

Monday, October 10, 2016

Rebuilding Maniaya in Fiji – what happens after a disaster?

We regularly hear about emergencies around the world and organisations such as ABM often ask for donations to assist people in times of crisis, but what happens in the months and years that follow?

ABM's generous supporters gave over \$45,000 to the Cyclone Winston Appeal for the rebuilding of Maniava.

Seven months after the tropical cyclone ABM Executive Director, Rev John Deane, and ABM Programs Director, Dr Julianne Stewart, joined an Anglican Alliance Monitoring visit to tour the rebuilding work being carried out by the Anglican Church in Fiji.

The church assisted the villagers with Dignity Packs donated by an NGO, with food provided by the government, and with pastoral care, after they were trained by experts sent by Anglican Missions Board in New Zealand. The government also provided seedlings so they could replant crops destroyed by the strong winds and rain.

Dr Stewart said, "Now the people of Maniava are able to grow their own food again, but are still waiting to rebuild their houses. Many still live in tents provided by the Chinese government, and some have salvaged corrugated iron to patch up their homes. But most are looking forward to having their homes "Built Back Better" to new cyclone-strength standards approved by the government of Fiji."

"In fact, the only four houses in the village that were unharmed by the cyclone were like this one, rebuilt to government standards after Cyclone Evan hit Maniava in 2011," she said.

Plans are for the Anglican Church engineer, Alfred Williams, to lead the rebuilding of the houses and two evacuation centres, using timber available on the village land, and compressed earth bricks to be made by the villagers themselves, with some assistance from qualified builders.

A hostel is being built to government standards next to the nearest primary school for the children of Maniava to be housed. This will double up as an evacuation centre during future cyclones. And a new community centre, to be used as a church on Sundays, will also be a safe haven for the villagers should another cyclone hit Maniava.

ABM's Fundraising Manager, Christopher Brooks said in emergencies such as the cyclones in Fiji, ABM is lucky to have many generous donors who give to its Emergency Appeals.

"We are grateful to be able to put a call out to supporters and receive generous responses to give to our partners or others who are experiencing crisis situations. We always like to highlight what a huge difference a donation can make in times of emergency."

"The rebuilding of Maniaya is a wonderful example of how Anglicans around the world have helped others and ABM is privileged to be a part of that support," Mr Brooks said.

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information contact Elizabeth Baker at media@abm.asn.au

A high res photo can be supplied by emailing. See the photo essay of the rebuilding of Maniaya at <http://www.abmission.org/pages/fiji-cyclone-emergency-response.html> to select a photo.

The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. For over 160 years ABM has been assisting people all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide health and education services, improve agricultural practices and strengthen the Church.