



Anglican Aid Abroad



The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew

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

May Issue 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Each Lent brings fresh insights, and this year, several Bible readings and Lenten reflections talked of the need to express Christ's love for others through our words and deeds. This idea was evident from the earliest Biblical times—“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.” (Lev19:18). First, however, is the need for lament- to admit our failure to act for justice for all (including the marginalised, the ‘different’, those we don't understand)- and ask forgiveness. Our parish study looked at Exodus Chapters 1-5 and saw how God heard the lament of the Hebrews and acted to liberate them- that is, God acted for the oppressed and suffering. In the ABM study, “God's Own Country,” we heard the voices of Indigenous pastors giving their insights into scripture and the need for love and justice as we move forward- after lament for past events. While reading an article on the scapegoat aspect of Christ's death, I reflected how often our unconscious biases can lead us into similar actions of blaming others for their (and our) misfortunes.

Yet the message of the cross is one of restoration and hope. ‘When our selfish nature of individualism is restored through mercy and grace, we can take the nature of a servant and work alongside God to restore right relationship with each other and Creation.’ That writer continued, ‘any time we show God's love, mercy and grace we are opening a window for people to see His face.’ The Nepalese Government does not allow conversion, but one Christian wrote, “I like to express God's unconditional love through my acts.” A Zambian said, “as the Bible says, we can not say that we love God if we don't love our neighbour.” (1 John 4:19-21) Our partners express this love for God every day by caring for the sick, the hungry, the rejected and the hopeless.

Jesus's radical life of love for the outcast, the ‘different’, the sick and the poor, followed by his unfathomable act of love by death on the cross, surely calls us to our own acts of love towards our fellow humans. By his death and resurrection, by forgiveness of his persecutors, Christ overcame the hate and fear of those around him. Can we dare to imagine a

world of radical love that overcomes hatred and fear? Will they know we are Christians by our love?

I trust that the positive stories of how AAA assistance has transformed the lives of thousands of ‘neighbours’ over the years will encourage us to be people of hope and love- through prayer, giving and action.

Yours Sincerely ,

Marilyn Wright



Ladies from the Goat Project—p.3

Indian Christians face increasing hardship.

World watchers amongst you will know that Indian elections are taking place. Rev Daniel, our treasurer, is in frequent contact with our several partners there and he wrote of the problems for Indian Christians. “I am encouraging everyone to pray for the Indian elections. You have all seen a positive story through cab drivers, doctors and other workers. But things in India are not the same. The present Modi government banned our orphanages, Compassion, Mission to the Blind, World Vision and other international Christian organizations. Numbers of poor have increased and Christian churches have been targeted during this government. Most Christian organizations are banned from receiving overseas help. Church bank accounts have been seized. One of our Organizations, Indian Christian Mission, has had their bank account seized. The government wants the orphanages and schools to be closed. The Christian schools are not allowed to read the bible or say prayers at their school assembly.

Christians in the state of Manipur, northeast India, have been targeted with ethnic violence and 175 were killed in three months. Most of the Christian churches, families and

their houses were targeted, and people forced to move away. Indian media was silent, but the media from the Middle East (Al Jazeera) brought this to light. Priests or nuns and anyone who works for the tribals and low caste people are targeted by the present government. Please pray diligently for the Indian parliament elections which will be held from 19 April to 4 June.”

In response to the situation, AAA has now partnered with **SVP Viswa Vidyapith**. It is an Indian Christian organization run by faithful Christian members to help migrants from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and other dispossessed people from Indian states affected by the new Indian law, CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act). The law is targeted mostly to the minority communities, Muslims and Christians. Critics are concerned that religious discrimination will now be possible in the previously secular country of India. SVPV helps affected people (especially the younger ones) to



join in courses like midwifery, home nursing, assistance to differentially abled people, so that they will find a job and stay there. It is a very hard time for these people, so AAA is helping them to start these courses. Through our support, we will have nearly 100 migrants (dispossessed people) benefit through receiving nursing education. This in turn will benefit the whole community. Please pray for this organization.”

Jeevan Mission exhibits the success of AAA partnership.

A ‘good news’ story from Fr Daniel. “In August 2023 when I was visiting Sri Lanka, I met some of the nuns who left the church because the church had not taken care of the poor during the time of Covid. They started this mission by selling candles in front of the churches in Negombo. When I met them, they told their stories of people who left Sri Lanka in boats to go to other countries in 2001-2014. Some of them disappeared, and some are still in detention centers. Some left their parents who are old, and some left their wives and

children. The remaining people have not had any contact so far, so the Sisters are helping them by checking on their family members who left. Most of them got money as a loan to pay for the boat. Since the time of the Coronavirus, these people have been struggling to find food, so the Sisters are looking after them, selling candles to feed them. AAA sent them \$5000 in October. They were really happy that they no longer needed to make and sell their candles in the hot sun. However, they still do it in their spare time. They leased some land to plant vegetables, and they bought a cow. Now they are providing food for almost 40 elderly people every day and help a lot of orphan and semi-orphan children. One of our donors gave a generous donation for them in December. This enabled the Sisters to help more people and buy chickens for food and to breed. Their ministry is reaching out to so many in need in this economic crisis.”

A new toilet roof brings better health to Girls’ Orphanage.

Our friends at NYSS in India provided more proof of the wonderful work done because of your generosity. “My sincere thanks for donating the toilet roof replacement and toilet repairs to the Girls’ Orphanage. Together we are making a difference in the lives of orphan girls. This makes us very happy and I hope it is the same for you. The repairs have been completed with your gift.

Your donation will go a long way towards helping the orphan girls get a healthy and safe bath. The roof, taps and pipes of the bathrooms have been completely dilapidated for a long time. The roof of the toilets was constructed with iron sheets and was completely damaged due to constant winds and rain. While the children were on the toilet, rainwater and sun rays entered directly inside. Apart from that, monkeys used to enter through the roof hatches and terrorize the children. Fortunately, they were not injured by the monkeys. As the toilet drainage system was also damaged, the bathing water used to go out and stagnate in



the bathrooms. It was very embarrassing for the children who suffer a lot when there is a lot of sun and rain.

Your great help has removed all such difficulties and the children now can use the bathrooms and toilets in peace.

They have also been encouraged to be healthy. On behalf of our orphan girls, our teaching staff, our social workers and our organisation team, once again my sincere thanks for helping the girls' orphanage with toilet roof replacement and repairs."

Lives changed by Education through Isisa Project

From my earliest time with AAA, I remember Fr Nixon supporting this project by the CHN Sisters in Zululand. Pray that I can visit the Sisters in August. "With joy and thankfulness, we send you this report. The main purpose for compiling and sending it to all good and generous friends of ISisa, is to express our deep-felt gratitude and appreciation to everyone who had generously contributed to the initiation of this humble work which is dedicated to the upliftment and to changing lives of the destitute children at ISandlwana.

We are pleased to report that since the start of this Project in 2003, the following achievements have been attained: Six children have completed basic education



and progressed to tertiary training and obtaining diplomas and degrees as Educators, Public Administrators and qualified artisans. They further show appreciation by uplifting their own families, by building homes and supporting the education of their siblings. Four children are currently at ter-



tiary Colleges training for various occupations. Three children have just completed the Matriculation and need funding for their tertiary education and training.

The initiation, sustenance, continuity and achievement of this great work done towards changing lives of disadvantaged humanity, would never have been realized, were it not for your generous giving.

We are also pleased to report that on the 17th of December 2022, a resounding thanksgiving and celebration of all the progress and achievement attained by ISisa, was held at the Convent of the Holy Name. "ISISA CHILDREN," their Guardians and relatives, CHN Community and CHN Friends, all blessed this occasion by their attendance. We are encouraged to note that a few of those children who are today professionals, are committed to plough back what they have reaped from ISisa, by contributing to the ISisa Education Fund, so that other needy children may be helped. ."

Goat Project keeps on Giving.

This is an edited report from Sarah Gover who visited Rwanda in late 2023 to attend a traditional wedding. After a few days, the Mothers' Union president said, "Now it's time to see the goats."

During the COVID lockdowns, AAA generously supported a project in Gahini, Rwanda, to provide goats to help the Gahini Diocese, in particular their Mothers' Union, support some of the most vulnerable families in their community. Mothers' Union



had purchased 53 healthy adult goats, many already pregnant, from their grant, and gave around ten each to the five churches closest to the Cathedral. They didn't want the vulnerable families to worry about paying for expensive transport, so by choosing local churches, all the goats could be walked or carried up to 10 kms home, or be taken on a bicycle or motorbike!

The churches appointed a goat project manager who worked with the church and community leadership to identify the recipients. The poorest women in the community were selected, even if they didn't have a connection to the church. Teen mums, families with disabled Dads, grandparents raising grandkids and widows were the kind of families the project targeted. The primary help a goat gives a family is to increase garden production by providing improved fertilizer. Excess crops are sold at the local markets. Mothers'

Union and the Diocese supported horticulture improvements with regular classes in farming to enhance the increased farm production.



The women accepted the goats on the agreement to give the first kid to another vulnerable family. Most goats in the first group had twins, so they could give one and keep one. After that, all kids are theirs to keep, if they wish. The family has the right to sell any future

kids, especially billy goats. A large goat can sell for \$50-\$65, equivalent to 2-3 weeks' salary or two semesters of school fees.

Representatives of the Diocese then told how doing this very successful programme had changed how they run several other programmes. One of the keys to success was the sense of community that had developed with the support from the Mothers' Union training and the passing on of the first-born goat to other vulnerable families. As a result, the Diocese has reflected on other programmes and has changed their processes. Sarah then spent two days visiting just some of the families and at each place she was welcomed and shown from 2-8 goats happily munching in the back yard. Every family had similar stories of increased farm production, being able to pay school fees and above all, having hope for the future. They were profuse in their thanks to the Australian donors who made this possible.



LETTERS



Bishop Driver in Popondetta wrote of his joy in teaching and improving the College- but sadness followed. "It is always a joy to see students with their families in chapel and when I returned earlier this year, it was lovely to see Martin and his wife and children with a new baby, Bevan. But there has been a respiratory disease going around and particularly affecting children. We took Bevan to the Popondetta hospital, but he died. Almost certainly, in a better health system, little Bevan would have grown up to bring pride to his mum and dad. But in a country that is routinely plagued with a shortage of basic drugs and equipment, what we in Australia might regard as routine treatment, is often beyond reach. I wept some angry tears when Bevan

died. Then in the same week, our nurse, Kerene, came rushing up asking me to take another baby to hospital. This little child had a mother with a disability and was suffering from malnourishment and infection, with upper arms not much thicker than my thumbs. This is why, at an age when I should be spending more time with my family, my fishing rod and my garden, I continue to work towards establishing a full nurse training program for this Province – the only one, by the way. I do it for little Bevan and the many other pikininis of PNG, who with our help, might live and thrive.

Perhaps, one day, a nurse trained through the Modawa Institute of Higher Education might be there for another little baby like Bevan."

Sr Ernestine of the Community of Servants of Jesus Christ in Madagascar wrote: "Our dear friend, we are sorry to inform you that our Reverend Mother, Sister Jacqueline, was died last March." Sr Jacqueline had cancer of the elbow and AAA sent a small sum to help with treatment. Please pray for the Sisters as they grieve and prepare to choose another leader.

Sr Dorothy CMM, Tanzania sent a report. The Sisters continue to mourn the passing of Sr Ethel Mary and Sr Gloria in December. Their schools at Newala and Njombe are doing well, as is their Kilimani Day Care Centre. The Sayuni House has started a Kindergarten School this year with plans for a nursery school and orphanage in the near future.



Sr Thandukwazi of CHN Zululand wrote: "There are 40 Sisters in the Convent. Their daily livelihood is dependent on sufficient water supply. The local Municipality regulates the water supply. There is severe water cut offs daily. Despite the cut offs, cost for this poor supply is excessive. At times we go without water for days, thanks to our rain water tanks which keep us going, though with all tank water inconveniences with possibility of pollution. It is for these reasons we are prioritizing the borehole as a pressing and critical need. The situation of lack of adequate water supply has been getting worse and worse over the years, but due to the fact that establishing a borehole is costly, we are unable to afford the cost. We are assured that once it is established, a lot of money will be saved which is paid out for an unreliable water supply."

The Sisters of the Church in Solomon Islands sent sincere thanks for the money with a photograph of a water tank we had provided.



PRACTICAL MATTERS

Meetings: General meetings at 12 noon at All Saints Anglican Church, Hamilton Rd, Chermide. May 24th, August 23rd (AGM), November 29th (Christmas).

Synod Stall: Please visit our members who will again be at Synod to promote the work of AAA.

Newsletter change - There will be no August newsletter as I will be in Africa. However, I will endeavour to send out two editions before Christmas as is the usual practice.

MONEY MATTERS

Country	Organisation	Amount	Project
South Africa	Two orphanages	\$2,300	School fees, books, uniforms
South Africa	Oratory of Good Shepherd	\$6,000	Feeding programme and Go-Go kitchen
India	Shelter Trust	\$8,000	Rescue of at-risk girls, food, education
India	Daniel School	\$6,000	Support for 19 students
India	Dental Student support	\$5,000	University fees till end of year
Uganda	Canon Beatrice Ruhindi school	\$2,000	Education for Principal
Thailand	Noh Bo Academy	\$10,000	Starting kitchen rebuild, cement base
Ghana	Bp Cyril Ben Smith	\$5,000	Start education for prisoners-eg tailoring
Liberia	Community of the Love of Jesus	\$9,000	2 oil mills for 2 villagers
Zululand	Community of Holy Name	\$2,000	Education for Sister
Sri Lanka	Paynter Home	\$5,000	Security lighting for children's safety
Pakistan	Diocese of Peshawa	\$5,000	Easter activity and support for poor
India	Bishop Deva	\$5,000	Writing and publishing Dalit books
Rwanda	Fr Chadrack	\$3,000	Roof for building to support at-risk women
Tanzania	CMM Sisters	\$1,800	Tertiary Diploma for Sister
Malawi	St Martin's Hospital	\$3,000	Hospital Equipment
South Africa, Zululand	CHN Sisters	\$\$2,500	Isisa Children's project- education
	CHN Sisters	\$14,000	Drilling bore for water supply
Papua New Guinea	Community of Visitation	\$10,500	Solar electricity, Sisters' education
India	SVOPU	\$20,000	Training and support for desperate foreign workers after new laws change their status
India	Dental student	\$10,000	Second year university fees
South Africa	Orphanage in Cape Town	\$4,000	Repairs after storm and generator.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray as asked in the letters and articles and for:

- Wisdom, love and grace to overcome hatred and fear in the war-torn areas. May leaders of integrity rise up to strive for peace for all their people.
- Peaceful elections in India, Rwanda and other countries. Pray that those newly elected will govern with compassion and wisdom for a safe, secure future for all.
- Safety for Marilyn as she travels in Africa from 10th July till 30th August. Pray for good conversations with our partners and better understanding of the situations and needs in various countries. See map for itinerary.
- Good health of our partners, that they may be well. Pray for health education, healthcare students and improved hospital provision in all places.
- Wisdom for AAA Board members in decisions about new partners and in finding ways to transfer funds.

Give thanks for:

- God's provision of funds for our travel and for the welcome from our partners.
- The thousands around the world who have been given new life through education, farming and medical improvements provided by your generous giving to AAA.



AFRICA ITINERARY.

God willing, with your prayers, Marilyn will be travelling at these times.

July 10. Travel from Sydney to Johannesburg. Continue to Accra in Ghana the following day, 11th July. Visit eye hospital in Jachie and meet other Church people, possibly Bp Cyril Ben-Smith.

July 18. Travel from Accra to Yaounde in Cameroon via Lome. Meet Bp Alphonse and Order of St Benedict.

July 23. Travel from Yaounde via Lome to Nairobi, Kenya. Meet Bp Ndegwa and possibly Bp Garang from South Sudan.

July 29. Travel to Kampala in Uganda. Visit schools where South Sudanese students attend. Bp Steven from DRC may come to meet here because of border difficulties. Travel overland to Rukungiri, then on to Kigali in Rwanda to meet Fr Chadrack.

August 6. Travel from Kigali to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Rest with the Sisters of the Community of St Mary.

August 13/14. Travel overland to Sisters in Mzuzu, Malawi. Then visit St Luke's and St Martin's hospitals in the South.

August 21. Travel from Blantyre in Malawi, via Johannesburg to Durban. Visit CHN sisters and others.

August 26. Travel to Cape Town. See Br Douglas OGS and Miriam Toni who runs the orphanages.

August 30. Travel to Johannesburg and on to Sydney. Arrive in Brisbane the evening of 31st August.



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

Phone: 0402 349 130 (Secretary)