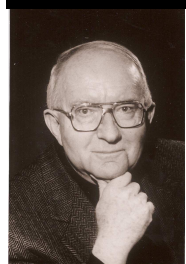


# Anglican Fellowship OF **PRAYER** Canada



AFP-C NEWSLETTER - Vol. 21, No. 3

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2013



## ANNUNCIATION

**HERBERT O'DRISCOLL**

In desperation he tried to force himself to think clearly. There were only two things of which he could be certain. The woman to whom he was publicly betrothed was by her own word pregnant. At the same time he was only too aware that he himself was not the father of the unborn child.

Certain courses of action were open to him. One was to divorce as quickly and as quietly as possible. He had absolutely no wish to bring shame on anyone, least of all the girl for whom he had deep affection as well as deep respect for her family. Again and again he searched for some other course of action that might help. Exhausted and miserable he decided to try to get a night's sleep.

Whenever he thought about that night – and he would remember it for the rest of his life – particularly when he would look at the growing boy who worked with him at the bench – he could never be quite sure whether the encounter had been dreamt or experienced in some mysterious reality beyond normal experience. The figure that addressed him was majestic yet neither fearsome nor threatening. Somehow in this presence he felt cared for and valued. Even such words would always be insufficient to describe the encounter.

He knew immediately that the figure was an angel. All his life since childhood he had been told of such visitations. What was disturbing and astounding was that he – a village nobody – should be the recipient of such an encounter.

The voice was rich beyond description, yet gentle and reassuring. The very first words were his own name, spoken in such a way that he felt utterly affirmed and respected. *“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid”*. Only in that moment did he recall that Mary, speaking of her own encounter, had likewise been assured that there was

no need to fear.

The voice continued. *“Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She shall bear a son”*.

He realized that he had no idea of the meaning of what was being said to him but for some reason it didn't seem to matter. He felt himself to be in a state of utter trust. Things would be as this voice said they would be, no less, no more.

So securely was he held within the aura of the visitor that he took a moment to realize that the voice had taken on a commanding tone. *“You are to name him Jesus”* he was told. The tone was quiet but brooked no question nor failure to respond.

Suddenly he knew why the messenger had come. Suddenly he realized the one thing that in his fear and confusion he had been withholding - his acceptance of the child that lay in Mary's womb. That acceptance, freely given, was the one thing needed to make this boy not only Mary's son but his too. Now he knew the reason for the immense gift of this visit. He had been given this gift to show him that there was a gift he had to give to this unborn child. His life was now for only one purpose – to bring up the boy, to form him, to treasure him and to love him for whatever years lay ahead.

Tears welled up in Joseph as he felt acceptance and gratitude flood over him. The angelic aura began to dim until it was no longer present. As it faded, the first rays of the morning sun splashed across the walls of the simple workshop in which he slept.

From now on, he thought, there would have to be more. There would have to be a home, however simple, a home for his wife and for the boy. Who knows, he might yet make a good carpenter of him.

Tears welled again but this time they were tears of joy.

*A reflection on the scripture  
Matthew, Chapter 1, verses 18 to 25*



## A Tribute to Bishop Gary Woolsey

by Esther Jackson

with excerpts from a tribute to his father by Todd Woolsey

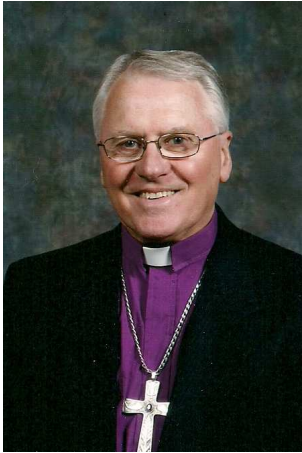


Todd Woolsey, Bishop Gary Woolsey's oldest son, gave a tribute to his father at the funeral service, Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

Todd shared the love and knowledge that his father was a man who lived what he taught:

- the value of hard work
- finishing what you start
- the importance of using your gifts to the best of your ability
- using those gifts to help others
- the value of relationships
- an appreciation of life

Gary lived and taught the above values as a witness to God's love in his own life.



Gary celebrated life to the full, rising to the challenge of new opportunities. Growing up in Brantford, Ontario, and following University study, Gary moved to providing ministry as a priest pilot to native communities in Keewatin Diocese. Here the family lived with a wood burning furnace, and no indoor plumbing. Gary's ministry continued in various

*"My favourite portrait of Dad"*

communities, including incumbencies in Big Trout Lake, Norway House, and Churchill. They eventually became a family of six: two sons, and two adopted daughters.

Gary was methodical and calculating in his life. He planned everything out. And so it was that Gary and son Drew were building a fence at their home in Calgary. Gary's principle: measure ten times, cut once. Well, the front door bell rang, and with his sense of hospitality, Gary dropped everything to visit with a friend who had dropped by. In the short time Gary visited with his friend, Drew completed the fence.

Gary was a born leader, able to take charge without being overbearing. He provided the same style of leadership for his family, sharing in the culture, customs, festivals, and local sports of each community where they lived.

Archbishop Michael Peers gave the homily at the funeral and included the following story:

In 1983 Gary was elected and consecrated bishop of Athabasca Diocese in Alberta. Archbishop Michael Peers presided at the service. Archbishop Peers and Bishop Woolsey then flew to Calgary for the consecration of Bishop Barry Curtis. At the airport in Edmonton, the Oilers were on the same plane to play the Calgary Flames. Gary approached Wayne Gretzky, mentioned that he also grew up in Brantford. Wayne asked if Gary had any sons. "Well, yes."

And "Do they like hockey?" Wayne pulled out some business cards, signed them, added #99, and gave them to Gary.

Archbishop Peers nudged Gary and commented, "I noticed that you didn't introduce your Metropolitan, and I also have children."

Following his retirement as bishop, and then from the position of rector of St. Peter's parish Calgary, Gary was appointed as the National Director of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. Gary provided inspired leadership to the AFP Executive, and was the speaker at Conferences across the country, offering leadership in prayer and in teaching others to pray.

Todd shared that when Gary was diagnosed with the cancerous brain tumor, he said "I am not afraid to die."



Back Row: Kathleen, Marie, and Drew,

Front Row: Heather, Gary, Todd,

Missing: Tina, and Terri

Once he had made the decision not to have any follow up treatment, he was moved to the Southwood Hospice, where he really started to live again. With his iPad propped on his lap, and a stylus in his good right hand, Gary completed his book On a Wing and a Prayer, motorcycle meditations. The book reflects his passion for riding a motorcycle, and the spiritual insights gained from

- continued on page 3 -



## A Tribute to Bishop Gary Woolsey

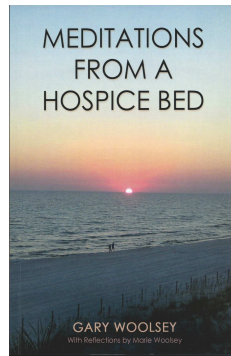
- Continued from page 2 -

this hobby. Focused on end of life issues, Gary went on to write Meditations from a Hospice Bed, along with reflections from his wife Marie.

Todd shared that Marie, daughter Tina, Drew, his wife Heather, Todd, as well as friends Helen and Doug Webber were all present with Gary for the last hours of his life. They prayed the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm. With the final words, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever," Gary took his last few short breaths, and started his new life in the house of the Lord forever.

Marie, their family, Todd, Drew, Tina, Kathleen, Heather and Terri provided an inspiring dedicated routine of care, and companionship for Gary in the ten months following the diagnosis. With the loving presence of their extended family, friends, the Gold Wing Motorcycle community, and the parish Gary continued to reach out to each person, family, friend or visitor.

As Todd wrote and sang in his song to his father, "Every lesson my Dad taught will lead you straight to this: There's nothing more important than relationships."



### Please Pray With Us as we search for New AFP-C Leaders: National Director & National Chairperson

*Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to whom you revealed your power and might and promised your presence and blessing, be among us during this time in the life of our church as we seek and pray for a new National Director and Chairperson for our Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. Reveal your power and might to us in our ministry, in our clergy, in our searching and in all our deliberations. Bless and guide our prayers and our labours that our mission and witness be strong in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Implementation Prayer for the Creation of A New Diocese

(Quoting the Pastoral Message from  
The Archbishop of Keewatin)

On July 6, 2013, the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada unanimously gave its concurrence to the request of the Province of Rupert's Land to divide the Diocese of Keewatin to create a new diocese in what is now Northern Ontario Region. The new Diocese will also include Northern Manitoba Region. Southern Region will become part of the Diocese of Rupert's Land.

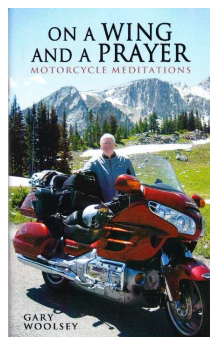
This re-structuring, which will become effective on or before December 31, 2014, has received the unanimous consent of diocesan, provincial, and national Synods and will open the door to new and exciting ways in which the Gospel is proclaimed, and ministry is offered.

### Implementation Prayer

*Creator God, we give thanks for the witness and worship of the Diocese of Keewatin for over a century and for your abiding presence on that journey. We are grateful for the bishops, priests, deacons, catechists, lay readers and other leaders you have raised up for us. They have kept the flame burning bright as they steadfastly held before us the vision of a future bright with promise.*

*We pray now that your Spirit will continue to rest upon us as we enter this new adventure of building up a self-determining, self-supporting indigenous church within the Anglican Church of Canada. As we have learned to walk together, may your Holy Spirit so strengthen and inspire us that we may truly dance together for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.*

## Book Orders



Anyone wishing to purchase  
either of Gary's books  
please contact

**Marie Woolsey**

**mewoolsey42@ gmail.com**

website: [www.silverfoxpublishing.ca](http://www.silverfoxpublishing.ca)



## Mission to Thailand

Cathy Reynolds

This summer I had the opportunity to serve in Mae Salit, Thailand, in partnership with the Anglican Church of Thailand, providing emergency food relief and medical aid to the Karen people. Our 22 member mission team, composed of doctors, nurses and lay people, provided medical care and more than \$8,500 in medications to approximately 800 patients at mobile clinics. The team also distributed 15 kilo bags of rice, and cooking oil. Many of those who visited the clinics were from Myanmar, where medical care is often unavailable and employment is seasonal. They journeyed 4 hours on foot, across the mountain, some carrying babies, and then returned home, with medication, two bags of rice and a bottle of cooking oil.



*Cassie Williams and Jose Couto*

Our mission included a holistic component, and it was my privilege and joy to serve on prayer ministry. A small prayer chapel was arranged at each site, and I was invited to pray with the local pastor and catechist. All were welcome to come for prayer, and the majority of patients visited the chapel each day, after receiving medical care. Imagine praying for 145 persons in a four hour period! But this was



*Rose Bowen and David Freeman*

our Lord's ministry and he sustained us. It was very humbling for me, a complete stranger from a different culture, to be accepted into this personal setting. Through the Holy Spirit, I was enabled to understand the prayer requests as described with hand gestures and a few words of English.

Prayer support is a critical element in mission, and during the time in Thailand, God would often bring to mind someone I knew to be upholding us in prayer. It was his reminder that the community that had sent us out was spiritually present with us.



*Cassie Williams*

It is by God's hand that the seeds of hope and love we wished to share were returned to us many times over by those to whom we ministered.

## RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER

BY EMAIL

IN LIVING COLOUR

You will receive  
the AFP-C newsletter  
directly into your INBOX.

Be sure to send me your  
email address!

[winken@worldline.ca](mailto:winken@worldline.ca)





## Children's Ministry

**Elizabeth Short**

### Advent Prayers

Advent provides us with an opportunity to focus with our children on prayer, and through prayer, some basic aspects of our Christian faith. There are many aids to be found in books and online that can assist us in that.

Children know that Christmas is coming, as is evidenced by their great excitement. Now is a time to use that sense of marvelous expectancy to talk about our hope in Christ, how Jesus is born for always and that one day we will meet face to face. That just as surely as Christmas is coming, so as surely Christ is with us. If you do not already have any established patterns of prayer you have an obvious place to start during Advent and the hope is that throughout the four weeks of Advent you are establishing a pattern that can continue.

Jack Miffleton has written a song entitled, "Make a Manger in Your Hearts". It is based on a poem called "It Depends on You," by the seventeenth century mystic, Angelus Silesius, Published by OCP, it is available online. In it he encourages us to make a manger in our heart as a place for God on earth, light a candle in our hearts as a sign of God on earth, and wrap a present in our hearts as a gift of peace on earth.

I would encourage you to teach your children this song one verse at a time and sing it each evening before bed. Perhaps you have an Advent calendar you open and Advent candles you light. This could become part of that ritual. By week three you will be singing all three verses for the remainder of Advent and you could go on singing it throughout the twelve days of Christmas. As you are learning and singing this song you will have opportunities to talk about what each of the verses mean and how each of your family (adults, too!) are trying to put the words into action. Song is a wonderful form of prayer and often one that stays in our heads.

Grandparents, this song is an easy one to teach. The lyrics and melody are well written and yet simple and repetitive. You could have fun singing it with your grandkids and I'm pretty sure it could elicit great conversation and storytelling. Perhaps if you do other things like bake cookies with them, you could sing as you mix.

As the dark days of winter continue after Advent, I encourage you to continue some form of prayer with your children that encourages them (and you) to action and

keeps alive their (and your) hope in our life in Christ.

I send my sincere blessings to you and the children in your life.

## Meditations from a Hospice Bed

### Meditation 12

**By Bishop Gary Woolsey**

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (Luke 21:33 NIV)*



It is strange how you can read a passage of Scripture and one word will send you off in a different direction. I was very involved in sports (baseball, football, basketball, track & field). So the word 'pass' makes me think of someone throwing and someone receiving. Both require special gifts. Jesus is passing His words on to us. Now we must see them as a gift and to receive them, incorporate them into our lives, and make the play count.

Then I thought of my years on the track team, running relays. We had to practice passing the baton to a teammate with precision. This was one of my favourite events. We each had our part to do. Again it is like Jesus passing His words on to us and we have our role on His team to not only receive but to pass on His teaching to others. This might be to our family members, friends and colleagues.

***Prayer: Thank You for reminding me of my place on Your team and the responsibility that I have in receiving Your eternal words and passing them on.***

### Marie's Reflection

Gary was never one to quote scripture to his family at home! It just wasn't part of our tradition. But he always preached 'The Word' in church and wherever he was invited to speak – at conferences, retreats, seminars. And I need to add a little to the scripture he quoted from Luke – "Actions speak louder than words". Gary's life was a sermon. The amazing number of friends who are accompanying him on this journey is proof enough of his faithfulness. He lived that Gospel and continues to do so in hospice. The fact that he is still writing these meditations is a testimony to a life well lived and a ministry that will live on after he is gone.

## ***The Road to Canterbury: Archbishop Justin Welby***

By Andrew Atherstone (Darton, Longman & Todd, 2013)

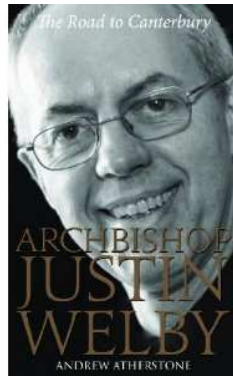
Book Review by The Rev. Carol Langley



I found this succinct but satisfying biography of our new Archbishop of Canterbury to be surprisingly inspiring. Although this book is written more like a report than an engaging story, it nevertheless reveals a man who has been profoundly touched by God and whom one comes to anticipate will make a difference not only to the

Anglican Church in England but to the Church universal.

This book reveals a man whose childhood was anything but secure and happy. Born into a very privileged and star-studded family, Welby knew what it was to experience the trauma of his parents failed marriage, living with an alcoholic father and failed family finances. Although he would admit that these experiences left their scars, he yet emerged into adulthood as a grounded and stable young man.



By the time he left university, Welby was a new but committed Christian who briefly considered ordination, but, feeling himself to be ill-suited to parish ministry, accepted a financial position in the oil industry where he became amazingly successful. The call to ordination, however, continued to haunt him and some 19 years later Welby was ordained. The book reveals Welby's meteoric rise through the ranks of the Church of England to his recent enthronement as the Archbishop of Canterbury. Success, however, is tinged by tragedy and we find ourselves sharing in Welby's sorrow as he suffers the death of his daughter.

Here we discover a man who is a risk taker; a man who is willing to think outside the box and try new ways of doing church. As dean of Liverpool Cathedral, he created an environment that was a safe place to take risks, where the Beatles' Imagine was played boldly on the church bells, where services were designed to attract all ages and stages of faith. As bishop of Durham he began to change the local Anglican culture beginning with episcopally led

evangelism followed by the daring move of having parishes pay the diocese according to what they felt they could afford rather than an amount that was imposed upon them by the diocese.

As short as this book is, it gives us a substantial portrait of our new Archbishop of Canterbury. To me it was an exciting and encouraging read for I saw a church leader who not only recognized the need for radical change but was actually willing to initiate and participate in that change. I saw too a man who loved Jesus passionately and is able to share that love with all manner of people both locally and internationally.

Here is a man who has stepped quietly onto the world stage, and who I am convinced will ruffle a few feathers!



### **Diocese of Central Interior**

#### **The Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI)**

##### **Gord and Mary Dove**



Last spring APCI joined the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer and Gord and I were appointed as coordinators as part of our responsibility of running a

Resource Centre for the diocese. APCI is a small diocese in population (19 parishes) but our geographical area is large and we are a diocese within the Council of the North and so resources are limited. Gord and I experienced Anglican Fellowship of Prayer when we were in Brandon Diocese several years back and were very impressed with its ministry.

Since last spring we have appreciated the support and encouragement of those at AFP as we learn more about the organization and have begun to get materials into the hands of interested people in the parishes. We have taken these materials to several diocesan meetings and the pamphlets have been well received. We are presently working toward finding parish reps.

We thank you for your help and generosity in this new endeavour and feel uplifted by prayer in this new ministry in APCI.

## PRAYER OF PROTECTION

Editor's Note: *I received the following email from Celinda Scott of the US AFP. I feel that it is worth repeating here.*

Dear Partners in Prayer,

I just sent this to a friend dealing with very angry words from a member of her parish. It wasn't about any of the controversies affecting our churches--it was just about the day to day running of the parish, and who should control the decision making.

Then another friend--from another state--told me of hurtful words her neighbor had said to her that had nothing to do with religion or politics.

Perhaps the prayer would also be helpful as we think about the dangerous situations in the world now.

All of this made me think of the verse from "Joy to the World" which goes: "no more let sin and sorrow roam, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found."

## PRAYER OF PROTECTION

We praise You Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth. Matt 11:25  
We thank You that You raised us up  
with Christ and seated us with Him in  
the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:6

In the Name of Jesus, and in the  
authority of God the Father Luke 9:1  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit Matt 28:18/Acts 1:8  
We tie up the strongman Mark 3:27  
and all the spirits of the elements Gal 4:3-9  
the rulers, the authorities, the powers  
of this dark world and the spiritual  
forces of evil in the heavenly realms, Eph 6:12  
on earth and under the earth. Phil 1:10b

We bless those who curse us Luke 6:28  
and those who oppose us, and ask that  
You will grant them repentance leading  
them to a knowledge of the Truth. 2 Tim 2:25  
Thank You Holy Spirit that You  
guide us into all Truth. John 16:13  
Holy Father, protect us (and those we love)

by the power of Your Name. John 17:11&15  
In the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Prayer by Rosemary Phillips*



## The Advent Calendar

**Laura Marie Piotrowicz**

**DR for the Diocese of Brandon**

I recall as a child the eagerness I felt each day in December, as I awaited that wonderful time when I could race to the (cheap) cardboard box and pull out the (terribly cheap) chocolate shape, then try to figure out what it was before I gobbled it down. A treat every day in December? How fantastic.

At the time, I didn't think about where the chocolate came from (it certainly wasn't fairly traded!) or about the environmental impact of the plastic molds inside the garish box wrapped in more plastic (I shudder now!). I also didn't think about what we were really counting down **TO** (though the promise of those Christmas presents did give my young self some excitement!). Instead, I was just keen to focus on the treat for that day.

As I grew up, I came to have a different, more spiritually mature understanding of Advent. The waiting, the eagerness, the now-and-not-yet for an entire liturgical season! It's still my favourite liturgical season, with its richness in the lectionary, in the hymns, in the prayers.

And, of course, the countdown.

I still enjoy a type of Advent calendar to this day. It's sweet, but not from processed sugar. It's anticipated, as I focus on it at the same time each night. It's meaningful, as it keeps my focus where it should be.

My grown-up Advent calendar is filled with blessings and prayers.

I set up a chart with 24 boxes, one for each day. And the real treat comes when, instead of emptying out the box, I fill it up. I consider a blessing of that day, and write it down – be it a phone call from a loved one or a beautiful sunset, it's something I'm thankful for. I focus on one particular prayer for that day, and write that down too – maybe thanksgiving for a meal or a request for safe travels. Sometimes I use words, sometimes doodles, whatever happens to strike me at the time. Some days are more colourful than others, some days have more full boxes than others. But every day has a treat – every day **IS** a treat.

As the calendar fills up, I am reminded that despite the busy-ness of the season I need to make time to celebrate the blessings God is constantly giving me. It brings me back into the right space for the season: putting my attention on God and helping me to recognize Emmanuel – God With Us – is a living reality throughout the season and beyond.



**Diocese of Huron**

Invites you to the  
Bishop of Huron's

2014 Prayer Conference

**DEVELOPING AND SUSTAINING  
PRAYING COMMUNITIES**

With

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Todd Townshend

Saturday, May 3, 2014

St. Aidan's Church

1246 Oxford St. W., LONDON, ON

\$20.00

Lunch Included

*Prayer is the way human beings  
Tune-in to the most powerful force  
In the universe.*

*Praying individuals  
Enter into communion with God.*

*Praying communities change the world.*

*Christians are called to live their lives  
So that they become prayer.*

During our time together these statements will begin our considerations and conversations about prayer so that our practice of prayer can develop in new, fresh, and sustainable ways.

Todd Townshend is the Dean of Theology at Huron University College and Canon Theologian of the Diocese of Huron where he has served in several parishes over the past 21 years, and where he has learned the central importance of prayer for the life of the Church. Stacey and Todd have three children, Tyne, Seth and Samuel. They live in London.

**AFP-C Newsletter Editor**

**Winnifred (Win) Mizon**

**519-433-7485**

**winken@worldllne.ca**

**Diocese of  
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador**

**Rev. Gregory Mercer**



The Most Rev. Claude Miller, Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada is pleased to announce the Ven. Dr. Geoff Peddle as Bishop Elect on the second ballot at the Electoral Synod of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Church on Craigmillar Ave. Please keep Geoff, Kathy, Adam and Ben in your prayer.



Most Rev. Claude Miller & Ven. Dr. Geoff Peddle

**PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT**

Our AFP-C address has changed. It is now

**The Anglican Fellowship of  
Prayer**

**P.O. Box 78084**

**Nepean, Ontario K2E 1B1**

Please send all donations and requests for resources to this new address.

**Dancing with the Word**

**The Rev. Dr. Janet H. Hunt**

Janet has served as a Lutheran pastor in Northern Illinois. She learned the art of story-telling at the dinner table growing up and continues to take joy in discovering connections between the Holy and the ordinary world.

I encourage you to check out her website:

**[www.dancingwiththeword.com](http://www.dancingwiththeword.com)**

I quote Janet: *"If you are a preacher and teacher of the Word, feel free to use what you find here in whatever way you feel called. While these words are my gift to you in this dance we are called to together, I would appreciate your acknowledgment of Dancing with The Word.com"*