barnabas Anglican Mission. Wilsonville ON

— The Rev. Susan Zakamarko and The Rev. Robert Culver

Wilsonville is located south of Brantford, Ontario and north of Port Dover in Norfolk County. We have an elderly parish that has a heart for mission. If the wardens didn't spend all of the money allocated in the budget for missions, they would hear about it! In fact, one of our couples is so serious about missions that they personally give a substantial donation to the mission of Aaron Eime to the Jewish people in Israel, as well as supporting our parish mission efforts.

Mission expense is 34% of our extra-parochial expenses and 7.2% of our total parishioner donations. The largest portion of our mission budget (46%) goes to the Anglican Relief and Development Fund. We feel that the "experts" at ARDFc can spend the money wiser than we can.

We support Germaine, a young girl in Rwanda who is in grade three. She attends Ishuri Ryacu school and she walks 3km. to school every day. Her favourite subjects are mathematics and languages.

We also support Rev. Joel and Elizabeth Peterson and their four children who are on a mission to Muslims in Egypt. They have had it particularly rough in Egypt (learning the language, COVID, etc.). Our support comes to them through Interserve Canada. The dry weather, and a completely different culture have been hard on them. Medical help presents a problem too.

The whole family is learning the Egyptian language so they can fit in with society and the school. They have to master the language before doing any serious evangelism, but in the meantime they are proving that western Christians are good, loving and kind. Here is a December prayer letter from the Peterson's in Egypt:

“Thank you for your continued support in prayer and giving. The past few months have been packed full with work and personal responsibilities and events; at this point our bodies and immune systems have informed us that we've been pushing too hard and I'm writing from my bed where, according to a local friend, my eye infection is making me look like a leper from biblical times (she's a very funny friend, even if not always encouraging!).

These are hard days. Not only for us, and not even especially for us, but we feel it with our friends and loved ones here. The local currency has lost more than two-thirds of its value. Prices are skyrocketing. I know from the news that none of us are strangers to inflation and yet seeing the prices of most basics double and triple in six months has been shocking. More people around us need more help. Where before we were able to think about development as we invest in people and institutions, now it feels like we have shifted to focus on relief, just helping people eat each day and meet basic needs for medical care, food, school fees. We feel the weight of waiting for Jesus to come back, to restore us all and recreate His world in love, to redeem and heal us.

It feels appropriate for us to be walking through Advent, feeling the longing of the world for a Saviour. Most nights whoever is home at our house gathers around our Advent

wreath while children run through the house, turning off all the lights. Once it is as dark as we can make it, a child lights the Advent candle and says, "Light has come," and we respond, "Light is coming again." Then we sign one verse of O Come, O Come Emmanuel and feel the mourning and lonely exile of our world. Maybe it is the colder, darker weather. Maybe it is the dramatic economic crisis our host country is facing, that we take a small share in. Maybe it is the eye infection or the stomach flu or the grouchy kids that seem more common lately. Maybe it is too many years of living through "unprecedented" times of history and the many unexpected world events we are watching. Whatever it is, our souls feel more than normal the weariness and weight of a world waiting for His return. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Normally I would have more to share and stories of what God is doing. He is at work, and we trust the open doors He is giving us which feel like many. The pressure and pain of the world give people--or require people--to look at what is important and friends from many backgrounds are inviting us into this process with them.

But for now I just ask for your prayers to see us through these darker days, for encouragement and provision to come for those we love and us too, for the One who is "Israel's strength and consolation" to energize our weary hearts in this season. With love and prayers," — Elizabeth Peterson, for Joel, Isaiah, Asher, Norah and Simeon in Egypt.

Bible Reading: Jesus said to them, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

— Acts 1:8

Praying Together Today: Abba Father, this report from the Peterson family is such a reflection of Your heart. It demonstrates such great sacrifice and commitment to the Muslim people in Egypt. We thank You for the parish of St. Barnabas Mission Church and their support of the Petersons and their investment in their ministry. And we do pray for the Petersons that You would heal their illnesses, replenish their vigour, stamina and vision, and, when all the language training is complete, bring forth in the power of the Holy Spirit a great harvest of new believers in Jesus. Thank You, Abba. Amen

DAY #12: Llyodminster to our Community

Saint Saviour's Anglican Church. Lloydminster, SK/AB

— The Rev. Gary and Mrs. Sharon Stobbs

Saint Saviour's Anglican Church is a small & spritely, social & aging, congregation of Christian worshippers (approximately 20). Our city of Lloydminster straddles the border of Saskatchewan & Alberta.

Currently our mission field, mainly, is to “serve local” by prayer & finance, and to serve worldwide mainly by prayer.

With gratitude, from our budget, our charitable donations bestow \$200/month to each of twelve (12) charities. These are: Legacy Senior's Centre, Men's Shelter, TeleMiracle, Soup Kitchen, STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service), Rescue

Squad, Border Connect, Inclusion Alberta, Snowflake House Respite Foundation, Residents in Recovery, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Salvation Army.

From our sale of face masks during the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic, we gave an additional \$200 to the local Community Drop-In Center and, more far reaching, \$100 to the Women's Inter-Council of Canada (World Day of Prayer).

From our amazingly successful garage-sales revenue we gave an additional \$200 to each of: Lion's Club, Lloydminster Archives, Royal Canadian Legion, Libbie Young Center (mental health) and, again more far reaching, the Cuba Mission and the Paraguay School.

Saint Saviour's also has the "Interval Home" project. The Interval Home is a place of safety in Lloydminster where abused women & their children may harbour for a time. We have a perpetual basket in our sanctuary where parishioners bring items from a list that Interval Home has given us; these items include anything from toiletries to diapers to clothing.

Bible Reading: For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

— Matthew 18:20

Praying Together Today: Blessed Jesus, who loved to spend time with "tax collectors and sinners", we thank You for the varied outreach ministries and local social agencies supported by the people of Saint Saviour's Anglican Church in Lloydminster. Again, we are reminded that a parish need not be large to make a significant impact for the Gospel. We ask You to bless and multiply the effect of each dollar donated,

and that Saint Saviour's may continue to be recognized as a rich blessing to the community and a beacon of light in the darkness of the world. We ask these things in the precious Name of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.

DAY #13: Victoria to Cambodia

The Church of our Lord, Victoria, BC,

— Archdeacon Rob Szo, The Rev. Chi Ewelike

The Church of Our Lord (COOL) is actively involved in praying for and financially supporting many of the local needs of our community as well as those involved in international work.

Cuba: COOL supports Archdeacon Rev Alexei Gonzales in his large parish in Florida, Cuba. Visits from two BC ANIC churches (before and after COVID) have brought medicines, material goods and encouragement to these churches who face tight government regulations, poverty, extremely high food and gas prices and illness (COVID took the lives of many church members).

International Student Ministries Canada – Daniel and Sandi McDougall are “missionaries” in Victoria reaching out to international students through English classes, personal contact and, since COVID, much online contact. Many students come with little or no understanding of Christianity. “We seek to love international students unconditionally, partner with local churches in leading international students to

discover Jesus through the Word of God, and prepare them to serve God wherever He leads them and to impact the world for Jesus Christ". COOL is blessed to partner with the McDougall's financially and in prayer.

Reach Across Canada – Ann Stevens one of COOL's church members is also an active member with Reach Across (formerly the Red Sea Mission). She coordinates prayer support for the various missionaries throughout the Middle East as well as in many countries where immigrants from these countries have moved to. The goal of Reach Across is to see Muslims become devoted followers of Jesus Christ in self-sustaining and reproducing fellowships.

Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada – The COOL provides ongoing financial and prayer support for the ARDFC's projects. The current ARDFC's project is establishing a local church in the suburbs of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This will allow 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 will also establish a hostel for girls from poor surrounding villages.

Bible Reading: Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving; and pray for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ.

— Colossians 4: 2-3

Praying Together Today: Heavenly and merciful Father, we thank You for the Church of our Lord in Victoria, and for their commitment in both finances and prayer to these outreach

ministries. Like the four friends who lowered the lame man through the roof to bring him to Jesus, we bring these ones before You:

Archdeacon Rev Alexei Gonzales in his large parish in Cuba; Daniel and Sandi McDougall of International Student Ministries Canada; Ann Stevens of Reach Across; and ARDFC's ministry in Cambodia. Father, You know each one's needs and the next step for each of these ministries. Bless them, provide for them, protect them from the enemy's wiles, and fill them with great joy we pray. In the Name of Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY #14: Gander to Cuba

St. Matthew's, Gander NL

— The Rev. Brian Candow

After a time of prayer, the congregation of St. Matthew's, Gander began to search out a mission partnership with Cuba. With guidance by Canon Barclay Mayo, we were connected with Rev. Deacon Rolando Roman Garcia, who is Pastor of a preaching station in the city of Moa, Cuba. The Diocesan headquarters and seminary are located in Moa, which is over 900 kilometres away from Havana, the capital of Cuba. St. Matthew's undertook to sponsor Rev. Rolando's stipend which was \$100 per month. We are hoping to continue this support, and God willing, to be able to provide other supports as opportunity allows and need calls.

It is our desire to have more than a mere one-way financial relationship. We are hoping to develop a heartfelt prayerful relationship with our brothers and sisters with Rev. Rolando and his church family. Communications are a little difficult due to a couple of factors. Language is one, but the Spanish/English divide is easily bridged using Google translate. The other is the internet connection, which in Cuba is rather spotty. Nevertheless, we have exchanged several emails since our initial connection, and we are looking forward to many more in the coming year.

Here is the latest report from Moa Cuba where Bishop Willans is rector of the Parish and Rev. Rolando is the assistant pastor. Rev. Rolando writes, “the ministry of our parish continues despite the great difficulties we have been forced to face. There have been a number of deaths, including the Bishop’s wife Reina and one of the lay pastors, Milton. Thankfully, in the midst of the struggle with Covid, Reina’s passing and Dengue fever, I has been there in support of the parish and the Bishop. My family is generally in good health, but I suffer from some health problems with my knees and kidneys. I am serving a congregation of 30 made up of the elderly and sick from the parish of San Marcos, Moa. I visit homes regularly, bringing them the gospel and Holy Communion. Your prayer are much appreciated. Blessings.”

Bible Reading: That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the

things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

— 2 Corinthians 4: 16–18

Praying Together Today: Gracious and loving Father, who always rejoices in the widow's mite, thank You for the generosity and commitment of the people of St. Matthews Gander and the reminder from their faithfulness that all churches, whatever the size, can play a strategic role in Your redemptive work. We pray Your rich blessing upon the parish of San Marcos, Moa in Cuba. In the midst of severe difficulty, bring Your comfort and provision to them, we pray, and may this parish be a bright beacon of Your Hope where there is so much hopelessness. Through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DAY #15: St. John's to Guatemala

Good Samaritan Church, St. John's NL

—Archdeacon Darrell Critch and the Rev. Colton Carrick

Good Samaritan has partnered with the Arms of Jesus Children's Ministry since our first days. But even before our journey to ANIC, many people were already involved with AOJ, and some 40+ people from Good Samaritan had been on a mission trip to Guatemala. As the rector of a parish committed to sustainable and relational mission work, I am deeply grateful for what we have been privileged to do in Guatemala, but I have also been amazed at how this work has been one of the primary means of our church growth.

Our experience is that folks who go on a mission trip, return more committed to the Lord than ever! They're more generous in giving, and often team members become key lay leaders within parish life.

One might think that funding this sort of international mission work might negatively impact our parish's 'bottom line', but the truth is, the very opposite happens. Dr Sam Martin, the director of AOJ is often heard to say, "if you're struggling with your operating budget, give to missions!" It is true, the more you give, the more you will have, for the Lord Himself said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive". This has certainly been our experience at Good Samaritan.

This spring we will be sending another team to Guatemala. Robyn will be going to Guatemala for the first time. This is her reflection:

"Why would I like to go to Guatemala? That's a great question! I feel like I have been involved in the church for such a long time and there is so much more I can offer and I feel like going with our church on a mission trip to Guatemala is the perfect first step.

Members of our church have been going for numerous years and all the participants involved are always ecstatic about their mission work once on the ground and how rewarding it has been in their lives. My parents have been going on missions trips to Guatemala for what seems like a decade or longer and have always had no questions on going back every time the opportunity arises! I feel like it is my time to go and provide anything and everything I can offer to the people of Guatemala

who are less fortunate than I am. I'm excited to be able to have this opportunity and I know it will be a rewarding experience while on the ground, as well as sharing my experience once I'm back home."

Bible Reading: You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

— Acts 20: 34–35

Praying Together Today: Eternal Father, Your beloved son, Jesus, said that it was more of a blessing to give than to receive. Thank You that many in the parish of the Good Samaritan Church in St. John's have experienced the reality of that promise, whether in ministering in Guatemala or in financial and prayer support. Thank You for their faithfulness. Now we ask You for continued blessing upon Arms of Jesus Children's ministry that they may continue to share the great news of the Gospel with many children in Guatemala. And we pray for Robyn as she and others experience their first mission trip. May her glowing testimony be when she returns home, "You know . . . it IS more blessed to give than to receive!" In the mighty Name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

DAY #16: St. John's to Guatemala

Good Samaritan Church, St. John's NL

—Archdeacon Darrell Critch and the Rev. Colton Carrick

(continued from yesterday)

Avalon Tuck has been on several mission teams. Why is he returning to Guatemala? Here is his answer:

“This spring will be my 10th trip to the AOJ Mission School in Guatemala and each time I go down I find excitement in the anticipation of what I can accomplish. Each trip has drawn me to do things that I had never thought I could accomplish to help the people there in need. I started my first mission trip there when there was only a chapel and 2-story farmhouse and now to see how the mission has grown with the addition of an elementary, a Junior High, and High School is an awesome feeling of accomplishment that I can be part of seeing this.

I have helped lay the cornerstone of their new high school and I joined in classes with small boys to repair old bike parts and making them into bikes that they can use for their needs...who would have believed in my youth going to the dump to get bike parts would prepare me for this great task of achievement. Through each small task I complete I am excited to do it for the benefit of the children there.

I am eager to build houses in the countryside from a basic construction; but as each one is completed, I see the appreciation and love that these new homeowners have for the Lord's love that we have given and shown them. Going to Guatemala puts me back into the time when I was young in my

hometown with limited money and living off the land and using whatever belongings we had. The people of Guatemala show their extreme faith in the Lord, and this brings me continued hope and inspires me with each experience as I grow in faith and closer and stronger to God.”

To mark his 80th birthday, Bishop Don & Trudy Harvey travelled to the AOJ mission in Guatemala, not to build houses or distribute food as they had in the past, but to teach in the schools, mentor the teachers, and visit their sponsored girl. Here is what Bishop Don says about the possibility of a future mission trip:

“As to Guatemala, it certainly is my deep desire to make at least one more visit but I am only too aware that I would be a hinderance to a work party. Even simple things like painting have become a burden (a spinal stenosis does not help matters) and it is critical that every member of a parish work team should be able to pull his or her weight. However, I am as eager as ever to share in the fellowship and to teach and intermingle in the school. Alizon, our little sponsored child is growing up rapidly and I would like to see her at least once more and possibly make some provision for her when she finishes at the AOJ mission school.”

Bible Reading: You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

— Ephesians 2: 19–22

Praying Together Today: Loving Jesus, we know from Your Word that You never waste anything; there are always twelve baskets left over after You have fed the 5000! And, an experience of searching through a local dump for old bicycle parts You didn't waste either. Thank You for Avalon Tuck and his experiences on previous mission trips to Guatemala, especially his opportunity to help small boys restore to working order old discarded bicycles.

And thank You that age is not a barrier either as Bishop Don and Trudy have demonstrated. Lord Jesus, may we learn the lessons well that You teach us from others' mission experiences. Glory to Your Name, Jesus, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen

These clergy [in east Africa] need your prayers, they need some help so they can stay in their ministry. They are hungry and they are sick. Will you remember them? This became the mandate of ACrossMission - to remember them - to pray for them - to encourage them and to be the bridge that connects Christ's followers in Canada to those ministers that God has placed on the frontlines of His Gospel mission in Africa. — Canon Howard Edwards (Day #26)

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? How do you communicate with your partners overseas? Are there ways that communication can be improved?
4. Do you feel inspired to become more involved in world missions? If so, How?

DAY #17: Vancouver to China

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)

In March every year after Annual Vestry, parishioners (as individuals or family units) are reminded to prayerfully make a pledge to God in tithing throughout the year in planned Sunday offerings to the General Fund (for the operation of the parish) and to the Mission Fund (for global missions). Through generous giving, the whole parish become involved partners in mission.

Good Shepherd Vancouver has been participating in these various global missions:

The Karen Anglican Ministry at the Border (KAMB): Good Shepherd Vancouver has been supporting this ministry since 2011 by fully funding the needs of the boarding houses as an Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada project. It provides shelter, food, care and adult supervision for externally displaced Karen children on the Thai-Myanmar border. In 2011 and 2015, Good Shepherd Vancouver and AMMiC sent short term mission teams to share Jesus' love and his gospel with the children and youth living in the boarding houses. By being an involved mission partner with the KAMB leaders and with the support of the Anglican Church in Thailand and the Diocese of Singapore, we continue to be hand and feet as Jesus' followers to share God's love and His good news across the ocean.

International China Concern (ICC): Founded in 1993, ICC brings Jesus' love, hope and opportunity to children with disabilities in China and strives to end abandonment by educating and supporting families raising children with disabilities. ICC has gained a good rapport with local government welfare services and has been providing holistic care and nurture to the most vulnerable children and young adults in two cities in Hunan Province for over 25 years. In 2011 and 2013, Good Shepherd Vancouver and AMMiC volunteer teams visited ICC group homes in Changsha and Sanmenxia to share God's love by serving the children, families and workers living in their care facilities. Through the participation in their annual fundraising activity in Vancouver, Walk the Wall, our church's children and families continue to uphold this global mission opportunity to serve the most vulnerable children living in China. Also through generous giving from the Mission Fund, Good Shepherd Vancouver has been supporting this Christian organization and its mission since 2011.

Bible Reading: For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.
— Deuteronomy 10: 17 - 19

Praying Together Today: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the truly inspiring ways that the Church of the Good Shepherd reaches out with compassionate help and the transforming Gospel of Jesus, both locally with immigrants and

refugees and those at risk overseas. Pour out Your blessing upon all those who sacrificially give of their time, energy and finances, and may their Gospel message, conveyed both in words and actions, bring forth a harvest of new believers in Christ. This we ask in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY #18: Vancouver to Cambodia

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)

Missionaries Support: Good Shepherd Vancouver has always been mindful of the needs of missionaries who serve and share God's love to particular ethnic groups in Asia. Through financial support and being their prayer partner in mission, we receive their quarterly newsletter communication and rejoice with them at the opportunities to witness God's power, glory and love when people's hearts are turned to Jesus.

Since 2007, we have organized our biennial "FROM THY BOUNTY" fundraising concert to raise funds for some of our global mission initiatives such as for KAMB, the support of refugees and ICC. The entire parish are generous with their time, money, and talent in organizing, hosting and performing in the concert, also inviting friends and community at large to enjoy a night of fine music, to learn about the needs of the

global mission projects, and to join us in generous giving. The last concert was held on October 5, 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the whole world.

Relief Appeals: We are also quick to respond to emergencies and catastrophes around the globe. Our parishioners generously responded to relief appeals raised by our Bishops and ARDFC, such as Cuban Mission support during the pandemic (2021), and humanitarian aid to war-stricken Ukraine (2022).

Refugee Sponsorship: Being grateful for God's bountiful provision, we want to share what we have with others in need. We had the opportunity to sponsor a Syrian family of 5 to settle in Vancouver in 2018. There were 7 members in the working group, plus a few others who contributed by helping to search for accommodation, cleaning and setting up the home and purchasing and picking up furniture and other household items. We helped the family in the application for government documents and benefits, connected the family with immigrant settlement services and a cultural centre and assisted in registering the children in schools, among other things.

Elsa Law was a member of this working group. Reflecting on this experience, Elsa writes: "It was truly a serving opportunity where the whole church supported this endeavour by donating to the cause, and those involved closely lived out Jesus' commandment for us to "love your neighbours as yourselves." The family has since moved on to be with their relatives in another part of the country and the latest update was that they settled well there. Praise be to God!"

At the time of writing, Elsa and other Good Shepherd leaders are once again exploring another refugee sponsorship opportunity which, when it comes to fruition, will be a partnership with the Southeast Asian Province and another ANiC parish. May all glory be to our God, the Father of all nations.

Bible Reading: The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

— Leviticus 19:34

Praying Together Today: O Lord, we thank you for the work of the Church of the Good Shepherd in assisting with the settlement and care of refugees coming to Canada. As you have commanded, they are “loving the alien as themselves”. Strengthen this congregation in their ministry and bless them with the necessary financial resources to assist those in need and thereby share the love and hope we have in Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

I did not know that the Lord would call me to serve in Uganda, however, looking back now, without a doubt this is where the Lord has called me. I was first compelled to serve in Uganda after a brief trip to a Christian orphanage here in 2009. I was convicted that I must return someday and do something about the harsh conditions I witnessed for many children and youth.
—Kurt Peterson (Day #24)

DAY #19: Point-Claire to Kenya

St. Timothy's Anglican Bible Church, Pointe-Claire QC

— The Rev. Dan Endrensen and Bob DeJean (Mission Committee, Chair)

In our evangelism and our service we seek to move outside ourselves to impact our community and our world with the good news of the redemptive and transforming power of Jesus Christ. We strive to be a community where people from all walks of life feel welcomed, loved, and encouraged to grow in their faith and in good works. We support the discovery and use of each Christian's spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ.

We were delighted to provide prayer and financial support to Emma Gruetzner in her mission trip to Kenya. See below for the thoughts and feeling of her parents.

St-Tim's began in 2021 to contribute to a mission church in Cuba, through the Reformed Episcopal Church. We correspond regularly with Pastor Miguel. Our hope is to meet in person if that can be arranged.

St-Tim's is helping in the organization of a church plant in St-Lazare. Once the various legal barriers have been surmounted, they will be a dynamic new church in a growing area.

We feel called to do more, so this is a work in progress.

What was the reaction of the parents of a 20 year old daughter when they heard that she was going to Kenya for two-and-a-

half months to do ministry in various parts of that country? Here is what they thought:

“Utter surprise and excitement rang over the phone–line when our daughter Emma called us from Hawaii to let us know she had one hour to make a decision about her upcoming mission trip to Kenya.

Joy and exhilaration followed when she called us back with her final decision. She was now going to a country she had expressed desire to visit as a young teen in a geography project. As the time drew closer for her to leave the safety of North America to the unknowns of Kenya, we started to prepare her surprise Christmas package (as she would not be celebrating Christmas or her birthday at home for the first time).

Her two–and–a–half–month itinerary was vague: visiting orphanages, women centres, slums, in the east, in the west, in the “bush”. Emma’s mother included in the box two long elegant shirts (mandatory Kenyan attire), adding a spray of her perfume to remind Emma of her presence. Emma’s father included a letter stating that he actually didn’t know what to expect in that world, at that time, but she herself would need to be his eyes and ears. For she was completely in God’s hands.

After a longer than expected transit time due to Covid related delay’s her plane landed in Nairobi. However, we didn’t hear any news from her for days. It was understood that in Kenya Wi–Fi access would be limited. Through these days of waiting we were concerned, but also felt God’s peace. And then after about four full days Facebook lit up with pictures and videos of

an annual church conference in the “bush” where their missionary team was the guest of honour.

To our delight we saw music, skits, testimonies and dancing! It was amazing, it was exciting, and we were so touched by the transformation we saw in our daughter. Over time stories of poverty, children with AIDS, children with severe disabilities came to light and tugged at our hearts. But what really stood out was how the Lord took a young lady and prepared her from beginning to end for this very specific task. We were in awe and thoroughly enjoyed the front row seats to a journey of a lifetime!” — Emma’s parents.

Bible Reading: At the present time, your abundance will meet their need, so that one day their abundance may also meet your need, and thus there may be equality.

– 2 Corinthians 8:14 (NET)

Praying Together Today: Dear Lord, thank You for the various ways in which St. Timothy’s is involved in the spreading of the Gospel message, both in Québec and beyond. We are grateful for the church plant in St-Lazare. May it bear great fruit – fruit that remains – of new lives committed to Jesus. We thank You especially for this report from Emma Gruetzner’s parents concerning her life-changing mission work in Kenya. Thank You for returning her safely to her family with new zeal to follow You. All this we ask in Your precious Name. Amen

DAY #20: Canada to Mozambique

Anglican Relief and Development Fund – Canada

— Michael Tweedle – National Director

Anglican Relief and Development Fund of Canada's (ARDF-C) newest project is the sourcing of fresh water for churches and schools in the province of Zambezia in Mozambique.

Mozambique, a country in Southern Africa, is prone to both natural and human-induced disasters. The provinces of Nampula and Zambezia in Northern Mozambique are home to 39 percent of the country's population, yet they have the lowest access to safe water supply and sanitation services. They also have the highest rates of poverty. These issues are often made worse by conflict, frequent climate shocks, and minimal provision of basic services.

As a result, the people there contract waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and incur large medical bills because of their illnesses. People walk for several miles each day to collect water from rivers, ponds, or marshes – water that is frequently contaminated with disease-causing parasites and bacteria that can prove fatal, especially for infants and young children. Because they spend so much time collecting water, many girls cannot attend school.

As part of the Anglican Church's holistic ministry in Zambezia province, the Anglican Diocese of Zambezia will drill four deep water wells and construct protection for 14 natural water springs that will help meet the water needs of thousands of people in Molumbo and Milange towns. Once installed, the

boreholes and natural springs will improve the livelihood, hygiene, and sanitation of these communities, giving thousands of people access to reliable, safe drinking water. People will be disciplined through the church by meeting their physical and spiritual needs.

Anticipated Lives Impacted: 8,400 Projected cost:
\$102,300 USD

Please pray for the people of Zambezia who will have access to fresh water nearby once the wells are dug and set up. Pray for the clergy as they launch the clean water projects and seek to reach new believers in their communities. For more information about this project and ARDF-C go to: <https://ardfc.ca/>

Bible Reading: But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him.”
— 1 John 3:17-19 (ESV)

Praying Together Today:

Gracious and loving God, once again we thank You for raising up churches that will reach your people with the Good News of Christ, and assist with their real physical needs. We think specifically of ARDF-C’s latest project in Mozambique. The provision of safe drinking water is such a blessing for all, something that we in the West too easily take for granted. Bless also, we pray, the clergy of the Anglican Church of Mozambique as they work with parishes and those around them who have yet to know Christ. Give them wisdom,

discernment and protection; through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

DAY #21: Vancouver to Cambodia

St. John's, Vancouver BC

— Canon David Short

St. John's has supported Ratanak International for many years financially and collaboratively by sending teams to work alongside them.

In 1975, the entire population of Cambodia was subjected to slave labour, mass execution, unchecked disease and starvation during the Khmer Rouge Regime. The entire fabric of society was effectively dismantled and then disintegrated. Approximately three million died. As a result of its history, Cambodia still suffers deep wounds that result in many painful issues. Each issue feeds the next, leading to cycles of extreme vulnerability.

Ratanak's programs are aimed at breaking these cycles of exploitation and vulnerability by focusing on holistic restoration, researching areas of need and then filling in the gaps. Their programs serve communities in Cambodia by providing access to medical, education and social services alongside ongoing community development initiatives, anti-trafficking programs, and disaster relief.

They believe in the power of collaboration to create change and transform lives. That is why they are dedicated to walking alongside Cambodians, empowering them to rebuild their own country. They rely on Christ's redemptive love, as he works in and through the Cambodian people to bring this work to completion.

Here is the story of Panha: Panah lives in a rural village in Cambodia. At 17 years of age she found herself pregnant and unexpectedly widowed. Her family worried about her and the extra strain on their meagre income. Then a stranger approached her parents with a solution. If Penna married a wealthy man in China they promised to send money to support the families. Her family agreed after she gave birth to the child.

Thankfully, Ratanak reached Panha before that fateful day arrived. The Community Heroes Prevention Program taught Panha how to recognize grooming techniques that lead to human trafficking and sexual abuse. Prevention education rescued Panah just in time, helping her to reject the brokers' offer. Now she shares her experience to raise awareness in her community. (Panah is a pseudonym for one of the young women in our care.)

Bible Reading: Boaz went over and said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don't go to any other fields. Stay right behind the young women working in my field. See which part of the field they are harvesting, and then follow them. I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly. And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well." Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. "What have I done to deserve such kindness?" she asked. "I am only a foreigner."

“Yes, I know,” Boaz replied. “But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. May the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.”

— Ruth 2: 8-12

Praying Together Today: O Lord, Scripture records You weeping over Jerusalem because they were indeed sheep without a shepherd. How must You feel as You view the ravages of our wars, whether today in Ukraine or as reported here in Cambodia. Thank You for the ministry of Ratanak International as they seek to intervene and rescue the vulnerable and marginalized. Thank You for the partnership in the Gospel that St. John’s Vancouver shares with Ratanak. Empower this ministry, we pray, that the freedom they seek to provide would be both from exploitation but also the freedom from sin’s destruction. May Ratanak be a bright beacon of Hope in the darkness of hopelessness. Come, Holy Spirit, and bring revival and deliverance. In Jesus’ Name, we ask these things. Amen.

We had the privilege of sharing the truth with her; Jesus was the solution to her drinking problem. He was the guidance she needed to overcome her addiction. Right there and then she decided to accept Jesus into her heart. — Emma Gruetzner (Day #1)

DAY #22: Ottawa to the Nations

The Church of the Messiah, Ottawa, ON

— Canon George Sinclair

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus gripped by the gospel, living for God's glory. Our Vision is to be a prayerful, Bible-teaching evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world.

We have sponsored lots of different people and endeavours in the past. This is what we are currently supporting.

God has raised up missionaries from our congregation. In each case, because of where they serve, we can only supply you with their initials.

- B is on furlough from a long time ministry in Asia. B would be back in Asia by now, but COVID policies are delaying his return.
- N and K serve in North Africa.
- P and J serve in central Asia.
- S and S have just returned from the Middle East.

We also support:

Norm and Audrey Henderson with SIM in Angola; Judah and Jessie Rath in Columbia with Latin American Missions; and Aaron and Michelle Eimie with CMJ in Israel.

We are also part of an innovative outreach. We are one of the founding churches in the Ottawa Compassion Collective <https://www.compassion.ca/event/occ/>. Ten evangelical churches in Ottawa have joined together to work with Compassion Guatemala. We have in a sense, "adopted" a region in Guatemala where Compassion is at work. This is a great example of working cross denominationally and collaboratively to make a difference in Jesus' name.

Bible Reading: Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honoured wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.
— 2 Thessalonians 3:1

Praying Together Today: Heavenly Father, as the above Scripture exhorts us, we do pray that Your message would spread rapidly through the missionaries and local ministerial supported by Church of the Messiah in Ottawa. Thank you for the cross-denominational ministry that is an expression of the Body of Christ functioning as designed. Bless and provide for those ministering in dangerous areas of the world. Protect them from assaults of the evil one, and grant them "fruit that remains" as You promised. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, Father, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DAY #23: Abbotsford to Cuba

Church of the Holy Cross, Abbotsford B.C.

— The Rev. Canon Barclay Mayo (Cuba Mission Society Coordinator)

Here is the latest from our friends and fellow believers in our partner churches in Cuba. Some of the news is very disheartening. They have suffered and continue to suffer much. Our prayers and support are essential to protect and uphold them in this very difficult and challenging, but rich mission field.

As with churches in much of the rest of the world, the Cuban church was heavily impacted by Covid 19 and most of their congregations' Sunday ministry has not recovered to pre-pandemic numbers. The pastors continue to minister as best they can to all the congregation through visits and small house meetings. As if Covid wasn't enough, Dengue fever is now sweeping the country, with most of the affected population suffering without any access to needed medications. Many people have died.

The Bishop of Cuba, Bishop Willians, wrote his latest report from his sickbed, while in recovery from Dengue fever. There are constant, rolling and long-lasting blackouts, with only a few hours of power to recharge his laptop. Sometimes they are without power for a whole day. Following the last hurricane, the whole country endured a blackout for 27 hours! Even today some areas are without access to clean drinking water, electricity and food. Fuel is severely regulated and travel is

restricted. A government official in each municipality controls the fuel. A private citizen may, if they are in favour, obtain only up to 20 litres of diesel once a month!

It is thought by some that the blackouts are a deliberate response to civil unrest, by people desperate for food, medicine, power and the freedom to express their dissatisfaction with the state of their society. The population are constantly intimidated, oppressed and imprisoned. Police roam the streets in civilian dress, beating those who would dare to speak out. Please be in prayer for protection for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Even in these dark days the Holy Spirit is working. Under the leadership of Bishop Willian and Archdeacon Alexei, it was decided that post-Covid the diocese needed to be proactive about reengaging with the community around them. They have begun this process by training parish leadership from the western and central churches in youth and children's ministry. Eight leaders were sent out and the response is very encouraging!

Archdeacon Alexei reports that on Thursday afternoons he is teaching a pre-seminary (Lay Ministry) course to 12 people. The objective is to commission them as Christian leaders who are involved in the different ministries (Evangelism, Teaching, Officiating etc.) He teaches general REC culture, conduct of ministry and theology. Alexei also meets weekly with the local clergy for encouragement and continuing education in pastoral ministry and conduct of worship according to Book of Common Prayer.

Bible Reading: We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

— 2 Corinthians 4: 7–10

Praying Together Today: Almighty God, heavenly Father, who called Bishop Charles Dorrington to Cuba in 2003, after raising him up from a wheelchair, please continue to glorify Your Name in the midst of the circumstances of political unrest, scarcity of food, scarcity of electricity, and scarcity of medicine.

Father, may You continue to bless the children who are eager to learn about Jesus, and who gather in every congregation on Saturdays. May You bless Archdeacon Alexei as he ministers in the Central and Western areas of Cuba: educating elders, leaders and vestry members.

May You abundantly bless Bishop Willians in the areas east of Holguin and overseeing the Seminary in Moa. May You continue to raise up evangelists, leaders and Pastors from among Your Cuban people. May You continue to bless the education through our Cuban seminary, and to use it so that it may reach all of those in Cuba who are eager to learn and grow in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

May You bless abundantly the Pastors who share their meagre salaries with their congregations and neighbours, because their hearts are of Jesus, Who cares for them.

And finally Father, may You raise new leaders to follow in the footsteps of those clergy who are retiring in Havana, in Florida, and in Moa as a result illnesses or advancing age. Glorify Your Name, O Lord! We ask all this in the powerful name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

(Today's prayer was written by Bishop Charles Dorrington who, along with his wife Claudia, began the church planting in Cuba)

DAY #24: Vancouver to Uganda

St. Mathias & St. Luke, Vancouver BC

— The Rev. Angus Wu and the Rev. Walter Wong

Kurt Petersen's work in Uganda is supported by our congregation. Kurt is the founder and director of "Change to Change" ministries. Here is a recent update from Kurt and his work in southern Uganda:

Praise the Lord! I hope this email finds you well. I am a long time member of St Matthias & St Luke Anglican Church in Vancouver (ANiC), however, I have been serving overseas in Uganda since 2012.

Before 2012, I did not know that the Lord would call me to serve in Uganda, however, looking back now, without a doubt this is where the Lord has called me. I was first compelled to serve in Uganda after a brief trip to a Christian orphanage here in 2009. I was convicted that I must return someday and do

something about the harsh conditions I witnessed for many children and youth.

It wasn't until 2012 when I found myself encountering youth all of the time who were interested in me and what I had to say. From this stemmed a small weekly youth fellowship in the village I was living at the time. I brought the idea to the director of the orphanage I was revisiting and he was very supportive of the idea; therefore, by faith (unknowingly), the youth fellowship ministry began.

Unfortunately, I did have to return to Vancouver for 6 months in the middle of 2012, however, I knew I was coming back for more. Since that small youth fellowship of 7 people we've now grown far beyond 7 and now help youth, children, and families throughout the region/district of Masaka (southern region of Uganda).

We operate a public youth drop-in center where youth receive counselling and guidance, life-skills training, workshops, trainings, sports/games activities, education sponsorship, mentorship and discipleship, and yes, youth fellowship. We also operate a youth home where some youth are housed full-time whilst being educated at a nearby local school.

We engage in community outreach with the youth whom we work with and disciple them so that they can give their own real-life (local) testimony of how Jesus Christ has changed their lives. It's one thing for the locals to have a foreigner preach the Gospel of Christ, but it's even more impactful when they hear it in their mother tongue from another local as themselves.

All of our programs, activities, and outreaches are Christ-centred. Through our outreaches we have reached the community by street evangelism, door to door, mobile fellowships (in villages), giving food or clothing with the Gospel, and much more.

In Canada, we're known as Change 2 Change or C2C. In Uganda, we're known as Come 2 Christ or C2C.

Our vision is this: "Serve. Love. Share." (in summary this is to Serve God, Love People, and Share His Truth).

Our mission is based on these 3 E's: To Educate, Empower, and Equip youth, children and families within the community initiating sustainable development in one's home, family, and community.

Our support is mainly from private family and individual sources temporarily through a small church in rural Manitoba. St Matthias & St Luke Church have continued to be of great encouragement and support to our ministry.

More information is available on our website, change2change.ca or our Facebook page. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity from ANiC to share what the Lord is doing here in southern Uganda with the generation of youth. God Bless you.

Bible Reading: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

— Matthew 28:19

Praying Together Today: Father in heaven, once again we are so thrilled to hear of a young person, in this case, Kurt Petersen, who is passionately following Your leading into such important ministry in Uganda. You have obviously not forgotten the African continent that desperately needs Your saving Grace. We pray for Kurt and his mission organization, Change to Change (C2C) that You will protect them in spirit, soul and body from the assaults of the enemy, and that You will provide for their needs financially and will establish a team of intercessors on their behalf. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DAY #25: Bonavista to the Persecuted

All Saints, Bonavista NL

— The Rev. Shaun and Sandra O'Connor

Serving the Persecuted Church: It began with an article in a Voice of the Martyrs magazine. A list of prisoners for the Lord with photos and information about their situations was provided, as well as an invitation to write and pray. Our family members each decided to write a single letter to a prisoner. From there we were convinced that this was a ministry we should undertake.

On the Prisoner Alert website, we found a list of fifteen prisoners at that time, and we presented to the parish the opportunity for a ministry of prayer and encouragement to these suffering brothers and sisters. Many parishioners “adopted” a prisoner. The ministry is simple in many ways – we

pray for this person and we write a note to him (all those currently listed are men) approximately once per month.

The guidelines for writing letters, both to prisoners and to government officials on behalf of the prisoners is found on the website, as well as prayer insights and other resources. ACNA has the Anglican Persecuted Church Network, including a Facebook page, that does excellent work and keeps the plight of those persecuted at the forefront.

From the first letters we sent as a family, we have seen three prisoners released, thanks be to God! Most recently – October 2022 – Naser was released from the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran, Iran.

We know that these men are but a sample of the many many Christians who are imprisoned and persecuted around the world. But starting with these has been a gateway into praying more consistently and earnestly for all those who suffer like them.

As a congregation, this ministry is changing who we are and how we worship. We include prayers for the persecuted church in our services and prayer meetings, and usually pray by name for each individual. We participate in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church in November.

We have used a provided liturgy for our prayer meeting and this year's sermon "Modern Martyrs" spoke of the inevitability of persecution for Christians and Naser's story. Some have participated in online events through the Anglican Persecuted Church Network. And we have included ministry to persecuted Christians in our givings.

Much more difficult to put into words is the connection we feel with those suffering for Jesus around the world. When we see the news about conflict and strife, we know it is profoundly affecting our brothers and sisters. We know that much of what is happening to Christians is misrepresented in media or not reported, as our brothers from All Saints GTA helped us understand regarding Nigeria.

This ministry has strengthened our prayer life, our affinity with the whole Body of Christ, and our desire to be faithful. We know that we can stand and that blessings abound in our lives. And we are humbled by those men and women who remain faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ in every circumstance and those who falter and fall in the midst of it all.

Bible Reading: Remember those who are in prison as if you were in prison with them. Remember those who suffer as if you were suffering with them.

—Hebrews 13:3

Praying Together Today: O Father God, how wonderful is Your love for all who have been adopted into Your family, and how it must wound Your heart as You see so many of Your children harassed, tortured and imprisoned because of their love for You! Balm of Gilead, heal their wounds, both physically and emotionally we pray, and bring Your comfort to those in prison. Only You, Holy Spirit, are not restricted by high walls, electrified fences, and prison doors. Move amongst the prisoners bringing stamina, encouragement, and faith. May Your presence be palpable in each cell.

And we thank You, Father, for Your call upon the parish of All Saints, Bonavista to reach our in Your Name to these believing

prisoners. Bless them for their faithfulness, we pray. In the Name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY #26: Napanee to east Africa

St. Stephen Anglican Fellowship, Napanee, ON

— The Rev. David Smith, the Rev. John Coghlan, Canon Howard Edwards

(Canon Howard Edwards is the new Executive Director of ANiC and has been active in mission work in Tanzania for many years. One of these mission agencies is called ACrossMission)

What is this thing we call ACrossMission? ACrossMission is a response to God's persistent desire for His Word to be heard to the ends of the earth. ACrossMission is one opportunity for Christ-followers who live in the security and comfort of “the west” to say yes to God and to participate in His Mission among His people by providing monthly support to pastors who are willingly ministering in the face of poverty and persecution in East Africa.

In 2012, as I visited small rural Christian congregations in East Africa, God lead me to Christian pastors who live and work afflicted by material poverty and physical persecution. Yet, despite their suffering, they stood firm in the face of heresies, pagan traditions, abuse, illness, hunger, and ignorance as they steadfastly preached the Word of God – with hope and joy they proclaimed the Gospel where God had sent them.

Early on the morning I returned to Canada, I was standing in the morning rush hour of downtown Toronto. I was surrounded by wealth – commerce – God’s abundance. I watched as well-fed, well-dressed people, clutching their coffees and mumbling into their cell phones hurried toward their jobs. Then the odour from a nearby sewer grate reminded me of the humid African slum where I had stood mere hours before. I had stood outside a Church there, just as that crisp January morning on Bloor Street I stood outside the Church of the Redeemer.

That morning I was struggling to reconcile the Church magnificent to the Church wretched. I was struggling with the question posed by 1 John 3:17. A young woman came up beside me at the crosswalk. She was listening to music much too loudly, and the lyric blared from her earbuds – I knew the song: “**If** we are the body... why aren't His words teaching? And **if** we are the body... why is His love not showing?”

In my mind I could hear another question asked just a few days before: Our ministers need encouragement, they need your prayers, they need some help so they can stay in their ministry. They are hungry and they are sick. Will you remember them?

This became the mandate of ACrossMission – to remember them – to pray for them – to encourage them and to be the bridge that connects Christ’s followers in Canada to those ministers that God has placed on the frontlines of His Gospel mission in Africa.

How long can a man go hungry? How long do we expect him to go hungry before we act? Since I have known the Church in East Africa I have seen far too many men leave the ministry

hungry and sick, or dead. Young men in their 20's and 30's dying, yet thanking God even as they drew their final breaths. A decade later, after that January morning in downtown Toronto, I still struggle to reconcile the Church magnificent to the Church wretched... perhaps my struggle is the question, which is which? 1 John 3:17 again.

In the parable of the Loving Samaritan Jesus showed us the Way – God's answer to this question is constantly before our eyes: the wealth given into the hands of western Christians is God's help for those in need – in the hands of Christ followers are the resources given to supply the needs of those pastors who minister in poverty and persecution. This is what the early church heard Jesus saying in that parable – the Christian heart is not forced to provide for those in need – the Christian heart simply cannot be restrained; it overflows and is overwhelmed by the desire to Love.

The Christian heart is a heart that aches with compassion. Truly the Christian heart overflows with the desire to share God' Word, His Love and all God's blessings... of thine own have we given thee.

Since that morning, over 200 Christians in Canada and the USA have been blessed to support over 70 Gospel missions in poverty and persecution. Over 2000 Bibles have been placed in the hands of our new sisters and brothers in Christ. Over 30,000 gifts of food have been taken to poor homes, prisons, orphanages, hospitals and leprosy camps. We thank God and praise Him for the opportunity to stand with the pastors He has sent on mission. Visit our website: <https://www.acrossmission.org/> Or contact the Rev. Canon Howard Edwards at ACrossMission@gmail.com

Bible Reading: If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no compassion for them, how can the Love of God be in that person?

— 1 John 3:17

Praying Together Today: O God, for those of us who rarely, if ever, encounter real, life-threatening poverty, it is so hard to have any concept of the circumstances that so many believers in Christ face on a daily basis. Forgive us, we pray, for our neglect and for never having even considered the need to reconcile “the Church magnificent to the Church wretched”. We intercede on behalf of ACrossMission as they seek to provide essentials both for daily life and for Gospel ministry. Protect those that minister in Your Name from the assaults of the evil one, both in persecution and in attacks of doubt and discouragement. Thank You for Canon Howard’s poignant, challenging sharing and for bringing him to ANiC. In Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen

DAY #27: Ottawa to north Africa

St Peter and St. Paul’s, Ottawa ON

— Canon Brent Stiller and the Rev. Michelle Terwilleger
(Dale Edmonds–Mutcher – Missions Chair)

Larry Chico and his wife have been supported by our congregations for many years. We asked them to share their approach to ministry in foreign locations. As they note, these

guidelines can be as effective in North America as in foreign countries. Here are their key insights from the frontlines:

Over the course of more than 20 years, our family has worked alongside colleagues in the Middle East and North Africa connecting with our Muslim neighbours. We'd like to share a few insights.

It's important to keep in mind that these principles are relevant in Canada as well as abroad. The word "mission" in our time is not a very helpful word, considering all the distorted and colonial associations tied to it. It's more helpful to think and talk about apostolic ministry, and fruitful apostolic ministry will look like Jesus! Apostolic ministry, it's worth noting, will not significantly change when we cross a border to live in a different country.

Here are some principles that we'd like to share.

Be Authentic

We need to be transparent and honest about who we are. That means we communicate authentically that we are people of faith, but we are not manipulative or deceptive. One person put it well: "Be spiritually obvious but not religiously obnoxious".

Be Prayerful

One of the best things we can offer our non-Christian neighbours is sincere prayer out of a heart of love. We have found that Muslims in particular are very receptive to prayer offered for them.

Be Relevant

Our friends and neighbours need to know that the way of Christ has power and answers to the issues in their lives. When appropriate we can address their felt needs and aspirations. Many Muslims, for example, struggle with fear of demons and other unseen beings (“jinn” for example), fear death and the Day of Judgment. Many non-Christians find it challenging to deal with conflict and to forgive others.

Be Inquiring

While many non-Christians are resistant to preachy Christians, they can be very receptive to discussing faith, especially as part of a group. This is one reason why the Alpha Course is so successful. Offer to read the Bible with your friend (and especially his or her friends and family) and be prepared to be challenged and surprised by what happens!

Be Hospitable

In the New Testament we often see Jesus meeting with others over meals, where deep faith issues naturally came up. Practice hospitality as a host. But also be open to receiving hospitality as a guest! This kind of mutual hospitality opens many doors!

We would love to hear your comments and experiences as you apply these principles in connecting with your non-Christian neighbours. Write us at: chicosoverseas@gmail.com.

Bible Reading: But in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defence to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence

— 1Peter 3:15

Praying Together Today: Gracious Lord, we deeply thank You for Chico family and their commitment over many years to the sharing of the Gospel both in Canada and other nations. Thank You for the valuable insights that they have gleaned through decades of “apostolic ministry” and have shared with us here. Father, be Jehovah Jireh to them – meet their needs, be they temporal, emotional or spiritual. Prosper all that they set their hands to do. In the mighty Name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY #28: Montreal to Hawaii

St. Timothy’s Bible Church, Pointe-Claire QC

— The Rev. Daniel Endresen

Emma Gruetzner is the 2022 recipient of the Youth Global Mission Scholarship. Earlier in these pages Emma wrote about her two-and-a-half months on a mission team in Kenya. Here Emma writes about the Bible course she took after her time in Kenya. See the 5 minute video podcast of 20 year old Emma on the ANiC Facebook page or on the ANiC On Mission web page.

Emma writes: Since my return from Kenya, the Lord continued to fill me with a desire to read, study and teach the Bible, a desire that had not existed in the past. Over the course of the summer, I felt the Lord calling me to return to YWAM for a secondary school. This school is called the Bible Core Course (BCC) which is an all-intensive semester of Bible school.

In the BCC, we inductively study selected books of the Bible. Each week focuses on a different book, and we spend our days

attending classes, reading through the book in one sitting, thoroughly researching the context and background, interpreting the text and writing a student teaching at the end of the week. Over the past ten weeks we have studied the books of Jonah, Genesis, Deuteronomy, Kings, Amos, Isaiah, Mark, Acts, 1 Corinthians and Romans.

One of the most important things I have realized over these past few months is the importance of understanding the context of the Bible. This book was written for us, however the Bible was not written to us. It is addressed to ancient people, who had different worldviews, cultures, languages and possessed a very different understanding of life than we have today. It is so easy for us as modern day citizens to misinterpret the Bible, and so often we misinterpret the truth. Through studying the time period these books were written in, I have come to grasp a much better understanding of the Bible.

One thing that has been extremely life-changing in this season is my transformed perspective of the Old Testament. It is so easy to read this portion of the Bible and only see God's judgment. The God of the Old Testament seemed so full of vengeance and wrath to me in the past, contrasted with the loving and kind Jesus from the New Testament. However, upon further study of the Old Testament, I realized that behind every word is LOVE. God's every action, from His leading the Israelites out of Egypt to His words spoken through the prophets were all out of love. His sincere love and care for the Israelites throughout the Old Testament moved me so deeply.

This school has proved to be one of the most challenging academic courses I have ever taken, literally testing me to my very limit. Yet what a gift it has been to wake up early in the

morning, and study late into the night all for the purpose of knowing Christ better. I would say that so far, it has been completely life changing. The opportunity to be able to understand the Bible for myself and find my own answers is such a gift.

I have three weeks left before the semester is over, and I am so excited to see what the Lord is going to continue to do in my life and in the lives of others through this school. In the future, I see myself being involved in ministry in one way or another. I don't really know what that's going to look like as of now; however I do desire to work with youth, especially young women.

I am very passionate about teaching others the things I have learned in my own personal walk with Christ, to help strengthen their confidence and identity in the Lord. If that looks like getting a degree in psychology or something completely different, I'm trusting the Creator of the universe to guide me either way.

Bible Reading: The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young.

— Lamentations 3:25–27

Praying Together Today: Lord, we thank You that, as Your Word says, You do have plans for each of your children who desire to serve You. We ask your blessing upon Emma as she completes this intensive study of the Scriptures, and then waits upon You for the next steps in her ministry. Even when it is hard, "It is good to wait quietly" for Your direction and

guidance. Give her grace for the waiting process, we pray. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

DAY #29: Toronto to the Gambia

Christ the King, Toronto ON

— The Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor

Though quite recent, ANiC's involvement in "The Gambia Project" has been a blessing and a boon. Thank you so much. Our church's involvement emanates from the parish of Christ the King, Toronto, where Glen Taylor, a member and presently its interim rector, helped start the program and continues to promote it here in Canada.

Here is a short summary of the training of clergy and Christian leaders in a Muslim country. The Gambia is a small west African country of roughly 2 million people, more than 90% of whom are Muslim. Relations between Muslims and the small Christian population (roughly 5%) are refreshingly cordial. Take for example what the country's national University agreed to do in 2010— kickstart a Bachelor of Christian Religious Studies (CRS) program for its minority Christian population!

For a predominantly Muslim country to do such a thing is unique. Moreover, just as the university's longer-standing Islamic Studies program presumes and promotes Islamic faith and traditional teachings, so too Christian faith and orthodoxy are proactively fostered in the CRS program, which is taught by an all-Christian faculty. This makes it an ideal base for

training pastors for the church and teachers of Christianity for the public school system.

In just over 10 years since this Christian Religious Studies program began our graduates have key positions in the country. One of our graduates the Bishop of the Methodist church in the Gambia, another has a senior position in the ministry of Education, and another graduate is the deputy chief Chaplain to the Gambian armed forces.

The Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor, also a former Old Testament Professor at Wycliffe College, first became involved while on a short-term mission in the Gambia. Ever since 2018, when Glen joined Christ the King Toronto, others in ANiC—including bishops—have enthusiastically, supported the project through prayer and financial support. All of the donations are used to pay the tuition fees of students enrolled in the program. It costs \$C1000 per student per year for their studies. While this amount for a full year of University studies may seem modest to us, it is out of reach for most Gambians. So, thank you ANiC for your support!

Please pray for the following: the 38 students who have graduated and are now serving the Church in west Africa; the 32 students now in the program; the faculty (roughly 5 professors, 2 ex-pats, the rest indigenous) and the staff (especially Rev. Benjamin Michael, recruiter and field-coordinator). Pray for continued favour in the eyes of the government and university.

Pray for continued financial support for student bursaries and for a steady stream of students who will be able to pass the stringent University admission standards (in math and

English). Finally, pray for peace, justice, and political stability within the country.

For more information, feel free to contact Rev. Prof. Glen Taylor, glen@ctktoronto.com.

The following Bible passage from Matthew 7 is relevant because the Gambian Christians had been praying for years for such a program for them at the University.

Bible Reading: “Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or what man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

— Matthew 7: 7–11

Praying Together Today: How thrilling, Abba Father, to hear of the Gospel ministry occurring unhindered in a predominantly Moslem African country like the Gambia! We do praise You for the 38 graduates who are serving you now in west Africa. Prosper their work, Lord, with a rich harvest and protect them from the assaults of the evil one.

We also pray for the 32 current students and the school staff that you would provide for them, as You have promised in Your Word, the financial support required for them to complete their studies. Prepare them, Lord, for the adventure that lies before them, we pray. In Jesus’ mighty Name! Amen

DAY #30: Langley to Cuba

The Church of the Ascension, Langley BC

— Fr. Ken Deeks, Br. Deacon Richard Roberts

For several years now we have been partnered with St. Luke's church in the town of Venezuela in central Cuba and we have supported their pastor, the Rev. Pablo, his wife Meleisi and their two daughters.

This update just came in from the Rev. Pablo and we thought it would further spur us in prayer for our church partners in Cuba.

Rev. Pablo writes: our dear friends in the Lord: It has been a great joy for me to hear from you in Canada. I changed phones and lost my contacts. We have gone through complex family situations. On October 26, my wife's father died at the age of 62 because of dengue. She has suffered a lot since then.

The situation here has changed since the last visit by Bishop Charles & Claudia from Victoria. There are factors that strongly affect food shortages that generate inflation with high prices. There is no possible way that salaries can keep up, and on top of that, helping siblings with small children and elderly with few resources with our own salary. We have no heart to see so much misery and not to share bread with the hungry.

Another problem we have is the electrical energy we use every 3 and a half hours the electric grid goes out. On top of that, the turbine that supplies the town water broke and we have been without water for more than 17 days. We load water in buckets

from the truck that bring it to us. But you have to carry it from the street to the house in buckets. I'm in pain from carrying so much water.

There is a great shortage of medicine if you are going to have surgery you have to take/supply all the medical supplies. There are no antibiotics.

Transportation is very difficult. There is no fuel. This is the reality we live in. We miss you, my wife and I talked this week that when Claudia last came to our house the bush of horquidia was blooming and you put a flower over your ear. We remember the way of conducting your pastoral care and your concern for the clergy. Always concerned and occupied in our needs and of our congregations that were and are yours also fruit of the episcopal care of Bishop Charles and of you his most faithful companion in this great work.

We love you and carry you in our hearts and miss you. God bless you! — The Rev Pablo Ulloa Cabellero and his wife Meleisi.

Bible Reading: And the crowds asked Jesus, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

— Luke 3: 9–11

Praying Together Today: O Lord, our hearts are broken as we read of the clergy in Cuba and how they and their people are suffering. We pray that you will be a very present help to them in their time of need. And we pray that you will guide us as to how best to be of assistance so that our abundance can

meet their needs. We ask all of this in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.



Youth Mission Scholarship

In 2023 we are offering two scholarships of \$1000 each for youth under the age of 25 years who will be on a cross-cultural mission team. Visit the On Mission web page [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.

A Parish Mission Committee

Check List

- establish a mission's committee which reports to the Parish Board or to Vestry
- appoint a chairperson who has a heart for missions
- allocate a percentage of the annual budget to outreach & missions (local, national and international)
- ask for quarterly reports from the parish mission's committee
- prayerfully select a limited number of mission projects which connect with your church members
- communicate with your overseas partners each month
- share mission reports with your congregation each month
- seek creative ways to engage children & families in support of your mission projects
- mission committee members pray daily for the projects
- include prayer for the mission projects in the Sunday intercessions regularly
- through the year host representatives of the mission agencies in the parish (or by video)
- fundraise in creative ways

- don't be afraid to ask the hard questions about effectiveness, use of resources and accountability (see also 7 Habits of an Effective Missions Committee)

Anglican Relief & Development Fund–C (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:**



The Anglican Relief and
Development Fund Canada

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.

These trustees are all global Anglican leaders, including Baroness Caroline Cox, Archbishop Foley Beach, and six Global South Anglican Primates.

**** 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.

**** Proven trusteeship:**

ARDF-C was launched in the spring of 2010 and already, with God's help and the generous support of people across Canada, we have been able to direct \$180,000 to fund four projects on three continents. Total ARDF investments (from Canada, United States, and Australia) has been \$4.9 million in 106 completed projects. In addition, the ARDF was able to send \$1.5 million in emergency assistance to meet urgent disaster relief needs. With the recent launch of ARDF-Australia, we are able to do even more to alleviate suffering and offer health, hope and dignity in Jesus' name.

— Michael Tweedle
Executive Director ARDF-C

Asian & Multicultural Ministries

Under the leadership of Bishop Stephen Leung, the Asian & Multicultural Ministries in Canada (AMMiC) – a ministry of the Anglican Network in Canada launched in November 2009 – is a mission to facilitate the development and growth of Asian and multicultural Christian churches in Canada at a time when the country is experiencing phenomenal growth of visibly minority

populations, particularly Asian immigrants. The most neglected of these Asian immigrants are:

- The many marginalized immigrants with poor language skills and low-paying jobs
- The growing number of transnational mainland Chinese satellite families

AMMiC seeks to ground and nurture the multicultural and Asian-Canadian Christian communities in the Biblical faith as they face the challenges posed by western secularism and post-modernism and wrestle with the meaning and significance of their cultural heritage. AMMiC has been training clergy and planting churches.

AMMiC also seeks to build partnerships among Asian-Canadian churches in order to mutually enrich, support and challenge one another in Gospel witness. For more information or to donate to AMMiC visit their website:

Cuba Church Planting with the REC

There are now several ANiC churches which are partnered with parishes in Cuba. Their main role is the assist with clergy salaries and provide encouragement. The ANiC churches now in active partnerships are:

- Holy Cross, Abbotsford BC: Bishop Willian and Diocesan administration
- St. Matthews, Abbotsford BC: The Theological College and Students.
- Celebration Church, Barrie ON: St. Marco, Moa

- Church of our Lord, Victoria BC: Archdeacon Alexi
- St. Mathew's, Gander NF: Deacon Rolando Roman Garcia
- Church of the Resurrection, Brandon MB (beginning in 2022): Lay Reader Angel Batista
- Church of the Holy Cross, Abbotsford BC: Rev. Ramiro Godales Mendoza
- Open Gate Church, Victoria BC: Rev. Franklin Hamilton Smith
- St. Timothy's, Montreal QC: Rev. Miguel Armando
- Church of the Ascension, Langley BC and Archdeacon Paul & the Rev. Ann Crossland: Rev. Pablo Ulloa Cabellero
- St. Matthew's Abbotsford BC: Rev. Claudio Otero Costafreda
- Grace Church, Calgary AB: Rev. Yudel Perez Valdes

In March of this year two members of the Cuba Council will fly to Holguin Cuba to deliver medicine and other supplies.

If you or your parish would like to be involved in this Cuba partnership please contact Canon Barclay Mayo at

GAFcon 2023 — Kigali, Rwanda

What is GAFcon? GAFcon' stands for Global Anglican Future Conference.

The Gafcon movement is a global family of authentic Anglicans standing together to retain and restore the Bible to the heart of the Anglican Communion. Our mission is to guard the unchanging, transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ and to proclaim Him to the world. We are founded on the Bible, bound together by the Jerusalem [Statement](#) and [Declaration](#) of 2008,

and led by a [Primates Council](#), which represents the majority of the world's Anglicans.

Gafcon works to guard and proclaim the unchanging, transforming Gospel through biblically faithful preaching and teaching which frees our churches to make disciples by clear and certain witness to Jesus Christ in all the world.

The Gafcon journey began in 2008 when moral compromise, doctrinal error and the collapse of biblical witness in parts of the Anglican communion had reached such a level that the leaders of the majority of the world's Anglicans felt it was necessary to take a united stand for truth. A crowd of more than one thousand witnesses, including Primates, Archbishops, Bishops, clergy and lay leaders gathered in Jerusalem for the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON).

The fourth Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) will be held at the Kigali Conference Centre, Rwanda, in April 2023.

As the worldwide church moves into the 2020s, there is increasing pressure to look for life's answers in many places; there are certainly many voices offering suggestions to us as individuals and as a church. But **to whom shall we go?**

Firstly, we should go to Jesus, as He is revealed to us in God's unchanging, inspired Word, not picking and choosing the bits that suit our own purposes or that help us to fit comfortably into our society. We should then go to the Church, to encourage each other with God's Word, to live and grow with our fellow brothers and sisters, under God's direction.

Finally, we are to go to the world, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life as revealed to us in that same unchanging Word.

There will be an ANiC team going to GAFcon in Rwanda in April, including, Bishop Dan Gifford, Canon Brian McVitty, Canon Howard Edwards and others. It will be an important opportunity to connect with our global mission partners. Your prayers are much appreciated



This ON MISSION 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 Diane’s personal experience of intense cancer treatments. 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)

“Facing Cancer” is available on Amazon and Kobo.





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.

Beginning on January 23rd use this book as a 30 day count down to Lent (and a way to celebrate World Mission Sunday on February 5th). Or 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.

“This book is a window into our international relationships which will give you a deeper sense of the marvellous work that God is doing in His world through church families across ANiC . I heartily commend this book to you and encourage you to use it in the weeks before Lent.”

— **Bishop Dan Gifford (Anglican Network in Canada)**

we are
ON MISSION
globally