ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP

Prayer

CANADA

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A TIDE OF PRAYER & ACTION

herbert o'driscoll

At 9.30 on the morning of November 1st 1755 the city of Lisbon was shaken for a terrifying ten minutes. Damage was widespread. Only later was it realized that the effects of a huge earthquake deep in the Atlantic Ocean were felt far beyond the city in western Europe and North Africa. The shaking was followed by tsunamis that did massive damage and caused great loss of life.



But what was also significant about this event was the effect it had on the mind of the Europe of that time. When we look at that date we can tell some features of the life and thought of that time. It was an age when reason and logic had attained a high place in human thought. The music of Bach was heard as a background to that way of viewing reality. The sciences were

fascinating people in many ways, geological, astronomical. The very idea of God was undergoing change. The idea of God as a kind of cast watchmaker was very much in vogue. God had formed the creation, then let it proceed on its own. Newtonian physics had offered a pattern of the universe as a vast and wonderful machine obeying eternal laws. About thirty years before the earthquake Joseph Addison had written a hymn that

had become very popular, in which he celebrated the new images of the universe.

Suddenly this immense disaster happens and it seems to challenge the neat and ordered universe envisioned by the thinking of the time.

As I write these lines we are all very much aware of an even greater disaster. We are watching our TV screens for its terrifying images. We are reading in our newspapers stories of almost unimaginable suffering. We have seen the world convulse even as we were singing Christmas carols. No wonder we must feel thoughtful about this vast event.

But how do we shape our thoughts? Can there be a meaning to this horror. However difficult it may be it seems to me that a Christian must answer yes, but answering yes does not mean that there is some neat explanation. Answering yes forces us to face the mystery of human existence and the human condition. One of the aspects of that mystery - perhaps its deepest aspect - is the existence of tragedy and suffering and pain. Our wrestling with this has gone on from the dawn of human thinking. Scripture, drama, fiction, philosophy, all do their wrestling with the meaning of these things. None offers a simple answer. I recall once hearing Alec Vidler, then of Cambridge, remark that "Christ may be the light of the world but there are some very dark places". I have always felt that this is a wonderfully realistic and balanced statement. Another and timeless way of saying this is that the Cross is at the heart of Christian faith.

cont'd on pg.2



Thoughts to Ponder:

Where is God when natural disasters strike?

An excerpt from the webcast "Conversations with the Primate" Toronto, Jan. 19, 2005

Where is God when 150,000 people lose their lives in a natural disaster? God is in the glimmer of hope for the future of humanity seen through

the overwhelming response to the victims from all over the world.

The hope that arises from the response to the tsunami is that the people of the world could come together in a similar way to address other preventable disasters such as AIDS and genocide.

Can we come together in a common cause to respond to those other ongoing tragedies?

"Conversations with the Primate" is produced by Anglican Video and posted to the Anglican web site once a month. You can access the streaming video by visiting www.anglican.ca and clicking on the webcast button to either view or download.

Viewers are also invited to respond to the webcast by writing to

Archbishop Hutchison at Andrew@national.anglican.ca.







A few Sundays ago one of the members of my parish asked for prayers for his son who works for CARE and is at present in south-east Asia helping to bring relief for

all of the people who are without water, food, clothing, shelter and health care in the aftermath of the huge tsunami that swept through that part of our world. As a congregation we were more than glad to respond with our prayers.

Our TV screens and newspapers have brought into our living rooms and into our hearts the tremendous needs and the amazing response from people all over the world with planes loaded with supplies and people to help. In all of this I was reminded of Jesus words to us in the gospel of Matthew... 'for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me'.

I think it's important for us to hold these two parts of our Christian life together, for our life of prayer opens our hearts so that we are able to respond to those around us both near and far. Of course it works the 'other way round' as well... when we see all the hurt and hunger around us we are moved to prayer.

I have found it heart-warming to see all the generosity and goodness at this time, as I'm sure that you have too.

Love, peace and joy,

Pat

Co-Director, AFP Canada

... cont'd from pg.1 – A Tide of Prayer and Action

Perhaps the deepest insight of all in scripture is the understanding of God as a God who suffers in our suffering. In Eli Wiesel's book NIGHT there is a terrible episode where a small boy is hanged in a death camp in front of all the other prisoners. Because the boy is small his body does not have the weight to end his life quickly. As the prisoners stand

there a voice cried "Where is God now". Another voice answers "God is there hanging on the rope".

Here we find expressed magnificently the deep insight about the nature of God as one who suffers with our suffering and weeps with our weeping.

prayer is not momentary to God" to God to God as one who suffers with our own time weeping.

I share this with you because it is the image of God that has come to mind many times in recent days as I, like you, watch this terrible suffering being played out in our living room. I find in myself an instinctive way of praying as I watch. Again and again we have been shown individuals, their faces contorted and their bodies bent in agonies of loss. I find an arrow prayer can be made

for that person, even though we are thousands of miles apart, we can have no knowledge of one another, and their face remains before me only for seconds. In God we are one, and the momentary nature of my prayer is not momentary to God who is beyond time and distance. Perhaps we should add that merely because that person passes from our sight in a few moments, they do

"the momentary not pass from before the nature of my

We were reflecting about the way in which the long ago Lisbon quake challenged the thinking of the time. I

find with this terrible event in our own time that, as well as reminding us once again of how vulnerable our humanity is to the forces of nature, we are also experiencing a realization of the essential unity of our humanity. Partly this is happening because of modern communications. We see the horror. We can help in an immediate way by our decisions to respond in various ways. As I said, we can see with fearful clarity men and women who need us to pray for them. So let us do so. Let us pray and let us act.



Welcome

With great enthusiasm and thankful hearts we welcome to our "prayerful fold":

Cathy Reynolds, new National Committee Secretary. Cathy is a member of St. Paul's on the Hill, Pickering, ON. where she is involved in the prayer ministry and is parish secretary of St. George's, Oshawa, ON.

The Rev. Canon Paul Williams, New DR for the Arctic. Paul lives in Rankin Inlet and attended the DR's consultation in NFLD in October.

New Coordinator, Province of Rupert's Land: Esther Jackson, DR for Calgary. Provincial Coordinators are also members of the National AFP Executive.



Cathy Reynolds



Rev. Canon Paul Williams

ESTHER'S GIFTS

Seeking Support For The Nan Henderson Memorial Fund

The Nan Henderson Memorial Fund was established shortly after Nan's death in 1997 as a tribute to her dedicated service and interest in the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. The Executive Committee at that time decided that the funds would be used to present to newly ordained deacons a package of AFP resources. This gift, which includes "Practical Prayer" by Anne Tanner, Parish As A Center of Prayer, Alongsider's Kit, five brochures (Beginning to Pray, Family Prayer, Intercessory Prayer, Contemplative Prayer, Spiritual Guidance) and a Prayer Card created by Esther Jackson, has been well received by the ordinands.

Over the years, a number of devoted supporters of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer have made contributions to the fund. However, these contributions have diminished and the fund is now exhausted. The Executive must make a decision to continue the presentations from general funds, which are limited, or to end the program. Various Diocesan Representatives have presented fifty-five packages during 2004 and the cost to AFP is \$30.75 each.

If you wish to support this very meaningful initiative, please send a note with your cheque designating your gift to the Nan Henderson Memorial Fund. Thank you for your consideration.

Lord, Joonot know what
to ask of you,
only you know what I need.
I simply present myself to you;
I open my heart to you.
I have no other degire
than to accomplish your will.
Teach me to pray. Amen
Francois Fenelon

Esther Jackson, Diocesan Rep for Calgary, is a gifted illustrator and calligrapher. She has created a series of cards and posters that are now available for purchase through our AFP Resource Centre. The cards were originally printed to give to General Synod participants when they came to the AFP display. There was a large painting with calligraphy set up as part of the display and small versions for distribution. The original card with

the AFP noonday prayer has been used for the last three years. At the Newfoundland DR's Gathering we made them all available in several sizes.

Each card has a different prayer that is beautifully done in calligraphy with a flower or a scene to enhance it. The cards make nice gifts and are handy to keep by your bedside for your own prayers. The larger ones are very nice framed and are helpful reminders of great prayers.









Prices

Prayer Cards 4x6"	\$1.00
Prayer Cards 5x7" (sunset only)	\$2.50
Posters 8.5x11"	\$5.00
Posters 11x17"	\$7.50
Pkg of 5 note cards with envelopes	\$6.00

Printed with permission A Book of Prayers Praxis Publishing Company

AFP GATHERING 2004

October 14-16 • Killdevil Anglican Camp, Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland

Pious Moose Join Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Consultation

In late October AFP members from across Canada gathered at Killdevil Anglican Camp and Conference Centre in the natural setting of Gros Morne National Park in Western Newfoundland for a time of consultation, learning, refreshment and good old fun. Billed as a "Consultation", the gathering brought together AFP Diocesan Representatives (DRs) and members of the AFP (Canada) Executive Committee, including the AFP (Canada) Co-Directors, Archbishop Barry and Pat Curtis. Also attending were several AFP Parish Representatives from Dioceses in Newfoundland. Local arrangements were coordinated by Mrs. June Whitten, the AFP Diocesan Representative for Western Newfoundland, who along with a hard working committee provided excellent arrangements and a smooth running conference.

One of the highlights of being in the natural setting of Gros Morne Park, was the opportunity to be in close touch with nature. It being Newfoundland in the Fall and being in a game preserve, the Consultation was joined several times by members of the local moose population. We learned that full grown moose find it very difficult to graze on level ground while standing up. Therefore they often "kneel" on their front legs to graze. Participants couldn't help but look at the kneeling moose and speculate that they were perhaps the "Pious Moose" were joining them in prayer. One participant was heard to suggest that they were the Diocesan Representatives from "Mooseon-knee".

The day-to-day work of encouraging prayer is done by AFP Representatives at the Parish and Diocesan levels. AFP (Canada) strives to have Representatives in every Diocese and Parish across the Anglican Church in Canada. The Consultation consisted, in the main of talks and workshops intended to enable, encourage, and empower the Representatives in their efforts to make the Anglican Church in Canada a "Praying Church". As a way of encouraging people to create and organize prayer events in their own setting, Pat Curtis, AFP (Canada) Co-Director, led a workshop on "Planning a Prayer Conference" during which practical suggestions were made and experiences shared by participants. In



















another workshop Rev. Archie Hunter, DR for Ottawa, introduced a method of Christian Listening that would enhance the ability to pray for the central issues in the lives of those who come for prayer. Chris McMullen, DR for New Brunswick, conducted a workshop on healing prayer, a subject that is still difficult to encourage in some Parishes.

The Consultation allowed people from across Canada to share positive and negative experiences. It is difficult in some places to get the clergy, priests and bishops, to recognize what AFP can do to help them and the people they minister to, to pray more comfortably and more often. This difficulty was addressed, in part, by a panel discussion, which included



- 1. Table Talk: Archbishop Barry Curtis, Rev. Peter and Sheila Bishop
- 2. Paul Dumbrille, Executive Committee, sharing about his pilgrimage
- 3. Executive Committee and DRs outside the Killdevil Camp Chapel
- 4. Norma Sklivas, Canada Provincial Coordinator and Lesley Dunkerley, Executive Committee enjoying the sights
- 5. Panel Discussion: Lesley Dunkerley, Archbishop Barry and Rev. Cathy Giroux, DR Keewatin
- 6. Pious Moose
- 7. The Sharecroppers at peak performance
- 8. Heather Birtles, DR Rupert's Land walking back to chapel

Bishop Leonard Whitten, retired bishop of Western Newfoundland, Rev. Cathy Giroux, DR for Keewatin and Archbishop Curtis. No all encompassing solution was identified, but participants were encouraged to hear of the headway made by some in making the ministry of AFP known and supported. Another panel, chaired by the Executive Committee Chair, Rev. Peter Bishop of Lakefield ON, encouraged participants to share what has worked and what hasn't worked with others. Heather Birtles, DR for Rupert's Land, gave a presentation called "Encouraging Others in Prayer". "Praying Through the Dry Times" was the topic presented by Norma Sklivas. A talk on the "Place of Prayer in Spiritual Direction" was given by Dr. Dana Melles of St. John's Newfoundland.

Another highlight was an evening of Newfoundland style entertainment with the "Sharecroppers", a trio of Newfoundland singers and storytellers. One of their stories was about the time on September 11, 2001 when they were called upon, with no preparation time to help lift the spirits of airplane travellers who had become stranded in Newfoundland. Their rendition of the song, "The Family of Man" moved many to tears.

AFP encourages people to pray in all circumstances and in many varied ways. In a presentation, entitled "My Pilgrimage" Paul Dumbrille from Ottawa, a member of the Executive Committee, told of the results of his prayer time while walking in Spain on the ancient Christian pilgrimage route, the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James).

The Consultation closed, fittingly, with a Eucharist held in the A-Frame chapel that is part of the Killdevil Camp and Conference Centre. Participants indeed felt united in prayer and encouraged to go forth and spread God's Kingdom here on earth.



Peter's Message \\



Communications

There is no doubt that communication. about our activities within AFP and letting "outsiders" know what we are about and what we can offer them, is vital to our ministry. The former so that we can intelligently pray for each other and the latter so that we can expand the work which our Lord has called us to do.

In this regard, your Executive Committee has been thinking for some time about enhancing our website. We owe a great deal of thanks to Rev. Stephen Ashton for his pioneer work in this area but, as websites have become more and more sophisticated, the way of the future is no doubt to communicate electronically and we must seek to be competitive. For an increasing number of people communicating and ordering goods and services electronically are daily activities. If as a Fellowship we are to move forward we must adopt a similar electronic means of communication.

A number of people have volunteered to help upgrade our website, but the basic work of redesign and initially maintaining the site is being done by my son. To check out our progress to date, please visit the site at www.avivaid.com/AFP. There is still much to be done, but even looking at it now will give you some idea of what the final product might look like. He plans to add, for example a number of pictures, the AFP Newsletter and the Prayer Prompter, which will be updated regularly in a way that it is currently too expensive to do by regular mailings.

If you do visit the site you will see a section at the top of the home page which will actually be a rolling display advertising current AFP events. This area will be invaluable, not only to inform people of activities in which they may choose to take part, but also to bea constant encouragement to pray for each other. "... expanding the work

Under the heading DIRECTORY OF DIOCESES we would list each of the Canadian Dioceses with the name of their bishop/s and also provide an e-mail address of each of the AFP Diocesan Representatives (DR).

To protect privacy and to provide access to people who do not have facilities to receive e-mails this address would not be their personal address e.g. the address for the DR in the Diocese of Moosonee would appear as moosonee@afpcanada.info. A communication to this address would automatically go to the DR of Moosonee or to the Web Master or other designated person who would then decide what to do with it. (E.g. send it on electronically, by phone or by regular mail.)

Under the area called LINKS we would hope to have links directly to and from other websites with related interests, (E.g. AFP USA Site and The Anglican Church of Canada Site). It is amazing how many useful contacts can be made by people who are just surfing the net and wandering from site to site, as well as by those people who are deliberately searching for particular organizations.

Why have I asked that this information be on our website when there is so much exciting news about what God is doing among us that could be printed? Firstly because I think this is an exciting area of work, which God will be able to use in some amazing ways. Another reason is because we would like your input with regard to information and other

suggestions as to what you would like to see included on the site. We also need clear photographs of recognizable people at AFP activities taken against uncluttered

backgrounds including

permission from the people on the pictures to publish them in this way.

has called us to do... So, take a look and see what you think about the developing site and let me know of your

> suggestions. For a while I will be acting as Web Master and my address is pcbishop@nexicom.net

That Christ might be uplifted and glorified. Peter Bishop

Chairman of the AFP (Canada) Executive.



Meet Katie Tait New DR for Nova Scotia



which our Lord

that Christ might be

uplifted and glorified.

I came to be a Diocesan Rep by a circuitous route starting as a Scottish Presbyterian child in an all girls Church of England school in St. Alban's, England;

through an engineering career in the aerospace industry in England! I married a Canadian and in 1968 emigrated to Niagara Falls. In 1975 we divorced and I moved to Calgary with our two sons.

Calgary was blessed with an excellent Lay School of Theology where I was drawn to chaplaincy work on a volunteer basis in the hospitals and nursing homes. I felt I had found my niche.

Engineering had been a good career, but sensing a different Power calling, I headed to Halifax and The Atlantic School of Theology, intending to become an interfaith lay chaplain back home in Calgary. One of our courses included participating in the life

happenings.

Matters Of The Heart



Matters of the Heart was the theme of the Toronto Diocesan Prayer Conference held on Oct. 22 & 23, 2004

The theme speakers were Barry and Pat Curtis. They gave three addresses each sharing part of the time; one setting up the topic the other showing how Our Lord moved to meet with each of us through prayer.

The addresses were "The Heart of the Matter", "The Listening Heart" and "The Supple Heart".

The opening Service of Light featured a litany referring to the heart and attendees were given the opportunity to light a taper and pray that Jesus may be their hearts desire.

Morning Prayer featured a response "It is matter of the Heart Lord".

19 workshops were offered, although not all were subscribed to, and provided good stuff; some in fact provided really good stuff.

Music was provided by 'Joy in the Morning', a group that has sung many times at conferences, and yet again they inspired us all.

The final service offered us the opportunity to appropriate in our lives what we had learned. To aid this there were anointing groups available for those who wished to seek healing and other groups for those who wished empowerment for ministry.

Over 200 folk attended and some had the socks blessed right off them, in a manner of speaking.

CD's and Cassettes are available of the theme addresses and they can be ordered by contacting Herb Letsche at 416 445 7720

- tony day

BOOK REVIEW

The Cup of Our Life

ISBNO 0- 87793 -625-9

The Cup of Our Life is a guide for spiritual growth. Rupp sets the format of the book in a series of inter-

related suggestions for daily practice. In her introduction she challenges the reader to note four useful reminders to carry as an awareness as one journeys into the whole of life.

WAKE UP: Be aware, open, ready to receive.

SHOW UP: Discipline yourself to be there.

SHAKE UP: Be willing to have your inner viewpoint rearranged.

START UP: Take your relationship with God into your world, that it will make a difference in the way you live.

Rupp asks the reader to use a cup or coffee mug as a tangible metaphor of various aspects of the daily practice. Each day has a particular theme, moving through the cup of life, its joys, trust, times of hurt, brokeness, letting go, compassion and blessing. Each day there is a Quotation from a spiritual writer, an introduction to the theme by Joyce Rupp, a Breath Prayer, a Reflection using the cup as an instrument of focus, a short Scripture Passage, an opportunity for Journaling, a Prayer to gather ones thoughts, and ends with a suggested Intention for the day. I think that for different people different parts of the Daily Practice will be more or less helpful. I have found the Breath Prayers most helpful.

E.g. Breathing In: I am...

Breathing Out: a Love Song...

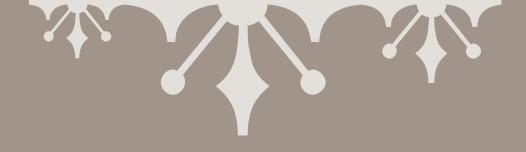
or: Breathing In: I Listen...

Breathing out: You are here...

As it is short, I can carry the breath prayer into the day, and some times write the words on a slip of paper to put into my pocket. The Breath Prayers are calming, and can ease the tensions of life. The book as a whole is calming, offers a process for healing, is challenging, is an inspiration to reach out to others, and encourages the reader to find joy in the simplicity of life and in the presence of the Divine.

reviewed by esther jackson





... cont'd from pg.6 – Meet Katie Tait

of a parish. As time went by I felt called to ordination and parish ministry.

The process toward ordination involves much prayer, many checks and many people, lay and ordained, professors and friends. In early December 2001, I was ordained deacon. On 1 January 2002 I became the incumbent of the Parish of Tangier, N.S. and was ordained priest in late June that year.

Being the rector of a parish in rural Nova Scotia is a joy. There is a great variety of work and a considerable amount of hospital and nursing home visiting, so I am acting as a chaplain at times. In engineering and in lay ministry, I was blessed with good and faithful colleagues, friends and team

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Tsunami Affected Anglican Dioceses

May God keep us all faithful in prayer at this time so that His amazing grace can be poured out upon all these dear people.

Church of Bangladesh

Diocese of Dhaka

Diocese of Kushtia

Church of Ceylon (Sri Lanka)

Diocese of Colombo

Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Diocese of Seychelles

Church of North India

Diocese of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Church of the Province of Myanmar

Church of South India

Diocese of Chennai

Diocese of Kanyakumari

Diocese of Mdhya Kerala

Diocese of Krishna-Godavari

Church of the Province of South-East Asia

West Malaysia (which includes Penang and Phuket in Thailand)

Phuket in Thailan

Singapore

Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

Somalia was the area affected. It is part of the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa

Anglican Church of Kenya

Anglican Church of Tanzania

Diocese of Dar Es Salaam

members. Here, in ordained ministry I am again blessed with good and faithful colleagues, friends and parishioners. My grateful thanks goes to all who have journeyed with me.

Bishop Fred Hiltz asked if I would consider being the Nova Scotia DR for AFP. I agreed as I was already a member and I knew Stephen Ashton, P.E.I. DR, who was well into it and could guide me. (I did not know he was planning to move to NS!)

The AFP Gathering in Gross Morne Park was a beautiful experience. Surrounded by glorious scenery, friends new and old, and an atmosphere of prayer, joy, loving concern and acceptance of differences - it was a truly uplifting time. The entertainment by the Share Croppers was superb! I have two of their CD's and in parts of rural Nova Scotia where CBC radio disappears from the car radio I enjoy again their lovely music and relive the evening in Lomond with other AFP friends.

The power of prayer is an awesome power. I am guilty of rushing and forgetting just how present God is and how readily available at all times and in all places. My hope for AFP in the Diocese of Nova Scotia is that prayer will increase in each parish, in each heart. My hope is that I may continue the good work already done by previous DR's and spread the work of the AFP in the Diocese through workshops and other means.

Blessings on you all.

Katie

Is Your Membership Due?

All of our funding comes from donations and the sale of memberships. It is only \$35, and covers the cost of both the Canadian and American newsletters.

Send your payment to: AFP Treasurer P.O. Box 85133, Brant Plaza P.O. Burlington, ON L7R 2G0

If you have any ideas, articles or photos that you would like to have appear in the newsletter, contact the editor, Pat Curtis, 12 Varanger Place N.W., Calgary T3A 0E9.

Something Always Happens When You Pray PRAYER & HEALING CONFERENCE

April 15-16, 2005 St. Peter's, Lakehill in Victoria, BC

Keynote Speaker: Nigel Mumford

Director of Christ the King Spiritual Life Center Greenwich, New York (Episcopal Diocese of Albany)

Registration Fee:

\$60.00 before March 30th \$70.00 after March 30th

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, Diocese of British Columbia and the Canadian Guild of Health, Victoria Branch will host the Conference. A general outline of the program is: Friday morning a session for Christian clergy; Friday afternoon session for medical professionals (Pemberton Chapel RJH) Friday evening opening healing service. Saturday will be workshops/plenary sessions. A bag lunch will be provided.

More information and registration forms are available from Brenda McKivett, DR for the Diocese of British Columbia and President of the Victoria Branch of the Guild at 250-383-4258,

email: uz239@Victoria.tc.ca

Questions About AFP?



If you have any questions about AFP, or want to find out how you can become involved, phone, write or email to:

Archbishop Barry & Mrs. Pat Curtis
Co-Directors, AFP Canada
12 Varanger Place N.W.
Calgary, AB T3A 0E9
Phone 403.286.5127
Email patbarrycurtis@shaw.ca

0r

Rev. Peter Bishop Chair, AFP Executive Committee Box 217, Lakefield, ON KOL 2HO Phone 705.652.3196 Email pcbishop@nexicom.net