

# BY GEORGE

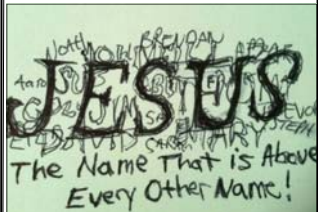


A MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC)

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*And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*



## LENT



I was speaking with a man recently who was raised in a church that observed the liturgical calendar period. He continued to attend that church as an adult, practicing the regular patterns of devotion for each season. This same man was recently converted to Christ over the course of a year, or so, of worshipping at St. George's. He told me that Lent was far more significant before his conversion. I asked why. He said Lent was the 40 days in the year that he really focused on spirituality. Now, discipleship is a high value every day.

In one sense, we ought always to be engaged in Lent-like disciplines. Having said that, there is still something rich about preparing to celebrate Jesus' triumph over death on Easter Sunday.

Maybe that's the best way for a Christian to think of and practice Lent.

Treat these next forty days as preparation for Easter.

An Anglican friend of mine from Texas has written a Lenten

guide called "LENT: A Journey of Discovery by Addition, Subtraction, and Introspection".

It is a daily devotional guide built around weekly Lenten themes meant to create momentum on the Lenten journey towards Easter. Each day includes a passage of Scripture, a meditation and a question to focus our thoughts and hearts on Jesus and His resurrection.

This guide is available from the church office.

May I encourage you and your family to use it as a resource and conversation piece around the dinner table or during a car ride.

I pray that Lent 2013 will be a time of sincere preparation for Easter. I also pray that Lent is not the only season you will take time to tend to your soul or to consider how your faith in Jesus translates into your everyday life.

Jesus is Master over life and death. He ought to be Master over our lives 365 days of the year and not in Lent only.

I pray for a blessed Lenten season.

*Ray David Glenn*



## ***A Lenten Pastoral Letter from Bishop Don***

My dear Friends in Christ:

I am writing this in Toronto after spending a glorious weekend "celebrating" with our Celebration Church in Barrie as they move into their third year of celebrating their call from Christ to come out and witness to the Faith that is so sustaining to them. Earlier in the week we had a very wonderful couple of days of renewal and refreshment with our clergy in the Toronto area, and on Saturday a very spirit-filled morning as some 73 men from the area gathered together for a Prayer Breakfast. On Sunday evening, many of us were able to congregate at Christ the King in downtown Toronto for the ordination of two young deacons who became Priests in Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

These activities of coming together do much to restore and boost our spiritual batteries both as individuals and within our church families as well. We are reminded that while we bear one another's burdens, we also have the opportunity to share our mutual joys. Such events long will be remembered and we are so grateful that there are some areas where our geographic locations permit such times of refreshment.

When I unpacked my luggage last night I discovered that in my haste to get from one engagement to another, I had carelessly left the package containing all of my medications back at the Rector's home in Barrie. It was only when I no longer had them, that I fully realized just how much I was depending on some of these pills for my continued good health.

Like many, if not most of you, my medicine needs consist of a number of things which, though probably desirable, are non essential to my immediate well being. If I still want them, I can get them over the counter of almost any pharmacy. However, there are others that have been prescribed by a doctor and must be taken at regular times and with proper dosages or illness is likely to occur. Many of you know just how important it is to take blood pressure medications, for example, on a consistently regular basis or we may find ourselves not feeling well and probably in store for big trouble.

But is it not the same for our spiritual lives? We all have our own "prescriptions" in order to advance and come closer to Our Lord on a daily basis. Some of our aids are like the supplements we take, not essential yet very helpful. Others, though, are critical, and without them our times at prayer and meditation can become dry, listless, and even depressing.

*We esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*

Just as few of us have exactly the same medical needs, so each of our spiritual journeys is distinctive and hand-tailored to suit where we are in our relationship to Christ and to one another. As they say, one size rarely fits all.

Yet we all need the "basics", found in prayer, sacraments, and spiritual exercises. Many of you have Spiritual Directors, prayer groups or clusters of people who share your desires and needs and with whom you feel as one when you pray. Above all, we are called upon to "bear one another's burdens" as we constantly intercede for one another.

Lent certainly is a time for us to re-examine our spiritual medications and see what they are doing for us. Do some of our aids need to be increased or do some of them now need to be replaced with something completely different to meet our present situation? In other words, we need time for self examination - from which can come further action. Jesus took such time for prayer and reflection when he went into the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry; and as we commemorate that period of time we call Lent, we strive to build up the spiritual stamina for the next challenge or temptation that comes our way.

This Lent, I call upon you to do two things.

As individuals, allow a deliberate time each day for silence. It is not an easy request in our talkative society, but it is only through this gift that can hear that "still, small voice" that the world, the flesh and the devil is so anxious to drown out. Surely, it is as important to listen to Him as it is to speak to Him.

As parishes, I am calling on every congregation in our Diocese, to take on some special activity or study, or prayer time, during the Lenten period. It may be something new, or simply intensifying something you already are doing.

And, since this will be my last Lenten Pastoral to you, I would be touched if someone from each congregation dropped me an email, telling me what you attempted and what was accomplished.

May this be a Blessed Season for us all as day by day we move towards the Joy of Easter.

***+Donald***

Your Bishop and Moderator



*He shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.*



## **ANIC Regional Assembly for Eastern Canada**

**At the Crossroads Centre**

**April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Hosted by St. George's**

By holding a regional assembly, it is anticipated that more ANIC members will be able to participate in the worship, fellowship and spiritual teaching offered than at a national synod.

The theme for the assembly is based on the verse “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ” – Colossians 1:28 ESV

Keynote speaker is Bishop Tito Zavala, Primate of the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone.

Opening Eucharist: 7:00 p.m., April 17, at Crossroads

Please mark these dates in your calendar and pray about how you can serve and participate. More info will become available in the weekly bulletins.

**Louise LePage**

*We esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted*

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## White

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Lately, I have been thinking a lot about the colour white. I love decorating shows and magazines and am always drawn to the use of white in decorating, especially in bedrooms. White is so crisp, clean, bright and spacious. I, like many people, work hard in doing my laundry to make sure my whites are really white, and we have just the laundry detergent to make that happen. We are encouraged to make sure our teeth are as white as they can be. One cannot think of white without thinking of a bride on her wedding day. It doesn't seem right, no matter how modern we become, to have any other dress than one that is white.


The fact that I am so drawn to the colour white, is no more evident than in my love of snow, which I have loved since I was a little girl. When a glimmering layer of white covers the earth and settles on the bare trees, all seems so right with the world. Such was the day, Saturday, February 9th, the day after a snow storm had deposited 25 to 30 centimetres on southern Ontario. I woke up that morning with the sun peaking its way through the blinds in my room and I knew it was going to be a glorious day. I was not disappointed. What had been a dull, grey world, just two short days ago, was brilliantly white with the bright blue sky as a backdrop. I could not wait to get outside and ventured out, making sure I had my big snow boots, capable of tromping through snowdrifts and my camera to capture some of this sparkling day and bring it home with me. I was greeted by a glittering, white world that was alive with winter-clad people just as drawn to this white world as I. It was as close to perfection that I had ever experienced. It seemed like Heaven.

This brings a verse to mind from Isaiah, probably my favourite book in the Bible. Particularly in the beginning chapters of this monumental book, we see God's heart breaking over His people who have strayed from Him and we hear Him plead with them to turn back to Him. Verse 18 of Chapter One says, "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." How appropriate is this as we embark on yet another Lent season. A few weeks ago, Ray David, in his sermon, spoke about how Christ has imparted His perfect record to us who have put our faith in Him. A famous hymn puts it this way: "Dressed in His righteousness alone faultless to stand before the throne." This goes far beyond trying to keep our whites white. Just think about it. How possible is it to take a garment stained with scarlet and make it white? This is the true picture of what Christ has done for the stain of sin. He has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west. Jerry Gillis, of The Chapel at Crosspoint, says the sin will not intersect with us again.

This truth really struck home with me one day as I was studying my health textbook. I did a quiz to determine how happy I was and came to the question which asked if I had any regrets. To my surprise, without even having to think



*He shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.*

 about it, I said, “No.” This was interesting in that I could clearly look back on my life and see that I had made many choices that were wrong as well as quite a few mistakes in judgement that led me on detours from God's perfect will.

It was at this point I realized anew that it is really true that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness as 1 John 1:9 says. Ray David had said in the same sermon that one sin would be enough to condemn us, but as Garth taught us on the first Sunday of Lent, there is no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. We have a clean slate!

Jerry Gillis said, in one of his sermons, that though we many think we want justice from God, we really don't. We want and need His grace. This is the whiteness we can experience. God's grace has done this. However, as Oswald Chamber says in “My Utmost for His Highest,” this whiteness is not something we work at to achieve. He says, “As long as our eyes are on our own personal whiteness, we shall never get near the reality of Redemption. Workers break down because their desire is for their own whiteness and not for God.” It only works when God gives it to us and I am so thankful for that as one who, as a child, used to think being a Christian was working hard to make sure I was clean and white and that I was required to scrub out the dirty spots in addition to confessing my sin.

What is more, is that though we may walk through our Christian journey with a limp from the sins that we have fallen in and have to deal with the consequences, God redeems the damage sin has caused as well. “I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,” (Joel 2:25). God said this to the people of Israel as He was calling them back to Himself, as we see earlier in the passage, “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.” (Joel 2: 12, 13) He has made all things, even the aftermath of our sins, work together for our good and He changes our hearts in the process. All we have to do is live in close communion with and surrender to Him. So, every time you look out at the freshly fallen snow, see a bride in her bridal gown or even brush your teeth and wash your whites, take the time to thank God for the gift of His Son that made it possible to be dressed in white without stain, as His bride.

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;*

*Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

Psalm 51: 7

***Heather Campbell***

*We esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted*

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***noteworthy***

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***Sunday, March 10 :*** There will be a gathering of Scripture Union "readers" after the 10:15 service. Please bring a bag lunch. Discussion will be open to questions, comments, and observations on what we've been reading. Mary Krucker has a couple of things she wishes to share with us as well.

If you would like to join the Scripture Union readers, please see me and we can order guides for you for the remainder of the year.

*Dyanna Lewis*



***April 17 –19: ANiC Regional Assembly at Crossroads***

**Keynote Speaker: Bishop Tito Zavala, Primate of the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone.**



***Volunteers Needed for the Coffee Fellowship: At present there are only five teams serving coffee, tea and goodies to parishioners following the 10:15 service. Please volunteer your services to help this ministry!***



***Please Pray for our Mission Partners: Shifra House, Darci Kovacs at McMaster, Ramon and Thamara Herrera in Italy, Threshold Ministries, our partners at Middle East Christian Outreach, our partner in Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Norm and Audrey Henderson in Angola, and lastly ARDFC***



*He shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.*



## ***The Stoney Creek Project***

*My word . . . shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. [Isaiah 55: 11 ESV]*

### **Our Vision:**

becoming a joyful, passionate, Spirit-filled community that is connecting with and growing in a relationship with God, reaching out to hurting people with compassion, and seeking wholeness, healing and transformation through a relationship with Jesus.

After a full year of monthly hand-delivering to, and quarterly knocking on doors of, more than 300 homes in our neighborhood, we have expanded our reach by using Canada Post Admail delivery. This allows us to get our materials into apartment buildings as well, increasing our reach to almost 1800 homes.

We used Admail to promote our two most recent major Evangelism & Discipleship offerings. In the fall, we ran The Marriage Course in our home with two couples attending. We followed up with Alpha in a local restaurant. This began in January. We have eight participants (our best ever response!) loving the course and already looking forward to the Holy Spirit Retreat. Two of the Alpha participants came from The Marriage Course. As leaders, we can truly feel the Holy Spirit at work with this wonderful group of people, and are enjoying each week more than the one before. Our Lord has also blessed us with a wonderful, brand new, very affordable retreat facility which we know will add enormously to the impact of the Holy Spirit Retreat.

Please continue to remember Stoney Creek Project in your prayers.

***John and Zandra Pennylegion***

***We esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted***



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## ***Current ARDFC Project***

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The Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada is partnering with the Diocese of Recife to complete construction of an Anglican Center of Holistic Mission adjacent to Christ the Liberator Anglican Church. Our project will help this Church address neighborhood issues of unemployment, poor education, and prevalent violence, while meeting the spiritual needs of the community — and beyond.

Once completed, the classroom complex will be used to:

- Train unemployed people in new vocational skills.
- Provide children and youth with literacy and educational classes.
- Train missionaries to go to unreached areas of Brazil.

### **Diocese of Recife**

Over the years, the clergy and people of this diocese have suffered much as a result of standing for Biblical faithfulness. But despite the adversity, the diocese has experienced tremendous growth recently, more than doubling in size. It is highly regarded for serving the poor in its communities. We are privileged to be able to support our brothers and sisters in Recife in their ministry.

### **About the ARDFC**

The Anglican Relief and Development Fund-Canada is a registered Canadian charity, associated with ACNA (the Anglican Church in North America), and also working in close partnership with ANiC, our own diocese. It undertakes carefully selected and monitored aid projects in partnership with Anglican dioceses in developing nations. See the web site [www.ardfc.ca](http://www.ardfc.ca) for more information.

At St. George's, **ARDFC** is one of our mission partners through our Reach Out Committee. You can find out more from any of the members of this committee. In fact, our own Ed Lewis serves on the board of ARDFC as parish liaison. He is working along with Bishop Donald Harvey, the chair, and other board members.



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## ***a letter to the saints***

Our Bible study is working through the Epistle to the Hebrews which is both enjoyable and profitable. Hebrews is full of important themes; it expresses God's ways, not the wisdom of the people of this age or the culture of the day. It is a book about the holiness of God and God's righteous judgment of sin. It is a book about God's unchangeable character of love, His purpose of salvation and His promises that are dependable. It is a book about Jesus and about the power of Jesus' blood, Jesus' blood that provides a perfect and finished salvation for us. It is a book about true worship, about heaven, and about the gathering of the communion of the saints. It is a book of urgency, urgent in exhortation to persevere, and urgent in warning against neglecting such a precious gift of God.

Not surprisingly God's holiness as He revealed Himself in the Old Testament is the same holiness in the New Testament. **"Our God is a consuming fire"** [Deuteronomy 4:24, Hebrews 12: 29]. But God's unchangeable character of love and mercy as revealed in the New Testament is the same as His covenant of grace as revealed in the Old Testament. He gave His promise to Abraham and guaranteed it with an oath sworn in His own name. God's promise and His oath are two unchangeable things that guarantee our hope. They anchor the soul [Heb. 6: 13 – 19]. This is the same gracious Lord who gives a new covenant, a better one, not like the former covenant that Israel of old broke. This new covenant is written on the heart, a covenant of forgiveness. **"I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people** [Heb 8: 8 – 12].

And God has spoken perfectly and finally in Jesus. The epistle to the Hebrews is a book about Jesus. Jesus is "the heir of all things, through whom he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God, the exact imprint of his nature and he upholds the universe by the word of his power" [Heb. 1: 2, 3]. Jesus became one of us. **"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery"** [Heb. 2: 14,15].

**"Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins"** [Heb. 9:22] This is God's righteous sentence of judgment on sin throughout the course of time. But Jesus, our great High Priest, **"holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners"**, having no reason to die himself, by his death destroyed death and the devil on our behalf. As our great High Priest, he marched into heaven itself, into the very presence of God with His own

*We esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted*

precious blood, a full perfect payment and satisfaction before a holy God, not for his own sins but for ours. No more the flow of blood of an abundance of animal sacrifices, the continual reminder of sin and death, no more the veil of the tabernacle separating a holy God from a sin-laden people. It is all finished! **“Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”**[Heb. 7: 25].

The invitation in our communion service, “draw near with faith and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort” is a wonderful invitation and it echoes the invitation in Hebrews: **“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”**[Heb. 4: 16], and **“since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water”** [Heb. 10:22]. Let us draw near! That is worship! We are invited to draw near. This is a wonderful and gracious mercy, and our prayer book communion service takes hold of this.

The book of Hebrews provides lovely pictures of heaven, the city of God [Hebrews 11: 8 – 16; Hebrews 12: 18 – 24]. It provides a panorama of the history of the saints through the course of time, in faith triumphing in the miraculous interventions of God, in faith enduring though persecution and suffering, in faith receiving finally all of us together the promised rest of God [Hebrews 11, 12, 13], the kingdom that “cannot be shaken”, the “lasting city”, the “city which is to come”.

Hebrews is urgent in the treasure that God’s salvation is. There are urgent admonitions to “hold fast” [Heb 3: 6, 13, 14; 10:23, 36 – 39] , and even more to stir up one another, to **“exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today”**[Heb. 3: 13] Such a treasure is the gift that to spurn it is unthinkable evil. **“How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? . . .It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God ”** [Heb. 10: 29 – 31].

During Lent, take time to read this powerful epistle; the Lord will speak to your heart!

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”*

*Hebrews 10:23*

***Mary Ann Masters***



*He shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.*

**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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*THERE IS A FOUNTAIN*

*There is a fountain filled with  
blood, drawn from Emmanuel's  
veins, and sinners plunged be-  
neath the flood lose all their  
guilty stains.*

*The dying thief rejoiced to see  
that fountain in his day; and  
there may I, as vile as he, wash  
all my sins away.*

*Dear dying lamb, thy precious  
Blood shall never lose its power,  
till all the ransomed Church of  
God be saved to sin no more.*

*E'er since by faith I saw the  
stream thy flowing wounds sup-  
ply, redeeming love has been my  
theme, and shall be till I die.*

*William Cowper*

*1771*