## The Prayer Book Society of Canada

# Newsletter

Easter 2011

## In Memoriam: The Revd. Dr. Robert Crouse

By the Rt. Revd. Anthony Burton

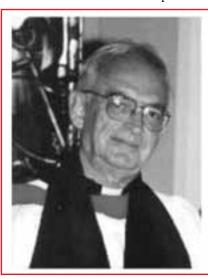
The Revd. Dr. Robert Crouse, one of the most influential Canadian theologians of his generation, died Jan. 15 in his rural childhood home on Crouse Road, Crousetown, Nova Scotia, where his family had lived for more than 200 years. He was 80.

He had left the house 70 years before to attend King's Collegiate School in Windsor, Nova Scotia, where he would later be judged the most brilliant student in its 263year history. Academic distinction followed, with degrees from King's, Tübingen, Toronto, and Harvard; and teaching posts at the universities of Harvard, Toronto, Bishop's (Lennoxville), and Dalhousie. He taught for 32 years at King's College.

A world authority on
Augustine and Dante,
he was in great demand
internationally as a lecturer.
For many years he served
as the first non-Roman
Catholic visiting professor
at the Augustinianum of the
Pontifical Lateran University
in Rome. With James Doull he
established a school of thought
concerning the theological
tradition of the ancient and

medieval worlds that now has an international following.

Many of his students discovered in themselves a vocation to holy orders. His sermons continue to be a touchstone for preachers around the world. For all that, it was neither his academic career nor his tireless voluntary service to the Church that set him apart



The Revd. Dr. Robert Crouse

from his generation. A master without a masterpiece, it was his personality that affected so deeply those who knew him.

He was a quiet, somewhat shy man with a deep, smoky voice, a wide range of interests, a great depth of knowledge, and a twinkling, mischievous wit. He rescued the last tracker organ in Nova Scotia, installed it in his tiny rural church and started a baroque concert series that has attracted musicians to summer concerts for 47 years. About the same time he started a university choir that continues to flourish.

Later he would help found an annual theological conference, an academic

journal, and a publishing house, all of which survive him. He gave popular talks on theology as it was embodied in the church architecture of Europe, which he loved to explore, camera in hand. In his idyllic garden he cultivated 129 varieties of roses, and a vast collection of herbs and rare plants from which he would produce for his friends salads of 30 or more ingredients.

His roommate at Harvard was Tom Lehrer, who wrote "The Vatican Rag" and set the Periodic Table of Elements to song. Crouse shared this sense of fun. With encouragement (and his friends encouraged him often) he would oblige with a comic ditty or incorrect old anthem like the "Maple Leaf Forever".

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He had a great gift for friendship. To children he was comfortable as an old sweater, to those who sought him out for spiritual counsel he was the kindliest of fathers, to his students he was a velvet hand in a velvet glove — invariably merciful on those whose essays came to him late.

The whole was greater than the sum in this man of many parts. It was the interrelation of those parts that inspired people to want to be around him. While uncommonly rooted in one place, his primary community was neither Crousetown, nor the Canadian Church, nor the Anglican Communion but the Church throughout time. One had a sense that as he celebrated the Eucharist the entire spiritual world opened up before him. Paradoxically it was exactly this relation to the Church catholic that rooted him to his particular community, denomination and theological tradition.

He was not the kind of Anglo-Catholic who would set aside the insights of the Reformation, but saw them as necessary moments under the providence of God for Christian theology. He understood that piety, liturgy, and philosophy depend on each other. Philosophy would be abstract without liturgy: liturgy put before the mind of the worshiper authorized images to be employed by the Holy Spirit in the soul.

His home was famous for its hospitality, wonderful food, wine and conversation. But most of the time it was effectively a hermitage, without telephone, internet, television or radio: carved over the mantelpiece were the Latin words St. Bernard chose for his monasteries: "The solitary place shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the lily ... and a highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness" (Isa. 35:1-9).

A contemplative, Crouse understood that material things conceal in their depths a sign of their divine origin. His contemplative life was the hidden wellspring in him to which so many were instinctively drawn. His old colleague Wayne Hankey, to whom I owe some of these observations, wrote on his passing: "No student of his ever ceases to hear him and so to walk in the presence of the Logos".

In a dissolving civilization he was an unmovable force for stability, prophetic in his determination to refocus the Church he loved on things heavenly and eternal. When he preached at my consecration, he spoke of Gregory the Great: "In the midst of the unsteady flow of time," said Gregory, "the man of God knows how to keep steady the steps of his mind" (Moralia in Job, xxxi, 28, 55). But just how is that possible? I think the Venerable Bede penetrated the secret of it, when he reported how Gregory, "amid the incessant battering of worldly cares," strove to be "fastened, as by the cable of an anchor, to the peaceful shore of prayer" (Historia ecclesiastica, II, I).

Happily an increasing quantity of Robert Crouse's writing is appearing online to inform and bless generations to come, and I hope that much that is unpublished will now be gathered and receive the public attention it deserves.

(The Rt. Revd. Anthony Burton is the rector of the Church of the Incarnation, Dallas, Texas. This article originally appeared in "The Living Church", January 28, 2011.)

## PBSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Prayer Book Society of Canada will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2011, at St. George's (Round) Church in Halifax, beginning at 2:00 PM. The annual Chairman's and Treasurer's reports will be presented, and the meeting will elect up to fifteen Councillors to serve as members of the National Council alongside the officers and the branch chairmen. The meeting will conclude with Evensong at 4:00 PM.

Nominations are invited for the positions of National Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Recording Secretary. Nominations for these positions must be received by the end of April, since these officers are elected by the branch chairmen prior to the AGM. Nominations are also invited for the positions of Councillor and Honorary President, and these may be either submitted beforehand or presented at the AGM. Nominees for all positions must be members of the PBSC, and nominations require a mover and a seconder, both of whom must also be members of the PBSC. Nominations are to be sent to the national Recording Secretary, Mr. Ronald Bentley, at 737 Hot Springs Way, Gloucester, Ontario, K1V 1W8. E-mail: rwbentley@sympatico.ca.

# The PBSC – 25 Years On

By Desmond Scotchmer

I am sitting down to write this with two events on my mind: one is the founding of the Prayer Book Society of Canada, 25 years ago, the other the recent death of the Revd. Dr Robert Crouse.

## **Beginnings**

The origins of the PBSC are, of course, connected deeply with the arrival of the Book of Alternative Services. I remember clearly the first time I picked up a copy of the book: a cursory glance through it filled me with alarm. It was clear to me that the book was intended to re-shape Anglicanism, and I didn't much like what I saw. I expressed my concerns to church-going friends, and to my clergy. I was astonished to find almost everywhere the same response: blank amazement, even outrage that I could be as obtuse and reactionary as to question the New Directions on which the Anglican Church was set.

However, on my trip home to Ottawa for Christmas, I visited an old friend from High School; he put me in contact with a friend of his, a graduate student at Oxford, also home for Christmas. The three of us met over beer and pizza in the Byward Market, on a bitterly cold and snowy evening in the last week in December. "You must found a Prayer Book Society! Without delay!" my new friend from Oxford urged. "There are people you must get in touch with at King's College, in Halifax. In the meantime, get together with anybody who feels the same way." The student from Oxford was none other than Tony Burton, later to be Bishop of Saskatchewan, and the people with whom he put me in touch in Halifax were the Revd. Dr. Wayne Hankey and the Revd. Dr. Robert Crouse.

I had previously met, that autumn, Fr Robert Greene, Rector of St

Bartholomew's Church in Toronto, the Revd. Ken Scott, a retired clergyman who had helped found Royal St George's School in Toronto, and Jack Webb, a retired school principal. Out of their own pockets, they had put up the money for a series of excellent lectures on the Book of Common Prayer at St Paul's Bloor Street, Toronto. And so it was in January 1986 that I sat down with four others at the University of Toronto Faculty Club, to organize an infant Prayer Book Society of Canada. Ken Scott became our first President, Jack Webb our first Treasurer, Wayne Hankey our Vice President and theological advisor, Fr Greene our chief gadfly and cheerer-on. I became the first General Secretary, though at the time I had no idea at all what a "General Secretary" was, let alone what one should do.

The five of us were very different people, high church and low church, old and young, academic and non-academic, lay and clergy, yet it was obvious to all of us that the new book had little if any connection with classical Anglican norms, and was an attempt to alter not just the ethos of Anglicanism, but its doctrine, that is, its teaching. Chief among these changes were its approach to Scripture, and the relation between Scripture, doctrine and the church.

# Doctrinal Change at the Heart of the Issue

The eyes of many Anglicans glaze over at the mention of doctrine, but it is important to understand this: doctrinal change goes to the very heart of the extended crisis of Anglicanism over the past three generations. Doctrine, the BAS tells us, is to be found in liturgy: "liturgy is a reflective process in which doctrine may be discovered

(BAS p.10); "theology as the statement of the Church's belief is drawn from the liturgy". It followed, then, that the purpose of the introduction of the BAS, since it involved such radical change to liturgy, must also be to change doctrine!

In the BAS, the relationship between church and Scripture is radically reinterpreted, with the Scriptures becoming no more than "a repository of the Church's symbols of life and faith". The implication is clear: as no more than a "repository" of "symbols", what was regarded by previous generations of Anglicans (indeed, by orthodox Christians everywhere, and in all ages) as being definitive, is really no more than a resource of imagery and symbol, elements of which can be retrieved individually or severally, rearranged, and restructured to conform to contemporary ways of thinking. What's more, liturgy and doctrine can and should change and shift with the times: "it is consequently vital that [liturgy] wear the idiom, the cadence, the worldview, the imagery" of the passing age (BAS, p. 10).

This is in sharp contrast to the Book of Common Prayer, where the status of the Scriptures as "God's word writ" is spelled out clearly and unambiguously: the Bible possesses both authority and integrity. The new theology, with its vague and airy talk about "symbols" and "imagery" and shifting world views, strips that authority and integrity away. The Gospel, as something that is revealed and eternal, timeless and True, as something to be handed on unimpaired, is at the heart of classical Anglican theology. Indeed, it is the essence of all orthodox Christian teaching, from the Church Fathers onwards. What is being presented in the BAS is something quite

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different. Clearly there was a profound disconnect between the BAS and BCP. Anglicanism was being stripped of its essence and its core, and hardly anyone was noticing.

## Initial Impressions Confirmed

And indeed, a closer study of the book revealed that initial impressions were correct: repentance and sin are consistently downplayed, indeed marginalized: one could live one's entire life with the BAS without ever having to confess one's sins. Indeed, sin in the BAS is viewed as being something corporate and communal, rather than individual: what does that say about individual responsibility? There is a marked shift away from the BCP's emphasis on the need for an inner transformation of the human soul, to an outward emphasis on what the Church does as a corporate community. Worship is centred on the Community, what we do, rather than on God, and what He has done for our redemption through the Cross.

The Eucharistic prayers move the emphasis away from Christ's atoning death on the Cross: the word "cross" hardly occurs in the BAS Eucharistic prayers, the word "passion" not at all: indeed the Cross is reduced to but one act in the history of redemption as played out in Scripture, rather than its consummation and defining point. In fact, the authors of the BAS go as far as to attack the BCP for its emphasis on the completeness, the finality, and the efficacy of Christ's death on the cross as "mediaeval" (BAS pp. 178, 179). But the Christian Church has always taught that in Adam all have sinned, and that God, in His holy wrath, is angered by that sin, but in His holy love has taken that sin upon Himself, and paid the price that the law of righteousness demanded, in the person of his only Son, Jesus Christ, true God

and perfect Man, upon the Cross. This is the essence of Christianity, it is what we read in the Scriptures; it is what the Church Fathers, the mediaeval doctors, and the Anglican reformers are all agreed upon. Yet it receives short shrift in the BAS.

The worst, for me, was the Introduction to the Funeral Rite. This extraordinary document rambles on with some anthropological meditations on the practices of our forefathers (as if these have any relevance for Christian believers), and then states "For the truth is that we do not know the condition of the dead...and everything that we say about them remains at the level of symbol" (BAS, p. 567). I remember turning in disbelief from the page when I read these words. What type of a book was it that the Anglican Church of Canada was putting in our hands? Did not St Thomas, falling on his knees before the risen Lord, in one of the most vivid of all scenes in the Gospel. utter the supreme expression of faith set out in the whole Bible: "My Lord and my God"? Does this great moment of faith not affirm the reality of Christ's resurrection? Has Our Lord not promised us that in his Father's house are many mansions, and that he goes to prepare a place for us? Is this not central to the Christian message to the world? We proclaim Sunday by Sunday that we look for "the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life of the world to come". Mere symbol? I think not!

For me it was clear: the book was a mere "dumbing down" of the eternal and unchanging truths of the Christian religion, everywhere there was an attempt to soften the realities that Scripture sets out before us: sin, death, judgement, the need for repentance, individual responsibility for our actions, redemption, the promise of bodily resurrection and eternal life. In the 25 years since the introduction of the book

I have not changed that opinion. Dr Crouse expressed it best: "the BAS starts from the acceptance of contemporary culture as its standard, and reinterprets the Gospel in its light".

And on top of everything, the prose was just plain crushingly dull, insipid; falling heavily on the ear of anyone who delighted in the robust and transcendent prose of the Book of Common Prayer. Language, diction, and tone need to be appropriate to context. The lover does not address his beloved in the same way he addresses his buddies over a beer. Who would ask the boss for a raise in the same language and diction that they use to speak with the greengrocer? Surely, when we address the "high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy" a special form of language is called for, one that reflects the sanctity and splendour of God. It seemed clear to me that Anglicanism had entered a crisis: its defining characteristics were being lost, and with it Anglicanism's Scriptural roots.

## Early years of the Society

These are the issues that we sought to raise in the earliest years of the PBSC. There was another issue, too. The BAS was introduced in a most appallingly insensitive manner, which caused an immense sense of hurt and betrayal among many faithful Anglicans. In editorials, in articles, in sermons and addresses by clergy and bishops, above all, in the various "implementation sessions" for the BAS, we were subjected to long discourses about how inadequate, how poor, just how plain "wrong" the Book of Common Prayer was; and how reactionary, and foolish, and blind were those who wanted to hang onto it. Frustratingly, the theology and the history put forward to substantiate these claims was usually debatable, sometimes even demonstrably incorrect. Particularly

galling was the routine sneer at the Prayer of Humble Access, derided as the "Prayer of Humble Excess". We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies..." To hear that prayer, which spoke so closely to my heart and had played such an important part in my own conversion held up to mockery was very difficult to bear.

Implicit in all that was being said was the promise that the BAS would reverse the decline of the Anglican Church by bringing people back into the church. The message to those who loved the BCP was clear: your spirituality is irrelevant and out of date, and there is no place for you in the new church unless you change. To be inclusive, you were to be excluded, unless you changed!

From the beginning then, the PBSC had two thrusts: concern over doctrine and theological change, and pastoral concerns about the introduction of the BAS and the denial of BCP services for those who wanted them.

We organized, we advertised. I remember typing out our Newsletter on a borrowed word processor, rushing off to Kinko's to get it copied, and folding and stuffing the copies by hand on Jack Webb's dining room table (boxes and boxes of newsletters, thousands of them, and all the stamps to be stuck on individually, in the days before self-adhesive stamps! It took us two or three nights to do them all).

People responded, letters poured in from St John's and Joe Batt's Arm, Newfoundland, Fredericton and Halifax, from Delhi and Walkerville, Brantford and Holstein and Toronto in Ontario; from Winnipeg; from Calgary and Saskatoon and Regina; from Kamloops and Victoria. Hundreds of letters! I still have them, on file. This

was clearly going to be a grass-roots organization, founded from the bottom up. It was exciting!

We tried very hard to make our voice heard in a spirit of conciliation and charity. We made it clear in our Aims and Objectives that we were not against liturgical revision as long as the new liturgies reflected the theology of the BCP, and as long as the BCP was still available for those who preferred it. But usually we were met with a curious mixture of contempt, condescension, and outright hostility.

Some dioceses refused to allow us to advertise in diocesan papers. We were forbidden the use of a church for our first Annual General Meeting. We took the matter to the Primate: the bishop who had denied our request defended



Desmond Scotchmer

his actions "You are subversives!" he hissed (as God is my witness, the word is accurate!), "You have subversive intent!" I was infuriated, I lost my composure, I banged on the Primate's desk. "Subversive? Is it subversive to worship God using the official liturgy of our Church? If so, then we have come to a sorry state of affairs!" Primate and bishop backed down, and after that, even the doors to places like St James' Cathedral in Toronto were opened to us. But I have never forgotten the image of a bishop calling it subversive to stand up for the inherited faith of the Church.

We started our first fundraising attempt, and called it the "Cranmer Crusade", arousing the wrath of another bishop, in one of the largest dioceses in the country. He wrote an Open Letter to the Society. We were "partisan", "contentious and reactionary", waging "guerrilla warfare" and "rearguard action" with a "lack of Christian charity". Most of all, we were "pathetic".

We published the letter (PBSC Newsletter No. 15, March 1990), and defended ourselves, quoting the reference to the PBSC in the judgement of the Supreme Court of Appeal of the Anglican Church of Canada (meeting in Winnipeg to adjudicate the validity of ordinations using the BAS) recognizing "the hand of reconciliation extended in the intervention of the Prayer Book Society of Canada".

The reaction was astonishing. Professors from Winnipeg and St John's, from Waterloo and Halifax, came roaring to our defence, as did many ordinary faithful Anglicans. We published many responses in our next Newsletter. The former President of the Church Army in Canada wrote: "The PBSC is a remarkable grassroots organization that has widespread national membership and support. The PBSC has arisen because of an informed and concerned devotion and loyalty for the Church of which the Book of Common Prayer is a precious and unique possession..."

The incident helped put us on the map. We continued to voice our concerns, continued to grow, becoming the second largest organization in the Anglican Church of Canada, after the Anglican Church Women. Taking our cue from Dr Crouse, we were careful how we framed our concerns, stressing always the importance of the doctrinal

norms of Anglicanism, and the need for faithfulness to Scripture.

And it paid off. The retired Bishop of Calgary, Morse Goodman became our first episcopal patron. Later, Archbishop Harold Nutter became our first Episcopal Visitor. We were greatly heartened when Dr J. I. Packer, one of the most outstanding Evangelical Anglican writers, publisher of many books on the faith and known around the world, consented to become one of our Vice Presidents.

## **Our Accomplishments**

Looking back, after twenty five years, I have mixed emotions. We have achieved far less than we set out to do. Had our aim not been, after all, to recall our Church to its full spiritual heritage, both Catholic and Reformed? Alas! I cannot say we have succeeded there.

And yet, we did manage to accomplish two things: first, we initiated a theological debate, and second, we were prime players in ensuring that the Book of Common Prayer remains in place as the official Prayer Book of the Anglican Church of Canada. Without the PBSC, I do not believe this would have been the case. About ten years ago, a friend, and a reliable source, then a seminarian at Trinity College in Toronto, reported that a classmate of his (in all innocence, apparently) had asked "Why does the Anglican Church have two prayer books?" The answer (the professor was an avowed proponent of the BAS) took the class by surprise: "I'll tell you!" he said angrily "One reason, and one reason only! The Prayer Book Society of Canada. That's why!"

At the last General Synod but one, the fact that the BCP was specifically excluded from a motion to further revise the liturgies authorized for use in the Anglican Church of Canada was due largely to the efforts of the PBSC.

This was a significant and important achievement, and preserves - for the time being at least - the Book of Common Prayer intact.

Members of the PBSC can take pride, too, in the fact that the Anglican Covenant, designed to strengthen the Anglican Communion worldwide, and bring refractory members into line, is a striking vindication of the positions held by this Society since its founding. Chief among these, is, of course, the identification of the Book of Common Prayer as central to Anglicanism, and vital to its continuing life. Back in 1986, the common assumption was that the Book of Common Prayer had been relegated to the scrap heap of history.

# The Revd. Dr Robert Crouse

I began by mentioning Dr. Crouse. It is no exaggeration to say that the debt owed by the PBSC to Dr. Crouse is immense. From the very beginning, we took our theological and doctrinal bearings from him. Kind, grave, and courteous, he always made himself available, sharing his deep learning and spiritual wisdom freely. To me, personally, he was a very much a spiritual mentor and guide, steadying and encouraging.

I took over the presidency of the Prayer Book Society after the first year, and held that post for seven years. I had no great talent for organization, I did not like the limelight, did not have any specialized knowledge of Anglican theology or doctrine, and was utterly uncertain of what we should do, or how to do it. But from the very beginning Dr Crouse provided the Society, and me personally, with his spiritual and doctrinal guidance, offering the kind, thoughtful, steadying advice that can come only from deep learning, deep faith, a deep life of prayer, and a deep

understanding of how God's purposes work in the long, rather than the short run. I remember once, when he was visiting here in Toronto, I mentioned how stung I had been by some particularly virulent attack from some member of the Anglican hierarchy. Dr Crouse merely said, said in his quiet, measured, thoughtful way: "Oh, but abuse is good! It means they have taken notice. It means they are finding you a threat. Press on!"

## **Looking Forward**

Looking around at the position of the PBSC in the Anglican Church in 2011, it's difficult to foresee how things will turn out. On the plus side, relationships between the Society on the one hand, and the clergy and bishops on the other are immeasurably happier than in the days when we were denied use of churches, and dismissed as subversives. We have seen where a theology which views doctrine as changing with the times leads: to a point where, in the words of the worldwide Anglican Primates meeting at Lambeth, the very fabric of Communion is torn "at its deepest level", and the unity of Anglicanism worldwide threatened. The Anglican Covenant, as I mentioned, is a striking vindication of the positions held by this Society since its founding, when it was profoundly unfashionable to hold them.

And there are two great anniversaries coming up, both noted by last year's General Synod, and commended (no less, by Synod itself!) for observation throughout the church: the 400th anniversary of the Authorized (King James) Bible in 2011 and the 50th anniversary of our beloved 1962 Canadian Book of Common Prayer in 2012. The opportunity is wide open for the PBSC to further its work. In the immortal words of our beloved Dr Crouse: "Press on!"

# Bible Translation in Eastern Malaysia

(As a heartening reminder of the enormous energy that Anglicanism still possesses in other parts of the world, here is an article contributed by Agatha Sissons, a parishioner at St. Olave's Church, Toronto. Her father, Revd. Canon Chambers Saden, and brother, Revd. Canon Gregory Chambers, the author of this article, are involved in a Bible translation project in their homeland of East Malaysia.)

Biatah is the name of one of the ethnic groups of the Bidayuh tribe in Sarawak,

East Malaysia. Its dialect is also called Biatah. This ethnic group was the first to have been converted to Christianity by the pioneer missionaries from England in 1882. Churches and schools were built. Church ministries and formal education came together; priests and linguists all played their parts in this Christian mission among the people. The first Biatah Spelling System and Orthography were produced for the purpose of translating the Prayer Book and the New Testament into Biatah. The second edition of the Biatah New Testament ("Payu Bauh") appeared in 1963.

However, the "Payu Bauh" contained a number of quite serious textual inconsistencies and spelling errors. I myself discovered one in 1996 in the course of my Bible studies: Luke 8:32 is translated as "... and they asked him (Jesus) to enter them (swine)"! I brought my finding to my Bishop who soon seconded me to the Bible

Society of Malaysia and immediately I was enrolled in intensive Translation Training in 1997. A linguist from the Summer Institutes of Linguistics also came to help out with the revision of the Biatah old Spelling System and Orthography. Hence in 2003, the new Biatah New Testament ("Simanya Bauh") was published; not a re-edition of the one published earlier in 1963, but the first edition of its kind with Dynamic Translation. It is a faithful rendering and the kind that makes the words of the Bible sounds like God



The main Biatah Translation Team. Left to right: Revd. Canon Gregory Chambers, Mr. Tasim, Rev Canon Chambers Saden, Mr. Jaid Parker, and Mr. Paul Suwing

himself speaking to us in our own mother tongue. It is almost a pure translation of the source language Greek, which was possible with special Translation Software, taking the Revised Standard Version (RSV) as the window to the original Greek, and Today's English Version (TEV) as the model format. The team was guided by a Translation Consultant. The old "Payu Bauh" was in fact a literal translation

of the English New Testament, which meant that the construction of many sentences ended up sounding rather peculiar or even meaningless in Biatah. The "Simanya Bauh" is now widely read in our Anglican Biatah Bidayuh Parishes.

In 2003, my Dad, the Revd. Canon Chambers Saden and his team had already been working on the Old Testament, under the authority of the Diocese of Kuching. This was to be the first ever translation into Biatah of the

> Old Testament. My Dad had long been concerned about the spelling and translation errors in the "Payu Bauh". In 2004, after my experience with the Bible Society, my Dad and his team also came under the supervision of the Bible Society of Malaysia. The next years were a tough but happy time. The team settled down to five members, alongside seven others who were the reviewers and proof readers.

Through patience and persistence, our Biatah Bible Translation Team managed to submit our completed text to the Bible Society in 2006, and

since then until last month we were still working on bits and pieces of the remaining work which included the final typesetting check. God willing, the first ever complete Biatah Bidayuh Bible, "Buk Kudus", will be published at the end of this year or early next year.

# The Prayer Book Society of Canada

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