



In My View

BY ARCHBISHOP
JOHN E. PRIVETT

Dear friends,

In November at the House of Bishops meeting in Ontario we were privileged to hear a presentation by Father Michael Lapsley. Michael is an Anglican priest who was involved in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. In 1990 he received a letter bomb which exploded when he opened his mail. He lost both hands, one eye and the hearing in one ear. That began a long and painful journey of recovery, which he

describes as the journey from victim to survivor, and from survivor to (taking a Biblical image of Christus Victor — the victorious Christ) victor. There were times he did not think he would survive and times he hoped that he would not. A key element of his own recovery was the awareness of the love and prayers of many around the world who expressed their care and support for him. He spoke of how many in our Canadian Church had expressed their love for him during a time of deep darkness. Michael has dedicated his life to assisting others in their own journey toward healing. He now leads the Institute for the Healing of Memories, a South African organization that is committed to the healing journeys of people who have been traumatized by a wide range of experiences in their lives. Many of the people

Michael has worked with are people who were injured physically and emotionally during the apartheid era.

Father Michael emphasized the importance of having safe places where individuals can tell their stories and where people will listen to them without judgement. He shared stories of how a process of storytelling and acknowledgement is a key element in the healing journey and emphasized the importance of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation process to the whole of South Africa.

Michael is in demand as a preacher and workshop leader and his organization is now part of projects in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. His presentation touched us deeply and led us into a discussion of the important role of the Church in the Truth and Reconciliation process underway here in Canada. The work

of the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is a nation-wide process where the stories of First Nations people in this country can be told. In national gatherings individuals can explore the history of the meeting of cultures in Canada since the coming of non-aboriginal peoples and express the impact on both culture and individuals. The specific focus is on the impact of Indian Residential Schools over more than 150 years of our history. Our Church has been active in assisting the story telling through materials made available in our various archives and more importantly by being present to hear the stories that need to be told. To date, there have been Truth and Reconciliation hearings held in Winnipeg, Inuvik and Halifax. In April there will be a regional TRC hearing in Victoria and a

province wide hearing is scheduled for Vancouver in 2013. These are vitally important to the whole country and some say the work will re-write the way we understand our history. More importantly they have the potential to be an important step in the healing journey of many.

In my view it is vitally important for the stories to be given a voice and for the stories that are told to be heard by us individually, as a church and as a country. As we begin a New Year, I encourage you to keep in touch with the work of the commission, to listen with open minds and hearts to what is shared and to pray for the healing of individuals and the broken relationships that are a legacy of our shared history.

Faithfully,

+John

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THE HIGHWAY

Website: www.anglicanhighway.com

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Printed and mailed by printed & mailed by Bowes Publishing, London ON.
A section of the Anglican Journal.



BY JONN LAVINNDER

With great sadness I have to report that several of our respected columnists will not be writing for *The Highway*. As many of you might know, Doug Hodgkinson died. During the summer, it was not certain that Doug would continue writing after his wife passed away, and then suddenly last month he announced "I'm back!" He had reviewed a series of French films by director Krgysztof Kieslowski: a trilogy called RED, WHITE and BLUE. "Blue" is Doug's review in this edition.

Peter Davison is another columnist whose column has come to an end. He will be missed, not only for his column but for his faithful report-

ing of church events, especially in the Okanagan.

It was reported in *The Highway* earlier this year that Peter would be returning to Ontario. He did offer to continue his column, but both Archbishop John and I agreed that diocesan newspapers are primarily a local voice. I understand that his sermons will continue to be posted on the Diocesan website.

"The Vicar of Kokanee" will also be retiring his column, but not his writing. Jim Hearne will be offering a new column next month. I can't wait to see what he has for us.

This brings me to another point. Is anyone out there who would take up Peter's mantle as correspondent-at-large?

Someone is needed who has an interest in the diocese and able to write basic facts on church events: What, Where, When and take photographs. This, of course, is a volunteer position.

A few more words about Doug Hodgkinson. I had the opportunity to stay with him for a couple of days during a conference. As it happened, Doug's wife was out of town and so we were able to do a little "male bonding." Even though we were relative strangers, whose only connection was *The Highway*, we made a connection.

I appreciate the special contribution he made to *The Highway*.

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Editorial