

# PARTNERS

MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION - AUSTRALIA LTD

## THIS EDITION

How ABM Responds

The Eye of the Storm

Anglicans in Development

The Church Agencies Network

Indigenous Bishop Visits



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**How ABM responds in times of emergency**



Front cover image: This house in the Philippines was toppled in Typhoon Lawin in October 2016. © ABM, Kate Winney 2017.

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# WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF PARTNERS



Archbishop Allan Migi blessing children

## A WORD FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF PNG ALLAN MIGI

**Dear Friends,**

*On behalf of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea I would like to thank the ABM-Australia in its commitment and continual mission partnership with ACPNG in the past, now and into the future.*

The Anglican Church of Australia through ABM and ACPNG have been strong partners for many decades.

On 3rd September 2017, I was enthroned as the new Archbishop & Primate of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. On 4th September the ACPNG House of Bishops had the Church partners meeting. We discussed many good things in this church partnership meeting. One purpose of the meeting was to revive and strengthen the ongoing traditional links and partnership with our church partners like ABM-Australia, New Zealand Mission Board, Church Partnership in UK, the Anglican Province of Melanesia and also

talk about other diocesan links.

I would like to assure you ABM-Australia that our partnership must be ongoing and be strengthened by rich programs in the many years to come.

We look forward to exploring and finding new ways, ministries, projects, and prayers that will enrich our partnership in the long run.

Thank you!

My love and prayers.

***Archbishop Allan Migi***

***Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea***

# IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY... HOW ABM RESPONDS

## WHY WE RESPOND

*ABM's approach to humanitarian emergencies is intrinsically linked to our core vision - seeing communities flourish around the world through targeted development programs.*

Humanitarian crises are recognised as a significant impediment to development, and hence require a timely and strategic response. The objectives of humanitarian response are to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of human-caused crises and natural disasters. ABM recognises that any emergency response should be guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

## HOW WE RESPOND

As a small organisation, ABM cannot support every emergency that arises. We therefore have systems in place to assist

in making timely decisions on whether to support a response. In the process of deciding whether ABM(AID) will support an emergency, these key considerations are taken into account:

### **Has ABM received a request for assistance?**

This request may come from one of our Community Development Program Partners, or it may be received within an appeal that has been launched by ACT Alliance or another partner organisation. This request should include a coherent and verifiable story detailing the circumstances and evidence of local contact being made to determine immediate needs.

### **Does ABM have an existing partnership in the region affected?**

ABM has two types of standing partnership arrangements that we can use to support an emergency response:

- **Funding to an existing program partner**

ABM's first preference when responding to an emergency is to work with one of its existing in-country program partners. If there is a partner in the affected region that has the capacity to respond, funding will be dispersed through this partner.

ABM also recognises that not all of our partners are equally equipped to respond to a humanitarian emergency. We therefore continue to work with and develop our partners that experience frequent extreme weather or conflict related disasters in order to strengthen their capacity to respond, via Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programs. ABM supports DRR programs with our partners in the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and PNG, as well as Climate Change adaptation in Kenya.

When working with in-country partners, ABM also recognises the coordination role of the Anglican Alliance and other Anglican agencies that focus on disaster risk reduction and disaster response capacity building, such as Episcopal Relief and Development (USA).

- **Funding through the ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance**

In the case where ABM does not have an in-country partner, funds will be channelled through ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance or through another agency that has been assessed as being capable of meeting the standards of humanitarian relief that are observed by ABM.

We continue to monitor the work of these agencies, to consider whether this remains the preferred mechanism for channelling emergency relief funds to countries where we have no partner on the ground.

**Does ABM have the capacity to raise the funds to respond in a timely way so that hardship and loss of life is minimised?**

ABM's Global Rapid Response Fund allows for emergency relief to be received quickly at the time of a crisis. Depending on the scale and nature of the disaster, ABM may decide to launch an emergency appeal

so that greater support can be extended through the generosity of its donors.

ABM aims to evaluate each emergency response either via internal review or external evaluation. This helps to inform our assessment of our partners' capacity in this area.

Periodical reviews are also conducted on our own organisational capacity both to raise funds for emergency relief, and to support our regional partners in building their capacity to respond to disasters.

**Find out more at [www.abmission.org](http://www.abmission.org)**



Passing out emergency water supplies in Myanmar

**In December 2014, Episcopal Relief & Development and a working group of 12 international partner agencies including ABM, published “Pastors and Disasters: a Toolkit for Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction & Management” to improve disaster response efforts within the Anglican relief and development community.**

**This toolkit is the culmination of three years of collaborative effort to create, adapt and field-test resources that can be used in a variety of contexts, based on local resources and expertise. The working group included partners from Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and the United States.**

# THE EYE OF THE STORM



Vanuatu 2015

## IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

*ABM supporters would recall the destruction of Cyclone Pam which hit Vanuatu in March 2015. The cyclone cut communications and left communities across the islands with no infrastructure.*

ABM's own team member Jess Sexton who was responsible for our programs in Vanuatu was on the ground in the

eye of the storm. In the following week Jess was unable to leave Northern Vanuatu as the rains meant that planes could not land on the sodden grass runway.

### **She reported at the time:**

*"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. As the winds became gale force and heavy seas threatened to break the banks around the town of Sola, vulnerable areas were evacuated to higher ground and cement buildings.*

*The cyclone had affected communications towers further south, causing a communication black out that was to last 7 days. Without the means for accessing funds, and with food stocks running low, local shops were asked to supply goods on credit to the communities both in and around Sola.*

*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.*

*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.*

*Finally being able to travel from Sola to Port Vila is a journey I will never forget. 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, even as darkness fell. Electricity had been cut off to much of the city, and many carried torches or lit fires for light.*

*However, the mobile network was fully functional in the capital, and much to my delight I was able to contact ABM and my family, letting them know that I was safe and had arrived in Port Vila. By the next day I had arrived back in Australia to a much relieved fiancé and the ABM family.”*

**ABM raised over \$190,000 in its 2015 Vanuatu Emergency Appeal. The generous donations supported the church and locals to repair the damage and build their local communities.**

Six months on from the crisis, the Anglican Church of Melanesia - Vanuatu's (ACOMV) Disaster Committee had met immediate relief needs and was concentrating on rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. This included repairing several schools where students were prevented from using classrooms with leaking roofs.

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, and following there was a great need for water and sanitation infrastructure as waterways became muddied by debris. 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 contributed to the employment of an Emergency Response Coordinator, and a Disaster Risk Reduction mentor, in order to support the vast amount of work involved.

# WHAT EMERGENCY RESPONSES HAS ABM SUPPORTED IN 2017?

## MYANMAR

ABM launched an appeal in September to support Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance's emergency relief efforts to assist the many Rohingya refugees fleeing from the increasingly violent situation in Myanmar.

Over 500,000 people have fled Rakhine State into neighbouring Bangladesh in search of safety. Funding is urgently needed to provide vital medical care, food, clean water, and hygiene and sanitation kits for victims of this crisis.

## VANUATU

In September ABM launched an emergency appeal in response to the full-scale evacuation of Ambae Island caused by the eruptions of Manaro Volcano. ABM is currently working closely with the Anglican Church of Melanesia – Vanuatu (ACOMV) and seeks to raise funds for food and clean water supplies for the thousands of evacuees, particularly on the island of Santo where the Church is based.

In May, Tropical Cyclone Donna left a trail of damage across the islands of Vanuatu. ABM was in touch with ACOMV's Disaster Risk Management Coordinator Mr Fisher Young Dinh, who reported significant damage to houses and gardens, with limited food supplies in some communities. Water supplies had been contaminated and toilet facilities destroyed on some of the islands. Within a month, emergency supplies were delivered thanks to ABM's generous supporters.

## SYRIA

ABM originally launched the Syria Emergency Appeal in September 2013 to provide emergency relief to many of the internally displaced persons and refugees in and around Syria. Due to the worsening humanitarian crisis, a new response was launched earlier this year by ACT Alliance. As an ACT Alliance member, ABM is accepting donations in support of other ACT members in the region who are responding to the ongoing refugee crisis.

## EAST AFRICA

In March ABM launched an emergency appeal in response to the extreme drought crisis in East Africa. Our partners, the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) and the Anglican Church of Kenya are responding to this urgent humanitarian emergency as millions of people have been displaced and are in need of humanitarian aid and protection as a result of the ongoing conflict.

ABM has chosen to focus on supporting the work of ECSS as the situation there is more dire. Donations we receive can be used more effectively when assisting our partner in South Sudan, although we had hoped to also provide support for our Kenyan partner.

ABM is in contact with the Anglican Alliance with regards to a response by SUDRA (the relief and development arm of ECSS) for food and other emergency relief aid. SUDRA are about to start Phase 2 of their response in Unity State.

# AID ANGLICANS IN DEVELOPMENT

A SUPPLEMENT OF PARTNERS - THE MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION - AUSTRALIA LTD



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 AND INJUSTICE.** **FIX CLIMATE CHANGE.** FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.GLOBALGOALS.ORG](http://WWW.GLOBALGOALS.ORG)

In this AID supplement we hear how ABM's Partners in Syria and Vanuatu are working towards the Global Goals for Sustainable Development following disaster.

## ACT ALLIANCE – SYRIA UPDATE MARCH 2017

### HOPE IN THE MIDST OF TRAGEDY

*For over 6 years, the Syrian war has raged. Millions have lost their homes, businesses, loved ones. In the midst of such tragedy, it is difficult to see the good. Yet the story of one woman, a refugee with few prospects and many mouths to feed, shines a light of hope in the darkness.*

*“I am a Syrian refugee who fled to Jordan three years ago; I lost my husband during the war. I had to take my four children and escape. You cannot imagine the danger we faced and the fare during our trip. I lost hope and got depressed; my children started wetting their beds while they were sleeping. We struggled to secure our daily needs of food and if it was not for our neighbours who supported us we would be dead now. Now we live in Husn Refugee*



Photo provided by ACT Alliance.

*Camp with our friends. I was afraid to talk to people at the beginning and afraid what the future is hiding.*

*“I talked to one of my neighbours who told me, ‘visit DSPR (Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches) at the camp; they will be of great help to you.’ After great hesitation, I decided to go to the DSPR*

*centre and met the centre supervisor who was very kind with me and allowed me to talk and express myself and offered me the chance to participate in a training workshop for 15 days called ‘Start Your Business’. At the beginning I hesitated because it’s a long workshop, but at the end I decided to participate.*

*“We were 25 ladies, we enjoyed*

*participating in such a workshop, we learned a lot about starting a small business, how to start it, how to market for it, how to calculate profit margin, and how to sell my product. At the end of the workshop we received a certificate that made me proud of myself.*

*"After the workshop, I started thinking of a real project that could support me and my children. I started producing whole wheat bread. With the support of my eldest son Suleiman, we started selling the bread to houses and small supermarkets. The income was small at the beginning but over time it increased due to high demand for such bread. The next step was buying a sealing machine to pack the bread and seal it for better quality and more income. Thank you DSPR Jordan!"*

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Middle East Council of Churches is one of the ACT Alliance partners, who is assisting refugees through various programs. ABM has supported

organisations such as the DSPR through the ACT Alliance since 2013, with funding from our generous donors. Please join us in praying for an end to this conflict, and for peace for all those affected.

\*This story was posted on the ACT Alliance website at <http://actalliance.org/act-news/i-am-a-syrian-refugee/>

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## **THE VANUATU CYCLONE EMERGENCY** MAY 2017

Tropical Cyclone Donna was at Category 4 as it passed over northern Vanuatu. The winds resembled a high-speed train, savage, unpredictable, and wholly inescapable. Trees both large and small were uprooted, and precious food gardens devastated with callous ease.

Buildings and homes fared no better,

some collapsed and most were badly damaged, their thatched walls and tin roofs peeled away and shredded. Vital sources of water were contaminated, the streams and springs sullied with mud, leaves and pollution. As the storm subsided, ABM's partner in Vanuatu, the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM), swung into action. Their Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, Mr Fisher Young Dinh, completed an assessment of the damage and recommended a plan of action. Due to the significant extent of this damage, he estimated that there was an immediate need for food relief supplies, as local stocks would only last up to two or three weeks in communities now without gardens. There was also an urgent need for water supplies or purification tablets, and a speedy rebuilding of toileting facilities destroyed on some of the islands.

With funding from ABM and other supporting agencies, ACOM were able to quickly purchase these supplies, and

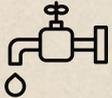
load them onto the church's flagship – The Southern Cross. Altogether, this life-saving cargo included:



1400 kgs of carbohydrate and protein foods



80 cartons of distilled water (loaded in Santo)



12 Water Purification Units

The relief could not have come at a better time. One member of the ship's crew commented;

"The whole of the Torres group [of islands] was brown in colour, the gardens are badly damaged, and people have been traumatised and are in despair. They need counselling, most especially people on Toga, Tegua and Hiu Islands."



Cyclone Donna relief – delivering supplies

There were several church buildings also destroyed, including St. James chapel on Loh, and All Saints chapel on Vanua Lava, further south in the Banks group of islands. Communities are now in the process of rebuilding their churches, their homes, and repairing some damages to school buildings.

The work is only just beginning. The Vanuatu Cyclone Emergency appeal is ongoing, as families struggle to recover. Please consider supporting ACOM as they assist communities through their trauma, and work to prepare for future disaster.

# THE CHURCH AGENCIES NETWORK (CAN)

## CAN DO

*The Church Agencies Network (CAN) was founded in 2004 to promote cooperation between aid and development agencies of Australian Christian churches, who commit to reducing poverty and injustice by empowering church partners in developing countries. In May 2016, eight of the eleven members of CAN formed a new consortium, the Church Agencies Network – Disaster Operations (CAN DO).*

The consortium consists of the following agencies: Act for Peace, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Anglican Board of Mission (ABM), Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA), Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS), Caritas Australia, Transform Aid International (TAI), and Uniting World (UW).

Through CAN DO, these church agencies are committed to collaborating in times of

humanitarian emergency, and to actively work in strengthening community resilience toward future disaster and conflict. CAN DO collectively shares a deep commitment to this work in the Pacific and globally (in both rapid and protracted emergencies), and longer-term preparedness and risk reduction.

In June 2016, CAN DO submitted a tender to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) competitive grant. The AHP is an Australian government initiative of DFAT and a partnership between DFAT and a select number of Australian NGOs. The tender was successful, and will now allow CAN DO to access DFAT emergency assistance and 'Pacific Capability Development' funding for the next five years.

The CAN DO agencies, including ABM, are also committed to contributing private financial assistance and staff resource time to this exciting joint vision.

This new initiative is an incredible opportunity for churches agencies to work together, allowing greater efficiency in implementing disaster reduction and response programs through close collaboration and planning, and a greater number of people helped through increased funding.

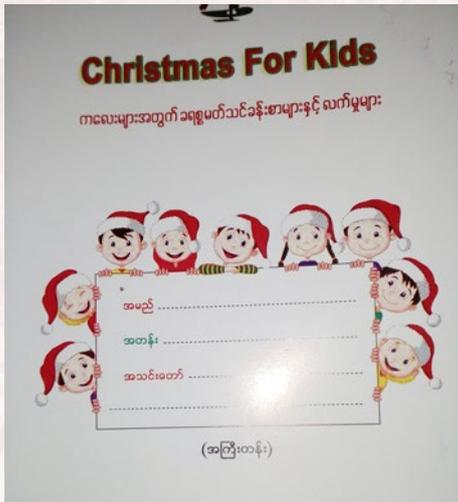
Find out more at:

[www.churchagenciesnetwork.org.au](http://www.churchagenciesnetwork.org.au)



CAN DO workshop

# EVANGELISM AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN MYANMAR



*The Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM) shared an update with ABM on the progress of the Evangelism and Christian Education project.*

There are six dioceses in the CPM with approximately 67,000 members including around 6,500 children. These children attend regular Sunday School classes in

their local churches both in urban and rural areas. Teaching Sunday School children is a great task and to make it more effective, the Provincial Religious Education and Religious Music Department of the CPM have prepared “active learning seasonal lessons of the Church” for children. However, because of insufficient funds last year, they could not provide weekly lesson booklets. The provincial office could only support up to 800,000 Kyats per year or no more than AUD \$1,000. In fact, due to lack of funds, the Church resorted to borrowing some money with low interest from other organisations to be able to continue producing these lesson booklets. To avoid this, in 2017 this project aimed to produce 3,000 copies of these active learning lessons for children between the ages of 4 and 14.

The CPM reports that work is well underway on the Children’s Activity Books, which will include five lessons on various Biblical teachings or faith confessions. The

first of these, “The Apostles’ Creed”, was produced earlier this year, in readiness for the Season of Trinity. Over 3,000 copies were printed and distributed to the six dioceses in Myanmar and it was well received by all the Sunday School teachers and staff. It was also introduced to hundreds of college students at the Myanmar Institute of Christian Theology and is now being widely used throughout Yangon in various church denominations.

Two further Activity Book manuscripts have also been developed and were introduced during the Myanmar Council of Churches Sunday School Teachers’ Training sessions, held in June and July this year. Around 30 participants from many different denominations attended, including Sunday School directors, teachers and church superintendents. These manuscripts were titled, “The Season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany” and “The Eight Blessings” and will soon be available for use by everyone who has requested them.

The Evangelism and Christian Education project has also recently supported a one-day seminar for CPM staff, Provincial committees, and Diocesan Christian Education committees. The seminar equipped these leaders in children's education to prepare lessons and teach with the new Activity Books. Around 25 participants were involved, and the day was facilitated by Sayama Patricia, a lecturer from the Myanmar Institute of Christian Theology in Yangon.

ABM would like to thank the Church of the Province of Myanmar for all their hard work, equipping Sunday School teachers throughout the country with these excellent resources. ABM's Christmas Appeal continues to fund this much needed work. Please consider a gift to the Christmas Appeal, using the enclosed slip, so that students can continue learning about Jesus this Christmas.



Myanmar - Sunday School teachers training group.

# TIME TO CONFRONT THE 'DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY' SAYS INDIGENOUS BISHOP

*Bishop Mark MacDonald, the National Indigenous Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada spoke about the Reconciliation journey of the Canadian Church during his recent Australian visit.*

During a forum in Adelaide, Bishop Mark was asked to nominate the 'blind spots' of the Australian Church in relation to reconciliation. He spoke of the experience of Canadian Anglicans in unveiling and seeking to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

"The Doctrine of Discovery describes a habitual way of thinking that continues to marginalise, dehumanise and downgrade Indigenous people," said Bishop Mark.

"At the heart of the doctrine is the idea that Indigenous people are a primitive form of human life who are therefore discoverable. This hidden assumption causes us to look at Indigenous people as people who need to be updated. Who need to be westernised or civilised in order to have any sort of happy life. It doesn't look

at Indigenous people as people of a distinct and worthwhile cultural. It doesn't value their gifts and talents and ideas."

According to Bishop Mark, the Doctrine of Discovery is at the heart of the mistreatment of Indigenous people that is historical and ongoing. Bishop Mark visited Australia at the invitation of National Aboriginal Bishop, Chris McLeod and the Anglican Board of Mission.

He was a keynote speaker at the Melbourne Diocesan Ministry Conference where he spoke on Incarnation, Indigenous Life and God's Mission. Pointing to the growth of Indigenous churches, Bishop Mark suggested that the Western church has much to learn from Indigenous wisdom - especially when facing the task of incarnating and inculturating the Gospel for younger generations.

From Melbourne, Bishop Mark headed to Central Australia where he joined Bishop Chris McLeod and a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican leaders

for retreat. The group spent time in prayer, story-telling, sitting together in country and prophetic imagining about the future of the church.

Canada and Australia both share a sad history of placing indigenous children into institutions.

The group visited the Bungalow (now the Telegraph Station) where many Aboriginal kids grew up. They also spent an evening with the Rev Brian Jeffries and the former residents of St Mary's, an Aboriginal children's home which was once supported by ABM.

The retreat ended in an evening around the campfire with local Arrente elders and other Alice Springs residents, sharing stories of land and spirit. It was a fitting end to a very moving time characterised by shared grief and laughter, and a marked spirit of unity in diversity.

Bishop Mark's visit and the Alice Springs retreat were made possible by donations to ABM's Reconciliation project.



Videos from Bishop Mark's time in Adelaide can be found on ABM's YouTube channel.



Bishop Mark MacDonald, second from left, on retreat during his visit to Australia.



### VALE BISHOP BOB BUTTERSS, FORMER ABM CHAIR

One of ABM's former Chairmen, the Rt Rev Robert (Bob) Butterss, died in July. He was deaconed in 1956 in Melbourne and priested in that diocese the following year. After serving in Brighton and then Lara in that diocese, he ventured north and was a mission priest in the Diocese of New

Guinea, based at Popondetta, for five years. Returning to parish ministry in Pascoe Vale in 1964, he was then appointed to the position of Victorian Secretary of ABM in 1966. He returned to parish ministry in 1970, becoming the Vicar of St Stephen's, Mt Waverley. In 1976 he became the Chair of ABM, a position he held until 1983 when he became Dean of Brisbane. He was consecrated in 1985 as a regional bishop in the Diocese of Melbourne. During his retirement in the Diocese of Newcastle, he celebrated the Eucharist regularly with the Society of St Francis at the hermitage in Stroud.

During his time as Chair of ABM the Church in Australia began to embrace partnership. One of his first overseas trips for ABM was to attend a conference in the USA which was focussed on Partners-in-Mission. Bringing together large numbers of independent dioceses to create a Communion-wide partnership scheme was difficult. Consultations were arranged

to help each national church to set its priorities and assess how much assistance it needed from outside sources. Such consultations happened regularly around the world in the 1970s and 1980s.

Australia hosted one such consultation in 1978. Eight partners came to assist the Anglican Church of Australia to discuss what mission meant for the contemporary church. Bishop Butterss reported –

“To me, one of the most important features was that the partners from Japan, Africa, the Pacific and Asia – regions we have supported for many years – were present in an entirely new status. They were not here to raise funds for their respective churches, they were not here to be taught how to do their job. They were here because we needed them and because we recognize that there is one mission and we are all partners in it.” (*Church Scene, 18 May 1978, p.14*)

May he rest in peace and rise in glory with Christ.

## 'SEMINAL MOMENT' ON CHILD PROTECTION FOR ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Anglican Church of Australia has passed national rules to protect children that are binding on all clergy and church workers and include regular independent audits that will be published publicly.

Garth Blake, SC, who led the national church working group with the Royal Commission, said it was a seminal moment for the Anglican Church because the rules were binding for the first time and because the church would be publicly accountable.

The church's triennial General Synod, meeting in Maroochydore, Queensland, passed the Safe Ministry to Children Canon unanimously.

Mr Blake told the Synod it had been confronting for the Anglican Church to hear the extent of abuse.

The new rules provide a code of conduct binding on all clergy and church workers, and standards for screening people and for dealing with "persons of concern", usually sex offenders.

Robert Fitzgerald, a Royal Commissioner on the child sexual abuse inquiry, told the Synod that nearly 600 people had told the commission of being abused in Anglican institutions, with an

average of 10.6 years old at first offence. He said the church's response must be forthright, clear and just.

The week-long Synod also considered two other important bills about redress for victims and holding current and retired diocesan bishops to account.

*(General Synod Media Release, 5 September 2017)*

**“The church’s response must be forthright, clear and just.”**

A session taking place during the 2017 General Synod





# PLEASE SUPPORT ABM'S EVANGELISM AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM.

*As Christmas is fast approaching, it would be wonderful for children in Myanmar to learn that the celebration is about Christ, with the help of activity books.*

For many years, the Provincial Religious Education and Religious Music Department of the Church of the Province of Myanmar have produced resource materials. The main resource is a weekly activity book which children from rural and urban areas use during Sunday School.

The books contain stories, activities, poems and songs which teach children about Jesus as well as developing their spiritual intelligence. Unfortunately due to insufficient funds, the weekly activity books have been scaled back and are now produced only five times per year.

Your support will help produce the necessary amount of books so that students can continue learning about Jesus this Christmas.

*Children gather during Christmas celebrations at Sunday School.  
© Dr Khin Thida Nyunt 2016*





**ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION**  
*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*

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