

GOD'S PURPOSES FOR THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY IN THE NEXT DECADE.

Purposes:

- 1. To demonstrate His love to humanity.**
- 2. To speak against evil.**
- 3. To reconcile humanity to itself and God**
- 4. To speak hope to a hopeless world.**
- 5. To point the world to eternal life**

Preamble

To my mind, if God remains the same yesterday, today and forever-the unchanging God, the being synonymous with his character which never changes, then his purposes for the Anglican Communion and His church in general remain as He laid down and contained in the scriptures-the Holy Bible. "Love The Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength and love your neighbour as yourself" (Mtt. 22: 37-39). After all, He orders the seasons and the times, as such He brings about the decades and they do not change Him in-spite of the numerous changes decade succeeding decade have brought about due to the attempts of humankind at advancing and upgrading its living. Therefore God's purposes as always, for the next decade, will only have to stream from His root purpose of love-love for him and love for your neighbour-being the summary of the law.

The Anglican Communion is strategically positioned to influenced for good, the world in the next decade if it first of all puts its house in order. For as it stands today, it is a bundle of brooms whose cord is broken and a house in disarray.

This is a communion whose scriptural and doctrinal acumen and dossier can not be intimidated having passed through years of seasoning and been tested and proved. The degree of exposure and the depth of biblical and historical wealth of the church and it's balanced doctrinal position, has strategically placed it in a very good position to influence the world and push through God's purpose and agenda.To further give it credence is its prime position in the world's affairs, backed up by its well rooted theological prowess.

Love to the World

The next decade will need to have the Anglican Church championing the message of love. Love was the virtue that sent Christ from heaven dawn to earth. For God so love the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believe in him should not perish but have ever lasting life. Jesus indeed reached out to the world with total love that it emptied him of his all. Having poured all out for the sake of humankind, some indeed believed him and became outstanding beneficiaries of his benevolence. With these who became his church catching the vision, He then instituted love and left his church with its message and task of propagation.

The apostle John writing the church enjoins: "Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Every who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love."(1John 4: 7-8).

The world today is dry of love having been so over taken by wickedness and evil. The Isis scourge around the Middle East, the Alshabab hoax in East Africa and the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria and how they have reduced human life to that of an animal, hunted and taken with impunity. All in the name of fighting for a god whose nature, character and mission is the recovery of lost lives. The Anglican Church in the next

decade needs to revisit this initial love lust of a loving God, find out where humankind missed it, when it missed it and what scriptural way must be employed to recover it. For when the world loses the virtue of love then hatred sets in and a wild and violent theatre is made of human dwelling. The apostle John admonishes thus:

"We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother...Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised my brothers if the world hates you. We know that we have passed through death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life?" (3: 11-15)

The grand purpose of God is to redeem the whole of humankind to himself. Therefore love came down from heaven in search of and to restore to life lost humanity. Our world today appears to be more lost than the state of the then world that pushed God into sending his only beloved son into the world. The Anglican Church has always been a pioneer for missions and the state of the world today, behoves it again to vanguard the message of love in a world sold to hatred, wickedness and violence. The redemption work of God continues through his church. To do this and to do it well, the Anglican Church needs to begin by checking its own love status, ensure its flourishing before it can move out to speak and give love to the world out there.

Speak Against Evil.

Evil is real and the Anglican Church must not shy away from this reality. Our world is replete of it. And this was the state of the world by Genesis 6 and in the time of Noah. This deeply grieved God and provoked his wrath. And it will seem as if evil always begins with the increase of humankind on the surface of the earth. The population of the world today stands at slightly over seven billion people. And with increase in population is increase in evil. To fight evil, it normally takes the righteous. God used Noah to fight the evil of his time. God's blueprint of the Ark was deliberately designed with room for those who would give up their evil ways, for it was ordered made way beyond the family size of Noah and the animals it housed and saved. There was room for those who would take the warning of through Noah his servant seriously. Noah spoke to the evil of his time. The prophets of old spoke to the evil of their time. Jesus came and spoke to the evil of his time. The apostles spoke to the evil of their time. The Anglican Church is strategically positioned to speak to the evil that plagues this generation. From biblical historical records, where God sent men the evil world can not listen to, his flood of anger and punishment is released unabated upon depraved humanity. The Anglican Church in the next decade beginning in-house, must launch a massive campaign against evil. It must be pre-occupied with war against evil that the heart of humankind today given more to evil, may be redirected to righteousness.

Reconcile Humanity to Itself and God.

The human race has in recent times more than ever, witnessed the greatest division in its relationship. It has been deeply polarized along two principal lines- religious and economic lines. One of the greatest lessons Jesus taught and left us with is the one of unity. And apostle Paul writing the Ephesian church, emphasized this message. In that letter he said that God made known to them the mystery of his will...purposes in Christ Jesus...to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.(Ephesians 1:9-10). By Ephesians 2: 14ff, he said it more clearly that God's purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross by which he put to death their hostility. The same apostle Paul took so seriously the message of reconciliation so that he declared reconciliation as a ministry given by God to the church. And to effectively exercise this ministry of reconciliation and have the desired outcome, it must be done as God did it in Christ Jesus-not counting the sins of men against them. That means we must give up self righteousness while at the same time not tolerating the willful importation of deliberate sin into the biblical standards for righteousness, justice and morality. Internally, there is no time in the history of the Anglican Church that the need for the message of reconciliation is more rife than now. With the new introduction and entrance of diversionary doctrinal views championed by a revisionist agenda and which has fiercely threatened and torn the communion apart thus weakening its witness, the next one decade can not afford

to have us just watch on purposelessly. We must ourselves get reconciled so we can reach out to the world out there in dire need of reconciliation.

Hope to a Hopeless World

The direction the world is going is as Jesus described in the gospels-sheep without shepherd. "Jesus was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep without shepherd." (Mtt 9:36). It appears that hope has been lost completely in the world in which we live. Humankind has been so suppressed, pressed and depressed by the threats and pressures of the world. This side of eternity so plagued by an assorted array of ills has been corrupted disrupted and robbed of the remnant hope that drives it on. The disruption of nature due to environmental pollution, the corruption that plagues human society and the immorality that seeks to upset and upturn religion as the custodian of morals and values and the greed and self centredness that drives human pursuits, are a few out of the numerous live threatening and hope emptying vices of our world. When the world is this plagued and vice clouded, with every new day not getting any better, the hope for grace then drains and runs dry leaving humankind hopeless. With the ever dwindling hope fortune, some hope giving institution must rise up to its responsibility. The Anglican Church in the next decade beginning with itself, needs necessarily give hope to the hopeless world within and without. The gospel remains the last hope of the world. The Anglican Church has the gospel, knows the gospel, can teach the gospel and must give the gospel to a world ever waning in hope.

Point the World to an Eternity with Christ Jesus.

Every journey that has a beginning has an end. The bible tells us that the creation of the world is God's idea. He began it all. And it is certain that everything The Lord begins he takes through to an end. The Anglican Church does believe that life does not begin and end here, but has an eternity in view. It is God's desire that the life of humankind begins and ends with him. And the bible from Genesis to Revelation is the unfolding of that story. It is the story of God's creation, sustenance and ending up in salvation. It is the route from birth through life to death and eternity. It is the arrow pointing humankind to abundant-eternal life from temporary and ephemeral life. Jesus said I have come to give you life in abundance, therefore whoever believes in him shall have everlasting life. During his earthly ministry, he gave this life to some-those who willingly received him. And by the time he was leaving for heaven, he handed the responsibility of continuing this business of drawing and pointing humankind to a better, abundant and inexhaustible life to the apostles. As did their Lord and Master, the apostolic succession has faithfully continued. The Anglican Church has been a beneficiary. And today the onus lies on us to faithfully tell ourselves and then others about the reality of the two eternities-an eternity with Christ, the hope of every believer, and an eternity with satan and his cohorts. Again the next decade must see the Anglican Church neck deep in the business of shepherding humankind to an eternity with Christ while rescuing them from an eternity with satan.

Conclusion

As equipped and well position as the Anglican Church is to reach out to the world in this way, it must put its house in order. The recent doctrinal wears and tears must be sorted out, put right and re-baptized. This done then we can face the next decade with confidence and on purpose. The whole religious and non-religious world has treaded on in the path of endless uncertainty for the about two decades of doctrinal trial in the Anglican Church. And unless our ax are put together, the purposes for which God has raised the Church in a time like this may never be served. Yet we are not to quickly forget that we stand accountable before The Lord on his day for all the privileges and opportunities he ever gave us to prepare a people for his kingdom.

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