

October 2018

Greetings,

International evangelist, the Rev. John Ioannou (Canon J. John), loves to spread the Gospel message. Wherever & with whomever he is, Canon John seizes every opportunity to witness to God's extravagant love.

A favourite ploy to is to start a discussion about occupations. When he is asked what he does, he replies that he works for a global enterprise. He goes on to say that this organization has "outlets in nearly every country of the world." It is involved in hospital & hospice care; runs homeless shelters, orphanages & feeding programmes; and engages in justice & reconciliation, and behavioural transformation. Basically, Canon John explains, my organization takes care of people from the cradle to the grave. Once his listener is totally engaged, he tells them, "It's called the Church. Have you ever heard of it?"ⁱ

What a wonderful way of introducing people to the Church's mission and purpose! Canon John's "job description" also makes it clear that God is an internationalist. Every person and part of the planet is beloved and cared for by our Heavenly Parent. This means that becoming a follower of Jesus automatically makes us part of the globalism movement.

Now, being a globalist does not mean we can't love our own country. Patriotism can inspire men and women to act selflessly and courageously. It also helps define and ground us. I would be a very different person without the Queen and digestive biscuits!

But attachment to a particular country should not mean that we consider our own nation superior to others or more worthy of wealth and power and prestige. God makes no such distinctions – all people and all creation are equally loved and cherished.

The wonderful truth is that being part of the Church means that we are stakeholders in the largest and most diverse global enterprise that exists. An international organization whose CEO is the Creator of the Universe! That is as much prestige as anyone needs!

Blessings,

Brenda

ⁱ Canon John Ioannou, “What Do Ministers Do?” www.canonjohn.com