



DIOCESE of
CHRIST our HOPE

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Report to the 2016 Synod of the Diocese of Christ our Hope, ACNA
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Steven A. Breedlove
Bishop Ordinary

Dear Friends and Colaborers in the Gospel,

What a wonderful, whirlwind of a year we have experienced as we begin our life together as the ACNA Diocese of Christ our Hope! It's been, as Sally's grandfather used to say about her grandmother, "Often a delight, sometimes a handful, but never a bore."

Gratitude and hope fill my heart as I reflect on this year. I thank God for:

1. The hardworking, earnest, and passionate leaders who make up the Diocesan Staff and the Diocesan Council: Their zeal, sense of stewardship, and quality work have forged a great foundation for us all. I've never experienced a finer team of fellow leaders.
2. The unity, trust, goodwill, and generosity I see in our clergy and lay people: Everywhere I have gone, I have been touched and strengthened by the people of our Diocese. In his grace God has marked our churches with a palpable sense of love and an eagerness to seek "life together" in Gospel mission.
3. Many unexpected initiatives arising from leaders in the field: It's exciting to hear, after the fact, about people reaching out, dreaming together, and collaborating in mission and ministry.
4. Wonderful parish visits: Sally and I have spent 25+ weekends with churches, and it has been the highlight of the year. We have visited in depth with clergy, spouses, and lay leaders; helped leadership teams with strategic and spiritual growth; confirmed dozens of people; worshipped with wonderful congregations; preached the word of God; and ordained several new clergy.
5. The name of our Diocese: Thinking about the substance and importance of the hope of the Gospel has been personally transformative.
6. The satisfaction of good, hard work: We have structured the Diocese in a way that unites, orders, resources, networks, and catalyzes us. Our goal has been for all "structuring" to create even more space for creativity and energy for Gospel mission. We know we have more to do, but it is satisfying that healthy organizational growth is serving rather than hampering mission.
7. Our commitment to mission: I am humbled to be part of a Diocese that invests more, by both percentage and amount, in church planting and mission than any other Diocese in the ACNA.
8. Young leaders: The joy of being a part of the formation of over 50 young leaders is more than I can measure. I am thankful that by God's mercy our Diocese attracts gifted and trained people who love the Lord Jesus and long to see the work of Christ grow in our nation.



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9. My wife: Sally is an amazing, gifted woman, and I am honored to be the recipient of her gifts of spiritual wisdom, friendship, partnership, and love. I love being married to, and ministering alongside my wife.
10. God's faithfulness and love: Every day I am amazed at the life I get to live as a son of God and follower of Jesus. Every day is a day in which I stand in the story of redemption, as he transforms us and leads us toward the new Heaven and the new Earth.

Is there anything I miss in this new life?

1. I miss the regular interaction with close friends and ministry partners in what used to be PEARUSA.
2. Even though I am grateful to not be flying to Rwanda 3-5 times a year, I miss the closeness and friendship of Abp. Rwaje and the rest of our Rwandan family.

It has been a good year, and the foundations have been laid for an even sweeter, more fruitful, and more settled 2017. "Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ Jesus, manifesting through us the aroma of Christ in every place we go . . . And who is adequate for these things?" (2 Corinthians 2: 14 and 16)

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in this labor of love,

Bishop Steve Breedlove