WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM
Recently, Hugh McBain (Chair of our Diocesan Missions Committee) and I spent a week in Papua New Guinea. This “Diocesan Visitation” evolved from an approach by Canon Robert Kereopa of the Anglican Missions Board (AMB) with a view of a partnership being formed between the Diocese of Waiapu and the Diocese of Popondetta in the Anglican Province of PNG. This approach by the AMB via Robert was the result of a request by Bishop (now Archbishop of PNG) Jo Kopapa, to explore if a partnership with a New Zealand Diocese would be possible. The visit included Robert as well as Steve Maina, the National Director of the New Zealand Church Missionary Society (NZCMS).

Robert and Hugh visited Gora-Ri Parish (in the Highlands) and Steve and I visited the Parishes of Tufi and Ajoa (in the Coastal Region). In addition, the four of us visited: Martyrs School (Anglican Co-Educational Secondary School), the Diocesan Training Centre, and Newton College (Provincial Theological College). During each visit whether our conversations involved bishops, priests, deacons, lay evangelists, diocesan or educational staff, laypeople, governmental officials, and the like, our questions remained the same: “What is the vision of the Diocese of Popondetta? The responses were varied and yet I heard a clear, unmistakable thread in each response. I believe the Diocese of Popondetta want to contribute to making a “real difference” for the people of PNG. I believe the Diocese of Popondetta see that it is their responsibility to provide opportunities for education, for business development, for better political representation, for raising environmental awareness, again, in a word or two, to be agents of change. And over and over again, I heard from the aforementioned list of those with whom we spoke, the same essential ingredient to realizing this vision, leadership. Whether it was the now Archbishop and Diocesan Bishop or the Principal of the Theological College or the Chancellor of the Diocese or laypeople in remote villages, the message was the same. “We need clergy and laity to lead us so that we can prompt real change and make a difference in people’s lives.” So we talked an enormous amount regarding training and formation for this “vision of leadership.” And we talked about prospective models of leadership which are based on principles of working missionally, directing our attention and our energy towards the community, namely, endeavouring to make a real difference in the world as “we make Jesus known.”

You know, I don’t know if we will develop a partnership with the Diocese of Popondetta, that remains to be seen and belongs to God, but I do know that the vision I believe God has given to the Diocese of Waiapu, that is, “to know Jesus and to make Jesus known” requires the type of outwardly facing, missionally expressing, Jesus-knowing leadership, we heard as integral to the vision of our new friends and colleagues in Popondetta.
NZCMS MISSION PARTNER – ROSIE

IMPRESSIONS OF CAIRO

Cairo… the constant sounds of car horns which can communicate anything from “you’re going too slow, speed up”, “I’m behind you so stop backing now”, “do you want a ride.” The 5-a-day calls to prayer. People talking loudly, calling out across the street, arguing, or bargaining.

WHAT I’VE BEEN UP TO

I started at language school this week. The first class was a bit overwhelming—a realisation of the amount of hard work it takes to pick up language and how many times I need to hear and say a word before it sticks in my mind. However, it’s great to be learning a language in the country where it’s actually spoken. I’ve been enjoying trying out new phrases to people I meet during the day.

CURRENT ROLE

I started my official role with the Diocese of Egypt in September. I am working with an Egyptian woman called Sherry. The church does an impressive amount of development work in Egypt: schools, community development centres, hospitals, prison ministry, refugee work, a special needs and a deaf school. The church is limited in what it can say in the public sphere, so the development work is a way to show Jesus’ love practically.

Hi everyone,

I hope you’re well. If you remember, there was a little boy named Jackson from Iringa Mvumi who went to Dar es Salaam to have club feet surgery at CCBRT Hospital in early February. (The surgery cost 70,000TZS per foot.) Jackson came back to Dodoma in early June and somehow all the pictures we took have disappeared so I couldn’t send any then. However, he had to go to Dar es Salaam for a follow up appointment about a week ago. He just got back today and I got a chance to talk with him a bit. He’s able to stand and walk without crutches! He’s still wearing braces on his feet, but the doctors told him that he can start walking around without the braces to help build up strength in his legs and feet again. So exciting!

His whole demeanor has changed. He wouldn’t even talk to me in February, but now he’s very talkative and looked me straight in the eye when he talked to me. I asked him how his grandmother and friends reacted to his surgery. He gave me a huge grin and told me that his grandmother and friends were all surprised and very, very happy. He’ll have to go back to Dar in January for what I believe will be his last follow up appointment. I’ve attached some before and after pictures to this e-mail so you can see the transformation for yourself.

I got tears in my eyes when Jackson took his shoes off...

Blessings,

Liz
Robert Kereopa and Hugh McBain visit the parish of Gorari on Saint Bartholomew’s Day

GORARI IS INLAND FROM POPONDETTA towards the start of the mountains and the Kokoda trail. The journey took about two hours—the first half was on tarsealed road and the second half on very rough road that was full of potholes. It was very tiring for the driver especially as nearly all the bridges had been destroyed in the floods 3 years ago and all the rivers had to be forded.

Our welcome at Gorari was overwhelming; we were treated like royalty! After the initial challenge by two masked warriors in traditional dress (more gentle than usual with spears pointed to the ground instead of at us because we were thought to be VIP’s!) we were welcomed into the village and presented with lei’s of frangipani and bourganvillea. Once through the entrance we were asked to get on a platform made out of poles on which there were three chairs. We were then lifted shoulder high by a team of young men and carried for quite a distance with men and women in front of us singing and dancing, all resplendent in traditional dress.

On the morning of Saint Bartholomew’s day we were up early and enjoyed doing a tour of the village where food preparation had been underway for some time. Fires were going to heat stones and the food was cooked in above ground hangi fashion. The food was mostly vegetables but pork was also on the menu for this special occasion.

Following breakfast and a trip to the river we prepared for the morning service. The church was built of timber and corrugated iron with open windows and the pews consisted of poles raised about six inches off the ground ... fortunately we were given chairs to sit on. Traditional dress and music was very much part of the service which was preceded and followed by a procession. Members of the mother’s union were in evidence in special dresses and also some Franciscan brothers. ACPNG is high church by tradition and the use of incense was very evident. The hymns were traditional English sung at a very high pitch. Canon Robert preached and after communion blessed a huge number of children. The local priest, Fr Stafford Urish, seemed to be very well supported by a team of people in the village including lay leaders and evangelists, the MU and the Franciscan brothers. People from other villages had walked long distances through the night to join in the celebrations.
After the service there was a feast followed by speeches, singing and dancing and the presentation of gifts. In a short visit like this it is hard to get an understanding of how the community works but our impression was that this was a village that takes pride in what it does and that the church is a real focus for everyone. The whole place was neat and tidy which is in complete contrast to the towns. The welcome and hospitality we received was amazing and we reflected afterwards on how communities must really enjoy special occasions and visitors when so little happens in comparison with our lives.

Hugh McBain represented the H & W Williams Trust and the Waipu Diocese.

Hugh McBain

- Papua New Guinea is similar to Africa in need, but far less attractive for Missionaries or support with few roads to enable easy transport and a harsh environment. Challenges abound.

- Approximately 4% of the population are Anglican (about 250,000 Anglicans), with a strong communities based church, particularly in rural regions. Popondotta diocese within the Oro province of PNG has the largest number of Anglicans with Newton Theological College based there as well.

- ACPNG is grossly under-resourced especially for Church infrastructure, Administration, Meetings, Clergy and Ministry Training support – ACPNG is the poorest resourced provincial Anglican church in the South Pacific region.

- ACPNG now has fifteen people in their Provincial office and for the first time they have a PNG Diocesan Secretary in each diocese. The new principal at Newton Theological College is having a positive impact on theological education, a priority area for the province.

- Access to adequate secondary school education in rural areas is still very difficult and graduation rates are extremely low.
Once in a generation opportunity to meet, learn with and worship alongside Christian leaders from the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The Keynote speaker, Archbishop Ben Kwashi lives in Jos, Nigeria with his wife Gloria. They have six children of their own and 38 adopted orphans who live with them. Over 30,000 believers have lost their lives in the Jos region and Ben has had his house burnt down escaping extremists as well as two attempts on his life. Since being ordained as a missionary bishop in 1992 Ben and his wife Gloria have planted three other missionary dioceses with over 320 parishes established. When the last missionary diocese was established in 2008 Ben was left with 40 parishes in Jos. This year the number of parishes has grown to 75. He is currently the International Chairman of SOMA.

Bishop Mark MacDonald became the first Indigenous Bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada in 2007. Previously he was a Bishop in Alaska and a priest in Ontario. He will lead the Bible Studies at the conference.

Bishop Mark MacDonald

REGISTRATION FORM

YOUR DETAILS
FIRST NAME(S) (as you would like it to appear on your name tag)
SURNAME
ADDRESS (address required or registration invalid)
PHONE
EMAIL
HOME CHURCH

CHILDREN
NAME
AGE

EMERGENCY DETAILS
EMERGENCY CONTACT
PHONE
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

PAYMENT DETAILS
1. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
   EARLY BIRD Must be received by 31st March 2011
   x ADULT $130
   x STUDENT $100 (includes tertiary)
   x CHILD (3-12 YEARS) $60
   STANDARD REGISTRATION
   x ADULT $170
   x STUDENT $120
   x CHILD (3-12 YEARS) $80
   Conference Registration includes lunch and dinner.

2. ACCOMMODATION FOR 3 NIGHTS
   Please tick accommodation preference
   CLASS A
   x ADULT $80
   x STUDENT $60
   x CHILD $40
   BUNKS
   x ADULT $60
   x STUDENT $45
   x CHILD $25
   WILL FIND OWN Accommodation includes linen, blankets and breakfast

3. TRANSPORTATION
   Reasonable charges will apply
   Please indicate if you require transport assistance from Wellington Airport.

PAYMENT
AMOUNT TO PAY $ (add conference registration pp + accommodation pp)

ENCLOSE A CHEQUE MADE OUT TO ANGLICAN MISSIONS BOARD
WISH TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD DETAILS
VISA MASTERCARD
CARDHOLDER NAME
EXPIRY DATE

DONATION
I am unable to attend the conference myself, but I would like to make a donation towards the costs of the conference and to enable others to attend.
Please enclose cheque or fill in the payment details above. Thank you!
Discounted group and family rates are available on request. Contact Anglican Missions on office@angmissions.org.nz.
“The Association of Anglican Women has two aims: Firstly, to unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church; secondly, to promote and safeguard Christian family life.”

RECENTLY OVERSEAS and Outreach members were interviewed and asked the following questions.

1) What has kept you involved and interested in Missions over the years?

2) How are you and your groups motivated to raise money for Missions and

3) What would you like to say to the next generation of leaders?

Many pointed out how helpful the AAW Conferences had been to kindle mission awareness, especially the Overseas and Outreach workshops. Also, having a mission partner stay in a Diocese whilst on furlough meant that a personal connection was established, the Waipu group mentioned how much they enjoyed having Mission partner Libby Laing living amongst them for a while. This sense of connection was reinforced by communications from AMB and NZCMS.

AAW Groups have many and varied ways of raising money for missions and keeping awareness in front of the church. Amongst these are sharing up to date news from CMS, Church dinners with Mission speakers and keeping close contact with their church Mission Motivator. Some groups have organised trading tables, raffles, mystery parcels. They advocate becoming a member of CMS, as having a world awareness helps you to look beyond your immediate family and community. A common experience is that it is easier to raise money for emergencies but harder to enthuse people for smaller projects. As Missions is a core value for AAW it was important to be always up to date with mission needs and be sure to publicise them. A common theme from many groups is the importance of prayer.

And what would be the final clarion call? We need to need to always be recruiting new members and assist new leaders, but give them space to do new things and run things “in their way”. It is vital to encourage younger women to take an active role.

In summary

A. Fellowship at local and the wider level rekindles the vision of how much we are continuing the Lord’s ministry.

B. Mission needs funding! This is a challenge and a privilege to us all to share in Christ’s care for the Christian Family.

C. Invite others to join your AAW groups, thus sharing in being a “presence of Christ” around the world through Overseas and

May God bless you all.

Robyn Hickman