

After lunch on the Friday Lorraine Forster spoke on her role in Committee Support. Technically, she is employed in that role for one day each week, but as she is also employed in other roles on two other days, she finds ways to combine them and help committees on more than one day.

Then followed a quite interesting session conducted by Sue Horlin from Price Waterhouse on the ABM Annual report, the bottom line of which is that ABM is in a healthy state, financially.

The next session was shared by The Rev'd Rebecca Newland from Canberra and myself, each assisting a group with how to put together a presentation on ABM. John Deane had suggested that such presentations be based on five questions: 1. What are they expecting to hear? 2. What do you want to tell them? 3. How to structure it. 4. What story are you going to use? 5. What outcome is expected? He also suggested that it might be possible to include some ideas from the Readings for the day. My own style is more 1. What is ABM? 2. What does it do? How does it help our Partners? 3. How can you be part of this? (As well as an ABM connection to the daily Reading.)

After closing prayers, dinner was shared at the Castlereagh Hotel.

The Saturday session commenced with a Eucharist celebrated by The Rev'd John Deane and after morning tea and finalisation of arrangements for Sunday, we were blessed with a presentation from two members of our Partner Church in Burma (Myanmar). Using a Power point presentation they indicated how far that Church has progressed in the past and its planned expansion for the next 10 years. This was an extremely informative session.

John Deane then spoke on the topic, "The next 5 years". However, due to the number of questions, much of the discussion was centred on costs. John pointed out that after 9/11 and the Bali Bombing, the Australian Government put into operation a number of regulations regarding safeguards for who was receiving aid overseas. These applied as much to projects that were funded by such bodies as ACFED as from straight donations. With any organisation that sends money overseas, the Government insists on knowing where it is going and exactly what is being done with it. The ACFED Code of Conduct, to which ABM must abide makes it mandatory to show costs which come from the proceeds. It was noted that about 10% of all income is used in Administration costs and this is about the industry average. Many other organisations work on a much higher percentage. In some cases ABM can tap into Government funding on a 5:1 basis i.e. to spend half a million dollars, ABM has to provide \$100 000.

After lunch, Julianne Stewart, Programs Director, addressed us on the situation in Africa especially with ABM's partnership with Zambia, Southern Sudan and 3 Kenyan Dioceses. She showed a Power Point presentation of which she has kindly sent me a copy.

The next session led by John Deane focussed on how we might use or do use the ABM Quarterly figures as sent to us. Most used them as a sign of where congratulations or encouragements was needed in particular Parishes. I, personally indicated that the one of most use to us was the Annual figures, so that as we go into Parishes we can have an idea of the level of support in that parish during last year. It was also indicated that it could be used as a way of discerning where visitors from our Partner Countries would have the most impact.

Brett Collins from Melbourne and myself then presented to the group what we were doing to (re-)engage the Parishes. While I outlined our plans to have visited all Area Deaneries and individual Parishes over a four year period and how we are implementing those plans, Brett indicated a much more structured plan for re-establishing the ABM name in Melbourne where Anglicord seems to be more accepted in parishes than ABM. He is going to distribute his outline to us all.

Finally, for the day, Christopher Brookes asked everyone to think about their next step and to outline it. I advised that we would be continuing our plan and also trying to make ABM of greater importance in the Church Schools. We also discussed the date and venue for this meeting in 2013. It will probably be in

Melbourne at about the same time.

After Evening Prayer, many of us shared an impromptu meal at the Belvedere Hotel, which was previously the ABM offices.

On Sunday morning, I was privileged to preach at St Luke's Concord. Though I spoke about ABM and its work, it was obvious that this Parish was well aware of ABM and is a good supporter of ABM, lately through helping Wontulp-Bi-Buya College and the Ministry of Gloria Shipp in Bathurst Diocese. I was warmly welcomed, with a wonderful Eucharist in a beautiful Church.

Lunch was back at the Castlereagh Hotel and was followed by a general discussion and feed-back.

Prior to the Conference, I had obtained from Lorraine Forster a copy of the ABM Diocesan Committee Guidelines and though all delegates were given a copy at the Conference, time precluded us from discussing it in detail. I had a short private discussion with John Deane who indicated that the guidelines were just that - guidelines - and that established Committees should use them to help them, but that committees being newly established would find them valuable guide to the formation and work of the Committee.

Finally, I would express my thanks, firstly to the Brisbane Diocese Committee for their work and support as I was able to go to this meeting with a feeling that were were one of the leaders in proclaiming the work of ABM. I also wish to thank, most sincerely, Archbishop Aspinall and the Brisbane Diocese for agreeing to provide the funds for me to attend.

The Rev'd Ken Spreadborough,
Chair,
Brisbane Diocese ABM Committee.