



# Anglican Aid Abroad



The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew

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

May Issue 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Easter is a time of contrasts- love and hatred, sorrow and joy, despair and hope. How quickly the adoration of those who spread palm branches before Jesus turned to derision and scoffing. It took longer for the sorrow and despair at His crucifixion to turn to joy and hope- but it was only a few days. This year, my encounters with the Easter story seemed to focus on love. Not just ordinary love, but love in abundance- the overwhelming, incredible, unfathomable love of Jesus for us, who are no better than the thief who was crucified beside Him.

As humans we generally recognise earthly love and agape love. But what is this thing called love? How do we express love for another? How do we respond to love freely given? After a recent unexpected family bereavement, I have frequently asked these questions. How do we comprehend loving care as exemplified by Jesus on the cross?

Some years ago, "The Five Love Languages," by Gary Chapman was much recommended in Christian bookshops. He theorised that the five main ways of expressing love were: words of affirmation (compliments); spending quality time; receiving gifts; acts of service; physical touch. He suggested that each one of us probably has two ways we mainly give and receive love and encouraged the use of this knowledge to enrich family relationships.

How did Christ show love when amongst his friends? He certainly affirmed, spent a great deal of quality time walking, teaching and sharing hospitality. He gave and received many gifts and acts of service and certainly touched those he healed. Just before his death, he exhorted his closest friends to "love God..... and love your neighbour as yourself."

Christians throughout the world can recite these words- I suspect rather glibly at times- because we choose to forget that Jesus then used the parable of the "Good Samaritan" to illustrate that even our enemy is our neighbour. Will the people of Russia and Ukraine be able to forge a peace and live as neighbours? Our ABM Lenten study, "Repairing the Breach" challenged us to examine how we show Christian love. Can we put our earthly positions and politics aside to really listen to each other and work together on issues of First Nations justice, climate and poverty? Another reading suggested that "people like Jesus and Paul were not

executed for saying, "Love one another." They were killed because their understanding of love meant more than being compassionate toward individuals. It also meant collaborating with the Spirit in the creation of a new way of life that stood in contrast to the normalcy of the wisdom of the world. Love and justice go together. Justice without love can be brutal, and love without justice can be banal. Love is the heart of justice, and justice is the social form of love."

Our overseas partners respond to our love shown in affirmation of their work and our financial gifts which are often an act of service. Physical touch is impossible, but hopefully this newsletter provides some "link". This love pours out in service to their community by providing food and water, medicine, health care, formal and practical education, spiritual and physical nourishment and prayer. Associates of St Mary visit the poor, sick and disabled in the Philippines, Meth Piyasa Sisters in Sri Lanka help the destitute women and girls, every group we help makes God's "kingdom come on earth as in heaven" for a neighbour. We receive prayer cover and compassionate thoughts in time of need, as well as a shining example of faith in action. By word and example, our partners display the love of God.

As we move from Easter and approach Pentecost, what are we being challenged to change in response to God's amazing love shown on the cross? How will we respond to the Holy Spirit in our lives? As individuals and as AAA, are we loving our neighbours, forgiving others, extending God's grace?

Yours Sincerely,  
Marilyn Wright

*A fun day out for the  
children of the Paynter  
Home in Sri Lanka.*



## A Story of Love

Just after printing the AAA February newsletter, a long time, generous supporter of AAA supplied two beautifully hand-written letters from Fr Nixon, dated June 2017. The letters detail how Fr Nixon acquired his Ghanaian son, permission to tell others the story and some photographs. Here is that story with only very slight editing.

"I received the blessing of an African 'son' two days before I left Ghana in 1986- all quite unexpected. I had been teaching in the seminary and staying with the Order of the Holy Cross in their monastery on the outskirts of Cape Coast. A young boy from the local village began following me around and giving me large smiles. If I wanted anything, the African Brothers would tell me, "Noah will get it for you," and he did.

Two days before I was due to leave, he was no longer shy but was sitting next to me on the fish tank pressed right up against me as was the local custom. I was marking papers done by the students of the Monastery where I had been teaching for three months. Noah was chatting away, but I wasn't listening to every word, when the eleven year old proudly announced that his grandmother had told him I would be his new father. It was news to me.

I spoke to the head of the monastery, who took his pipe out of his mouth and said, "Well congratulations, he's yours." Naturally, I tried to wriggle out of it but he said, "If you don't accept him, it will be a terrible insult to the village almost like saying that there was some defect in their children. I know the child and he will benefit from your help."

It had all been worked out by his grandmother with the approval of the village chief and his council of elders. Noah's parents were dead. His grandmother was old and his sister had six children and could not care for another. My duties as father living in Australia included writing regularly, paying for his schooling and other needs, and acknowledging him as my son in addressing him or speaking to another about him.

This September (2017) he will be forty-two and is supervisor of a repair garage for the Ghanaian Fire Service and since my heart attack, has phoned me regularly to check up on my health. Whilst studying, he lived with another orphan in the monastery compound and I received regular letters from him and about his progress. As I look back over the years, I see them as a time of blessing. I could not ask for a better 'son'. God has been good to me."

Fr Nixon saw Noah once more on a visit to Ghana in 1995, when the local chief asked when he would take Noah to Australia, as Fr Nixon was in his fifties and would soon need a son to look after him in his old age. The offer was kindly refused, on the grounds that the Australian government probably wouldn't understand the niceties of the Ghanaian adoption customs!

Another Ghanaian, Charles, who arrived in Brisbane some years ago and stayed four years before moving to Sydney

when his wife arrived, also adopted Fr Nixon. He became a brother to Charles and an uncle to his two children. What a blessing indeed.

---

## AAA Help during Hard Times in Sri Lanka.

Much of the current news is decidedly grim and calls for prayer from the many Christians around the world. In this plethora of bad news, you may have missed the extremely poor economic situation in Sri Lanka. Although children in Sri Lanka have gone back to school and life is resuming, all our contacts there attest to the difficulties as prices rise and commodities become scarce. One ray of good news is in the 2021 Annual report from the Paynter Home which tells of their activities in words and pictures: Christmas and Easter services, visits from the Airforce and Police personnel, working together to build a retaining wall, helping mark out the fire drill area. Most impressive is the care taken with students who have finished school and are "graduating" to the wider world. Every effort is made to help these young men and women secure work and achieve a stable transition to the "adult" world outside.

However, one snippet caught my attention as it touched on the issue of how to ensure that aid for developing countries is appropriate. "We received, supposed to be Warm clothes, from the Garment factory in the first week of May 2021. When children tried on the clothes, it was a great surprise. The clothes were of many different animals. Big and small enjoyed wearing the clothes. Thanks to ... Co. Ltd., having forwarded these clothes received from another Garment factory to the Paynter Home." How sad, that instead of warm pullovers and long pants to keep them warm through winter, the children found fancy dress animal suits- warm no doubt, but completely unsuitable for everyday wear. And how typical of the forgiving nature of the people that the writer expresses the disappointment so graciously. I experienced something similar when in Tanzania, with the arrival of several boxes of books- completely irrelevant to the curriculum- and after every effort was made to find a use or give them away, many were burned. AAA tries to avoid these "pitfalls" by giving money to be used largely at the discretion of the recipient- although of course we at AAA do make suggestions and are kept informed of progress.

With your help, the Franciscan third order too has made progress in establishing more scholarships for education at Mowbray College and in establishing the pre-school. They have chosen "another four poor children from those who requested for scholarship. One orphan girl, another two others from an area where children walk around 20km to get to their schools, another child from a poor family with a single mother. There are six children already studying in the school, so altogether 10 children will be funded in future. Some of them will complete

their studies next year. Thank you very much for your help to educate these vulnerable children.” The pre-school began in April and now has 10 children with numbers to increase next term.

With the help of an AAA donor, the Sisters of Meth Piyasa are expanding their work with poor women and girls. They plan to spend the money in four areas: “For Poor sinners that are already in contact with us, especially widows and single mothers and children for food, medicine and children’s education; Helping those who come to us for food and the cultivation of essential crops in a certain area of land- to make this land a place for cultivation as well as mental health; For the education and other needs of our Community sisters; For those Staying with us for a long time. The economic situation of several families has completely collapsed.” The Sisters would like to build a small room for short-term accommodation of some of these extremely vulnerable women and AAA plans to assist.



## LETTERS

Our partners overseas never forget us in their prayers and this is always evident at Christmas and Easter. As secretary, I received many emails of Easter wishes and touching messages reminding us of the hope provided by the Easter story of the risen Christ. This story of Christ’s infinite love and triumph over evil, when it was finally accepted by the disciples, transformed their despair to joy. With God’s help, sometimes in a small way, similar transformations occur in the lives of those whom we assist. AAA also received several emails of prayer and support from friends in the Pacific during our floods on the East Coast.



Rev Friar Fungayi (CHT Zimbabwe) sent this: “I write to inform you that our convent has been hit by heavy rains and whirlwind on Saturday the 26th of March. The damage made is so severe that even some clothes of the sisters are still wet and we take them outside on daily basis where there is sun. The rooms were full

of water which came in as it had access because of the openings made on the roof. The outside roundaval which works as our kitchen was shaken also and roof dispositioned, the outside toilet and fowl run are also affected. We are seeking for help as our fear increase on daily basis if these rains are to come again.”

of water which came in as it had access because of the openings made on the roof. The outside roundaval which works as our kitchen was shaken also and roof dispositioned, the outside toilet and fowl run are also affected. We are seeking for help as our fear increase on daily basis if these rains are to come again.”

Sr Fehoko, CSN Tonga, wrote in March: “We Sisters are all well, although we suffered from the ashes trying to clean up after the explosion of the volcano and tsunami of 15th January. On the first week of February, the Omicron Covid 19 arrived on our shore. We are going now into the 5th week of lock down, but we are on the orange level. We take good care of ourselves to keep us safe. The positive case

numbers are more than 1,000 and keeps rising. Some are isolated in their homes and some are in quarantine in other places that were prepared for a time like this.”



Bishop Ayule-Milenge Steven from the DRC, thanked us profusely for the money sent for the reinforcing and concrete in the building for educating the boys at risk. Sadly, on 4th April, he wrote asking for help with prayers because the Islamic State is gradually settling in Eastern Congo and a bus bomb exploded and killed 8 people in the city of Goma which is close to Bukavu.



*Letters cont...*

Brother Leonard Abbah of the Holy Cross Priory in Toronto visits Ghana once a year to teach and takes supplies to two schools- St Peter's Primary School and St Paul's Primary and Junior High School. "I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for your support in helping some under privileged students with school supplies. This year I was able to reach many of these students because it was advantageous to buy some supplies in Ghana."



Some time ago, the women of the Mother's Union in Uganda acknowledged our small contribution. However, it went a long way in paying fees for about 20 students. This not only gives students an education but helps to keep the school open as fees form a large part of operating costs. Bishop Ndegwa of Kenya, whom AAA helped to extend a chicken project to raise funds for parishes and give priests an income, sent a report of reorganisation of the governance in that area. We also had a good report from the Ibi-hwa Training course in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. However, unseasonal good rain had spoiled some of the crops!



Mother Alena, Community of the Sacred Name, sent profuse thanks and many photographs of the immediate food aid AAA supplied for shipment to Tonga after the eruption of the volcano.

Along with many heartfelt thanks, Bishop Alphonse from the Cameroon sent some photographs of the agricultural work being done with funds from AAA. Sisters of St Mary wrote from two houses in thanks for a very small contribution. "Thank you so much for supporting Mtandi house and we let you know that we have received amount of 1,500,000/= Tshs. For agriculture. Thanks to God we have a good harvest , maize, sun flower, Groundnut and soya bean." Sr Violet wrote from Tanga, "Thank you for your contribution, we are already receive money for kitchen house, in Korogwe house and Pangani . We are already start the foundation in Pangani."

Bishop Driver sent an update on progress at Newton College. "The clinic is nearly finished... however, the local member has the key and wants to open it officially. We have commenced work on the nurse's house which will need a complete rebuild. We will do so using mostly recycled materials. I hope you feel encouraged by this."



## PRACTICAL MATTERS

**Meetings.** General meetings where everyone is welcome will continue to be held at All Saints Anglican Church in Hamilton Rd, Chermshire at 12 noon and will include light refreshments. Dates are: Friday 27th May, Friday 26th August, Friday 25th November. Please put these dates in your diary. If you are unable to attend, please pray for us as we make decisions there and at the Board meetings which are held approximately every 6 weeks.

**Church Services.** It is our wish to hold Church services in parishes around the Diocese. If your parish would welcome a visit from AAA members for such a service, please contact us. We would also welcome opportunities to come to talk to Parish groups such as Mother's Union or Youth Groups.

**Fr Nixon.** We are often asked for updates as to the condition of Fr Nixon. That poses difficulties because of covid restrictions and being respectful of his privacy. I hope you enjoy the story of his "son" in this edition. He gave written permission to share that story some years ago when he was quite aware of the issues involved. Fr Nixon is well cared for although very physically frail and his memory is exceedingly poor.

**AAA Bourses.** Thank you to those faithful souls who regularly donate to provide bourses for religious education. It is not possible to print the list established by Fr Nixon due to space constraints. Sadly too, there are some recipients with whom we have lost contact or the group is so small as to not really be functional. Be assured that funds are distributed.

**Synod.** AAA plans to be part of the new format for stalls at Synod in June and I look forward to many conversations with our supporters young and old.

**Thank you!** AAA bank account regularly receives donations from the "Church of Th" and others for whom we have no contact address. We would really love to acknowledge your generosity, so please contact us.

## MONEY MATTERS

Country	Recipient	Amount	Project
Tonga	Diocese of Polynesia, NZ	\$10,000	Rebuilding after volcanic eruption
Cameroon	Bp Alphonse	\$10,000	Agricultural project including chickens, goats
Sri Lanka	Society of St Francis	\$ 4,000	Fees for children at Mowbray college
Papua New Guinea	Society of St Francis, Popondetta	\$ 5,000	Connection to electricity grid
Papua New Guinea	Newton College	\$15,000	Construction of living quarters for medical staff
Sri Lanka	Paynter home	\$ 2,000	Food and education of orphans
Sri Lanka	Sisters of Meth Piyasa	\$ 5,000	Support of poor women, education, health
Tanzania	Sisters of St Mary, Ilala	\$12,000	Vehicle for agriculture transport
Tanzania	Sisters of St Mary, Masasi	\$10,000	General support for 10 houses- food, books
Democratic Republic of Congo	Bp Ayule Milenge-Steven	\$10,000	Concreting and reinforcement of building for education of at risk boys
Malawi	Sisters of St Mary	\$ 5,000	School fees for secondary students
South Africa	Oratory of Good Shepherd	\$ 5,000	Gogo kitchen and food parcels for poor
Sri Lanka	Society of Sr Francis	\$ 5,000	Teacher salary for pre-school
Tanzania	Diocese of Central Tanganyika	\$12,500	Agricultural training for rural church leaders
Sri Lanka	Mowbray College, Kandy	\$12,000	Development of College, especially bathing area.
Zimbabwe	Community of the Holy Transfiguration	\$3,000	Beds, shower, food and medicine to help 6 students attend St David's High School.

A generous, long-time donor sent in this prayer: O God, your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water in His Name will not lose their reward: open our eyes to see those who are in need, and teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards, so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you in your children, we may labour for the treasure that endures; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER REQUESTS



### *Please pray for:*

- Peace in the Ukraine. That all world leaders might seek peaceful resolutions to the conflict.
- Peace in the Middle East including Jerusalem after the violence at Easter and all surrounding countries.
- The repair of the damage done to the buildings of the Community of the Holy Transfiguration in Zimbabwe.
- Those who continue to contract and die from covid variants around the world. Pray that leaders would make just decisions as regards use of medical funds.
- The people of the Pacific Island nations as they manage covid, the effects of climate change and the effects of natural disasters. May their leaders make wise and just decisions.
- Democratic Republic of Congo as they face increasing unrest through Islamic State.
- God's guidance in allocating AAA funds and for more people to assist with the work involved.

### *Give thanks for:*

- Your never-failing generosity that enables AAA to assist our overseas partners with education, food and better health outcomes.
- The good health and stable democratic processes that we enjoy in Australia- may we not take them for granted.

### 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.*

### 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.

### DIRECT CREDITS

A safe and inexpensive way of sending your gift is to make a deposit at any WESTPAC BRANCH personally, or via the internet. The Branch at Morningside has closed but you can use any Westpac Branch to make a deposit.

**Account Name:** Missionaries of St Andrew - Anglican Aid Abroad

**Account No:** BSB : 034 058 Account Number: 580656

If you need a receipt, for tax purposes, please write/email and tell us your name, details of the deposit and enclose a self-addressed envelope. Alternatively, email us and we will email you a receipt. ***If you intend the donation for a special project, please let us know so that we can designate it accordingly.***

***If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive our newsletter, please fill in your details below -***

Your name: ..... Your address: .....

***Alternatively, if you would like us to email you our Newsletter, please fill in your email address below-***

Email: .....

Our contact addresses are:

**The Secretary**

**ANGLICAN AID ABROAD**

**PO Box 6134, Wooloongabba**

**Queensland, 4102.**

**Email: [contact@anglicanaidabroad.com.au](mailto:contact@anglicanaidabroad.com.au)**

### 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.