



Anglican Aid Abroad



The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew

Patron: The Most Reverend P. Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane.
Vice Patron: The Reverend Brother Daniel, SSF, Society of St Francis

May Issue 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Greetings to you all, with my hopes and prayers for your health and safety in this time of great change. This is not the Editorial I had planned to write. God especially blessed me with a trip to the Holy Land just as COVID-19 was starting and I had thought to share some of the spiritual blessings received. However, today God again sent a blessing in the form of an email from the Order of the Holy Cross in Volmoed, South Africa. They have moved from Grahamstown where they were the recipients of AAA funds. So much of the newsletter raised issues of importance for these times, that I am quoting it at some length.

Br Daniel Ludik wrote: "Whatever else COVID-19 does, it is making us look at the great difference between our present world and God's kingdom. We look forward to the world returning to something like "normal", but as followers of Jesus, we should be looking not for normal as we knew it, but for something better, more Godly. Perhaps some of our lockdown time can be used prayerfully to consider this. Who knows what visions might emerge. Lockdown notwithstanding, life at St Benedict's Priory continues in its natural rhythm - we pray, we study, we keep the house, and then we pray some more. We are keenly aware of how blessed and privileged we are to be here at Volmoed. At a very basic level, social distancing and lockdown are simply incompatible with the lives of many who dwell in the townships. And so we pray all the more for those who might be locked down in a home that is lacking in basics like running water and electricity, or with a violent abuser, or where drugs and alcohol have destroyed the fabric of life. We are all God's children, members of one body. When one is injured, all are

injured. This was true before we ever heard about COVID-19.

For those feeling isolated or in need of physical connection, when social distancing forbids that, keep in mind that five times a day the community of St Benedict's Priory gathers in the chapel to pray. You may not be here in the flesh, but in the spirit you can be with us. Whatever your current situation, we pray that you will be blessed with a sense of the reality of God's presence, as we enter together into these most holy days of the Church year."

AAA supports a number of small houses of Religious Orders in little known parts of the world and there are some questions as to why we do this. Br Ludik gives the answer. Five times a day, Brothers and Sisters all around the world stop their work and pray for the world- for us. Often lacking running water, good food, health care and education, yet they stop and pray for us- who by comparison have everything. We are indeed God's children, members of one body. When one is injured, all are injured.

As you read the "LETTERS" section, and note the new partners in India being assisted, you will see that many are being injured by starvation and disease. So as we emerge from this health and economic difficulty, I urge you to pray that the future will not be the "normal" that we knew, but something better, more Godly- where we "live in peace and mutual trust, sharing with justice the resources of the earth" (APBA p172).

Yours Sincerely,

Marilyn Wright.

The Secretary
Anglican Aid Abroad
PO Box 6134
Woolloongabba, Queensland, 4102
Australia

PLEASE NOTE OUR ADDRESS!
Unfortunately we are still
getting mail to our old address.

Telephone: 3391 3915
Email: contact@anglicanaidabroad.com.au
Web Page: www.anglicanaidabroad.com.au
A.B.N.29626 317152

PRACTICAL MATTERS

New email address. Please note a new email address of contact@anglicanaidabroad.com.au. Be assured that both old and new addresses will continue to work. The change was made both to discourage unwanted requests for funds, and also to encourage more general enquiries from those who may have been put off by “donate”.

Constitution update. After extensive legal consultation, it has been decided to modernise the constitution at the AGM in June. The new constitution ensures that AAA can maintain its tax deductibility status. The meeting will be held at 12pm at All Saints Church, Hamilton Rd, Chermiside on Friday 26th June. Members must be financial to attend and vote. Depending on the status of physical distancing rules at that time, the meeting may be held on Zoom.

Disbursement of funds from bequest. Last year, AAA received a most generous bequest. Appropriately, we are taking time to consider how best to distribute these funds. A small start was made with the decision to support two projects for two years, depending on satisfactory progress. One project on the border between Thailand and Myanmar will assist stateless persons to grow food and get an education. A Tanzanian project aims at helping poor villagers become more self sufficient in food by improving production and storage. Unfortunately, the current restrictions on movement may considerably delay both projects.

Visits overseas. Thank you for the encouraging emails received from supporters re our desire to send a representative to visit our partners overseas. Praise God for the hardy soul who has offered to go! Pray for wisdom in the coming months (and years) as to how such contacts might be facilitated. Give thanks that Fr Daniel was recently able to visit partners in Sri Lanka. Read Fr Daniel’s report later in the newsletter.

EDUCATION IN MALAWI



After many fruitless attempts, God rewarded our persistence and prayer and the banking conduit was established for the Sisterhood of St Mary at Luwanga in Malawi. The sisters see themselves as “servants of God bringing the world into God’s kingdom.” They support orphans in education and have chosen the children so well that there are now 16 above Primary School level. This means that costs are rising as secondary education must be paid for. To date, three orphans have graduated from college with degrees in education, agricultural development and nursing. Two are within 2 years of graduation with degrees in

pharmacology and nursing. Three more are in vocational schools studying in accounting, electrical contracting and rural development.

We all know that education is the key to breaking the debilitating cycle of poverty, and that is why AAA supports so many students through widely differing partnerships with our friends overseas. These costs vary from country to country, but these below for Malawi are an indicative figure. These are American dollar figures. At present the Australian dollar buys about 61 cents US.

Tuition and fees per trimester for a Secondary Boarding School student	\$475
Tuition and transport for Day School student- per trimester	\$375
Vocational School Tuition, fees and transport per semester	\$1200
College Tuition, fees and transport per semester	\$1700

Fr Daniel's report on visits in Sri Lanka.

The first place I visited in Sri Lanka was Mowbray College in Kandy where we sponsor 5 girls from the tea estate. These girls achieve well in their studies and sports. There was an in-depth discussion with the head teacher of the school about their future and other children from the tea estate. The tea estate workers must work hard to earn little money. Tea pickers begin at 8 am and continue until 4 or 4.30 pm, working on precipitous slopes. Supervisors shout at anyone who takes even a single minute's break during work hours, and management demands that each worker reach their harvest target of 18-20 kg of tea leaves per day. So most of the parents cannot afford to send their children to school. Girls in particular are forced to look after their siblings which is why AAA supports these students. We pay both their hostel and study fees. Now there are 19 children from this area who need our support, some are orphans and some have parents who are badly affected by the war. (Editor's note: the civil war is officially over, but many social

costs remain.) 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matthew 25.40.

The next day I visited the orphanage for boys run by the Franciscan brothers. As soon as I entered the hostel, the boys recognised me as a priest which was so heartening because in Australia people frequently take me for a mining worker or an Uber driver! It was a delight to be with the boys. The Orphanage caters for children up to 18 years, who study and do garden work. After 18 the boys must leave the orphanage. Most of the boys' parents died in the civil war, but they are keen and positive, thankful to be given a chance in life. AAA decided to help them to have a poultry farm to provide food for them and to get some income for the orphanage. Now the brothers work hard every day on their own and neighbouring farms in order to feed the children. Moves towards self-sufficiency will assist the boys to gain skills and help with food and funds to run the orphanage.

Fr Daniel Jayaraj. AAA Treasurer

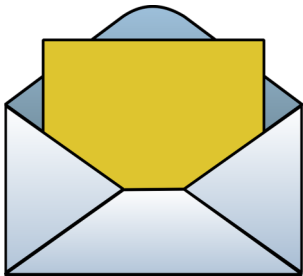


DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS SINCE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.

Although the need is great, it is actually not easy to send money in this time of crisis. Our overseas partners are experiencing disruptions to electricity and the internet, and in some cases, can not travel to the town where their banking facilities are located. Be assured that we are striving to reach out to our Brothers and Sisters and please pray for wisdom in decision making and for health for our partners.

Country	Recipient	Amount	Project
Sri Lanka.	Paynter Home	\$1,100	Support for orphans in education.
South Africa	Order of the Holy Paraclete	\$2,000	Support for 2 orphanages
Solomon Islands	Sisters of the Church	\$3,000	Community work and ministry
Madagascar	Sisters of servants of Christ	\$3,000	Community work and ministry
South Sudan	Duk Diocese	\$2,000	Orphan Education
Zimbabwe	St Agnes Gokwe, children's home	\$2,000	Food, clothing, books
Ghana	Bp Cyril, Asante, Mampong	\$2,000	Covid19 relief
Ghana	Order of the Holy Paraclete	\$2,000	Covid19 food relief
South Africa	Order of the Holy Paraclete	\$2,500	Orphanage support
Tanzania	Community of St Mary	\$5,000	Chicken projects in 6 houses
Sri Lanka	Franciscan Orphanage	\$1,000	Food and chicken project start
India	Gethsemane Evangelical Church, Chennai	\$4,490	Covid19 food relief

LETTERS



As always, our brothers and sisters continue to support us in prayer. **Sr Abba who runs the eye clinic in Ghana**, sent encouraging emails in our time of trial with Covid19 with no mention of the much more severe trials that they must be enduring, until I specifically asked for details. Then this came:

"Thank you for prayers at this difficult time. The clinic is still in operation however we've stopped all outreaches, surgeries and diagnostic test etc. We only attend to 30 patients a day instead of 100 and 150 a day. We are considering building another consulting room to accommodate two ophthalmologist. One small consulting room is housing 6 prescribers and that isn't ideal in the present situations. We've actually moulded 5000 blocks for the following: 1 consulting room, 1 optical lab, 1 conference unit and 2 wash rooms. We would be grateful for any funds you could support us with and we would do our very best to complete this project by end of 2022.

The extra funds we had had been used to purchase food items for the very poor in the community and around Lake Bosomtwe. I have also given out face mask, buckets, soap and other basic items to other smaller clinics that are desperate. COVID-19 is sadly spreading really fast in the villages and this is actually alarming however we're doing our best in our little ways to support our own. Take care too and thank you for love and prayers at this difficult time. When it's all over we're bound to learn and to improve upon our systems."



LETTERS CONTINUED...

Bishop Cyril Ben-Smith in Ghana wrote in March.

“Greetings from Mampong, Ghana. I hope this finds you well. I pray that Australia is now faring better in the fight against the Covid 19 virus outbreak. In Ghana we are currently experiencing the outbreak and we need your prayers urgently as we do not have the medical facilities to be able to support people should the situation become worse. Government has just imposed a lockdown and things are going to get worse if we do not support the weak, the elderly and the vulnerable. Most people do not have money to purchase essential supplies including food, medicines and sanitary items. In the light of this critical needs, that I write to solicit your financial help to be able to buy foodstuffs such as rice, soap, etc to distribute to the poor especially the elderly in the villages. This will go a long way to alleviate the woes of the elderly and the needy. As you know we are apostles and agent of change and we cannot sit aloof and watch the poor suffer. Please I know you have issues in your own context and you have a duty first to them but if you can extend a hand here as well, that would be deeply appreciated.

Thanks and Blessings, Your Brother and Friend, +Cyril”

After AAA sent money the Bishop wrote. “ I write to acknowledge receipt of your kind gift sent this week. The money has already been used to procure foodstuffs and essential supplies for the poor elderly. Unfortunately the numbers are great and this could cater for about 120 people whilst over 2000 people are still on our list. The costs of foodstuffs and almost everything has doubled in the midst of the uncertainties of this deadly illness.”

Sr Isabelle from Madagascar wrote to thank us for our contribution in February and then continued-

“And there is bad news I don't know if it is burglar or bad men brought the fire to the store for the food of the pigs and the chickens. Up and downstairs rooms and little bathroom and charcoal for cooking for the poor children! All things in that house are burned! The security in Madagascar is very bad so please pray for our Nation!

We can't fetch water in that well! We share that because you are our friend and who support our Community.”

Devastating pictures from Sr Isabelle of their burned building and a rather shaky one of the destroyed well.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray:

I pray that we will all prayerfully consider our possible giving to the particular projects in this newsletter and in the wider AAA community as shown on the map in the February newsletter.

The Sisters in Madagascar ask for prayer for wisdom of decision makers in their country and for their community in how to replace food and building destroyed by fire.

Bp Cyril seeks prayer for wisdom and practical solutions in helping the community through Covid19.

Sr Abba also needs prayer so that her community can help those poor around them with Covid19 and also begin to build the extension needed for their eye clinic.

Prayer Requests cont...

Bp Daniel in South Sudan needs prayer for the orphans who are not at school because of Covid19 and for wisdom in planning for the future needs in education and health.

Remember the ongoing needs of the 2 orphanages in South Africa- for food, education, health and security.

The AAA executive needs prayer for wisdom in moving forward with disbursement and in finding new people with vision and time to assist.

Please give thanks for:

- The generosity of our many supporters who continue their prayerful and intentional giving despite the many conflicting needs.
- The prayers of our Brothers and Sisters in the Anglican Communion as they pray for us and the world on our behalf.
- Our ability to communicate amongst ourselves and with out overseas partners using modern technology.

MISSIONARIES OF ST ANDREW PRAYER

O God, our Heavenly Father, who did'st send Thine only begotten Son into this world to teach us to love one another; grant that the missionaries of St Andrew and their co-workers may so faithfully obey His command that all people may live free from want, in peace and security, through the same Jesus Christ Our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

Would Priest members kindly remember our work at the Altar and also those who distribute funds and those who receive them.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give the sum of _____ (or ____% of the residue of my estate) to the Missionaries of St Andrew- Anglican Aid Abroad- for charitable purposes of that organisation and I declare that the receipt of the secretary or treasurer for the time being will be an absolute discharge of my trustee/s who will not be liable to the application of those funds.

DIRECT CREDITS

A safe and inexpensive way of sending your gift is to make a deposit at any WESTPAC BRANCH to our account at Morningside, personally, or via the internet.

Account Name: Missionaries of St Andrew - Anglican Aid Abroad

Account No: BSB : 034 058 Account Number: 580656

If you need a receipt, for tax purposes, please write and tell us your name, details of the deposit and enclose a self-addressed envelope. Alternatively, email us and we will email you a receipt directly. If you intend the donation for a special project, please let us know so that we can designate it accordingly.

If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive our newsletter, please fill in your details below -

Your name:

Your address:

.....

Telephone :

Email:

and **post** to either address below -

The Secretary
ANGLICAN AID ABROAD
PO Box 6134, Woolloongabba
Queensland, 4102.

or **email** to - contact@anglicanaidabroad.com.au

The special project I should like to donate to is:

- 1 The General Fund *.....
- 2 A Burse (number) *.....
- 3 The work of *.....
- 4 Administration
- 5 Investment Fund

Tax exempt *

Gifts of \$2.00 or more to AAA's overseas work are tax deductible.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANGLICAN AID ABROAD DEDUCTS NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FROM OVERSEAS GIFTS