**2014 PERTH DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVE’S CONFERENCE**

**CHURCH TO CHURCH PRESENTATION**

**SLIDE 1/2:**

Today, I would like to talk about the Church to Church Program.

**The Church to Church Program is focussed on improving our partner’s ability to train lay people and ordinands and also to run training sessions and seminars for trained clergy, including deacons and archdeacons etc. so that they can reach out to their communities to proclaim the Good News while focussing on the five marks of mission.**

You may notice that I have included one mark of mission of the first 5-6 slides in the footer of my presentation.

The Church to Church **operates by inviting partners to submit an application** for a project they would like to run in the current year and submit information about the actual project which includes a detailed budget to show how the money will be spent.

We have many projects as shown on my next slide.

**SLIDE 3:**

Philippines:

We have been supporting the Philippines with the same type of project for a few years. Their project includes ongoing training of ordained ministers and lay people on all aspects of Christian Education in line with their Episcopal Church of the Philippines (ECP) Vision Mission Goal 2008-2018. This year, the project also focuses on Christian Education materials for adult Sunday Schools. (I expect this would be similar to a Bible study class).

Kenya:

The projects in Kenya are two very positive projects.

The two Kenyan projects are both Education based with one being an ongoing project started three years ago when Machakos was being divided into two Dioceses. The division has gone very smoothly because of the very methodical approach they have taken by dividing the process into sections with Phase 1 being the first year training new clergy for the additional parishes then the second year (Phase 2) they trained clergy from the parishes who were struggling the most with the transition and this year (Phase 3) they are looking for funding for the individual parishes to run workshops in order to recruit more leaders from within their own parishes to reach out even further into the region.

The second project is the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Children’s Program which again is an ongoing project reaching out to engage some of the 600,000 children living in poverty in the Kibera slums in Nairobi. The children gather in an atrium (a room prepared for them) with simple hands-on material to help them absorb the proclamations of the Christian faith.

Leaders are trained to teach the children and during their training, they are expected to make the material the children use in their lessons for example, they may have a little fence made with wood and twine with little sheep and maybe some little wooden shepherds etc. The program is based on the world wide Montessori system of education.

Myanmar (Burma):

Myanmar really is my favourite project this year because Myanmar has been under military rule and economic stagnation for half a century and consequently has left millions of people in Myanmar stranded in poverty.

Thankfully Myanmar is opening up to the outside world and in the past two years democratic elections have been held, freedom of expression has increased and foreign companies are starting to roll in. Now that things have changed they are finding human rights abuses and that ethnic conflicts are continuing. Up to 70% of people in Myanmar still do not have any access to electricity.

The ABM Auxiliary has chosen to adopt the Myanmar projects for their 2015 Auxiliary Campaign.

We have:

* the Evangelism & Mission Department holding seminars across all of the diocese and
* Bp. John Wilme is holding clergy conferences in Toungoo Diocese and
* Bp. James Min Dein, who is very enthusiastic with the young people, is holding music classes with the project funding additional instruments so they can have a youth band to play at festivals and other occasions around their parishes.

We have been supporting St John’s Seminary in Zambia for quite a few years now and they are always looking to upgrade their education programs so they will eventually be recognised at international standards.

Good Friday:

The Good Friday Gift is always very well supported by both individuals and the parishes. All of the Good Friday Gift money goes to the Holy Land with projects in Egypt, Gambella in Ethiopia and Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, we have been supporting a clinic for the control and prevention of diabetes and this year the goal is to reduce the mortality and morbidity of children caused by the Diabetes and Cardiovascular diseases.

PNG:

PNG still have the projects that are the most popular with our supporters and PNG are also capable of causing us the most grief. We have some very exciting PNG projects but they also present many challenges.

**SLIDE 4:**

The overall challenges we face are:

How to raise funds effectively for individual projects.

Following a fair amount of analysis it has been revealed that Church to Church **relies very heavily on appeals and campaigns.**  With the exception of PNG, CtC receive **very little money from the Project Book**. We are also limited to only five campaigns so we need to be very strategic with how we market our projects to get the most benefit for them. For example, we are not able to raise funds with the Tax Appeal because **no CtC project can be tax deductible**. We have to **share the Auxiliary and November appeals** with Community Development with both of those funds alternating each year between CtC and Indigenous for the November Appeal and CtC and Com Dev projects for the Auxiliary projects. The other limitation is that the **Martyrs Appeal always needs to feature a PNG** project because it is support mainly by PNG Supporters but PNG receives a lot of support just from the Project Book so we would prefer to promote the less popular partners.

**SLIDE 5:**

Communication is another very big challenge due to the remoteness of some of the Dioceses and very often they have very limited power resources. A very good example of this is a project we are currently working on for Kerina College in Aipo Rongo Diocese in PNG. Meagan Morrison, who is an ABM employee based in PNG, sat with Fr Peter Moi to prepare an application to request funds to educate t wives of the students at Kerina College. You will see in this next slide that the application was handwritten and the bulk of the application was in the “to be attached” section. Unfortunately the “to be attached” was not included so there is almost no detail at all about the project. The application arrived right on the final deadline.

Now the challenge is to get the attachment by the following process:

**SLIDE 6:**

I send an email to Fr Peter Moi.

**About once per month, someone from Kerina will fly in a small plane from Tsendiap to Mt Hagen and stay for about week to check all of the emails, pick up supplies and do any other business that is needed.**

If they need to use their mobile phones to communicate outside of this visit, they need to **walk for three hours to an area in the mountains** that they have found where they can actually get mobile reception. They then have to walk three hours back to Tsendiap to deliver the message. If we miss the visit to Mt Hagen, this process could mean a delay of about eight weeks before I get the “to be attached” paperwork.

Another problem with many partners are their lack of attention to detail.

Due dates? Well....... Let’s wait and see what happens
Calendar Year versus ABM Financial Year? Sorry – that is much too hard!
We need a receipt. Why? We have got the money!
Acquittals which is a story about the project and a financial report to show the money spent compared to the original budget. We have spent the money – what is the problem – why do we have to tell you how we spent it?

Despite these difficulties – we also have some partners who are very efficient as you can see in this slide. Kenya is very efficient and send us their program timetables for the individual seminars and send very detailed financial reports.

**SLIDE 7/8:**

Overall the outcomes from these partnerships are very rewarding...

Both Church to Church and our partners are both winners in this relationship which is the best result we can hope for.

* The lives of the ABM supporters are enriched by the outcomes achieved from their generous donations and the staff feel very rewarded from the interaction with our partners.
* It is great to see that Kenya has had a relatively smooth transition for the division of Machakos into two dioceses which has happened because they have been so organised and methodical.
* Myanmar is very exciting.... While the main focus is obviously clergy training etc, last year ABM funded a tricycle for the Diocese of Sittwe and it is the first vehicle ever owned by the diocese. Other diocese may have a vehicle but it is their first one. One can imagine how exciting that would be. We also funded engines for boats that they were already using to transport people up and down the rivers and you can also imagine what a difference that must have made when they have to go so far up the rivers to visit the different parishes.
* PNG also has some exciting outcomes with ongoing training for clergy and lay people including the Melanesian Brotherhood, Society of St Francis and Newton Theological College. Newton are planning to introduce Electronic Readers and new computers to their library over the next few years.

I would appeal to all of you to encourage support for the Church to Church projects because it is not easy to raise funds for projects that do not have the status of tax deductibility and rely almost entirely on appeals and campaigns for their funding.

Lorraine Forster

Church to Church Missioner 20/8/2014