

PARTNERS

MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN BOARD
OF MISSION – AUSTRALIA LTD

THIS EDITION

Life in Abundance – the Anglican
Conference on Mission and Evangelism

Recovery After Cyclone Pam

Stories from Kenya and Zambia

SPRING 2015, VOLUME 33 • NUMBER 2
ABN 18 097 944 717





Partners in Spring

Life in Abundance –

The Anglican Conference on Mission and Evangelism 4

Common Life Mission Conference

A Report from New Zealand 6

Anglicans in Development

Stories from Kenya and Zambia 9

Modern Day Martyrs

A Reflection 13

An Update from Vanuatu

Life after Cyclone Pam 14

News Snippets

News from ABM and our Partners 17

This edition of *Partners* reports on the Common Life Mission Conference which was themed around mission together.



Korean Church Celebrates



Dear Friend,

I have recently returned from the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the first mission to Korea that in time gave birth to the Anglican Church of Korea. It was an occasion that brought people from around the communion to celebrate with the Church – a celebration that was both thankful and hopeful.

ABM has been partnering with the Anglican Church of Korea over many years.

The connection began well before the Second World War when ABM supported the Church in Korea through the work of USPG.

After the Korean War there was more interest from Australia to engage with the Church and people of Korea. As a result, a missionary, the Rev David Cobbett, went to Korea in the 50s and was instrumental in an area called Pusan or Busan. He built up a parish there which laid the foundation for a Diocese and also for the ongoing relationship with ABM. His work continues to be acknowledged and celebrated by the Church.

In recent years much of our partnering has been focused around the Towards Peace in Korea (TOPIK) Programme which seeks a peaceful reunification for the Korean peninsula. For many Koreans the current political division of the country is a tragic development which runs counter to the long history of the Korean people and their settlement of the peninsula.

The history of the Anglican Church exemplifies the impact of this tragedy. Prior to the Korean War the Anglican Church in northern

Korea was strong and vibrant. Sadly since the War almost nothing has been heard or is known about the fate of the Church. While recognising the heritage and the loss, the TOPIK Programme seeks a realistic way forward based on the understanding that South Korea may also need to accept change if the whole is to become greater than the sum of its parts.

Among a number of most noteworthy mission initiatives are the Houses of Sharing. These function within parishes throughout the Church and are an inspiring development. In this model the commitment to reach out and engage the most disadvantaged in society becomes central to the life of the Christian community. It is an exciting and challenging expression of holistic mission and wonderful to see how all five of the marks of mission are so clearly present.

I continue to give thanks to God for the witness of the Anglican Church in Korea and I would ask your prayers for them, their work and all the people of Korea.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev John Deane

Life in Abundance: Imagining the present Church

Imagine 350 Anglicans from the broad tradition of Australian Anglicanism gathering to dream about the nature of the church and how the church can participate in the mission of God. Imagine no longer, the opportunity is here.

ABM has partnered with Trinity College Theological School, Anglican Overseas Aid, Anglicare Victoria, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and Benetas to create a conference that allows a diverse group of Anglicans to network, participate in workshops, converse with thought-provoking keynote speakers, and enter a prophetic dialogue that imagines a church living abundantly in the present. This is an exciting conference and the first of its kind.

The keynote lectures at the conference will be delivered by the Right Rev Professor Stephen Pickard, a prophetic voice in the Australian Church in the area of mission and ecclesiology. Bible studies will be offered by one of Australia's leading Biblical scholars, Professor Dorothy Lee, and we will welcome international guests Bishop Justin Duckworth and Professor Stephen Bevans.

There will be over 20 workshops run by mission practitioners for you to choose from, as well as a program for young Anglicans

HOW DO YOU IMAGINE THE PRESENT CHURCH?

HOW DO WE CREATE A CHURCH IN THE PRESENT TIME THAT HAS A FUTURE?

(18-35) beginning on Tuesday 9 February.

The conference will be preceded by a Forum organised by the Anglican Alliance to hear voices from around Australia and the world about how the church is responding to the challenges of climate change.

Misconceptions about the words "mission" and "evangelism" have caused some parts of the church to shy away from using the terms or engaging with their content. The vision for this conference is that the whole church would embrace mission and evangelism as the very

life-blood of the church. Stephen Pickard says, "As blood is to the body, so mission is to the Church." The church does not exist without mission.

Mission and evangelism are not only about ensuring there is a "future" church – they are about the church living abundantly in the present. Mission is about entering into God's mission, which desires life in all its fullness for the earth and all that dwells therein, and allowing that mission to transform the present church.

Mission is about movement (The latin *missio Dei* is translated as sending), movement toward God. In moving toward God, God moves us toward our neighbour. The Life in Abundance Conference will facilitate a prophetic dialogue between a diverse group of Anglicans as we are reawakened to the mission of God and the voices of our neighbours.

How do you imagine the present church? How do we create a church in the present time that has a future? ABM invites you to begin your 2016 Lent journey by participating in the conversation at "Life in Abundance: An Anglican Conference on Mission and Evangelism", 10-13 February 2016.

LIFE IN ABUNDANCE
An Anglican Conference on Mission and Evangelism

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
John 10.10

10-13 February 2016
Trinity College,
Parkville Victoria

SPEAKERS
Stephen Pickard
Dorothy Lee
Justin Duckworth
Stephen Bevans

JOIN US! For this exciting inter-agency conference on mission and evangelism.
10-13 FEBRUARY 2016
For more information visit
www.trinity.unimelb.edu.au/2016_conference

EMERGING
COMMUNITY
SPACE
LIFE TOGETHER

TRINITY COLLEGE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL | UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY | ABM | ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID | Anglicare | benetas | Brotherhood of St Laurence

DISCOVER MORE

Life in Abundance is an Anglican Conference on Mission and Evangelism happening in Melbourne next February.

Discover information about speakers and more at <http://www.trinity.unimelb.edu.au/learning/theological-school/anglican-conference.html>

The conference will feature leading Australian theologians Bishop Stephen Pickard and Professor Dorothy Lee along with the Bishop of Wellington, Justin Duckworth and respected international missiologist Stephen Bevans.

This inter-agency conference will be held at Trinity College in Melbourne.

It will be an opportunity to gather together with people from all over the Anglican Church of Australia as we consider the mission imperative in our own communities.

ABM invites you to join us from 10 to 13 February.

The Importance of Mission Together

The Common Life Mission Conference was held from October 6–9 in Auckland, Kings College with the theme 'Mission Together'.

The conference brought together people from each of the three tikanga (cultural strands) of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Joining them were others interested in mission from other countries such as Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, England, the USA and Australia.

The Executive Officer of the Anglican Missions Board in New Zealand (the host organisation), Canon Robert Kereopa said, "The conference is very much to encourage coming together, forming alliances and partnerships and networks to really step out in mission together. So there's a very strong focus on coming together for mission."

Keynote speaker, the Rev Professor Chris Wright, the International Ministries Director for Langham Partnership, systematically looked

at Bible passages that emphasise mission and applied them to today.

Dr Julianne Stewart, ABM's Programs Director, presented a workshop entitled, 'Giving a Cup of Water in Jesus' Name' which focused on ABM's community development work.

A presentation called Suggested Guidelines for Successful Church Partnerships, was offered based on a document of the same name which ABM has recently compiled for Anglican dioceses, parishes and schools who want to enter into a companion relationship with Anglicans in other places.

ABM sent a delegation comprised of members of the Board, members of the staff and some ordinands from Trinity College, Melbourne.

Heidin Kunoo was one of three students from Trinity College Theology School to accompany



ABM staff and Board members at the conference in October.
© ABM/Christopher Brooks, 2015.



Trinity College students in attendance. © ABM/Brad Chapman, 2015.



Over 600 people attended the conference.
© ABM/Christopher Brooks, 2015.

ABM to the Common Life Mission Conference in New Zealand during October. “My picture of the church has become more like a garden. Not a rose garden, but a garden full of different flowers, different colours, different stories. A church with such diversity is much more beautiful than just a rose garden” Heidin said.

The conference brought together 400 people and for the young delegates from Melbourne, the idea of God’s mission uniting and inspiring the church was embodied in the various presentations and workshops which knit together a holistic approach to mission as a vocation for all of God’s people.

All three of the Melbourne theological students have arrived in Australia as Karen refugees within the last 10 years. Their own experiences animated conversations around solidarity and suffering.

Moewin Tunkin said, “Seeing people who are suffering, reminds me of my Karen people, because we experienced something similar, fleeing from our country. My people’s suffering is also

my suffering. Whenever I see pictures of people suffering I feel it along with them.”

The conference reiterated the importance of the church embracing the gifts and perspectives of its young people. Delegates were reminded that even children (especially children) were part of God’s mission. It also introduced African perspectives to the interpretation of scripture like the parable of the talents.

Nay Htoo Khin looks forward to incorporating some of the lessons of the conference into the workshops and fellowship activities that the three students lead with young people in Melbourne. “Coming to the conference has helped me to see that mission is about both giving and receiving. Do not just stay in the church and wait for people to come. Go out and have a cup of tea with your neighbour. Church means the people of God,” he said.

The conference was an excellent opportunity to learn about mission and to network with our overseas partners and to worship together.

Sharing ABM News Across Dioceses

The ABM Diocesan Representatives' Conference was held in the Diocese of Newcastle from July 24 to 26.

The annual meeting of ABM's communication contact in each Diocese is held to share the news of ABM and learn about the initiatives in each Diocese.

Bishop of Newcastle, Greg Thompson, welcomed the group of 26, including six ABM staff members, and Bishop Peter Stuart, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle spoke about the work of ABM in the Solomon Islands and Korea and the way the Diocese is supporting this work.

Bishop Peter said, "We contribute to God's mission and learn from others in God's mission. Our partnership in mission is essential for what we can contribute and what we can receive. ABM as an agency of the Anglican Church of Australia is a means of this partnership which can attract others."

Another insight from Bishop Peter that struck a chord with a lot of Representatives was, "For ABM to attract young people, all it needs to do is work with integrity and authenticity".

The weekend conference also included a presentation from Mr Christopher Brooks, ABM's Communication Manager who spoke of the work of the team which amongst other



Bishop Peter Stuart spoke at the Diocesan Representatives Conference in July.
© ABM/Christopher Brooks, 2015.

things included the development of ABM's new website, coordination of 175 speaking engagements around the country and development of nine Emergency Appeals run alongside the 11 fundraising campaigns.

Mr Brooks said, "The conference was a great opportunity for our representatives to gather and share their news as well as hear about the work of ABM. The work of ABM's Diocesan Representatives cannot be under estimated as it helps our organisation connect with people around the country and share God's mission."



Diocesan Representatives heard from each other about the work of ABM around the country. © ABM/Vivienne For, 2015.

AID ANGLICANS IN DEVELOPMENT

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



WE CAN
END POVERTY
2015 **MILLENNIUM**
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Millennium Development Goals

- 1 End Poverty and Hunger**
- 2 Achieve Universal Primary Education**
- 3 Promote Gender Equality**
- 4 Reduce Child Deaths**
- 5 Improve Maternal Health**
- 6 Combat AIDS and Malaria**
- 7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability**
- 8 Strengthen the Global Partnership**

www.un.org/millenniumgoals

MDG SUCCESS SPRINGBOARD FOR NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Since they were agreed by the global community in the year 2000, the Millennium Development Goals have helped to focus global efforts on the urgent task of overcoming extreme poverty. Many of ABM's community development projects have contributed to one or more of these important development goals. This issue of Anglicans in Development celebrates the contribution of ABM partners in Africa to eradicating poverty and hunger and promoting gender equality and empowering women. In the last 25 years the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than halved, from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015. At the same time, the rate of children dying before their fifth birthday has also halved and the maternal mortality ratio has declined by 45%. In September 2015 world leaders built upon the success of the Millennium Development Goals by committing to 17 new Global Goals for sustainable development. These aim to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and fix climate change for all people in all countries.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE FIRST MDG IN SEMI-ARID KENYA: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Julianne Stewart, ABM Programs Director

In 2009 when ABM first engaged with what was then Ukamba Christian Community Services (now Anglican Development Services, Eastern), a development arm of the Anglican Church of Kenya, much of the area covered by Machakos and Makueni counties was suffering the effects of infrequent and increasingly unpredictable rains. Since that time, with support from ABM and other partners, the church has had a huge impact on reducing hunger and increasing the incomes of the local farming communities, many of whom are woman-headed households.

The key problem in the two counties was the fact that the main sources of water for both human and agricultural use were rivers which only ran once or twice a year when the rains came. The rivers would quickly fill with water, and just as quickly rush out to empty into the Indian Ocean, leaving the farmers with little water for their use for the rest of the year.

The solutions have been multi-pronged. One was to teach farmers how to conserve water – by erecting numerous sand and earth dams, hillside contouring, massive tree planting and use of drip irrigation and zai pits to store water in the fields.

Another was to persuade the farmers, through

the persistent use of demonstration plots and seminars, to plant crops that were more drought-resistant or had a longer storage life so farmers could make better use of market fluctuations, and to diversify their farming activities.

Now, in the targeted communities in both counties, five thousand people have benefitted immeasurably from the church's interventions, directly supported by ABM's donors and Australian Aid.

One such group of farmers is the Wendano Women's Group at Kwa Mwonga in Makueni County. Florence Kale, chair of this group, said, "Before the Anglican Church came, we used to do cropping without understanding the best way. Now we have training we understand the benefits of stand-alone cropping and use of zai pits to hold the water for the crops for many days.

"We also realised from our experiments that the early maturing cow peas do very well here, so we can take advantage of this in the marketplace," she said.

But perhaps the last word should go to the District Area Chief who, at an opening ceremony for one of the sand dams said, "In the past, families did not want their daughters to marry



Florence Kale, a member of the Wendano Women's Group with corn cob.
© ABM/Julianne Stewart, 2015.

men from this district – they knew their child would be up for a life of poverty and extreme hardship. But now, because of the work done by the Anglican Church, people are more than happy for their daughters to marry these men."

In future years, Anglican Development Services, Eastern, supported by ABM, will provide this training and water conservation support to new communities in the two semi-arid counties.

GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN: ZAMBIA ANGLICAN COUNCIL'S GENDER AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

ABM and its partner, Zambia Anglican Council (supported by ABM's donors and DFAT funding), have been working to improve gender equality outcomes across many parts of Zambia since 2011. The church's Gender and Governance Program addresses gender inequality, including advocacy about women's rights with government, within the church itself, and with the broader community.

The program has sought to confront cultural traditions which deny women equal rights, and has even addressed negative theological interpretations of the status of women perpetuated by some members of the church.

Some of the program activities have included mobilising communities and parishes to participate in International Women's Day and church and community participation in campaigns such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

But other aspects of the program have sought to equip communities and parishes to learn about and develop skills to deal with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) at the local level. Communities have formed Gender Action Groups, who become champions of gender equality and the quest to eliminate gender-based violence. Some



Lui River children may grow up in a more gender-equal world. © ABM/Julianne Stewart, 2015.

of these are then trained to counsel members of their communities and churches who are experiencing GBV first hand, and to refer cases to the police and women's refuges.

One of these groups is the Lui Mwemba Gender Action Group, whom ABM visited earlier this year. This is a group of 20 community volunteers, 10 men and 10 women, representing various parts of the community. They receive training and are assisted with a group income-generating activity to fund their travel and meeting costs in spreading the word about gender equality and the elimination of GBV.

In this very remote and economically impoverished part of Western Zambia, community members work hard and speak passionately about the changes they have brought about. These include working with the local school and parents to change attitudes about girls being "sold" into early marriage upon the girl getting pregnant.

Grace, one of the group members recounts this story: "A few days ago a girl child was about to be married.

The fee had already been paid by the husband (who was a boy at the same school) to the girl's parents. I went to the village and advised the parents not to marry her, but to let her stay at school. The value of the child would increase if she stayed at school. So they called the girl's uncle, and he came and took her to school in the Copper Belt."

In an address to one of their meetings, Crispin, a member of the group and head of the local PTA said, "We pledge to tirelessly work extra hard to bring positive behaviour change to our community. As you know, changing someone's attitude is not a walk-over thing. It needs power and time."

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



IN SEPTEMBER 2015, WORLD LEADERS COMMITTED TO 17 GLOBAL GOALS TO ACHIEVE 3 EXTRAORDINARY THINGS IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS. **END EXTREME POVERTY. FIGHT INEQUALITY & INJUSTICE. FIX CLIMATE CHANGE.**
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.GLOBALGOALS.ORG

Modern Day Martyrs

Christians are inspired by Jesus Christ. Because of the encouragement that the story of his life, death and resurrection has brought to many people, they have been able to achieve extraordinary things. Consider the Martyrs.

They found in the death of Jesus the courage to sacrifice their own lives for him and for his Church. The strength provided by Jesus' death has not encouraged just those who knew him face to face in Galilee. Many others through the centuries who have known him through Bread and Wine have been fortified in a similar way.

When we contemplate those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the gospel over the last hundred years, we think of Anglicans such as the Martyrs of New Guinea (1942), the seminarian, Jonathan Daniels (USA, 1965), Janani Luwum (Uganda, 1977) and the Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood (Solomon Islands, 2003).

We also bring to mind ecumenical martyrs such as Grand Duchess Elizabeth (Orthodox, Russia, 1918), Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Lutheran, Germany, 1945), Martin Luther King, Jr (Baptist, USA, 1968), and Óscar Romero (Catholic, El Salvador, 1980).

The recent killings of Coptic, Syrian Orthodox, Assyrian, Chaldean, and other Christians in North Africa and the Middle East show us that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus continue to inspire.

May the Martyrs' faith be ours, strong and unflinching.

In September each year we think of Anglicans such as the Martyrs of New Guinea. We also think of many other brave souls. The story of Jesus' life has brought encouragement to many people, empowering them to achieve extraordinary things. Bless the Martyrs and may they inspire us to help others that need our support.

ABM runs an annual Martyrs' Appeal each year which in 2015 supported work in Papua New Guinea, Zambia and the Solomon Islands.

Below is a prayer you can use to reflect on the sacrifice of the Martyrs.



Staff and students from Fisher Young Ministry Training Centre still tend the grave of some of the Melanesian Martyrs. © Keith Joseph.

Almighty God, who gave to your servants boldness to confess the name of Jesus Christ and courage to die for this faith: teach us always to be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Destruction of Cyclone Pam

ABM's Program Officer, Jess Sexton was in Torba Province in Vanuatu on a monitoring trip in March when Cyclone Pam hit the islands. Jess shares her experience and we report on how communities in Vanuatu are recovering.



The Cyclone

In March I travelled to Sola where we were to spend 5 days viewing these for ourselves, with a particular focus on the work relating to Water, Sanitation and Adult Literacy.

Several days into our visit, we began receiving reports of a cyclone heading towards Vanuatu, and although the system had not yet developed into a category 5 cyclone, the region was put on red alert.

Locals rushed to reinforce their houses with sand bags and large palm leaves, and purchase extra supplies from shops. The Provincial government drove through the town making announcements in Bislama, the language most commonly spoken, to warn about various dangers and to guide people in their preparations.

For several days strong winds and torrential rain lashed the town and the cyclone moved south at a painfully slow pace of 7 km/h. As these effects subsided, we emerged from our bungalows to survey the damage, unsure of what we would find. Thankfully, there was very little destruction in Sola.

The area causing most concern amongst locals was the loss of produce from village gardens

and fruit trees, as these are heavily depended upon for food.

Clean water was also a cause of concern, as most locals depend on fresh streams running from the mountains behind the town, and few have tanks. During the downpour, these streams became polluted with sediment and debris, and were unsuitable for drinking and washing.

Travelling from Sola to Port Vila is a journey I will never forget. As we flew we saw the trees had been stripped of their leaves and vines, houses and possessions had been scattered across the bare fields, and smoke was steadily rising from the debris being burnt away...

Several tanks funded by ABM, installed through the Vanuatu Church Partnership Program in Sola, became essential in times like these. The community was able to access the clean water for drinking, substantially lowering the risk of diseases such as Cholera and Adenovirus infections.

We soon heard that many buildings in Port

Vila had been destroyed beyond repair, leaving 10,000 people homeless, and that eight people had lost their lives in the chaos.

Travelling from Sola to Port Vila is a journey I will never forget. As we flew we saw the trees had been stripped of their leaves and vines, houses and possessions had been scattered across the bare fields, and smoke was steadily rising from the debris being burnt away.

We arrived in Port Vila at dusk, and saw the city in disarray. Everywhere we looked, trees were blown over, buildings were damaged and crumbling, and boats were mashed together in the wharves. People were hard at work to clear roads and make repairs.

The mobile network was fully functional in the capital, and much to my delight I was able to contact ABM. By the next day I had arrived back to a much relieved fiancé and the ABM family.

Six months on

In September, it was six months since Cyclone Pam wreaked havoc on the island nation of Vanuatu. During this time, the Anglican Church of Melanesia, Vanuatu (ACOMV) has worked hard to provide assistance to around 13,000 people who were in need of food and clean water.

Focusing on the provinces of Penema and Torba to the north, ACOMV delivered food aid, seeds and gardening tools to 25 districts and three institutions, using the church flagship to ferry the supplies to remote communities throughout the area. This was vital to both short and long-term food security, as household food gardens provide the bulk of the nutritional needs to families, but were largely decimated by the high winds and heavy rain in March.

The impact of Cyclone Pam also left natural water sources such as rivers and streams contaminated with leaves and mud, prompting the need for additional water purification kits (including containers and tablets) in order to protect communities from water-borne diseases. These were also delivered in the initial relief response of ACOMV, to the affected districts.

The ACOMV Disaster Committee is currently concentrating on rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, now that immediate relief needs have been met. The assessment reports carried out in each affected community revealed several schools were in need of repairs to damaged buildings, with students being prevented from using classrooms with leaking roofs. The repair or rebuilding of some dormi-

tories was also prioritised, as students are currently using alternative community houses and temporary shelters for accommodation.

The overwhelming need that was identified during the assessments were for Disaster Risk Reduction training, the building of cyclone-proof evacuation centres, water and sanitation facilities, and the stockpiling of emergency supplies.

Many communities lacked adequate evacuation shelters to protect them from the cyclonic winds and rain. There was a great need for water and sanitation infrastructure as waterways became muddied by debris. Due to the long disruption to supply ships, many essential items (such as soap and

matches) disappeared, and the islands were unable to communicate due to disruptions to the mobile phone services.

Providing these essential buildings and supplies is therefore seen as a priority for ACOMV, in preparation for any future emergencies. This is to be complemented with community training in risk management and evacuation plans, in order to prepare people both physically and psychologically.

To assist ACOMV in the coordination of this response, ABM will be contributing toward the employment of an Emergency Response Coordinator, and a Disaster Risk Reduction mentor, in order to support the vast amount of work involved.

ABM has raised over \$300,000 through its Vanuatu Emergency Appeal.

It is due to the generosity and compassion of ABM supporters that both the relief and reconstruction responses were possible. We would like to sincerely thank all who contributed, and prayed for the welfare of those affected by this terrible disaster. Your practical actions have saved many lives, ensuring short and long-term food security needs are met, and helping equip communities to better prepare for disaster in the future.

*The original part of this article was first published in April 2015 on our website and through our e-newsletter, *On A Mission*.

Stay up-to-date with ABM and register at www.abmission.org

News Snippets

Myanmar hit by floods

Over 100 people were killed and more than 1.3 million people affected as flood water engulfed four regions in the west of Myanmar which was declared a disaster zone.

The situation was made worse by Cyclone Komen which hit the region following the flooding.

ABM has been in communication with our Partner in the Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM).

The Church reports that all six dioceses involved in the relief efforts are gathering information on impacted communities using the assessment form from the Pastors and Disasters toolkit. Based on these findings, CPM will determine how to continue with the recovery phase of its response.

Initial support was needed for things like access to safe drinking water and staple foods because food stocks and livelihoods have been damaged, as well as medicines for emergency relief.



A second phase of support will be needed for projects such as the rehabilitation of houses and crops, provision of school materials for school children and a water, sanitation and hygiene program.

ABM has a long history of successfully working in partnership with CPM. Our first official agreement was set up in 1992 through which our strong bond has continued to flourish.

All donations will be forwarded to CPM as they help rebuild the many communities affected by this disaster. ABM is aiming to raise \$50,000 from this appeal.

Archbishop of Melanesia Retires

Archbishop David Vunagi, Primate of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, officially retired in September with a special farewell service held in Honiara.

Join the campaign for

Australian Aid

This campaign invites Australians to celebrate the great accomplishments of Australian Aid and is developed and backed by partners across the Australian development sector following foreign aid budget cuts.

Australian Aid is the name given to the many significant ways that organisations like ABM come together to help communities reduce poverty and build a better and fairer future.

For more information and to sign up for updates visit www.australianaid.org.

News Snippets (CONT.)

New National Auxiliary Chairperson

ABM is pleased to announce that Mary Catford has been appointed as the new National Auxiliary Chairperson. She was serving in the role of joint Vice President prior to her appointment on September 11.

The Rev Canon Katherine Bowyer resigned from her position as President at the National Auxiliary Council Meeting in July. ABM gives thanks for her contribution to the National Auxiliary and wishes Mary all the best in her new role.



The Rev Canon Katherine Bowyer (centre) with Vice President, Tim Williams and former Vice President, Mary Catford.



Debra Saffrey-Collins launching the new Partnerships resource. © ABM/Vivienne For, 2015

Supporter Dinner and Publication Launch

The ABM Supporter and Board Dinner was held at the Union, University and Schools Club in Sydney on 11th September. The guest speaker was the Rev Glenn Loughrey, described as a "late-blooming indigenous advocate and artist". He is currently the Vicar at St Oswald's Anglican Church in Glenn Iris, Melbourne.

Present at the event were members of the ABM Board and staff, supporters and others including the Rev Gloria Shipp with her husband Eddie Shipp, and Pat Redlich, brother of Fr Vivian Redlich.

Fr Glenn Loughrey spoke about reconciliation, of how indigenous and non-indigenous Australians are living in exile, and how there is the need for us to communicate and engage in order for reconciliation to take place.

At the dinner, ABM board member, Debra Saffrey-Collins, officially launched a new publication from the

The 2015 Christmas Appeal focuses on the Children's Education program in Kenya and the Evangelism and Christian education project in the Philippines.

In Kenya, the Christian Education program builds young children's faith from the age of three through to 12. The aim of the project is to build a learning area in Nairobi for the training of leaders to further develop ministry in Kibera and to grow the number of Formation Leaders.

In the Philippines, the Evangelism and Christian education project provides much-needed training and education options for ordained and lay leaders. The project also provides opportunities for ordained ministers to specialise in particular pastoral works such as counselling for the young people or conducting spiritual retreats.

So this Christmas, we invite you to share the joy of giving and help our Partners further develop their education.



Children in Sunday School in the Philippines. © ABM/Brad Chapman 2012.

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

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 violence, injustice and oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation**
- **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

www.abmission.org

All correspondence to:

Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230

Telephone 1300 302 663 Facsimile 02 9261 3560

Email info@abm.asn.au