



First Friday of the Month Call to Prayer – August 2008 Anglican Essentials Canada

We can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will. 1 John 5:14 NLT

Greetings in the Name of our Wonderful Lord, and welcome to our August Call to Prayer Alert from Anglican Essentials Canada. Our goal is to inform you of events and issues within the Anglican Communion that really need your prayer support, and to provide teaching that we trust will enhance your prayers and will be an encouragement to you.

May we encourage you to set aside **the first Friday, August 1st**, as a day of prayer and fasting for the Church in these critical days, ideally gathering with other believers in your parish or diocese for corporate prayer at some point in the day.

“ . . as we forgive them that trespass against us.”

So, dear Intercessors, how are you doing? ... How are you really doing? How are you coping with all that's been transpiring in the Anglican Church, both here in Canada and throughout the Communion?

How have you handled the actions of various dioceses taking parishes to court over church properties? How have you dealt with the charges of ministry abandonment being brought against clergy of the stature of Dr. J.I. Packer?

Has the lack of true biblical leadership coming out of Canterbury made you angry? Disappointed? Discouraged? Have some of the statements coming out of Lambeth left you incredulous? Speechless? Hopeless?

Have people at church that you have known for years and that you thought were loyal friends let you down, leaving you with a sense of betrayal or abandonment? Has your faith in the Canadian judicial system been shaken by the unwarranted judgments brought against some of our churches?

We are at a time in the history of the church where “business as usual” is not enough (if it ever was). There is real spiritual warfare going on and the true Enemy of our souls is not pleased with the stand that orthodox clergy, parishes, and in some cases, whole dioceses are taking on behalf of the Gospel of Christ. Our Enemy was sure that we would cave in to pressure and intimidation. He was convinced that “everybody has their price”; that we would find the cost of following Jesus had become too high. He gets absolutely furious when Christians actually walk the talk!

It's virtually impossible to be on the field of battle and not get grazed or wounded at least a little. In our case, it's not with bullets or shrapnel that we are wounded, but with the words and

deeds of others. The kinds of critical decisions that some churches have had to make have sometimes brought out harsh criticism from those who disagree. Years of pent-up frustration and hurt at being mocked or marginalized for orthodox beliefs have taken their toll on our strongest leaders, and it's difficult to not react or take up an offence on their behalf.

There is a verse in Hebrews that I believe is extremely important for us at this time of battle weariness and vulnerability to the wiles of the Evil One. Let's look at it:

*See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that **no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.*** Hebrews 12:15 ESV

The writer of Hebrews is warning us here to be vigilant against the subtlety of a "root of bitterness" finding its way into our hearts and, indeed, into our parishes where many can be defiled by it. Where we live near Milton, ON, we have many trees along our lengthy laneway being slowly drained of life by vines of wild ivy. In the same way, a root of bitterness can choke the very life of an individual or a Christian community.

The answer, of course, is in the grace of God and his wonderful provision of forgiveness that we must, even when it hurts, extend to those who have wounded us or who have criticized those we love. We cannot afford to allow bitterness to influence our relationships with those who don't agree with us, nor can we allow it to infiltrate our church families.

At the intercessory level, a root of bitterness will erode our faith and colour the very content of our prayers. We will find ourselves less and less inclined to spend intimate time with the Lord, even though we may maintain an illusion of busy ministry.

When Jesus taught on forgiveness, it always held both vertical and horizontal elements. Whether in his parable of the unforgiving servant, or in his teaching on the Lord's Prayer, he compels us to both seek and receive forgiveness and to offer forgiveness. It is the only antidote to a root of bitterness; the only provision of God that can deliver those who have been defiled by it.

Recently, our elder son, Scott, took branch pruners and severed the ivy vines right at the root where they emerged from the soil. The vines have died and are slowly dropping off the trees that they had invaded. In the same way, a root of bitterness can be cut off at its very base by loving forgiveness offered, and hearts that have been bathed in the grace of God.

Let's hold up the mirror of God's Word to see if there is any bitterness in us. As David prayed, "*Search me, O Lord, and know my heart! . . . And see if there be any grievous way in me.*" (Psalm 139: 23-24 ESV). Then let us pray for our clergy, parishes, and the orthodox movement throughout the Anglican Communion that any root of bitterness will be eradicated from our midst, and that any who are ensnared will be set free.

"And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from (the) evil (one)." Amen.

Garth V. Hunt



Praise God ...

- That He freely offers us His forgiveness
- That His grace is sufficient regardless of our circumstance
- That He is working through our circumstances and suffering to build Christ's character in us and that "all things work together for good" for those who love God (Rom 8:28)
- That He gives us the ability to forgive those who have offended us, since we have been forgiven so much more by the One we have offended
- For faithful Anglican bishops, clergy and laity who are taking a stand for the truth of God's Word – both within and outside the Anglican Church of Canada.
- For courageous North American Anglican leaders who persevere despite being ridiculed, slandered and sued because of their stand for Christ and His Word.
- For our partners in Common Cause who are working together to build an orthodox, biblically-faithful Anglican federation – and possibly a Province – in North America.
- For those godly bishops and Primates who are taking a stand at the current Lambeth Conference in England and for those godly leaders who are taking a stand by not attending Lambeth.
- For the growing unity among orthodox Primates as they work together to care for faithful Anglicans in North America – and in other liberal dioceses and Provinces.
- For the "new thing" God is working out in global Anglicanism. In the midst of chaos, He is building His Kingdom and refining His bride, the Church.

Please pray...

- That we each would be careful to not allow roots of bitterness to spring up in our hearts
- That we would be quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness
- That God would give us a new love for those who have hurt and offended us and new eyes to see how we can bless them
- That God would revive us and our church and, ultimately, our nation.
- For Biblically-faithful Anglicans in Canada who feel trapped in liberal churches and dioceses as well as for those who feel they can no longer remain in the Anglican Church of Canada. May they find Christian fellowship and spiritual nourishment..
- For those who are called to remain in the Anglican Church of Canada to pray and work for a renewed commitment to Jesus Christ and His inspired Word.
- For the recovery of a lively orthodoxy in the Anglican Church of Canada.
- For God's gentle, healing touch for the many who have been deeply hurt by the direction of their church leadership. May they be ready to forgive and not succumb to bitterness.
- For biblically-faithful clergy members and parish leaders who are increasingly isolated and experiencing pressure from their bishops – in some diocese more than others.
- For spiritual and physical protection for orthodox clergy and leaders and for their families.
- For congregations facing legal proceedings and, in some cases, being deprived of their church buildings. May they demonstrate love and forgiveness towards those who persecute them.
- For the leaders of Anglican Essentials Federation, Anglican Essentials Network and Anglican Network in Canada as they work together to provide leadership and support for orthodox Anglicans in Canada.
- For the leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada – including Archbishop Fred Hiltz and members of the Council of General Synod – that they will seek to know and please God.

- For Archbishop Gregory Venables who has graciously provided a temporary “home” for many Canadian Anglicans who no longer have a home in the Anglican Church of Canada due to “serious theological disputes”.
- For the orthodox Primates and bishops who are taking a stand for truth at great personal cost. Pray for spiritual and physical protection and for discernment, grace and strength as they also experience the stresses of leadership in a torn Communion.
- For the Archbishop of Canterbury. May he be fully yielded to God and seek the strength, guidance and discernment he needs to fulfill his responsibilities to the glory of God.
- For the current Lambeth Conference in England involving about 650 bishops from around the world. May it be used by God to renew His Church.

To help you pray knowledgeably, you may wish to check the Anglican Essentials Canada, Anglican Essentials Network, Anglican Essentials Federation and Anglican Network in Canada websites for information on events and developments in the Communion and in Canada:

www.anglicanessentials.ca, www.anglicanessentialsnetwork.ca, www.anglicanfederation.ca & www.anglicannetwork.ca.



*This email prayer alert is sent monthly as an encouragement to Christians across Canada who are willing and committed to praying for healing and renewal in the Anglican Church of Canada and for an outpouring of true revival across our land. If you would prefer not to receive communications from Anglican Essentials, simply reply to this email and enter "**unsubscribe from AEC**" in the Subject box. If you'd like to receive other communication from AEC, but not these prayer alerts, enter "**unsubscribe – prayer alerts**".*

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