

It is right and a good and joyful thing

ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE BY BISHOP PAUL V. MARSHALL

always and everywhere to give thanks.

People who show up experience the body of Christ



Bishop Paul Marshall

I am very much in hopes that we will see the greatest possible breadth of participation in the Bishop's Day for Kids, set for June 27, especially as there is now a bus ride from the North. I am in hopes that our four parishes with day schools will consider this an opportunity to bring the whole bunch — nobody doesn't love Narnia, our theme. [Bishop Paul recently sent this note to our clergy, and we share it here.]

Recently a dear, faithful, and devoted church lady from one of our formerly vibrant and now possibly dying churches sent me a list of "top-ten" reasons why some of her acquaintances at her parish are not more involved with other Christians in northeastern Pennsylvania.

I admire her dedication and devotion to her parish and her energy in collecting this data. I am troubled by the responses she collected because the question assumed an attitude. The responses are, of course, representative of all the rationalizations one would provide if an interviewer asked why one wasn't doing something one knew one ought to do that can, however, be gently and lovingly laid aside.

The deep concern I have, of course, is that she believes that the problems her parish has in mission and ministry lie outside of itself.

I can understand that psychologically; nonetheless, it is a death knell, and there is little I can do about it but point to the great efforts that surrounding parishes have been making with success because they have energetic leaders.

I hope I retire before that parish closes — I hope even more that the parish will, as a body, decide to adopt a different stance towards life as disciples. Having chatted recently with somebody Bishop Warnecke ordained, I know we have historically in our corporate DNA the ability to reinforce mission where it is vital and provide a kind of hospice care to parishes who do not have a devotion to mission.

No parish will be in mission to a degree higher than that at which the priest functions.

The wider truth, of course, is that you and I set the emotional and missional level of our parishes. Our commitment to fellowship, mission, and stewardship sets the bar above which the parish cannot rise. Where our energy is, there will be the parish's. When we are depressed, burned out, or slothful, that will set the tone of the parish's life — hence the stern warning to Ezekiel that was read at some of our ordinations.

Your enthusiasm for connection with those whom God has given to us in baptism will in part be measured by how much you are personally excited about and participate in every opportunity we have to be together for the strengthening of fellowship throughout the community of northeastern Pennsylvania Episcopalians. The diocese remains our basic unit.

You and I have the great privilege of nagging people into having a good time. The most important aspect of these events is not their content or style (pace my lady friend's quibbles) but the fact that they happen and that you and I are smilingly committed to them. The world is run by the people who show up, and the body of Christ is, as skeptical St. Thomas learned a week late, experienced by those who show up.

Pennsylvania's secular (and to some degree, religious) culture is still largely one of blame — we assume that a problem is no longer ours if we can pass along responsibility to a designated guilt-bearer. The more one is linked to the culture, the less able one is to experience Christ — hence the popularity of our

religion among the disenfranchised in first-century Rome, and why the Methodists, for instance, caught on among the poor in this country to the embarrassment of their Anglican betters.

I would like to strap any number of people to a chair and force them to watch the first episodes of the BBC comedy "To the Manor Born" in the hopes of their realizing that while connection to the past is lovely (I am, after all, a historian), tradition is best served by continuing the hard work it represents.

My mission among us is to keep the anxiety where it belongs — on us as leaders. I do not care if certain structures or prelates above me are angels or demons — we will do our mission. I hope you will feel encouraged and empowered to inculcate continually by example the very same attitude among those for whom you have responsibility, just as you have been doing.

Fair Warning: I will be phoning you whose children and youth are not present at our lovely assortment of children and youth events in an attempt to understand why you have chosen not to emphasize connection to the larger community given to us in baptism.

As we move into a time of deeper commitment to mission with our sisters and brothers in Kajo-Keji, it is vital for Jesus' sake that we do everything we can to increase the sense of connectedness in Christ among those whom we are called to serve. Some of you have made magnificent strides in this direction, and to you I am deeply grateful.

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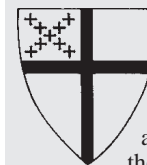
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June 27
10:15 to 3:30
Cathedral Church of the
Nativity, Bethlehem

Bishop's Day for Kids The Lion, the Bishop & the Wardrobe

Bus transportation for Kids in the North:

Leave promptly at 8:30 from Applebee's Restaurant, Viewmont Mall, exit 191, off I-81 in Scranton. The bus will arrive back at the Viewmont Mall approximately 5:00. Sign up for the bus when you send in your registration. Both registration and medical forms are available from your rector or at DioBethKids.org.

Register by June 8
to receive your
free Narnia T-Shirt

OUR NEW HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BY CHARLIE BAREBO

Where there is no vision, the people perish ... Proverbs 29:18



Charlie Barebo

The question I hear most as I travel about our diocese is, "When will we be starting the Capital Campaign?" I, too, am eager to begin providing more significant relief to our brothers and sisters here and in Kajo Keji. To rush out headlong without the necessary organization, training and development work, however, would prove disastrous. Where there is no vision the people will perish, quite literally in this case.

Our intent is to exceed the \$3.6 million goal set by our consultant, Kirby-Smith. Their experience and guidance has been a crucial element in our success to date. In this month's column, I'll cover the campaign architecture, i.e., our organizational structure, the development of support materials and a timeline.

The task at hand is immense. We are trying to raise roughly four million dollars in a diocese geographically larger than some states, containing 63 churches and roughly 14,000 Episcopalians. The sheer size of the diocese adds to the complexity of the task at hand. There are six sub-committees to be staffed and trained.

- The Steering Sub-Committee gives guidance and develops policy. They will have approval authority for major decisions. They will recruit volunteers for the remaining five sub-committees, solicit major gifts, establish and maintain the campaign timeline.
- The Gifts Sub-Committee will identify, develop, and solicit gifts.

- The Prayer Sub-Committee will assist the Bishop in development of the Diocesan Campaign Prayer and the Diocesan Campaign Prayer Program.

- Communications and Marketing Sub-Committee will assist in the development and publication of Campaign print materials. They will also co-ordinate campaign bulletin releases, web site, bulletin board, etc.

- The Youth Sub-Committee will develop and co-ordinate programs to include youth in the campaign.

- Administrative and Donor Support Sub-Committee will process completed pledge cards. They will maintain a data base and insure that recognition notices are forth coming.

In addition to six sub-committees, we will also be appointing three regional teams, each composed of one clergy and one lay person, to champion the campaign. They will be responsible for overseeing the churches in their respective regions. We will also be looking for a lay person in each parish to assist the clergy with campaign

related activities. We will be recruiting and training an organization of roughly 100 people, no small task.

The timeline of the campaign is spread over an eighteen month period.

- March to August 2007 – Staff and train campaign sub-committees. Develop case statement, pledge card and informational materials. Insure proper financial safeguards are in place. Cease on-going fund raising for Kajo-Keji and local social ministries.

- September 2007 to March 2008 – Public phase of the campaign begins. This is the time where we will develop the gifts.

- September 2008 – Celebration of Thanksgiving for the gifts we have offered to the Lord to support the campaign.

Here are some important thoughts to keep in mind:

- The campaign is representative of the whole diocese. Individual sponsorships or naming opportunities are not being considered. We are

making this gift as the Body of Christ known as the Diocese of Bethlehem.

- We are ceasing active fund raising in the ministries involved. As the Father made a sacrificial gift of His only Son, we seek sacrificial gifts from His flock.

- We will have five years to fulfill our pledges, helping to enable sacrificial giving.

We all want to rush to aid our needy brothers and sisters in Africa and around our diocese. By being disciplined and mature, however, we will insure a successful ingathering and a powerful, well-thought-out distribution program, that will achieve results beyond our wildest dreams.

If I were to add to Proverbs it might be, "With vision the people will thrive!"

I look forward to working more closely with all of you. I hope to be able to preach and lead a discussion on our Capital Campaign in every church in our diocese. You are in my daily prayers. As a diocesan family we can fulfill our Savior's second commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Charlie Barebo, CEO of Otterbine Barebo Inc., is chair of our capital campaign to provide New Hope to Sudan and the needy of Pennsylvania.

Four missionaries from the Diocese of Bethlehem – Randall Fegley, Jo Trepagnier, Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow and Charles Barebo -- returned in January from a 15,000-mile journey to our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Kajo-Keji in southern Sudan. They visited six schools, an orphanage, a displacement camp, the site of the proposed center of the diocese which will house the cathedral, the Bible College, the bishop's house, an agricultural center and a primary and secondary school. They met with local officials and clergy, teachers, representatives of the Mothers' Union and heard them talk about their priorities and dreams.

OUR CALL TO MISSION BY DAN CHARNEY

Providing generously for mission



Dan Charney

We never know where or when we may be called to witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, and to share that presence and work with people in locations and situations different from our own.

The call went out to all who would listen. There was a mission awaiting members of the Episcopal Church in the United States, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Church of England – to share with others what they have learned about *generosity* and its connection to *mission*.

Janet and I recently traveled "across the pond" to Ipswich, England, to participate in the first International Stewardship Conference sponsored by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), and

hosted by the Church of England.

Generosity and Mission offered a unique opportunity for us to join folks from Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Episcopal Churches in Europe to deepen our discipleship as stewards, and to discover the Gospel afresh as we heard from those now ministering in a variety of areas about how communities of the baptized have been changed through mission. We were blessed with the wisdom of outstanding presenters: Archbishop of York John Sentamu; retired Archbishop of

British Columbia Douglas Hambidge; Bishop of Indianapolis Cate Waynick; Bishop of North Carolina, Michael Curry; and as the anchor to all the presentations, Terry Parsons, the Episcopal Church's stewardship officer.

In this connected but diverse community, we reflected on the joy and benefit that can result from a concentrated shift of focus from *maintenance* to *mission*, and how providing for it *generously* makes so many more mission dreams come true. We shared with others eager to discuss their personal experiences, particularly those demonstrating how congregations can be transformed by the catalyst of answering God's call to mission in the wider world.

Having heard from many who journey beyond the "regular" in their search to serve and inspire, we pray that the information gathered will help us develop more effective ways of being stewards who work with and witness to the mission of our Lord in the wider world. It was a personal pilgrimage for us, a commitment

strengthened by the bright light shed not only on our own experiences but also on the introduction to new and exciting ways offered by others of being Church.

We are thankful for the opportunity to have been a part of, and to have, hopefully, contributed in our own small way, to the extension of God's mission for the whole Church – serving the world, and bringing about transformations that, according to one of our themes, "turn the world upside-down and make it right-side-up!"

Though we are well aware of the present tensions in the Anglican Communion, we experienced at this grassroots level the support and appreciation by all of the attendees for one another as a hallmark of the Conference. Our Church of England hosts provided generous and gracious hospitality, expending extraordinary effort in putting together a memorable first-ever international Stewardship Conference. Thanks be to God!

Dan Charney is stewardship missionary for the Diocese of Bethlehem.