



# 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

February Issue 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I write, it is the season of Epiphany- a time of manifestation of Christ, an awakening, a coming to know Christ. Mark 1:15 – *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.* Several of the projects in which AAA is involved may well seem to those benefitting as signifying that the kingdom is at hand: the building of schools, enabling children to be educated, construction of clinics and buying medicine for the ill, providing food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, and providing light in the darkness. At Christmas, we celebrated the birth of Jesus as the light of the world, and John tells us that the darkness will not overcome that light. Through your generosity, AAA's participation in these projects over the years is bringing light into the lives of thousands.

A new year can also be a time of awakening, and I'm sure many of us hoped that we might awaken in 2021 to the familiar comfort of life as we knew it a year ago. But remembering that God keeps transforming creation into something both good and new, are we perhaps being shaken up and asked to experience a new awakening?

In his book, "From Snow to Ash", Anthony Sharwood wrote: *"We have a lot of comforts in our western lives, but the greatest luxury is not cars, holidays or Pepsi Max. The greatest luxury is certainty."* Unlike the people who benefit from our funds, we generally don't live with the uncertainty of hoping no-one gets sick because there's no money for medicine, of being hungry if the rains fail, of being unable to pay the school fees of \$20 a term if food prices increase.

In his daily meditations, Fr Richard Rohr, a Franciscan Friar from the Centre for Action and Contemplation, speaks of a time of 'unveiling' when something we thought we knew turns out to be quite different. How many of us have read a Bible verse many times, but on another reading, receive quite a different message? In Gospel stories, one person after another experiences an awakening to the mysterious power in Jesus that changes the course of his or her life. How many people who have benefited from the actions of AAA have experienced such an awakening to new faith?

Perhaps our awakening will bring us to pray more, to rely more on God than our material lives and not take our blessings for

granted. At Christmas, the empty bowl on the table signifies the physical and spiritual hunger experienced by millions. Extreme prolonged hunger is generally unknown to us, but a familiar experience in overcrowded cities and the isolated countryside of many areas where AAA is now active. We can go to a hospital or doctor if we are ill and thus do not rely completely on prayer for healing. However, a refugee friend once said, "I had nothing except God and prayer."

During Covid19, some may ask, "Where is God in the midst of this suffering?" Could we also ask, "What is the message of God in this for me?"

As you read this, the Church year will have moved on to Lent- traditionally in the Northern hemisphere a time of hardship as food resources dwindled at the end of winter- a time of reflection and repentance. So as in Epiphany, Lord, you are opening our eyes with a new awakening, so in Lent may we truly repent and turn to you in the hope of rebirth. Stay safe,

Yours Sincerely,

Marilyn Wright



*The children at Paynter Home in Sri Lanka.*

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

**PLEASE NOTE OUR ADDRESS!**

Telephone Secretary: 0402 349 130  
Email: [contact@anglicanaidabroad.com.au](mailto:contact@anglicanaidabroad.com.au)  
Web Page: [www.anglicanaidabroad.com.au](http://www.anglicanaidabroad.com.au)  
A.B.N.29626 317152



## **Innovative Ministry in the Diocese of Kurunagala, Sri Lanka.**

For many years, Mowbray College has been the centre of learning in Kandy, and AAA has supported students there. As it nears its centenary in 2022, the College intends to develop an education and training centre where Covid related issues are discussed with a view to understanding the problems and seeking solutions with and for the community. The community of farmers, labourers and plantation workers have been particularly hard hit in the past year. The project aims to work in four areas: promotion of self-sufficiency; mental health; technology assisted education and proactive community organisation. This is a “first” in the Diocese and if successful may lead to similar projects in other parts of the country. AAA is pleased to assist using funds from a bequest. We are further happy to be able to support more girls from tea plantation workers to attend the school. Education is a key to decreasing poverty and increasing self sufficiency and Mowbray College deserves our aid with this laudable goal.

## **Increasing Farm efficiency in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika.**

Last year, AAA agreed to assist with the expansion of training for Church Leaders in techniques to increase food productivity on their subsistence farms and also to encourage the adoption of Airtight Grain Storage so that large portions of the crop will not be lost to vermin or weather. This method has been carefully trialled, is simple and very cost effective. This region of Tanzania is highly dependent on wet season storms in November to February for food each year, so maintaining soil moisture can bring a significant increase in harvest. The project has been carefully nurtured by a former CMS missionary and agronomist who has trained staff and set up workable systems in the Diocese over many years. Students learn to dig holes, put in manure and ash as fertiliser, then use straw and cover crops to improve growth. This is part of a report sent in December by Rev Canon Charles Mwihambi, Principal of Ibihiwa Training Centre.

“For the current farming season 37 Church Leaders from 13 Parishes are being trained and a further 84 Church Leaders who were trained in previous years were followed up in October November. The implication of these results to the sustainability of the Church in these areas will soon be vivid to all participants. Once Church leaders have food security they stay home to preach, visit people in their homes, pray for the sick and do counselling to nurture God’s flock. They will also preach a holistic gospel by helping them learn and apply conservation agriculture that enables Christian families to have enough food; as a result church attendance and offertory giving will increase.”





## The Plight of Women and Girls and what AAA Partners are Doing.

In November, Mother Londiwe of the Community of Jesus Compassion in New Hanover, wrote with a request for help to buy or build a house for a family in need because of domestic violence. In her words, "A major part of our ministry is to spread the gospel of our Lord through outreach programmes that involve evangelism, taking care of the abandoned children and providing for the impoverished members of the community in which we live." The sisters have some land and after consultation, have decided to continue making bricks and build the house nearby. AAA is sending assistance, but it is sobering to think that families in so many places are homeless because the women are trying to raise children while themselves being unemployed.



Also in November, Mr Paul Rathnam of NYSS in Andhra Pradesh, wrote of the plight of the girls orphanage. One can only ponder the possible reason for a girls only orphanage, but AAA sent money to assist with food, clothing and school equipment. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Christian education centres to raise funds, and they were seeking extensive funds to repair and extend a girls school and training centre for the many orphans they support. Whilst not being in a position to support such a large undertaking at this time, we pray that funds will be forthcoming. "Children are denied equal opportunities for education because of caste, class and gender differences. Poor or orphaned children are unable to get a chance to learn. They often drop out of school to help provide for themselves or their family, even at an early age. Without an education, the children will be subject to a life of extreme poverty and, at times, may be forced into bonded labor", wrote Mr Rathnam.

Again, AAA responded to the plight of mostly girls in an Ugandan orphanage who needed help for school fees and clothing, although much of that is nominally free in government schools. Some of the children have lost parents to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, whilst others have special needs requiring extra medicine. All come from financially unstable homes. Sadly, it is to be expected that needs such as those mentioned here will increase in all countries as the ravages of Covid19 become apparent in the months and years ahead.



### LETTERS

I am constantly humbled to read these emails, especially as in their distress, the writers never fail to wish us well. The Sisters of Meth Piyasa in Sri Lanka wrote in November to thank us for our contribution. At that time, a second wave of Covid19 was causing severe problems. "Many people tell us that it is difficult to get food. Because of this we are planning to spend most of the money you send for them. We are also providing treatment to those who are seriously ill. We are also supplying grown vegetables. Support for social care is invaluable to us during this time. We look forward to informing you about our ongoing work."

Rev. Fr. Jabulani Ngidi OGS wrote in thanks for AAA's contribution to the soup kitchen.

"Your help went a long way to assist our poor people who are in need especially children and women who raised their children alone after being dumped by men. By your help we managed to buy things like soup bowls, cups, plates, spoons, big containers

to store food, folding table to serve on it. A day we serve plus or minus 102 people including children and elders."





## LETTERS cont...

Following devastating storms in Ghana that severely damaged a number of schools in the Asante Mampong area, AAA responded with funds towards the rebuilding. Bp Cyril was profuse in thanks and the pictures of the damage and repairs tell the story eloquently. There are obviously many classrooms remaining to be rebuilt.



Fr Damien Trudeau in South Africa reported that unfortunately, the eye clinic has not been able to proceed because of restrictions around Covid19. In the meantime, AAA has agreed to assist in the restoration of the Sesobe Early Learning Centre at Silkaatskop, which caters for children with disabilities, as that is able to function.

Bp John Ndegwa in Kenya sent a comprehensive report on the chicken project extension which is a source of food and income for the people throughout his area.



Mr Massey of St Martin's Hospital, Malawi, again thanked us for the support to extend a medical salary. Sadly, he also reported the first cases of Covid19 followed by rapidly increasing numbers.

Pastor Devadayalan of the Gethsemane Evangelical Church in Chennai sent thanks for our gift to help feed people in his parish at Christmas.



Fr Chadrack from Rwanda wrote to apologise that because of a Covid lockdown, he has been unable to travel to visit the pastors who have received the goats and send photographs.



Rev Comfort Naseem of Jesus Christ Ministries, Pakistan also sent grateful thanks for our contribution to food. He advises that obtaining ongoing funds for running the orphanage which costs about \$500 per month, is becoming extremely difficult because of Covid19.

Although I am unable to mention all groups in the letters or the prayer section, please keep all of our overseas partners in your prayers as they daily confront unimaginable poverty and illness.



## PRACTICAL MATTERS

May meeting. The next general meeting will be held at All Saints Anglican Church, Chermide, on **Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>** May at 12 noon. Bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship as we report on activities.

Loss of Bishop in South Africa. Long term supporters of AAA will no doubt be familiar with our support of the two orphanages in South Africa. My contact there was Jos Kenyan-Hoare, wife of retired Bishop Alan. She faithfully and diligently kept me informed of progress and needs at the orphanages. Sadly, in mid-January, Bishop Alan was hospitalised and while there caught and succumbed to Covid19. We offer our sincere sympathy to Jos and all who knew and loved the Bishop.

## MONEY MATTERS

Several large amounts come from a bequest specifically for education purposes and money given for a specific project has to be forwarded when received. Matthew 6:19-21.

Country	Recipient	Amount	Project
Ghana	Diocese of Asante Mampong	10,000	Rebuilding School classrooms after devastating storms.
India	Gethsamene Evangelical Church	5,000	Food as part of Christmas distribution.
India	Nehru Yuvajana Seva Sangham (NYSS)	5,000	Orphan care- Food and supplies for girls.
Uganda	God's Grace childcare foundation	2,100	School fees- poor and orphan children.
Sri Lanka	Paynter Home	5,170	Orphan care, building repairs, school costs.
Tanzania	Armani Centre- VIMICHIA	3,500	Orphan care and school supplies
Tanzania	Diocese of Central Tanganyika	12,500	Continuing education in food growing and storage project.
Sri Lanka	Mowbray College	15,000	Education and social development during/ after Covid19.
Malawi	St Martin's Hospital	5,000	Top up for medical salary.
DRC	Missionary Diocese of Congo	7,000	School buildings and equipment.
South Africa	Order of the Holy Paraclete	5,000	Repairs to Cape orphanage after fire. Treatment for student's burns and Covid19.
Kenya	Anglo Province of St Jude, Bp Ndegwa	4,000	Completion of extension to chicken project.
India	St Thomas Secondary School	5,000	Help to house school and parish worker family.
Cameroon	ACC Yaounde, Bp Alphonse	10,000	Clinic completion.
India	Daniel Matriculation School	5,000	School resources and fees for poor students.

## PRAYER REQUESTS



**Remembering that we are all completely dependent on God's loving mercy, please pray for:**

- Wisdom for all world political and religious leaders as they manage their resources during a world pandemic. May they be compassionate and ensure that all people have access to vaccines.
- A spirit of love that might lead to peace in the Middle East, South Sudan and other countries where disputes are rife- often because of hunger and inequality.
- People everywhere to take this opportunity to reconsider their priorities in the light of the Gospel call to care for our neighbours.
- Relief for those working in hospitals in every country and especially where AAA has partners, and where hospital resources are very limited- South Africa, Malawi, Ghana.
- Relief from storm related damage to our associates in Ghana, Philippines and Fiji.
- For Jos Kenyan-Hoare, wife of Bishop Alan in South Africa, as she mourns his loss from Covid19.
- Dedicated Christians with interest and time to assist in the working of AAA; Continuing wisdom as we decide on funding; successful transfer of funds especially in areas of poverty and suspicion of Christians.



**Praise God and give thanks for:**

- The generosity and compassion shown by you, our supporters, to enable AAA to continue to serve those most in need.
- Godly wisdom and strength for our partners and for us in our decision making.
- The diligent, faithful prayers of Religious worldwide who constantly remember us despite their own many and increasing needs.



*Children in the Mampong Diocese in Ghana celebrating the rebuilding of a classroom after storms destroyed much of their school.*

*Brothers and Sisters of the Holy Spirit Monastery in Zimbabwe at a Christmas retreat.*



**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/email 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](mailto: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**