



Anglican Aid Abroad

The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew



November Issue 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

My heart is heavy with grief for Australia and our world. War rages in the Middle East and central Europe. Groups of rebels and violent mobs attack Christians in several places. Fires, drought or floods ruin homes and crops here and across the globe. It is truly a time for lament. Lament for our greed in forest destruction and overfishing; lament for our failure to care for the marginalised and see another point of view; lament for our lack of respect for the culturally different. In the Season of Creation, we lament our lack of care for God's Creation and our failure to love our neighbour as ourselves. The Old Testament prophets showed us the way.

However, these same prophets also preached a message of love and hope. After slavery in Egypt came the promised land. After the exile came the return to Jerusalem. After the desolation of Good Friday came the hope of Easter Day brought about by God's incomprehensible, undeserved, redeeming love. As Christians, we are called to be the body of Christ and we regularly pray that his kingdom will come here on earth as in heaven. We are called to offer this unconditional, redeeming love and be this hope now and in future. Where there is no reasonable hope of change, people may turn to drugs for solace, die by suicide or become violent towards the 'outsider'.

Through our partners, AAA seeks to be a beacon of Christian hope- a light in the darkness. Our partners provide a glimpse of the possibilities of God's kingdom through their work to bring healing, education, better nutrition and purpose to the poor and desperate. Programmes to give food to street people and women in self-help activities; water to a village to reduce women's drudgery and improve food production; education and training for women and youth to give hope of employment. Delivered through Christian institutions, this is the very heart of the Gospel message of love, justice, peace, compassion, hope and joy. This is what your generous giving makes possible. Praise God.

Yours Sincerely ,

Marilyn Wright

Report by Rev Daniel on his August mission trip to Asia.

Rev Daniel Jayaraj again made a mission trip to the groups we support in Asia, checking progress and looking to broaden activities where possible. The original report has been edited.

No boh academy in Thailand. The refugee school continues to improve. Our sustainable programs made a big difference to the students. The pig and chicken projects are doing well. Due to lack of rain, agricultural cultivation is not likely to begin until after rain, hopefully in September. At present, there are 220 students, 132 girls and 88 boys but only 18 have Thai identification. This means only 18 students can go for higher studies and go out of the camp. Others can only travel within 80 km, which is the camp area. The friendship border has been opened some time ago, which may increase the students from Myanmar. The Thai government is very strict on refugee numbers from Burma. However, things seem to be better than before in the border area.



Considerable work is needed to upgrade the kitchen and dining area, which is always flooding in the time of rain. The male and female hostels are in poor condition and also need repairs.

When I visited them, we provided sheets for the children and a culturally appropriate big meal. In response, they performed cultural programs. The children look brighter than before. After four years, they had a confirmation service at which 89 students were confirmed.

Men's group- Burma. I was able to see the Men's Society leaders from the Anglican Church Myanmar. Around seven priests came to meet me and we chatted about their work in the community. There is no money paid for clergy salary so they are doing farming and running the churches. These groups support the refugee schools by doing the handy man work. It is good to see the values they have for God and the society. No one travelled more than the 80 Km from the

refugee area. One of the clergy said that no one got Covid in their community even though they live very close to each other- one room shared as bedroom, kitchen and living room. However, their food habits protected them in the time of Covid. Now fewer refugees are moving from Burma so they have time to breathe.

No boh childcare centre. Refugee children aged 2-6 come here every day for activities and receive milk and food. The centre runs for 4 hours a day with nutritious food. This helps the mothers to move around to catch up with their work. Some women work in the morning. All they can do are farming and craft works but they seem to be happy with all that they have. These Karen refugees help each other a lot,



and care for each other. They also collect items for their extended families at the border. Unfortunately, one of the things they cannot control is chewing betel nuts and the associated spitting everywhere.

Pattaya mission-(Anglican). I had an opportunity to visit Pattaya mission where they work among transgender people. This mission helps people into self-sustaining jobs and motivates them to be part of God's mission. A great number of people have benefited through this program.

Sri Lanka

Jeevan Mission Center- This mission in Mannar is run by two nuns who left the religious order because of reduced community involvement of the church in the time of Covid and economic crisis in their country. They started caring for people whose children or parents had left the country. They are



caring for 40 'orphan' older people and 13 children who were left by their parents. These people have not heard from their children or parents for a long time. Their family members left the country by boat and no information was given to the families. These two former nuns help the elderly and children by giving monthly grocery packs, and often cooking meals for them. They support children for their education and livelihood. Editor's note: The two women who run this program were delighted with the contribution from AAA. They sent profuse thanks and gave praise to God for this relief.

Day Care centre- I was able to visit the day care centre run by Third order Franciscans. AAA supports them to pay for the teachers and other expenses. I was able to meet 12 of

the 25 children attending the centre which provides a much appreciated response to the need in the area.

Tea estate Girls- we were supporting 6 girls from a Tamil tea estate. To my disappointment, when I went there, I found they left the school at covid time and did not return.

Samaritans of Good Heart- a home for elderly run by the Global Connection Travel in Colombo. Most of the members are from the Anglo Sri Lankan community (called Burghers). Their children left them when they moved overseas years ago. These people did not want to go with them because leaving their land is hard. The Samaritans of Good Heart are taking care of 24 women, providing their accommodation, food and medical needs. There are no men in this shelter.

India

NYSS- This school and hostel is for semi-orphan or orphan girls from the villages. Currently there are 150 orphans, poor and abandoned children living in the orphanage. Most of these children are Dalits and others are neglected. The girls seem to be very bright and healthy. The dormitories they live in now were built 30 years ago with mud floors and a roof covered with asbestos sheets. The mud walls were coated with cement for safety. Asbestos sheets in the roof were damaged and repaired several times. The condition of children sleeping under asbestos sheets is very difficult. During the hot season, the children suffer from heatstroke and during the rainy season, they suffer a lot of water falling inside the rooms. The walls of some rooms were damaged completely. AAA has sent some help to them in the past and has now undertaken to assist with limited dormitory repairs.

Daniel School- we have been helping the school for two years. At present, we are supporting 19 children with their fees and afternoon meal. These children are semi-orphan or orphan because of Covid. Recently, we helped them to build a kitchen and have been impressed with their use of and accounting for funds.

Gethsemane church. This church organization now has 11 centres to distribute food and help the needy in the low caste villages. Mostly volunteers are doing the work. Once a week they meet with people, trying to help them find jobs and training the young ones to face the world. The pastor came with two of his volunteers to a meeting and showed their excellent records of how they are helping people.

Gethsemane- Widow Centre (Covid). These people are meeting every Wednesday for fellowship and self-help programs. There are around 60 single women in different age groups. The program helps them to do wire bags, tailoring and other craft work to make money. We provide lunch and materials for them to do the craft. One

of my sisters visits them once a month to help. Hopefully, some of these people will be trained to work in hospitality so they may move on to find work .

Community Centre- this program is helping many low caste village children and adults. On weekday evenings, they help the village children with their education. The centre has been unfinished for some time, but now with the help of AAA it is almost complete. They will be opening it for general use on 2nd October.

Shelter Trust- the home for HIV positive children. There are around 68 children now including a few orphans from Covid. Now with modern medicine, children live longer. I had a meeting with some 17 and 18 year olds, who are still at the home and looking after younger children. At the meeting, we decided to train these youth, to help them with self-employment programs. We have organized some volunteers from Just Mercy to teach them computer and internet skills. Due to the economic downturn, medical expenses have increased by thirty percent.

Just Mercy- I met with the group who are still doing the volunteer work to help the people in the street. They provide food parcels and find homes for some. They want to do more, but because they are working, their time is limited to volunteering only on the weekends. They accepted my proposal to teach the Shelter Trust children and to go out to the low caste villages to help them with education.

Timothy and Swapna are independent pastors doing so much work in Andhra Pradesh, India. They work between the Dalits and tribal people. Motivated by sincere Christian belief, they work very hard to achieve their goals and showed detailed work reports when we met.

LETTERS



Bp Steven in the DRC wrote in August. "We work with great difficulty following the growing insecurity in the city following the killing and



abduction of children by unidentified people and the wars of armed groups in the villages which leads to a large exodus of rural people. They flee the villages to come to settle in the city to seek peace. These people come in without any savings to survive. The government is doing nothing to help. They fall ill

without any assistance. The Christians in my parish carried bread, sugar and soap to the sick last month. We have a secondary school in the village of Mudaka that we are building with the trees and planks that were removed from the Vocational Training Centre formwork. We are in the process of building 3 classes to accommodate the students at the beginning of September 2023, the date of the opening of the school year. But we are struggling to find US\$3,500 to complete the construction."

Bp Ndegwa of Kenya reported on a good harvest in August.

"With the circulation of funds locally as a result of the sale of chicken, potatoes, maize and beans we have been able to do additional ministry. We were able to facilitate for the leadership summit on 24th June 2023 and upgraded the hotel freezer to a more efficient 200 L capacity. We were able to rear a flock of 100 broiler chickens and purchased an additional 200 L



freezer placed at the Abbey for preservation of slaughtered broiler chicken when they mature as well as assure an uninterrupted flow of chickens for sale at our hotel and to preserve food to feed postulants when they are with us. We were also able to service the pickup truck and acquire an annual insurance for the same."

Paynter Home- Although now retired, our faithful contact at the Paynter home in Sri Lanka, Mrs Angeline Jacobs, continues to send us photographs of the children and visitors from overseas.



Bp Andrew in Pakistan wrote: "Thank you much for great concern and support for our school children. I am very sad to share with you that in one city of Pakistan, JARANWALA, in the Province of Punjab, 8 to 10 Churches are burnt and vandalized by Muslim Mob over blasphemy allegations. Christian community is attacked badly. Dozens of Christians' houses are burnt. My heart is paining when we see the

disgrace of our holy worship places, holy Crosses, The Holy Bible. Weeping and cry of the innocent children, women and men. Keep them in your prayers.” AAA sent a small contribution to assist children.



Tim and Swapna wrote a long letter of thanks and update on their work. A few excerpts follow. “I pray that God's grace, peace, love, and the company of the Holy Spirit be upon you and your family. I'm writing to you to update you on the work that the Almighty has been accomplishing through us. Indian Christians are currently suffering persecution. In certain places, Christians are subject to conspiracies, torture, unexpected attacks, and even the burning and demolition of worship centres. It is necessary for accelerating the work of promoting God's word to the people of other backgrounds. To do that, we are certain that we should begin this endeavour at the ground level. For the benefit of God's congregations, we regularly supply very basic needs like groceries to the less fortunate servants of God who are winning countless souls to Christ. These servants of God express their sincere thankfulness to God. With the resources we have, we assist poor people of faith in the congregations. We have made it a priority to advance the gospel of Christ to unreached tribal groups, as well as to reach out and save perishing souls and bring them into God's kingdom. I close my letter with God's love, trust, and hope.”

Diocese of Peshawa- our contact in the Diocese of Peshawar sent a detailed report of classes and numbers trained with sincere thanks for our support to enable this

program. Twenty students attended either the sewing, beautician or mobile repairing courses.



Bp Daniel provided a newsletter with the following. “Civil war in Sudan has caused more unrest in South Sudan as a new wave of refugees come across the border from the North. It has again ignited conflict in Darfur Province. None of this is helping the already difficult situation in Duk Diocese. The victims are always women and children. We can only pray for a return to peace around us.” AAA assists with education of some orphans who attend school in Uganda. “Unlike most orphanages we own no buildings. The orphans board at schools and during holidays are cared for by a volunteer family who do not get any financial help to do this. All administration is also voluntary. That way we can help the maximum number of children for the least cost. At present we have fourteen people in care. Their ages range from eight to twenty-five. The adults are currently sitting for a national exam for year 12 to secure a position at the university of Juba in South Sudan.”

Bp Chadrack in Rwanda thanked us for the assistance with building a series of enclosures for their goats plus rooms for making cheese and yoghurt in their self-help project. A further letter contained bad news: “Climate change has affected us very greatly. We have seen increase in floodings each year. The kindergarten was submerged and the government have ordered that affected people relocate to other places because the place will be experiencing increasing floods each year. Parents have gathered funds and were able to buy a new land but they lack the funds to start construction. Poverty has been increasing as farming which is the backbone of our economy has gone down due to climate change. We are praying for USD 4,000 for construction to see that the children will be able to be back to class like others.”



Roseline Kasemire from the **Canon Beatrice Ruhindi Vocational Training Centre in Uganda** wrote: "Thank you so much for your support. Without it the training centre would have closed because this year finances have been very tight. We bought 5 sewing machines and paid arrears and salaries."



This year 30 girls have been trained in skills through the training centre."

Sr Miria sent greetings from CSN Fiji. "I am grateful for the help given for children in Fiji in 2023 and it meant a lot to the families of those assisted. Sr Sandra is doing a Diploma in Leadership and Management, a course offered by Pacific Theological College (PTC). She was supposed to graduate next month but she got injured so had one term off to heal her arm properly. She will be completing the course next year. CSN is grateful for the help."

PRACTICAL MATTERS

Meeting date. Our Christmas meeting will be held on 24th November with a light lunch at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting and the first supporters meeting for 2024 on Friday, 16th February.

MONEY MATTERS

Donations for July, August and September were \$17,121. Thank you to our regular, faithful donors and praise God for income from bequests. AAA is seeking donations for St George's Hospital in Gaza ready for the necessary rebuilding.

Country	Organisation	Amount	Project
India	Student of higher education	\$5,000	Half yearly fees for pharmacy
Malawi	St Martin's hospital	\$6,000	Medicines and equipment
Cameroon	Bp Alphonse	\$5,000	Dig a well in Nkolya village
India	Gethsemane Church	\$4,000	Complete community centre
India	Just Mercy	\$4,000	Help for tribal refugees from the North
Sri Lanka	Samaritan Good Heart	\$6,000	Food and medicines for elderly
India	Tim Swapna Ministries	\$3,000	Seed project for poor farmers
Cameroon	Community of St Benedict	\$10,000	Half yearly fees for 3 medical students
Namibia	Sr Gertrude	\$4,000	School extension desks and chairs
Pakistan	Bp Andrew	\$2,000	Assistance with salary and fees at School
South Africa	Order of Good Shepherd	\$5,000	Food parcels for poor and GoGo kitchen
Pakistan	Bp Andrew, ACC	\$3,000	Help for children affected by mob violence
Pakistan	Peshawa Diocese	\$3,000	Rebuilding after mob violence
India	NYSS	\$10,000	Refurbishing part of girls' rooms in orphanage
Sri Lanka	Jeevan Mission	\$5,000	Food and improving facilities
India	Gethsemane project	\$5,000	Groceries, clothes. See mission trip report
India	Gethsemane widows	\$5,000	See mission trip report for details- food
India	Shelter Trust	\$8,000	Education, food support for girls at risk
India	Daniel School	\$6,000	Support of HIV children- medicine, food



More photos from Fr Daniel's visit to Thailand, with a picture of Catherine, who AAA is supporting in her study to be a dentist.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for:

- Just solutions and Peace in the middle East and Ukraine. For other countries not to become involved.
- Peace in Sudan, West Africa, Cameroon, the DRC and Pakistan where rebels and mobs attack villages, especially those where Christians live and work.
- Christian groups in India to continue to function despite difficulties receiving funds and the withdrawal of many NGO aid groups due to changing government regulations.
- Timely rain in all areas we support so that crops may be planted. Plentiful harvests without floods.
- The plight of people made homeless by war, mob violence, natural disasters and crop failures- see letters.
- Discernment and wisdom in the allocation of funds.



Bishop Andrew in Pakistan—see story on pages 3-4

Give thanks for:

- God's timely provision of funds in answer to prayer.
- The prayers of our partners and faithful supporters here in Australia and of our overseas partners.

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:

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