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Challenges of travel in the Anglican Church of PNG

ABM hosted a number of visitors from the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea throughout the first half of 2015. Many of them spoke about the challenges of accessing remote areas to deliver training, ministry and community development programs.

Archbishop Clyde Igara visited ABM and spoke of some of the challenges of his ministry in Papua New Guinea, in particular he highlighted the need to travel to other diocese to visit clergy but also to gather clergy together for training and professional development.

“The clergy tell me in their feedback that they miss that a lot. They miss training or refresher courses and workshops greatly,” he said.

ABM is working with the Church in PNG to support this need through the Archdeacon Training program in Popondota Diocese which has ten Archdeacons who have been selected to be trained for a month to better carry out their duties to assist the Diocese in providing pastoral care to each priest within its Deanery.

The project aims to allow clergy to do their pastoral work more effectively so that parishioners will respond positively in their Christian faith and ultimately build the faith of the Anglican Church in PNG.

Travel to remote areas is also a challenge in other programs such as the Building Local Skills project in which local people build their skills and improve their agriculture and community infrastructure and education.

Jeffrey Kaka, one of the Program coordinators in PNG said, “Up in the highlands of Papua New Guinea that’s where most of our adult literacy activities are implemented, only apart from walking, you can only fly into some of the areas where the schools are implemented.

“So you either fly or you walk for a few days. So that is some of the challenges of working in the program; geographical remoteness of some of the locations where activities are being implemented, so you have to be pretty fit,” he said.

In PNG only 59% of females are literate and ABM is a supporter of Anglicare PNG's work which strengthens literacy rates through classes.

You can find out more about ABM’s work in PNG and support these projects at www.abmission.org.

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CONTACT DETAILS

Email media@abm.asn.au for more details.

If you would like a high res photo selection to accompany this article, please be in touch.

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.