



Anglican Aid Abroad



The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew

Patron: The Most Reverend P. Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane.

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Once again during Lent and Easter, we have been reminded of Christ's amazing love for His people and His creation- that He overcame a cruel death on the cross in order that we might be in a new relationship with God. My Lenten journey involved participating in my parish's weekly study on 'Being with God, each other and the wider community.' Understanding and promoting respectful, meaningful relationships was at the heart of all the messages.

Too often, relationships are transactional- based on the exchange of something of value- or mutually reinforcing leading to the exclusion of others. What is modelled by Jesus's life and death is an entirely different relationship- mutually transformative- characterised by forming connection with others despite differences and always recognising the intrinsic human value of the other person. We see in scripture, the transformation of those who entered conversations with Jesus: the woman at the well, the blind man, Mary- sister of Lazarus, Peter, and the other disciples. By His rising to new life, Jesus brought the message of love, hope, regeneration, healing and forgiveness. Paul did not know the earthly Jesus, but his life was transformed by his encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus.

The relationship between AAA and the recipients of our aid, is sometimes a difficult one as it is very easy for such

relationships to be transactional with the Board of AAA being seen to hold the power as we decide to provide or withhold funds for various groups and projects. However, through the prayers of faithful supporters and the people we assist, I believe that transformation can and does occur. It is easy to see the transformation of communities where food and water projects give life and hope and the healing that occurs through the provision of medicine and hospital equipment. Education projects obviously provide hope too, often for whole communities. On a simpler scale, support for small groups of Sisters and Brothers just to continue to be viable is transformative for them and they become light for others. Only God knows how darkness is overcome in the lives of those to whom they minister.

Our lives too are transformed through the words of our partners each quarter in this newsletter. Board members are privileged to receive letters and phone calls detailing the effect of a particular story on the thinking and faith of a supporter. Prayer for our overseas neighbours can be transformative as we learn more of God's will for us in the process. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! How has the Holy Spirit, through our Easter journey, equipped us to be agents for transformation in families, the Church and the wider community?

Yours Sincerely,

Marilyn Wright



Below: Children in Sth Sudan trying to gather wild food to eat. (page 4 story)



CBLM and CZR sisters meeting at Penhalonga . (page 4 story)

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One day at Newton College.

Because AAA has assisted with funds for Newton College clinic, we receive irregular letters from Bp Driver when he visits. I have freely edited the news from late March. Although quite unwell with malaria (of which there are now drug resistant strains in the Northern Province), he wrote with characteristic humour of Log drops, Long drops and Drop Ins. "The Newton College site is about 265 acres, much of it with native rainforest. There are some magnificent trees. In partnership with Oro Nickel, the College has purchased a portable sawmill and there was a tree that had started dying that we wanted to fell to slab and season for milling. The men on the job are good at what they do. The tree was probably 100ft tall and two metres across at the base. They planned the felling and began work with a very large chainsaw purchased with the support of our friends in Gippsland. It went mostly to plan. But there was a roughly built long-drop toilet that serviced some of our single students. The log drop turned the long-drop instantaneously to matchsticks. The students were sufficiently aware of what was going on so that none were likely to have been sitting contemplatively as the chainsaw roared nearby. The whole thing was shrugged off with characteristic PNG humour. I watched Daniel today slabbing the timber. He is a master with the chainsaw, able to produce beautifully cut 20ft slabs just by eye. And the timber is wonderful, beautiful close grained and knotless hardwood."

The Bishop received two unannounced but welcome visitors. Firstly, a representative from the Provincial Government to confirm that following representations from students last year, the Provincial Government had decided to include the college among secondary and higher education institutions to receive some funding for students. This was important recognition. Secondly, Brother Josiah, a Melanesian Brother who was among the first cohort of students taught by Bp Driver, came requesting an editing eye for parts of a history of the Melanesian Brotherhood. Naturally, both visitors were welcomed for the good news they brought

The Community of St Mary in Malawi.

I have freely used and edited an article from "St Mary's Messenger" to write the following. The endemic poverty in Malawi makes it almost impossible for any family to reach the goal of self-sufficiency. Thus, the initial expectation that the Sisters there would be able to support themselves by the work of their hands—raising their own food, making vestments and church uniforms for sale, teaching in the parishes has not been fulfilled. They have done all these things but with a growing sisterhood, there was never enough money to sustain growth and their outreach within their local community without help (from the American Sisters). Such help has enabled the Sisters' ministry to expand to include the ecclesiastical tailoring shop, the retreat and guest ministry, and Holy Innocents' Pre-school, and also in cooperation with all the churches in Mzuzu, the Orphans' Feeding Programme and St. Tereza's Orphan Choir.

This has proved a wonderful opportunity to teach orphans their own culture and Christian faith as well as sending the brightest to secondary and tertiary schools as an investment in the future for the whole country. The Sisters are committed to helping orphans with limited resources to pay for education, supplies and uniforms for children in state-funded primary school, and tuition/fees for students in secondary, vocational or college studies. When donations lag or more qualified candidates for advanced education come to the Sisters, they do their best to sacrifice their own needs for the benefit of these young people. This example of sacrifice was not lost on their charges. During the COVID pandemic of 2019 and 2020, when the national education system came to a halt, the older college students taught the younger orphans on the convent grounds so that no one would lose scholastic development because they could not go to school. Annual fees for a secondary boarder are \$1,200 and for a day student \$450. (AAA contributes annually to this fund).

Today living space has become a critical national issue in Malawi. In the last fifteen years, as civil war has rocked the nearby countries, Malawi has done the generous work of accepting the refugees within its borders. A 1999 population of eleven million citizens is today a burgeoning country of 20.4 million. The Sisters need a new building to house growing number of aspirants, postulants and sisters. Because land is extremely expensive, a four-storey building costing \$2 million is planned.



LETTERS



Fr Chadrack in Rwanda wrote that the goat project is thriving to the extent that a more robust wall was required to keep thieves away. Pictures showed a very robust wall indeed. We then learned that the wall was in fact the back wall for other purposes: to house the goats, a milking parlour, a place to make cheese, a place to make Yoghurt, a place to house workers. "Thus, by sporting us it is not building a wall but a future house. The budget for the remaining part is 10,000



AUD. We have been able to raise 2000 AUD through selling part of our newborn he kids. If we get the 8,000AUD funding needed, it will make it the maturity of this project and we shall start self-sustaining process. This amount will go to finishing of the wall, construction of small rooms for the goats and roofing. If we don't finish this wall our goats will be in danger of thieves and wild animals. Last year we lost 5 goats to both calamities and one of our herd boys was seriously injured.



Thus we request that you may support us to finish this project as you have been supporting us. We thank you very much for the support you have been giving us.”

Sisters of Melanesia were delighted to attend the First Aid course funded by AAA. “On behalf of the first aid training participants, I would like to formally thank you for the funds made available to make this training a successful one. All participants have really enjoyed our time during the day. Truly it’s a blessing in which every body have discovered skills and basic knowledge on handling cases especially



we provided last time saved more than 1500 people from dengue fever. Thank you very much for all your support.” The original request from the hospital was also forwarded. AAA were able to act quickly to supply this need.



Welcome news of the **Sisters of the Visitation in Hetune** came through Br Christopher John SSF. There are 9 women in the community- 6 professed sisters, 2 novices and 1 postulant. They are all at Hetune, near Popondetta. Their main ministry at the convent is providing accommodation for girls having family problems. Their needs are for upgrading the solar system, repairs to the access road and eventually a new chapel.

Sr Teresah of the Holy Spirit Monastery in Zimbabwe wrote: “It is with much gratitude that we report to the AAA on the assistance received in September 2022. The fund has been disbursed towards educational needs for three orphaned girls. Nyasha enrolled for BSc Hon Degree in Human Resource Management at Midlands State University (MSU) in August 2022. Moreblessing completed BSc Hon Degree in Social Work with Women’s University in Africa (WUA) in September 2022, while Ayanda completed her BSc in Psychology with MSU and graduated in October 2022.”



casualties.” At the same time, we received pictures of the poor state of the Sister’s sleeping area, office and dining room so sent further funds. The Chapel and community hall building to which AAA contributed is to be commissioned at Pentecost in what will be a momentous occasion attended by Sisters from the UK who have raised most of the funds.

Br Michael of the Franciscan Order in Sri Lanka wrote: “You might be aware the hospitals in Sri Lanka are running out of drugs. Matale hospital needs anaesthetic drugs for the use of emergency situation like accidents. If you can help us it would be great. The Director of the hospital said the drugs



Rev Pita of St Paul’s in Naviavia, Fiji thanked us profusely for funds AAA sent for a boat. They were able to buy an engine for a boat, and put a deposit on a vehicle. “Both the boat and the church vehicle are very helpful in our community here in Naviavia.



The vehicle is used to transport elderly and infants for monthly check-ups and for emergency cases.” There will be considerable savings to the community in time and money plus the ability to get timely and preventative medical treatment.

Bp Ndegwa of Kenya

sent an enthusiastic report of the progress with the café/hotel which uses chickens and vegetables from Church gardens to generate more income. He also



outlined their plans to upgrade the mission van to a 25 seater, to strengthen the agricultural projects in different areas and to boost the capacity of Mission Leaders' Vestment Laundry Project which is closely tied to the microfinance scheme of the church. A glimpse of the difficulties faced is revealed in this story. "Reverend Father Fredrick Maina, of Saint John's Kathaka mission, is a bar attendant in his locality. He has been facing challenges especially in tackling alcoholism in the area, since he cannot condemn what he sells and he has received a share of mockery as well. During the meeting held in January 2023, Reverend Fredrick expressed his desire to quit his job and begin some kind of missionary related job. With 10 bags of maize worth Ksh 55,000, 4 bags of potatoes worth Ksh 26,000, a poultry project in the making and a monthly support of Ksh 2,300, he has reported that he shall be quitting his job to concentrate on missionary projects. We thank God." After sending a further small donation we received: "Words are insufficient to express our heartfelt gratitude for these God-given gifts and once again, please receive our thanks and may God as always continue blessing you all."

Bp Garang wrote from South Sudan in February: "The destruction of the food crops in the farms by the heavy rains and floods (of 2022) led to thousands of people not harvesting anything from their farms and they are now facing severe starvation. Many families have now resorted to collecting and eating wild leaves and fruits for survival. The leaves and fruits they are eating are not healthy but they have no choice. Thousands of people are worried



how they will make it to get seeds for planting in the next season that starts in May and food which will last them until harvest time in August. (I am appealing for funds) to be used to purchase food items like sorghum, maize flour, beans, lentils and cooking oil that will be distributed to the affected households." Last week, the Bishop wrote of the rapidly worsening situation because of refugees coming from Sudan. Please pray for peace.



Sr Jacqueline of the Community of Servants of Jesus Christ in Madagascar wrote of the joy on March 5th to celebrate 38 years since the foundation of the Sisters in 1985. We are invited to attend the 40th celebrations in 2025! She also reported that 8m of fencing had fallen down in recent heavy rain and wind from a cyclone- perhaps small to us, but for them a major worry and expense.

Br Nicholas of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield wrote: "I've just returned from Penhalonga where I had the CBLM and CZR sisters together in retreat. This is the retreat AAA paid for. It was a very happy event and the two communities got on well. I am hoping they will join up. It would certainly make sense with their small numbers".

WINS (Women in need in Syria) is a small group started by a few Australians in 2009. They use a local church contact and sympathetic shopkeeper to provide 3 weeks food per month for 50-60 women. In the past, they have helped the women train as hairdressers, seamstresses and the like to give them some dignity and help support their children. Covid and cholera remain constant problems and inflation is rife because of the ongoing virtual civil war. These women lost husbands, fathers and brothers to Al Qaida. In the recent winter, some extra was provided for a vitamin supplement and fuel vouchers so that the women could keep warm in the sub-zero temperatures and boil water to help avert Cholera. The Australian women write to some ladies and the Gospel is shared. Editor's note: names and photographs not shared to protect the participants.



Br Joe Kollie in Liberia sent thanks for the money to help women in three villages. A brother has to journey to the capital, Monrovia, to get the money from the bank. "Some materials have been purchased while others (cutlasses and hoes) are undergoing local processing by a blacksmithing group contacted to do the work. Since local people are good at selecting viable seeds for sowing, the money for seeds (beans and peanuts) has been given to the women leadership in the three churches to do the purchasing themselves. We want to inform you that our activity outside of the monastery has been reduced by 40% in observance of the Lenten Season. However, this won't have any negative effect on the implementation of the projects as mechanisms have been put into place on the way forward. In another development, we are pleased to inform you that the head of our Community, Rev. Fr.

Emmanuel M. Dunor (Superior) has been designated by the Episcopal Church of Liberia as one of the honourees for his distinguished services in expanding and developing the Diocese of Liberia. This feat has been achieved through your support. Thank you! Best wishes as we reflect on the Lenten Season together."

Daniel School staff and students offered heartfelt thanks to AAA for helping the 15 poor students who were unable to pay the fees and get the books. "Now they are coming to school happily and it is all by the grace of God and generous donation of AAA. By this help, 15 students got books and continue their studies in our school. We thank AAA for enlightening the life of the poor and downtrodden children."

MONEY MATTERS

Country	Organisation	Amount	Project
Tanzania	Diocese of Central Tanganyika	6,000	Follow up visits for all leaders trained in farming and food storage methods
South Sudan	Bp Daniel, Duk Diocese	3,000	Education for orphans
Ghana	Holy Cross Priory, Br L Abbah	2,500	Annual school equipment
Liberia	Community of the Love of Jesus	5,000	Agriculture help for women in 3 parishes
Cameroon	Bp Alphonse	3,000	Expanding agricultural works
D R of Congo	Bp Ayule-Milenge Steven	5,000	Equipment for training centre
India	Daniel School, Chennai	5,000	Annual fees for orphan education
India	Madras Diocese	2,000	Pay labourers- Tribal and Dhalet people
South Africa	Order of Holy Paraclete	5,000	Support for two orphanages
Solomon Islands	Sisters of Melanesia	5,400	Refurbishing of sleeping rooms for Sisters
Zimbabwe	CZR, CBLM, CHT	6,000	Community support-food, medicine, orphans
Zimbabwe	CZR and CBLM	2,000	Bourse 27, 18. Easter training retreat
India	Shelter Trust	6,000	HIV positive children, food and education
India	Gethsemane Widows support group	6,000	12 sewing machines, food, training
Kenya	Bp Ndegwa	2,000	Support self Sufficiency
Malawi	Community of St Mary	5,000	Education fund for high school students
Ghana	Archbishop Cyril Ben Smith	7,000	Storm damage repairs and youth projects
Uganda	Canon Beatrice Ruhindi Centre	5,000	Computers, hair driers, student fees
Sri Lanka	SSF Third Order	2,000	Medical supplies Matale hospital
India	ICMC	6,000	Complete shed and machinery for paving
Syria	WINS	4,000	Food for refugee women
Cameroon	Bp Alphonse	7,000	Start agricultural projects in 2 villages
South Sudan	Bp Garang	4,000	Food and seed for drought affected areas
Rwanda	Bp Chadrack	6,000	Finish wall for houses and goat enclosure
PNG	Sisters of the Visitation	2,000	Community Support
India	Just Mercy	5,000	Support for poor
India	Daniel School	5,000	Build and provision a Kitchen
Tanzania	Community of St Mary	8,000	Support for houses- poultry, seeds, fertiliser, beehives

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for:

- The people of Sri Lanka who face challenges to have enough food, medicine and education resources. Pray that those in government will make decisions that benefit all groups in society.
- The Sisters of St Mary in Malawi as they begin to fundraise for their new accommodation.
- The people of South Sudan served by Bp Garang as they face hunger and malnutrition in drought following floods. Pray that leaders of Church and State will act with wisdom and justice in aid distribution.
- Archbishop Cyril Ben Smith and the people of West Africa as they recover from the ravages of weather and work to engage disaffected youth in meaningful training.
- People of South Sudan, the Horn of Africa, Syria and elsewhere facing the challenges of thousands of refugees who need food and basic equipment.
- Wisdom and patience in communication and the allocation of funds to the diverse needs across the many countries and cultures we serve.

Give thanks for:

- God's wonderful provision of funds so that AAA can continue to help our neighbours.
- The many members of Religious Orders who continue to pray for the world and for AAA.
- You, our supporters, who under God support us in prayer, by word of mouth and in generous giving.

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.

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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