

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

Monday, January 11, 2016

## **Supporting Education & Community Development this Lent**

This Lent ABM is supporting projects in the Philippines and Australia that encourage education and community development.

In Cairns, Wontulp Bi Buya College provides education and encourages leadership to indigenous students so they can be role models in their communities.

Likewise, in the Philippines, the Evangelism and Christian education program provides much-needed training and education options for ordained and lay leaders who contribute to the ministry of the church and in turn become leaders in their communities.

ABM's Fundraising Manager, Christopher Brooks said, "Alongside these two education projects, ABM is encouraging our supporters to give to Community Capacity Building in the Philippines this Lent."

"ABM and its two partners in the Philippines focus on strengthening and building community capacity through the Assets-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach which looks at community strengths and builds on these to help lift households out of poverty," he said.

"Your support of this project will empower communities to work together to solve problems and change their lives for the better."

Through the ABCD approach every new community undergoes a process of consultation, discussing a common history, common goals and vision. Community members identify resources already available to them and think of possible economic activities based on these resources. This project trains community members in the preparation of feasibility studies and choose a specific economic activity to implement.

Mercy Bartolome participated in the process in her community in the Philippines throughout 2015. She shares her experiences.

"At first I was hesitant in getting involved but I started to accept the process and began to understand the ABCD. I realised how relevant the program is to women like me who for the longest time remain at the shadows of their husbands.

When the ABCD concept was applied to our community, we came to a consensus of formulating and managing a project called organic hog-raising. This was chosen as all of us know how to tend live stocks like pigs and there is available vegetation in our community that have not been utilised.

After four months of tending, we were able to market eight pigs. Each of the members were able to receive around \$100 to \$120AUD as net income. I felt very proud that I was able to contribute to my family needs out of my own efforts. I also felt proud of what I have become due to my involvement in the community's development initiatives."

To support people like Mercy this Lent please give at [www.abmission.org/lent2016](http://www.abmission.org/lent2016)

**ENDS**

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*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.*