

## The HOPE AND A FUTURE CONFERENCE: Pittsburgh, PA November 10-12, 2005

Let me speak clearly about the importance of this event: If there is any way you can attend,

### DO SO!

On November 10-12, thousands of Episcopalians who believe in the Authority and Primacy of Scripture over all the conditions of life will gather to worship, pray and learn together. We will gain a clear vision for the work that lies ahead of us – regardless of the outcome of the 2006 General Convention.

And, we will see and hear from the Archbishops from around the Communion who have dedicated so much of their time and energy to support, and define Orthodox Anglicanism in the Communion.

*Why should you come?* You are part of the army of mortals and angels working to recover the losses dealt to the Episcopal Church by its own apostasy. You have labored long and hard with us and kept the faith for our Church when there was little positive evidence to do so. Now, come and see where all of your donations and prayers have led: The Rebirth of An-

glicanism in America. This conference is specifically for clergy and laity seeking, praying and working for the rebirth of Biblical, Missionary and United Anglicanism in the American hemisphere. The list of speakers is outstanding. Their words and gracious demeanor will encourage and inspire you for months. This is your inoculation against the hard days and difficult events that will take us one year past the 2006 General Convention.

### The Speaker's List:

**The Most Rev. Dr. Peter J. Akinola**, Archbishop, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

**The Most Rev. Henry Orombi**, Archbishop, The Church of the Province of Uganda

**The Most Rev. Benjamin Nzimbi**, Archbishop The Anglican Church of Kenya

**The Most Rev. Donald Mtemela**, Archbishop, the Anglican Church of Tanzania

**The Most Rev. Emmanuel Kolini**, Archbishop, L'Eglise Episcopalian au Rwanda

**The Most Rev. Drexel Gomez**,

Archbishop, The Church in the Province of the West Indies

**The Most Rev. Gregory Venables**, Archbishop, Iglesia Americana del Cono Sur de America

**The Most Rev. Yong Ping Chung**, The Church of the Province of Southeast Asia

**The Rt. Rev. Robert Duncan**, Bishop of Pittsburgh

**The Rev Canon Dr Michael Green** is one of the world's leading evangelists, and is Senior Research Fellow at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford College. He teaches Evangelism and New Testament Studies in Wycliffe, while maintaining a world-wide speaking and writing ministry.

**Joni Eareckson Tada** A diving accident in 1967 left Mrs. Tada a quadriplegic in a wheelchair, unable to use her hands. During two years of rehabilitation, she spent long months learning how to paint with a brush between her teeth. Mrs. Tada is a life long member of the Reformed Episcopal Church. She is currently the Honorary Co-Chair of the Presidential Prayer Team.

**Anne Graham Lotz**, founder of AnGeL Ministries, has passionately proclaimed God's Word to

people around the world for over twenty-nine years. The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Billy Graham, Anne is an award-winning and best-selling author.

**Baroness Cox of Queensbury**. Baroness Cox was created a Life Peer in 1982 and has been a deputy speaker of the House of Lords since 1985. Baroness Cox's work in the field of humanitarian aid has taken her on many missions to conflict zones including Armenia, Africa, Eastern Burma, and Indonesia.

**And, Keynote Speaker Rick Warren**, Senior Pastor of Saddleback Church, California and author of *The Purpose Driven Life* and *The Purpose Driven Church*.

**Dates: November 10-12, 2005** with a pre-conference specifically on church planting on Nov 9-10. Rooms are still available within walking distance of the Lawrence Convention Center, downtown Pittsburgh. Air Tran and United Airlines are offering reduced fares. Go to [www.anglicanhope.org](http://www.anglicanhope.org) or call 1-866-946-3754 for more information and to register.

## A TALE OF TWO LETTERS

These two letters clearly show the differences between the revisionist bishops of the Episcopal Church, USA (ECUSA) and their orthodox counterparts in the Anglican Communion. As we have said for years, they are not even talking about the same subjects.

September 22, 2005

My brother Archbishops, Greet-

ings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ.

I am writing to you in anticipation of two important gatherings that will take place in the next few weeks, the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA) Primates' meeting in Dar es Salaam and the South/South Encounter that will

take place in Egypt [in early October]. These are important opportunities for us to meet, pray, and take counsel together as we seek to remain faithful followers of Christ during these challenging days. As you may know we have just completed the General Synod of the Church of Nigeria during which we were privileged to welcome

Archbishop Yong Ping Chung as an honoured guest. We also took a number of actions to clarify our commitment to the apostolic faith including amending our constitution. As you well know there are those who will seek to distort our intentions and I wanted to be sure that you heard from me

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## A TALE OF TWO LETTERS, continued from pg. 1

before we meet face to face.

Our intention was to make clear that we are committed to the historic faith once delivered to the Saints, practice and the traditional formularies. We treasure our place within the worldwide family of the Anglican Communion but we are distressed by the unilateral actions of those provinces that are clearly determined to redefine what was once our common faith. We have now amended the language of our constitution so that those who are bent to walk a different path, may do so without us. We have chosen not to be yoked to them as we prefer to exercise our freedom to remain faithful. We continue to pray, however, that there will be a genuine demonstration of repentance.

We also made constitutional provision to extend pastoral care and Episcopal oversight to those of our people and others who are geographically separated from us but who share our faith convictions through the establishment of Conventions and Chaplaincies outside Nigeria. Other provinces have had such pastoral arrangements notably in Europe. Our earnest desire is to see the fabric of our beloved Anglican Communion restored and our bonds of affection renewed through our common commitment to "God's Word written" (Article 20). We pray for Archbishop Rowan as we look forward to welcoming him to our gathering in Egypt. We await with eager anticipation all that the Lord will do in our midst. To God be the Glory

(The) Most Rev. Peter J. Akinola  
*Released electronically*

September 22, 2005

Recent statements by the Most Rev. Peter Akinola, Primate, and decisions the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Nigeria illustrate how the Anglican Communion, as it has been handed down through the ages, is now under attack by a few who presume to speak for many, according to the Bishop of Washington, the Rt. Rev. John B. Chane.

"Where is the strong voice of the Nigerian Anglican Church in opposing the continued neglect of vulnerable women and children, or in advocating on behalf of the poorest of the poor," Bishop Chane wrote in his monthly column for *Washington Window*, the diocesan newspaper. "With the Archbishop's reference that 'no

Church can ignore the teaching of the Bible with impunity,' I must ask myself who has been left with the ultimate authority to interpret the teaching of the Bible? Certainly such important work has not been left up to the Archbishop of Nigeria alone," Bishop Chane said.

"In the hard teachings of Jesus", Bishop Chane said "one can always tell the righteous from the damned by whether they care for the poor and the sick. [The Episcopal] Church may be divided in painful ways about the issues of human sexuality and the consecration of Bishop Gene Robinson, but we are united in fighting poverty and hunger and are faithful in attempting to live into the mandates of Christ's Gospel about radical hospitality extended to the least among us," Bishop Chane said.

Bishop Chane called on all members of the Anglican Communion, and in particular Archbishop Akinola, "to assist in eliminating hunger, disease, genocide and violence against women and children," and work toward meeting "the challenges of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals." *The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane, The Washington Window*

To Dr. Akinola and his bishops, there is no higher priority than the "historic faith once delivered to the Saints, practice and the traditional formularies." Scripture cannot be "reinterpreted" based on today's cultural whim. They have changed their Constitution to reflect this allegiance and provide protection, pastoral care and episcopal oversight to those who are separated geographically, "but share our faith." The orthodox archbishops are meeting in Alexandria, Egypt in early October, 2005.

Within 12 hours of the release of Dr. Akinola's letter, Bishop Chane writes that fighting poverty, hunger, and disease are the elements necessary for living the mandates of the Gospels, not decisions on personal or corporate morality. He challenges Dr. Akinola's authority to interpret the teachings of the Bible, implying that his own interpretation is just as relevant and orthodox. And, since Dr. Akinola does not mention eliminating hunger, disease, genocide and violence against women and children, he cannot be an authentic representative of the Anglican Communion.

Clearly, the revisionists have now declared "war" on those who speak for the orthodox in the Communion as well as those in ECUSA.

We fear the slander has just begun.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**August 8** – Evansville (IN)-area Episcopalians, who left their parishes and started All Saints Anglican Church, have been formally received into the Anglican Diocese of Bolivia, some 4,000 miles away. This underscores the growing conflicts within Anglicanism, of which the Episcopal Church is the North American presence. "We're leaving, moving on with our business of proclaiming the Gospels and caring for the community," said the Rev. Robert Giffin, the Anglican priest who served the group. *PHILIP ELLIOTT [Evansville, IN] Courier & Press*

**August 12** - An effort by the six-county Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles to claim ownership of buildings and other property of a conservative breakaway congregation in Newport Beach was tentatively rejected Thursday by an Orange County Superior Court judge. St. James Church was one of three former Episcopal parishes to bolt from the diocese and national Episcopal Church one year ago over differences in church teaching and the national church's controversial decision to consecrate an openly gay priest in a committed relationship with another man as bishop of New Hampshire.

The diocese sued St. James and two other breakaway parishes for their buildings and contents after they severed ties and placed themselves under the jurisdiction of a conser-

**NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE COMMUNION, cont.**

vative Anglican bishop in Uganda. In the tentative ruling Thursday, Orange County Superior Court Judge David C. Velasquez said the diocese had not shown that it would probably prevail in the property dispute with the St. James congregation, a dispute that also involved issues touching on 1st Amendment freedom of speech rights.

The judge also said the parish had made a prima facie case that it had been sued by the diocese after it publicly disagreed with the national church's views on homosexuality and other issues by severing its ties with the diocese. "Such acts arise out of and are in furtherance of the defendants' exercise of the right to speak on a matter of 'public interest,'" Velasquez wrote. "How churches in America are reacting to the different viewpoints on homosexuality is currently a topic of much public significance." *Larry B. Stammer, Los Angeles Times [See related story, Sept. 15]*

**August 12** - A national meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) rejected a proposal Friday that would have allowed gays in committed relationships to serve as clergy under certain conditions. The measure would have affirmed the church ban on ordaining sexually active gays and lesbians, but would have allowed bishops and church districts called synods to seek an exception for a particular candidate — if that person was in a long-term relationship and met other restrictions. Delegates voted against the measure 503-490...the proposal needed a two-thirds majority to pass.

Earlier in the day, delegates voted 851-127 to keep the church unified despite serious differences over homosexuality. They also rebuffed what many saw as an attempt to push the denomination toward approval of blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples. *www.Foxnews.com*

**August 13** - The Bishop of Florida rejected the request for alternative episcopal oversight by seven clergy: two vicars, four rectors and one retired priest. The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard wrote an 18-page ecclesiastical opinion. The two vicars involved are directly employed by Bishop Howard who serves as rector of

their two missions. "I will, by the grace of God, continue to deal with those congregations and with the lay leadership of the missions with pastoral sensitivity and understanding. Very soon I will be meeting individually with the others (the 4 rectors) in order to discuss the future of their ministries."

Bishop Howard offered to transfer the canonical license of the recently retired priest to any diocese whose bishop would receive him, stating, "if he does not want me to be his bishop, he is free to renounce his orders as an Episcopal priest and to pursue an active ministry elsewhere." *The Living Church [Ed Note: On August 16, the seven clergy made formal application to the Archbishop of Canterbury's Panel of Reference.]*

**August 19** -As the urbane vicar for Ealing, [England], the Rev Nicholas Henderson might not have seemed the obvious first choice to become bishop of one of the most conservative provinces in Africa. His twenty years of leading mission trips and contributing thousands of pounds to the diocese, made him a candidate for bishop. But few in Malawi knew of his record as a leading liberal theologian and his position as chairman of the pro-gay Modern Churchpeople's Union, an Anglican society promoting a liberal theology. Now Mr. Henderson is facing protests over the choice to make him bishop of one of four dioceses in Malawi. The election is to be investigated by the Primate of Central Africa, Archbishop Bernard Malango, a leading conservative evangelical who was a member of the Lambeth Commission set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, to resolve the crisis over homosexuality in the Anglican Communion. *Ruth Gledhill, The London Times [Ed. Note: The election was suspended in early September by Archbishop Malango.]*

**September 2** - Suffragan bishop Filadelfo Oliveira has deposed 40 orthodox clergy in the diocese of Recife, who claimed loyalty to their bishop, Robinson Calvalcanti. Oliviera assists Archbishop Orlando Santo de Olivera, Primate of Brazil. In June, Olivera deposed Cavalcante, Bishop of Recife. All have been denied access to ecclesiastical trial and deposed without stated cause. Cavalcante and his clergy have appealed their deposition to the

Archbishop of Canterbury's Panel of Reference. *Press Release [Ed Note: On September 29, Archbishop Gregory Venables, Primate of the Southern Cone, South America extended recognition and protection to Bishop Calvalcanti and his clergy, who represent 90% of the clergy in the diocese of Recife and lead 90% of the people.]*

**September 4** - Surrounded by scenes of devastation left behind by Hurricane Katrina, more than 50 parishioners of St. Mark's Church, Gulfport, Mississippi, were joined by police, military and relief workers as they worshipped on the site where their church once stood. St. Marks is the oldest Episcopal Church on the Mississippi coast and one of six that were completely destroyed after Katrina hit on August 29. *Episcopal News Service [Ed. Note: The Diocese of Louisiana also lost as many as 12 parishes in the New Orleans area. The exact count remains uncertain at press time as does the count from Rita to Dioceses of Texas and West Texas.]*

**September 9** - The Archbishop of Nigeria, Dr. Peter Akinola, has excluded the Province of Brazil and its Archbishop, the Most Revd Orlando Santo de Olivera, from a meeting of Anglicans of the Global South to be held in Alexandria in early October. ..In a letter to Archbishop Orlando, Dr. Akinola describes Bishop Calvalcanti's deposition and the deposition of clergy supporting him as "creating a crisis concerning our relations". He goes on to say that he is "doubly troubled" by a paper published stating the Archbishop's assertion that the Windsor Report and the agreed theological position of the Communion represented a "pretentious minority wishing to assume control and power". Dr. Akinola continued, "Until we hear of your clear decision to correct these actions, the organizing committee has agreed unanimously to withdraw the invitation for your province to be represented in Egypt." *Pat Ashworth, www.churchtimes.co.uk*

**September 15** - An Orange County Superior Court judge ruled Thursday that the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles must pay more than \$81,000 in legal fees to St. James Church, the Newport Beach congregation that split from the diocese over a dispute about church doctrine. The same

## NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE COMMUNION, cont.

judge, David Velasquez, ruled Aug. 15 to dismiss a lawsuit against St. James Church's congregation that claimed the Newport Beach breakaway church's property and assets belong to the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Velasquez ruled that efforts by the national church to retain the property of the seceding St. James congregation was an attempt to tread upon the congregation's freedom of speech. Representatives from the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles did not return phone calls Friday. *Lauren Vane, The Daily Pilot*

**September 15** - Nigeria's Anglican archbishop, Dr. Peter Akinola, said on Wednesday that a meeting in early October of traditionalist Anglicans from developing nations opposed to the advancement of gay rights in Western churches was not meant to create a schism. Peter Akinola, the most outspoken critic of liberal Anglicans in the United States, Canada and Britain, denounced as speculation reports on the Internet that the meeting would decide on a break in the 77 million-strong Anglican Communion. The meeting of traditionalists -- mostly from Africa and Latin America but including dissidents from North America -- will be the latest step in two years of deepening divisions in the worldwide Communion sparked by the ordination of a U.S. gay bishop and the blessing of same-sex unions in Canada. "We are not going anywhere," said Archbishop Greg Venables of southern South America, a leader in the conservative Global South group, which includes Africa, Latin America and Asia. [www.scotlandonsunday.com](http://www.scotlandonsunday.com)

**September 20** - The podcast is becoming the Godcast. In a phenomenon which has amazed the clergy, thousands of worshippers are using their iPods to listen to sermons. While most people use their fashionable portable music players to

download their favourite pop tunes from the internet, many are adding a spiritual element to their playlists. The Rev Leonard Payne, the vicar of a remote parish in Suffolk, [England] has been overwhelmed by the response after he posted some of his homilies on the Apple iTunes store last month. "We were stunned. Within a short period of time, over 2,400 people had downloaded one of the sermons," he said yesterday. "The volume was so great we had to change servers and in the last five days of July, over 230 copies of our talks have been delivered, an incredible reaction to the work of a small rural congregation." The vicar said he hoped that the new technology would allow the Church to remain in contact with those who were "believers rather than believers". He added, "This will not replace church because people have to meet together. But it is a very useful tool."

Nick Clarke, a spokesman for the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, said: "This is another example of how the Church is embracing technology to keep its message relevant for a 21st century audience. "It's about doing church differently for a diverse and obviously hungry audience." *Jonathan Petre, [www.telegraph.uk.com](http://www.telegraph.uk.com) [Ed. Note: we are exploring how to do this in America. Stay tuned!]*

**September 21** - The first meeting of the Special Commission on the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion will take place Monday, November 7, at the Episcopal Church Center in New York. The 14-member commission was appointed by and includes Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold and the Very Rev. George L. W. Werner, president of the House of Deputies. They charged the commission with preparing for General Convention to receive and respond to the Windsor Report, the February 2005 Primate's Communique from Dromantine, and the actions of the June 2005 meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, exclud-

ing ECUSA members from all meetings and committees. The Special Commission will prepare a report with proposed resolutions, for the 75th General Convention next June. *Episcopal News Service [Ed. Note: Sadly, the commission is top-heavy with gay-friendly clergy, bishops and laity.]*

**September 23** - -- The first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church is predicting a division in the Anglican Communion two years after U.S. church leaders triggered global outrage by approving his election. "This is at least as much about power and control as it is about theology and Scripture," New Hampshire Bishop V. Gene Robinson told The Associated Press in an interview. "It's about who's going to be calling the shots, and who's going to be in and who's going to be out." Robinson said he underestimated the opportunity his election gave conservatives to organize within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion of which it is a part. Until about six months ago, Robinson remained optimistic the Anglican Communion would work through initial outrage over his election to respect the customary right of dioceses to elect the bishop of their choosing. But at a private meeting of American bishops in Los Angeles [July 25, 2005] Robinson said, he first sensed what he considers a conservative 'power grab'. Robinson said he wants to reconcile with opponents, but will not leave a post he was properly elected to. He was chosen in June 2003 from a field of four candidates, garnering support from more than 75 percent of New Hampshire's clergy and a majority of lay delegates. The bishop remains convinced that gays and lesbians will be fully included in the Episcopal Church someday and his opponents will be unable to prevent this, even if larger Anglicanism does divide. *Anne Saunders, Associated Press*

**September 27** - Six Episcopal Churches, their elected wardens and vestries, and five priests in the Diocese of Connecticut today filed a civil complaint in US District Court, District of Connecticut, against bishop Andrew Smith; the Diocese of Connecticut; Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold; and nine other individuals and/or entities. The lawsuit accuses the 12 defendants of working together to aide, abet, assist and work in concert against the rights of the plaintiffs in violation of the First, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. In addition to these federal issues, the complaint outlines multiple violations of Connecticut state/local statutes. Presiding Bishop Griswold is cited for failure to take any action after the seizure of property and assets at St. John's Bristol, CT and the filing of improper canonical charges which may lead to the deposition of the rector.

The civil suit follows 18 months of theological dispute and hostile actions between Bishop Smith and Bishop Seabury Church, Groton; Christ Church, Watertown; Christ & The Epiphany Church, East Haven; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Darien; Trinity Church, Bristol; and St. John's, Bristol. Known as the Connecticut 6, these parishes have consistently supported traditional Christian belief and teaching regarding human sexuality. All six churches requested alternative episcopal oversight, a request denied by Bishop Smith. "We have been left with no choice but to seek intervention by the civil courts in order to protect our constitutional rights and serve our congregations without interference and harassment," said the Rev. Christopher Leighton, rector of St. Paul's, Darien. "We are being punished for upholding Biblical truth as well as Anglican teaching, faith and practice, and our ability to proclaim the Gospel is being dramatically hindered." *Cynthia Brust, Press Release [Ed Note: this could be the case needed to establish precedent to limit actions of bishops against orthodox parishes and clergy. Unless totally rebuffed by the District Court, it has Supreme Court potential. We will keep you posted.]*