

# PARTNERS



MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN BOARD  
OF MISSION – AUSTRALIA LTD

STORIES FROM  
Newton College  
Egypt  
The Philippines

AUTUMN 2011 • VOLUME 28 • NUMBER 1  
ABN 18 097 944 717



Working together in the villages of the Philippines –  
See pages 14 and 15.



**Front cover photo:** Bishop Andrew Proud has  
instigated many projects in the Horn of Africa.  
See page 18. © ABM 2008.

## Partners in Autumn

### **NEWTON COLLEGE**

A theological legacy

Pages 4–5

### **RENEWING THE SPIRIT**

Revd Gloria Shipp

Page 6

### **NEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

in the Solomon Islands

Page 8

### **ANGLICANS IN DEVELOPMENT**

Climate Change

Pages 9–12

### **THE MAKING OF PEACE**

in Korea

Page 13

### **A CELEBRATION OF FAITH**

in Myanmar

Page 16

### **ABM'S NEW PROGRAMS**

in Zambia

Page 17

### **MISSION AND EVANGELISM**

in Egypt

Page 19

*Printed on recycled paper*

# A time for reflection...



Dear Friends,

At the time of writing, we are still trying to assess the devastation which has engulfed the north east of Japan. Another earthquake, another tsunami, many thousands missing, massive destruction and the threat of a possible meltdown in at least one of Japan's nuclear reactors. All of this combining to shatter lives that may take a generation to recover.

It would be bad enough if this were a one-off event but so far this year alone, we have been appalled by the number and ferocity of the natural disasters which have beset our world and in particular our region.

In Australia, there has been flooding in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales; bush fires in Western Australia and a cyclone, again in Queensland. Elsewhere south of the equator, there has been a landslide in Brazil and earthquakes in New Zealand and China.

As we wait once more to count the human cost, let us remember that all this pain and suffering has been gathered up in the crucifixion of Jesus and the message of Easter is one of hope and renewal.

As those who are called to participate in God's mission, we are tasked to be agents

of hope, renewal and transformation. As Christians, we have a responsibility to "protect, care for and renew life on our planet" at challenging times as well as bountiful times. By supporting our sisters and brothers in our Partner countries through our prayers, our emergency relief work and our projects, we bear witness to the light which darkness shall never overcome.

This year, we have two new projects in the Philippines and the Solomon Islands which tackle the effects of a changing climate. Thousands of lives are potentially going to be affected due to rising sea levels and changes to the environment. With appropriate planning and resources we can assist our Partners to ensure that negative environmental impacts are reduced through improved practices, education and planning, and thus helping

to reduce the risk and damage from possible future disasters.

Also included in this edition of *Partners* is a look at a Christian Training Centre in Papua New Guinea – seeking to equip future Christian leaders but desperately short of appropriate resources and we reflect on and give thanks to God for the amazing work that Bishop Andrew Proud has facilitated during his time in Ethiopia.

Through your generous and continuous support of our projects, lives are being transformed.

"Let your light so shine that others may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." I wish you all the joy of the Easter season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Deane'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**The Revd John Deane**

**The image of Bishop Henry Newton in London in 1920 is the antithesis of how he must have looked for most of his working life. Bishop Newton spent over a quarter of his life in Papua New Guinea. He first began training ordinands in Dogura, the first home of Anglicanism in Papua New Guinea. The Bishop was a man who truly understood contextual theology.**

*As early as 1903, Henry Newton had been teaching Papuan students to prepare them for ministry. His first three Papuan students were told by Newton that, 'foreigners could not properly enter the lives of New Guinean people, and therefore Papuan clergy must shoulder the responsibility'.*

– Elin Johnston

The Newton College campus was relocated from Dogura to Popondetta in 1976 and the theological college that occupies the site today does Bishop Henry proud.

As the mist rises off the jungle surrounding the college, the bell of St Anthonasius' Chapel rings every morning at 6am. Students and their families drift towards the chapel. Beginning with the Angelus, Morning Prayer begins. It is followed by the Eucharist, after which, students attend lectures followed by work and study, finishing the day with Evensong. Worship, prayer and religious study govern the rhythm



Newton College students sing during Chapel. © Melany Markham/ABM 2010.

of life at the college and set the pattern that the students will follow for the rest of their lives.

In a country where many still live in poverty, but where those with an education have an abundance of opportunities available to them, the sacrifices of a life in service are particularly admirable. In a country that faces extreme challenges such as exploitation by mining companies and severe poverty, God's mission is all the more important.

Since the turn of the 21st century, Newton College has run a four-year theological training and priestly formation program. The challenge that Bishop Newton faced one hundred years ago, in some respects, still remains. The greatest issue currently is for the college to develop indigenous leaders. Archbishop Joe Kopapa said, "There is a big need for us to provide in-service training and the upgrading of our clergy's skills because the main challenge nowadays is, as the nation progresses, that there are so many new complicated problems in our society. The priests need to be trained and equipped properly to deal with these changes.



© Melany Markham/ABM 2010.

This is a big challenge for us in this area."

Father Peter Moi, Deputy Principal of the college, said "Students come to Newton College feeling the call."

"Currently we need more of our nationals to be trained. Particularly in theology, biblical studies and pastoral studies and for our priests to come back and teach," he said.

**Watch the film – *A Melanesian Calling* – about Newton College on our website or order a copy from the ABM Office.**

This year, the ABM Auxiliary will raise funds to purchase library books for Newton College. The current inventory is very dated and shipping books from Australia is prohibitively expensive. The Auxiliary will donate money so that the college can purchase the books that it needs.

**Donate to this appeal with the coupon at the back of this issue.**

## ABM supports the ministry of the Revd Gloria Shipp through the Diocese of Bathurst, both financially and in prayer.



The Revd Gloria Shipp became the first Aboriginal woman to be ordained a priest in the Anglican Church in 1996.

In September 2010, ABM filmed a documentary about Gloria called "Renewing the Spirit". It featured the women's weekend camp held at "The Springs", a historical homestead outside of Dubbo.

Gloria runs the annual women's camp for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women as part of her ministry. She is supported by her husband Eddie, who manages the men's annual camp and other activities, along with a team of helpers.

Gloria attended Nungalinga College and is an Honorary Assistant Priest at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Dubbo. She is Chaplain to the Orana Juvenile Justice Centre and coordinates "Walkabout Ministries", an indigenous outreach program.

As well as holding services within the community, Gloria organises Christian rallies and outreach activities which focus on



© Vivienne For/ABM 2010.

fellowship. Her hope is that people will be built up and encouraged by spending time with committed Indigenous Christian leaders.

She aims to empower people to move beyond where they are now and bring about healing and transformation through prayer, worship and counselling.

Gloria said the purpose of the weekend camp

and her other outreach activities is to, "Heal the spirit within."

"We just want to give the women some time out," she said.

"If there is a woman there with a need, we just stop what we're doing and pray for that person straightaway. We don't try and counsel her or anything else, we just give it up in prayer."

Twenty-four women, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, attended the camp last year, which was a great success. Some of the highlights were the speakers who talked on loss and grief and shared personal journeys with Christianity and cultural life.

Culture played an important part of the weekend, with the women sharing and passing on

knowledge to one another. Cultural dances, including a smoking ceremony and healing dance, were performed by some of the Aboriginal women. Craft sessions included painting, floral arrangement and hat decorating and there was a Eucharist service on the Sunday.

Throughout her ministry, Gloria uses Aboriginal symbols in worship such as putting clap sticks

on the altar, as well as broken sticks representing broken lives, traditional art paintings with Christian symbols and adaptations of traditional Aboriginal stories to bible stories.

The Revd Gloria Shipp was ABM's Lent visitor for 2011 and spoke at venues in Sydney, Brisbane and Tasmania dioceses.

## Farewell Revd Tom Slockee



ABM was saddened last November to learn of the resignation of Rev'd Tom Slockee from his position of Canon Missioner in the Diocese of the Northern Territory.

ABM is committed to continue supporting ministry in the Diocese of the Northern Territory. Over the years, funding has supported Revd Tom with his work in the Dhurga Language project as well as his role of Canon

Missioner in the NT.

ABM's Programs Director, Julianne Stewart said, "We understand that this must be a great blow to the hopes of the diocese in the area of ministry to and by Aboriginal people in the region. However, we continue to pray, with you, that God will raise up suitable leadership for this aspect of the diocese's work in contributing to the mission of God. ABM remains committed to assisting the Diocese of the Northern Territory in its ministry to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to the extent that we are able".

## Goodbye Bishop James Leftwich



Bishop James Leftwich has retired from his role as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of North Queensland.

ABM supported Bishop Leftwich for several years where he spent much of his time visiting remote communities to lend support to the clergy and lay leaders. He conducted many confirmations, Holy Communion services, and played an active role on

the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.

Bishop Leftwich previously told ABM he has always been motivated for this work by his love for the Lord.

"I really love going out to remote communities and seeing the people out there," he said. "There is a dire need for the Christian message in those remote communities."

Please pray for all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans in the Diocese of North Queensland during this time of change.

# Becoming even closer

## Robert McLean reports on a recent visit to the Solomon Islands that secured a new partnership agreement.

ABM's association with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) goes back a very long way. In fact, it was the desire to preach the gospel to the peoples of Melanesia that led to the formation of ABM 161 years ago.

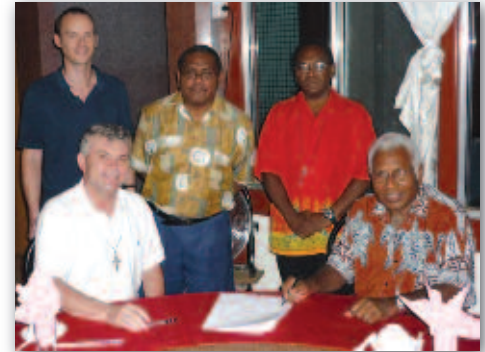
The then Bishop of New Zealand sought help from his Australian brother-bishops to source funds to buy a boat. Missionaries could then travel from New Zealand to places like the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. A meeting was held in Sydney which formed ABM.

ABM's relationship with ACOM is thus fundamental to the organisation. In September 2010, three ABM staff members, our Executive Director – Revd John Deane, our Pacific Program Coordinator – Chris Peters and I, were invited to travel to Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, to meet with the Secretary of the Melanesian Board of Mission (MBM), and with the General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Melanesia to finalise a new partnership agreement with ACOM.

A partnership agreement is symbolic of ABM's highest level of engagement with a Partner.

The agreement, to be renewed again in five years, was developed as part of a mutual process and includes a schedule of activities which, when completed, will be the visible fruits of the two churches' relationship together.

After the final discussions were held the Archbishop of Melanesia, the Most Revd David Vunagi, and the Revd John Deane signed the new partnership agreement, as pictured.



© Robert McLean/ABM 2010.

**Some of our supporters may wonder just what it is that the community development staff of ABM do when they are overseas. On a recent trip, Robert McLean was impressed with what he discovered.**

Our Pacific Programs Officer, Chris Peters, has built strong relationships with the people who make up our Partners in the Solomon Islands. His politeness, care and concern to the people with whom he was dealing came across loud and clear.

Chris is now fluent in the pidgin spoken in the Solomons and spent the week speaking the language to most people with whom we met. Chris caught up with the people involved in community development projects while we were there and one could see how he was able to gather up information from our Partners and update them with the latest things from our end. When we were in the streets, people Chris knew would often come up and speak to him. Indeed, a young man came up and chatted for a while. Chris later told me that he was one of the first people he'd ever met in the Solomons – he was the driver for the then Secretary of the MBM. The young man's name was Moses and it was clear that he was really chuffed to bump into Chris on the street that day.



## ABM RESPONDS TO THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the key issues impacting on poverty alleviation in many parts of the world. Climate change is a particular problem for ABM's Partners in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kenya, Zambia and the Philippines.

In the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, low lying islands have been feeling the effects of sea level rises for some years. About 12,000 people live in the affected outlying coral atolls of Ontong Java, Sikaiana and Reef Islands in the Solomons, and some of the Torres Islands in Northern Vanuatu.

Rising sea levels over a number of years have reduced agricultural yields, as ground water salinity increases. These islands are only 1.5 metres above sea level, so any rise has a dramatic impact. As sea levels continue to rise, not only are food crops threatened, but so too is the availability of fresh drinking water and proper health and sanitation. After about 10 years, many of these people will need to be resettled.

In Malaita and New Georgia, a further 14,000 people live on artificial islands or exposed portions of lagoons, which are also gradually succumbing to the incursion of the sea. The artificial islands also play a part in damaging the reefs which impact on fisheries. The houses themselves are more immediately at risk.

ABM is working with Partners, the Anglican Church of Melanesia and Episcopal Relief and Development, to help affected people adapt to sea level rises for as long as possible, remaining on their own lands, and then to assist with, what will be for many, the inevitable re-settling process.



Climate change in countries such as the Philippines is affecting crops and people's livelihoods. © Melany Markham/ABM 2010.

The Climate Change Program focuses on preservation of reefs and coastal land, providing food and water security and health and sanitation. A subsidiary aim of the project is to make assessments about what steps may need to be taken to resettle many of these people, and the negotiations and plans that have to be put in place for that resettlement to happen at some time in the future.

For our Partner in the Philippines the effects of climate change are felt in unpredictable and heavy rains. They work, especially in the mountain areas, to replant native trees that act both as carbon sinks and preventing dangerous rainwater runoff during heavy rains. They have also been researching how to replace wood with rice husks as a cooking fuel and thus reduce people's need to cut down the mountain forests.

In Kenya and Zambia, many people live by subsistence or small cash crop agriculture and grazing. Climate change is affecting them through the experience of more extreme weather conditions. Dry seasons in particular are much longer and less predictable than previous seasons, requiring much greater attention to developing farming methods and crop types which minimise water use.

ABM is helping communities to build sub-surface dams in sandy seasonal river beds to ensure that maximum water is trapped during



In Kenya, ABM is supporting communities with water solutions and drought-resistant crops to mitigate the affects of climate change. © Julianne Stewart/ABM 2009.

brief rainy seasons and remains available to farmers for much longer periods. We are also assisting in large tree-planting schemes which help stop erosion, provide much needed shade, and often are sources of high-nourishment food.

## THE SUN BEATS DOWN IN KENYA

It is 2 o'clock on a hot, dry January afternoon in a little community in the Wanzauni area of Eastern Kenya, about three or four hour's drive south-east of Nairobi. The sun is beating down at its fiercest, and the so-called "little rains" were so little this year to be negligible.

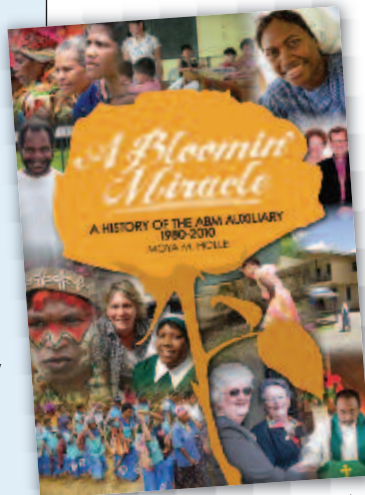
The community has been called to a meeting under the spreading branches of a huge shade tree. In attendance are representatives from several communities, local and national government officials, as well as ABM and its local Anglican Church Partner, Ukamba Christian Community Services.

We are there to hear the community report on its five year plan. With ABM's help, by 2015 they aim to have planted 880 different drought-resistant crops and have 10 tree nurseries from which each household will plant 5,000 trees.

In the same timeframe, and also with ABM's assistance, they plan to have built 10 sub-surface dams in the sandy river beds and dug 5 bore holes and shallow wells, so that each household will have direct access to water piped from these dams.

To further assist with water retention they aim to complete 26,000 metres of terracing of the hillsides each year. Part of the purpose of ABM's assistance to communities such as these is that when the government sees communities getting organised on their own behalf, and getting a bit of a 'leg-up' from a donor, they are motivated to provide broader infrastructure assistance.

This includes support such as improving road access and funding agricultural field days to train people in better farming techniques. Therefore, ABM's work with the community in attacking the effects of climate change becomes a catalyst for development more generally.



### Publication Celebrates Auxiliary History

*A Bloomin' Miracle: A History of the ABM Auxiliary 1980-2010* by Moya M. Holle is now available. The book was officially launched on 4 April 2011 at the ABM Auxiliary National Council Executive Meeting in Sydney.

Copies are available from the ABM head office

for \$10 each. To order your copy please contact Lorraine Forster, the ABM Auxiliary Secretary, on (02) 9264 1021 or by email at [auxiliary@abm.asn.au](mailto:auxiliary@abm.asn.au). Postage and handling fees will apply for mailing.

### Missionary Memories

Since the Missionary Reunion in Adelaide last year Judy Cottier has collected 50 short stories for a "Missionary Memories" project. She is anxious that no one should be left out of the project so please note this final call to anyone who would like to contribute to this collection. Please contact Judy for details by phoning (08) 9271 6076 or email [jandjcottier@hotmail.com](mailto:jandjcottier@hotmail.com)

# SOME CLIMATE CHANGE STATISTICS

## Climate change may already be killing 150,000 people a year

*World Health Organisation, Climate and Health Fact Sheet, August 2007*

## 600,000 died worldwide as a result of weather-related natural disasters in the 1990s; some 95 percent of these were in poor countries

*World Health Organisation, Climate and Health Fact Sheet, August 2007*

## More than half of the world's population now lives within 60km of the sea

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Fourth Assessment Report, 2007*

## The number of people at risk of hunger is projected to increase due to climate change by 50 million by 2050

*Martin Parry from The Hadley Center of the British Meteorological Office, at a 2005 British Association science conference, from The No-Nonsense Guide to Climate Change, third edition 2006, Dinyar Godrej, p.60*

## By the end of the century a third of the globe's land will be subject to extreme drought – a sevenfold increase

*The British Meteorological Office, from The No-Nonsense Guide to Climate Change, third edition 2006, Dinyar Godrej, p.62*

## Greenhouse pollution grew by around 80 percent between 1970 and 2004

*Summary for Policymakers of the Synthesis Report of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, p.4*

## A one-metre rise in sea level will wipe out a third of the world's croplands

*The No-Nonsense Guide to Climate Change, third edition 2006, Dinyar Godrej, p.61*

Pictured right (from top):

Storm clouds gather over a rice field in the Philippines. © Melany Markham/ABM 2010.

Planting corn seeds in the Northern Philippines. © Melany Markham/ABM 2010.

Waterlogged trees die in the Solomon Islands. © Brad Chapman/ABM 2009.



# The Making of Peace

**The Towards Peace in Korea (TOPIK) Program began in 2007 after the Worldwide Peace Conference was hosted by the Anglican Church of Korea. This five-year humanitarian plan, which ABM is supporting, aims to prevent widespread famine within North Korea and at the same time promote peace between the two Koreas.**

In November 2010, artillery fire at Yeonpyeong Island in Korea killed several soldiers and civilians and devastated the homes and livelihoods of the community. The National Council of Churches in Korea expressed deep concerns over the critical situation of the escalating military tension in the Korean peninsula.

The Council said, "Now is the time that both South and North Korea must refrain from any provocative actions which will destroy the two Koreas altogether. Now is the time that both governments must begin a sincere dialogue for the future of the nation and for the peace and security of the people."

Relations between the two Koreas remain fragile, with the situation aggravated by political problems, economic downturn, rising food prices and food insecurity. The most vulnerable

groups needing help include young children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly.

The Anglican Church of Korea continues to pray for reunification between north and south, and for an end to the suffering. The official Peace Conference prayer noted to the right will offer hope to those in Korea.



## **Peace Conference Prayer**

*God, our Hope!*

*In this land, which has groaned under sixty-three years of division, grant that North and South may be constant in meeting together, that slowly the razor wire of division may be removed, and that we may acknowledge all these things as your grace to your people.*

*God, you commanded that we love our neighbors as ourselves. We pray for our brothers and sisters who are suffering from extreme poverty in the North.*

*Release them from famine and may they praise you, sharing love with their neighbours, and let their children grow healthy to become leaders of a reunified peninsula.*

*We pray also for our brothers and sisters of the churches in the North, and remember the more than fifty Anglican churches in the North before division.*

*Grant that we in the South may be brothers and sisters of faith. Give us encouragement and desire that the time may soon come when the churches of the North and the South pray and praise you together.*

*God, our Peace!*

*We pray for peace and reunification in this Peninsula. May our land come out of the fear of war and build a system of peace, and may this be a model for world peace.*

*Grant that we may change to make this small step, that our church may change, and that the world may change so that there no longer is North and South and that your peace may fill the whole planet.*

*We pray this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

# Many hands – Working together in the villages of the Philippines

**In the ABM film “In the Shadow of the Cross” there is a scene of a man with a cap and purple scarf around his neck, sitting on the ground bathed in the sunset. This man is Padi Waya-an, an Episcopal priest in the Philippines. He lives and works in a very remote village called Sitio Nagragadian in the Northern Philippines. Many of the people in the community in which he works belong to the Pentecostal Church. Over the past three years, Padi Waya-an has worked closely with this Church and their pastor to bring God’s love to all the people in the community.**



Nagragadian is a community of 102 families, many of whom have migrated from other parts of the Philippines. Like most of their compatriots, they are subsistence farmers who rely on the land for their livelihoods. These people derive their wealth from owning arable land and supporting their families on it. Their struggle does not stop once they own land. Agricultural monopolies in the Philippines mean that the seeds they buy need fertilizer. Once they yield, the crops do not produce seed that can be planted again, meaning that the farmers cannot save seeds and need to repurchase them every year.

When Padi Waya-an first went to Nagragadian, he had to walk three hours from



Nagragadian Church.  
© Melany Markham/ABM 2010.

the nearest road. The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) is against evangelising in places where there are already churches, but, in this case, the people of the community approached the diocese asking for help. Like many priests in the Philippines, Padi Waya-an is also a community development worker. He went to the village after the community requested help from the diocese.

Working with his Pentecostal counterpart, they came up with a plan that would vastly improve the lot of the people of Nagragadian. A potable water system, solar drying pavement, a grains storage centre and a livestock dispersal project were all part of an integrated

community development plan that would make life easier for the families in the community.

The effect of these projects has been dramatic and almost immediate. Potable water has improved the health of families, especially children. The solar drying pavement and grains storage centre that were built by the people of Nagragadian have increased the quality and yield of the farmer's crops. This means that, not only do they have enough to eat all year round, but they can sell the surplus stock for cash for essentials like medicine, fuel and clothes.

The Christian mission extends far beyond material needs and, as a priest, Padi Waya-an has also brought spiritual development into the community. Working on the project has brought the community members closer together. Padi Waya-an's church is small – around seven families from the village regularly attend his services. One of these families donated the land for the drying pavement and the storage warehouse. Other members of the community have volunteered their labour and many have

joined in the prayer sessions and biblical and theological reflections.

Alex Wandag is the Bishop of the Diocese of Santiago in the Philippines. His diocese has involvement in many communities like Nagragadian. All of the members of his staff, clergy and lay people alike, have a passion for God's mission and it permeates their days. From the prayer meetings at the beginning of the work day, to the field visits, to community development projects, the staff members are dedicated and passionate in their approach to their work.

"We are very much aware of the context in which we do mission work. We know the grinding poverty. We know the helplessness of people. To be relevant in our ministry we engage in things like advocacy work [and] community development work," said Bishop Wandag.

The gratitude of the people who have been helped through ECP programs is humbling.



Corn, the main crop of the Nagragadian farmers, for sale at a market in the Northern Philippines.  
© Melany Markham/ABM 2010.

"We would love to be included in ABM's prayers," said Bishop Alex. "For us to be able to endure the things that we endure. We are not praying for comfort. We are not praying for favours, but simply remember us in your prayers."

Our response to God's mission requires us to help people who are far away – people whom we may never meet. Those who have donated to the Philippines and made Padi Waya-an's work possible will probably never meet those who benefit from their donations. However, they can be sure, that the people of Nagragadian have these supporters in their hearts.

Learn more about the contextual theology in the Philippines.  
Watch the film *In the Shadow of the Cross* on the Lent Stories 2011 DVD.

# A Celebration of Faith

## **Ms Joy Hla Gaw, CPM Provincial Staff member, reports on a successful Anglican Gathering held in Myanmar that saw over 1,000 travellers, 3,000 people receiving communion and many faith stories shared.**

The Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM) celebrated its second Anglican Gathering in Myitkyina Diocese in December last year. Around 1,000 people travelled to Myitkyina by train, bus, car and air, from the five other dioceses. For some, it took three days to get there. Even the locals from some towns in Myitkyina Diocese had to take a whole day's ride on the bus before arriving at the venue tired, dusty and travel-weary.

However, the weariness dispersed once the travellers set foot on the cathedral grounds feeling the togetherness and warm welcome.

This sense of togetherness in faith will stay in the minds of those present for a long time. Overseas Partners joined the gathering – about 20 people from Partners in Australia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and the UK celebrated with CPM, adding an extra dimension to the gathering.

Members of Myitkyina Diocese opened their homes to welcome the many people who came to join the gathering with some even hosting 20 people in their homes. Sleeping quarters



Bishops and church members met at the Anglican Gathering in Myitkyina Diocese.

were also arranged in the buildings in the cathedral compound and some visitors were put up in guest houses as church and family accommodations in the region were really stretched to the limit.

On the last day, the Holy Communion was celebrated where over 3,000 communicants participated with profound holiness.

Over 100 young people, who received Confirmation the night before, were among the communicants.

Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo said, "It is a gathering not only with one another on this earth but also with our Father in heaven."

CPM's Vision "Thy Will Be Done" (Matthew 6:10) was discussed at length by the Primate in one of the sessions, and morning prayers, Bible studies and evening performances which included choir competitions and traditional dancing, were regular events at the three main days of the gathering.

The 50th anniversary of the Anglican Young People's Association (AYPA) was celebrated during the gathering, with inspiring speeches from Church leaders who continue to support this very important program of the Church.

Another significant event was the reaffirming of baptismal vows by the congregation and also the bishops. This event will not easily be forgotten by all who were blessed enough to be present.

It was clear that the event positively transformed the spiritual lives of the people.



## ABM is proud to announce that it has negotiated a partnership with the Zambia Anglican Council (ZAC) and St John's Seminary in northern Zambia.

ABM has long ties with Zambia and we have recently revived them with formal agreements to work together. ZAC is the development and social service arms of the Anglican Church in Zambia. St John's Seminary is where the Church trains its priests, under its current principal, Bishop John Osmers.

ABM funds have been used to support both clergy training and also income-generation training for clergy wives at the seminary. Our agreement with Zambia Anglican Council covers projects designed to empower and improve the lives of ordinary Zambians, mostly living in rural communities or in very poor settlements near the capital city. Women and young people are a particular focus of the Zambian projects which include:

- Raising women's awareness of their basic human rights, and supporting women's income-generating activities.
- Training young people in organic agriculture methods and providing them with what they need to begin organic farming.
- Civic education workshops in all five of the country's Anglican dioceses focused on the

pressing issues of property grabbing, wife bartering and children's rights.

- Assistance to very poor families by providing them with two or three goats to get them started on income generation.
- Training whole villages in basic hygiene and sanitation.
- Training selected women to be promoters of "safe motherhood" which includes encouraging women to attend antenatal, postnatal and family planning classes, and backing this up by educating Church leaders.

### ABOUT ZAC

ZAC has been running the Health and Development programs since 2004. Local communities have been very keen to be part of these programs, and the work of ZAC has grown from 5 districts in 2004, to 36 districts across the whole country. But there is still much to be done. Some of the hoped-for outcomes of these projects include:

- Greater reduction of chronic illness and mortality of women and children
- Improved food security at household level throughout the year (to be "food secure"



Women attend training in income-generation activities.

means to be assured of having at least one meal per day each day)

- Greater community understanding and participation in community governance and in influencing the wider political agenda, so that everyone's lives can be improved
- For a relatively small amount of money (ABM's budget is currently around \$50,000 per year for the Zambian projects), the benefits are huge. 20,000 women, 54,000 children, 750 men and 3,500 youths (teenaged girls and boys) will benefit directly from this year's program alone, which is due to be completed in April 2011. A further 22,000 people will benefit indirectly by being neighbours and family members of those directly involved in the projects.

# Bishop Andrew Proud Farewells Ethiopian Success Stories

**Andrew Proud, the Area Bishop for Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, and his wife Janice have been packing. They're due to return home to England because Andrew will be installed as the suffragan Bishop of Reading in the Diocese of Oxford. He begins work in mid-April.**

Bishop Andrew has been in Ethiopia since 2002, first as chaplain of St Matthew's Church, in the capital, Addis Ababa, and then as Area Bishop following his consecration in 2007. Many Anglicans were affected by the civil war in Sudan and crossed over into Ethiopia.

The remote Gambella township, about 775km from Addis Ababa, stands in the centre of the larger area into which the Sudanese dispersed and settled. Bishop Andrew spearheaded the establishment of the Gambella Anglican Centre. Health and agricultural programs are being delivered from the site and it also functions as a base for literacy trainers who go out to surrounding communities. There's also a large 250-seat community library.

ABM has funded the establishment and ongoing costs of running a community library in Addis Ababa. Usage rates are high and, like the Gambella library, it's making a real and positive difference to the lives of many school students.

Bishop Andrew said, "The landlord sold the property under us in October of last year, but we've found another compound, fairly close by



Bishop Andrew Proud has worked closely with communities throughout the Horn of Africa.  
© Stephen Daughtry/ABM 2008.

and the number of daily visits made by students is high. The project is very much appreciated by the students and their parents." As Australians we know what the tyranny of

distance means. In order to overcome the isolation of his clergy, Bishop Andrew established an annual clergy assembly in Gambella that ABM has supported and the third one took place last month, presided over by Bishop Mouneer Annis, the diocesan bishop based in Cairo.

The Assembly began with a service where five ordinations to the priesthood took place. Along with the ordinations, the assembly provided opportunities for multi-lingual worship, Bible study, a graduation for students from the Theological Education by Extension course and a chance for clergy to meet with Bishop Mouneer, and with each other.

Being able to meet with one another means that widely dispersed clergy are able to share their experiences and give each other mutual encouragement. Bishop Andrew said, "The Walking Together project has been a great success. You really can't go wrong in bringing people together as often as possible and this big event is very important."

ABM looks forward to continuing to work with the Church in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

# Mission and Evangelism Continues in Egypt

## Despite the uncertain political situation in Egypt, the work of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East continues. Robert McLean reports.

We've all seen the reports on TV and in the papers telling us that things in Egypt have been changing quickly over the last couple of months. There's a degree of uncertainty for all the Churches in Egypt as the country, and the rest of the world, waits to see what kind of government will be formed.

The Most Revd Dr Mouneer Annis, the Bishop of Egypt, North Africa and the Horn of Africa, recently wrote "...the current situation is still foggy. Not only foggy, but it is very, very difficult to predict what is going to happen. There are voices that cry for an Islamic state and other voices that don't want this; they want a secular and pluralistic society based on democracy.

"Christians in Egypt request the dropping of Article 2 of the current Egyptian Constitution which states that the Islamic Sharia is the sole source of legislation. We find this restricting in many ways to the development of a pluralistic democratic country. It also contradicts with Article 40 which affirms rights for every citizen in all aspects."

Despite the uncertain political situation, the day-to-day work of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem

and the Middle East continues, supported by ABM. The Church is very keen to show God's love to the people of Egypt. They have recently created a Mission and Evangelism Taskforce to coordinate the diocesan evangelism strategy.

A full time coordinator has been appointed, and three evangelists have been employed – two in Alexandria and one in Menouf, about 70km from Cairo. Another two will be employed soon. There are two groups of people who will benefit from the work of the Mission and Evangelism Taskforce.

Firstly, the people who are already active in ministry in local churches. They will be trained in evangelism and have the opportunity to put that training into practice. Secondly, and more importantly, those who are nominal believers or who are unchurched will be able to hear the Good News. In Egypt it is estimated that there are about 20,000 Anglicans, and by engaging with local communities the Mission and Evangelism Taskforce hopes that others will be able to participate in the life and body of the local church. The Church hopes to impact on communities as "a light among the darkness."

Bishop Mouneer writes, "During and after the training, the program will involve sending evangelists to unreached areas where there are no churches, to reach out with the hope of planting churches. It is hoped that many new churches and home groups will be started. We would like to reach 6,838 people in the first year. However, if each person tells only one person, then the impact will multiply exponentially. While we are optimistic, the reality is that this will not be easy. We will need the Grace of God to go before us and prepare the Way."

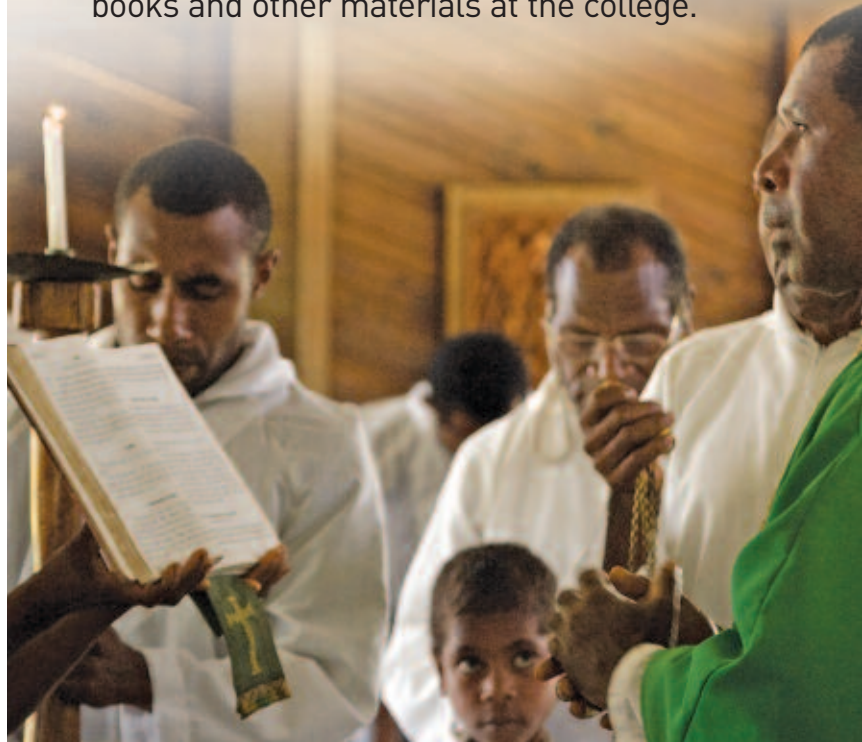
*Jesus Christ, Son of Mary, Son of God,  
the land of Egypt offered safety and shelter to you  
when you were a child refugee.  
Be with the people of Egypt  
in this time of political and social turmoil  
that they may be safe and secure.  
Be with your Church as it seeks to spread your love  
to the people of Egypt.  
May you prepare the way  
and aid them by your grace  
that the people of Egypt may come to know  
the eternal life and everlasting love  
you offer to all who call on your name.  
Amen.*



FOLD OUT PAGE MEASURES 108mm

## **This year, the ABM Auxiliary will raise funds for Newton College to purchase library books.**

The current inventory is very dated and shipping books from Australia is prohibitively expensive. The Auxiliary needs your help to raise funds for books and other materials at the college.



## ***The Five Marks of Mission***

- **Witness to Christ's saving, forgiving and reconciling love for all people**
- **Build welcoming, transforming communities of faith**
- **Stand in solidarity with the poor and needy**
- **Challenge injustice and oppression**
- **Protect, care for and renew life on our planet**

*Adapted from the Anglican Consultative Council*

### **Anglican Board of Mission – Australia Limited**

ABN 18 097 944 717

Level 6, 51 Druitt Street, Sydney, NSW

**[www.abmission.org](http://www.abmission.org)**

### **All correspondence to:**

Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230

Telephone 1300 302 663 or 9264 1021 (Sydney callers)

Facsimile 02 9261 3560

Email [info@abm.asn.au](mailto:info@abm.asn.au)