



mission action

anglican missions

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Cover Photo: Clergy Training,
Gambella, Ethiopia

MISSION TOGETHER

To make a World of Difference

*'I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ...
you be perfectly united in mind and thought.' 1 Cor 1:10*

One cannot help but feel overwhelmed by the enormity of St Paul's charge to the church to be perfectly united. As we meditate on the unity of our global church, and the many challenges the world is facing, the Good News is that it is Christ who unites us. We have a work to do, so why not join in mission together more intentionally as we seek to make a difference in the world? We can gain a strong sense of unity simply by being in Mission together.

The many differences in our Church can be an advantage as we demonstrate that we can all march together in

Mission. Whether sending or going as Mission Partners; helping build up communities of faith in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, the Solomon Islands, PNG and other parts of the world; implementing Water Projects in the South Pacific, Asia or Africa; responding to emergencies in our region and across the globe; or simply telling Mission stories in our local church – we demonstrate that we all have a part to play in the Mission that God calls us to. In one sense, God's Mission becomes the Mission of God's body – the Church. In another sense, God's Mission becomes our

Mission – an enormous yet invigorating responsibility for us all.

In this edition of Mission Action we review the recent Common Life Missions Conference and its theme ‘Mission Together’; we provide a focus on the mission work in Polynesia; we look at attempts to rebuild after Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu; and we introduce this year’s Lenten projects. In each case we celebrate God’s call for us to ‘mission together’ in ways that hopefully bless everyone involved while making a world of difference.

We invite you to partner with Anglican Missions to make a world of difference!

We invite you to partner with Anglican Missions on this journey of faith and mission. A great way to begin 2016 is to support the people in Fiji as we mission together to establish the first ever “Children’s Drop-In Centre” in Suva for exploited children working in the sex industry. This is a ground-breaking mission to help children who are trapped and exploited to know

that someone cares enough to help. We hope this mission will grow in future years to provide comprehensive residential support for these vulnerable children.

Other Lenten projects to consider include Theological education support in Ethiopia, and Ministry support in Iran. More detail is provided later in this edition of Mission Action.

The call to mission together is a call to unite with expectation and enthusiasm. As we mission together, mission friendships are formed or rekindled. It is my hope and prayer that these mission friendships will bear much fruit, growing to become strong and lasting mission alliances and partnerships – serving together to make a difference in God’s World.

Let’s all unite in mission together!

*Rev Robert Kereopa
CEO, Anglican Missions.*



2016 Lenten Appeal

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We are very happy to be able to introduce to you three exciting projects for our 2016 Lenten Appeal.

Every Lenten season we are fortunate to have the opportunity to support three new projects. Last year with your help we were able to support the building of new classrooms for the rapidly growing ministry centre of the Church of the Epiphany in Port Said Egypt; new motor cycles for clergy in Tarime, Tanzania; and a new patient monitor for St Luke's Hospital in Nablus, Jerusalem.

This year we will partner with the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa and with the Diocese of Polynesia in Fiji. The Lenten Appeal will support the establishment of a drop-in centre for young victims of CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) in Fiji; the building of on-site accommodation for faculty at St. Frumentius Theological College in Gambella, Ethiopia; and accommodation and ministry requirements for new Deacons in the Diocese of Iran.

It is our hope that our church will support these worthy projects not only financially but also through prayer. Lent is the time for us to follow the path of Jesus and strengthen his values in our own lives through prayer and selflessness. It is the perfect time to connect with our brothers and sisters in need around the world. Please keep these projects in your prayers this Lenten season and for more information on how to support the Appeal go to our website at <http://www.angmissions.org.nz>.

Suva, Fiji

Children's Drop-In Centre

Diocese of Polynesia

We are all used to seeing the beautiful palm trees and sandy beaches of Fiji on travel advertisements as we long for a piece of the island paradise. We don't always see the harsh realities that many of the children of the beautiful islands face.

Distressingly, there is a growing trend of sexual offence against children and evidence of increasing numbers of children involved in sex work. Often times children are displaced from their families for various reasons, including those who flee due to high rates of domestic violence.

There is a critical need to provide protection and proper care to help not only victims, but also those that face very high risk and vulnerable situations, so they can progress positively in life. There is currently no existing residential care home that meets the vulnerable and high risk situation of these children and they are forced to live through this reality every day.

The Diocese of Polynesia in Fiji is planning to establish a Drop-In Centre for the young victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). The Drop-In Centre will offer a safe space for these children to begin the process of healing and restoration. It is envisaged that the child's withdrawal to a safe environment, with appropriate resources,



will foster positive behavioural change for better futures. Each child will receive an individual care plan based around five interventions being Medical care, Shelter, Counselling, Training, and Education. It is hoped that with continued support and resources the drop-in centre will eventually become a refuge for the children to stay long-term.

This ministry has the potential to completely change lives and offer these children a fair chance to live, to grow and to be happy. Please help us to make this vision a reality.

Gambella, Ethiopia

Theological Education

Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa

Over eighty rapidly growing churches, sixteen clergy and one theological degree – this is the picture of the Anglican Church in Gambela, Western Ethiopia. The church is abundantly blessed with more and more parishoners every week. This also means that the church is trying its best to upskill existing clergy and train new clergy to meet the needs of the people and minister to this enthusiastic church family.

The recently opened St. Frumentius' Theological College in Gambela fills a critical role in the church of Ethiopia. The priority of the school is to train new and existing clergy. It is the first training facility of its kind in the region and it is also open to other denominations. Theological education is highly valuable and important in the work of the church and will enable the clergy in Ethiopia to teach, to preach and to do God's work.

The construction of the college has made a lot of progress and some classrooms and the library are completed. It is now in need of accommodation for staff and students. The cost of each faculty apartment will be USD\$40,000. Once the apartments are completed the staff will be able to stay at the

school and begin teaching classes. The Diocese is contributing \$10,000 and Anglican Missions is hoping to raise \$30,000 through this years Lenten Appeal to contribute to this commendable project.



Iran

Deacon Ministry

Diocese of Iran, Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

The Diocese of Iran is one of four Dioceses of the province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Christians have been in this area since the very earliest Church ministry and the indigenous Churches continue as minorities in this predominantly Muslim country.

There was an effective Anglican presence that was inclined toward incarnational ministry through educational efforts and medical care under the spiritual leadership of a Bishop.

When the country's regime changed under the Islamic Revolution in 1979 a small but passionate church was left behind. Members of the Church need much prayer for strength to live their faith in response to the commandments and commission of Christ.

Within the framework of permissions granted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Diocese has learnt to exist and serve the Lord. They now have four places to operate from and serve the faithful remnant of God's people.

Recently, after twenty five years, three new local deacons have been ordained to serve in three different parishes in Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz. With restrictions on the



church in that country, it is always a challenge for the Diocese to present their story in all its detail and to highlight their difficulties. This affects how the world responds to their plight. The Diocese of Iran has asked Anglican Missions to raise support needed for these ministries.

The cost of accommodation and ministry requirements for each of the three deacons is \$15,000. With your help Anglican Missions is aiming to raise the funds to support at least one of the ministers for one year.



COMMON LIFE MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2015

Over four hundred people showed up to King's College in Auckland on Tuesday 6th October, 2015 to learn and to be inspired by the mission of the church at the Common Life Missions Conference. The four day event gathered people together from our Province, and from across the globe to follow the apt theme, "Mission Together". This was a place to network, to build partnerships, to be motivated, to learn and to grow in mission together.

We were very fortunate to have Rev Dr Chris Wright join us from England as our keynote speaker. Wright has a strong background in mission and since 2001 has been the International Ministries Director of the Langham Partnership. In his first keynote address Wright challenged CLMC attendees with strategies to implement the five marks of Mission: Proclaiming the Gospel, Nurturing Believers, Responding to Human Need, Transforming the Unjust Structures in Society, and Caring for Creation. Over the four days Wright linked

the mission of the church today to God's promise to Abraham by looking at the announcement of God's plan to Israel in Genesis 18:16-21; considering how God's people were called to serve Him in mission with reference to Exodus 19:1-6; and looking at how our Mission should be proclaiming God's kingdom in the world, with reference to Isaiah 52:7-10.

Each morning began the right way with food for the spirit, the body and the mind. Holy communion was first thing in the morning followed by breakfast and then straight into the thought provoking Bible studies led by Bishop Dr Dickson Chilongani (Central Tanganyika, Tanzania). With an extremely large diocese including 258 parishes and over 600,000 Anglicans, Chilongani's unique perspective offered the attendees an insight into the scriptures that focussed on the world view of African communities.

A variety of workshops were presented by National and International leaders. Rev Canon Arthur Hokianga led an insightful workshop on "Minita-a-whānau" which focussed on discipleship starting within

the home. NZCMS delivered a workshop on the refugee crisis while Archbishop Winston Halapua focussed on climate change in the Pacific which is becoming a highly political issue globally. All the workshops were greatly appreciated and special Tikanga presentations in the evenings demonstrated ways that the three arms of our church are engaging in Mission. Families are always welcome at CLMC and an awesome "Linkd" program for 8-13 year olds was organised by Dr Rosemary Dewerse as well as a "Youth" hang out centre coordinated by the Tikanga Toru Youth Commissioner Rev Michael Tamihere and NZCMS youth mobiliser Kirstin Cant.

We were very blessed to welcome the former Governor General of New Zealand, Sir Anand Satyanand as one of our guest speakers. Sir Anand is currently a member of the Transparency International's Global Advisory Council and spoke on the pervasiveness of corruption and how it can be handled.

CLMC2015 gave us the opportunity to eat, drink, breathe, sleep, learn and dream



Mission together and the chance to create new friendships as we become a missions community together. In the words of Canon Robert Kereopa, "What we do as a missional church is an expression of who we are as the people of God – and gives us the chance to refocus on our core-calling, which Christ passed on to his disciples: (Matthew 28:19) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost."

If you were unable to attend the Conference and would like to hear the presentations of the speakers and workshop leaders, dvd's have been produced and are available from the Anglican Missions office.

Mike's Guitars

Rev. Mike Hawke, Anglican Missions Board's Projects Officer is always on the go. As well as visiting parishes around New Zealand, he regularly visits our Mission Partners in Polynesia and Melanesia.

One of his strengths is practical support as many of you will be aware through his recent work assisting to coordinate a container project for Vanuatu – see article on page 14.

Not only does he provide clergy support and training, but when he can he takes gifts with him for the people he visits. These are often donated by parishes or individuals from around New Zealand and can include communion sets; used vestments for clergy and pens for the kids.

However, also very much valued items, which are hard to obtain and expensive, are guitars and

guitar strings. Mike often arrives in Fiji or elsewhere with a handful of used guitar strings that are very much appreciated gifts.

On a recent trip to Fiji visiting some of the projects and places we support, Mike brought a guitar along which was used to share times of worship and singing; and was especially great in connecting with the children. In November 2015, children at St Christopher's Home in Fiji welcomed a group of us with a lunch and some excellent singing. As we left Fiji, Mike's guitar stayed behind – donated as a gift to the children of St Christopher's.

If you have a guitar needing a good home, or some used strings... or perhaps a communion set no longer

required; or some used vestments for clergy, Mike would love to hear from you. Contact him at mike@angmissions.org.nz





Water Project

Over the last few years Anglican Missions has supported various projects, particularly in the Diocese of Polynesia, aimed at improving the provision and storage of water and water related services for a variety of communities.

As part of these efforts many water tanks have been successfully installed making a huge difference to the communities involved.

However there is still plenty of need and we are hoping funds can continue to be raised to provide water tanks and related services.

Last year AMB staff were privileged to visit Fiji to meet mission partners and to see first-hand various projects and needs. We stayed at St John the Baptist Theological College in Suva. The College has a water tank to assist with water supply for the College which provides training and assistance to clergy and hosts many visitors. While we were there the water tank spontaneously collapsed and the College now needs to replace it.

Not only does the tank need replacing but the damage to the surrounding area and room requires repair.

We visited Waidradra Parish in Fiji who benefited a few years ago from the installation of a water tank. However their water tank serves a community of approximately 300 and when the need is great neighbouring communities also come to use the water from Waidradra.

It would be great to be able to supply them with a second tank.



*Collapsed water tank,
St. John's College, Suva.*



*Holy Family Church, Waidradra
Parish, Fiji and their water tank.*



HOUSE OF SARAH

Two in three women in the Pacific have been victims of domestic violence from a partner or a spouse. Every day in Fiji forty-three women are injured, one is permanently disabled, seventy-one lose consciousness and sixteen are injured badly. House of Sarah (HOS) has a focus on addressing this serious issue of domestic violence and providing care for victims. It offers a response from the Diocese of Polynesia to gender inequality, discrimination and the elimination of violence against women and children.

The name “House of Sarah” was chosen to give hope and is taken from Sarai in the Old Testament who was the wife of Abraham. Sarai was childless, scorned and full of self-doubt. Her name was changed to Sarah when God touched her life and transformed her.

The House of Sarah has a mission to provide a listening ear, a warm heart and a welcoming hand to those in need. HOS provides counselling support and referral as well as raising awareness for women and training for church leaders on gender-based violence, human rights and Biblical teachings. Their strategic policy

involves re-examining the teachings of the Bible; building a safe, respectful family life; advancing primary prevention initiatives; advancing work with boys, men and perpetrators in all countries of the Diocese of Polynesia and promoting Church policy and canon to support primary intervention.

HOS works together with churches to provide outreach work at community level and in areas where access to services is scarce. They have a total ministry approach that includes everyone – children, youth, women and men, laity and clergy persons.

One of the main challenges House of Sarah face is an ingrained attitude in many communities that view women in a submissive and secondary role. There can also be a lack of confidence and trust from victims of gender-based violence. HOS is starting to break down these attitudes through increased education and outreach. The Christian Network 'Talanoa' is an alliance of ecumenical partners and individuals convened by the House of

Sarah since 2013 to talk, share information and take collaborative actions to address violence against women. They propose to extend and continue the educational and outreach aspect of their work.

Anglican Missions staff had the privilege of visiting the House of Sarah last November and were greatly encouraged by the work that they are doing. Our hope and prayer is that this work will thrive and grow with the support of the church to continue making true changes in lives and transforming communities.





CYCLONE PAM AFTERMATH

"Get over to Vanuatu and provide as much support as you can on behalf of Anglican Missions and our church!"

This was the phone call I received from Canon Robert Kereopa days after Cyclone Pam ripped through many of the Islands of Vanuatu.

Ten days later I met with Church leaders, devastated locals and a few kiwis such as Graeme and Maebry Reid, who actually weathered the storm.

Palm Sunday at Tagabae Anglican Church was a phenomenal experience as the packed church lifted the remains of the already fragile roof, with their amazing singing and praises to the Lord. Yes, people in the Pacific seem to sing through their suffering.

Upon returning to New Zealand, the Lord laid on my heart the need to go a step further and organize a 12 metre long container full of rebuild materials. My previous parish of St Christopher's, Avonhead, did a fantastic job in forming a team to fill the container. John Kitto has many stories of little miracles such as the likes of Mitre 10 Hornby, Holcim Cement and others, who generously gave

generators, corrugated iron, timber posts, cladding, wheelbarrows, concrete mixers, screws, nails, and a lot more. Richard Cronin of Pacific Containers provided the container and expertise regarding appropriate paper work.

There are poignant stories of widows allowing AMB to take the myriad of tools that their late husband had used and had subsequently lain idle ever since. The women were given a deep sense of satisfaction by knowing that these hammers, screwdrivers, crescents, drills, spades, shovels and nails were to have another life helping in the rebuild of Vanuatu.

I returned to Vanuatu at the end of October to facilitate the release of the full container, only to discover a country deeper in crisis. Fourteen members of parliament had just been imprisoned on corruption charges and some schools were being closed one month early as drought threatened.

Selwyn Leodoro, General Secretary of the Anglican Church, organised for me to meet the President of Vanuatu, Baldwin Longsdale. We prayed the Lord's blessing

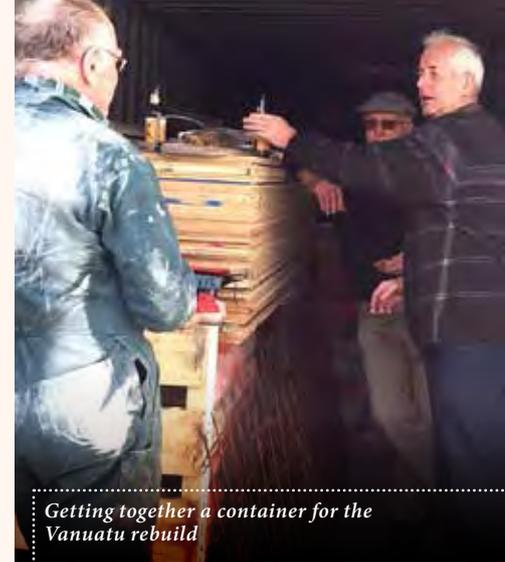
on him as he faced some huge decisions. His influence also ensured our container arrived at Tagabae church soon after!!! Much to the relief of Neville and Gloria Jones, who work with the Presbyterians, they had a new double bed on board which they had been looking forward to for months.

It is important that we keep Vanuatu in our prayers and plans. Clothing is needed and could provide the basis of some home grown micro businesses.

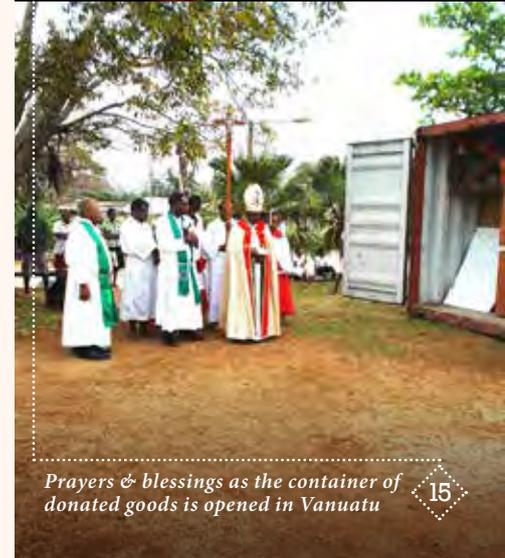
The biggest concern, however, is the impending drought. Damaged crops and trees from Cyclone Pam are now being further stressed by lack of water. Vital crops such as taro, sweet potato and cabbage are seriously threatened.

Many houses and churches do not have guttering to collect water, nor do they have tanks. If this is not remedied the crisis could turn in to a catastrophe.

I look forward to returning during Easter 2016 to witness how the resources from the container have been utilized and to experience their joy in the Resurrection with great hope.



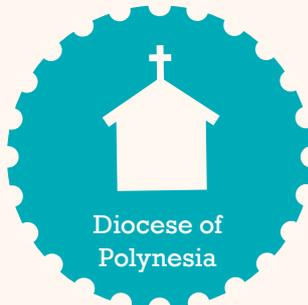
Getting together a container for the Vanuatu rebuild



Prayers & blessings as the container of donated goods is opened in Vanuatu

2016 PROJECTS

Every year, AMB's partners give the church opportunities to support their projects. Here are some of the projects making a difference to our family in the wider church.



Diocese of
Polynesia

House of Sarah \$20,000
Anglicare Core Funding \$15,000
Landless People Nadawa \$5,000



Melanesia

Mission Support for the Anglican
Church of Melanesia \$3,500



Tanzania

Archbishop Pastoral Visits \$8,000
National Workshop for ACT Strategic
Plan 2016-2020 \$10,000



NZCMS

Mission Partners Supported Overseas
\$560,000



Church of
Pakistan

Diocesan Boys Hostel \$11,000
(supported through Spring Appeal)

For information on Lenten Appeal projects see pages 4-7

For more information about how to support one of these projects, please contact the AMB office:
info@angmissions.org.nz