



Anglican Orthodox Church



Cicada Christians

By Bishop Jerry L. Ogles, Anglican Orthodox Church Before beginning my morning walk today, I hesitated on my lawn to listen to the happy twining of the Cicadas high up in the surrounding trees. It is a sound that brings back sweet memories of the days of my youth when my brother and I played in the sun and tasted the innocent grandeur of nature's provision.

The life cycle of the Cicada is noteworthy in that it is much like that of the Christian pilgrim. The mother lays her eggs near some luscious root and leaves the babies to follow the course planned for them by God and His natural laws. They immediately, on being hatched, borrow into the earth. Some find themselves as much as twenty feet below the surface thriving on the nourishment provided by some tree root.

The Cicada remains in the darkness of this subterranean world for a very great period of time - 13 to 17 years. At last they emerge on the surface and climb the nearest tree to shed their old skins. After this period, they are now able to fly about and enjoy the sunlit beauty of God's creation.....but only for about 30 days, after which they die. But during their short lives, they make their presence known by their constant singing from the tops of the trees, and their song brings joy to the listener.

We too are born to wonder in darkness and unclean places until we come to the fullness of the knowledge of God and are transformed. Much of our lives may be spent in darkness but, alas, one day our eyes are opened to the mystery of God and the Salvation He has made available to us through His only Begotten Son. We experience a new freedom of movement and awareness. For a time we are able to bathe in the Sun of His Presence. We sing joyfully of our new-found grace. And then, in the process of time, we die to the beauty of the old Earth and pass into a much more glorious abode beyond the everlasting Hills.

Such is the interesting life cycle of the cicada and the Christian.

Jerry Ogles
Director
Primary Division
Cairns Army Airfield

P. O. Box 128
Statesville, N.C. 28687

Phone: 704-873-8365
E-mail: aocusa@unitedenergy.net
Church: standrews@alaweb.com