

Monday, November 16, 2015

Celebrating Christmas in Kenya

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

ABM asked staff from our partner in Kenya to share both Anglican and national Christmas traditions.

In Kenya preparations for Christmas start with nativity programs in the weeks of Advent and the main activities start on Christmas Eve.

Mr Kiio said, "People start celebrating on the evening of 24th December. In some churches they start celebrating from 6:00pm all the way through until after midnight. During that time there are plays and concerts relating to nativity."

On Christmas Day people go to church for a Christmas celebration. Children recite verses from the Bible on the birth of Jesus Christ, short plays are performed by the youth in some churches and people exchange gifts as well as Christmas cards.

Mr Kiio said, "The service ends at midday to give people time to go and celebrate Christmas with the rest of their family members. Families come together to celebrate Christmas - they enjoy different meals such as fried chicken, roasted goat's meat, roasted cow's meat and well-to-do families enjoy turkey meat. Many also enjoy pancakes (chapatti), rice and other traditional meals."

Like in Australia, Kenyan churches are decorated with different types of colours and people put up Christmas trees in their homes.

Mr Kiio said, "Churches donate food and clothes for the poor and marginalized, they also take food to prisons and those in jail to show the love of God and the joy of salvation."

At Christmas Sunday School children who have done well in church activities throughout the year are given gifts and Sunday School teachers are awarded as well.

In Kenya, ABM supports the Christian Education program which builds young children's faith from the age of 3 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.

So this Christmas, ABM invites you to share the joy of giving and help our Partners further develop their education. Donate at www.abmission.org/christmas2015

ENDS

CONTACT DETAILS

Email Elizabeth Baker at media@abm.asn.au or phone 0425 814 134 for more information.
High res photo attached in email for your use.

The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. For over 160 years ABM has been assisting people all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide health and education services, improve agricultural practices and strengthen the Church.