

Partners

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

What is our Spiritual Footprint?

I was privileged to have the opportunity to visit our Partner church, the Episcopal Church of the Philippines (ECP), in January/February of this year. Each year, ABM staff visit our partners for a variety of reasons – to monitor and evaluate projects, to plan new initiatives with our partners, and to discuss ways in which our relationship can grow and develop to benefit both churches. I travelled with a group of young people from Perth, and the Archbishop of Perth, to learn first-hand from our brother and sister Anglicans what life is like in the mountains of the Philippines.

From ABM's point of view, a partnership visit is a chance to learn more about how Christians in other places live out God's mission in their own context. This helps us as Australian Christians to reflect on what God's mission means for us here in our own culture and context. For instance, while in the Philippines I spoke with ECP Prime Bishop Soliba about the ways in which the church was responding

*From the Executive Director **Linda Kurti***



to the needs of the poor. The level of poverty is much greater in the Philippines than here in Australia, and the disparity between the very rich and the very poor in the Philippines is visible and stark. This led me to ask myself a number of questions. What can we learn from the ECP about the call of the church to serve the poor in our own country? How do we as a church speak out against injustice in our own country? How can we as partners work together to share the Gospel, here in Australia and in the Philippines? More tellingly, how do we address injustices in other countries, such as the Philippines, which assist us in Australia to live our comfortable lives?

I spoke with one church worker who suggested that if ABM really wanted to assist the poor in the Philippines we could speak to Australian mining companies whose operations impact adversely upon local communities. How do we as Christians in Australia respond to such a challenge?

Serving God through mission is much more than sending money overseas to help people in need. It requires us as Christians to consider how our lives impact on others, and to ask the question – what would Jesus have us do? We hear much in the media these days about ecological footprints and global climate change, but how does our spiritual footprint and our global moral climate impact on those who are vulnerable?

Linda

Linda Kurti, Executive Director

Pictured on front cover: The children of Tsendiap village go to school at David Hand Community School and their health is looked after by the Jeremy Ashton Health sub-centre – both run by the Anglican Church with the support of ABM. Photo: Brad Chapman.



Linda Kurti and Archbishop Roger Herft get their hands dirty working on a water project in the Philippines while on this year's ABM Youth Pilgrimage. Photo: Brad Chapman.

The Kids Next Door. Children in Poverty

There would be very few people on earth who are untouched by the sadness associated with child poverty. Children elicit from many of us a response of joy, affection and the desire to protect and nurture. The cover photo on this issue of *Partners* is a classic example of a child, eyes wide to the possibilities of life, who may or may not flourish. That question will be decided largely by the poverty of the community that child lives in.

Children do not create poverty. In fact children are – far too often – the powerless victims of a world that values human life based on its financial productivity. Many communities in the developing world are ruthlessly exploited by powerful forces who do not respect human dignity – let alone God’s call for love, hope and justice. As a result everyone in those communities suffers, particularly the children.

In many cases the resources needed to make the difference in a community’s life are readily accessible – but financially and organisationally out of reach. That’s where ABM and our Partners step in to assist. Through our Water, Health, Education, Training and Ministry

Projects we are often able to bridge the gap between despair and hope. Sometimes between life and death.

ABM usually doesn’t concentrate

on programs directly targeted at children because we recognise that every child’s health is directly related to the health of their family and community. If we, with our Partners bring water to a community, the levels of health, income, recreation – and happiness –

increase in many factors – like self-esteem – that dictate the future health of the children.

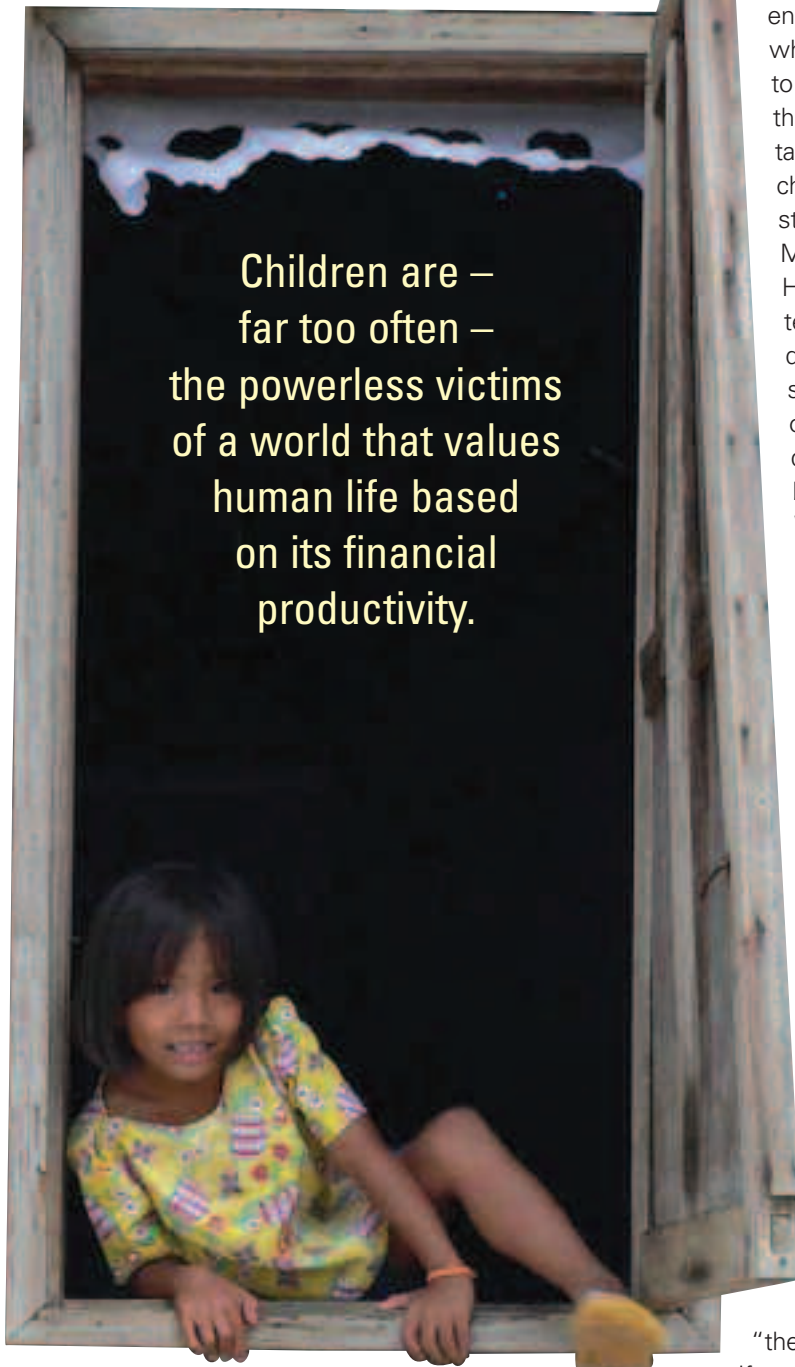
The overwhelming majority of parents wish to see their children inherit a future full of hope. ABM’s projects are carefully targeted and managed to ensure that those who need assistance to make the most of their own gifts and talents will get that chance. The brutal statistics from the Make Poverty History campaign tell us that a child dies every three seconds as a result of poverty. This does not have to be the case. We are making a difference but we can do more.

As we launch our appeal for children in poverty in 2007, we do so in response to the call of Jesus to “love your neighbour”. No Australian would sit back and watch their neighbour’s kids sicken or starve without doing something to help. The Gospel call is to see all of humanity as our neighbours. Can we think of all those children in need as,

“the kids next door”?

If we can, we can change the world. For the better.

Donations to our projects and appeals can be made using the form on page 11.



increase. If, through community training, the families also gain skills that can be used to gain employment, again there is a positive

BOMBINGS AND BIBLES

The Anglican Church in the Southern Philippines

On January 10, 2007 a series of bomb blasts in Cotabato, Kidapawan, and General Santos City took the lives of seven people and injured 27 others. To many of us in Australia it was just another news headline. To members of the Anglican Church in the Southern Philippines it was just another day in the years of protracted conflict that have claimed so many lives and livelihoods, including those of church members.

Mindanao, with a population of 16 million, is home to a quarter of the Philippines population. Closer to Malaysia than it is to Manila, Christians and Muslims have lived side by side for hundreds of years. The Anglican Church has been present in Mindanao since 1905. Under its 'no altar against another altar' policy, Anglicanism quickly took root, expanding in the mountainous and inaccessible parts of the island where no other denomination was established. The missionaries brought the light of the gospel and established churches, schools and health facilities.

From the 1970s radical Islamist groups, including terrorist organisations like Abu Sayyaf, emerged and began creating trouble. Through the years of conflict, the Anglican Church has maintained excellent relations with their Muslim neighbours. Each day, through its hospitals, education facilities, community development, and evangelism programs, the church reaches out to everyone in the community, serving Christian and non-Christian with the love of Christ. The Church is a leader in interfaith dialogue both at the provincial and local level. Bishop Danilo Bustamante says that "everybody is tired of war".

Currently, nine of the ten poorest provinces in the Philippines are in Mindanao. The foundations of a just and lasting peace will be built upon trust and sustainable development

for all. Faith communities will play a key role in this process.

Though small in size and dramatically under-resourced, the Diocese of the Southern Philippines is making Herculean efforts worthy of our recognition and our prayers. The diocese's thirty local church units and ninety-seven congrega-

tions, spread over vast and difficult terrain, are serviced by just twenty three clergy. Through ABM's overseas program the church in Australia is assisting the Diocese in both its Evangelism and its Community Development activities. Last year, guitars were purchased and training provided in many Deaneries thanks to a Contemporary Music in Worship project led by the Diocese. Post-harvest facilities were constructed in agricultural communities. ABM is currently helping the church to

"It is when times are hardest that people need God the most."



Lina Magallanes, ABM South East Asia Program Manager, prepares to "go bush" to monitor our projects. Photo: Brad Chapman.



Children, such as these at St Thomas Parish, Banga, benefit from both Community Development and Children's Ministry projects. Photo: Steve Daughtry.

run Sunday Schools and Vacation Church Schools (April-May) all over Mindanao. We are also supporting a multimedia project specifically aimed at helping children understand the Bible.

In 2007 ABM is asking churches in Australia to help the Diocese with its plan to provide Theological Education by Extension to key lay people in the Diocese as a way of assisting the drastically over-worked clergy. Funds are also sought to continue the provision of post-harvest facilities as well as clean water systems to needy communities.

Though stretched thin and worked hard already, the church feels a strong missional call to expand its reach as it works to heal the spiritual and social traumas in Mindanao. There are plans to open five new mission areas in major centres where the church is not currently represented. As one deacon observed: "It is when times are hardest that people need God the most."

Brad Chapman

Last chance for your very own Blooming miracle!



If you have admired it in a friend's garden, or forgot to order one last year, now is the time to order your Auxiliary Rose "A Blooming Miracle". If you have not seen one, be assured it is a

very beautiful, sweet-smelling rose. This Rose was especially grown for the Auxiliary and the name was chosen from 810 entries in a competition held last year. Delivery of the Rose will be early in July, so use the order form and get in quick. We have a huge number of orders already and there will be only 1,000 roses grown this year. And remember a percentage of the cost of the rose goes to ABM for ministry with our Partners. Don't miss out.

Group Order Form

YES, I would like to order _____ (minimum group order of 10) of the brand new ABM Auxiliary Rose, 'A Blooming Miracle' at only \$20 per rose.

Delivery is free for orders of 10 or more to your address. Why not get a group of your friends or family together and order 10 or more? We'll deliver them to your house and the group can pick them up from you.

I would also like to make a donation of \$_____ to the work of the Anglican Board of Mission (optional).

My details:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my cheque/money order (made out to ABM) for \$ _____ **or**

Please debit my credit card \$ _____ Visa MasterCard Diners Amex

Name on card _____

Card No.

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CCV No.

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

Card Expiry _____ / _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Please send to: ABM Auxiliary Rose Orders, Locked Bag Q4005, QVB NSW 1230 or Fax to: 02 9261 3560

Reconciliation

The Week of Prayer for Reconciliation this year is from Sunday 27 May to Sunday 3 June but any time is a good time to think about what reconciliation means and why we value it.

When ABM was founded in 1850, one of its aims was to support ministry to the Indigenous peoples of Australia. In the early history of Australia Indigenous rights to land were pushed aside by the early settlers and those who resisted were often

– and as equal recipients of God’s loving sacrifice.

ABM has been part of the church’s chequered history of relationship with Indigenous people for the last 150 years, and while we own our mistakes we have

The Macquarie Dictionary defines reconcile as:

1. *to render no longer opposed.*
2. *to win over to friendliness.*

ministers, one of whom is from PNG. ABM also supports theological education for Indigenous people in culturally appropriate ways.

Signs of hope abound. But the questions remain. Australia has had a long period of prosperity largely based on mining resources in the ground or farming on the land. The Land Rights issue asks, “Who does land really belong to”. Land is the spiritual heart of Indigenous culture and as Indigenous people embrace the Christian faith, the political and spiritual issues bounce off each other, hopefully leading us towards justice and true friendship.

What does the future hold for reconciliation? Hopefully we can work together in partnerships of mutual respect and address any areas of injustice. To this end ABM, each year, offers resources for Reconciliation. Although these resources have recently been sent to your parish or school you can get extra copies of the Reconciliation poster and prayers by contacting ABM

(details on page 11). We also urge every Anglican to pray during the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation between May 27 and June 3.

To discuss issues relating to ABM’s Indigenous program please contact our Indigenous Program Manager, John Algar.

killed. Jesus suffered similarly, in that he was unjustly killed by the dominant power. Although innocent he was crucified, but through His death and resurrection we are offered a new life, reconciled to God. Recognizing the injustice towards Indigenous people some in the colonial church spoke up for them as humans worthy of respect

also learnt from them – and from the Indigenous people we hope to serve. In 2007 ABM’s work in Australia is predominantly supporting Indigenous ministers who are working in their own communities to bring the Gospel promise of love, hope and justice. We also support two non-Indigenous



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Jan Jones and Barney Marrot. Photo by Brad Chapman.

A Small Moment Of Personal Reconciliation

She was playing the organ with her eyes closed.

He came up to her and said "excuse me lady, are you blind?"

She explained that seeing the light through the stained glass window over the organ she was overcome by a feeling of joy, so shut her eyes as she played. He was intrigued so the conversation continued. From that simple beginning of making an approach to seek understanding, a wonderful relationship grew.

Jesus, help us to have the directness and interest of a child so that we may build relationships between black and white (Indigenous and non-Indigenous), old and young, rich and poor.

Reconciliation – An Ongoing Celebration of Hope

A commitment to reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples of Australia is one vital way in which we can keep the central message of Easter and Pentecost alive in an ongoing way throughout the whole year. It is a message of the new life, hope and opportunity that comes as the gift of God in the risen life of Christ, now present with us in the gift of God's Spirit. To be faithful to God and God's way in the world, we can do no other than to live this reality out, in the first place, on our own doorstep. We must fight to overcome the injustice, the lack of compassion and the denial of truth about the past, which fuels the present situation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia. Let us commit ourselves both to prayer, and to the action that prayer demands, to ensure peace with justice in our own land. To renew a measure of hope for our Indigenous sisters and brothers, we must be agents of hope.

Bishop John McIntyre – Bishop of Gippsland

POSITIONS VACANT – IS GOD CALLING YOU?

The following are URGENTLY required by the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea:

- MANAGER – FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (Vacant – needed urgently), Anglican National Office – Lae, Morobe Province – to work and train local level staff, assist in bringing various MYOB & Excel accounts up to date, and provide support to the current national office.
- POPONDOTA DIOCESAN SECRETARY (Vacant – needed urgently), Town of Popondetta – Oro Province
The Diocese continues to search for an able administrator (Word/Excel) – preferably also with some financial background to support the new Bishop – Joe Kopapa. To take up this important position within the largest of our Anglican Diocese in PNG. Bishop Joe has indicated that he would also be open to suggestions (at this time) of short-term mission people to 'get things on track' should they be capable.
- NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (Vacant – needed urgently) – location flexible/TBA
Following on from the contribution of John & Della Rea who have returned to England – this position will be heavily involved with the Church Partnerships Program (CPP), working closely with the Health & Education sectors to refine current processes/reporting and build capacity across ACPNG.
- QUALIFIED WATER ENGINEER (Vacant – needed urgently) – to help install reliable water supplies for the benefit of Anglican health and education services, and the communities they serve, in remote rural and island areas.
- DOCTORS – Anglican Health Services (Vacant – needed urgently) to work in our 3 Anglican Health Centres, to contribute to the training of staff, and undertake periodic health 'patrols' to the surrounding rural communities.

The Church of Melanesia is looking for:

- HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AT SELWYN COLLEGE – Senior classes in Maths, English, Geography and Science.

Further information please contact: Wendy Suma, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director
ABM, Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230. Phone (02) 9264 1021 or email wrs@abm.asn.au

Faraway So Close

Go searching for Ilu Mamusi in your atlas of Papua New Guinea and the chances are you will not find such a listing. In fact, it is likely that when your atlas was printed no one outside of the Mamusi district knew that the area and its people existed at all. The first reported contact with the Mamusi people, dwelling in dense forest under the shadow of the Bismarck ranges in PNG's Highlands, occurred in the early 1990's. This recent 'first contact' is hardly remarkable in the Highlands of PNG which up until 50 years ago were largely un-penetrated, and even today consist of hundreds of thousands of people living in isolated villages unreachable by roads and modern communication. This is the heartland of the Anglican Church's ministry in the Diocese of Aipo Rongo.

Apart from curious foreign anthropologists who trek in and out with their cameras and their notepads, the constant presence amongst the tribes of the Mamusi district since first-contact has been the Melanesian Brothers. These black-clad followers of Jesus live among the local people helping them to learn Tok Pigin, the lingua franca across all of the Highlands, and teaching them about the Good News of God's salvation. Growing their own food and building their own shelters, the cost of the Melanesian Brothers' front-line missionary work is a pittance for transportation and medical costs but their returns can never be measured in earthly terms alone.

Across the Jimi River from Ilu lies Kerina Evangelist College, situated five days' walk from the nearest road and connected to the outside world by a temperamental 30-year-old radio. It is here that men from across the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea are trained in the Bible and Christian Formation, helping them to become



A Melanesian Brother with two of the new Anglicans at the first confirmation service and celebration at Ilu Mamusi, PNG Highlands. Photo: Bishop Nathan Ingen

Through the Anglican Board of Mission, the Australian Anglican Church is enabling the cutting edge mission currently underway in the PNG Highlands.

Evangelists, unpaid leaders of local church communities. Though officially a Christian country, many villages in PNG lack the presence of a trained Christian leader or even someone with the literacy training to be able to read the pages of the Buk Baibel. Evangelists like John Kuloi, now training at Kerina College, will return to their villages with sound Biblical understanding and a following of tribespeople eager to understand more about the story of Jesus. Such leaders are vital to building upon the

shallow Christianity that can see people worshipping in church on Sunday and consulting with the witch doctor on Monday.

Through the Anglican Board of Mission, the Australian Anglican Church is enabling the cutting edge mission currently underway in the PNG Highlands. Support for PNG born missionaries who understand their own country and culture: the Melanesian Brothers, the Priests and Evangelists, the teachers at Kerina College, Bishop Nathan Ingen (who recently confirmed the first believer in Ilu Mamusi), means that every day people are hearing for the first time the message of Jesus and every day people are understanding anew the impact of the Gospel in their lives.

Brad Chapman & Stephen Daughtry

The (ABM) Pilgrimage Continues...

Whenever we are able, ABM seeks to run Pilgrimages that allow our supporters to find the heart of mission – and the heart of God. In January, a group of young people from Perth Diocese were accompanied to the Philippines by Archbishop Roger Herft and ABM staff, Lina Magallanes, Brad Chapman and Linda Kurti. They visited the Episcopal Church – an ABM Partner. These are just a few quotes from the participants.

Western Australia and the Diocese of Perth can be truly proud of our youth. True pilgrims who let the places and communities disturb their inner journey, encouraging questions that led to self-discovery – examples of what it means to be a partner in mission rather than a propagandist in faith-marketing. As one village elder said: “These young ones are an example of living water – refreshing and renewing – pointing us to the source.”

Archbishop Roger Herft

Being there certainly makes you realise just how real the situation is and to see that there is a lot of work that needs to be done there yet to get the basics to these people. They definitely redefine the word ‘community’ and a lot of them are

a lot more hospitable than we are a lot of the time. I still find it amazing how passionately they live their lives incorporating both Christ and culture to make their community a better place.

Stanley Dunwell

Jesus gave his followers a mandate to care for the poor and those in need. In the Philippines we saw the tangible ways in which the Anglican Church there, supported by ABM, is living out the call of Jesus to serve. The people of the ECP inspired us to think about how we too, back here in Australia, can also answer the call of Jesus to serve. The people of the ECP are changing lives in the Philippines. All of us who travelled together, reflected together, ate together, and spent long hours on bumpy dirt roads together, have returned with new insight and inspiration to make a similar contribution here in Australia.

Linda Kurti

I was not prepared for the hospitality of everyone we met on the trip. I was not prepared to see older people always allowing us to get to the food first, for the at-first-shy and then grinning smiles of children everywhere we went, for the gifts we were presented with in each of the places we visited, the whole-hearted giving in spite of the obvious material poverty. I was not prepared for the sense of pride and the immense feeling of responsibility that has stayed with me, now that I am back at my desk here at ABM.

Lina Magallanes

ABM and the ECP have an amazing Partnership! Reciprocal empowerment you might call it. Preparing my first presentation (back in Australia) made me realise the impact of the CBDP (Community Based Development Program) and remember the difference that we make in each other’s lives.

Claire Barrett-Leonard

*Pilgrim Claire Barrett-Leonard and new friend, Filipino student Jihian Bugnosen, carrying pig manure to fertilise the mahogany seedlings for planting at the Banguitan community watershed.
Photo: Brad Chapman.*




A Woman's World

ABM is pleased to announce the release of the DVD story to accompany the Auxiliary Project for 2007. The story, entitled, "Water from the Well", tells the story of Magda, an Egyptian woman whose life is changed forever through her encounter with the Women's Centres run by our Partner, the Anglican Church of Egypt. This moving and inspiring story, made by ABM staffer, Steve Daughtry, brings you face to face with the reality of poverty and grace. Make sure your auxiliary group gets the chance to see the DVD – and share it with as many people as possible. This is the living face of mission in our world. If you haven't got a branch of the ABM Auxiliary near you please call us for a copy.



IN SEARCH OF THE LOST



Richard Carter's book, "In Search of the Lost" is now available to order from ABM. Staff member, Wendy Suma, read the book and loved it. She writes:

"Since the 1940s ABM has celebrated the lives of the PNG Martyrs. The list of martyrs continues to be added to, and in 2003 our partner church in the Solomon Islands, the Church of Melanesia, lost seven members of the Melanesian Brotherhood. This Anglican religious order is well known throughout the Asia Pacific region for their simple prayerful life and their work amongst poor villagers in Solomon Islands, PNG and the Philippines.

This book is both a biography of the seven young brothers who were murdered and an autobiography of Richard Carter as he waits and prays with the brotherhood. The insight that you will gain into the lives of these courageous young men and the agony of those affected by this tragedy is life changing. This book is well written and I couldn't put it down."

Copies may be ordered for \$30 with \$7 p&p. Contact the office at the address on page 11.

Solomon Islands Appeal Update



The Church of Melanesia's (COM) ship, The Southern Cross, delivers supplies to Tsunami victims. Photo courtesy of Church of Melanesia.

As of the 10th of May ABM had received \$34,890.05 in donations to assist the people of the Solomon Islands affected by the Tsunami.

The Church of Melanesia (COM) has been hard at work assessing and responding to the

emergency. We have sent the first part of the money raised and it is being used to purchase essential needs for families who have been made homeless by the tragedy. As we send further funds the COM will make sure that assistance gets to those who need it most. Thanks to all who gave to and prayed for our Partners in the Solomons.

Give a Gift Today!

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO ABM

Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230 or fax (02) 9261 3560
Donations can also be made by calling: 1300 302 663 or Sydney 9264 1021
Or, you can give an on-line secure donation at www.abmission.org

ABM's Indigenous Program*

- I would like to give a non tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM's Indigenous Leadership Program (Nungalinga and Wontulp-Bi-Buya Colleges).
- I would like to give a non tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM's Indigenous Ministry Program supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. *(See pages 6 and 7 for story)*

ABM's Evangelism Program*

- I would like to give a non tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM for the work of the Evangelism Program in Papua New Guinea, Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Solomon Islands and Egypt.
- I would like to give a non tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM's Program for the provision of Theological Education by Extension Programs in the Southern Philippines. *(See pages 4 and 5 for story)*
- I would like to give a non tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM to support the Anglican Church in PNG in the Highlands. *(See page 8 for story)*

ABM's Community Development Program*

- I would like to give a tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM for Community Development Programs in the Philippines, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Myanmar through the Anglican Trust Fund for Development.
- I would like to give a tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM's Children in Poverty Appeal. *(See page 3 for story)*
- I would like to give a tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM's Community Development Program for the Southern Philippines. *(See pages 4 and 5 for story)*

Emergency Appeal

- I would like to give a tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM's Solomon Islands Appeal. *(See page 10 for story)*

ABM's General Funds

- I would like to give a non tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to ABM's General Funds.

For Direct Debit Giving

- I would like to arrange to give to my above nominated program through regular giving by **joining ABM's Direct Giving (Direct Debit Program)**. Please send me the form, as per my address below.

Deferred Gift

- I am interested/wish to include ABM in my Will – please send me ABM's Bequest information.

Associates and the Auxiliary of ABM

- I am interested in knowing about the ABM Associates Program please send me more information.
- Please send me information about the ABM Auxiliary.

Please find my details below:

Name _____
Title First Name Surname

Address _____
 _____ P/code _____

Tel: (BH) _____

Tel: (AH) _____

Email: _____

- I am happy to have my name acknowledged publicly as a donor to the work of ABM (we will not include amounts given).

Please accept my gift of \$_____

- Cheque/money order enclosed (made out to ABM – Australia)

OR

- Please debit my credit card \$_____
- Visa MasterCard Amex Diners

Name on card _____
(Minimum card gift \$10)

Card No.

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Signature _____ Date _____

***GIFTS:** Gifts to ABM will be applied to the support of programs that include, but are not restricted to the ones described in this mailing.
PRIVACY: We collect personal information to send you a receipt, provide our newsletter and invite you to donate to ABM's work. You may have access to your personal information which we hold. ABM does not sell, rent or exchange personal information with any other organisation. Once you have given to ABM you will be entered onto our database and receive regular updates and information about ABM's work. Please let us know if you do not wish to receive any further material. A full privacy policy is available on request.



Delegates at the conference. Photo: Steve Daughtry.

ABM Committees meet in Sunny Queensland

ABM committees across the country do fantastic work for God's mission throughout the year. Our national Committees Conference was recently held at Kawana Waters Parish on the Sunshine Coast. It was a very positive event and wonderful to hear stories of hope from around the country. Many thanks to Fr Kev and Judy Lewis who, with the assistance of their wonderful congregation, hosted the event in such a generous and professional way. If you're an ABM supporter keen to get more involved contact us so we can put you in touch with your local committee. Help us spread the great news about Anglican Mission!

PEOPLE TALK

The New Primate of Jerusalem and the Middle East announced

“Christ’s mission is mine today”

These striking words were said by the new President Bishop of the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East the Most Revd Mouneer Hanna Anis at his recent investiture in All Saints Cathedral, Cairo.



New Primate of Jerusalem and the Middle-East, Bishop Mouneer, with his wife, Nancy. Photo: Don Brice.

The service, conducted in Arabic and English, opened with the entry procession led by diocesan and other clergy. This was soon followed by a piercing ululation and the drums of the Sudanese congregations in the Cathedral as they began singing the first of several vibrant Sudanese songs.

The retiring President Bishop Handford then invited the bishops present to join him in prayer around Bishop Mouneer. The congregation shared in a time of silence which was punctuated by four short prayers for the President Elect:

“may your mind always think of Christ”
 “may your lips always speak of Christ”
 “may your hands always be ready to bless and to heal in the name of Christ”
 “may your feet take you to places where the gospel of Christ must be heard”

After extensive expressions of thanks to those who had sent messages of greeting and support, the newly invested President Bishop said that “the world today, especially the Middle East, is in need of Christ’s mission. This ministry was clearly stated by Jesus at Nazareth when he said:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”

After reading this scripture the Bishop said: *“I am committed to bridge building and peacemaking.”*

The service concluded with the pronouncing of God’s blessing upon the Diocese and Province. This was rendered all the more poignant by the

final drama which was an unprecedented downpour of rain as the heavens opened on the newest Primate of the Anglican Communion, something that did not lack for symbolism in a region where rain is so very rare and precious.

Australian Anglicans will remember Bishop Mouneer’s visit to Australia as a guest of ABM. The 2007 ABM Auxiliary project supports Women’s Centres in the Diocese of Egypt.

(Courtesy of Anglican Communion News Service)

Bishop Jim Leftwich, assistant bishop of North Queensland and support bishop to Indigenous communities across Australia, is very ill. Please pray for Bishop Jim, his family and community.

New Staff Members



Chris Peters: ABM welcomes to our staff a new member of the Community Development Program, Chris Peters. Chris comes to ABM after having spent several years

working as a volunteer in the Philippines and Swaziland through Australian Volunteers International. In between volunteer placements, Chris undertook post-graduate studies in development at the University of New South Wales and worked as a case officer with the Refugee Review Tribunal in Sydney. Having now begun work in the Australian development sector with ABM, Chris anticipates using his volunteer and public service experience to further develop ABM’s office management procedures. Chris will also contribute towards broader program co-ordination across ABM.



John Algar: Hello my name is John Algar. I have recently commenced with ABM as Indigenous Programs Manager. I have spent the past ten years working with Aboriginal

communities in education administration. I have worked at Numbulwar in Arnhemland and at Warakurna in Central Australia. I am also doing some theological studies part-time. I remember many years ago wondering, “What is the Anglican Church doing in the area of Indigenous ministry and involvement with communities”. Now I find myself working in this area. I hope I can contribute something to the ongoing work of reconciliation, relationship building and learning about each other’s cultures and faith.

A New Bishop of Jerusalem

“Jesus has given us a ministry of reconciliation. There is no doubt at this time, that all parties and faiths are called to a new ministry of reconciliation based on justice, peace and human dignity.”

So spoke the new Bishop of Jerusalem, Bishop Suheil Dawani, at his enthronement as the 14th Anglican Bishop of the region on April 15th. Bishop Suheil is renowned for his wise and gentle pastoral work within the Diocese. ABM congratulates Bishop Suheil and looks forward to continuing our Partnership with his diocese. Please pray for the new bishop and his flock.



Bishop Suheil is greeted by the Primate of the Middle-East, Bishop Mouneer. Photo: Courtesy of Diocese of Jerusalem.

And still more new Bishops!



Peter and Sue Ramsden. Photo: Brad Chapman.

Two ABM Partner Dioceses have also welcomed new Bishops to lead them into the future. On March 24, North Queensland welcomed Bishop Bill Ray

with a wonderful service including Indigenous and non-Indigenous ceremony. Bishop Bill had, until recently, been a priest in Melbourne Diocese. In Port Moresby the church enthroned Bishop Peter Ramsden on March 25th. Bishop Peter is from the UK but has served in PNG on two previous occasions. ABM congratulates Bill and Robin Ray, and Peter and Sue Ramsden, praying for God’s blessing on their ministry.



Robin Ray, Bishop Bill Ray and Archbishop Phillip Aspinall exit St James Cathedral Townsville. Photo: Janine Paterson.