

The Rt Rev Brian Kyme, MA, ThL, DipRE, ChLJ, OMLJ.
National Director, ABM 1993-2000

Deaconed Melbourne 1958, Priested Melbourne 1960, Consecrated Perth 1982.

Curate, St John's Malvern East 1958-60; Glenroy 1960-61; Morwell 1961-63; Incumbent, Ashburton 1963-69; Dean/Rector, Geraldton 1969-74; Rector, Claremont 1974-82; Archdeacon, Stirling 1977-82; Assistant Bishop of Perth 1982-93; Chaplain WA Commandery of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem 1985-93, Chaplain NSW Commandery 1998-99; National Director, ABM 1993-2000; Episcopal Assistant to the Primate 2000-05; Episcopal Assistant to the Archbishop of Perth for the Central & Northern Region 2005-06; Director, St George's Cathedral Institute of Anglican Studies 2006.

Moya Holle writes:

Bishop Brian Kyme was a member of the ABM Board for the Diocese of Perth during the late 1980s and in 1993 was elected the first National Director of the ABM Board – previously the executive head of ABM had been termed Chairman.

Bishop Brian came to the position of leadership as a time of change.

In May of the previous year, 1992, there had been a Special Board Meeting to discuss the future direction of the Board.

In 1993, when Bishop Kyme was appointed National Director, the Board was in the process of an in depth assessment of the structure and status of ABM. The new title Bishop Brian had was indicative of a new direction and structure for ABM, and it was he who would be responsible for guiding ABM through the changes.

Financially the Board had to face the fact of a deficit, accepting a realistic “break even” budget for 1994, which entailed significant cuts to Partner Churches and in particular a 30% cut to the Church in Papua New Guinea and 40% cut to the Diocese of Carpentaria. Bishop Kyme acknowledged that the years following the recession had been difficult ones for ABM.

During this period Bishop Kyme, as the National Director, was responsible for guiding the Board through the drafting of a new Canon covering ABM's role in the national church. The ‘ABM Canon’ was ratified by General Synod in July 1995. The organization would now be known as the “Anglican Board of Mission – Australia”. In relation to the name change, Bishop Kyme said that the new name would place the emphasis on ‘Mission’ rather than ‘Missions’.

At this time Bishop Kyme posed the following question to the ABM Auxiliary “How should ABM change in a changing Church in a changing Australia?”

Late in 1996, in an address to the ABM Auxiliary National Council, Bishop Kyme outlined the changes to ABM as set out in the paper, “Facing the Future”. There was a drastic re-organisation of ABM's infrastructure. Membership of the Board was now much smaller, the number of staff was reduced and instead of offices in every state there would be only three.

In 1997, Bishop Kyme announced a “New Vision of Mission in Partnership”. ABM would work in partnership with the overseas church it was supporting.

ABM's involvement in ‘development’ work had begun in 1992, under Robert Cooper and John Deane. However, throughout the 90s, during Bishop Kyme's directorship it was further expanded.

The period of Bishop Kyme's directorship was one of constant challenge to ABM. At the time when Bishop Kyme announced that he would be retiring in 2000, he had also to announce ABM was in debt and "as a result desperate measures were to be taken.... All staff positions would be declared vacant on 28/2/2000...." In speaking to the ABM Auxiliary National Council, Bishop Kyme quoted Cardinal John Newman – "not change and decay, but change OR decay".

Bishop Brian Kyme was an optimistic leader of ABM for eight years. He was thoughtful and considerate of all people. He had inner strength that sustained him. He was sociable; enjoying good fellowship, good food and good wine with friends.

During the time Brian lived in Sydney he was supportive of the Community of the Sisters of the Church, as an Associate of the CSC and took services for them in their chapel in Glebe. Later returning to Perth, he and Doreen would attend CSC Associates meetings, when Sister Linda Mary visited the Associates there.

When residing in Sydney he and Doreen were much loved members of St Luke's Church, Enmore, and later, if staying in Sydney, he would attend services at St Luke's, Enmore. Bishop Brian was also regularly among the clergy for Evensong and Benediction at Christ Church St Laurence when he lived in Sydney.

Fr Des Cox writes:

In December 1973 I had a holiday job as caretaker of Wollaston Theological College in Perth as the then Warden, Richard Appleby, was away on leave with his wife Elizabeth in Melbourne where she was having their first child. I was awaiting my examination results before being ordained. It was a Saturday. The phone rang it was the Archbishop Geoffrey Sambell: 'Des, I am just ringing to let you know the Kymes are coming to share the lodge with you and their two children. They are a delightful family and you will enjoy living with them. Have a great time, and see you soon'.

Brian, Doreen, Stephen and Hilary arrived from Geraldton where he was the then Dean, and a new journey and friendship in life began for all of us.

Brian was a man of faith, and over his life became a friend, a mentor, a pastor, a priest, a regional bishop, and a colleague working together with me when he became National Director of ABM.

Brian and Doreen were gracious hosts and lived the Christian hospitality to all they met. As mentors in the art of hospitality they were excellent teachers of what a priest should be. Brian's ministry had two streams which inspired ordinands and a changing church for today's world, which could be called, perhaps, *Committed to Christ, the Church and the World* and *Called to Serve: Committed to Change*.

A former Chair of ABM, Bishop Bob Butterss, wrote the book, *Called to Serve: Committed to Change* and *Committed to Christ, the Church and the World* was the theme of a Mission that brought Church leaders from around the world together as the guests of Geoffrey Sambell, the Archbishop of Perth, who invited them to share their Dioceses with us and how we could learn from each other.

Brian fully supported the idea of development work in conjunction with the Australian Government and the work of former ABM staffer Robert Cooper which has now become a large part of ABM's work through Anglicans in Development. The Project Book was introduced by Brian following discussions with staff from the Episcopal Church's United Thank Offering. These things began to change the way of doing Mission and have lasted to this day in the way ABM works.

Brian Kyme had many gifts. I could think of no better way of summing these up than in the words from 'A blessing for a whole person' found in *A Prayer Book for Australia* which end with,

Bless us through and through, that we may delight to serve you to the full, Through Jesus Christ who took our nature to make us whole.

Brian Kyme wrote in his last report for *Partners* in March 2000,

The Church that has had its primary focus on religion is declining and aging. Today people are concerned with finding spirituality that works and a faith that is relevant to their needs. Mission is more than sending missionaries. It is being in partnership with autonomous, Indigenous churches around the world. It is being a full participant with our brothers and sisters in the development of communities and nations. And it begins with an awareness of the needs around us, and not least the needs of our young people. Only an inclusive and comprehensive Board of Mission can fill the bill. The good old days must give way to better new days.