

The Rector's Message: Orthodox Anglicanism and International Travel

In last month's article, I began by writing that for the May issue I would be addressing my pending trip to Tanzania for Bishop Valentino's installation as Primate. This I will do, but I will also be addressing a second international trip I have been invited to take in June, which I was unaware of until after Easter! But let's start with Tanzania.

When Bishop Valentino Mokiwa was preparing to leave San Diego in January after his week with us at Holy Trinity, he asked both me and his host family, John and Lenora Witt, if we would try to go to Tanzania to attend his installation if he should be elected Primate by his Province, which was to elect at the end of February. We said yes, but, as he had not indicated that he expected to be elected, I promptly set aside the matter. After his election, it was time to act. Since then, I have arranged to fly to Dar es Salaam via London with frequent flyer miles (75,000!). I will leave May 19, arrive in London on the 20th, and spend two nights at the home of Fr. Geoffrey Kirk (with whom I stayed during the SSC Synod three years ago), flying to Tanzania on the 22nd. Arriving in Dar es Salaam on May 23, I will have one night before traveling by car to Dodoma, where the Installation will take place on Sunday, May 25. We are likely to return to Dar es Salaam on the 27th or 28th, where Bishop Valentino will be able to show me many of the ministries to which we have given support in his Diocese. (As is the case throughout most of the Anglican Communion, he will remain Diocesan of Dar es Salaam while serving a 5-year term as Primate.) I will leave Tanzania June 1, and arrive in San Diego on June 2. This will be my first trip to Africa, and I am truly grateful to have the friendship of Bishop Valentino and the privilege of seeing his home, Diocese and country.

During Easter week, I received a phone call from the executive director of Forward in Faith, on whose Board I have served since 1994, inviting me to be one of our organization's representatives at the gathering called GAFCon, which is to be held in Jerusalem on June 22-29. "GAFCon" stands for *Global Anglican Future Conference*. It was called for by five Primates, including our own Archbishop Venables. Its stated goals are to:

1. Provide an opportunity for fellowship to continue to experience and proclaim the transforming love of Christ.
2. Develop a renewed understanding of our identity as Anglican Christians within our current context.
3. Prepare for an Anglican future in which the Gospel is uncompromised and Christ-centered mission is top priority.

I will be traveling with FIFNA colleagues, leaving on June 17 and arriving in Jerusalem on the 20th. GAFCon runs from June 22—29, and we will return on June 30. If you would like to learn more about this landmark Conference, and have internet access, log on to www.gafcon.org. This website has regular updates and much good information.

I am grateful to Fr. Trebbe for adjusting his vacation plans so that I can attend this event, and will prepare a presentation upon my return. Also, there are several other Western Anglicans who will be attending, and we will probably prepare a regional program also.

I appreciate and cherish prayers and support during these interesting times. I believe that God is both blessing us with tremendous gifts and joys, and also challenging us to use these

blessings with a robust and proactive missionary zeal. May we be found to be “good and faithful servants.”

Faithfully yours,
Fr. Bausch