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News from Our Anglican World *Vol. 9, No. 5 – 9 September 2015*

"We don't want a Church that will move with the world. We want a Church that will move the world." ~ G. K. Chesterton

"The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) is growing because it is driven by a gospel imperative to bring God's redeeming love to all people...gay, straight, men, women and children offering repentance, faith and hope for eternal life to all who are willing to believe." ~ David Virtue's VirtueOnLine Digest

"Liberal Christianity has little appeal to non-believers. The ancient word did not heed Christian idol worshippers: it was won over by those who preached and lived the biblical gospel with passion. It was the difference which made a difference; the difference with real content. It was the message that Jesus Christ is Lord and that he rules through the Scriptures, the word of God. The ancient Christians out-lived, out-thought and out-loved their contemporaries. They did not do this by doubting the faith or changing it to suit the times. They did it by confessing the truth, even to death." ~ Retired Australian Archbishop Peter Jensen, now General Secretary of GAFCON

Is Christianity Dying? Have the U.S and Western Europe Lost Their Way? Don't Let Media Headlines Mislead You.

What is going on? What's happening to morality in America? The U.S. Supreme Court mandates that homosexual marriage is the law. Membership in The Episcopal Church, in the U.S. has fallen from a peak of 4 million, in 1968, to far less than half that number today. Several of the larger protestant denominations

have splintered in to several pieces. In Europe, many beautiful, historic Cathedrals and parish churches sit nearly empty on Sundays.

Are we in the Church of the Holy Communion (CHC), and as members of the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC) and the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), the only Christians in the US that still offers a timely message, consistent with Holy Scripture, focusing on worship of Almighty God and not man?

No, but that's why so many of the main stream churches in this country are coming apart...their traditional members are leaving to find new homes ,that more closely follow the teachings of the Bible. CHC welcomes new visitors every week; many seeking the more traditional Biblically based services that we offer.

While these changes mount in America, the main body of practicing Christians has shifted to the so-called global South. "A century ago, 80 percent of Christians lived in North America and Europe, compared with just 40 percent today," according to an article by author and theologian Wes Granberg-Michaelson. "Today, the Christian community in Latin America and Africa, alone, account for 1 billion people. Over the past 100 years, Christians grew from less than 10 percent of Africa's population to its nearly 500 million today." One out of four Christians in the world presently is an African, and the Pew Research Center estimates that will grow to 40 percent by 2030.

CHC, the REC and the ACNA have strong ties to the 40+ million Anglicans in the global South through affiliation with and participation in GAFCON, the Global Anglican Futures Conferences, one in Jerusalem in 2008, the second in Nairobi in 2013. ACNA Archbishop Foley Beach is a member of its Primates Council.

We learn from Bishop Sutton's recent trip to Russia that both the Russian Orthodox Church and the ACNA have expressed a desire to see the growth and deepening of relationships between our two churches. The Russian Orthodox Church, with its more than 140 million members, has been adding an average of

1,000 new parishes each year, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, 27 years ago. Bishop Sutton reports that while visiting Moscow, the churches were so overcrowded, people were lined up outside on the sidewalk, waiting to file through to receive Holy Communion.

According to Granberg-Michaelson, "Asia is also experiencing growth as a world Christianity center... Asia's Christian population of 350 million is projected to grow to 460 million by 2025. The global religious wildcard is China. Even today, demographers estimate that more Christian believers are found worshipping in China on any given Sunday than in the United States,"

So, is Christianity doomed? Not by a long shot...! With the challenges of an increasingly secular western culture and an environment of religious compromise and discrimination, we in the ACNA must be courageous and stay with the truth of the Bible's witness, as our African and Russian brethren have shown us the way.

"I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?" ~ from *Abide with Me*, verse 3

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