



Anglican Network
in Canada

THE BISHOP'S CHARGE

SYNOD 2018

The Charge of Bishop Charlie Masters to the 11th Diocesan Synod of the Anglican Network in Canada, November 7th, 2018 at Saint Matthew's Anglican Church, Abbotsford, B. C.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

My dear bishops, clergy and people of this Diocese of the Anglican Network in Canada and guests,

It is my great joy to welcome you to Abbotsford, British Columbia for our 11th annual diocesan Synod.

I do thank, on all our behalf right now, Canon Mike Stewart and all the clergy and people of Saint Matthew's Anglican Church, Abbotsford for their wonderful hospitality. What a great church family! We as members of your Diocesan family from far and near are thrilled to be brought into the middle of your warm and welcoming church family.

Saint Matthew's, of course, is blessed to gather week by week in this very church building which is the home of Grace Church, a congregation Affiliated

with the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches. We are very grateful that Grace Church has graciously opened their entire building to us for this week. As I thank Canon Mike and the people of Saint Matthew's, I know he and they would want me to express all our gratitude to Pastor Ryan and the good people of Grace Church in whose building we meet.

The text we are meditating on this week as we gather for this Synod is the gospel reading for this evening Matthew 9:35-38.

Two years ago we pondered Colossians 4:2-4 – praying for an open door for the Gospel.

Last year we made our way through all four chapters of 2 Timothy but our theme verses were 2 Timothy 2:8-10 – Remember Jesus.

“Remember Jesus”: the gospel of Jesus stands, the Gospel works and the word is not bound.

“For the sake of the elect”: living our lives as those sent by Jesus for the sake of those who are yet to receive the salvation that is Him alone, by choosing to be witnesses.

“For which I am suffering bound with chains as a criminal”: There is suffering, there is push back from Satan, the world and our own flesh. This is a guarantee but the mercies of the Lord are there too, and as John said in his first epistle, “for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

(Thinking of suffering I want to acknowledge that amidst the many encouragements of the past year, as the gospel continues to go forward, both our Suffragan Bishops have had to deal with much personal suffering as they press on in the gospel: Bishop Trevor dealing with cancer and Bishop Stephen most recently facing the tragic death of their daughter Janice. I thank you so much for the way you have stood with both these men of God in prayer which has and does mean so much. Thank you. Please continue in prayer.)

And finally we rejoiced in the phrase:

“With eternal glory there is rejoicing in heaven over every sinner who repents”: Glory! And there is a day, the Day, when men and women, boys and girls from all tribes, nations, languages, cultures will gather around the Throne and worship the Lamb who was slain—glory!

Out of all that we declared, on the 10th Anniversary Synod last year, the next ten years to be for us we pray A Decade of Evangelism.

And so on this 11th Diocesan Synod of the Anglican Network in Canada, a Diocese of the Anglican Church in North America, it seems good to us and we believe the Holy Spirit to mediate on Matthew 9:35-38, early in this new decade, a decade of

evangelism to ponder these words For the Sake of the Harvest.

Six headings as we meditate on the passage:

1. The Situation
2. Through Jesus’ eyes : he saw the crowd as “harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd “
3. His response - “he had compassion for them”
4. The Harvest is plentiful
5. The Labourers are few
6. Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth labourers into his Harvest.

1. Situation

After what is usually called the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) now starting in Chapter 8, Matthew launches into a series of events that followed in Jesus life - one of them in Chapter 9 being the calling of himself Levi or Matthew by Jesus from tax-collecting and the sin he was involved with to following Jesus and by chapter 10 being called to be one of the 12 apostles of Jesus. This, Matthew acknowledges, was pretty shocking to many as that seemed to them that Jesus was condoning sin. On the contrary Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ...For I came not to call the righteous but sinners”. (Matthew 9:12b, 13b)

Let me just list some of the flow:

Matthew 8:1-4 Jesus healed a leper who approached him saying, “if you will you can make me clean.” And Jesus immediately healed him as he stretched out his hand saying, “I will. Be clean.”

Matthew 8:5-13 Jesus heals a Centurion’s servant who was not even present. Jesus expressed great

joy that the Centurion understood that He had authority to heal just by his word.

Then Matthew 8:14-17, Jesus healed all who were sick including Peter's mother-in-law and freed all oppressed by Satan.

At the beginning of Matthew 9 Jesus healed a paralytic, declaring first the good news to him that his sins were forgiven and then healing his limbs, and by doing so proved, he, Jesus, actually did have authority to forgive sins.

So, now by Matthew 9:35 after a steady stream of healing and blessings by Jesus for all manner of people, demonstrating the consistent pattern of Jesus with fallen people in this fallen world – many oppressed by the evil one– and backed by the testimony of Matthew the tax collector he summarized all this by saying:
“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.” Matthew 9:35

Teaching the Word.
Proclaiming the Gospel.
Healing every disease and affliction.

What Matthew goes onto say then comes as no surprise

2. Through Jesus' Eyes

“When he saw the crowds ” – what did he see?
“When he saw the crowds ... for they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a Shepherd.” Matthew 9:36

The point is these folks are absolutely lost, hopeless and helpless because they don't have a Shepherd, the good Shepherd .

1 Samuel 2 gives a graphic example of what not knowing the Lord, the good Shepherd, does. In this case it is the priest Eli and his two sons Hophni and Phinehas who showed such contempt for the things of God. The reason is made clear: “Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD.” 1 Samuel 2:12

They don't know the good Shepherd– the one who would lay down his life for the sheep so as a result any evil thing is a possibility, and disaster a certainty.

Jesus said elsewhere as recorded in John 10: 17: “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

John 10:17-18

There is no surprise that people are making bad decisions– living dysfunctional and evil lives in every way. Or that governments, including our own, or corporations– if they have no contact with the Shepherd– will be running headlong, many times even well intentioned, we know driven by the Prince of the power of the air, as with Hophni and Phinehas, and the outcome will always be disastrous unless there is an intervention by the good Shepherd.

This is what Jesus sees.

We need to pray the He would open our eyes.

3. His Response

His response to these lost, harassed and helpless sheep- COMPASSION– incredibly– is sympathetic. His name is Emmanuel, God with us. He takes no

pleasure in the death of the wicked. God sent the Son not to condemn but to save.

As a result of these eyes and this heart of compassion— thinking of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit when a person is in Christ— “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

We need to pray for new eyes, eyes that see people through Jesus’ eyes.

We could pray as Elisha prayed for the servant of the man of God: “When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, ‘Alas, my master! What shall we do?’

He said, ‘Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’

Then Elisha prayed and said, ‘O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.’ So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

2 Kings 6:15-17

Open our eyes Lord.

4. The Harvest is Plentiful

So, what’s the plan?

We need to understand: the Harvest is plentiful. In this context it is irrefutable that he is talking about people. It’s looking at the crowds that he means there are people to be brought into the barn as Harvest. It’s like another similar situation when he calls his disciples to be “fishers of men”— hauling people into the boat. And there’s a lot of them— these people in this harvest. We all too often make the mistake Elijah did of thinking in his case he alone had not bent the knee to Baal, whereas God gave a number of 7,000.

Acts 18:9-10:

And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”

“I have many in this city who are my people.”

They’re ready to be harvested. There’s a lot of them. They sure don’t look like it, or are not sounding like it. They look pretty lost and helpless, but evidently God has plans for them to be harvested.

So, keep on preaching, the Lord says to Paul, and don’t hold back out of fear— the Lord has committed himself to our protection.

And the Harvest is not only plentiful, it is ready.

Jesus said:

“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their

labour.”
John 4:35-38

5. The Labourers are Few

What needs to be noticed is he doesn't say "bodies" are few, "attendees or adherents" are few, or "supporters" are few— it's "labourers", active participants to bring in the Harvest, they are few. This implies called, equipped and sent and then action.

To be connected to the Vine as a branch, which is what we are in him, Jesus said in John 15: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." John 15:16

Romans 10: 14-15: "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'"

The way the gospel is meant to work— the plan for reaching the nations— is through the multiplication of labourers who will reach more, who will become labourers who will reach more, who will become labourers, etc.

Another important word is discipleship. Those who are in Christ need to be brought to full maturity in Christ as disciples who in turn can bring others to become mature disciples. This is what a labourer is.

Acts 9 describes the dramatic turnaround of Saul, the enemy of the gospel, to be a great labourer for the gospel. And in his own words he said: "Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared

also to me.

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed."

1 Corinthians 15:8-11

This is the plan: from enemies to labourers who raise up more labourers.

6. Pray Earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest

It is His Harvest, His call, His people, His initiative from beginning to end.

Jesus said, "I will build my Church." It is His Harvest, it is His command.

So pray, pray, pray for the Harvest.

My friends, because of the way Jesus sees the world—because astoundingly he hasn't written it off, all the masses of people, who in all sorts of ways are running headlong away from him, hurting one another along the way— he doesn't see them as chaff to be blown away.

Nor does he see those who are his as useless pawns to stand action-less as he enlists the angels to bring in the Harvest.

Therefore we must obey him and pray to him, who is the Lord of the Harvest.

And we must labour and know we are sent.

Notice that Matthew 10 begins with the very people he charged to pray for labourers. From that group

he calls the twelve and sends them out.
(in Luke the exhortation Luke 10:2- in context of sending out the 70)

As a church, as a Diocese, we have to do everything, everything we can for the Harvest.

I have been praying dear friends, for a capacity by the Holy Spirit to urge this Synod with as much urgency and fervour as I can muster, so that you and I may take steps to not only talk about being witnesses—bold witnesses— but to do everything in our power by prayer and preparation to be ready and willing to open our mouths and speak about Jesus regularly to the people around us and to invite them to respond to Jesus in repentance and faith. And to believe God that many will, and will in turn do the same with others, who will in turn do the same with others, until He comes.

I don't want to guilt you into anything, but I do pray the Holy Spirit will create in us an exhilarating longing that Jesus had as he shared with the woman at the well. I pray the Holy Spirit in these days will “up the ante” and create in us a deep sense of expectation and commitment to witness to Jesus.

OUR PLAN FOR THE HARVEST: FIVE PRIORITIES

Connect to the shepherd. Disciple and equip.
Provide resources and barns for the Harvest. This is our plan and our preoccupation.

Ever since 2014 we have been praying that these five priorities might become a transformational reality in every ANiC congregation. This is our prayer to the Lord of the Harvest, and this is our plan to call forth labourers and to be labourers ourselves.

So...

Bold Witnesses

You can't be on the sidelines. You are a labourer called that others might become labourers too. I love it as I and my fellow bishops cross the country we see a dramatic growth in the work of evangelism.

I attended St John's Vancouver in late this winter for a fantastic training of the membership in personal evangelism.

I know Good Samaritan St. John's are very eagerly working to do training in personal evangelism. They even took their 10th Anniversary this past summer and made it a training time for learning to be witnesses for Christ.

In this Synod we will be hearing of summer projects sponsored financially in part by the Bishop Don and Trudy Legacy Fund, which have led to many children coming to a saving faith in Christ. One day this summer on a phone call I heard of nine dear children who had that day at a Sports Camp at St. George's Burlington received the Lord.

And there was a breakthrough weekend of evangelistic events at Good Shepherd Vancouver.

These are just a few. All across the country and in New England there is a growth in bold witnessing.

I myself have tried to encourage people every week in my brief video updates to “search the Scriptures daily and in every opportunity open your mouth and speak to people about Jesus.”

And at this Synod, wonderfully, I am thrilled that all ten of our workshops were offered to help us as Anglicans lead people to Christ, all for the Harvest!

Biblically Grounded

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:14-17

No Bible means no gospel, no Jesus, no labourers. In our preaching, teaching, study, memorization we are working at becoming labourers who are thoroughly equipped through the word of God.

Loving Children and Families

I am thrilled for the way I see godly in-depth teaching being offered for our children. Fantastic curricula written and designed by our own people are offered so that small and large churches can offer great teaching. Parents are assisted in discipling their children and congregations are being helped in reaching out to children in our communities.

Every church, even those who have yet to actually have children attending, are being provided with the encouragement, coaching and curricula to move forward.

If we are going to reach a Harvest, the great majority of the Harvest needs to be among children and youth who will have a life ahead of labouring in the Harvest.

On Mission

We are not a club we are those who are called to reach North America with the transforming love of Christ, all for the Harvest.

Planting and Growing Churches

Harvesting outposts equipping labourers for bringing in the sheaves.

I have a sense that in this past calendar year labourers uniquely called and gifted for church planting are being raised up, and in our finances there is a growing commitment to raise the necessary funds.

The five priorities are our plan for the sake of the Harvest.

I thank God for Joan Deeks who in her capacity as Diocesan Director of Strategic Ministry Priorities continues to work very closely with me and on my behalf in keeping us going and on track with these priorities. I also thank God for our wonderful Chairs of each Priority: Scott Hunt, Canon George Sinclair, the Reverend Jeremy and Kimberley Graham, the Reverend Neil van Heerden and the Reverend Alastair Sterne.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE HARVEST

ANiC is a Diocese of the ACNA and together we are part of the GAFCON movement.

This past year that connection was strengthened by the GAFCON 2018 conference in Jerusalem. There were over forty participants from ANiC and just over fifty from Canada.

“We will proclaim Christ faithfully to the nations,”

was the rallying call. This, of course, was music to our ANiC ears, as we are seeking to take our place in this call with our Decade of Evangelism.

The Letter to the Churches, which was the culmination and call to Anglicans around the world, has given us all a place to stand together as we go forward in the gospel.

For us from the ACNA we have reason to rejoice and also pray as our Primate, Archbishop Foley Beach, was identified as the next Chairman of GAFCON. This is a huge responsibility which requires us to stand with our beloved Primate in prayer and it is a strong endorsement by the rest of the global GAFCON that, they not only recognize and welcome us as legitimate Anglicans, but see our leader as the leader.

PROTECTION OF THE HARVEST

The Bible is clear and our own experience confirms this, that always as the church goes forward there is pushback from Satan, from the world and from our own flesh– all of which hate the things of God. To cheerfully wander into a battlefield without any thought of the fact that there is an enemy with serious weaponry would be very foolish and we must not do that.

We must pray and trust the Lord for the covering by the blood of Jesus over every part and every person that make up our Diocese.

We must study the Scriptures such that we can handle accurately the word of truth and be warned and reprov'd of danger. David in Psalm 19:11 said of the Scriptures: “moreover, by them is your servant warned; and keeping them there is great reward.”

We must put on the whole armor of God that

Ephesians 6 speaks about.

We must be prepared and equipped, when needed, to deal, by the resources the Lord has given—all very carefully and strictly according to Anglican direction with the permission of the bishop— in deliverance ministry where there is obviously activity by Satan and his demonic realm that requires this ministry. I am very grateful that our Episcopal Vicar, Bishop Don Harvey, and Archdeacon Paul and the Rev. Ann Crossland have very recently organized an important training session on Spiritual Warfare and Exorcism with an excellent guest speaker, the Reverend Dr. Craig Isaacs, which was very well attended and received in Ottawa just two weeks ago.

There has never been a time in recent history where speaking of protection is more necessary. The ongoing free use of abortion to terminate pregnancies is so horrific most of us don't even want to think about it. But who will stand up to protect the unborn if the Church doesn't? And now in Canada the legislation which is quickly becoming part of our nation and culture— a culture of death— is medically assisted dying which is putting doctors, medical institutions, families and patients in an impossible and evil situation. Anglicans for Life Canada, under the direction of our own Reverend Vicky Hedelius, the AFLC National Director, as a group lives to help you and your congregation in this area. Make no mistake, the killing of babies and the killing of those who are in immense suffering is from the evil one, who hates life and seeks to steal kill and destroy. It is his preemptive strike so that these dear, dear vulnerable people cannot hear the good news and receive the salvation that is in Christ Jesus. I urge you and your congregation to pray about becoming a “Life Affirming Church” for the sake of the harvest.

We must all continued to be vigilant particularly for vulnerable peoples who are the younger and the older members of our congregations. I'm very grateful for our Plan to Protect policy and count on all of us to be vigilant and careful in these areas.

POSITIONING OURSELVES FOR THE HARVEST

Understanding then our plan for the Harvest is the Five Priorities and we have declared ourselves as focusing on a Decade of Evangelism– we have said we must do everything, everything we can for the sake of the Harvest.

To me though, I am not strong at all in thinking or giving adequate thought or leadership to our structures. Nevertheless, for the sake of the Harvest, I am persuaded now that we must address our structures too.

1. Together, having established a growing DNA of what we call the Five Priorities, it seems right to me now– having set aside for the first three years of my tenure as Diocesan the notion of a multiplying Diocese– knowing the clock is ticking, to address it at this stage, believing for the sake of the Harvest that reaching Canada could not be done by one lone Diocese. And that if we did multiply we must consider the reality of the many people groups now part of Canada and how to provide the best platform for ministry so that they may be reached with the gospel. If there were more than one Diocese, in fact a cluster of Dioceses banded together for the sake of the Harvest, that could be very effective.
2. My first action was to appoint Bishop Ron Ferris to be my Assisting Bishop for Missionary Planning. He has been brilliant,

tireless, faithful and wise, for which I am extremely thankful.

3. Right from the moment he started he has helped walk the Bishops, Archdeacons and ANiC Council in the formation of a plan called Beyond a Lifeboat which is before us.
4. The Bishops and certainly I, as Diocesan, are commending it to our Synod for your consideration.
5. There have been pre-Synod meetings, distribution of materials to all, and lots and lots of feedback. We have listened carefully and appreciate deeply the interest and concern which has been expressed.
6. Dear friends this is a new experience for us a young diocese. Previously and wonderfully our synods have so far been all about the important things of the gospel, and therefore there has always been joyful agreement on virtually everything. But this time we have something which is not even close to a first order issue– not core– but is about strategy for mission; positioning ourselves the best for optimum Harvest. In this there is plenty of possibility for disagreement and that is okay. This is an opportunity for us as a diocesan family to have a discussion towards a way forward. It's an exercise in corporate discernment of the Lord's leading on these things.
7. As we have this discussion, please remember, this is only about strategy for the sake of the Harvest. Please recognize as you speak we're all in this together; all with a passionate desire to reach the lost for Christ; praying fervently to the Lord of the Harvest that he might use our efforts towards raising up a multitude of labourers to reach Canada for Christ.

8. In the feedback there have been many suggestions of how to enhance our mission outreach. It has become evident that more time for further discernment as to how best to address our mission needs could be helpful– to continue to be able to do so in unity, all the time guarding our precious sense of family together as we address these things and ultimately move forward. Pressing for a vote now on a plan in this Synod could be premature and could ultimately set us back in our Harvest work rather than move us forward. It is also clear that the Provincial Canons require that for any of this work to be done each individual parish and congregation must address these things themselves too. There is more work to be done but I have a real sense of peace that together, taking more time this coming year, we will be able to discern together a way forward. It is of great, great importance to me that we move as a family and care for each other faithfully throughout.
9. Having said that more time for discernment could be helpful however, I do believe that even as that work is ongoing, it is my hope that now, at this Synod we signify as a Diocese our desire to sponsor Bishop Todd Atkinson and Via Apostolica in an application for them to become a Missionary District of the ACNA. This would make it possible for Bishop Todd to be received by the College of Bishops of the ACNA, hopefully this coming January, and would give a membership for Via in the Province with our encouragement. It would likely mean my supervision of Bishop Todd, in much the same way I have a relationship with Bishop Andy Lines, which I would be willing and honoured to do.

I have mentioned Bishop Todd and Bishop

Andy. Perhaps I should say:

Bishop Todd, he and members of his clergy, have been part of our synods since 2014. Since then we have been walking alongside each other in a closer and closer relationship. As I have already mentioned, it is my hope and prayer that very soon Bishop Todd will be welcomed as a Bishop of the ACNA and that Via Apostolica which he leads will be given an official status in the ACNA, and together we can turn our attention to bringing in the Harvest here in Canada.

And concerning Bishop Andy:

Bishop Andy Lines from the UK, as the GAFCON Special Missionary Bishop to Europe, it is our joy to have you canonically connected to ANiC, so we welcome you dear Bishop Andy to your official diocesan home.

I am thrilled that both these two men of God will be our Bible teachers for this Synod.

10. All of this, all of this, is only for the sake of the Harvest. My fervent prayer, and I would ask you to join me, is for the Lord of the Harvest to send out more and more labourers into His Harvest, and that we could discern how best to participate in this and how to provide a platform for ministry to reach out with the gospel to all the nations who are right here and arriving daily here in Canada. Would you pray that with me?

GREETINGS

I am thrilled to welcome two guests. One comes all the way from New Zealand: the Reverend Steve McNabb, from Christ Church Roimata. In the lead up to GAFCON 2018 we discovered some wonderful

friends in New Zealand, who in many ways are just beginning to go through what many of us went through ten years ago. There developed a very natural desire to stand together and encourage one another in the days ahead. I am so pleased Steve McNabb could travel all this way to share with us in our Diocesan Synod. I trust it will be helpful in some way for him and the leaders and congregations he represents. I trust there will be congregations from ANiC and ones from New Zealand who will form partnerships and that this new relationship will grow for the sake of the Harvest.

The other guest is Rev. Mac de Waal. Pastor de Waal comes from Alberta and is a pastor of the North American Lutheran Church. The NALC has a very similar history to ours of the ACNA. I myself am co-chair of a dialogue between the ACNA and the NALC. I have found wonderful fellowship with our friends of the NALC. Together we are working on a major conference in 2020 on discipleship and making disciples, which of course is exactly what we are praying for as we pray the Lord of the Harvest to raise up labourers (disciples and disciple makers) into his Harvest.

I was given the honour to represent our Primate at the NALC Lutheran Week Conference in Denver last August and there met Pastor Mac.

Welcome to you both.

A WONDERFUL TEAM FOR THE HARVEST

When the Bible talks about harvest there is always joy. There is great joy in the harvest. For me, labouring with my fellow bishops, clergy and each congregation, our Archdeacons and Canons, our amazing Diocesan staff and our ANiC Council already is a great joy. I thank God for the privilege and the joy of labouring together in partnership in

the gospel with all of you faithful servants of the Lord— all this for the sake of the elect that they too will receive the salvation that is in Christ Jesus.

Each year there are changes in our ANiC Council - Victoria Huyer will have completed 6 years (3 terms) as a very valued member of Council. Among her responsibilities I am very grateful, as a lawyer herself, how she has led our Canons Committee, worked to receive resolutions at our synods and was a Lay Secretary to Synod. On my own behalf as Diocesan and on all our behalf I want to express our gratitude to her for a job well done.

One of the privileges which is mine as Diocesan is to make appointments of Canons from time to time. I do that carefully and prayerfully hoping to encourage ministry all for the sake of the Harvest.

This year again I want to appoint two very fine candidates.

The Reverend Brian Mcvitty who is the Rector of Celebration Church, Barrie, Ontario I am appointing to be Canon to assist the Bishop in special regional projects. Brian is naturally one who rallies the other clergy and congregations. His help will be very much appreciated.

I am also appointing the Reverend Alastair Sterne as Canon for Church Planting Support. Himself a church planter, he is the lead pastor of a wonderful church plant now established right downtown in Vancouver called St Peter's Fireside. He is the chair of our Church Planting Priority and serves on the Provincial task force for church planting called Always Forward.

Finally, a few years ago Bishop Don Harvey, our Episcopal Vicar, accepted a ministry of pastoral oversight as Patron and Chaplain for the newly formed Order of the Sons of the Holy Cross. As of a few days ago, October 31 2018, he has stepped down from that position. I want to thank him for

his important help with this Order in its formation and early years.

Today I want to announce that I have appointed the Reverend David McElrea here of Saint Matthew 's Abbotsford to succeed Bishop Don as Chaplain and Patron. It is my hope in the final service of our Synod to install him to this new ministry.

Dear Friends, For the Sake of the Harvest

It is clear from what Jesus says that he considers this to be present and urgent. We are not a club. We are a church. We did not choose him. He chose us to go and bear fruit. We are here only because of who he is and what he has done, and he has called us to pray and to labour at his command and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We must pray and do everything we can by his grace and strength for the sake of the Harvest.

Lord Jesus Christ, You stretched out Your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of Your saving embrace. So, clothe us in Your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know You to the knowledge and love of You; for the honor of Your Name. Amen.



Yours in Christ,

+ *Charlie*

The Right Reverend Charlie
Masters