

BY GEORGE

157 Years

A MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC)

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Open your
eyes and look
at the fields!
They are ripe
for harvest.

John 4:35b



We are So Blessed!



Some of my earliest memories are from church, singing songs and choruses. One of those choruses comes to mind as I write this Thanksgiving message. It may seem “twee”, but wisdom often hides in simplicity.

Count your blessings,

Name them one-by-one.

Count your many blessings,

See what God has done.

You probably couldn't resist the urge to sing it, if you know the song. And now it will be on repeat in your head for the rest of the day.

Thanksgiving is not just a day. Being thankful is the motivation of the Christian life.

There are, however, many competing motivations seeking to displace our thank-

fulness. Entitlement, apathy, and pessimism are but a few.

Entitlement inoculates against thanksgiving. If your sentences and thoughts include the words “should have”, you will not be thankful. Lives lived out of a sense of entitlement will never be happy lives because even the blessings received are only satisfying minimum requirements. Entitlement, at its core, is really just a manifestation of self-sufficiency. As long as you see yourself as a self-made man or woman, you will never be thankful.

Apathy will never lead to thanksgiving. Numbness and a “whatever” attitude rob us of the joy of thanksgiving. Apathy sucks the meaning out of simple joys. Don't miss the profound beauty in the simple pleasures of life, like a timely word from a

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friend or the moment when your child reaches out to hold your hand.

Our thoughts and energies are wasted bracing for an inevitably bad outcome. But the opposite of pessimism isn't optimism. For the Christian, the opposite of pessimism is hope and faith. Optimism is cheap and thin. The writer to the Hebrews calls Christian hope and faith an "anchor for the soul" [Hebrews 6:19]. Hope and faith in a good and strong God rescues us from the peril of pessimism and leads us to thanksgiving.

What other motivations seek to rob us of the joy of thanksgiving? They all compete for your heart.

A thankful heart must be cultivated and nurtured. It doesn't happen by accident, nor do you become thankful by simply deciding to be thankful. That will not last. True thankfulness is formed when you take stock of your life and take stock of your God.

What if James was right when he said that, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" [James 1:17]. Imagine how that perspective would change your life.

I am certain that was what Paul had in mind when he asked, "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that

God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? [Romans 2:4]" God has inclined His unmerited goodness toward you and me. Every breath, every heartbeat, your family, your friends, gainful employment, rest and recreation; these are all good gifts from our good God. They do not serve the primary purpose of our comfort. Rather they display the character of our God. He is good to us. In return we acknowledge His goodness, reorient our lives; turning from entitlement, apathy and pessimism to lives shaped by thanksgiving and gratitude.

Ultimately God's goodness is extended to us in the person of Jesus. You knew I was going to say that, but it had to be said. Other good things come and go. Some day our hearts will stop and our breath will cease. At times family and friends let us down. Yet, God's goodness is unwavering because the gospel says, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [John 3:16]" God's goodness means that you and I will never perish but have eternal life.

When you take time to ponder that, you will say with Paul, "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift! [2 Cor. 9:15]"

Take a moment, right now, to count your blessings. It may seem trite, but actually name them, one-by-one. Notice how your heart shifts from entitlement, apathy and pessimism to thankful.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ray David Glenn

Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest

opportunities

E100 Challenge

E100 refers to a list of 100 essential passages in the Bible, 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. These passages have been arranged in themes to study over 20 weeks with 5 readings a week. There is a Bible Study Guide and a Discussion Guide that could be used in small groups or Sunday School classes. There is also a planner to track your readings. Please have a look at www.e100challenge.ca.

We are prayerfully considering how we can best implement the E100 Challenge at St. George's. It is anticipated that we would start the challenge as a church in January.

On a personal note, I'm curious to see what themes were chosen, what passages made it into the "Essential 100" and which ones didn't. I can't wait to get started on this.

See me if you have any comments or suggestions.

Dyanna Lewis

Women of St. George's

You are invited to St George's Women's Fellowship.

DATE: Thursday, October 17

LOCATION & TIME: 2—4 pm in the Bistro Room, Crossroads

SPEAKER: the Rev'd Marion Karasiuk

Marion is a dynamic and courageous Christian who dares to speak out and to get involved. She has had a street ministry and a prison ministry. Marion was recently ordained and is involved in an outreach ministry to international students, working with the Rev'd Melvin Tai at Christ the Redeemer in Toronto. She is a gifted speaker. Do come and hear Marion's message. You will be blessed!

Traditional Evensong

There will be a Traditional Evensong service, complete with choir, on Advent Sunday, December 1st, 2013. Mark your calendar.



to send out laborers into his harvest.



Fall Youth Retreat **Friday to Saturday, October 25, 26**

THEME: Who is Lord of your future?

AGES: 12—18 [Youth group leaders are also welcome to attend.]

COST: Youth \$ 50; Adults \$65 [sponsorships are available. Please contact us about this.]

LOCATION: Faith Mission, 10463 2nd Line, Campbellville, ON.

Expect great worship, relevant sharing, fun outdoor activities, hang in' out with old and new friends, excellent food!

Please encourage your young people to make this event a high priority! There are so many demands of time and energy from our teens. It is essential that their spiritual lives are not neglected.

If you have any questions about the retreat or how to register, please call the church office (905 335 6222) or email Garth Hunt [prayer@anglicannetwork.ca].

ANIC MEN'S RETREAT

The ANiC churches of Southern Ontario are having a Men's Weekend, entitled "A Band of Brothers" on November 8th to 9th at Faith Mission. The speakers will be Brian McVitty, Celebration Church, Barrie, and Garth Hunt, St. George's. Whether you attended the last one in 2012, please make this event a high priority for your family's sake and for your own sake. The fellowship will be rich, the worship dynamic, the teaching encouraging, and the food fabulous. Watch the website for more details to follow.

International day of prayer for the persecuted church

November 10 is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. The theme this year is "Present sufferings, future glory". The website states: "...more than 200 million are suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. Each year, Christians in more than 130 countries stand in prayer with our persecuted sisters and brothers through the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Join with us as Christians across Canada unite for our brothers and sisters who suffer because they declare their faith in Christ."

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

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looking back— looking forward

[Do you recall the momentous GLOBAL ANGLICAN FUTURE CONFERENCE in Jerusalem in 2008? A number of delegates from our parish went to Jerusalem to that conference. This month the second Global Anglican Future Conference will meet in Nairobi, Kenya. This conference is certainly of utmost importance to the future of Anglicanism.



Our pastor Ray David will attend GAFCON and indeed has been invited to be on the staff. We must without fail pray for him, for the whole Canadian delegation, and for a courageous, faithful and united witness to the Gospel there.

To set the stage for GAFCON 2, and to highlight the importance of this conference to every person in an Anglican church and particularly in an ANiC church, we excerpt some of the memories of that first GAFCON conference written for By George by Jenny and Keith Stodart. For the whole of that article see By George, Volume 24, issue 5, midsummer, 2008. eds.]

GAFCON 2008

. . . “1148 people, laity, clergy, and global Anglican leaders, representing the 34 million people of the Anglican Communion who adhere to the historic Apostolic teaching of the Gospel, gathered in the place where the Church was born, to discuss our way forward.

The conference schedule was admirably designed to lead us through the history of salvation from Genesis to Revelation, and through Anglican history right up to today. Daily worship, Bible study, plenary sessions, focus sessions, and workshops were arranged to take us on a trajectory of meditation and discussion about the truth of the Gospel, all leading us to the final statement of the next steps (the “Futures”) that we must take in response to God’s call to continue in the way of Apostolic faith. . . .

On the final day, our worship and Bible exposition were on the theme of “The Throne of God” – **Archbishop Yong Ping Chung** spoke a challenging and exhilarating word on Revelation 21. And then the wondrous moment when the Final Statement was read out. Many parts of it were greeted with shouts of joy and singing. When we

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to send out laborers into his harvest.



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were asked if it would serve, the whole conference erupted in an even more joyful expression of overwhelming approval. We had what we wanted – a plan for moving forward in orthodox Anglicanism, led by committed Primates. The Conference has become a movement for renewal of the Global Communion. We have approval to form a North American Province as soon as we can [the Anglican Church of North America formed in 2009], and we are part of a 34 million-strong fellowship of true believers. . . .

As well as the memories noted above, we remember the passion with which **Peter Akinola** preached at the opening plenary. This is no idle tourist outing hidden in the guise of a conference; this is real; this is history; this is the “choose this day” moment for Global Anglicanism.” !!!

GAFCON 2 is another “choose this day” moment for Global Anglicanism!



GAFCON BISHOPS 2008

The Jerusalem Declaration

“In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit:

We, the participants in the Global Anglican Future Conference, have met in the land of Jesus’ birth. We express our loyalty as disciples to the King of kings, the Lord Jesus. We joyfully embrace his command to proclaim the reality of his kingdom which he first announced in this land. The gospel of the kingdom is the good news of salvation, liberation and transformation for all. In light of the above, we agree to chart a way forward together that promotes and protects the biblical gospel and mission to the world, solemnly declaring the following tenets of orthodoxy which underpin our Anglican identity.

We rejoice in the gospel of God through which we have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Because God first loved us, we love him and as believers bring forth fruits of love, ongoing repentance, lively hope and thanksgiving to God in all things.

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God written and to contain all things necessary for salvation. The Bible is to be translated, read,

Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest

preached, taught and obeyed in its plain and canonical sense, respectful of the church's historic and consensual reading.

We uphold the four Ecumenical Councils and the three historic Creeds as expressing the rule of faith of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We uphold the Thirty-nine Articles as containing the true doctrine of the Church agreeing with God's Word and as authoritative for Anglicans today.

We gladly proclaim and submit to the unique and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, humanity's only Saviour from sin, judgement and hell, who lived the life we could not live and died the death that we deserve. By his atoning death and glorious resurrection, he secured the redemption of all who come to him in repentance and faith.

We rejoice in our Anglican sacramental and liturgical heritage as an expression of the gospel, and we uphold the 1662 Book of Common Prayer as a true and authoritative standard of worship and prayer, to be translated and locally adapted for each culture.

We recognize that God has called and gifted bishops, priests and deacons in historic succession to equip all the people of God for their ministry in the world. We uphold the classic Anglican Ordinal as an authoritative standard of clerical orders.

We acknowledge God's creation of humankind as male and female and the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family. We repent of our failures to maintain this standard and call for a renewed commitment to lifelong fidelity in marriage and abstinence for those who are not married.

We gladly accept the Great Commission of the risen Lord to make disciples of all nations, to seek those who do not know Christ and to baptize, teach and bring new believers to maturity.

We are mindful of our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, to uphold and advocate justice in society, and to seek relief and empowerment of the poor and needy.

We are committed to the unity of all those who know and love Christ and to building authentic ecumenical relationships. We recognize the orders and jurisdiction of those Anglicans who uphold orthodox faith and practice, and we encourage them to join us in this declaration.

We celebrate the God-given diversity among us which enriches our global fellowship, and we acknowledge freedom in secondary matters. We pledge to work together to seek the mind of Christ on issues that divide us.

We reject the authority of those churches and leaders who have denied the orthodox faith in word or deed. We pray for them and call on them to repent and return to the Lord.

We rejoice at the prospect of Jesus' coming again in glory, and while we await this final event of history, we praise him for the way he builds up his church through his Spirit by miraculously changing lives.



to send out laborers into his harvest.



GAFCON 2, Nairobi, Kenya, October 21–26



Archbishop Peter Jensen,
General Secretary of the
Global Fellowship of
Confessing Anglicans and one
of the key organizers of
GAFCON 2013.

The Second Global Anglican Future Conference will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, 21st-26th October 2013. The focus will be on our shared Anglican future, as we engage with the missionary theme, ‘Making Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.’

The first conference, GAFCON 2008, was held in Jerusalem. GAFCON gave birth to a movement, the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. The aims of the GFCA are to proclaim and defend the apostolic gospel within and beyond the Anglican Communion and to recognize and share fellowship with orthodox Anglicans globally, especially those who have been disaffiliated by false teaching and behaviour.

We continue to face the triple challenge of sceptical secularism, militant religion and compromised Christianity. GAFCON 2013 has been summoned so that GFCA can help both

plan for and experience the future of the Communion of which we, with many others, are part.

The invited delegates, laity, clergy and bishops, are united by their commitment to the Jerusalem Declaration and Statement as well as the aims of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. They will assemble to listen to God, to pray, to deliberate, and to plan about the Anglican future, seeing it as a great spiritual and missionary fellowship, energized by the defence and proclamation of the gospel.

The General Secretary of the GFCA, Archbishop Peter Jensen said, ‘God is establishing new churches creating new believers and transforming lives. Our hope for the future is in him. Our aim is to move forward confidently, to plan and experience in fellowship a future for Anglicans in which his Word is honoured and our witness is clear. We are looking forward with great expectation to seeing God at work as we meet in Nairobi.’

Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest

harvest time coming

Jesus told many parables that are uncomfortably compelling. He directed them to each one of us. The parable of the sower and the harvest is particularly compelling; it is directed to me and it is directed to you. [Matthew 13: 1 – 23; Mark 4: 1 – 12; Luke 8: 4 – 10]. It is a parable about my life, a parable about your life. We do well to listen carefully. Jesus said, “He who has ears, let him hear.” We all have ears. He is urging us to listen, to listen deeply for our good.

All of us, whether avid gardeners or not, have witnessed the seed lying useless on the path, or the plant that had begun growing enthusiastically now shriveled up in the beating sun, or the poor little plant choked and crowded out by the thistles and weeds, and or maybe even sometimes the plant loaded down with fruit.

The seed is the Word of God. It is life and power. We can ignore the words of people. But when God speaks, we must make sure that we not only hear, but that we really hear. There is nothing more precious than to hear God speak to us. We cannot, for our very life, dare to let God’s Word be “in one ear and out the other.” It is dreadful to contemplate that the evil one is just lying in wait to snatch the precious Word of Life from my heart.

God’s Word is meant to bring me to the Saviour, to teach me, and to change me. I am going to make sure that I understand it and that I hold it fast. Good times, bad times, I am not going to let it go. Whatever the cost of truly hearing Jesus speak, I am not going to let go. There is going to be a softness in me, plenty of soft soil in me, roto-tilled and re-tilled, for God’s Word to root itself deeply in my heart.

We brought nothing into the world and we can carry nothing out. How foolish of us to focus our energy, our attention, and our resources on what cannot last. How foolish to have been given a life, a precious life, and to be deceived by the world into squandering precious time on what is actually emptiness, transitory and eternally empty.

This parable is about fruitfulness, about a fruitful life. How sad to have a life that is nothing but leaves, no fruit come to maturity. What a dreadful waste of a life! We want our lives to matter. We want them to count. We want them to be fruitful. This seed that Jesus is telling us about is a powerhouse of fruitfulness. What other seed can bring forth fruit a hundredfold? That’s huge! There is no other seed of such power.

There is no other word that matters eternally. No other word is God’s Word to me. No other word is a saving word except the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. Acts 4: 12, speaking of Jesus, says that “there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”. No other word in this world has the power to save me not just for this life but forever. No other word has the power to transform my life, to root itself deep in my soul and bring forth fruit to God’s glory.

This word is a treasure! God speaks a saving Gospel to me! I have ears and I am going to hear!

Mary Ann Masters



to send out laborers into his harvest.



His Harvest

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” [Luke 10:2 ESV].

Every fall I think about these words from Jesus. It is our Lord’s one prayer request. Jesus looked out over the world and across the centuries and saw no shortage of souls ready for the harvest. While sending 72 workers out into the harvest, Jesus—in the same breath—instructed them to pray earnestly for more laborers. In this moment we see a pattern for our own lives and ministry at St. George’s.

Every follower of Jesus has a two-fold ministry. First, when it comes to the harvest of souls, Jesus empowers and releases us to labor in His fields — in the world around us. Maybe this harvest season you would reflect on your own life and ask the question, “What am I doing for the Lord?” Has His great love for you and His miraculous gift of salvation led you to respond in loving service? Are you like the 72 that Jesus sent out into the “fields”, or are you still sitting idle? Are you in the game or warming a bench on the sidelines?

Take a look at your life and at the needs around you. A prayerful evaluation of your own gifts, talents and abilities, combined with an equally prayerful assessment of the needs in your church, in your family and in your community, can develop a laborer’s heart. We truly begin to live out our life’s purpose when God-given gifting meets with Spirit inspired calling to serve.

One word of caution — too often Christian service can be motivated by guilt or even a desire to earn the favor of the Lord. Nothing could be more perverse. God’s favor is bestowed on His children unmerited. Then the call to engage in service is all response to such great, undeserved love.

Firstly, the Master calls each Christian to be a laborer in His field.

Second, the Lord asks each laborer to pray. Imagine, Jesus asks a prayer request of you, of me, and of all disciples throughout the ages. See what He asks us to pray. He does not ask us to pray that the labor would be fruitful; He knows that the success of Christian service rests in the power of the Spirit who inspires the work. Instead, He calls us to pray for more laborers.

Our Lord’s word in Luke 10 comes frequently to mind. I have been praying this prayer for us at St. George’s. We have seen new families join our parish family over the past year or so. It takes a few months for newcomers to find their way around the ministries and to get to know their new church family. I am praying that this harvest season

Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest

would see many newcomers to St. George's called to be laborers in the fields. Consider what gifts and talents the Lord has given you and prayerfully watch for things that need to be done.

Secondly, the Master calls each Christian to pray for more laborers.

I trust and pray that each of us would find fruitful ministry in the church and in the world. I pray that we would be motivated to respond to God's rich love for us, in Christ Jesus, by rolling up our sleeves and laboring in the Master's fields. I also pray that every disciple of Jesus would hear His prayer request and take seriously the responsibility to pray for more laborers.

Open your eyes, look around. The harvest is plentiful. Labor and pray.

Ray David Glenn

Love the Village— Prayer Week

On the week of October 7—14, we are going to the streets to pray for the renewal of Alton Village, our new church community. We will walk every street and pray for God's blessing on this community. We have created a list of every street in Alton Village and on our website you have the opportunity to sign up to pray for a single street. We are asking that you walk that street once during the week and pray every day for the people who live along it. This way every street and every person in Alton Village will be covered in prayer.

An ARDFC Update

By the time we go to print, Christ the King Toronto along with Moderator Right Reverend Don Harvey will have hosted a evening **with Pastor Mauricio Coelho from the Diocese of Recife in Brazil.**

Pastor Mauricio is a priest who worked hard in the Diocese of Recife for many years. He worked with the late Bishop Robinson Cavalcante during the troubling years when the Diocese broke with the Province of Brazil. The story of the growth of the Diocese is remarkable and Pastor Mauricio shares with us the challenges and the victories.

ARDFC [Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada] the official relief and development arm of ANiC is currently active in completing a project of building a vocational center in the Diocese. Pastor Mauricio also shares an update on this project.

For more information contact Claus Lenk [clenk@christthekingtoronto.ca]



to send out laborers into his harvest.

**St. George's Anglican Church,
Lowville,
member congregation of the
Anglican Network in Canada
and part of
the Anglican Church in North America**

Rector: the Rev'd Ray David Glenn

Honorary Assistants:

the Rev'd Garth Hunt

the Rev'd Peter Parent

the Rev'd Keith Stodart

the Rev'd Deacon Ray Smith

Worship/Media Pastor: Bryan Hunt

Exec. Administrator: Gillian Fernie

Ministry Coordinator: Naomi Neeb

Church Secretary: Donna Rigo

**Crossroads Centre Chapel, 1295
North Service Road, Burlington**

**8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy
Communion**

**10:15 family service, nursery and Sunday
school**

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The Parable of the Growing Seed

And he said, "The Kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Mark 4:26—29