

Anglican Missions

Summary

I'm delighted to say we are seeing growth for Anglican Missions: growth in the number of people we have been able to support and growth in our profile and the number of partners who are keen to work with us. The highlight has been securing significant funding from the Government – a first for us. We are extremely grateful for the loyalty and generosity of your Diocese, and I can assure you that your funds are well-used and making a difference.

Major activities undertaken since last year's Report

We support activities and projects across the five Marks of Mission. Examples in the past year under the 1st (*sharing the Good News*) include subsidising short-term mission visits that have enabled young people to share their faith. Under the second (*teaching and building up new believers*), we provide significant financial support to NZCMS Mission Partners, many of whom are teaching and mentoring new believers. The third (*loving service*) garners significant attention given these are activities that respond to humanitarian need, such as the Myanmar earthquake and supporting the Al Ahli Anglican Hospital in Gaza, and development-related projects like the Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation (RSNF) in Uganda which is going from strength to strength. We have also secured for the very first-time funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) for a major new project aimed at building resilience for the two communities that inhabit the world's largest atoll, Ontong Java (Solomon Islands).

The 4th Mark of Mission relates to addressing the underlying causes of poverty. We work with other agencies in promoting justice and have the weekly "Pray the News" which is generating steady growth. Please sign up if you haven't already! The fifth Mark of Mission is about caring for God's creation. In April we transferred \$25,000 to our Bricks for Life project in Ethiopia to purchase seeds to be planted in time for the main growing season. We are also proud to have won an award for a market garden project in Tonga.

Major activities planned for 2025/26

The most significant activities include designing and implementing with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) the project on Ontong Java. This is a major initiative which we hope will help pave the way for future collaborations drawing on government funding. While our focus will always be on the Pacific, the two African projects are showing real impact. We will be getting out and about more as a result of a generous contribution from GSSC which has enabled us to fund a part-time church engagement role. We are also in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan designed to guide our work over the next five years.

Emerging issues

I acknowledge with sincere gratitude all that the Christchurch Diocese gives to us. Your funding enables us to do what we do. Having said that, tikanga giving from the Diocese was down last year (\$147,274 which was down 7% on the previous year) and sadly, based on current figures, we are estimating the figure for 2025 will be more like \$130k. (This does not include funds which come in for appeals like Myanmar and Gaza and churches and individuals across the Diocese have been generous with both of those).

The Diocese is of course not alone in seeing a decline in tikanga giving. What it means though is that we have to broaden our income base, which is why new government funding is so welcome. While we feel we don't have to 'prove ourselves' to other humanitarian and development agencies, we struggle to resonate with or appeal to some Anglican Churches. We believe we offer real value: effective and relevant projects, relatively low overheads and a range of partners who like working with us. So, please see the 'Anglican' in our name and support us where you can! And if you prefer supporting other agencies, please tell us why!

I want to acknowledge the hard work and tenacity of your Diocesan mission representative, **Bronwyn Tucker**, who is also on the Anglican Missions Board, and **Raewyn Dawson** (AAW Chair). Thank you both for all you do. And thanks too **Bishop Peter** for your unwavering support for overseas mission.

Kia manaakitia, Rev. Michael Hartfield—National Director (5 May 2025)