

ABM Speaker's Corner



Volume 2, Issue 1, January 2012

New Year Greetings from Speakers' Corner

New Year Greetings Volunteer Speakers,

A very warm welcome to your first edition of Speakers' Corner for 2012.

We very much appreciate the contributions that you have all made to this issue and of course your feedback would be most welcome. We would again like to hear what you think future Speaker's Corner editions should contain.

Thank you for your hard work, tireless efforts and support of ABM - we can't do it without you.

I hope you had a very Blessed Christmas; and a New Year that will bring you everything that you would wish for.

Michael Robinson

Bishop Joseph's Advent Visit

Early this month, +Joseph, Kenya was ABM's Advent visitor, speaking in Melbourne and Brisbane and having official meetings with some of the National bodies of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Bishop Joseph is involved in the following activities in Kenya:

- Chairing diocesan Synod; and overseeing diocesan activities
- Chairman of Provincial Board of Mission Anglican Church of Kenya, head office
- Chairman of Provincial Board of Education
- Ambassador Peace & Justice in the world
- Member of National Council of Churches in Kenya

Bishop Joseph is also part of the board of management for Ukamba Christian Community Service, which is the social development arm of the Anglican Church Kenya - (this is the project funded by ABM Australia).

Speakers' Prayer

*Almighty God, as we engage with our ABM family and friends around Australia, may the gifts that you have taught us give us the confidence to spread your word and bring our work into the hearts of all Australians.
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.*

Amen

Inside this issue ...

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FINAL REMINDER FOR NAME BADGES

If you require ABM name badges for Committee members, please submit names to Lorraine Forster at email: committee.support@abm.asn.au

by 31st January at the very latest.

**Adapted from a Sermon preached by
Dr Julianne Stewart, in Sydney, on the
18th Sunday after Pentecost 2011**

I was asked to preach recently about ABM at a local church. It struck me, as I prepared for this task by reading the scriptures set for the day, that they all pointed in some way or another to the church, and to God's expectations for the church as the people of God, and how we as church communities work out our relationships with God. There was a reading from Exodus in which Moses prays to God and God answers him by promising faithful love and God's constant presence to his people.

Then the gospel reading, where Matthew tells the story of Jesus refusing to be tricked by the religious leaders who ask him about the rights and wrongs of paying a particularly unpopular tax to Rome. Jesus' answer emphasises that God is not going to give us simple prescriptions. We, as individuals and church communities, who are imprinted with the image of God, have to work our own lives out for ourselves, knowing, however, that God is always with us in this process. As in the days of Moses, God is a constant presence with his people, his church.

And there was St Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, where, at the start, we hear the apostle praising this new church in Thessalonica. Paul sees this church as being an example to other believers in the neighbouring areas. The Christians in Thessalonica are full of faith, full of joy, full of hope. They are, in fact, filled with the Holy Spirit. They are Paul's "pride and joy" as he says later in the letter.

It made me realise that in our present day, there are also churches in which we might feel especially encouraged. In my understanding, one of the measures of what makes a good church is a well-rounded faithfulness in all five marks of mission. These marks of mission were first established by the Anglican Communion about 25 years ago. They were reviewed about 15 years ago, to add liturgy and worship as an essential mark of mission, which under-girds all the other forms of Christian witness in the world. So, the five marks, then, are:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom by

- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers
- Engaging in worship characterized by celebration and thanksgiving

- Responding to human need by loving service
- Seeking to transform unjust structures of society, and
- Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

These marks are still accepted today with varying degrees of emphasis by many Anglican bodies, including Anglican Board of Mission.

Most of our readers know who ABM is. Many of you have had a long association with ABM. ABM has been around for a very long time, for more than 160 years. It's wonderful to have had such a long history, but I wonder how many know what it is that ABM does in the present day.

Essentially what ABM does is to support churches of the Anglican Communion in parts of the world where poverty, injustice, social and political upheaval, or the effects of natural disasters are greater than average, and where the Anglican church has a reasonable indigenous presence. By indigenous' I mean where the church, originally set up by missionaries from the west, is now fully constituted by and integrated into the local community. We see our role, representing the Anglican Church of Australia, as supporting and helping to strengthen such churches. We work with Anglican churches in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, the Philippines, Burma, Zambia, Kenya and Sudan. We also work with the Christian church in China; and support the work of the Anglican Church in South Korea; and the dioceses of Jerusalem and Egypt, including Ethiopia.

Many of these churches are quite inspiring. They fall into the category of exemplary. They seem to fulfil all the criteria of a strong church as expressed by the marks of mission, and more. Like the Thessalonian church they are filled with the Holy Spirit. They shine out, in spite of the difficulties that surround them.

The church in Kenya engages in enthusiastic, celebratory worship, teaches, baptises and nurtures believers, and works hard responding to the needs of local communities, helping them help themselves to improve their food security by various forms of water conservation, for example. They also strive to renew the life of the earth by planting hundreds of thousands of appropriate trees in semi-arid areas. Currently they are responding, with ABM's full support, to the East Africa famine crisis in their part of the World.

ABM also supports the work of the Anglican Church in Zambia to improve gender quality by addressing barriers to women's full exercise of their humanity, whether this be through training of clergy, messages from the pulpits, challenging traditional cultural practices of empowering women through small-scale business enterprises.

The Church in Burma has been reaching out to people in need during flooding and other natural disasters. They also have strong worshipping communities. They manage to remain faithful to the gospel of Christ in the very difficult circumstances of tight government restrictions of the activities of faith communities. ABM supports his Church.

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines operates a comprehensive community development program, building on the existing strengths of local communities in remote rural areas, to improve access to drinking water and increase farm incomes, create greater diversity in people's diets, thus reducing malnutrition and bringing many out of abject poverty. It also has a vibrant teaching and outreach programme by both clergy and laity, ensuring children and adults are enabled to learn more about the Christian faith and how to live it.

ABM supports both the community development and the teaching outreach programme of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. St James' in particular has recently given generous support, through ABM and the Episcopal Church of the Philippines, to a community project in But-but in the remote, mountainous north of the Philippines island of Luzon.. This is the building of a multi-purpose centre for the community: used as a preschool, meeting place, farmers' office and place for resolving disputes during the week, and as a church for all faiths on Sundays. Your funds paid for engineering expertise and building materials such as cement. The local communities did the rest, including making the bricks. This building is now complete and you are all warmly invited to the opening on 25 February next year.

In other parts of the world, particularly the Pacific, ABM works to help strengthen churches to have vibrant faith communities and to become more effective providers of community and social services. In Papua New Guinea, ABM has a large program supporting the strengthening of the church, working in such areas as financial and human resource management, strategic planning, staff training, in order to enable the church to provide quality health and education service, and to engage in grassroots community development in rural and peri-urban areas.

We also support such areas as theological training, church outreach and the work of the Melanesian Brotherhood there. In Vanuatu we have a similar program of church strengthening, and in the Solomon Islands we have been asked to assist with the training of Bishops and senior staff, and to strengthen policy development. In Sudan we are working with the Episcopal Church of Sudan to build up their Health Commission, which will coordinate health services among the numerous dioceses of Southern Sudan. These activities don't sound very exciting, and yet they are vital if the churches are to become and remain strong in living out the marks of mission.

Alongside all of this overseas "mission" of ABM, and as integral to it, we are increasingly working with churches in Australia to educate and engage in dialogue about the place of holistic Christian mission, as expressed by the five marks, in the world. Our pilgrimages are part of this education program.

With all churches, we need to remember that we have the age-old promise, from the time of Moses onward, that God loves and has compassion for the people of God, for the Church of God, all God's churches, as we work out our relationship with God, and our part in God's mission in the world.

I would like to conclude with a prayer taken from the collect of that day:

"Almighty and everlasting God, grant that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith. Amen."

Speaking Requests in 2012

There are nearly 1,400 parishes in Australia, 23 dioceses - many with Auxiliaries and Committees -and many more schools and other Anglican community groups that all generously support ABM. In the short period of time that I have been in the Speaker's Programme role, I have noticed that there are many supporters of ABM who we have not reached out to with a visit during the course of this year.

Over the next year, we would love to send a speaker to any group that requests it, availability permitting. You would therefore, need to carefully choose what event you want an ABM speaker for. It goes without saying that we would love to visit those supporters we haven't seen for such a long time.

How do we supply Speakers?

As part of our education and transparency responsibilities, ABM must "fully and accurately disclose to the public [our] fundraising and any administration costs" (ACFID Code of Conduct C.3.7.3). One of the costs that we quite rightly bear is the cost of sending speakers to parishes in order to thank them for the work the parish does in raising funds for ABM's Partners. We thank you, our Volunteer Speakers, for fulfilling so many of those requests. Without you, we wouldn't physically be able to do it. Please, if you incur any out-of-pocket expenses, then send us the receipts and we'll reimburse you.

It's prudent, in the light of our transparency obligations, to let you know how much money you contribute to ABM by helping us avoid sending a member of staff. If we have a request, for example, for a member of staff to talk in place of the sermon at 2 services on a Sunday, then that member of staff is paid from when they leave their home until they get back (sleeping time is not included!). It may mean that we have to travel up the day before on Saturday in order to be near the parish for the 8am service. With another at 10 am that means it's already 4 and a half hours of time at the church alone. Plus the travel (which can be 4 hours each way) and you can see where the costs start to mount up.

We split our subject experts (staff) broadly into 2 groups - those that are licensed and those that aren't. For the licensed staff, a Sunday engagement costs ABM about \$250 and a non-licensed staff is about \$125. So thank you for relieving some of that financial and timely pressure so we can spend more time working with our Partners. Our strategic approach to ABM speaking engagements is to visit each of our supporting parishes, schools, and other groups in Australia at least once every 2 years. With 1,327 parishes (out of a total of 1,388) that have donated to us over the past 2 years, your help in supplying this invaluable service is greatly appreciated. **So THANK YOU**

Christopher and Michael

Volunteer Speakers & Diocesan Contacts

This list only contains people who have given ABM written permission to have their contact details published. To be included, please e-mail your details to Michael Robinson.

<i>Bendigo</i>	<i>Mrs Myrtle Shay</i>
<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>The Rev'd Ken Spreadborough</i>
<i>Bunbury</i>	<i>The Rev'd Bill Byleveld</i>
<i>Canberra</i>	<i>The Rev'd Rebecca Newland</i>
<i>Gippsland</i>	<i>The Rev'd Lloyd George</i>
<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Mr Brett Collins</i>
<i>Newcastle</i>	<i>The Rev'd Canon Katherine Bowyer</i>
<i>Perth</i>	<i>The Ven. Lionel Snell</i>
<i>Rockhampton</i>	<i>Mrs Sybil Pawley</i>
<i>SA Province</i>	<i>Right Rev'd David McCall</i>
<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Mrs Catherine Crouch</i>
<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Mr Tim Swifte</i>

ABM Awareness

If you know of any "ABM awareness" engagements in your area, please inform Michael Robinson. Thank you

LIST OF RESOURCES

For Education and Publicity

- Prayer Diary (January 2012)
- Project Book (January 2012)
- Annual Report (January 2012)
- ABM DVDs
- Partner Brochures
- Magnets
- Posters (Marks of Mission, Country overview)
- Banners

For Fundraising

- Duplex (Giving) envelopes
- Purses
- Bequest Forms
- Crosses
- Prayer Diaries (January 2012)
- Project Book (January 2012)

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