



Anglican Aid Abroad



The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew

Patron: The Most Reverend J. Greaves, Archbishop of Brisbane.

February Issue 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I write in January, our Christian year is rushing towards Easter with barely a pause to celebrate the joy and real meaning of Christ's coming among us, or to reflect on the past with a view to perhaps making different choices in 2024. In some ways, it might seem as if nothing has changed with the change of year- war continues in Ukraine and Gaza, wild weather devastates lives in many places, we make decisions for our personal benefit rather than for the common good. This New Year, our parish priest suggested that we use the St Ignatian Examen to give thanks, ask for light, examine the year, seek forgiveness and resolve for change. It seems that the old ways are often not working- look at declining parish numbers, our reluctance to make the necessary changes at the rate needed to avoid climate disasters, at our inability to bring peace- and yet we cling to the past for comfort.

This raises the question: Are we truly open to the reality of 'God with us' or do we ignore the jolts from God that are opportunities for change? Do we expect and work for the coming of God's kingdom here on earth as do our overseas partners? (Mark 1:15). Are we continuing with business as usual, metaphorically inviting our friends and neighbours to our banquets, rather than the poor, the crippled the lame and the blind as Jesus advised in Luke 14:12-14? A priest friend, whilst talking about the parable of the talents in Advent, reminded us that we are entrusted with the Gospel and know the saving love of God. As Christians, we are not called to just have a nice time, we are called to work. That parable (Matthew 25:14-20) makes it very clear that much is required of us because we have been given much.

A reflection on January 26th spoke of the Biblical text used for the first sermon preached in February, 1788. Using Ps116:12 it asked: 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all of his benefits towards me?' A powerful, thought-provoking question. Would our response be the same as that of our partners?

Generally, we do not have to make the decision of whether to buy seed to plant so that we can eat in the coming year or pay for life giving cancer treatment for one in our family. "Do I just let her die?" asked the Sister facing this problem.

Sr Jacqueline in Madagascar (letters) makes the same plea for help to pay for cancer treatment. It is often easier to justify sending money for food for a large group than for medicine for a few. AAA does provide ongoing medical treatment for several ageing Sisters in Zimbabwe and for HIV orphans. These dilemmas show why your prayers are so vital for our AAA ministry and why later this year, our treasurer, Rev Daniel Jayaraj and I plan to visit as many countries as possible in Africa. Seeing the circumstances and meeting our partners will hopefully improve understanding and communication for all, as together we strive to work with God to further God's kingdom here on earth. I am a firm believer in prayer (or contemplation) and action, and I hope that the stories included below illustrate these twin aspects of the Christian life, and of how AAA operates with our partners in both ways.

Yours Sincerely ,

Marilyn Wright



The peanut harvest— Liberia

The Work of Prayer

Br Nicholas Stebbing from the UK visits Zimbabwe on a regular basis and sees the Sisters we support. He wrote of the role the sisters have in prayer and in their villages. "Anglican Aid Abroad very generously supports three little groups of nuns in Zimbabwe. What do these nuns do? They help in the Church, they visit the sick, they make friends



with young people. They have to do a lot of physical work growing vegetables and looking after chickens so they can eat. But the most important work they do is to pray, and most people do not realise how much they pray and how important that is.

Missions are very busy places. There are usually hundreds of children going to school. Classes are big so teachers work hard. Priests usually have many churches to care for. Yet if the mission is going to do its real work of showing people who Jesus is and encouraging them to follow him they need silence and prayer. At the heart of every mission there need to be people praying. They praise God and thank him. They tell him of the needs of the church and the people round



about. Whenever people see them at prayer they remember that there is a God, a God who loves us and likes to hear from us. Our God may be unimaginably big, yet he loves each one of us and wants us to pray to him. The Sisters do that on our behalf. Hopefully, we sometimes follow their example and pray to our God.

Each day, four times a day, the sisters gather in their chapel to offer prayer and intercession to God. It may be a small chapel on the edge of the mission which most people don't see. Even so, it is one of the most important places on the mission where Christ is present and is loved and where silence can be felt. Thank you for supporting these Sisters in this work of prayer."

I have also included a few snippets from Br Nicholas which illustrate work done in Zimbabwe by the charity Tariro. AAA supported 3 students last year. "The pig project is at the top of the list. The pigs are flourishing and increasing numbers are being sent to market. This is producing a steady income for Tariro. The land on which the pigs are raised is filled with

beautiful crops, some of which feed the pigs, some of which are sold locally. With good crop rotation and pig manure, we use no artificial fertiliser. The human factor is important, too. I was delighted to meet Tinashe again. In January, he was a very unhappy looking teenager looking for somewhere to go. Tariro sent him to the pigs and he is now so happy I hardly recognised him. Soon he will start a course of welding. Then Lameck, Tariro's star agricultural graduate, having passed out top of his College, has spent three months helping with the pigs and has now found a job as a farm manager with retired bishop Chad Gandiya. We hope to develop the project to make it more profitable but also to be a centre to which Tariro youngsters can come for short or long periods to experience this new way of life together."

Lives improved through Farming action in Liberia.

Br Joe Kollie sent this report late in 2023. "It is with much enthusiasm that we write to express deep gratitude to you and the executive of AAA for your support towards our community over the years. Our thanks and appreciation also go to all those (organizations and individuals) who have contributed and continue to contribute to the great cause of AAA.



At this point, we would love to inform you about progress made so far regarding the women project that was funded by AAA early this year to be implemented in three of our parishes. The project in the proposal, covers two crops to be cultivated for three parishes. There has been a little delay in submitting the final report covering tools and seeds purchased on ground that the two crops (peanuts and beans) for each parish was cultivated in succession. Since seeds preservation is one of the major challenges for our local farmers, the money allocated for the later crop (beans) was withheld until the former crop (peanuts) cultivation was completed.

However, we are delighted to inform you that phase one of the project (cultivation of peanuts) in each community have successfully been completed and funding for the other seed (beans) has been distributed and work kick-started. We are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our

parishioners (both women and men) in actively participating in the process. The results from the previous crops grown is highly encouraging.

In another development, we are delighted to inform you about progress made so far in relation to the palm projects that was funded by AAA in 2021 to be implemented in another three parishes. With God's help, these parishes will join the people of Church of Advent, Sengeloe, in realizing some income from their respective farm next year. Gradually, our congregations have started gaining financial rewards through your donations. Many thanks as we look forward to a continuous partnership."

Lives transformed by Anglican Eye Hospital in Ghana.

Sr Abba wrote from the Eye hospital in Ghana of how action over years has transformed countless lives. "All Ghanaians know that we are the only facility in the country that offers free surgery to patients who need such services and can't afford it. We also support any blind child who finds his or her way into the facility or any child with any form of disability that might need further treatment in other hospitals. The above is made possible because of your prayers, love and support towards us that was started years ago by Fr Nixon. Fr Nixon, never visited the facility nor even met me physically and such belief and trust in us is not only beautiful but wonderful too.

Three of the very first blind children we've been supporting are doing incredibly well. Eben, is reading his PhD in Oxford United Kingdom, Yaya, is an assistant lecturer at the university of Capa Coast, Alimatu who read Psychology at the University of Ghana Legon is on the staff at the Abor Tech School. The rest of the family are good too. Your support enabled us to meet the requirements of the Ghana Health service. A new consulting room and office has been created for the resident ophthalmologist. Referring patients to other hospitals is a thing of the past now, unnecessary blindness would be prevented too and able to satisfy all patient who calls in at the hospital is what I term service. Thank you.

You've also enabled us to secure equipment that would have normally been out of our reach. Thank you. Anglican Eye Jachie is the first stand-alone mission hospital in Ghana and a model for others to emulate. The two main Universities in Ghana, Cape Coast and KNUST normally send their optometrist students to us for practical work, the only Optical school in Ghana send their best students to us also for practical experience. The resident ophthalmologist is also looking into inviting ophthalmologist with specific expertise to have clinics at the facility. Even though we aren't there yet, your support to us and all in Ashanti region gives us the assurance that we would be able to reduce unnecessary and preventable blindness in Ghana. Thank you once again and God Bless."

LETTERS



Sr Gertrude from Namibia sent profuse thanks for school desks provided by AAA.



Daniel Matriculation School: "Staff and students offer

heartfelt thanks to AAA for sending (the money) for Poor and downtrodden students. From this they have paid their fees and got the books for the II term. By this money, we have paid this month salary for all the Teachers who are working in this institution. We won't forget this help in our life. The Parents are very happy and convey their gratitude to AAA. These Parents are single parents who are making their children to study in our Institution (because) nowhere else in this area will they be admitted because these parents are unable pay their fees."

Shelter Trust: "For the first time in our history children are attained 18 years, which is a great blessing for us. So the older kids look after the little ones. At present we have 71 children, 19 of them became orphans or semi orphans of COVID-19. Two of our boys who are above 18 left our shelter, and now they are self-employed and monitored by us. We support them to stand on their own feet." Through this institution, AAA is also able to help keep young girls in school and avoid temple prostitution.



Bp Driver's newsletter from Newton College in PNG in November, contained exciting news on developments there. The College is transitioning to a multi-disciplinary institute with equal numbers of male and female students, many of whom will need to live on site. A dormitory for 50-60 female students is needed. The process of institutional registration and accreditation requires a significant building programme and upgrades of qualifications for teaching staff. Deputy Principle, Fr Giles Motisi will study at St Francis College this year. "In places like PNG there must be a strong link between the disciplines of theology and the needs of community development. This means that Newton College has been consistently involved with a range of practical programmes in areas like health, and adult literacy. (AAA helped upgrade the clinic and nursing quarters in recent years.) Scabies is a skin disease caused by a mite. It spreads

though social contact and is prevalent among children. It covers children with irritating pustules from toes to shoulders and impedes normal development and education.”



Government clinics are not being provided with the best drugs to treat the disease, so a different sort of Christmas gift was

arranged for children in villages near the college. An Adelaide Doctor will lead a scabies treatment project in the New Year seeking to address the problem at a village level with both medication and education.

Roseline Ampeire from Canon Beatrice Ruhindi Training centre in Uganda wrote. “Thank you so much for your support. Without you, the Training Centre could not continue.” She listed needs for this year including: irons, fabric, equipment for cooking classes, sewing classes and hairdressing instruction. There is also a need for teachers to upgrade their qualifications, so sponsorship for this would be welcome.

Sr Merina Dube thanked AAA for the installation of solar power.

From Bp Andrew in Pakistan: “We are very thankful to Anglican Aid Abroad organization that has extended a helping hands towards the affected people during the Christmas season so that they and their children may celebrate Christmas and New Year with Joy. This is a small token of love, brotherhood and solidarity to the suffering brothers and sisters in Christ by the Missionaries of St. Andrew. Act of charity distribution took place on December 31, 2023.



Archbishop Cyril Ben-Smith in Ghana wrote to welcome a visit and with a request. “On another issue my Dioceses is celebrating its tenth anniversary and we are planning to send ten candidates to the Seminary in Ghana to augment

our clergy numbers. We have the people ready to train but do not have the funds to sponsor. Perhaps you might know people or parishes who might be interested.” The Bishop earlier thanked us for past contributions and asked our consideration of a large project. “The proposal is for collaboration between the Anglican Church of Ghana and Ankaful Maximum Security Prison that will help the Prison train and equip inmates with knowledge and skills in Vocational Training (Tailoring, Block molding, Door-mat production, Kente and Fugu weaving, Bakery) and Educational Programs (Non Formal Education, ICT Training).”

CMM Sisters in Tanzania sent photographs of the harvest of cashew nuts and sunflowers grown as cash crops using seed funding from AAA.



Bill Arthur wrote of the project based around Dodoma, Tanzania, where AAA helped fund Church Leaders training in agriculture. “The Project is going well but probably would have died without AAA support as it was their funds that got the Project through the Covid period when so many other things were not possible.” Bill is now working with friends in the UK to raise funds to continue the project and launched a website, “Fast no More”. The title refers to the need for many families to go down to one meal a day for a few months, usually starting at Christmas.

Amer in Aman wrote that he intended to go to visit the women in Damascus-our sisters. “The weather is very bad, heavy rain, strong fog. Please pray for me, (because) I will not travel with Muhammad, the reason is there are no passengers only me, so I will go to the Syria car station.” At the station, he will have to wait many hours or days until there are enough people to fill a taxi. Muhammad is a 58-year-old who has only ever worked driving a taxi to Damascus, so how will he now support his family?

After the visit, Amer wrote: “It was a wonderful week spiritually, despite the extreme cold (1-9C), the lack of heating in the monastery, and also no electricity for a long time. But the work of the Holy Spirit was clear and wonderful. The original meeting was attended by 59 women. Frankly, I was surprised by the number of women. It was a wonderful spiritual feeling. Despite the cold, Jesus' joy was clear. We talked spiritually, conveyed the messages from you to them- it was great.” While at the passenger station waiting for a car for the return journey, he was shaken by the nearby bomb blast which was on our news.

Sr Jacqueline in Madagascar wrote:
 “Dear friends, we hope you are well. We are well but I have big problem because I have Cancer in my elbow. We have scans and now we have chemotherapy every 21 day and last week I had this. It is very expensive. Therefore, we beg you to help about the Money and your prayers please.”



Worshippers at the Good Samaritan Church in Lahore, Pakistan



Training equipment Supplied by AAA being used in the DRC

PRACTICAL MATTERS

Meeting Dates for 2024. February 16th, May 24th, August 23rd (AGM), November 29th (Christmas). Thank you for your unfailing support over the years. It means a lot to Board members to meet with you over a light lunch and hear your reflections. Meetings are at 12 noon at All Saints Anglican Church, Hamilton Rd, Chermside.

African visit. In July and August, our treasurer, Rev Daniel Jayaraj and I plan to visit several countries in Africa. Plans are very general at present and we ask for your prayers for good communication, for discernment of which countries to visit and for general preparation. I hope to publish a detailed itinerary in the May Newsletter.

Fr Nixon’s condition remains stable and he is comfortable.

MONEY MATTERS

Country	Organisation	Amount	Project
Cameroon	Order of St Benedict	\$10,500	Medical fees for three Brothers to complete year
PNG	Newton College	\$10,000	Scabies program and building refurbishment
India	Just Mercy	\$5,000	Christmas distribution
India	Shelter Trust	\$6,000	Christmas food, medicine, clothes
Zimbabwe	Tariro	\$6,000	3 groups of Sisters in Zimbabwe
South Sudan	Bp Daniel- Duk Diocese	\$4,000	Orphan education in Uganda
DRC	Bp Ayule-Milenge Steven	\$5,000	Complete equipment for training centre
Zimbabwe	Community of Holy Transfiguration	\$3,000	Solar power
Pakistan	Peshawa Diocese	\$3,000	Micro finance scheme
South Africa	Orphanages in Cape Town	\$5,000	Food, clothing, school fees, medicines
Bangladesh	Kusita Diocese	\$5,000	Christmas Charity work
Bangladesh	Barishal Diocese	\$5,000	Feeding and clothing villagers
PNG	Newton College	\$3,000	Water tanks and installation
India	Tim and Swapna	\$2,500	Food and seed for agricultural project
Pakistan	Bp Andrew	\$2,000	Help for villagers recovering from violence
India	Just Mercy	\$6,000	Help for flood victims
Uganda	Canon Beatrice Ruhindi School	\$5,000	Equipment and fees for 2024
Madagascar	Community of the Servants of Jesus Christ	\$2,000	Cancer medicine
Solomon Is	Sisters of the Church	\$5,000	Storm repairs and finishing guest house
Sri Lanka	Samaritan Good Heart	\$2,000	Widow support



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray using the letters section for specific requests and generally for:

- A just solution and an end to fighting in Israel and Gaza and between Ukraine and Russia. Raise up leaders who want to end the bloodshed and strive for peace and the good of many rather than seeking power.
- Leaders of wisdom and integrity in Pakistan, India, South Sudan, Cameroon and DRC who will protect Christians and work for justice for all of their people.
- A successful growing season where our partners live so that hunger will decrease this year.
- God led planning and preparation for the travel to African countries being undertaken by Daniel and Marilyn. Pray especially for good communication and deepening of relationships.
- God's leading as we at AAA allocate funds for education, health, agriculture and well-being.

Give thanks for:

- Another generous bequest. AAA can only continue giving on the present scale with funds from bequests.
- The Gospel work and prayer of our partners in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.
- The Christmas reminder of the presence of God with us, made tangible through your gifts and prayers.



Distributing new farming tools—Liberia

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

Phone: 0402 349 130 (Secretary)
Email: contact@anglicanaidabroad.com.au