



Anglican Aid Abroad



The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew

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

August Issue 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” Most of us pray these words daily, but do we stop to think what they actually mean? The Kingdom talked about in Mt 6:10 and Lk 11:2, on which the prayer is based, is not some far off dream, but a real, present possibility. Recently, the idea of the nature of God’s Kingdom has seemed to dominate sermons and my reading. Where and what is the Kingdom of God?

When my grandchildren dismissively ask, “Well, where is God?” I tell them that God is love in our hearts enabling us to love and help other people. In Luke 10:1-12, Jesus tells the 70 he is sending out to go into every town and place, that it will be difficult but they are not to take much with them- they need to rely on God. They are to say, “Peace be with this house,” eat what they are given and heal the sick. Then they are to say in Lk 10:9, “The Kingdom of God has come near you.” Matthew 10:5-15 has a similar story, but the 12 being sent were only to go to the people of Israel. They were also to heal the sick, bring the dead back to life and drive out demons. Their first command was to preach, “The Kingdom of heaven is near!” What would the people in those towns have understood by the Kingdom from these actions?

They would have experienced love, healing, peace, acceptance. The disciples had to depend on the community, ‘the other’- it was not about them. The disciples were ordinary people with flaws, mingling with the ordinary people they met, bringing a word of peace and practical healing. Both Matthew and Luke compare the Kingdom to a mustard seed and yeast for the properties of growth from small beginnings. This is how many of our overseas partners bring the Kingdom near to the people they serve.

Sisters who take in poor, homeless orphans and families, and care for young people wanting an education; Sisters who visit the aged, sick, those with HIV/Aids; Brothers and

Sisters who provide skills in medicine, education and agriculture to their community; Brothers who increase agricultural opportunities for whole villages so that local people can learn skills, work together, earn money to buy food and have hope; Those who grow and provide food in times of dire hardship.

They are there as good neighbours, serving God through serving their community. The Kingdom is surely near in those places. What is our role in bringing the Kingdom closer for the poor and marginalised? Let us pray for wisdom and guidance in how to provide more yeast and plant more mustard seeds.

Yours Sincerely,
Marilyn Wright



Students from The Holy Transfiguration in Zimbabwe with the hot water furnace supplied by your generous donations.



Sr Merina Dube from Zimbabwe

Faith and courage in adversity.

It is impossible not to be profoundly moved by the plight of many of our partners. Emails constantly tell of staunch resilience in the face of hardship which can only be attributed to the steadfast faith of the writer. Two recent exchanges exemplify this. The first is heavily edited owing to the difficulties of the English language, but Sr Jaqueline of the Servants of Jesus Christ in Madagascar showed great courage in writing. "We are very sorry about Sister Isabelle who died last January. It was a great shock for our Community, but God enabled us to stay calm. She had hypertension and with Covid she passed. We are ready to continue her job. Thanks be to God and AAA that the water is finished and going well. (AAA supplied funds for a new well after damage from vandals). We have a problem with food as some things are very expensive but our money is very little. There are people who stay with us and they have 6 children. They are very poor and have no house and no food. They help us in the house and garden and in food preparation. The weather is very cold and windy so please pray for us." Long term supporters of AAA may remember hearing of Sr Isabelle over the years. I remember receiving a hand written note from her when I first began as Secretary. Such a gracious and faithful woman of the Church who obviously set the example that has enabled the Sisters to continue so bravely.

In June, Sr Merina Dube of the Community of the Holy Transfiguration in Zimbabwe, began communication by What's App- at which she is more skilled than I am! She sent photographs of her preaching on Good Friday and later a beautiful picture of their small (25 seat) chapel decorated in red flowers to celebrate Pentecost. Then on 25th June, came- "My soul is full of grief. At 1am the angel of the Lord woke me up. From outside I heard a sound as if it was raining. I went out to check and saw that our Chapel was on fire. The inside was full of heavy

flames and smoke. All the contents are ashes." Two days later she wrote: "Two weeks ago, two girls had flu and went to our hospital. I was asked to quarantine them—so, for 3 days they slept in the Chapel. Now I am imagining the situation—everything in the Chapel was reduced to ashes.... God is so gracious... He saved us from shame. We are not going to let anyone sleep in the Chapel." After my question as to what started the fire, I received this very African response. "I invited the man who installed our Chapel electricity so that we would reason together about the fire. I thank God so much because the man openly told us the truth that he used telephone wires mixed with electricity wires and the telephone wires were over powered and exploded. He even showed me the difference between the wires. This time we are not going to electrify the Chapel, we will make sure we use it during the day." I further ventured to enquire if the man would take any responsibility, as he would here in Australia. Her reply: "Here it is not like that. It is taken as a personal affair. It is our fault- we trusted him unknowingly but created a problem for ourselves." I also share her final text. "Please pray for our souls, we are so troubled. In July we have lots of wind that pulls down houses and trees. Even now as I communicate with you there is a lot of wind outside throwing iron sheets down from the (Chapel) roof."



Joy and Empowerment

There are also many joyous times of great satisfaction as we see whole communities empowered by your gifts. Noh Bo academy has celebrated 30 years with traditional singing, dancing and food, plus a visit from the new Vicar of Christ Church, Bangkok. It is wonderful to hear how the food sustainability project started with AAA help, has empowered the students. They are providing a lot of their own food, learning new skills, and able to earn some income as this extract from their newsletter explains. “We are delighted to say the long-awaited chickens have arrived. We

now have 100 chickens and there are around 80-90 eggs per day. The students helped build the coop. Fish farming has completed one cycle. Some fish were sold and others eaten by the students. However, more sustainable use of water needs to be explored. Agriculture is doing well. The students are growing long beans, ladies’ fingers, morning glory, Roselle and turmeric for use.”



Bishop Ndutiye Alphonse Vascaniat from Cameroon wrote. “We have been blessed with your last gift this year. Here attached are photographs of the tomatoes harvested last month. We sold them in the big markets. With my group, we got the opportunity to transport them in the Toyota Pick-up of one of our Church members. We have gained not only food for our members, but also monies for our daily needs. The harvest helped many people in our community and in our village. Thanks a lot. We will continue working this way with cassava and maize as well. Many, many thanks to all of you who help us. (AAA sent money early this year for farm improvements, seed and equipment.)



Bishop Steven Ayule Milenge from Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo also reported progress on the building for which AAA sent funds. “Greetings in Christ our Lord and Saviour. Through this e-mail, I would like to send you the final report of the construction of the Vocational Training Centre phase 2, for the rooms: training, exhibition and workshop for the manufacture of shoes, belts, purses and schoolbags. Please find attached the detailed report and photos of the building. Thank you very much God bless you.”





LETTERS

Br Emmanuel (Order of St Benedict) in Cameroon was delighted to receive our contribution which will go towards continuing education for 4 Brothers.

*Pictured:
Br Magloire &
Br Max*



The Order has larger plans for building a reception centre, dispensary and extending food production via raising pigs and chickens for the community. However, all such plans are at the whim of supporters like AAA.



Sr Plaxicedes, CBLM, sent photographs of their garden and thanks for assistance with school fees for local children. Covid continues in the community and winter is proving very cold in several African countries where we have contacts.

Rev Friar Fungayi of the CHT in Zimbabwe thanked us for the help with repairs on the school roof. Work is difficult as rains and wind continue. He is now acting as Vicar General as the Diocese does not have a Bishop and asks for our prayers.



Pictured: The blue roofing is where sheets have been replaced.

Sr Teresah of the Holy Spirit Monastery in Zimbabwe wrote thanking God that they had survived Covid until now. However, they are engaged in the healing process with many families who suffered loss and have continuing needs as they support local children with fees, books and uniforms for education.



In July, Bishop Jeffrey Driver was in Popondetta, PNG, continuing his work at the Newton Theological College. He sent a short report on construction of accommodation for the nurses and thanks for the money from generous donors, forwarded through AAA. He was able to include medical supplies bought with donations to AAA in a container of equipment sent by a Rotary club in Victoria.

Rosaline Ampeire, of the Canon Beatrice Ruhinda Vocational Training Centre in Rukungiri, Uganda, wrote of their increasing hardships. Last year, AAA supported several students to attend the College by paying their fees. The Mother's Union is involved in the Centre which provides training for girls at risk in knitting, hair dressing, tailoring, weaving, cooking and computer skills. "At present prices for basic needs have increased enormously and we are having trouble meeting our costs. We are currently working on income generation for the Training centre so it can become more self-sustaining. In the meantime, however, there is a large shortfall of income to keep the Training Centre functioning."



Sr Martha in Dar es Salaam sent many grateful thanks for the "car" and pictures of it being blessed for use.

The Daniel School sent profuse thanks for the funds for the girls' toilets together with request for funds to assist poor students with fees and equipment.



PRACTICAL MATTERS

Synod. It was wonderful to meet many existing supporters and to explain our mission to those who had not previously met AAA and our work. If your parish or Mothers Union group would like AAA to organise a speaker or be part of a service, please contact us by phone or email.

Credit Card. By popular demand, we have obtained a Credit Card facility. You can donate using your Credit Card by completing the form on the back of the Newsletter and sending it to our address as you would usually send a cheque. You can also make payments by card over the phone by giving the information to the Secretary. After consideration, it has been deemed too risky and expensive to install a direct payment link on our website at this time.

Meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend the general meetings for the remainder of this year: Friday, 26th August and Friday 25th November. They are held at 12 noon at All Saints Anglican Church, Hamilton Rd, Chermside.

MONEY MATTERS

Your generosity continues to bless our overseas partners who thank you sincerely. To minimise expense, AAA sends lump sums by electronic transfer, so that you may not always see a group for whom you've sent money listed on the outgoings in one Newsletter. Sometimes, large amounts are given for a specific purpose. We liaise with the recipient as to the best timing to send, so again, the donation may not appear till some months later.

Donations for the year 2020-21 were \$412,634. Donations for 2021-22 will be published when we have the audited accounts. Donations for May and June were \$59,203.90. Please remember that these figures may include bequests and one-off annual gifts which we spend carefully over time.

Country	Recipient	Amount	Project
Sri Lanka	Meth Piyasa	5,000	Food, medicines, education for women and girls
Cameroon	Order of St Benedict	5,000	High School education for Brothers
South Sudan	Duk Diocese	3,000	School board and fees for students in Uganda
Papua New Guinea	Newton College	5,000	Equipment for medical clinic
Ukraine	Red Cross, Slovakia	8,000	Refugee support
Ghana	Bp Cyril Ben Smith	5,000	Storm damage repairs to St Monica's school
Fiji	Community of Sacred Name	3,000	Education of deserving- transport, fees
Fiji	St Christopher's School	3,000	Support for children and education
India	Daniel School	5,000	Construction of Girl's Toilets
Papua New Guinea	Newton College	10,000	Roofing for nurses' accommodation
Sri Lanka	Paynter Home	8,000	Food and education for children
Uganda	Mothers Union	3,000	Support Technical School, Rukungiri
South Africa	Order of the Holy Paraclete	5,000	Support 2 Orphanages with food, medicines
Madagascar	Servants of Jesus Christ	5,000	Food, medicines for poor families
Zimbabwe	Holy Spirit Monastery	3,000	Community support- food, medicine
Zimbabwe	Community of Holy Transfiguration	4,000	Repairs to Chapel and meeting house
Solomon Islands	Sisters of Melanesia	5,000	Building community facility
Sri Lanka	Society of St Francis	1,000	Food for poor
Zimbabwe	Brothers of the Holy Transfiguration	1,500	Bourse No 31



Celebrations at No Boh for their 30th Anniversary.

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for:

- Good health for our partners who are suffering from high food prices and a resurgence of Covid illness. Think especially of our friends in Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and other places where pre-Covid giving has not resumed.
- Continuing energy and faith for those rebuilding after storms and fires, especially those mentioned in letters- Brothers and Sisters in Zimbabwe.
- World leaders to act with wisdom and courage to bring about peace in the Middle East and the Ukraine.
- The guidance of the Holy Spirit for the AAA Board members as they allocate funds.

Give thanks for:

- The joy of partners who are educated, fed and empowered through your generosity of spirit.
- Fr Nixon's foresight in establishing AAA and the relationships that have been nurtured in the past and continue in the present. The joy and privilege of supporting our partners.
- The Holy Spirit who continues to stir our hearts to support the coming of His Kingdom in other countries.

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.

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.

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

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.

Any queries, please contact:

The Secretary

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