



EKKLESIA

*Celebrating 25 years meeting needs
for Jesus around the world!*

SPRING 2020

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A NOTE FROM BISHOP BILL



My earliest childhood memory occurred when I was about two years old. I remember my beloved grandfather carrying me around and whispering in my ear, "Duty, Honor, Country," the motto of West Point, the U.S. Military Academy. I remember hearing his quiet voice and having the motto settle into my soul as something profoundly important—even life-defining.

His rough gray wool sweater rubbed against my cheek as I lay my head on his shoulder. His warm arms wrapped around me as he walked. We were in the apartment where I lived with my mother and brother, while my father was off fighting in Korea. My grandfather lived nearby, so we saw him often. As he repeated "Duty, Honor, Country" over and over, I knew my world was safe and good; I remember it like it was yesterday. Even now, I am motivated by duty! My primary duty as a bishop and Christian is to flesh out and bring to life those things that the Lord is calling me to do because life is often uncertain.

With the upset of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, everyone's life is in an uproar. Many face the dire circumstance of a lost job and wonder how they will get their next meal. Others face lesser challenges, like finding toilet paper, yet all remain frustrated and insecure. It is easy to see why many are stressed and overwhelmed. The coronavirus forces us to face an uncertain future. We can take comfort in the knowledge that this crisis comes as no surprise to Jesus. He was, is, and will forever remain on the THRONE! It was precisely for overwhelming situations that He said:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

We do not have to be afraid! It is, important however, for each of us to do our part—our duty—in fulfilling what Jesus calls us to do.

During this challenging time, my prayer is that the Lord's peace will surround you as you rest your weary soul on the shoulder of the One who carries you.



With the halt of international travel, and the challenges of holding face to face meetings, it seems an opportune time to be in touch with people on Instagram and Facebook.

Please go to **Instagram** and follow:

[instagram.com/whereintheworldisbpbill](https://www.instagram.com/whereintheworldisbpbill)



You can also follow on **Facebook**:

[Facebook.com/Bishop Bill Atwood](https://www.facebook.com/Bishop-Bill-Atwood)



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Collaboration with Harvard Scientists



In these last weeks, I was recruited by my genius PhD nephew who previously served as a PhD fellow at Harvard. He asked if I would assist him and a cadre of Harvard scientists in writing a proposal advocating for the use of simple, cotton masks to help stem the spread of corona

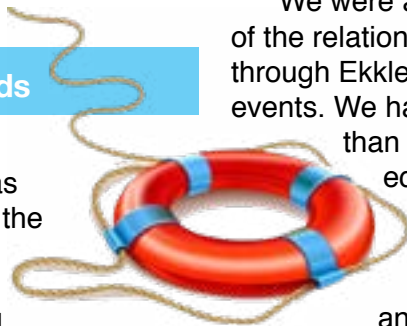
virus in hopes this practice would be recommended to the White House. You may have seen that the proposal was accepted by the CDC, and the homemade masks are now being recommended! As you may know, most people infected spread the disease long before they show symptoms or realize they are infected. In using a face covering, we protect others from being infected and preserve scarce medical masks for frontline caregivers. The program in the proposal is called the DIY Mask Challenge. Our website, www.ekk.org, contains a link to the DIY Mask Challenge with more information and tutorials on how to make a face mask.

Cancer Treatment and Kenyan Seeds

We received a frantic call from a friend in Kenya. A coalition of Kenyan farmers was in trouble. These farmers—all members of the Anglican Church of Kenya—had produced a bumper crop of seed intended for use in cancer treatment in the E.U. Hopes soared at the anticipated revenue for these struggling families, who were barely holding on. The seed was about to be shipped when the coalition learned of a new export license being required by the government. Even as a group, these farmers, who had invested everything they had in the seeds, could not afford the license, without which their crop would be held in customs and the entire season's revenue would be lost. Hearts heavy, these farmers—who represent scores of families—knew they were at risk of losing everything because they didn't have the money to cover the license fee.

Because of your faithful support, we were able to pay for the export license, helping all those families receive the reward of their labor. For the few dollars we supplied, a multitude of families were rescued, all made possible by your faithful generosity!

Globally, can you think of anyone not impacted by the COVID19 coronavirus global pandemic? Write the names of anyone not impacted here: _____
We couldn't list anyone, could you?



Day-to-Day Realities

Every day, we receive urgent pleas from Ekklesia's friends around the world. These Anglican bishops experience one crisis after another. Currently, many of the difficulties arise from the COVID-19 Corona virus pandemic, in addition to the day-to-day difficulties, further stressing an already fragile social support infrastructure. Below are examples of the challenges faced by our brothers and sisters in Christ a half a world away.

Burundi

A bishop from Burundi got in touch. His Diocese has only rudimentary medical care. If they are invaded by the COVID-19 virus, they will have no resources for defense. Because of work I have been doing with Harvard PhD scientists, I was able to share with them about how to protect from COVID-19 using homemade face masks made from cotton material. They are almost as effective as the specialty masks that are used in hospitals. This protective solution does not cost anything and can save many lives.

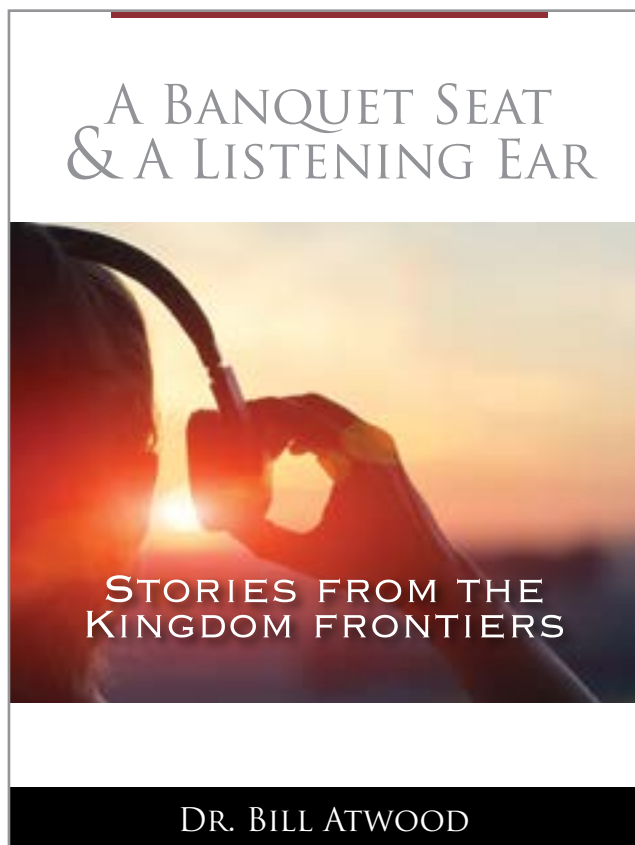
We were able to pass on this information because of the relationship that has developed over many years through Ekklesia's contacts, conferences, and training events. We have credibility and are listened to in more than fifty countries. That is because you have equipped conferences, training events, and projects for the last twenty-five years. You are making a difference all around the world. You are reaching out with the hands and feet of Jesus!

South Sudan

Recently, my friend Archbishop Paul called from South Sudan. Eight seminary students, all South Sudanese, were stranded in Kenya after their seminary closed due to the Corona virus pandemic. They needed to return home, but had no resources to get there.

Because of your financial faithfulness, we were able to secure travel home for these seminarians. No simple task, the journey required not only bus tickets, but also transit visas mandatory for their legal passage through Uganda, an unavoidable route on their journey home. Altogether, the cost was \$800. Without your generous support, they would still be stranded hundreds of miles away from home. Because of longstanding relationships with trustworthy friends, we were able to transfer money to a Kenyan colleague's mobile phone, and he was able to hand them the money in the blink of an eye! Praise the Lord for His gracious provision!

ORDER BISHOP BILL'S NEW BOOK!



A Banquet Seat & A Listening Ear is available for purchase on Ekklesia's website on the bookstore tab: www.ekk.org/book-store

What reviewers are saying:

"Bishop Bill is a man who walks intimately with our Heavenly Father. In A Banquet Seat & A Listening Ear he will teach you from his life, like few can, what it means to walk with God. Many of these true life stories will have you on the edge of your seat or in tears with laughter, and some will do both. But all of them glorify the Holy Trinity that He is a living God who walks with us and guides us if we are just willing to listen. I thank God that Bishop Bill is a man who listens to God and that we can learn from the life he has lived."

Metropolitan KP Yohannan
Believers Eastern Church

"In this little book, Bishop Bill relates amazing stories of God's work and revelation that will open your heart to Him! Read it and be blessed!"

The Most Rev. Laurent Mbanda
Archbishop Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Au Rwanda

"True stories of God's actions for and through His people serve to build our faith. Jesus is really alive, and He continues to work in our day. Bishop Atwood helps us to sharpen our sight and amplify the sound of our Father speaking in our day. And think of it; these stories are happening around us all."

Dudley Hall, M. DIV
President, Kerygma Ventures

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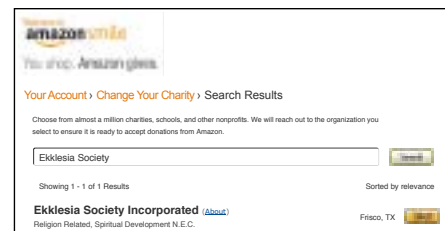
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NETWORKING WITH GLOBAL LEADERS

A NOTE FROM ARCHBISHOP GREG VENABLES



Archbishop Greg Venables,
Primate of South America

To tell this story I must go back some twenty-five years to a moment when I was seated at my desk in La Paz, Bolivia. I had recently been elected as bishop of what someone once smilingly described as the highest Anglican church in the world. (Here, the adjective referred to the fact that my diocesan office was twelve and a half thousand feet above sea level.) Breathing deeply, (as one does at that altitude) I asked God to guide me in the choice of the guest speaker for my first diocesan synod. Few times have I clearly sensed the sound of God's voice so loudly in my ear, but on this occasion, it was unmistakable:

"Open your eyes!"

I did so, and saw a magazine on my desk. There on the page I read these three words. Ekklesia – Bill Atwood. I dialed the telephone number included in the article and within a few minutes had invited the Rev. Canon Bill Atwood to be the guest speaker at the diocesan synod of Peru and Bolivia!

That phone call changed my life and ministry. Looking back, most of what God has called me to do since would never have happened had I not become a part of Ekklesia. I will say more. Without Ekklesia, GAFCON and ACNA would never have happened.

God moves in a mysterious way and I personally do not live a day of my life without thanking him for the moment when God told me to open my eyes...

+ J. Venables



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