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**Report to the 64th Session of the General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui (GSTHW) 2020**

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* Matthew 28:19:

**Background**

Anglican Missions is the funding agency for the ‘Mission Beyond Borders’ of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Established by General Synod in 1920, it is governed by a Board; has a small office based in Wellington; and operates on an annual budget of around $2 million. The entire budget is donated by parishes and individuals. Our role is to encourage Anglican Churches, in a spirit of partnership, “*to pray, give, go, and support overseas mission*” by raising funds for a broad range of activities and projects aligned with the ‘5 Marks of Mission’ (to evangelise; nurture believers; respond to human needs by loving service; transform unjust structures of society; and preserve God’s creation for future generations).

Outside New Zealand, we work with churches in Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tanzania and the Middle East. Key partners include NZCMS (if Anglican Missions is the ‘funding’ arm, then NZCMS is the ‘sending’ arm); the Association of Anglican Women (AAW); the Henry and William Willam’s Memorial Trust; Christian World Service (CWS); as well as our two Australian counterparts, the Anglican Board of Missions and Anglican Overseas Aid.

**Te Ara Hou Strategy**

In 2018 in response to an unanticipated budget deficit, the Board carried out a visioning exercise that resulted in a new approach to ‘do mission’ known as the Te Ara Hou (‘new pathway’) Strategy which provides a framework within which funding applications can be made and considered. An operational review designed to enhance implementation of the new Strategy resulted in a restructure of the Office earlier this year.

**Our work**

Anglican Missions provides funding to NZCMS; the Diocese of Polynesia (to support clergy as well as development projects); Tikanga Maori Overseas Missions (which includes Maori mission outreach in the major Australian cities); Overseas Missions Tikanga Pakeha (to support short-term missions mainly to the Pacific); as well as contributions to the Anglican Church in Melanesia, PNG, Tanzania and Jerusalem.

As well as the projects identified in our annual Projects Booklet (see the 2020 edition for current commitments), Anglican Missions has responded to a number of significant emergencies since the last GSTHW in 2018, most notably Tropical Cyclone Gita which devastated parts of Tonga (over $100k was raised and used to not only respond to the event but to also better prepare the Tongan church for future events); and in March 2019, a give-a-little page raised over $58k for the families of those who lost their lives in the Christchurch mosque attacks.

**Centenary**

In 2019, Anglican Missions celebrated its centenary - new mission boxes were issued; a Mission Noticeboard competition was won by St Margarets Church, Taihape; mission stories were shared on our website and in late November, activities included a centennial dinner, a thanksgiving church service, an afternoon tea attended by volunteers and supporters, and a commemorative tree was planted in the grounds of Anglican House.

**Funding**

Synods and Hui Amorangi set annual targets for parishes and rohe (tikanga giving) with additional income coming from individuals and in response to appeals (lent, spring and emergencies). Income goes either into the general fund, which finances the overall work of Anglican Missions, or to specified projects. The allocation of funding is determined by the Board.

While total tikanga giving has been declining over the past decade (many other church and faith-based agencies are also struggling) it is encouraging that tikanga giving for four Dioceses (Auckland, Waiapu, Nelson and Dunedin) was up in 2019 compared with the previous year. Between 2016 and 2017, total tikanga giving went down -2.8%; for 2017-2018 the decline ballooned out to -5.9% but between 2018 and 2019, the decline was a more modest -1.9%. We are getting alongside parishes this year where giving has either stopped or slowed down in order to better understand whether that is because some parishes don’t like what we do and prefer to support other mission agencies or whether they are simply not in a position financially to give to overseas mission. We want to make it as easy as possible for parishes to give - and to see how that giving is resulting in changed lives and communities.

**Key commitments for 2020/21**

* *Grow our support-base*: We are committed to exploring new ways of growing income in order to avoid having to cut grants. Visiting parishes and participating in synods and hui amorangi help promote what we do and why. We have a Deputations Strategy and always welcome opportunities to visit and speak.
* *Demonstrate effectiveness and value-add*: The mission/development/humanitarian ‘space’ is increasingly crowded and Anglican Missions needs to carefully carve-out a niche. We also need to get better at demonstrating effectiveness and efficiency. The Te Ara Hou Strategy will strengthen our ability to articulate a role and place.
* *Bequests Strategy*: Compared with many faith-based agencies that secure between 20 and 30% of their income through bequests, only a fraction of our income comes from bequests (0.5% in 2019). We are therefore missing out on what could be a significant funding stream. A programme is being developed to address this.
* *Develop, where appropriate, partnerships with like-minded church and faith-based agencies*: Over the past few years we have been putting a lot of effort into strengthening existing and developing new partnerships with like-minded agencies such as Tear Fund and Christian Blind Mission (cbm) with whom we worked following Tropical Cyclone Gita. Linking up in a more strategic way brings efficiencies and enhanced effectiveness and for example in post-disaster work, makes economic and logistical sense.
* *Engage more intentionally with young people:* We are making some progress, for example there are resources aimed at young people on our website and we have met several Anglican Schools to explore opportunities for potential collaboration.

**Conclusion**

Anglican Missions has a proud legacy. We are delighted to be able to support our partners in practical and tangible ways as we push out and participate in God’s mission. We encourage all Diocese to continue to pray for and support us because Anglican Missions:

* Represents the three Tikanga and supporting mission is enshrined in our Canon;
* Is committed to the 5 Marks of Mission;
* Has strong on-the-ground partners (especially during emergencies);
* Through activities and projects provides a glimpse as to how the Church can make a difference;
* Can demonstrate relevance and effectiveness;
* Has been around for over one hundred years; and because
* It’s OURS. If you’re an Anglican, we are the mission agency in this part of the world!

*Michael Hartfield - Anglican Missions*

*February 2020*