

# *Switching on to* **Mission**

# MISSION ACTION

**Record response to Gaza Appeal**

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**ANGLICAN MISSIONS**



# Editorial

## REV HAMISH THOMSON



**MISSION ACTION** is published three times a year to inform and encourage the supporters of the global mission of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

**THE ANGLICAN MISSIONS BOARD** was established in 1927 by General Synod to encourage, promote and coordinate overseas mission for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. In partnership with others, the AMB actively supports and enables the Church's mission throughout the South Pacific, Tanzania, North Africa, South-East Asia, Pakistan, Cambodia and beyond.

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# FAITH

## *in Uncertain Times*

I SAT LISTENING TO SOMEONE RECENTLY as they unburdened themselves of their anxieties in the midst of our uncertain economic times. I doubt they are alone in their worry. I suspect many of us wonder about how things will affect us; is my job secure, will I have enough to live on, will there be enough in my pension fund for when I retire?

Later it got me thinking. What do we do when life doesn't work out the way we expected? When we struggle to pay that bill or when the plans we have made for our future slowly unravel? How do we handle the disappointment that slowly creeps into our heart?

In Psalm 73 we read, "Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold."

Does that sound familiar? That God is good to everyone except us? I know that self-pity all too well. I know what it feels like to watch God come through for others and wonder if he will do the same for me. Yet the question I often ask myself is why? Why do I have such doubts as to God's goodness? When I take the time to look I realise that God has a perfect track record in my life; he has never failed me!

And then I am challenged as the psalmist concludes: "Yet I still belong to you; you are holding my right hand. You will keep on guiding me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever." (NLT)

I can relate to that. I struggle at times. My faith is tested and I grow tired. Yet God remains true to his character regardless of me. Not only is God good, he is good to me.

And if God is good to me then I can be good to others – and so can you. Regardless of the times in which we live, or the circumstances in which we find ourselves, God is good and will continue to provide for us. In our present economic climate a natural response is to cut back, to reduce our expenditure. To think of ourselves. But now, perhaps more than ever, is the time to look beyond *our* circumstances to "the One who holds all things in the palm of his hand" and continue to trust God with the whole of our lives.

Yes, we are in uncertain times. Yes, we need to be careful – and yes, we need to be prudent. But in this time of Lent, as we consider again God's goodness towards us, let's choose to look beyond ourselves. Let's focus on those whose needs God wants to help meet through you and me.

*Hamish*

# SWITCHING ON TO MISSION



Canon Robert Kereopa  
Executive Officer

## ENLARGING OUR VISION FOR MISSION

Enlarging our Vision for Mission helps us to look outside our established borders, to reach out beyond ourselves. We can "switch on" to Mission in many ways, for example: by seeing the great need beyond ourselves; by partnering up with others; by connecting the local church to global Missions; and by observing the Great Commission that Jesus passed on to us.

## SEEING THE GREAT NEED BEYOND OURSELVES

Since the beginnings of the Church the giving of alms to the poor has been a feature of its Mission action. The season of Lent has become a time to place more emphasis on giving, encouraging us to open our eyes, hearts and wallets to the great need in the world.

The truth is that the number of poor in the world is actually growing. The focus of poverty relief has now shifted from the 'poor' to the 'extremely poor'. It is estimated that only 0.7% of the income of all Wealthy countries is needed to eradicate extreme poverty within one generation.

We all need to catch the vision for poverty eradication. This will enlarge our vision overall for Mission action in the Third World. It is not a question of Christian obligation; it is a question of Christian identity. Do we truly identify with the extremely poor?

Emergency response is another particular area of need when war or disaster strikes – often unexpectedly. The tremendous giving from individuals, parishes, dioceses and trusts towards the Gaza hospital and Fiji flood appeals early this year, demonstrates the ability of our Church to respond to those in need. Thank you all.

## MISSION IS ULTIMATELY A CO-MISSION

We all have a stake in this Mission together. Our constitution reinforces our identity as "One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church". However this identity extends beyond the boundaries of our Province to the whole world. We have a Co-Mission across our 3 Tikanga Church, as well as with our partner churches around the globe.

Enlarging our vision for Mission involves enlarging our sense of who we are as the people of God. It involves looking beyond our parish, diocesan, tikanga and provincial borders. It involves seeing Mission as a 2-way experience that both partners are hopefully blessed by. It involves working together in Mission and partnership, while realising that Co-Mission is inadequate without Communion; and real Communion is inadequate without a genuine sharing of people and resources.

## CONNECTING THE LOCAL CHURCH TO GLOBAL MISSION

The starting point for a local church to get connected is the capture of a global vision for the church. The vision may well be unique to the parish, taking into account the history, gifting, relationships and aspirations of your own local situation. The key question to answer is "What is God calling us to as a faith community?" It can be very broad, such as "Engaging the World with God's Message", or it may be very specific, such as "Supporting the Stop Aids work in Papua New Guinea over the next 3 years".

Enlarging your local vision will identify the specific connections your local church can make. You can connect through Church to Church partnerships, Team Mission visits, people (Mission Partners or Mission Personnel) or specific Mission Projects supporting a myriad of evangelism, church support and development projects with our partners overseas. Anglican Missions is available to help local churches get better connected to global Missions.

## THE GREAT COMMISSION: AN UN-CANCELLED MANDATE

The call to develop a mission mindset and enlarge our Vision for Mission stems from the Great Commission that Christ passed on to his disciples in Matthew Chapter 28. "Go ye therefore, and teach all Nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ..." This mandate has been passed on from generation to generation of Christians, and is still the Great Commission for us today. It is an un-cancelled mandate and will remain un-cancelled until Christ returns. Re-committing to the Great Commission can be a catalyst for enlarging our Vision for Mission. And as our vision grows, hopefully our Mission action will grow also.

I pray you are able to enlarge your Vision for Mission this year as you continue to follow the Master's call.

Let's do it together!

Canon Robert Kereopa  
Executive Officer



***"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"***

**Acts 1:8**

**The name 'Hawai'i', for most of our readers, will immediately conjure up images of a tropical paradise; the magical setting for hundreds of Hollywood movies, television productions and literature that has shaped our popular conceptions over many years. Sun, sand, surf and islands of astounding beauty – the prime destination for a dream holiday.**

What we won't often hear about in all the movies, TV shows and tourism adverts is the story of its indigenous people. Kanaka Maoli (tangata Māori) have a history that parallels that of Māori in Aotearoa with loss of land, language and culture. While there was a tacit policy in early "Native" or Maori schools to prohibit the use of Te Reo Māori – it is still within the living memory of people we spoke to in Hawai'i of Kanaka Maoli being beaten on the street for speaking their language in public.

Contrary to the popular conception, the name "Hawai'i" for most Māori recalls our homeland of legend and in our oratory, our final resting place: Hawaiki. And from the 23rd of October to the 3rd of November, for a group of young Māori, it wasn't a holiday destination – it was a destination for mission.

Ten of us made the mission trip on the invitation of the Bishop of the Episco-

pal (Anglican) Diocese of Hawai'i, the Rt Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick. Members of our group ranged in age from 17 to 29, experienced Māori youth leaders from the four corners of Aotearoa with a targeted range of gifts in music and creative ministries, liturgy, theology, ICT communication, tikanga (tradition, language and culture) and the whole gamut of youth ministry. We were also very fortunate to have the Rt Rev. John Gray, Bishop of Te Waipounamu, in Hawai'i as part of a parallel programme to support and give guidance to the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i.

The Episcopal Church in Hawai'i has a special legacy. It was begun in 1862 by special invitation of its indigenous rulers, King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma. Over one hundred years later it no longer has any active indigenous clergy or any real recognition of the ground from which indigenous



Team taking religious education classes in the chapel at Iolani Episcopal Area School

Hawai'ians ought to be able to respond in faith to God's calling.

Our mission was simple – to encourage and inspire the Hawai'ian church through our expression of faith through tikanga Māori by rangatahi Māori.

Often going from dawn until past midnight, we did just that for two weeks. We made presentations to their Convention (Diocesan Synod), took after-School programmes, participated in Bible Studies, taught a whole day of R.E. at an Anglican Area School, joined with youth groups, fellowshiped with youth leaders, built houses for Habitat for Humanity and spoke and sang until our voices were hoarse.

Not only did we want to challenge the Hawai'ian Church to find new ways of honouring and recognizing its indigenous members, we also wanted to challenge them to do it in a way that was sustainable; that would not only cater for the next generation, but for generations. By our very nature we sought to show that young people could lead and sustain that movement.

On our last Sunday we were given the amazing opportunity to take the service

at St John's by the Sea, Kahalu'u, on the Island of Oahu. We took the entire service in Māori using the 476 service from our prayer book. The whole team led every part of the karakia – singing, preaching and celebrating. St John's by the Sea is the Episcopal Church of Hawai'i's strongest indigenous congregation and we were humbled by the space they made for us and by how moved they were by our offering. They saw in our ability to express our faith and worship in our own language with our own tikanga what they would love to do each Sunday.

The Episcopal Church of Hawai'i is making plans to send a group of young people to Aotearoa sometime later this year to continue to build on this relationship. While Māori in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa are blessed to be able to express our faith and to respond to God's call in our own language, we know there is much we can also learn from our cousins from Hawai'i. Aloha.

**Venerable Michael Tamihere,  
Archdeacon of Kahui Rangatahi,  
Aotearoa  
Kaihautu (Director), Te Mara  
Rangatahi Ministry School.**



Team laying foundations for new homes with Habitat for Humanity



Leading games at an After-school programme, St Elizabeth's, Honolulu.  
Facing forward on right: Analisa Rangihuna-Taylor



Team at St John's by the Sea, Kahalu'u, Oahu



# PEOPLE RESPOND TO GAZA

**In the midst of the fragile peace in the GAZA strip, the work of the Al Ahli Arab Anglican Hospital continues unabated as it tends to the recovery and rehabilitation of those injured during the conflict as well as attending to those patients whose medical needs are unrelated to the conflict.**



During the three weeks of conflict Al Ahli played an important role in providing care for the people of Gaza as well as taking patients from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City as it struggled under the sheer volume of injured people.

Bishop Suheil S. Dawani, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem and President of the Hospital, advised that “care is being provided at our Al Ahli for free, offered at no monetary cost to patients and their families because of the unstable economic conditions and the hardships facing most of the civilian population in Gaza”. The Bishop then added, “our warm appreciation goes to partners and friends, abroad, all of whom have generously stepped in to provide monetary support for this medical emergency whose aftermath will continue in the months to come”. At the time of going to print, AMB has received over \$33,000 in donations from parishes and individuals in support of the Al Ahli Anglican Hospital.

However, the situation at Al Ahli and in Gaza has not “returned to normal”. The conditions before the recent conflict were already extremely difficult for the hospital because of the shortage of resources, and so recent events have only added to the shortages, while at the same time increasing demands due to the many injured and wounded needing medical care.

For the Diocese as a whole, the medical and humanitarian support for Ahli Hospital and Gaza remains a priority while at the same time the Diocese continues to provide both support and encouragement for its other institutions and their ministries, many of which serve refugees. This is especially so in the West Bank communities with diocesan schools and the recently restructured and updated St. Luke’s Hospital in Nablus.

Bishop Suheil in his recent visit to Nablus stated, “the conditions in these areas have been seeing some recovery in the aftermath of the (recent conflict). There is still however a long way to go in meeting basic needs, in the development of human and material resources for the region, and in obtaining low-cost housing for young families”.

The Bishop continued by saying “As we pray and seek peace and stability for Gaza, we will also continue with our partners in our prayers and endeavours as a Christian community to seeking well-being and better lives for all those in need who live within the geographic boundaries of our Diocese”.

*Please note that every dollar raised by AMB emergency appeals goes directly to the intended recipients.*



## FIJI FLOOD APPEAL

**At the time of going to print over \$17,000 has been received for flood relief work in Fiji through the Anglican Church. In the aftermath of the floods the true extent of the damage is being realised, with excessive damage to export crops and gravel deposits in the soil now making cropping difficult. One hundred and thirty Anglican families were badly affected and the Church continues to help with food and other supplies.**



# THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN PNG



**‘You’d be amazed but we hardly ever meet a white person who is open to us.’ From a youth worker in the Anglican diocese of Popondota, Oro Province, Papua New Guinea.**

Last year with a rush of confidence I had accepted an invitation to return to serve our church in Papua New Guinea. The government gave a work permit for two years, but I think I left my run a bit late. Ill health brought me home after just five months. Rueful at leaving so soon, but glad I’d given it a go.

As I reflect on my 42 years of ordained ministry, I recognise that the most exciting times have been when I have served overseas in developing countries.

So what about you? Have you active spare years with nothing very exciting around you here? Are you open to offering what you have – and more, who you are? Can you be who you are and give what you have in friendship with people in a very different culture?

How about spending a couple of years in a country which is often forgotten but which gives plenty of excitement, with warm open human beings, and for you the personal payback of being of use within the developing life of the Anglican church in a struggling society?

The diocese of Popondota (along the Kokoda trail, famous among Australian soldiers during the Japanese war in the Pacific) is running on an assured income of about \$3,500 a month thanks to AMB. This meets half the outgoings: the costs of the bishop and his pastoral ministry, the central administration of a church serving about 100 000 Anglicans. The generosity of NZ Anglicans continues to ensure the survival of the diocese of Popondota, but it is no more than survival.

People told me that independence in church (in 1977) as in state (1975) came too fast. The decades since then have seen a lot of wasted initiative. For us as a church, I see that money support is important to help the Christian community continue, yet in some ways more valuable is the person-to-person connection. Give your money, but show your face, open your heart.

If you can go, don’t stay too long – fit as best you can inside the complicated network of families and tribal loyalties. I promise you will return with a smile on your face and gratitude to God.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION IN ACPNG

**Over the next five years the Provincial Council’s goal is to become self sustaining in the threefold mission of preaching, teaching and healing. To do this they have asked for our help. What they need are people with specific skills who can help train others to do as they do in a challenging but infinitely rewarding environment. In particular they need:**

- Diocesan Secretary, Popondetta
- Diocesan Secretary, Dogura
- Diocesan Secretary, Aipo Rongo
- Head of Health, Popondetta
- Property Development Officer, Lae
- Senior Medical Workers
- Triage nurses: Koinambe, Oro Bay, Dogura.
- Short term Peripatetic Dentists & Eye Specialists for all areas.

**To find out more about these strategic opportunities contact either Robert or Hamish at AMB.**



# MEET STEVE MAINA

## THE NEW CMS GENERAL SECRETARY

**As a 14-year-old in a Kenyan high school Steve Maina, CMS's new general secretary, received his call to serve the Lord.**

I am a 4th generation minister in the Anglican Church. My great grandfather received the gospel from CMS missionaries at the beginning of last century and planted many churches in Kenya, as did my grandfather. My father, too, was an Anglican minister for over 50 years.

Kenya has a huge heritage –spanning many years – of missional influence from CMS missionaries and the Anglican Church. As I come to serve CMS in New Zealand I feel I am making a return on that investment.

### **A NEW CHALLENGE – RECIPROCITY IN MISSION**

I want to challenge the Church here to see that although the numbers may not be huge in your churches you have so many resources to offer the Lord. To challenge you to give whatever you have towards God's work, his service and his kingdom.

I also want to commend a new way of understanding God's world. Those who come from contexts of poverty in different parts of the world may be richer spiritually and may have things to teach you. Will you be prepared to learn from those people? Will you allow those who have traditionally received missionaries to bless you in return?

Today, more missionaries are coming from Africa, Asia and South America than from the whole western world put together! We need to be able to conceive of a future where western society will receive many missionaries from the two-thirds world. I have been invited to speak at several places across New Zealand and as I share my faith and my story I hope that idea will come across – that even as an African, I have something to offer, I have a perspective of God that is different and it can enrich the Church in New Zealand even as I am enriched by God's people here.

I am hoping that the Church in New Zealand will not think they can fulfil the Great Commission by themselves, whether in New Zealand or globally. We are all members of



the body of Christ – and we all have a part to play.

### **NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

The future of global missions is multicultural and will involve many more partnerships. Mission organisations that two decades ago did things by themselves, will work together for the common good of God's kingdom. There will be less emphasis on denominations.

These new partnerships will not just be with other denominations or other agencies but will also extend to people of all races. I'd like to see multicultural teams of people working together in mission, and in so doing, adding value to the task with their different perspectives of mission.

### **NEW GENERATION**

One of my great priorities over the next three years is to mobilise a new generation of people in their 20s and 30s to be excited about mission. There is a need to pass on the 200 years of mission heritage in New Zealand to the next generation (Psalm 78:4-7).

### **NEW MISSION CONTEXTS**

Traditionally we have sent people out to preach to the unreached people groups in the world, but now we have many migrants coming to New Zealand from those very places! We need to recognise this shift in mission and learn to engage with our migrant populations. We don't have to go to India to speak to Indians or to China to minister to the Chinese – they are our neighbours here in New Zealand. As we reach out to them with the gospel, not only will they in turn be a Christian influence when they go back to visit their own countries, but they will also add flavour to the Church here in New Zealand.

*Edited from an interview with Steve Maina. Read the full transcript on our website [www.anglicanmissions.org.nz](http://www.anglicanmissions.org.nz)*