



Anglican Network in Canada

9 March 2009

Dear Friends,

Suggestions for March 10th ANiC day of prayer and fasting

I have been encouraged by the responses of folk across the country to our call for a day of prayer and fasting. Whether or not they themselves are directly involved in parishes facing legal challenges, it is clear people are eagerly planning to enter into this day of prayer and fasting on March 10th. Some have told me that it isn't possible for them to participate on the 10th, but that they will set aside another day very soon to participate.

To help you in your prayer time on Tuesday, March 10, here are some suggestions:

1. Meditate on one or all of the following passages: Esther 4:12-17, 2 Chronicles 20 and Luke 18:1-8
2. Take time to praise God. Thank him for who he is, for the salvation he won in Jesus' life death and resurrection, for a message (the gospel) to proclaim to the nations which is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for Jesus' commitment to build the Church, for his love of the Church, for all the wonderful things the Lord has done in and through ANiC, and for what the Lord has done and is doing in your home fellowship and in your life and your family. Perhaps you may want to remember what was said in the previous letter about the Lord's care for ANiC-

We are so grateful for God's gracious and generous provision for ANiC and our parishes and for His protection of our clergy and congregations. Whether congregations have been ordered out of their churches, walked away from their property and rented other premises, stood firm and remained in their buildings, or simply planted anew, God has honoured their faithfulness. In those cases where we have had to seek legal protection, God has raised up support from people across Canada to allow us to provide whatever worldly protection is possible. And for this we rejoice.

3. Take time to humble yourself and repent for the ways you personally – and all of us in ANiC corporately – have failed in thought, word and deed to do what we ought to have done, and have done what is contrary to His will. Or we have tried to do what we thought the Lord wanted us to do – but we have done it in our own wisdom and in our own strength.
4. Pray for ANiC parishes in each of the regions where there are disputes around properties which may or may not currently involve the courts. Pray particularly for upcoming court hearings.
 - Disputes with the Diocese of British Columbia (Vancouver Island). Parishes involved: St Mary's Open Gate (Victoria) (formerly St. Mary's Metchosin) & Christ's Church (Oceanside) (formerly St. Mary's Nanoose Bay), and St Matthias (Victoria).
 - Disputes with the Diocese of New Westminster (Vancouver area). A three-week court hearing to examine the "big trust case" begins **May 25**. This will deal with the question of who is entitled to the parish properties, the diocese or the parishes. Parishes involved: St John's (Shaughnessy), Church of the Good Shepherd (Vancouver), St Matthias and St Luke's (Vancouver) & St Matthews (Abbotsford)

- Dispute with the Diocese of Brandon. Parish involved St Bede's (Kinosota)
- Disputes with the Diocese of Ottawa. Parishes involved: St George's (Ottawa) & St Alban's (Ottawa)
- Dispute with the Diocese of Huron. An **April 6** hearing in London, Ontario will determine whether a duplicate "action" filed by the diocese in London should be "stayed" (ordered to cease) so that the prior action filed by ANiC in Windsor (where the church is located) can proceed without the duplication, distraction and unnecessary added expense of a second action on the same issues. Parish involved: St Aidan's (Windsor)
- Disputes with the Diocese of Niagara. On **March 11**, three ANiC parishes will again appear in a Hamilton court as the judge determines what costs to award the diocese for the hearing where the diocese was granted an order to share the church properties and expenses. Although the diocese has been using the churches since the court order early last May, and the service times the parishes were given forced the ANiC congregations to seek alternative worship space on Sundays, the diocese has not contributed to the expenses for the church properties. Parishes involved: St George's (Lowville), Church of the Good Shepherd (St Catharine's) & St Hilda's (Oakville)

Again you may want to be reminded of what we said in the last letter:

Therefore, in the tradition of Esther and Jehoshaphat... set aside Tuesday, March 10 as an ANiC national day of prayer and fasting. Specifically, pray for the legal challenges we face, asking, if it is His will, for a dramatic work of God which would free us from these legal concerns even this year, during 2009, by settlements, or by whatever means He chooses, so that we can move ahead in the gospel without any further distraction, or dissipation of energy and resources.

Pray for all our legal teams and for the leaders of each ANiC congregation involved including... the clergy, wardens and trustees. Please remember to concentrate on the families of these dear folk.

5. Thank the Lord for how he is going to answer our prayers.
6. Finally commit yourself to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and to serve him as he calls you.

Again, I **thank you** for taking part in this important ministry. Please don't stop after March 10th, but continue to pray fervently. Together we will pray and work – and see what the Lord will do.

In the mighty name of Jesus,



The Venerable Charlie Masters

PS – You can find a list of the ANiC parishes here: http://anglicannetwork.ca/member_parish.htm and a map of the parishes here: http://anglicannetwork.ca/pdf/anic_map_of_parishes.pdf.