

# PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE

SPECIAL EDITION UPDATE ON LAMBETH CONFERENCE

FALL 2008

A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD AND REV. PATSY MCGREGOR



## LAMBETH REFLECTIONS

The first few days in Canterbury allowed us to bring Corbi, Charese and Cousin Kevin, who were backpacking Europe, into Canterbury Cathedral and the grounds. Todd had received special permission for us to climb the narrow, windy, ancient staircase to the top of the Cathedral bell tower. As we peered down to the historic town below, we learned that the bombs during WWII were gathered by men risking their lives to throw them off the roof before detonating, in order to save the antiquated building and preserve the center of Christianity in England and the global Anglican Church.

In a similar way, the Bishops and Spouses from the world-wide Anglican Communion met in Canterbury at the invitation of Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to discuss pertinent issues. Lambeth Conference is held every ten years for Bishops from all over the world to convene for three weeks to worship, pray and study. Consecutively running was the spouses' conference. With all the current tensions, the Lambeth

attendees were coming to preserve the Anglican Communion. Archbishop Rowan emphasized this at the opening retreat; that the preservation of the Anglican Communion and its future would only take place with Christ at its center.

Imagine 650 Bishops processing in cassocks throughout the streets of Canterbury. Tourists were lined up on the cobblestone street. Traditional monks from the South Pacific adorned grass skirts and presented the Gospel in a dugout canoe, dancing and playing panpipes as the Bishops broke out in clapping to the Melanesian song, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Certainly this was a highlight of the opening service!

Everyday the Bishops convened in small group Bible studies, of which Todd was a facilitator. The Bible studies became a safe and sacred place where people felt free to share theological and contextual issues and personal concerns. Another highlight of the Conference was



*Top: Indian Ocean Bishops with Spouses.*

*Top Right: Todd and Patsy pictured with Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams.*

*Bottom Right: Todd and Patsy with Bishop Love and wife, in the Queen's Garden at Buckingham Palace.*

*Above: Participating in the Walk of Witness eradicating poverty.*



## Lambeth, continued

Pictured from top: Todd, far left, with Malagasy Bishops  
Todd and Patsy at Canterbury Cathedral, Bishop Frade wife Diana (of SE Florida)

the Indaba Groups, a Zulu word referring to elders coming together and openly discussing issues and coming to conclusion by consensus.

On Wednesday, July 23rd, Patsy was interviewed on stage during the plenary session for the 500+ attending spouses. Along with Richard Schori and five others, Patsy was asked questions on what it is like to be a Bishop's spouse and what she had sacrificed to follow this call. Using the story of the Widow's Mite, Patsy's words moved the audience to tears. As a result, further interviews were requested and can be found on our website, [www.peoplereaching.org](http://www.peoplereaching.org).

Thursday was London Day. We left early in the morning for the Walk of Witness which promoted the eight Millennium Development Goals. For Patsy, it was a prayerful walk, asking the Lord to put these goals that are on paper and transform them in the faces and lives that we see on a daily basis ~ fighting for basic human rights like drinking water and education. At Lambeth Palace, we heard Prime Minister Gordon Brown give one of his most passionate messages ever about eradicating worldwide poverty.

The lunch supported the cause; a delicious, yet elegantly simple lunch followed at Lambeth Palace and a few hours later it was off to Buckingham Palace for tea with the Queen! As we walked around the garden, Todd was asked by the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion Office, "Would you like to meet the Queen?" An immediate flippant thought came to mind. "No, I am just too busy!" Instead, he nodded and said, "Yes," and ran in his purple cassock to get Patsy to speak with Her Majesty!

On Monday, July 28th, 2008, history was made when Patsy was asked by the Archbishop of the Indian Ocean to join the other Bishops in the Province to con-celebrate at the Eucharist. For the first time ever, a woman was at the altar with the Bishops in the Province celebrating the Eucharist.

Jane Williams, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, gave a final message to the spouses. We took back with us her final words of exhortation to uphold our faithfulness to the authority of Scripture, faithfulness to the detail of Scripture, faithfulness to our context and concerns in the world. We took back a stronger commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a stronger love for God and each other and were challenged in our own lives to work with the government in our individual situations to help change the world. As the Archbishop of Canterbury says, "We are called into union with the one Christ and stand in His unique place ~ stand *in* the Way, the Truth and the Life." This is what will preserve the Anglican Communion. Thanks Be to God!

### Praise and Prayer!

- Praise for a successful second annual People Reaching People Board Meeting. PRP has officially become incorporated. Please pray for non-profit status.
- Praise for Todd and Patsy completing the second residential class for their D.Min. degree.
- Praise and prayer for Corbi and Charese who are off to a good start for college.
- Prayer for Boca Raton Christian School mission team coming in November to break ground on the Bishop's residence.

### Immediate Prayer Request:

- Patsy's contract as an Appointed Missionary with the Episcopal Church has been abruptly terminated and came as a great surprise to the McGregors. Please pray for extra funding to help supplement health care, pension, transportation and other benefits previously paid for by The Episcopal Church and for a new partnership with a sending agency.

FOR SUPPORT OF THIS  
MINISTRY MAKE CHECKS

PAYABLE TO:

DIOCESE OF SE FLORIDA

MEMO: MCGREGORS MINISTRY

MAIL TO: CRIS VALDES

DIOCESE OF SE FLORIDA

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