

# PARTNERS

MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN BOARD  
OF MISSION – AUSTRALIA LTD

SPRING/SUMMER 2007  
VOLUME 23 – NUMBER 3  
ABN 18 097 944 717



**ABM** Anglican Board of Mission - Australia  
*Working for Love, Hope & Justice*

# ACPNG – A Dynamic and Living Witness



Linda with Ulch Tapia, National Secretary for the Anglican Health Centre PNG and 2007 Martyrs Appeal Visitor. The two met together in Melbourne recently.

PHOTO: DEBRA SAFFREY-COLLINS

**Front cover photo:** Bevan Boni is a fourth-year mechanic student at St Christopher's Vocational School in Popondetta, PNG. PHOTO: BRAD CHAPMAN

**Welcome to ABM's Partners magazine. You will notice that we have a new layout, but you will still find inspiring stories and news about ABM's work and the work of dedicated Anglicans overseas and in Australia. In this edition we focus particularly on the legacy of the PNG Martyrs.**

I have been privileged to visit our partner church in Papua New Guinea and to spend time in Gona and nearby areas where the martyred ABM missionaries lived and died. Their sacrifice became an inspiration to many who have gone on to work for the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea (ACPNG), including many Australians who served the church faithfully for many years. Today, the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea is building on that foundation and is a dynamic and living witness to the Gospel.

During September, Bishop Michael Hough of Ballarat and the bishops of PNG walked the Kokoda Track to commemorate the PNG Martyrs and to honour the memory of the late Bishop David Hand, himself inspired by the Martyrs to spend his life in ministry in PNG. The legacy of the faithful Christians who died serving others lives on in the living witness of Papua New Guinean Christians who are changing the world today.

Linda Kurti, Executive Director

**They came from Kokoda, they came from the North Coast, they came from Tufi. Some travelled by canoe, some walked for twenty days in a massive walkathon that visited hundreds of chapels. They all came to Popondetta to celebrate the launch of their own Popondota Diocese Home Mission Fund. Close to 900 people gathered to worship together and to give thanks for the donation of over 20,000 Kina (\$AUD 10,000), to the new Fund, by Anglicans within the Diocese.**



900 people came from all quarters of the Diocese to launch the new Home Mission Fund in Popondota Diocese PNG.

PHOTO: BRAD CHAPMAN

Bishop Joe Kopapa, who initiated the Home Mission Fund, looks forward to the Fund helping to support mission and ministry in the far-flung mission areas of the Diocese of Popondota. Currently identified mission districts include Kewansasap, Gorobuna, Musa, Nindewari, and especially Safia, where the absence of the church's presence has led to Islamic evangelists attempting to convert people to Islam and the establishment of a mosque.

As the Diocese of Popondota reaches forward into an exciting chapter of renewed church growth, they still rely heavily on the support of Anglicans in Australia to enable the work of mission in the Diocese. Bishop Joe and the Diocese are asking Australian Anglicans to particularly consider how they might resource the Diocese to conduct missions and evangelism, train and support priests and catechists, provide resources and training for youth and children's ministry, as well as to assist with allowances and training for key Diocesan staff like Accounts Clerk, Evangeline Begin, and Acting Diocesan Secretary, Rev'd Leonard Karonga.

As Partners in God's mission, Anglicans in Australia and PNG are working together to shine divine light into dark places and to manifest love, hope, and justice.

# A School With No Teacher



Local man and primary school teacher, Copelan (left) along with local villagers in Aradap.

PHOTO: BISHOP NATHAN INGEN

**For teachers in Papua New Guinea, Aradap Community School doesn't feature highly in their ranking of preferred postings. There's no bank, no supermarket, no telephone, no library, no roads, and no airstrip. And did we mention that Aradap only had its 'first contact' with tribes outside of the Momasi area in the last 15 years?**

For trained teachers, who mainly come from urban areas where they are used to 'conveniences' like access to health care services for their children, working in a remote community like Aradap is fraught with difficulty. Back in 2003, St Faith's Strathpine in Brisbane, worked with visiting PNG Priest, Rev'd Charlie Roman to help one young man from Aradap to attend Teachers College. Because of his bond to the community, Copelan returned to Aradap after his training and helped to re-open the community school. This photograph of Copelan was taken by Regional Bishop, Nathan Ingen at a recent baptism in the Momasi District.

To read more about the church's work in the Momasi District please see *Partners* Winter Edition 2007 page 8.

# AID ANGLICANS IN DEVELOPMENT

A SUPPLEMENT OF *PARTNERS* – THE MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION – AUSTRALIA LTD

**Welcome to AID – bringing you information about the work of ABM's Community Development Program. AID seeks to educate and raise issues about the work of our Partners in the field of development.**

## What is Community Development?

Community Development is the long-term process whereby people who are marginalised or living in poverty work together to identify their needs, create

change, exert more influence in the decisions which affect their lives and work to improve the quality of their lives, the communities in which they live, and the society of which they are a part.

Accordingly, ABM's Community Development Projects such as health care, water security, agricultural improvement, and education seek to build capacity within local communities so that people will be able to improve their own lives and create sustainable progress.

ABM works in conjunction with its partners – most usually the Anglican Church in a number of overseas countries. Each program is closely monitored both in-country and by ABM project staff working alongside our partner.

## Who Funds It?

Some of our community development programs receive funding from the Australian Government (AUSAID), matching individual giving, whilst other projects are completely funded by ABM and its supporters. All Individual donations are tax-deductible.

## Who Are Our Partners In Community Development?

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

The Episcopal Church of the Philippines

The Church of Melanesia

(projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu)

The Church in the Province of Myanmar

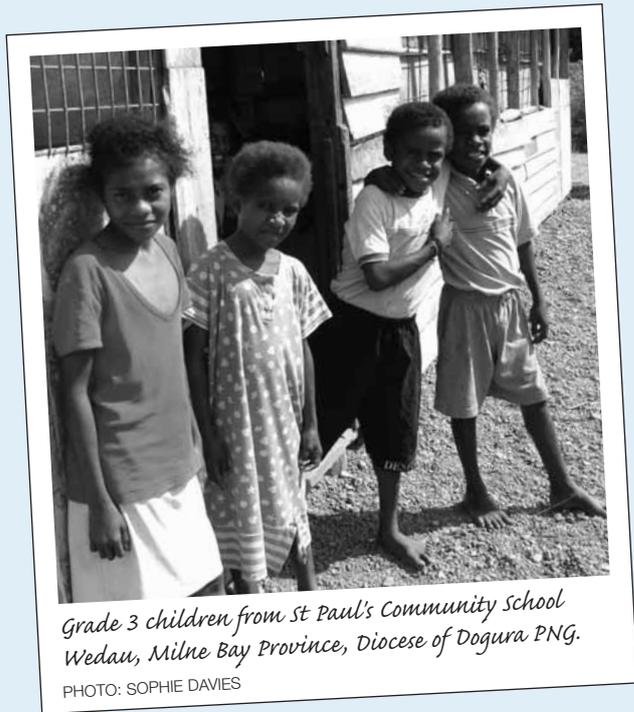
The Anglican Diocese of Singapore  
(projects in Vietnam and Indonesia)

ACFID Code of Conduct: ABM is also a member of ACFID – the Australian Council for International Development and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is a voluntary, self regulatory industry Code. The Code represents the active commitment of overseas aid agencies or Non Government Development Organisations (NGDOs) to conduct their activities with integrity and accountability.

**Read on to discover some of the exciting work Community Development supports.**



**ABM** Anglican Board of Mission - Australia  
*Working for Love, Hope & Justice*



*Grade 3 children from St Paul's Community School  
Wedau, Milne Bay Province, Diocese of Dogura PNG.*

PHOTO: SOPHIE DAVIES

# THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS – MAKING THE GOALS A REALITY

In September 2000, all 189 member states of the United Nations signed on to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – a set of eight targets which aim to halve world poverty by 2015. This year on 07:07:07 campaigners and advocates all over the world marked the halfway point on our road to achieving them. The eight MDGs are:

- Goal 1: **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- Goal 2: **Achieve universal primary education**
- Goal 3: **Promote gender equality and empower women**
- Goal 4: **Reduce child mortality**
- Goal 5: **Improve maternal health**
- Goal 6: **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- Goal 7: **Ensure environmental sustainability**
- Goal 8: **Develop a global partnership for development**

ABM is a committed signatory to the MDGs and works across all eight goals in its work with our Partners.

The following story is an example of how the Anglican Church in PNG is seeking to halt the spread of HIV and Aids and working with Goal number 6:

## To Halt And Begin To Reverse The Spread Of HIV & AIDS – A PNG Possibility?

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is already having significant impact in PNG and the true extent of the disease is still in some areas unknown. On a recent trip to PNG Kirsty Robertson, ABM's Pacific Program Manager,

met Mrs Kabekabe who facilitates many of the ABM funded HIV Train the Train courses throughout PNG. Kirsty found her crouched on the floor of the Anglican Education Division offices surrounded by a pile of HIV-related posters, envelopes and butcher's paper. She was preparing to head off to a remote part of the country to carry out her workshops aimed at spreading correct information about how the disease is spread, prevented and treated. They talked about some of the difficulties of her job: the cultural sensitivities of talking about sexual activity, the gender issues and the remoteness. They talked



*Mrs Kabekabe working to bring about a halt to the spread of HIV and AIDS in PNG.* PHOTO: KIRSTY ROBERTSON

also, about remaining hopeful that PNG could halt the spread of the disease and about Mrs Kabekabe's determination to ensure that no more people are infected with HIV in PNG out of ignorance.

Kirsty said: "Meeting Mrs Kabekabe reminded me that grand plans by politicians affect real people, on the ground all over the world. And the achievement of these goals will depend on the work of people like Mrs Kabekabe and the voice and prayers of all of us who support her."

# DOMINICA ABO – A WOMAN WITH A MISSION

**Building the capacity of the church in PNG to deliver HIV services has been a focal point of ABM funding since 2004 and Dominica's story is a story that illustrates one of the successes of this program.**



*Dominica Abo – Director of Anglicare StopAIDs PNG.*

PHOTO: KIRSTY ROBERTSON

**D**ominica Abo has a new grandson, Samuel, who has quickly become her pride and joy. She is though, no ordinary grandmother, as the Director of Anglicare, StopAids her days are hectic and long.

In 2004 she commenced work with Anglicare StopAids and through an ABM funded mentoring program by 2006 she was the National Director. Last year Dominica travelled to New Zealand for the "Emerging Pacific Leaders Dialogue Group" they were so impressed with her she was given an invitation to travel to Washington for a follow up meeting.

During this time StopAIDs with support from ABM, has grown into one of the leading HIV/AIDS organisations in PNG. In the National Capital District StopAIDs is the largest provider of Voluntary Counselling and Testing with their clinic records showing a 9% infection rate, and an average of 150 people tested per month.

The grass outside the StopAIDs building is filled with young men and women; this is where people come to talk, to be comforted and to find new hope. This is a safe place where people know they will not be judged. StopAIDs now has offices in Popondetta and Hagen, where condoms are distributed, counselling is given and peer education training conducted. In a country where culture often dictates sensitivities in discussing such things, StopAIDs as an Anglicare organization has made extensive inroads.

# ABM RECEIVES \$3 MILLION DOLLARS TO WORK ON PNG PROJECT

**ABM will receive \$AUD 3 million over the next 5 years from AusAID to implement the PNG-Australia Sexual Health Improvement Program (PASHIP).**

**T**hrough the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (ACPNG), the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) has partnerships with the PNG based non government organisations – Anglican Health Services (AHS) and Anglicare Stop AIDS (Anglicare).

These long-standing partnerships are the foundation of the new ABM PASHIP Partnership. The fourth partner, the Albion Street Centre (ASC) located in Surry Hills Sydney, has been recruited to provide

technical assistance in the provision of care and treatment for people with sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Collectively the partnership is known as the **'4 As'**. The aim of the **'4 As'** Partnership is to increase access to integrated, quality Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) services in Waigani, the National Capital District (NCD), Oro Bay, and Oro in PNG.

The seriousness of the twin, synergistic HIV and STI epidemics in PNG, is widely acknowledged; consequently HIV and STIs are urgent health issues. But primary health care services, especially in rural areas, are poorly resourced and as a result, limited STI services are available in most areas. ABM is very excited about this new partnership and the services it will be able to offer people in the future.

**This is a publication of the Anglican Board of Mission – Australia Ltd. You can contact us by email at [info@abm.asn.au](mailto:info@abm.asn.au) or by phone 1300 302 663 (Sydney 9264 1021). For more information see [www.abmission.org](http://www.abmission.org)**



*Caption copy to be supplied with pic. Caption copy to be supplied with pic. Caption copy to be supplied with pic. Caption copy to be supplied with pic.*

**ABM** Anglican Board of Mission - Australia  
**Working for Love, Hope & Justice**

# Meet Rita Simeni

**Rita Simeni grew up in Kokoda, Papua New Guinea. Because she was a girl, she was not given the opportunity to complete her education. But instead of following cultural norms, Rita left home in 1978 to work with the Sisters of the Visitation in PNG. In 1989 she departed the Sisters to study theology at Nungalinya College in Darwin. On returning home, the church was confronted with the question of what to do with a theologically trained woman!**

And so she was sent out to work in the Diocese of Popondota in the early 1990s, and discovered that everywhere she went, women were thirsty for information and education. So Rita began educating; with courses in literacy, nutrition, prayer, HIV and AIDS, women's issues, and many other topics. Soon she had designed the Women in Ministry Program.

Today it continues to grow from strength to strength. In the past 12 months, 3 new centres have opened in Popondetta Diocese. These centres offer services ranging from the care of orphans and the disabled, to literacy classes and basic theological training. Rita Simeni believes in serving the weakest and neediest areas of the Diocese, often several days walk or dingy journey from the nearest road. Communities where Rita has run workshops and training in the past are now calling for Women in Ministry to establish a permanent presence, to empower all members of the community with the skills and teachings needed to grow a healthy, harmonious, and sustainable society. While established to care for the needs of the



Women in Ministry Chaplain, Archdeacon Jasper Drowari (left) from Asigi Parish with Rita Simeni (right).

PHOTO: BRAD CHAPMAN.

marginalised and the powerless, through their witness of love and humility, Women in Ministry is winning the respect of community and church elders, both male and female and is a fine example of the work that is being done through the support of ABM's Church to Church Program.

# From the Church of Melanesia – A Woman Such As This

**Picture a young woman standing up to the rulers and governors of her society, telling them how decisions should be made and how civil life should be arranged. Now picture this young woman in the context of the Solomon Islands where the role of women is perceived as to perform all the domestic duties and not to be involved in decision-making process.**

The image may seem unlikely, even ridiculous. That is until you meet Daisy Dakatia a young Melanesian woman who works as a Community Development Officer for the Inclusive Communities Program. The Inclusive Communities Program, or ICP, is one of the ways ABM is helping the Church of Melanesia to take positive action in the aftermath of the ethnic tensions which shook the so called 'happy isles' and necessitated the Australian led 'Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands' (RAMSI).

The Inclusive Communities Program is a grass-roots targeted community building workshop aimed at including women and young people in participatory decision making, communication and community conflict resolution. The Program has been conducted by the Church of Melanesia throughout the Solomon Islands with great success – in the past few years, with the help of AusAID, 120 workshops have been conducted, reaching over 5,000 people.

Daisy Dakatia has been working for the program for the past two years. In that time she has seen churches, villages, and communities transformed by the simple but powerful decision-making models and self-worth activities that are taught by the program. While she admits to feelings of enormous trepidation when initially approaching village chiefs and communities leaders in order to set up the workshops; by all accounts Daisy is a gifted communicator and skilled presenter. A recent workshop that she organised in Malaita led to the ICP being invited back to run training for the entire Council of Chiefs in Malaita and further training in an area where the people have been feuding for the past two years.

The Inclusive Communities Program has been such a success that it is now moving into a more advanced stage in the Solomon Islands, and talks are underway for ABM to assist the church in taking the program to Vanuatu



Daisy Dakatia, Community Development Officer, Church of Melanesia. PHOTO: BRAD CHAPMAN.

## ABM's Lent Material

Thank you to all our supporters around Australia for completing the questionnaire about ABM's Lent Resources. An amazing 25% of parishes responded. We found your comments particularly helpful, and some of your suggestions have been acted on already. The use of the ABM Lent resources seems to be steadily increasing, so with this in mind and in light of Ash Wednesday falling on February 6th, we will have the 2008 Liturgical resources to you before Christmas. The DVDs with the six movie stories about some of our partners will be sent to you separately in January – hot off the press – with the last of these stories to be filmed in the Philippines in December.

## POSITIONS VACANT

### Is God Calling You? Our Partners are looking for the following Personnel to assist in their Ministry:

- Pacific Theological College Suva, Fiji – Librarian
- Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
  - National Development Manager
  - Doctors – needed urgently to work in 3 Anglican Health Centres
  - Assistant Principal Newton Theological College.

If you would like to know more please contact the Assistant to the Executive Director, Karin Schrooder, by phone 1300 302 663 or email [gks@abm.asn.au](mailto:gks@abm.asn.au)

## Your Gift to ABM

If the stories you have read in this magazine have inspired you – you may like to give a gift to ABM for the ongoing work of our Partners – please complete the following form or give online at [www.abmission.org](http://www.abmission.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to give:

\$50  \$100  \$200  \$500  \$1,000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift to support Australian Indigenous Programs  
(not tax deductible)

I would like my gift to support Overseas Programs for ABM's  
Church to Church Program  not tax deductible  
or Community Development Program  tax deductible

Credit card details:  Visa  MasterCard  Diners  Amex

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NO.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Expiry \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CCV No. 

--	--	--	--

(The last 3 digits on the back of your credit card – 4 digits on the front of Amex cards).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques should be made out to ABM – Australia Ltd

**Please send your gift to:** ABM – Australia Ltd, Locked Bag Q4005,  
Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230

# ABM'S CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR 2007 — SELLING FAST!

4 new designs for 2007 still at 2006 prices! All cards come in packs of 10.



**Annunciation**  
**\$7.50 PACK OF 10**

*May the love and hope of Christmas abide with you throughout the New Year*



**Angels over Bethlehem**  
**\$7.50 PACK OF 10**

*May your Christmas be filled with wonderful surprises*



**Madonna and Child**  
**\$7.50 PACK OF 10**

*May the faith and hope of Christmas light your way the whole year through*



**Peace on Earth**  
**\$7.50 PACK OF 10**

*May you have Peace and Joy at Christmas and in the New Year*

## ABM'S BARGAIN BOX Special offer on cards from last year. Get in quick — first in first served.

**ALL \$5.00 per pack**



**Dove, Tree, Gift and Candle**

*Wishing you the gifts of Peace and Happiness this Christmas and throughout the coming year*



**Virgin and Child**

*May the love and hope of Christmas abide with you throughout the New Year*



**The Herald Angel**

*May the promise of the First Christmas Shine through to reassure us that love will prevail and that peace will reign on earth*



**Nativity**

*May the joy and peace of Christmas Remain with you throughout the year*



**Three Kings**

*Rejoice in the Blessings of Christmas*



**Welcome to Scarlet Alice** – who was born to Lisa McMurray – ABM's Effectiveness and Learning Officer on September 25th weighing 3.06 kg. Scarlet is the third child for Lisa and Bill. We hear that Noah (aged 7) and Ginger (aged 4) are thrilled with their new baby sister!



**Welcome to Karin Schrooder** who joined ABM in early September as our new Executive Assistant. She has a strong background in corporate administration and was previously employed in the legal sector. Karin is originally from Mauritius and is a fluent French speaker.

**Farewell to Wendy Suma** who has left ABM to take on a new challenge at the Wayside Chapel in Sydney, where she is coordinating a program to provide services for people with disabilities. Wendy made a great contribution to our team over the past two years, and we wish her well in her new role.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Christabel Oliouou:** ABM supporters will be saddened to hear that Mrs Christabel Oliouou has died after a very short illness. Christabel, who visited Australia during Lent this year, was the Mothers Union Literacy Coordinator for the Solomon Islands. Working in this voluntary position for more than 10 years, Christabel was responsible for bringing the gift of Literacy to countless women and girls. We were honoured to have known her and extend to her family our deepest sympathy in their loss.

**The Reverend David Evans** died in July in Western Australia. David and his wife Cecilia served with ABM at Holy Name School Dogura PNG from 1999 to 2002. David's ministry to the students and community was greatly appreciated. To Cecilia and their family – we offer our sincerest condolences.

**Canon Ian Stuart** died on the afternoon of 21 June a few days short of his 79th birthday. Ian spent a large part of his Ministry (28 years) in Papua New Guinea in various parishes including Eroro, Boroko,

and St John's Port Moresby and a number of years as Registrar.

On his return, Ian served with great pastoral skill as Acting Rector of St James', King Street, Sydney, followed by Muswellbrook (Diocese of Newcastle) and Cremorne (Sydney) as Rector and in his retirement to the people of Byron Bay and surrounding areas in the Diocese of Grafton. ABM also extends to Ian's sister – Sister Maree of Community of the Holy Name, Cheltenham, Victoria – our deepest sympathy. Ian was a wonderful priest and friend to all he met.

## AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN TOUR OF KOREA



*Children from Ulsan Parish in Pusan Diocese. Photo: Gary Harman.*

It's 50 years since the Rev'd David Cobbett went to Korea with ABM, from the Diocese of Newcastle and built a church with money given by Australian Anglicans.

Canon Gary Harman, Rector of Singleton and Missionary Canon for the Diocese of Newcastle and Brother Christopher John S.S.F. General Secretary of the Society of St Francis, together with Westminster Tours are organizing a tour of South Korea which is designed to provide a relaxed holiday and an experience of culture and church.

The tour will include:

- worship at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Nicholas in Seoul.
- Visits to Korean religious communities and some of the social and evangelistic programs of the church in Pusan.
- Discovering the unique history and culture of Korea. Including a visit to Jeju Island

Depart Sydney: 10 May 2008.

Return: 22 May 2008.

Cost: \$5,585.00 includes excellent accommodation, airfares, all breakfasts, some lunches, some dinners and all transportation.

**For more information contact Johanne Kenny telephone( 02 )9232 1711 or e-mail on [johanne@etravel.com.au](mailto:johanne@etravel.com.au)**