



A Pastoral Letter To CANA

From The Missionary Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Julian M. Dobbs

January 24, 2014

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we enter this New Year, I give generous thanks to Almighty God for your faithfulness to Jesus Christ and for the remarkable ministry of CANA.

We are now in the 9th year of our mission. From very humble beginnings our ministry has grown to over 100 churches that are associated with CANA, across 30 states. I am tremendously grateful to the dedicated clergy, lay leaders, and congregations who have supported us with their prayers, financial giving and encouragement. Some of you have been journeying with us in CANA for a number of years, and others have just recently become part of our CANA family.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the visionary and sacrificial leadership of our founding missionary bishop, the Rt. Rev. Martyn Minns. Bishop Martyn, Angela and Rachel have served CANA with distinction. They have given of themselves, their talents and resources and poured out their lives for this expression of biblical, missionary Anglicanism in North America and beyond. Bishop Martyn, Angela and Rachel currently reside in the United Kingdom and are fulfilling an important ministry serving GAFCON. They will return to the United States later this year.

In September 2011, the Church of Nigeria gave approval for the creation of missionary dioceses within CANA. The first diocese to be inaugurated by CANA was the Missionary Diocese of the Trinity. This was followed by the approval of the Missionary Dioceses of CANA East, CANA West, and the Diocese for the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy. These four CANA dioceses, together with some congregations in ACNA that have retained their affiliation with CANA, make up the growing CANA family.

CANA is a founding jurisdiction and full member of the Anglican Church in North America. As such, CANA bishops serve as bishops of the ACNA and I am pleased to serve as a member of Archbishop Duncan's Cabinet and a member of the Governance Task Force of the Province.



I firmly believe that our CANA dioceses will serve to strengthen the mission and ministry of the Anglican Church in North America and I look forward to deepening this significant relationship.

Some incredible gospel opportunities and challenges are before us:

- More people than ever before are finding their 'religion' outside of the church
- In the United States, protestants have fallen below 50 percent of the population
- Two thirds (67 percent) of clergy in the United States do not believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God.

North America is restless and searching. Our towns and cities once again need the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ and it is into this environment that the Lord has called us in CANA to declare, defend, and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in a manner that results in changed lives and transformed communities for the glory of Almighty God.

I commend our CANA bishops to your prayers. Pray especially for Bishop Amos Fagbamiye: MDT, Bishop Felix Orji: CANA West, Bishop Derek Jones: Chaplains and Armed Forces, as well as Bishops Minns, Bena, Anderson and Ames. We will be meeting together as bishops prior to our annual CANA Council in April.

Brenda and I are looking forward to travelling among our CANA dioceses and congregations. We are already excited by your energy and desire to see our communities come to faith in Jesus Christ. There is much excellent ministry being offered in our dioceses and congregations as faithful clergy and lay leaders prayerfully engage in Christian mission.

I am humbled to be a shepherd in this great task as we together continue to fight the good fight and stand fast in the faith.

In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Rt. Rev. Julian M. Dobbs
Missionary Bishop | Convocation of Anglicans in North America