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August 28, 2007

Dear Members of Anglicans United,

Galatians 6:9 “And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.”

A three year member of this ministry recently wrote: “I can’t continue to be part of this battle. The news just seems to get worse and I am going to walk away. Please stop writing to me. I will not contribute and I’m not even sure I know how to pray.”

I understand her weariness. I feel it myself from time to time. The Episcopal Church has remained in need of renewal and reform since before my time as a priest began in 1971. But when I pray to be allowed to withdraw from the battle, I only get these words: stay informed, persevere, persist in prayer and never cease loving the Church.

Reluctantly I removed the woman’s name from our mailing list. I was then overwhelmed with a tremendous sense of appreciation for those courageous members who have remained faithful contributors and prayer warriors year in and year out. We’ve stuck it out together, steadfast in faith. We appreciate your sacrifice and value your partnership in the Gospel.

Archbishop Akinola’s “A Most Agonizing Journey...” provides an overview of events in the past ten years. I’ve met Archbishop Akinola on several occasions. I know him to be deeply committed to Christ, a man of vision and dogged determination with a sincere devotion to the Anglican Communion. His leadership is worthy of trust.

Study his summary of events. It will help you remain an informed, articulate witness to fellow Christians in your church and an effective prayer warrior. Take heart from the words of my friend, Archbishop Greg Venables: “There is only one Gospel and it divides the world into two parts.” It is not easy to be a Christian. It never has been. It never will be.

One concern the Primate’s have – I have spoken with several of them in the last month - is who will make the decision about whether the Episcopal Church has met the demands of the Dar es Salaam Communiqué. There is strong suspicion that their prerogative to gather and discuss this will be denied. Last month, the Global South Steering Committee requested an emergency Primate’s meeting in November 2007 to consider TEC’s response and there has been no reply by Lambeth Palace. There is always the issue of funding an emergency meeting. It is doubtful that Trinity, Wall Street would agree to fund it, as the results may not be positive for TEC; invitations to Lambeth Conference 2008 are at stake here. We ask you to keep this issue in your prayers. It is estimated that such an emergency meeting would cost roughly \$150,000.

I remain convinced that while the Anglican Communion will never be the same, largely due to the Episcopal and Canadian Church’s apostasy and the growing tide of this in the Church of England, the Communion will emerge from this crisis stronger, more faithful and better able to advance the Kingdom of God. As for the Episcopal Church, I believe it will continue to fragment as the national leadership’s agenda moves from classical Christianity to 21st century post modernism and the inevitable despair of humanism. As Archbishop Venables said, “S’ obvious.”

Christians in local parishes of the Episcopal Church will be challenged to find new, more faithful ways to advance the Gospel in their part of the country. While the battle changes frequently, it is not over yet.

Anglicans United is uniquely poised to be of considerable help in the next few worldwide meetings as the time of clarification and culling continues. The momentum is building for the late September House of Bishops meeting in New Orleans, with Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams in attendance. Cherie will be attending this meeting as a member of the press. Her reporting skills are an invaluable asset for this ministry and the wider Church. This meeting begins with the Archbishop on Sept. 20 and 21. There will be a special commemoration of Katrina with the Archbishop at the Convention Center for the people of the Gulf Coast dioceses on Sept. 20. The meeting will resume on Sept. 22 –less the Archbishop – and continue to the 25th. We are uncertain about how much of the meeting will be open to press. Episcopal News Service will hold briefings several times a day and we’ll do our best to get the pertinent details and of course, their final statement. Watch our website: www.anglicansunited.com. or write or call us with your e-mail address. Sorry we cannot mail daily reports to people without email, but we will send out the HOB issue of *THE ANGLICAN VOICE* as soon as possible following the meeting.

It takes persistence, prayer, resilient faith and money for this ministry to continue. We need your financial support. “Each one must do as they have made up their mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).” Please pray daily for the House of Bishop’s meeting. God is at work! Anything can happen.

Yours in Christ, *Fr. Todd+*
 The Rev. Todd H. Wetzel, Executive Director
 Anglicans United & Latimer Press

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