

# BY GEORGE

**152 Years**

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Induction of Ray David	3
Thanks Charlie and Judy	4
GAFCON	6
Ordination Day	11

## THE SAFEST RELATIONSHIP



What is the safest relationship you have ever had? Have you ever had a relationship where

you can truly let your hair down and be who you are. One without pretense, without smiling on the outside while dying on the inside. A relationship so secure that you can risk brutal honesty; about self, about life, about joys and disappointment

The truth is we are all contextually aware people. As Canadians, as Christians, as Anglicans we suffer from an overwhelming sense of the appropriate. Honesty and authenticity are among the first casualties of political correctness. This is true in our interpersonal relationships and even spills over into our rela-

tionship with God.

This summer we will be looking at the Psalms, one Psalm each Sunday until Labour Day. We will cover different types of psalms; psalms of worship, lament, thanksgiving, wisdom.

In reading the psalms we get snap shots of the character of God, pictures of the nature of man, a broad sweep of salvation history. The Psalms address the question, "what does it look like to have a relationship with God?". This series comes with a warning - as we move through the Psalter you will find that the Psalmists are brutally honest.

The psalter strips away all the pious baloney and lays bare the human heart before the Yahweh, the Holy God of Israel. Brace yourselves for an unflinching appraisal.

This leads me to wonder, what if God had thick enough

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Isaiah 40:28  
Have you not  
known? Have  
you not heard?  
The Lord is the  
everlasting God,  
the Creator of  
the ends of the  
earth.*



*(Continued from page 1)*

skin to handle the full range of human emotion? What if God was secure enough in his Godness that he could handle honesty? What if you and I did not need to sugarcoat our prayers, but rather could come to God openly and honestly - in our joy, in our anger, and in our disappointment?

Basements are scary places - when you are three years old. When Matthew was three years old, I would hold his hand to walk him into our basement to find a toy that he wanted. We would be half way down the stairs when all of a sudden, the furnace would kick on with a rumble. His grip would become tighter. Matthew was totally convinced that his security, his safety relied on his ability to hold his father's hand. He didn't realize that he was secure not by his holding my hand, but because his father was holding his hand.

Surely there is a lesson in this. Our security in life, the safety we enjoy in our relationship with God is not based on our ability to hold on to Him, but on his grip on us. This is the safest relationship we could ever have. A relationship where we can be ourselves, without pretense.

The depth of this secure relationship is seen in the Psalms. The Psalmist never hesitates to pour forth the full range of human emotion to his God. He shares his wonder, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" Psalm 8:3-4.

The Psalmist reveals his anger to his Lord, "O God, break the teeth in their mouths; tear out the fangs of the long lions, O Lord! Let them vanish like water that runs away; when he aims arrows, let them be blunted. Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime, like the stillborn child who never sees the sun." Psalm 58:6-9

The Psalmist turns to the Lord in repentance and trust, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!" Psalm 51:1-2

The Psalmist turns to the Lord in joy, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!" Ps. 103:1

God created you, God knows you, God loves you. There is safety and security in your relationship with him. Over these summer months, take time to be honest with the Lord in prayer. Lay yourself bare before him. ***Ray David Glenn***



*The heavens declare the glory of God*

## ***Induction of Ray David Glenn, June 1, 2008***



*A prayer for Ray David,  
our new rector,*

*From Colossians 1 [ESV]*



We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

*The skies proclaim the work of His hands.*

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## ***Thank You, Charlie and Judy***

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***“We have been blessed!”***



***The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,***



*The world, and all who live in it.*

By George

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## ***Notes from the Global Anglican Futures Conference – Jerusalem 2008 by Jenny and Keith Stodart***

Many of you will have read about, or seen live, the GAFCON sessions, and will have seen the wonderfully stunning Final Statement issued from the conference on June 29<sup>th</sup>. So this article is mostly our personal reflections about the conference and pilgrimage. We'll offer some overall reflections and then some of our favourite memories.

### **The Conference Overall**

It was, first and foremost, a very great honour to have been invited to GAFCON – something that may not happen again in our lifetimes. (In fact if such an event does occur in the future, our prayer is that it will be a gathering for repentance and reconciliation for all Anglicans throughout the world.)

The conference began for us when most of the pilgrims from Canada gathered in the departures lounge at Toronto Airport – renewing acquaintances and meeting some of the group for the first time. This helped us establish a firm ground of fellowship that served us well later as we were scattered in the greater conference structure. Once in Israel, our ascent from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem started as the sun began to set. The twilight journey showed us the great variety of the countryside – lush shores, desert, up and down steep hills and valleys with scrub lands, and then finally, at nightfall, we came almost suddenly to Jerusalem – a large modern city on the hills surrounding and overlooking the tiny (13 acres in all) City of David, and with the massive Temple Mount at its centre. That was almost our last opportunity for leisured observation of Jerusalem – we were staying at hotels away from the main conference site, so our days began with an early breakfast and a bus ride, and they ended nearer 11 pm with a bus back to the King Solomon Hotel on King David Street.



GAFCON bishops gathered on the Mount of Olives

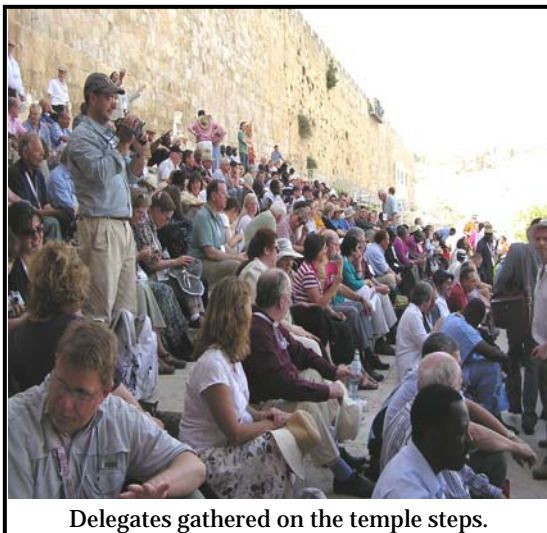
1148 people, laity, clergy, and global Anglican leaders, representing the 34 million people of the Anglican Communion who adhere to the historic Apostolic teaching of the Gospel, gathered in the place where the Church was born

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,*

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. Archbishop Akinola’s opening address set the tone by putting seven questions summarizing this to the conference. The next day started with worship on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem. The theme was a solemn meditation on “Jesus wept” over Jerusalem. Our pilgrimage down the Mount to Gethsemane emphasised how, even now, Jesus weeps over the divisions in and departures from His Church, and His Way. The opening Eucharist that followed the pilgrimage was, however, a hope-filled celebration of Jesus Christ as Lord. Worship throughout the week was led by a joyful band of African musicians. It was easy to be abandoned in worship led by such a group!

The pattern of each day was worship, biblical exposition, group discussion and prayer around the same Bible passage, a choice of one of seven workshops, optional short tours, a plenary focus topic, work on the Conference statement, and more worship, all interspersed with food and drink! One chose a workshop for the week – we chose “Anglican Identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. Each one had mini-plenary sessions and then, based on what we had heard, we worked on input to the final statement. The groups were the same as for Bible study and prayer. Each group of twelve was designed to be a cross-section of the people attending GAFCON – we were with people from three African nations, the USA and Canada. Near the end of the week we also gathered in Anglican Provincial groups to consider the first draft of the conference statement, and to send back to the drafting committee our amendments. This was when we realised that the North American Province that we were working towards may happen a lot sooner than five years from now. This was a high point for the Southern Cone/Common Cause delegates!

On most days the delegates undertook a pilgrimage to places significant in Jesus’ life, and to the theme of the day. These pilgrimages included the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion/Moriah, the Israel museum, Yad Vashem, the Shrine of the Book, Bethlehem, the Western Wall (at night – very moving), the Temple Steps by the Western Wall, and the Sea of Galilee. At the Temple steps, where Peter preached the first sermon, and where the first three thousand converts formed the Church catholic, we experienced an extraordinary worship service led, as usual, by the exuberant African worship team. The all-day pilgrimage to the Sea of Galilee had an even



Delegates gathered on the temple steps.

*the moon and the stars which you have set in place,*

more moving component – the pilgrims boarded boats, five of them, at Tiberius and headed for Capernaum. Mid-way there the boats all came together, in fact we were tethered together, for another worship service. It was truly marvellous to be in the midst of worship with impromptu singing and dancing believers – dancing up so vigorous a storm that it may have been like the one Jesus’ disciples experienced! We enjoyed visits to churches built on what many believe to be the sites of the Sermon on the Mount (Mount of the Beatitudes), an early church building, and what may have been the site of the house of Peter’s mother-in-law.

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 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, and we are part of a 34 million-strong fellowship of true believers.

It has been said that GAFCON is led by rebellious, upstart, self-appointed Primates. This is categorically not true. The conference requested, almost demanded, that a Council of Primates be formed, beginning with the Primates present there, to lead the movement that has emerged from GAFCON. They agreed to do this; we “appointed” them.

### **Personal Reflections and Memories**

- 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. **Archbishops Yong Ping Chung** and **Gregory Venables** were equally passionate at the final session and Eucharist: “liberals have erected the Mordecai seventy feet high gallows for us of the Faith . . . we must act for the Faith now”; the Revelations 4 vision of the Throne Room of God – “Do we want to exchange this view of Glory for another, lesser, throne”; “without having been born again, we may be Anglican, but we are not yet Christian”; “Signing up with God is to sign up for an unknown future. But He comes and stands in our midst and says: ‘Go! Do it! And I am with you always.’ He knows the plan, and He has given us the gifts to carry it out.”; “He gives us His power and authority to do the things He has planned for us to do – this is all about Jesus, and we are to tell people about Him – there is no Plan B.”
- The now certain knowledge that we in ANiC are not alone – He has come among us in the form of His Body on Earth – the Church militant. We have seen, heard, and touched Him in every session, pilgrimage, and conversation. This is now for us the reality of the Church – we

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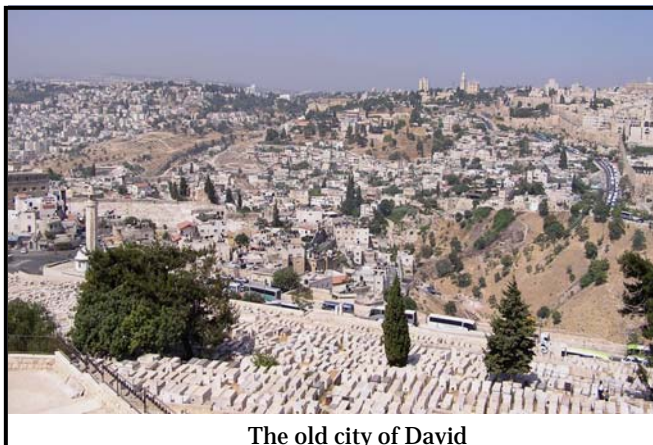
*what is man that you are mindful of him,*



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are it, and we are empowered to do His work.

- The traffic in Jerusalem – narrow streets, skilfully negotiated by large buses, many, many cars, and with much honking of horns to relieve potential road rage.
- Orthodox Jewish families dressed for synagogue after sundown at the beginning of Shabbat (Sabbath); lifts, lighting, public facilities, food services, etc., all arranged for minimum work during Shabbat; the devotions at the Western Wall that evening.
- The taking of the twelve-hundred-people group photograph on the Mount of Olives from a passing helicopter; photos by Province on the Temple steps; picking up our official Pilgrim certificates from the Ministry of Tourism.
- Impromptu singing and dancing by the Africans (and a few Canadians!) in response to Scripture quoted and to telling points made by speakers both on the boats on the Sea of Galilee and during some plenary sessions.
- The picnic for 1200 people near the junction of the River Jordan and the Sea of Galilee. The heat that day: 40°C, and humidity off the scale!
- Strolling through the Old City streets and markets – the sounds and smells of the food and drinks offered for sale. Entering the Old City by the Damascus Gate, possibly on the site of the one Saul went out of towards Damascus, and to his meeting with the risen Lord on the way – an indicator of the way that we have re-encountered the Body of Christ here in GAFCON.
- The elegant beauty of the statu-  
esque African delegates' wives,  
dressed always in traditional dresses  
and head coverings.
- The surprising confusion of  
trying to find the right bus to be on,  
and the Lord's provision of wonderful volunteers, an Australian Archdeacon and his wife, to be our shepherds through that confusion – and their unfailing good humour even at 11 pm after a long, gruelling day of study, plenaries, pilgrimage and worship.
- Meeting Benjamin, a fellow student at Wycliffe, now Dean of St. Philip's Theological col



**The old city of David**

(Continued on page 10)

*the son of man that you care for him?*

lege in Tanzania.

- Conversations with taxi drivers – one in particular who shared the constant anxiety of having two sons in the Israeli Defence Force, one in Gaza, and one in the West Bank.
- Weeping on hearing the experiences of a Palestinian Christian forced from his home after the 1967 war, growing up as a Christian in a Jewish school, and now working with Jewish Christians for reconciliation.
- Meeting Sami Barsom, the Mukhtar, or Mayor of the Syriac Orthodox Christians in Jerusalem. Sami asks us to pray for him and his community, and he has given to the people of St. George's two Syriac pall covers for the communion table as a remembrance and reminder to pray for them and for all Jerusalem.

These are just a few highlights from our experiences in the Holy Land – we cannot hope to capture it all in one such article. DVDs and CDs will be distributed in 6-8 weeks from now. There is a lot of stuff available at [www.gafcon.org](http://www.gafcon.org), and we recommend very strongly the booklet “The Way, the Truth and the Life,” prepared by the GAFCON Theology Team, as a definitive expression of Anglican orthodoxy. It is available for downloading from the website, and if you don't have access to the net, badger someone who does until they print the booklet out for you (Luke 11:8).

### ***Philip Goes the Distance***



This is Philip at his first walk a thon. It was in support of KidsAbility which is a Centre for Child Development in the Waterloo region. The event raised over \$20,000.00. Philip attends KidsAbility weekly for therapy. This and the wonderful amount of prayers and God's goodness have got him where he is today. His parents are also proud to announce that Philip is the 2008 - 2009 ambassador for Kids Ability. Thank you to all who faithfully pray for him and us.

**Donna Denison**

*He who planted the ear, does he not hear?*

# <sup>B</sup>*ORDINATION, June 1, 2008*



The Reverend Garth Hunt



The Reverend Peter Parent



The Reverend Keith Stodart



L. to R. Rev. Ray David Glenn, Rev. Garth Hunt, Rev. Keith Stodart, Bishop Don Harvey, Rev. Peter Parent, Archdeacon Desiree Stedman, Archdeacon Charlie Masters

*He who formed the eye, does he not see?*

## To our Parish Family at St. George's

From now on, July 13th will always hold a very special place in our lives. I can't imagine a more wonderful worship service making a great setting into a beautiful place of worship.

For Judy and myself and our family, the kind expression of thanksgiving touched us so deeply. The Lord has blessed us so much to allow us to be part of this very special parish family now for many years. July 13th was the "icing on the cake" and as you know, I love cake.

The gift you gave is huge! When we finally opened the card later in the day, we found this incredible outpouring of kindness. How kind of you and how grateful we are!

Bless you and thank you! We love you! Please know we are praying for you and especially for Ray David and all our leadership.

**Charlie and Judy**

## Welcome Nathan Paul Kitchen born June 5, 2008



**Congratulations to Blair, Rochelle,  
Avery and Jacob.**

## Pray for Leanne Metsa's mis- sion trip to Burkina Faso, July 18 to August 21.

For an up-to-date report check  
Leanne's blog,

<http://burkinafaso08.blogspot.com/>



Ray David commissions Leanne

*Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.*