

REPORT TO THE RIGHT REVEREND WJ RAY, BISHOP OF NORTH QUEENSLAND ON THE ABM DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES CONFERENCE HELD IN PERTH, 29TH TO 31ST AUGUST, 2014, AT THE PARISH HALL, PARISH OF SWANBOURNE, DIOCES OF PERTH.

WELCOME, PRAYERS AND HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS: FRIDAY, 16TH AUGUST

9.30 am: Opening prayers took the form of Morning Prayer, from the Daily Offices in A Prayer Book for Australia led by Archdeacon Lionel Snell. A welcome to the country was then given by aboriginal elder, Tom Little.

10.15 am to Lunch: Christopher Brooks, ABM's Acting Fundraising & Communication Manager, dealt with various housekeeping arrangements for the conference. Chris then asked us to identify, in small groups, the information that conferees might wish to take back to parishes after the conference. A plenary session was then held to display on whiteboard the expected conference outcomes.

12.45 pm: Discussion was held on the production and distribution of ABM Christmas cards. Ken Spreadborough from Brisbane Diocese suggested that the use of Christmas cards was declining due to email and social media facilities such as Facebook. The cost versus revenue could be a critical issue now. Chris Brooks stated that other groups such as Mothers' Union provided cards. Chris promised that ABM would consider this matter further.

1.10 pm to 1.20 pm: Discussion then ensued on the conference outcomes and how mission boxes might be best promoted

1.20 pm: Archbishop Roger Herft spoke about mission activity in the Diocese of Perth. He talked about an emphasis being placed on securing Bible translations in native languages.

In sharing about the Diocesan involvement in mission, Archbishop Roger highlighted:

- ⊙ The necessity of listening to people
- ⊙ Creating vibrant communities, especially through schools
- ⊙ Valuing leadership resources so that effective leadership is produced
- ⊙ Identifying and removing structures that inhibit mission
- ⊙ Recognising that people at the local coal face know the local situation and, therefore they need to be heard
- ⊙ The development of significant partnerships in the Philippines and a new partnership in the Kenyan Diocese of Eldoret.

The Archbishop also spoke of his own time in mission in China.

2.30pm to 3.30pm: Time was then given for each representative to give a summary of what was happening in their respective Diocese relative to ABM support.

4pm: After afternoon tea, Malcolm McCallum presented a map of Australia showing the location and distribution of aboriginal tribes throughout the country.

Mal also spoke about key challenges and responsibilities including:

- The implementation of ABM's Reconciliation and Action Plan
- The management of ABM's aboriginal and islander communities

- A perspective on indigenous and islander recognition, sovereignty and treaty.

He also presented the Elders' Report on Preventing Indigenous Self Harm and Suicide.

This was followed by a showing of the DVD prepared for the Archbishop's November Appeal in Queensland and a further DVD narrated by Mal to be shown throughout the remainder of Australia and in Queensland in conjunction with the Archbishop's DVD.

5 to 5.30 pm: Claire Barrett-Lennard, Project Officer, Diocese of Perth, Anglican Social Responsibilities Commission, Anglican Eco-Care Commission.

Claire spoke enthusiastically of changes in ABM board membership.

6pm: An ABM Friends Dinner was held in the Parish hall of the Anglican Church of the Resurrection at Swanbourne. Indigenous songs were sung by Tom Little with his own guitar accompaniment.

SATURDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 2013

The day's proceedings began with a celebration at 9.00 am by Fr Ryan Green of the Eucharist in the church of the Resurrection, Swanbourne

John Deane was to absent due to illness and could not be with us to celebrate the Eucharist earlier or to give an ABM update at this point.

10am to 11am: Lorraine Forster, ABM's Committee Support Officer spoke about Church to church programmes. Programmes begin by partners submitting a project. The following are some of ABM's church to church programmes:

Philippines

Evangelism and Christian education

Kenya

Management through catechesis at Good Shepherd's children's school

Myanmar

Evangelism in mission seminar, raining for clergy and Sunday school teachers, youth band project, video editing

PNG

Outreach/evangelism programme, clergy workshop, Popondota archdeacon training and clergy service, theological training at Kerina College, Aipo Rongo

ZAMBIA

St John's Seminary: theological training and support

GOOD FRIDAY

Episcopocare, walking together, developing youth leadership in Egypt

Facing challenges

- How to raise fund effectively for individual projects.
- Difficulties in communications
- General attention to detail

- Timeliness- receiving information by the due date, calendar year projects versus ABM financial year, suitable acknowledgement of financial funding, receipt of suitable acquittals, i.e. feedback about project completion or progress and fund usage.

1.00pm: Diocesan representative report giving continued.

1.40pm: A session followed to the out-reach pilgrimages by Anglican schools in the Diocese of Perth and associated Manila programmes. Three young students reported to us after we watched a video of their pilgrimage of working with people in Manila. They joined in daily activities such as gardening and cooking. They also led worship and teaching and distributed food.

2.45pm: Chris Brooks then spoke about special appeals. He informed us that for appeals likely to raise a smaller amount the cost is \$2,500 for setting up the appeal web site, getting up to date reports from the local diocese and various approvals. If the targeted amount is likely to be around \$100,000 or more, the cost will be \$10,000 as the cost of poster preparation needs to be added.

We adjourned around 4pm after Evening prayer.

SUNDAY, 31st AUGUST, 2013

Conference members were given a choice of worshipping at the Church of the Resurrection at Swanbourne or elsewhere. I, along with Fr Brian Mueller of the Diocese of Grafton, was billeted with Fr Peter Boyland, Rector, Christ Church at Claremont. We decided to worship at Christ Church.

11.00pm: Christopher Brooks took us through a comprehensive look at the ABM Facebook page and the ABM web site.

The conference ended around noon with the idea that the conference next year would be held at either Newcastle or Brisbane on 24th, 25th and 26th July.

Rod Gooden

Diocesan Representative

10th September, 2013