



# Anglican Aid Abroad

The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew



August Issue 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

People often ask why I campaign for social justice issues and volunteer for AAA. Apart from the fact that this is where I believe God wants me to work, two quotes in July from the Centre for Action and Contemplation eloquently explain. "Jesus consistently stands with the excluded: outsiders, sinners, and poor people. That is his place of freedom from every local culture, his unique way of critiquing all self-serving culture, and his way of standing in union with the suffering of the world." "Christian spiritual tradition is very clear about how we are to relate to those who are fragile, who have been rejected and forgotten, and who are standing on the bread lines waiting for food. We are to see them as Christ and approach them with the same kind of reverence and willingness to say yes." The groups we prayerfully support, through your generous gifts, all stand with the excluded, the marginalised, rejected and forgotten whether it is women helped by Meth Piyasa, villagers given water, HIV/Aids sufferers supplied with medicines, street people given food or orphans attending school. (Matthew 25:40)

In previous newsletters, I have alluded to the difficulties of communication with some of our partners because of language and cultural barriers. A classic example is this recent email from Bp Alphonse in the Cameroon who wrote needing help to dig a well for "abandoned villages". After I queried why an abandoned village needs water, the Bishop

wrote: "When we say here in African expression that a village or a person is abandoned, this means that the village or person is living in extreme poverty without



Left: Students at the Daniel School in India (page 4)

any intervention or social help, especially help by the public services." Bp Driver in Popondetta wrote of the death of the teenage daughter of their nurse. "Her death was about two months ago. The college carpenters have made a coffin and tomb. Around the nurse's house, people still gather and sit. The visitors have taken over the medical clinic as guest accommodation. There is no medical service and I chaff about that but say nothing. This is not waitpella business."

Jesus had no trouble overcoming barriers of language and culture in his interactions- witness his talking to the woman at the well, eating with tax collectors, healing the lepers and raising the dead- all very much against the cultural norms of his time. Australian history shows our problems in overcoming cultural differences. These difficulties are compounded with distance. But Jesus promises that when we sincerely work with him at the margins of society, the yoke is an "easy fit", and the burden is light because he is with us. Many of us are probably in our seventh decade or more and may feel that our days of pulling the plough are over. However, we can continue to speak up for the marginalized and must all do the constant work of prayer. As our overseas partners sow the seeds of the good news of Christ Immanuel, let us support them in prayer that this seed will produce a bountiful harvest. As the Brothers and Sisters pray for our wellbeing, let us earnestly pray for their good health, wisdom and strength to overcome fiscal hardship, climate challenges and even physical danger to sow the seed. Are we distracted by life's cares or are we too producing a rich harvest?

Yours Sincerely,

Marilyn Wright



Right: Patients waiting at a rural 'Medical Camp', Sri Lanka.(page 2)

## From the Melanesian Mission Newsletter- April 2023.

Pentecost is the feast day of the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia (CSM) and they commemorate Pentecost Sunday every year. But Sunday 28th May 2023 was a special occasion for the entire community and their Associates, supporters' families and friends both in the Solomon Islands and abroad, and in the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM). After years of struggle, commitment and dedication, the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia at their headquarters at Verana'aso, Guadalcanal, finally witnessed the consecration and dedication of their newly built chapel, led by the Most Reverend Leonard Dawea, Archbishop of ACoM, the Right Reverend Benedict Loe, Bishop of the Diocese of Guadalcanal and retired Bishop Nathan Tome. Twelve Novices were also admitted by the Archbishop during the Pentecost service and the Right Rev. Benedict Loe preached a powerful sermon based on the theme 'God never stops working'. The building of the new church was a massive undertaking that took several years to complete. Flory Kafa, Secretary to the Community, said: "The plan to build a new church for the community began in 2017, as the old chapel which was built in the 1960s became unsafe. The construction of the new church building was done in such a way that it reflects the traditional architecture of the Melanesian culture, and the new building retains the size of the old church building at 22 by 40 metres.

There are a few minor tasks that are yet to be done to fully complete the building, including tiling, painting, incorporating traditional mat weaving at the sanctuary area and the retaining walls outside of the building. Sister Annie Alaha, Head Sister of the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia, in her acknowledgement speech said that the community was happy to have their new church building blessed and consecrated. Sr Annie said: "We have been using our dining hall and our dormitories for the past five years. As of today, we are so happy that we will go back to the church for our daily devotions and prayers."



## Colonial Legacy of Indian Tamils in Sri Lanka

At our July meeting, we were privileged to have Br Michael SSF provide some background to activities taking place in Kandy and Matale this year. From the early 1800s, Indian Tamils from Tamil Nadu state were brought to Sri Lanka by the British to work in the coffee, tea and rubber plantations. After the 1850s, they also built roads and railways. On the tea estates, they lived in line rooms - a 10 X 10 foot room with a 4 foot veranda where around ten people lived. Many workers still live in such rooms today. Wages were extremely low resulting in constant debt, poor diet and all-pervasive illness. Many of these workers were stateless. Under two bilateral agreements signed in 1964 and 1975, India was to grant citizenship and take back the Tamils. Promises were not kept and the hardships endured during and after the wars in Sri Lanka are documented elsewhere. Indeed, we have refugees and migrants from Sri Lanka in our Parish.

Today, many Tamils remain in the Hill Country labouring on the tea estates with few rights. Although some now have citizenship, many remain stateless. They are generally low paid with poor living conditions, poverty and illness.

Though they contributed enormously to the economy (70% of GDP



in the 1990s) they are not included in the welfare distribution and development of the country, because the estates are considered as private property. AAA has helped with education of some children. This year, the Church, the Society of St Francis and civil society organisations have combined to organise a 15 day walk from Thalai Mannar to Matale to commemorate the walk by the Tamil people after they arrived in what was then Ceylon. Estimates vary but some sources say 97,000 died on the almost 250 km walk. Students of all ages are collecting and recording stories to document the lives of the workers past and present and a celebration is planned on the final day. The plan is to publish a book of the history of the walk with the aim of increasing awareness of their contribution to the country and to ask for equal rights. AAA is contributing to the funds needed to provide education packs for up to 3,000 children.

Br Michael also told of chronic shortages of staff and medicines in the hospital in Matale. The Brothers are working to provide a mobile clinic in two 'camps' each of about 400 people. AAA has contributed to this need.



**Br Nicholas of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield,** provided the following information after his last visit to Zimbabwe.



Life in Zimbabwe is hard, especially for the poor, and the three little groups of sisters whom AAA supports are indeed poor. Yet they are hard-working, caring and devout. They need support so that they can do the work God has called them to and find their

own ways to deepen their love and prayer for God. Chita cheZita Rinoyera is a community of five sisters living at St Augustine's Penhalonga, a famous long established Anglican mission. The Community of the Sisters of Blessed Lady Mary have worked for over 40 years in an orphanage in Chikwaka. This work has come to an end and they must find a new home.

The Sisters of the Community of the Transfiguration live out their life in the hard, dry rural area of Shurugwi, caring for young people, supporting the church and the local school and saying their prayers. The Church needs these Sisters but does not support them well.



AAA has given grants this year which have greatly improved their lives. With these we were able to buy them a good lot of groceries and some necessary medications. We also managed to bring two communities together for a retreat at St Augustine's which they loved as they were looked after by others and were able to get a good rest themselves. I care for these sisters whenever I am in Zimbabwe, being myself a Zimbabwean, and we are all tremendously grateful to AAA for this practical support. Thank you all very much.

**LETTERS**



**From St Luke's hospital.**

"Malawi is experiencing high inflation and therefore the prices of essential commodities including drugs and supplies have skyrocketed. Epidemics like covid-19 on the international scene and cholera which is still affecting Malawi is giving pressure to the need for resources. Malawi also experienced the devastating cyclone which affected the country in general including floods and damaged resources including hospital infrastructure. In general, as a hospital we need more resources for drugs and supplies, we also need resources to support some operations like maintenance of houses and ambulances. The surrounding villages have experienced hunger and therefore there is child malnutri-

tion. We need community interventions on malnutrition. Finally, we experience a lot of blackouts in the rain season, we also in need of solar backups especially in the maternity unit for effective delivery of babies when there is no power from the national grid."

**Timothy in India wrote:** "We have provided grocery products to the orphans in order for them to have nutritious meals, thanks to God's grace and the assistance you sent with God's love. You are aware of orphans' hardship and the difficulties they experience in finding food. They were overjoyed when the supplies were delivered. They praise God, and thank you all. We distributed chocolates, cookies, and snacks to other needy children, and we served a love feast, which they loved because of your kindness to them. All of this is possible only because of the great aid you have provided. We anticipate your response with hope, love, and we have faith in God."



Received from **Just Mercy in India.** "Hope everyone is doing well. I'm writing this email to thank Anglican Aid Abroad and all members for the support during Easter. With the donation from Anglican Aid abroad, we were able to do great help for the people who are in need.

From this donation, we were able to buy groceries, clothes, and sanitary products. We also cooked food for people living it streets and distributed them. Added to that, we purchased clothes for children orphanages and donated them. Please include us in your prayers."



**From Br Douglas of OGS in Cape Town.** "Thank you to the AAA committee for your generous donation which arrived in the Oratory account today. We really appreciate your assistance to enable us to keep our Go-Go Kitchen going as well as the food parcels. We are presently going into the winter season, and it has become very



cold indeed which does not help those living on the street. Sadly, one of our food parcel recipients was found dead in his blankets on the street, having died from hyperthermia as well as old age. May his soul be at rest and rise in glory."

**Bp Daniel Abot wrote:** "Thank you so much to Anglican Aid Abroad for your generous donation of three thousand dollars in support of Duk Diocese orphans to return to their classes. I will ask our volunteers to send us a short summary report when the children return for term one."

**Bp Garang, South Sudan wrote:** "The borehole in Kargoc, Aweil East county, was successfully drilled and the women, girls and the entire community is thankful to you and the donors. It is indeed a great relief for women who used to walk long distances to look for water



which was often contaminated. The need for the returnees/refugees is still great and they are crying for help. It is our prayer and hope that you will be able to secure funding for the refugees and returnees who are in desperate need of assistance. Thank you once again for your concern and many blessings." "I am happy to report that the rains have started and people have started planting. The beneficiaries in Adoor have started using the ox ploughs (provided by AAA) to plough their farms. Let us pray that the rains are good this year and that there will be no flooding to destroy crops again. The problem is that the people are still starving and are in need of assistance until end of August when people will harvest."



**From CMM Sr Helena in Tanzania:** "Thank you so much for the money which you sent to us. We received 2 million Tshs for the farm of Sisal. Indeed, we are so happy for this, may God bless you. This is a good time to clean up the farm because it is a time of rain, so it is easy to remove the trees. We will send photo to you so that you can see what is going on. Please pass our thanks to the members of St Andrews. We wish you all the best."

**Sr Beverly of Sisters of the Visitation in PNG** sent thanks for our contribution. Part of the money will go towards a trip to Lae city by boat to buy the material for the new habits of two novices to be professed and one postulant to become a novice. There will possibly be an opportunity for two sisters to do a sewing course.

**South Africa.** Since well before I became involved in AAA, Fr Nixon supported two orphanages in Cape Town. Our contact there, Mrs Jos Kenyon-Hoare, has now retired but we are continuing to support the children. Language is a real barrier and for me using What's App is a further complication. However, there are 64 children and young people



staying with Miriam each day. Most eat very day with her, 42 are in school and there are 5 babies. Three attend night school college, and university. The children did very well at school and one student did well in athletics. Miriam also wrote that this winter will be very cold and asked for funds for blankets, heaters, tracksuits for school, water boots, hand gloves, rain coats, and mattresses. "We will be so happy to be helped on that. Have a blessed day and send our greetings to AAA members." Assistance was sent.

**Our contact for WINS** sent a brief but poignant report. Identifying information of names, places and dates have been removed. "After a freezing winter, the temperature in Damascus is now in the mid to high 30s each day. Israel has just targeted "pro Iran military bases" just south of Damascus with rockets. Government and Rebel forces still clash so Syria is very unstable. The UN food agency has said it will slash aid to Syrians in need of basic food supplies by about half because of a lack of funding. Inflation in Syria is described as horrific!" (140% is mentioned). The food is bought outside Syria and generous packages made for each of the ladies. On the last visit, there were 63 ladies at the main meeting. Contact was made with another woman who was traumatized when she saw her parents

murdered. She is responding now to love, care and understanding. Another visit is planned, so please remember all concerned in your prayers.

**The Sisters in Madagascar** sent thanks for our contribution. I



have edited freely as communication is difficult, but there is clearly much hardship. "Thank you very much indeed about the money for us. You are so helpful in our life and activities in our community. We have a little baby whose mother died when he was born. We give milk for the baby. There

is also a girl twin who is looked after by another family far from us. We use the money too, for our food because our job is very hard. The food is not enough and also medicine is not enough. We have 80 poor children. Last May there is much hail and (therefore) the garden is now very bad. We need your prayer and for our nation." The Sisters would like to have a guest house so that visitors, including clergy would have somewhere to stay and contribute to their income.

**Meth Piyasa** thanked AAA for the funds sent. It will be used it for widows, single mothers and children, the poor and lonely. Often the Sisters visit poor families and need to assist at the time. Some of our contribution will also help the Sisters in their day to day living needs as conditions remain hard in Sri Lanka.

## PRACTICAL MATTERS

**Supporter meetings.** The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for noon on Friday 29 September, and the Christmas meeting is 24<sup>th</sup> November, also at 12pm. Please come along and enjoy light refreshments and conversation at these meetings.

**Synod stall.** Pru and Greg enjoyed chatting to many supporters. We are keen to talk to parish groups, such as MU, and look forward to future contact from your parish in this regard.

## MONEY MATTERS

Donations for April, May, June were \$59,472. Thank you to our faithful monthly donors and to those who provide for AAA in other ways. Income from bequests is a vital part of our funding.

Country	Recipient	Amount	Project
Tanzania	Community of St Mary	8,000	Self sufficiency for 6 different houses eg. water tank, sisal planting, fertiliser, chickens
South Sudan	Bishop Garang, Arweil	10,000	Drilling of bore in Kargoc village
Ghana	Order of the Holy Paraclete	10,000	SLT machine for Eye clinic
South Sudan	Bp Daniel	3,000	Orphan education in Uganda
South Africa	Oratory of the Good Shepherd	5,000	Feeding poor and GoGo kitchen support
Madagascar	Community of the Servants of Jesus Christ	5,000	Food & medicine for orphans and poor
Pakistan	Diocese of Peshawar	5,000	Start project of skills training for youth
Sri Lanka	Meth Piyasa	4,000	Help for widow, children, poor and Sisters
India	Shelter Trust	8,000	Medicines and support for poor students
India	Student of higher education	5,000	Fees for year 1 of Dr of Pharmacy course
Malawi	St Luke's hospital	6,000	Solar electricity for maternity ward
Sri Lanka	Third order of St Francis	7,000	Medicines, mobile clinics in rural areas, student education packs
Fiji	St Christopher's home	2,000	Student support and fees
Thailand	No Boh	4,000	Bedding for refugees and stateless people
Tanzania	Community of St Mary	7,000	Support of 5 houses in community support

## PRAYER REQUESTS



### Please pray for:

- Peace in Sudan, Syria, Myanmar and elsewhere. Continued fighting in these areas directly impacts the local population, leads to poverty, illness, hunger and the displacement of thousands, many of whom will become permanent refugees. Bp Garang highlights the plight of refugees in South Sudan.
- Indian Churches and people impacted by new government banking regulations.
- Hospitals in Sri Lanka and Malawi to have funds, especially for medicines, so that they can continue to serve.
- People in all countries who are affected by variable food production because of weather extremes exacerbated by a changing climate. Pray for success of programmes in Tanzania, Liberia, Sudan and Cameroon in reducing these effects.
- Cessation of violent attacks, particularly on Christians in Cameroon, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Bishops from these countries have requested prayers for safety.



CSM Head Sister, Annie, cuts the celebratory cake with the Bishop at the dedication of the new chapel. Pge:2

### Give thanks for:

- God's encouragement through the prayers of the faithful and financial support.
- The spread of the gospel through the work of our partners in around 25 countries.
- The prayers of Religious Orders throughout the world who daily devote time to bring our needs to God.

### MISSIONARIES OF ST ANDREW PRAYER

O God, our Heavenly Father, who sent your 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 lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

Anglican Aid Abroad is entirely dependent on donations from those who support us. We deduct no administrative costs from overseas gifts. Your continued support allows us to support so many others, around the world, on your behalf. Below are ways that you can donate. ***If you intend the donation for a special project, please let us know so that we can designate it accordingly.***

#### DIRECT CREDITS

You can make a deposit via your bank, personally, or via the internet, but please add your name to the deposit so we can issue receipts.

Account Name: Missionaries of St Andrew - Anglican Aid Abroad

Account No: BSB : 034 058 Account Number: 580656

#### CREDIT CARD

VISA  MasterCard (You can also phone us with your credit card details if you prefer.)

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if postal receipt required) \_\_\_\_\_

Please email receipt  Post a receipt  Receipt not required

CHEQUES may be posted to our mail box and we shall send you a receipt as soon as we are able.

FORM OF BEQUEST - making a bequest to AAA is an *extraordinary and wonderful gift* from you to all our partners. Please consider it. 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.

Any queries, please contact:

The Secretary

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