



Anglican Aid Abroad



The Newsletter of the Missionaries of Saint Andrew

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

February Issue 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A year ago, I wrote of Epiphany as a time of manifestation of Christ, a time of awakening, a coming to know Christ perhaps in a different way. I asked if we are being shaken up to a new idea of making Christ known in the world and showed how our partners overseas are doing this. Today is the 26th of January, and many are reflecting on how the lives of the original inhabitants of this country, were shaken up, indeed completely disrupted, by the arrival of the first fleet. In Brisbane, Aunty Jean Phillips has been calling for prayer and reconciliation for more than 10 years now. An online service last night in which the Archbishop of Sydney and many other clergy participated, called for listening to the wrongs of the past, accepting that these form a part of our joint history, then engaging in prayer with a view to finding a new way of being in relationship with one another.

One of the Lectionary readings for Australia Day in year C is Jeremiah 29:4-14, which contains those wonderful words of hope in verse 11- "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for"- and verse 13- "You will seek me and you will find me because you will seek me with all your heart."

What does Australia Day and our colonial history have to say to us about our present day calling in AAA? Most of the countries in which our partners operate have a shared history of colonial government at some point in their past- they were the colonised, we were the colonisers. We can only guess at how this shapes present day interactions around asking for funds and responding to our comments. It is all too easy to fall into the problematic role of giving aid for projects we choose, rather than what might be truly needed by the local populace. To say we won't provide money to buy a field, or a kindergarten bus because we do not see the need or it does not fit our notions of best use of funds. Do we give money in small amounts to "avoid wastage" or do we give large amounts to enable our partners to plan and do projects that will improve the lives of many -such as a village well, an oil palm project, a flour mill, community education in agriculture, a paediatric ward?

The dilemma is real and continuing and the only answer is PRAYER. That is why prayer for wisdom in decision making is a constant ask of you, our faithful supporters. Prayer for being in good relationship with one another here and with our partners. Prayer to avoid misunderstandings due to cultural and language differences. Prayer for patience and understanding when banking difficulties arise. Prayer for wise stewardship of AAA funds so generously provided by God through your compassion. Prayer that we seek God and His guidance with all our heart.

God has blessed us abundantly through Covid19 and this has enabled you, through AAA to be a blessing to thousands. So let us take courage for the future in the words of the psalmist in Ps 33: 18-22. "May your constant love be with us, Lord, as we put our hope in you." Stay safe in God's care,

Yours Sincerely,
Marilyn Wright

TONGAN CRISIS.

We have all seen the graphic images of the eruption of the volcano off the coast of Tonga and the results of the tsunami washing over the low set Islands. Here in Queensland, a few holiday makers experienced minor inconvenience while beaches were closed for a few hours. In the Pacific, community buildings, homes and gardens were destroyed, dislocating lives possibly for years to come. AAA has supported the Sisters of the Community of the Sacred Name (CSN) in Nuku'alofa, and you will remember pictures of Sr Fehoko with productive gardens. Br Donald Campbell (SSF) has contacted Mother Alena in Christchurch. For immediate needs, the New Zealand Sisters are organising a shipment of food and water, to which AAA is contributing \$2,000. We have also decided to contribute \$10,000 to the Diocese of Polynesian fund raising for longer term aid requirements such as building replacement and re-establishing homes and livelihoods. At present, news remains sketchy as communication is difficult, but AAA stands ready to help. There will be a direct donation for Tongan aid set up on the AAA website.



CAMEROON NEWS

Contrary to what many may believe, most of our partners in Religious Orders do not write asking for assistance unless I, as secretary, have contacted them. This “system” has obvious problems. It has been some years since AAA sent a contribution to the Order of St Benedict in Cameroon. However, after my enquiry as to needs, Br Emmanuel, CCSB, replied thanking us for our concern, informing us of their prayers and outlining the difficulties with the socio-economic restrictions of Covid. They currently have 19 Brothers “who are very courageous, and do not allow themselves to be overcome by the gloomy situation. We take care of everyone’s health.”

“The current economic situation in Cameroon is such that you always have to “juggle” a bit to manage to keep your head above water. In this sense, regular help from AAA would be very useful to us, because we cannot ignore the distress that surrounds us, and we must help those who come knocking at our door.” Br Emmanuel quoted 1 Peter 5:6-7 and gave a list of projects to which we could contribute if AAA wants to be the Lord’s instrument for their community. I include them all in abbreviated form: the construction of a large simple community house that would allow the community to leave the rental and the brothers to each have their own little space; construction of a dispensary to help the population and be an income for the community; start a project to raise pigs and chickens; build a modest reception centre to better take care of orphans; expand fields; ensure medical training of our brothers. With your help, AAA will be able to assist.



THAI BORDER PROJECT

In 2021, Covid19 swept into the Karen refugee camps and No Boh school on the border between Thailand and Myanmar. The area was in lockdown for many months which meant great difficulties with continuing education and travel restrictions meant no income for many. Thankfully, the self-sufficiency project, funded by AAA, has kept supplying vegetables and given students a purpose. The project has been expanded to include chickens, fish and three pigs. Students were able to assist in building the chicken sheds and fishponds and in stocking the fish. There are

now 3 student groups who rotate the work involved in looking after the animals, growing the food, and cooking nutritious meals. The students’ diet has greatly improved as a result of their hard work. Sadly, several deaths from Covid have been reported along with many cases of illness. The contribution from AAA is very significant because many other NGOs have not been able to continue their aid, with staff withdrawing and donations reduced. Thanks be to God who has continued to touch your hearts. Acts 20:35.



SEWAGE IN MALAWI

Even for those of us who have visited a developing country, it is often difficult to really imagine the conditions of many people. Therefore, I am including a section from the Annual Report of St Luke’s Hospital in Malawi with its graphic description of the need for a fence around the sewage pond.

“The sewage ponds lie on the borders of Zomba and Machinga and at a distance of 400 meters from the hospital. Last year staff achieved: Routine inspection; Cleaning, treatment and maintenance done as soon as breakages and blockages are noticed; glass removed from the surroundings; Community sensitization and education on the need for caring for the ponds and to avoid throwing wastes into the ponds.

A major Challenge is the absence of the fence at the sewer ponds which causes a lot of problems administratively and Health problems to the community like:

1. Difficult to maintaining the sanitation and hygiene for the surroundings and the ponds.
2. Children within the communities are always found at the ponds trying to pick some of disposed items that people from surrounding areas throw into the ponds like Diapers, plastic bags and other food remains from the wastes.
3. Dead animals like dogs, cats are thrown into the ponds which makes the ponds polluted and hazardous to the communities.
4. Some members from nearby communities are fond of drawing the contaminated water in the ponds.
5. Some people close to the sewage ponds are found using the dam as their toilet.
6. Maintenance costs of ponds breakages and blockages become huge every year thereby further straining the already strained hospital resources.

Way forward:

- To continue health education to the surrounding community on the need of taking care of the sewage area and ponds and dangers for using the water from the ponds.
- To continue inspection, cleaning and treatment of the place.
- To encourage the community to report any breakages and blockages in order to correct the problem as soon as possible.
- To lobby from well wishers to support by constructing a fence around the sewage area.”

indeed Christians everywhere, are held in prayer by our partners- a wonderful testament to the Holy Spirit at work.

Mowbray College in Sri Lanka is again open and they ask for our support in upgrading facilities and for the continuation of our sponsorship of 5 poor students at the College.

The leaders of Just Mercy in India sent a photographic report of their work amongst the most marginalised in their area with food being given to those living on the streets, as well as to those more closely associated with the Church.



Unfortunately, because of banking changes for foreign money donations in India, there are problems getting the assistance to the girls at Nehru Yuvajana Seva Sangham, with long delays.

Our contacts at two Anglican Hospitals in Malawi have sent reports with needs for the coming year. The needs are manifold, but we respond in a small way and their appreciation is heartwarming. St Martin's needs help to assist medical and pharmacy staff to upgrade qualifications, while St Luke's outreach work continues to need support. (See also article on Sewage Pond).



LETTERS



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year



As always, at Christmas, we at AAA receive many wishes for our good health, for our families and for our celebration of Christ's birth, so I pass on to you, our faithful readers, the care and concern expressed. It is

such a wonderful reminder that Christians around the world are members of the body of Christ, each one with different gifts but all working together in their place to make Christ known in the wider community.

Samsunyanand Sigamani, the Indian theological student at university in Germany, sent a copy of a sermon with his sincere thanks and Christmas wishes.

Another ever present theme of many emails is concern for Fr Nixon and grateful thanks for AAA's ongoing help. It is remarkably humbling too that so many of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, who have suffered much from Covid, write of their prayers for our welfare. AAA supporters, and

It is always a joy to receive notice of monies successfully received with reports of progress. Sr Veronica of the CSC in the Solomon Islands sent photographs of progress on the room for Mother Emily's Kindergarten.



Br Joe Kollie of the Brothers in the Community of the Love of Jesus, Liberia, wrote enthusiastically of the first palm oil harvest in the villages. "For this year, we are pleased to inform you that the people of Church of Advent, Sengeloe, are overwhelmed by the amount of fruits their oil palm trees have started producing. For last year alone, which marks the beginning of their farm production, when few palm trees (10%) have just started bearing fruits and palm bunches are smaller, they realized a sum of \$240 US from 15 tins of oil. This little proceeds for a community that hasn't had a tangible asset for years past, has actually brought smiles on the faces of our people." Br Kollie goes

on to outline the need for a self-propelled mill to replace the manual, slow and wasteful mill being presently rented from a farmer.



In Tanzania, the outfitting of the paediatric ward at Milo Hospital is underway. At Christmas, Dr Adrian Murray sent an interim report with many photographs. Happily, there were no children in hospital at the time, as the ward is not yet ready. They have experienced considerable difficulties obtaining equipment. "Uptake of the covid vaccine was slow until Bishop Matthew came and had his vaccination publicly in the hospital. That promoted a response and we have used all the 200 doses supplied. We are a small community. There is no news of any other vaccine supplies but this is a single dose regime,



perfect for our context," Dr Murray continued. Thankfully, there was no active Covid19 in the area at that time.

Mrs Angeline Jacobs, of the Paynter Home in Sri Lanka, wrote: "On behalf of everyone at the Paynter Home, Trustees, Donors and authorities, we wish you all a very bright and prosperous, healthy and blessed 2022." She continued with a typical and touching story of their latest admissions. "They are two sisters of 12 and 14 (presumed ages) from the Matale district, who have never been to school and have



no birth certificates. They have been transferred to the Paynter Home after having been in 3 other homes, because the carers at Paynter home will somehow find a way to see that the children attend school."

Pastor Devadayalan from the Gethsemane Evangelical Church, Chennai district sent the following after Christmas. "Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your generous gift. With your helping hand we were able to provide dress materials, (sarees, pants, shirts and other clothes) and bed sheets for our locality. Nearly 468 people benefitted. We gave them food items also. On Christmas Day we provided them chicken Biriyani and were able to share the Gospel. Thank you AAA for your support. God bless you. We are praying for your ministry."



Sr Adele Marie (SSM) in America wrote: "

Christmas greetings from the Sisters of St Margaret who also send heartfelt thanks for the AAA donation. This will enable us to continue to support people in the earthquake area hard-hit last August in rebuilding their homes and their lives. Our Sisters who were raised in that part of Haiti (Sr Promise and Sr Keshia) are profoundly grateful. Wishing you every blessing this Christmas-tide and may 2022 be a better year for us all!"

Bp Garang wrote in December: "On behalf of Aweil diocese and the people of Aweil I convey our sincere appreciations to you, your organisation and the donors for the financial support you have been giving us over the years. We look forward to a fruitful and continued partnership in 2022 and beyond for the sake of assisting the needy communities in South Sudan. May God bless you, the donors and your organisation and continue to bless you abundantly for many years." He urged consideration of Isaiah 7:14, John 3:16 and Proverbs 28:27.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

To enable better planning, the Board has this year set out the dates for all the Supporter meetings. Unless notified by email of any changes, such as moving to Zoom because of Covid19, the Supporter meetings will be held at All Saints Anglican Church Chermside at 12 noon on the following dates. Please note that after February, the meetings are scheduled for Friday, not Saturday.

Saturday 26th February. Friday 27th May. Friday 26th August, AGM. Friday 25th November.

MONEY MATTERS

Country	Recipient	Amount	Project
Sri Lanka	Meth Piyasa	\$3,000	Food, medicine, money to help poor women. 2 bicycles.
Haiti	Sisters of St Margaret	\$3,000	Relief after earthquake and other disasters.
Ghana	Diocese of Asante Mampong	\$4,000	Part cost of flour mill for villagers.
Solomon Is	Sisters of the Church	\$3,000	Towards building kindergarten room.
Rwanda	Diocese- Fr Chadrack	\$4,000	Expanding land for women's beans project.
Rwanda	Diocese- Fr Chadrack	\$2,000	Expanding clergy goat project.
India	Daniel School	\$2,000	Construction of toilet for girls.
India	Just Mercy	\$6,000	Food, clothing, medicines for distribution to the poor.
India	Heavenly Evangelical Church	\$2,000	Help for 250 people in rural areas.
India	Gethsemane Evangelical Church	\$5,000	Food, medicines, clothing for widows and orphans.
India	Shelter Trust	\$5,000	Food, medicines for orphans with HIVAIDS.
South Sudan	Bp Daniel- Duk Diocese	\$3,000	Education for orphan students- fees, boarding.
Liberia	Community of the Love of Jesus	\$5,000	Mechanical mill for palm oil processing.
Zimbabwe	Community of Blessed Lady Mary	\$2,000	Back to school fees, uniforms for needy children.
Philippines	Community of St Mary affiliates	\$1,500	Help for elderly and sick in community.
Malawi	St Luke's Hospital	\$5,000	Community education for villages, bicycle transport.
Malawi	St Martin's Hospital	\$5,000	Training for upgrade of medical staff.
Zimbabwe	Community of Holy Transfiguration	\$1,000	Medicines for Sisters and community.
Tonga	Community of Sacred Name	\$2,000	Immediate help of food and water.

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for:

- Patience and God's guidance as we continue to encounter difficulties sending money to India.
- God's comforting presence for all those who have lost loved ones in the pandemic, remembering those on the Thai Border, in India and African countries where our partners live and work.
- A successful return to school and work in countries where it's safe, so that people can again earn money and children can continue their education.
- World leaders to make wise and compassionate decisions around vaccinations for those in developing countries.
- The people of Tonga as they set about the long recovery process after the volcanic eruption and tsunami.

Give thanks for:

- The many blessings of good health, food and shelter which we take for granted.
- Your wonderfully faithful generosity which enables AAA to assist our partners to show God’s love to those around them.



Worship at the Order of St Benedict in Cameroon.



Boys working in the vegetable gardens at the No Boh school , Nthn Thailand

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:

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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.