



September 7th, 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We write to you having returned to our respective dioceses after the 2008 Lambeth Conference in the United Kingdom. God graciously bestowed the gathered bishops with many gifts of worship, fellowship, shared stories of faith, and the deepening of vital relationships. Surely every bishop present at the conference left with a deepened appreciation of the desire that members of our Anglican Communion have to follow Jesus in ministry and mission, and to do so together. We give God thanks for all these blessings.

We also rejoiced that Bishop Anthony was invited to be a leader of one of the "Indaba" groups of forty, where the small Bible study groups came together to explore issues in depth. Although this required a great deal of his time, we were grateful for his opportunity to lead.

The conference expressed its solidarity with persecuted people everywhere, and particular reference was made to the genocide in Darfur and other acts of oppression and violence in Sudan. Together we pray for just and lasting peace throughout the whole of Sudan.

During the Lambeth Conference, Sudan's Archbishop Daniel released a statement, and followed it with a press conference, and both of these attracted media attention. He emphasized the traditional position he takes on a number of issues, particularly human sexuality, and no one could fail to note the precision with which he spoke his mind. We are also grateful for the charity with which he spoke.

Bishop Paul had the opportunity to meet privately with Archbishop Daniel and with several Sudanese bishops. Their time was truly affectionate and their discussion very open. Archbishop Daniel made it clear that although theological differences exist within the communion, and that our cultures are different in some respects, he is extremely grateful for the New Hope project, and that he very much supports the on-going partnership between the dioceses of Kajo-Keji and Bethlehem. He was most affirming of the bishop and people of Bethlehem.

We wish to assure you that as your bishops we are of one mind about the importance of our work together for the spiritual health of both our dioceses. This is a time of change in Anglicanism, a truth that is apparent on many levels, and no one can predict what the Anglican Communion will be like at the time of the next Lambeth Conference. We can and do trust God to work his will, and therein is our peace of mind. We pledge to work together and in each of our dioceses to build understanding and love as all of us seek to follow the Lord Jesus in word and deed. All of our work is begun, continued, and ended in Him.

One of the gifts that the existence of differences in culture and outlook presents all of us is the experience of being loved by people who are not like us and who may not share all of our views on any number of subjects. The grace of learning to receive love from those who are not like us is a gift from God that awakens us to the depth of God's own love in giving Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

As we continue our vital work together, it is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will guide us into deeper levels of understanding, devotion, and dedication of the ministry our Lord has given to us in Kajo-Keji and Bethlehem.

Faithfully yours,


Bishop Anthony Poggo


Bishop Paul V. Marshall