Bishops play a round: Winners take back nine...by one

Bishop lan Brookes (Goulburn-Dorking, England) and teammates Jack Cherry, James Croxton and David Wykes were winners at Canterbury Golf Club on Sunday, scoring 86 points—including 42 on the back nine. Countbacks beset Bishop Gethin Hughes (San Diego, US) and teammates, who also scored 86, but with 41 on back nine, and Bishop Neville Chamberlain (Brechin, Scotland) and teammates, who scored 85 as well, with 40 on the back nine. The Archbishops of Canterbury conferred awards, including top honours to the winning team, which was sponsored by the Kent Messenger newspaper.

ON THE GREEN Bishop Benjamin Nager Asse (Nissi, Sudan) prepares to putt as Bishop Gethin Hughes (San Diego, US), right, and Bishop Michael Nough (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea) stand by.

Conference will debate first resolutions today

C

alls for a new international Anglican commission on ecumenical relations will be among the first issues up for debate today as the bishops move into the business end of the Conference.

After two weeks of key addresses and closed-door group work, the bishops begin a week of intense public plenary or business sessions in which they will debate the proposed resolutions.

Differing cultural approaches to making decisions may complicate the plenary discussions. Archbishop Robin Eames (Armagh, Northern Ireland) told a press conference yesterday:

"Some have come convinced that their way of doing business is the right way," Archbishop Eames said. "In some areas we will find agreement, and it won't surprise you that in some areas we will not find agreement."

Archbishop Eames also issued a strong challenge to the 60-strong contingent of reporters from the world’s media to cover the debate in the week ahead with depth and sensitivity. "It's easy to go for shallow stories of various disagreements," he said.

He also stressed that the Conference is not fundamentally a legislative assembly, and that the draft resolutions are subject to change. "They are not carved in stone; they are in plasticine," he said.

Most of the 108 draft resolutions to be put to the Conference will not be debated, the chair of the Conference, Bishop Nuttall said. If 50 bishops believe a draft resolution currently on the "agreed list" is contentious, they can ask that it be debated. "A maximum of 30 (resolutions) will be debated," he said.

Procedures for dealing with resolutions were drafted by the St Augustine seminar in May last year, which laid out plans for the Conference, and are designed to facilitate the process of deliberation.

surveying the section reports

Episcopal visitors accommodate traditionalists

by David Skidmore

Ten years ago the possibility of women in the episcopate was a contentious issue for the Lambeth Conference and the Anglican Communion. Since then a majority of the Communion’s 37 provinces have admitted women to the priesthood, and women have been elected bishops in three provinces.

Predictions by Conference planners that women’s ordination would prove a “non-issue” this summer have proven true. Except for a brief flare-up in the press over threats by traditionalist bishops to protest at the presence of 11 women bishops, the issue of women’s ordination will go before the Conference as a contentious but non-controversial issue.

Any Bible study groups where women bishops are present. His concern is that any discussion would be polarised and would “muddy the waters” of his theology.

The participation of a woman bishop in the Conference’s opening service on July 18 in Canterbury Cathedral-Bishop Chilton Knudsen (Maine, US), who led the prayers of intercession—did not sit well with Bishop Jones who labelled it “tokenism at its worst.”

One resolution touching on women’s ordination will go before the bishops this week, but its focus is on protecting all views on women’s ordination, rather than on...
Commission through the ACC to track technology of war. The section group is concerned about the varieties of genetic engineering. The Church and all its members must work to end any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and to oppose homophobia.

The section group was not of one mind about homosexuality and listed its understandings.

Modern Technology: Everyone wants technology because it brings the promise of a better life. But it is also fed by a particular world view and is sustained by market forces.

It brings not just the surface enhancement of life, for it moves inward and shapes our understanding of ourselves, our relationships, and our world.

The Church and the other parts of the Communion are concerned about the harmful effects of modern technology. The primary challenge is the responsible appropriation of technology. The Church is concerned about the varieties of genetic engineering and their effect, and also about the technology of war. It calls for the establishment of a commission through the ACC to track technological developments, to reflect on them theologically and ethically, and to keep bishops and other leaders informed of new developments.

Euthanasia Five principles must be kept in constructive tension in this discussion. Life is God-given, humans are in relationship with the created order; while the increasing flight from rural areas to cities Third, the “aggressive assertion of national and religious identity,” which may bring persecution to religious minorities. Fourth, the challenge of “redefining faith to the distinctive of the Gospel” when people of different faiths must live in harmony. The 43-page report is dotted with more than two dozen “stories” illustrating how members of the section have experienced mission and evangelism: serving in South Africa’s “taxis wars,” showing the face of Christ in every situation, and the story of a woman who moved to the countryside for the sake of helping people. It shows the power of the gospel. The report speaks to the Anglican challenge: “We cannot stand by while development occurs represented among us up to 10 times as much each year in debt repayments as they receive in aid from western nations, and up to 40 percent of a nation’s income is spent on debt servicing instead of basic needs such as food, health and education.

It is a scandal, a grim moral wrong. However, “living with the South Korean people, we are deeply affected by the enormous weight of human suffering, seriously compounded in many countries by the burdens related to debt.”

“We feel compelled to speak out against this suffering, When one member of the body suffers all suffer.”

SECTION TWO

All called ‘to live the good news’ by Doug Tindale

All are called and are sent in God’s mission of living and proclaiming good news according to the report of Section Two.

The theological context of mission and evangelism is reflected by the Archbishop of Canterbury’s words during the mid-point review of the Decade of Evangelism: “Mission which does not have evangelism as a focus is not Christian mission,” Archbishop of Canterbury said, “and the Church which keeps itself aloof from matters of justice and human welfare does not reflect adequately the biblical revelation.”

The report responds to four challenges.

First, “God is working in the world today quite beyond the limits of our budgets, structures and expectations.” Second, the global economy’s impact, particularly on young people and on the increasing flight from rural areas to cities.

Third, the “aggressive assertion of national and religious identity,” which may bring persecution to religious minorities. Fourth, the challenge of “redefining faith to the distinctive of the Gospel” when people of different faiths must live in harmony.

The Church as “God’s partner in mission” envisages a Church rooted in its community and living in the spirit of jubilee.

“Our world God loves” speaks to: “Out of control” globalization and urbanization which bring loss of identity and community.

The global “youth culture,” which sometimes renders Christianity “alien;” “religiosity pluralistic, including a list of 30 ‘Christian’ must work for genuinely open and loving human relationships with people of other faiths, it says.

The report goes extensive attention to the missionary congregation, the missionary diocese and the missionary bishop. The congregation is “the fundamental unit” it says. The document by which all other activity in the wider Church is measured is whether it is receiving as supporting and encouraging the local congregation in mission.

The Church is the new creation in Christ, which “all” and “each” are held together. Within this context the report holds up special concerns about women, youth and the poor as they exist in the interstices between global economy and the context.

“Turning to the theme of ‘New Churches and Independent Christian Groups,’ identified as an area of ‘growing concern’ and addressed for the first time by a Lambeth Conference, the report says, ‘In the past, Anglicans will be helped in their ecumenical work by reaffirming the C-Nica-Lambeth Quadrilateral of 1888, which the report calls ‘a dynamic for unity.’

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SECTION THREE

Call to unity has ‘fresh urgency’ by Kabie Sherrod

The report says the call for God’s diverse people to be held in unity is heard with fresh urgency today because of the opposing forces of fragmentation and globalization. Each has its advantages and negative effects. Fragmentation awakens self-awareness in indigenous and other minority groups but also stimulates tragic and violent separatist conflicts between cultural minorities.

Globalism, driven by the world market and communications technology, brings dreams of inclusion for “all” but too often at the expense of others.

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SECTION FOUR

Report upholds concern for ‘visible unity’ by Randall Lee

Calling for a reconsiderment of the Anglican concern for the visible unity of the Church, as well as the need for a “common life, the commission in Section Four identifies ‘humbility, gentleness, patience and loving tolerance’ as essential characteristics for engaging in the ecumenical discussions.”

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The report identifies four characteristics such as biblical literalism and “free and enthusiastic” worship as representative of these groups. While many have encountered three churches with a “sense of threat,” the report recognizes that Anglicans might learn from them how to train people to evangelize, more forcefully proclaim the scriptures, and engage greater clarity in moral teaching.

The third chapter of the report covers the work accomplished during the last decade in bilateral and multilateral conversations. A summary of Anglican international conversations with 10 church groups is included, along with a reflection on the important contributions of the Ecumenical and Anglican Consultation of the World Council of Churches.

All three themes contribute to one of the most controversial sections of the report, “Consistency and Conviction, Conflict and Compromise,” which endorses the proposal of the 1996 Agros Report for the establishment of an Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations.
Roadside robbery delays Nigerian bishop’s arrival at Lambeth

by Allan H. Ederer

A n encounter with roadside bandits robbed a Nigerian bishop of his arrival at the Lambeth Conference. Bishop Vincent Muoghereh reached Canterbury on July 25, one week after most other bishops arrived. The late arrival came after the bishop and his wife were robbed at gun-point in Nigeria, thieves escaping with his car, passport and visa.

In Canterbury at last, Bishop Muoghereh’s car was driven off the road by a gang of robbers. The drama unfolded June 19 when the bishop was making the 400-kilometre return trip from Nigeria’s capital, Abuja, to his home diocese of Ughelli in the central-south of Nigeria, after collecting his visa from the British embassy.

The bishop’s car was overtaken at high speed and edged off the road into the bush. The four robbers “brought out guns and ordered us to get out of the car,” Bishop Muoghereh said.

The bishop, his wife, Blessing Muoghereh, and their driver were ordered to lie on the ground. After threatening to back the car over them, the gang drove off, taking cash as well as the bishop’s passport and new visa.

The bishop called the robbery “very frightening.” He learnt later that the same gang had earlier held up passengers on a bus and had shot one woman.

While the car was later found abandoned, Bishop Muoghereh discovered that it would take at least two weeks to replace his visa. He is flight to England had to be delayed.

Calls from Conference Manager Allen Rosenthal to British immigration authorities helped arrange the new visa, but Bishop Muoghereh and his wife still arrived one week late. The bishop said he was “embarrassed to be the only one left at home.”

The travel obstacles continued for the bishop and his wife when a suitcase was off-loaded at Frankfurt by mistake.

While the bishop has missed the first week of the conference, the impact of the theft of money has been somewhat eased. Bishop Muoghereh, only recently consecrated as a bishop, had intended to use the stolen money to purchase episcopal robes during his visit to England. One of the Conference’s Market Place stall-holders, Helenwoods from Folkestone, has offered to supply him with a new cassock at no charge.

Communion shines in ‘Songs of Praise’

from staff reports

“IT was the Anglican Communion at its best,” the Director of Communications for the Lambeth Conference, Canon Jim Rosenthal, said after viewing the broadcast on August 2 of the traditional ‘Songs of Praise’ programme on BBC.

Canon Rosenthal said: “Stephen Bernen and Claire Campbell Smith of the BBC have been working with me for over six months on this project. It was the one thing that I wanted to see happen at try to tell people what the Anglican Communion is all about. I think we did it and the Bishop who created the programme did it well.”

“Songs of Praise” had taken on a new life in recent years. Full documentary and music footage makes for an enlightening programme that speaks clearly of peoples faith in God through their individual circumstances in life.

“Songs of Praise” accomplished this through the stories of several bishops, including Bishop Dini’s Sengulane (Mozambique), Bishop Gerlyon Wolf (R hode Island, US), Bishop Mark Mc Donald (Alaska) and Mrs Marion McCall, who has become one of the stars of the Conference by her unique ministry of transporting her husband by aircraft to his episcopal visitations in Australia.

Voices also were heard from Bishop Kenneth Fernando (Colombo, Sri Lanka), Bishop Daniel Zindo (India) and Archbishop Glagoon Soaredi of Limburg (Brazil).

Music included traditional English hymns as well as spirituals and a song from St Stephen and St Lawrence Church in Matuto, Mozambique.

Incredible singing accompanied the walk side by side through the streets of the city with the Bishop leading the bishops in the happy claps of ‘Down by the Riverside’.

Canon Rosenthal added: “The stories on ‘Songs of Praise’ presented by the bishops, were poignant and dramatic. They expressed joy as well as concern, but most of all they provided the viewer with a look at the Anglican Communion which is a mosaic of many people of all walks of life with various cultural expressions which form this great Christian family throughout the Communion.”

Churches called to celebrate 2000

by David D ‘uprey

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the world-famous composer, introduced members of the Conference to the Open Church Trust and “Celebration 2000” in the Guildhall last Wednesday.

The Open Churches Trust was begun by Sir Andrew “to open for public use, enjoyment and education the thousands of beautiful places of worship often kept locked as protection from theft and vandalism.”

“This trust hopes to help the congregations of the finest of these buildings to open them to the public can enjoy not only their beauty and structure but also their often unique history,” he said.

“Celebration 2000” is a project to celebrate the birth of Jesus at the turn of the millennium, and Conference members previewed a special liturgy designed to mark what God has done in Christ through this past millennium. Pupils at all 5,263 secondary schools throughout the United Kingdom were asked to compose millennium prayers, and the “winner” will be chosen by an ecumenical group of church leaders, including the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Churches Open Trust and Celebration 2000 is offering materials for Conference members to use at home and adapt as they wish. The goal is to have prayers said and bells rung around the world at noon on January 1, 2000. Further information may be obtained by phoning 0171 240 0880.

Bishops Continued from page 1

the question whether women should be priests or bishops.

Proposed by Section Three, the resolution (III.2) calls on provinces to affirm “there will be no coercion, penalisation, or canonical dis ability” toward anyone regarding their position on women in the priesthood.

It further asks the Conference to declare that bishops are not obliged to “ordain, license or institute a woman bishop.” The second point is moot in the Episcopal Church in the United States, which mandated the acceptance and ordination of women priests in all dioceses at its 1997 General Convention.

While the Church of England admitted women to the priesthood in 1992, it also provided space for dissenting bishops and parishes through the episcopal visitor act adopted by the General Synod in 1993. The act established a corps of provincial episcopal visitors, also known as “flying bishops,” who provide episcopal ministry to parishes which are opposed to women in the priesthood and who have no recourse to traditional-minded bishops in their dioceses or regions.

According to Bishop Edwin Barnes, suffragan bishop of Richmond and the provincial episcopal visitor for the eastern half of the Province of Canterbury, this is not a temporary arrangement. “It is an open process of reception until the churches that means the churches internationally are of a common mind.”

“When a vacancy occurs in a parish, the wardens and council are supposed to review the resolutions relating to the episcopal visitor’s plan and determine whether they need a consultation with an episcopal visitor. “I remind them what the Act of Synod says, that they are perfectly proper Anglicans by choosing to vote for this system.”

But choosing that system can be a challenge, Bishop Barnes noted. “It will remain opposed as far as I can see.”

If female bishops are approved by General Synod, Bishop Barnes does not anticipate a formal schism. The Church of England, he said, has chosen “to hold people in the Church who are opposed and who will remain opposed as far as I can see.”

“The Church in Wales also has a ‘flying bishop’ serving traditionalist parishes in that province of the Anglican Communion.”

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Daily Lives Tuesday August 4 1998 3

The Lambeth Daily

Vincent and Blessing Muoghereh

Photo: Anglican World/Jeff Sells

Three from Conference Manager Allen Rosenthal

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber visits Market Place

Photo: Anglican World/Lynn Ross

“The Lambeth Daily is kindly donated by Robert Home Paper Company Ltd

Daily Lives

Wednesday August 5

7.15 am Eucharist (Province: The Church of England) followed by Bible Study video with Clovis Rodriguez, Bishop of Northern Brazil 2 Cor 1:1-15

8.15 - 9.15 am Breakfast

9.15 - 11.00 am Morning Prayer and Bible Studies

11.00 - 11.15 am Coffee

11.30 - 1.00 pm Plenary Session: Discussion and debate including voting on resolutions

11.30 - 1.00 pm Spouses: Gentle Keep Fit exercises to Music

1.00 - 2.30 pm Lunch/Free Time

1.30 - 3.00 pm Spouses: Rehearsal for Transfiguration Presentation, “Crowning Glory”

2.00 pm Spouses: Excursions

3.00 - 3.15 pm Tea

3.00 - 4.00 pm Spouses: Workshops

5.00 - 5.45 pm Songs of Praise (viewing of Sunday’s telecast) Plenary Hall Evening Prayer (Province: The Episcopal Church of the Sudan) followed by Bible Study video with Nathaniel Garang, Bishop of Bor 2 Cor 11:16-12:10

6.30 - 8.00 pm Dinner/Free Evening

7.30 pm Spouses: Evening at the Old Palace

7.45 - 10.00 pm Spouses: Rehearsal for Transfiguration Presentation, “Crowning Glory”
Artist Kathy Priddis, spouse of the Bishop of Warwick (England), has dedicated proceeds from both the prints and the originals to charities serving the needs of the young homeless.

The 14 oil paintings depict the 14 last events of the life of Christ, and hang on the balcony overlooking the Eliot College dining hall.

“The paintings are for sale individually or as a set,” Ms Priddis says. “Please talk to me or to my husband, Bishop Anthony Priddis resident in Eliot College.”

She describes herself as "a Christian who paints, using the images abundant in the scriptures and in the natural world, to inspire the imagination."

“The textures, sights and sounds we encounter in the world are, for me, an encounter with God. Painting is a struggle and a delight—a struggle to communicate a personal vision, a delight as I continue to learn how to express it.”

Sales of the prints will benefit the young homeless in the Diocese of Coventry.

Proceeds from sales of the paintings themselves will go not to the painter but to an educational institution, which will then fund an annual award to encourage students to design projects to reach the young homeless in their own areas.

By request, Ms Priddis is conducting interested parties around the exhibition and giving a short commentary on each painting. These tours begin at the exhibition at 11.30pm and will run until Thursday, August 5, 6.

“...my belief and prayer is that this success has been attributed to the viewers’ being able to see the hope that I found in the eyes of these children.”

Leaving the comfort of All Ashington (DC) offices, Mr Killough went to work with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and also to her centre in Szczecin, Poland.

He has taught and supervised at an orphanage in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, as well as helped with a programme to aid street children in Cape Town, South Africa.

“They are all our children, whether it be from the next door of the farthest realm,” he says. “They are the future of our tomorrow. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are given the resources and love to be able to keep the hope that I found in their eyes alive for their tomorrow."

The exhibit on display at Lambeth can be booked for other venues. Mr Killough may be contacted at the Communications Centre during the Conference.

Visit the Market Place

by Bob Libby

An array of vestments, altar hangings and other ecclesiastical treasures that “go with purple” can be found in several displays in the Market Place Marquee. There, shoppers may choose from brightly coloured contemporary designs as well as more traditional renderings. Compass Rose designs are in abundance.

CM Almy, for example, crafted the reversible Compass Rose traditional tapestry stoles which are being used throughout the Conference. There are 120 of them and they will be sold at the end of Lambeth (priced at £109 each). Almy is also giving away Compass Rose lapel pins to visitors.

Ceramic choices at the Conference also bear the Compass Rose ensignia. Chalices (priced at £20 each) will be available at the gift shop at the annex or the Anglican World Centre in the Market Place from 9am to 6pm.

£1900. More details are available from Peter Rose, Managing Director of Herwood Ltd. on stand E6-7 or mobile phone 0836 325974. The multi-faceted work of the Archbishop of Canterbury today, and the significance of the Anglican Communion around the world moving into the Third Millennium. Information about guided tours and “timed ticket” system is expected to be made available next year. Further information may be obtained by writing to the Lambeth 2000 Coordinator, Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU.

**A Taste of the Congo**, an exhibit of photographs by Andrew Cram is displayed on the refectory balcony of Rutherford College. The presentation is sponsored by the Church Mission Society.

**“An Exhibition of Contemporary Christian Art**, sponsored by the Christian Art Group of Canterbury is on view daily until August 9, 9am-6pm, at the Canterbury Environment Centre, St Alphege Church, St Alphege Lane (off Palace Street). Admission is free. Organised by Dr Wiet Fernando, the exhibit features paintings, ceramics, stained glass, sculpture, wood and brass work by Christian artists from Ester, Isle of Wight, Hereford, Lancashire, Hampshire, Shropshire and Herefordshire.

C Camera catches world through children’s eyes

by David Duprey

Photographer William E. Killough III has captured views on the world through children’s eyes, for an exhibit now on view in the Rutherford College dining hall.

The 40 photographs represent a larger collection of children from 68 countries, brought together over a journey of two years. It is one of the largest collections of photographs of children in existence, notes Mr Killough, who is on the Lambeth communications staff.

“It’s a great privilege for me to be able to share my photographs at the Conference,” Mr Killough says. “This exhibit of children from around the world has been a great success during the last year.

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