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**REPORT FROM ANGLICAN MISSIONS to the 66th SESSION OF THE GSTHW 2024**

1. **PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

1.1 We are motivated by putting God’s love into action and bringing hope to people who are vulnerable and living in poverty. Working with and on behalf of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, we support a range of partners to carry out Christian mission, development and humanitarian aid. This report will outline where we are currently at and will briefly summarise what’s been happening since the last GSTHW in Nelson in 2022.

1.2 The Government approved the establishment of **Anglican World Aid** (AWA) as a charitable company last year. It runs in parallel with Anglican Missions and scoops up all our international development and humanitarian projects. If Anglican Missions has responsibility for the first two Marks of Mission (tell and teach) then AWA takes on 3, 4 and 5 (tend, transform and treasure). Anyone donating to AWA can receive a tax credit, which for the first time puts us on the same playing field as most of our partners. It also means we can apply for government accreditation, which if approved, would mean we can apply for public funding.

1.3 The response to the **Tonga volcanic eruption and tsunami** in 2022 was exceptional with over $580k raised (our biggest ever). We partnered with 7 agencies and funds were used for the immediate response as well as long-term recovery and resilience building (e.g. helping churches to be better able to respond to and prepare for future events through the provision of pre-positioned relief supplies and improved water systems).

1.4 In 2023, we were invited to coordinate the **Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal** which raised over $408,000. Hāpaitia approved 28 specific projects with roughly 30% of the funds allocated to Tairawhiti, 30% to Waiapu, and 20% each to Te Tai Tokerau and Auckland. Many recipients which are small rural churches and marae have already submitted project completion reports. Anglican Missions has carried out its own internal lessons-learned exercise which will feed into the broader Church evaluation.

1.5 The largest project, jointly proposed by Tairawhiti and Waiapu, aims to train, equip and prepare churches to be able to better respond to natural disasters (acknowledging disasters will become both more common and intense with climate change). This is an ambitious and bold proposal that has far-reaching implications for the church which plays a critical role in this space, most often seen in the Diocese of Polynesia. The response to Cyclone Gabrielle has brought the debate to the fore.

1.6 We continue to work closely with the **Anglican Alliance** most recently in the joint response to the conflict in the Middle East but also through the humanitarian advice provided by our head of projects Mark Mitchell and that Karen Chute, who is employed in Suva by the Diocese but works for Anglican Missions is the coordinator of the **Oceania Regional Advisory Committee** (ORAC). She is paid for her time by the Alliance, so this significant and high-profile role is a budget neutral commitment for us.

1.7 There is growing interest in **short-term mission trips** which is encouraging. Some visits are channelled through and partly funded by the Overseas Mission Tikanga Pākehā (OMTP); some are bilateral between parishes; others are part of a Diocesan partnership arrangement and others through Anglican schools. Visits can be important for travellers (we all know people who are interested in mission because of a trip they may have made when much younger) and for the host church. However, it can be a bit hit and miss. There sometimes isn’t sufficient investment in health and safety or cultural/political awareness. Sometimes the projects undertaken could be better done by the local community. Sometimes there is little mutuality or reciprocity. And what does success look like? Working across the three tikanga and with NZCMS, we would like to add some strategic direction aimed at enhancing the experience and the benefits for everyone involved. This could mean more consistency in how visits are identified, planned, managed, and funded.

1.8 The **joint humanitarian appeal for Gaza** represents a collaborative effort involving multiple humanitarian and development agencies, convened by the Anglican Alliance in consultation with the Archbishop of Jerusalem. It is effectively the first time that the Alliance has conducted a joint approach and is very much appreciated by the Diocese. It demonstrates greater strategic cohesion across Anglican partners, reduced duplication and reporting requirements and increased value for money as core costs are shared.

1.9 The six-month response project has a budget of around NZD800k allocated to support essential health and education services for vulnerable populations in Gaza and the West Bank. The appeal targets key institutions, including Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, Saint Luke’s Hospital in Nablus, Penmen Clinic in Jenin, Christian National Kindergarten in Nablus, and Saint George’s School in East Jerusalem. The project aims to cover the cost of health services and education for those unable to afford them, ensuring access to quality in-patient and outpatient care, as well as educational support for affected individuals. Tearfund New Zealand has once again expressed interest in collaborating with us. Mark Mitchell has been instrumental in getting this proposal over the line.

1. **PARTNERSHIPS**

2.1 We are a founding member of the **Emergency Alliance**, a brand-new grouping of agencies that respond to emergencies. This has been talked about in New Zealand for two decades. In the event of a significant disaster, a single request for assistance will go out to the public on behalf of Alliance members. Funds are then allocated depending on the participating agency’s ability to respond. The mechanism provides a single point of contact for the media and the public and other joint appeal mechanisms around the world attest to its value. We are delighted to be part of this group as it means we can broaden the support we are able to give. Interestingly all 7 members are church, or faith based. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) supports this joined-up approach and is providing funding to assist with operational costs.

* 1. It is fair to say that Anglican Missions has gone from being an isolated outlier several years ago to being well-connected. For example, before joining the Council of International Development (CID), Anglican Missions had no formal relationship with any agency except NZCMS and CWS. While we attended Anglican Alliance meetings and had low-key connections with partners identified in our governing Canon, there was little engagement. When there were emergencies, we tended to go our own way and raised modest sums, mainly from the Church.
  2. We have worked hard at establishing new partnerships and this is partly to do with survival. If we are to survive and have relevance, we must work with others. Too many agencies like ours have gone under because they were isolated. Accordingly, we now have formal partnership arrangements with Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) and the Anglican Board of Missions (ABM); we are an active member of CID and the Humanitarian Network; we are a founding member of the Emergency Alliance, and we work closely with the Association of Anglican Women, Tearfund, Barnabas Aid and cbm. We have growing connections with Episcopal Relief and Development in the US and strong links with MFAT.

**3.0 KEY CHALLENGES**

3.1 Our ongoing challenge is doing all we want to do in an environment where our traditional source of income (parishes) continues to decline. In an increasingly dark, chaotic and painful world, funding projects that deliver against the Five Marks of Missions is needed more than ever. However, the proportion of the funding we receive from Anglican sources is declining.

3.2 Over the past 5 years, the proportion of our total income that is directly derived from parishes (i.e. tikanga giving) has declined from around 80% to 45%. The balance is coming in from individuals, other agencies (e.g. Tearfund) and trusts like the H&W Williams Memorial Trust.

3.3 Other church-based agencies like ours both here and overseas are facing the same challenges. While acknowledging the many pressures on parishes including declining numbers, the cost of living and seismic strengthening commitments, this is disappointing because I don’t believe it reflects declining generosity or a lack of interest in mission. It is more complex than that. For example, I know of churches that don’t give anything to us but support other agencies (including the UN) or have growing bilateral relationships with parishes in the Pacific. I know that with the sheer number of agencies doing this kind of work, there is stronger scrutiny around effectiveness and value for money. That is good and as it should be. I believe we can foot it with other agencies and while the “mission” and “development/humanitarian” space is increasingly crowded and noisy, we need to step up and stand out (niche) - and to do that we need the Anglican Church to stand with us. That means growing our ‘Anglican’ income if we are to remain an Anglican institution.

3.4 While we have earned the trust of many of our international development partners (e.g. Tearfund has asked us to collaborate and we are seeking accreditation with MFAT), I recognise that with certain churches, we still need to demonstrate our effectiveness and reliability. Interestingly, people seem to trust us in the event of an emergency, for example Tonga and Gaza where we are generously supported, however, that confidence doesn’t (yet) translate into our mission and development work. Above all, we need to make sure that mission is not “an extra of fries” but a primary focus for all churches.

3.5 Figure 1 above illustrates this decline where from a high of almost $1.4million in 2009/10 we have slumped by almost half a million dollars 12 years later. While we came out of 2023 showing a small surplus, 2024 will be more challenging. The very last thing we want to do is to have to curtail in any way the projects we currently support because if ever the world needs light and hope and love it’s now. However, we are conscious that we need to explore new avenues that will help with any shortfalls.

3.6 We are committed to seeing AWA self-sustainable within two years with the 10% fee we take from projects and appeals covering all project and operational, including salary, costs.

3.7 It is interesting to see how it looks if you gave us $100 and how that would be spent. While this is a bit rough, the following provides an indication. In 2018 if you gave $100 to AM, one third ($33) would go to NZCMS; around $29 would be organisational costs; $7.30 would go to the Diocese of Polynesia and $6.80 would go on emergency response. In 2022, the proportion spent on emergency response grew to $26 with NZCMS allocated $25. The amount going to Polynesia dropped a little to $6 and organisational costs would take up $23. The most significant change is in the amount of expenditure that now goes to emergency response, noting that the church is increasingly a first responder.

3.8 In relation to the partners we supported through grants in 2023, 63% of the money we had available went to our key partner NZCMS. So, when you support Anglican Missions, you are supporting NZCMS. Around 14% went to the Diocese of Polynesia and 12% to Te Pihopatanga.

**4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 Going forward, our key activities include supporting projects that build resilience and address the impacts of climate change; ensuring our key mission mandate is not lost in the excitement of AWA; and identifying new and innovative ways to tell our stories – and there are plenty of great ones to tell! We also need to extend our appeal and reach, especially to younger people, and to work on becoming “an agency of choice” for Anglicans in this part of the world. Finally, we are committed to strengthening existing and identifying new partnership opportunities so we can better leverage skills and expertise for the benefit of those we serve.

4.2 We are the only agency that supports actions across all five Marks of Mission. Other points of difference are that we: (a) represent the three tikanga church; (b) are small enough to be nimble and adaptive; (c) can demonstrate efficiency and value for money; (d) have strong implementing partners on the ground (esp. Polynesia); (e) comply with international best practice when it comes to our development and aid projects; and (f) have a growing number of partnerships.

4.3 As our soon to depart Finance Manager Glen Williams puts it, we feel a little like a century-old “start-up” right now and while that’s exciting, it is also a little daunting as we need prayer and funding support from across the church to continue to do what we are doing and, importantly, to do it well. We have new processes in place (e.g. automated receipts) and are focussing more on areas where we have a speciality on the premise that we can’t and shouldn’t spread ourselves too thinly. The following key thematic areas are emerging for our development interests:

* *Disaster risk management* (which includes risk reduction, response, and recovery) as this is something we are becoming known for. The church has a clear role in DRM that is increasingly visible and acknowledged (think Gabrielle and Tonga); the work we are doing with the Anglican Alliance coupled with strong cross-tikanga initiatives led by the Diocese of Polynesia and Te Pihopatanga.
* *Climate change mitigation and adaptation* which is such a critical part of Archbishop Sione Uluilakepa’s Charge. While linked to DRM, we can leverage off the proposed Climate Change Commissioner. This is a game-changer for the Anglican Church and will propel our church to the forefront of how churches are responding.
* *Water*. Given our experience with the longstanding Water for All (Fiji), the growing significance of water in the Pacific (there can be either too much or not enough), water is emerging as the global issue.
* *Sustainable agriculture*. Reflects New Zealand’s expertise in the sector and builds on what we have been already doing with the Diocese of Polynesia, e.g. vegetable and fruit gardens as part of the response to Covid in Fiji and the response to the volcanic eruption and tsunami in Tonga.
  1. In all this, we remain unashamedly Christian and proud of our Anglican tradition. Everything we do and fund is undergirded by our faith, and we look toward the next few years with a sense of excitement and ambition. We will be reviewing our strategy Te Ara Hou this year to ensure it is still fit for purpose and to stretch out and look at the next five years and where we would like to be positioned.
  2. I want to acknowledge the Anglican Missions Board for their dedicated efforts on behalf of the three tikanga church. Despite facing challenges, particularly amidst our financial constraints, their commitment has been unwavering. I would like to especially thank Mr Steve Perris (Nelson Diocese) who has been the Acting Chair and has been so instrumental in bedding in new financial and reporting systems. I also extend my sincere gratitude to Archbishop Philip (Board Chair), Rev Craig Harris, Mr Charles Hemana and the Rev Jacynthia Murphy who have recently left the Board under its seat rotation policy. They have been ably replaced by Archbishop Don (Chair), Bishop Steve Maina, Mrs Sophie Anania and Mrs Bronwyn Tucker.
  3. I acknowledge the manaakitanga and hard mahi of the Tikanga Māori Missions Council (TMMC) and the OMTP. These groups meet every quarter. Thank you for all you are doing to keep mission fresh, relevant and on our radar.
  4. Finally, we are blessed to have an extraordinarily skilled and experienced team in Wellington, Suva and Nuku’alofa. The passion and commitment of the team to the cause is legendary. I especially commend our Accountant and Financial Manager Glen Williams (FCA) who has steered us through some choppy waters. His second tenure at Anglican Missions concluded in March, marking two decades of invaluable service. He rightly deserves recognition for his outstanding achievements.
  5. We are well placed to carve out a small yet critical niche in bringing light and hope to a world often fraught with darkness and chaos and I look forward to continuing to work with you all.

*Rev. Michael Hartfield – National Director*