



# Anglican Aid Abroad



The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew

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

November Issue 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In September, many Parishes celebrated the Season of Creation, culminating on the Saints Day of Francis of Assisi who has so much to teach us of caring for God's world and the poor. The theme of "Listen to the Voice of Creation" resonated as nature has always provided me with refreshment, joy, wonder, solace and a feeling of being in God's presence. From various sources through September and October, the Holy Spirit has sent encouraging and challenging words on the need for action in social justice and creation care. Sr Joan Chichester wrote of her father's words to her on a fishing trip as a child. "Throw the fish back Joan, so that next year there will be enough for everyone to eat". How many of our Torres Strait and Pacific neighbours now struggle to catch enough to eat? Ghandi said- "Earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's need but not everyone's greed." How can we encourage this attitude in ourselves, our Churches and in wider society?

We live in challenging times with severe flooding on the East Coast with huge costs of rebuilding and moving. How much more challenging for the people in Pakistan who suffered devastating floods over one third of the country, leaving vast numbers homeless, without food and clothing and without means of growing the next season's crops. One contact wrote: "Over 33 million people are Affected... Over 2,000,000 acres of agriculture land destroyed, over 700,000 livestock dead, over 100 bridges and over 2,000 kms of roads have been destroyed, all kinds of diseases are increasing, shortage of food, lack of clean water." Once again, world leaders gather for COP27 in Egypt, but will they initiate the strong action on climate that is needed? What is the Holy Spirit saying to us on this issue?

Our schools are functioning after Covid whereas schools in Namibia, Pakistan, Uganda and Sri Lanka struggle because parents can't pay fees and teachers are not paid. Thank you for your sacrificial giving that enables AAA to bring God's love and healing to these situations. God's love, justice, truth and compassion in action. What fresh insights will Advent bring? As we look to the New Year, may we be ever mindful of God's untold blessings.

Yours Sincerely,

Marilyn Wright.



*AAA is sponsoring Mis Rina as an English and Urdu teacher at St Mary's School in Narowal.*

## The Aftermath of Covid.

The following are just three stories of the many we have received since Covid which illustrate the dire effects of this disease coming on top of other problems of food and medical shortages and social unrest. Stories from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are similar as you will read in the Letters section. Although these stories are vastly different in needs, all reflect a reality quite unlike our own, and show the complexities involved in allocation of funds.

Sr Gertrude in Namibia wrote in August. "After the covid19 pandemic most of our parents lost their jobs and we are helping many learners with free education and their daily upkeep. As a result of this it's really affecting salaries for our staff members. We did not lose our staff members and our learners. We have 8 teachers, 152 learners and 4 ancillary staff members. Our school has pre- primary to grade five. We are going to have grade six next year.

Due to financial challenges, we are trying to feed our learners through the project of chickens. We have layers and broilers. (AAA contributed these funds last year). Academically we are the best in our circuit -we came on

position 1 last semester. Finally, I would like to thank you very much for your love and support to our school.

May the Lord God bless you." AAA contributed a small amount for a teacher salary.

The St Martin's Hospital administrator wrote a very poignant letter from Malawi detailing their plight following Covid. They are in a highly populated area but many people go to South Africa to work and travel on uncharted bus routes as they had no permits. As a result of positive Covid tests and negative myths, people stopped coming to the hospital, so they lost income. A country-wide economic downturn caused price rises and scarcities in all the necessities for running the hospital. Agreed Government payments for staff and some services have been many months late or have not arrived, yet the hospital is obliged to continue the services as per the agreement. Consequently, the hospital has a debt of almost \$80,000 and is asking donors for help. "We are not sure where we will take the cash to buy next month's drugs and the suppliers will not allow us to take more on credit." Church run hospitals like this are common in several East African countries- I know because my late father-in-law worked in the area for 10 years and I visited such hospitals in Tanzania. They provide a much-needed medical presence for people and governments under stress. What will be the cost in lives if St Martin's, started in 1898, closes?

Archbishop Cyril Ben Smith wrote in late September. "Greetings from Ghana. I had to come home a bit earlier from the Lambeth Conference because of critical issues in the Province especially with the killing of demonstrators in Sierra Leon by the government. This situation is a result of the dire economic circumstances affecting the following countries in our province. Ghana, Guinea, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cameroon, Mali, Ivory Coast, Togo and Senegal. This unfortunate trend is deeply affecting the youth so much that the stage is set for massive demonstrations, reprisal attacks by opposition forces and their opponents. At our recent Episcopal meeting we resolved to raise funds to support special immediate and long-term projects to support the youth in our churches to mitigate these dire effects. We are seeking a grant of 1000 USdollars for each of our 19 Dioceses to support the youth in innovative projects such as a meal a day and the provision of farming implements to keep them away from trouble whilst seeking a long-term solution and possible easing of the dire circumstances. We would be blessed by your immediate intervention whilst we seek other sources of support. Please kindly consider this as urgent and keep us in your prayers."

### Mission Trip

Fr Daniel reported at length on his mission trip to Thailand and India. Here is the first part of his report, heavily edited because of length. The second part on his trip to India will appear in the February newsletter. I did not include the

complete section on Noh Bo, as there was an article on their successes in the August newsletter.

"After a long three years, I was able to go for a mission trip to South Asia. I was shocked by changes around the world. Post covid is hard for people to cope with- especially as their major income comes through tourism. I used to stay in the family guesthouse in Bangkok, but now that service is cancelled due to less tourism. Therefore, I had to stay as a foreigner in a Christian Guest house in Bangkok and missed out on the local flavours.

I reached Maesot in the afternoon of the 8th August, and one of our workers from Noh Bo came to take me to a motel where I booked a room. Because it is on the border, I was warned by the people that I should not come out of the motel after 10 pm because of the military attacks. In the night, I heard the noise of guns, which was the military shooting at people who were trying cross the Myanmar borders.

**Holy Infant Orphanage.** Run by Dominican Sisters, the Orphanage used to be supported by Gladstone Parish. I wanted to visit them because they are also part of my Mission Journey. There were around 35 children under 12 years- all refugees from Myanmar. These children are from lots of different cultures and speak different languages. Their food styles are also different. Some eat with their hands, some with sticks and some with spoons. But the Sisters are managing well with all the differences. They were happy to see me. They did wonderful work in the times of lock down. I have seen the changes of using all the lands which have been given to them- full of green vegetables, flowers, banana trees. I was impressed with the work they have done.



**Noh Bo Academy** has improved a lot. With our sustainable projects, they have big gardens, a fish pond, chicken farms and pig farm. They are trying to sell some of it, but because the situation there is not going the way they expected, it feeds all the children with healthy meals.

## Mission Trip cont...

I don't think they are eating snakes anymore! I organized a big lunch for all students and the teachers. They had chicken, prawn, rice, noodle soups and vegetables. The children were happy to see me. I have checked their accounts and also their storage room. What a change we made in these people's lives. Glory be to God, and thanks to AAA.



**Day care centers.** In the camp, I also visited two day care centers which survived during covid. Christ Church Bangkok supports them. It is well established and around 60 children benefit. I was asked not to stay longer in the camps because of the Royal Family from Bangkok visiting the area.

**Orphanage.** There is a little orphanage near Noh Bo which used to be supported by my previous Parish. They have struggled but life is getting better now. Some of the children who were little have grown up and are now taking care of the younger ones.

**Baan San Fan orphanage** is situated on the Andaman Coast of Thailand. It was started after the 2004 Tsunami with 14 children. In the past, I have taken two groups there to work for them. Now it is well-established, with big organic farming, chicken farms, and hand craft works. I am pleased to see how much they have benefitted by the small amounts we donate.



## Women of Faith, Courage and Service.

In September this year, the Sisters of the Community of St Mary of Nazareth and Calvary (CMM) in Tanzania celebrated 75 years of dedicated ministry. Two Sisters took final

vows, three celebrated their Golden Jubilee and twelve celebrated their Silver Jubilee. Their story began in 1946 with the journey of three young women from the Diocese of Masasi in the South to Kwa Mkono in the North to begin the life dedicated to God. It was a formidable journey starting with their first sight of the ocean and continuing through areas where different languages and customs prevailed.

May Elizabeth, Jessie and Fidea were to be instructed in the life of a Postulant by the Sisters of the Community of the Sacred Passion (CSP) who had made their own daunting journey from England many years before. Founded in 1911 to 'serve Africa by a life of prayer and missionary work, bringing to Africans a knowledge of God's love', these intrepid women of faith encouraged the three girls who quickly became Novices.

In 1949, three Novices took their first vows and two Postulants were made novices. In October 1952, six Sisters left Kwa Mkono for Newala where it had been decided to start a new Convent. In 1967, the first major meeting of sisters who had taken life vows was held and Sister May Elizabeth became the first Mother Superior of CMM. The Sisters of the CSP withdrew from Tanzania but continued to offer encouragement, advice and financial support.

Today, more than 80 Sisters minister from twelve convents in Tanzania and Zambia. Education has been a priority from the beginning. Sisters are encouraged to continue education when funds permit. They work to produce food, teach classes for baptism and confirmation, make beautiful clergy robes, make "hostia" (wafers) and general handicrafts. In many places the Sisters are leaders in agricultural production paving the way for others to learn and providing work for villagers. They work as nurses and teachers, setting up clinics and running the polio hostel, starting pre-schools and a school. Some work in admin-

istration. All help with food production and observe the daily prayer offices. This story of intrepid women serving Christ is repeated in many other countries where AAA now has the privilege of offering support.



## MONEY MATTERS

Donations for the financial year 2021-22 were \$297,198. Donations for July, August, September were \$140,567. Please remember that one off bequests are spent over time and money is not always forwarded in 'real time' as we liaise with our overseas partners.

Country	Organisation	Amount	Project
Ukraine	Slovakian Red Cross	5,000 Euros	Refugee support
Thailand	Noh Bo Academy project	15,000	Self-supporting farming project
India	Indian Shelter Trust	5,000	Support 15 covid orphans
Pakistan	St Mary's School	2,000	Teacher salary
Namibia	Community of the Holy Name	3,000	Student fees to help with teacher salary
Korea	Order of St Francis	2,000	Bourse 20
India	ICMC	5,000	Support for leppers
India	Daniel School	3,000	Student fees
Cameroon	Order of St Benedict	10,000	Year's fees for medical study for 2 brothers
India	Gethsemane Evangelical Church	3,000	Feeding of widows in Chennai
United Kingdom	Community of Resurrection	6,000	Educate 3 students in Zimbabwe
Sri Lanka	Meth Piyasa	2,000	Food, education, home for needy family
Fiji	St Paul's Naviavia	10,000	Boat for transport
Zululand	CHN sisters	3,000	Isisa education project
Solomon Islands	Sisters of Melanesia	1,000	First Aid course for 9 women
Pakistan	Bp Andrew	5,000	Warm clothes & blankets for villagers
Rwanda	Fr Chadrack Nyibizi	2,000	Fence for goat project
Ghana	Archbishop Cyril Ben Smith	4,000	Youth engagement in parishes
Malawi	St Martin's hospital	10,000	Support with salaries, medicines
South Africa	Community of Jesus Compassion	1,000	Community support
Ghana	Order of Holy Paraclete	10,000	Laser machine (SLT) for eye hospital, Jackie
India	Shelter trust	6,000	Food, medicines for more families
India	Madras Diocese	5,000	Food for poor, street people, those ill.
India	ICMC	8,000	Brick making machine for youth empowerment



## LETTERS

**Br Joe Killie** sent joyous pictures of the handing over of the palm oil mill in Liberia.

**Sr Jacqueline from Madagascar** wrote: "Thank you very much for the money. We use it for our food and medicine and tank (to help with growing food). The blessing of God for you all and the community. With much love and prayers."

Grateful thanks came from **Br Emmanuel in Cameroon** for the fees for two Brothers to continue medical studies. The Community of the Resurrection also sent profuse thanks for



AAA's sponsorship of 3 students to tertiary education in Zimbabwe.



**Sr Merina from Zimbabwe** sent receipts and pictures of the refurbished Chapel and meeting place. "The Glory of God is upon us! Alleluia! AAA has brought resurrection to our Chapel. From ashes to Life. Alleluia! Today we held a session in the Chapel with St Agnes Guild girls who will be enrolled as full members during the church service tomorrow. They are school students from Form 1,2 and 3."



**Rev Bright of the ICMC in India** wrote: "We have 230 leprosy families, 165 Sri Lankan families, and 135 Blind families needing 10 Kg rice, 1 Kg Dhal, 1 litre Oil as Covid help for their families. It costs 1,000 Rupees for this and a few other essential items. Because of increasing prices on everything in general, it is quite hard for them to have their needs met. They have been asking me and I have only told them to pray about this. All our giving is through the local church there and there will be an opportunity for them to hear the Gospel before receiving our food relief materials. Please do pray about this request to help Leprosy families, blind families, Sri Lankan refugee families and poor families. Thank you so much for your giving in the past. May God be glorified through the giving."

**Bishop Driver wrote from Newton College.** "Theology in places like PNG must have this holistic edge, so the clinic is not just a peripheral venture. The clinic serves not just the college community, but the surrounding villages. It is open three mornings a week and the nurse is available at other times. People start lining up about 7.00am and sometimes the needs are confronting- physical injuries, raging infections, Typhoid fever, TB and all sorts of nasty tropical complaints such as ulcers, scabies and a range of fungal infec-

tions. There is almost always a shortage of medications." The Bishop also outlined the pressing need for a better water supply.



**The Sisters of Meth Piyasa** wrote of the plight of just one of many families seeking their aid in Sri Lanka. The mother of a Tamil family of three children is seeking help after the suicide of her husband. Since his death, they have been physically and mentally tortured. Although she has worked in the past, now the mother has a severe mental condition and needs psychological help to function. All three children need school fees and the family needs a home .

**Bishop Andrew in Pakistan** wrote: "There is no doubt that the problem is so huge it is not possible to fulfill the needs of thousands but with our limitations and capacity we can target one village consisting of 80 families. As the winter is approaching, flood affected people will need some warm items to keep themselves warm and save their bodies from cold which can become the great cause of some serious diseases. Children are most sensitive to get cold and become the victims of different diseases. Needs are - winter baby beanies, caps with scarf, socks, sweaters for children and blankets."



This simple request came from a contact in Sri Lanka. "As you are aware that we are feeding daily lunch for the needy like street vender, taxi drivers, and very poor families- mainly single parent. With the current situation we are finding it difficult to meet the requirements. We would greatly appreciate if your church could help us in this needy situation."



A boat to transport people and goods was requested by the **Pastor of St Paul's, Naviavia, Fiji.** Taking goods to markets provides money and jobs.



## PRAYER REQUESTS



### **Please pray for:**

- \* The people of Pakistan as many face the winter without food or shelter after the widespread, damaging floods. Pray that Bishop Andrew and others will make wise decisions to help flood victims.
- \* St Martin's Hospital in Malawi, as they face closure because of a lack of funds- for the administrators, staff and the people they serve.
- \* The people helped by Rev Bright in ICMC- that their plight might be alleviated by more permanent solutions. For wisdom for the Church leaders.
- \* Partners who face violence, high prices and food shortages as in DRC, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Ghana. (See message from Archbishop Cyril).
- \* The success of peacemakers wherever they are needed- especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.
- \* The success of all primary, secondary and tertiary students being assisted by AAA.
- \* Wisdom for AAA Board members as they ponder the allocation of resources amidst growing needs.

### **Give thanks for:**

- \* The generosity of spirit of AAA donors who continue to support our partners even in these hard times.
- \* The students being helped in Cameroon, Zimbabwe and many other places.
- \* Being able to fund self-sufficiency projects for clergy and church workers in Rwanda and Tanzania.
- \* The actions of the Holy Spirit in guiding AAA to bring His Kingdom to so many people.

### 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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