

Matthew 25 Initiative Summary, June 2015

The Matthew 25 Initiative was born out of the heart of Archbishop Foley Beach and the desire of a donor who has been deeply moved and touched by God to make some of his wealth available to help the poor and needy. After a pilot project in March/April of this year when grant applications were solicited from nine different ministries known to be making a positive, Christ-centered difference in the lives of those in greatest need, the donor sent \$134,500 to the ACNA to fund grants to match money raised by these ministries. The donor has set aside a total of \$800,000 for this work. There may be more if we can demonstrate positive results from his gift. The donor desires to remain anonymous.

The ACNA has an opportunity at this moment to think long-term and grow into a voice on behalf of the weak, the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed (Isaiah 58, Matthew 25), and to develop strong, healthy, long-term initiatives and ministries that will last for decades, bringing about real kingdom transformation.

Our next steps are three-fold:

I. Management of Current Applications

We have a lay volunteer with experience in writing grants and raising money that will be guiding the ministries approved for matching grants in their fundraising efforts.

II. ACNA-Wide Promotion of Matthew 25 Initiation

- a. An overview of this initiative will be given to the Provincial Council in Vancouver.
- b. This initiative will be promoted on the ACNA website with a launch date of June 22nd.
 - i. Promotion will include ministry success stories already approved for matching grants to highlight the good work being done. It is our hope that this effort will snowball into some great work in the months and years ahead.
 - ii. An application to participate in the Matthew 25 Initiative will be posted on the ACNA website in an effort to obtain a second round of applications for presentation to the donor by mid-October.

III. Build Unity in Mission

We want to further Archbishop Beach's Matthew 25 Initiative by developing a community of ministries among the poor and marginalized to encourage, support, resource, and equip them for engagement in the most broken places of North America. We want to set a tone for a long-term system of values and collaboration so that ten years from now, work among the poor and marginalized in North American Anglicanism will be healthy and lasting. To this effect, we are planning an initial gathering for Spring 2016.

- a. Christine Warner, wife of Rev. Cliff Warner, Rector of Christ Church in Austin, has agreed to spearhead the planning, organizing and leading of this gathering. Christine is well qualified for this endeavor and she and Cliff both have hearts for the marginalized and poor.
- b. Christine is pulling together a steering committee to assist with:
 - i. Locating a venue for the gathering.
 - ii. Identifying 40-80 ministry leaders to invite to the gathering.
 - iii. Defining relationship with other missional communities within ACNA. While there is significant overlap in vision, sacrifice, church planting and global missions, relief work is very different from domestic work among the poor and marginalized. In order to thoughtfully distinguish the Matthew 25 Initiative, the steering committee will be articulating the focus, terms and vision.
- iv. Establish a budget and raise money to fund both the gathering and provide scholarships so those invited can attend.