

Anglican Overseas Aid

March 2012

Anglicord News

inside

Give Africa back its dignity
- Val Browning

Karen jump at chance for a
better future

Women Die Waiting goes
to Parliament

Where the money went

Climate change and women – why it matters

2012 is the 25th year of Anglicord
helping some of the world's most
vulnerable women.

The Power To Change

How using the strength of local communities
will change the world for this girl **Pages 3-5**



Anglicord

www.anglicord.org.au

1800 249 880

A letter from the CEO



“ Anglicord, still a small organisation, is partnering with other larger organisations to make a big difference ”

Dear Friends,

This year marks Anglicord's 25th year of operation – what a milestone! In August 1987 Anglicord held its first appeal. Operating as the Archbishop's Emergency and Relief Development Fund, we worked in the back room of the office of St John's Toorak with one staff member.

How things have changed. Now in dedicated offices with 3 full time and eight part time staff, two of whom are stationed in the field, Anglicord has programs in Africa, the Middle East and Asia Pacific, with supporters from across Australia and abroad.

The world has changed too. While food security and national disasters remain a perennial challenge, climate change is now an international priority. In 1987 global population reached 5 billion – today it tops 7 billion. The Global Financial Crisis provides a contrast to the endless wealth we imagined we had in the eighties.

To meet these challenges, Anglicord has to operate differently too. Anglicord's great strength has always been its partnerships, both here in Australia, and in the field. Our recent expansion however means that we are exploring partnerships in new ways. Here are just a few examples of how Anglicord, still a small organisation, is partnering with other larger organisations to make a big difference:

- **Maternal and Child Health** The Africa Australia Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) is a five-year commitment to deliver millions of dollars of AusAID funding for maternal and child health in Ethiopia and Kenya. To fulfil such a large project, Anglicord has joined (as lead agency) with **Nossal Institute, Australian Volunteers International, Mothers Union** in Kenya, and the **Afar Pastoralist Development Association**. Each organisation brings its own strengths, and together, we will help the Afar and Maasai communities dramatically improve the health of women and children.
- **Solar partnerships** Our successful program of providing solar lights in the Solomon Islands, both for light and income generating activities, is only possible with our partnership with **Barefoot Power**. With their products and commitment to alleviating poverty, we are able to work together to provide safe and efficient lighting for some of the 80% of Solomon Islanders who do not have access to electricity. This program will soon be rolled out across other parts of the Pacific, including Vanuatu.
- **Breast cancer partners** Last year we had an incredibly successful launch of our campaign to assist women in Gaza to access appropriate and timely treatment for breast cancer (see www.womendiawaiting.org.au). The success of this campaign has been in part because of the endorsement and support of the **National Breast Cancer Foundation**.

Our partnership with you, our supporters, will always remain central to us. Thanks to your enthusiastic commitment to the people in the communities where we work, we can celebrate 25 truly wonderful years of alleviating poverty and promoting justice. I do hope that you will enjoy reading some more great stories of change in the coming pages, and as always, I thank you for your ongoing support.

Misha Coleman
CEO

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THE POWER TO CHANGE



Above: Women prepare taro, a staple of the Solomon Island diet. Kitchen gardens are threatened by salinity from rising sea levels.

Below: Women are given an economic opportunity through selling lights to others, and being able to charge a fee for recharging phones and laptops.

SOLAR IN SOLOMON ISLANDS UNLEASHES POTENTIAL

OVER 80% of people in SI have no access to electricity, and women spend many hours tending and selling potato crops in order to buy kerosene. Education, health and family harmony all suffer, and climate change will only make things worse. In November last year Kate Higgins, Anglicord's Pacific and Solar Manager, trained 69 Islanders in how to use Anglicord's solar technology and harness its economic and social power.

"At the end of the training course the participants held a feast to celebrate what they had achieved," Kate says, reminding her that the relationship with partners goes two ways. "We, the givers, sometimes forget that we can also receive. People here are so generous with their prayers and what resources they have."

"The current jargon for what I do is 'capacity building'," says Kate, "but I like to look at it as unleashing people's potential. I am working with young people who like to give things a red-hot go, despite the odds. They are so willing to try and improve their situation."

There are certainly big issues facing the people of Solomon Islands, such as violence against women and girls and unemployment. In areas like the province of Ysabel, the growth of logging industry has been catastrophic, not just environmentally, but socially. Alcoholism and family violence are major problems, and loggers frequently come in and "marry" young girls and then leave them pregnant.

Deputy Premier of Ysabel, said that Anglicord's program is making a tangible difference to women's lives.

"Man and wife used to fight all the time, but since we have had solar this has stopped because they are saving money from kerosene to buy other things for the family."



Kate Higgins is still concerned about the impact of climate change on stressed SI communities, however.

"Even if carbon emissions stop going up right now, the effects of climate change will still be felt, and the Solomon Islands already have the highest level of sea rises in the Pacific. This is being felt through salinity and challenges to food crops." The solar program frees women from having to tend potato crops to buy kerosene so they can explore adaptation strategies such as developing alternative water sources and salt tolerant crops.

Anglicord's solar program also gives women an economic opportunity to sell lights to others, and to charge a fee for recharging phones and laptops.

"So far the Mothers Union in Malaita and Ysabel Dioceses have taken loans to purchase 350 solar lights units," says Kate.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

2012 is the United Nations Year for Sustainable Energy For All

"Sustainable development is the imperative of the 21st century. Protecting our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth these are different aspects of the same fight. We will not achieve any of these goals without sustainable energy for all."

BAN KI-MOON, SECRETARY GENERAL UNITED NATIONS

FAST FIGURES

- More than 1.3 billion people lack access to electricity.
- At least 2.7 billion people have no clean cooking facilities
- Nearly 3 billion people use wood, coal, charcoal, or animal waste for cooking and heating. Smoke and fumes kill nearly 2 million people a year.

Source: A Vision Statement by Ban Ki-moon Secretary-General of the United Nations

WOMEN ON THE FRONT LINE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

"In many developing countries, women are living on the frontlines of climate change... women are disproportionately impacted by climate change and are often excluded from political and household decisions that affect their lives. During natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes, for example, women suffer disproportionately and often count higher among the dead."

LUCY WANJIRU, PROGRAMME SPECIALIST, GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT, UNDP/BDP GENDER TEAM

UPDATE FROM AFAR



VALERIE BROWNING
REPORTS FROM
ETHIOPIA

Afar women are beginning to really taste the benefit of our new emergency obstetrics hospital in Mille, now a very busy institution. From the cry of first little baby 'Barbara' in September, the hospital is now the hospital is providing a full service with operation-room facility thanks to our volunteers led by Dr Margaret, the gynaecologist who has made Afar Region her second home! (See box ?)

2011 was not an easy year. It began with several communities in serious food insecurity due to an extremely long dry season from September 2010 up to May of 2011. In June, an erupting volcano devastated the livelihoods for around 25,000 people in Bidu on the Eritrean border.

“For the pastoralists, malnutrition is inextricably linked to their animals”

The 'cold' winds of winter set in mid-December (with temperatures falling below 20 at night and rising to 25 to 30° in the daytime). The districts that got well below average rains in July to September are now becoming extremely thirsty. The winter 'Daddah' rain is still expected but it is the least reliable of the 3 annual seasons. [There is] sparse grazing pasture and little land left to farm.

For the pastoralists, malnutrition is inextricably linked to their animals: poor animal health and nutrition results in limited household milk leading on to animals dying. APDA is trying to look at each part of this complex web aiming at household recovery and self-sufficiency. All aspects link in including availability to water.

We look forward to working on with you through the plans of 2012, proving the seeming impossible that a people as neglected as the Afar can share in the opportunities of development in line with their livelihood.

VALERIE BROWNING, AFAR PASTORALIST DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

In 2011, APDA was able to achieve more than ever before.

- Around 4,700 18kg bags of lentils were distributed to malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women
- Supplementary feeding took place for 20,000 goats in 2,500 nearly destitute households, as well as re-stocking in 2,400 destitute households with a further 200 households about to benefit
- 5 months food supply [was provided]
- 67 non-functional water sites were rehabilitated and 49 new sites constructed. A new system of water shed management to rehabilitate erosion and drought degraded environment was implemented
- APDA constructed 10 public latrines
- 500 hectares of grass-seed depleted pasture land were rehabilitated
- Twenty new communities were reached with Afar literacy programs, and twenty non-formal education sites teaching primary level now have two to three teachers per site
- Hostel support for remote community students started for 3 districts. A vocational training center with 3 huge training workshops was constructed in Logya

Anglicord has contributed to many of these relief and development activities along with other organisations who support APDA

HELP PEOPLE STAND ON THEIR FEET, SAYS OZ MIDWIFE

The international community can best help the people of Ethiopia by giving them back their dignity, says high profile Australian midwife Valerie Browning, who has lived for over thirty years with the Afar pastoralist community helping them to improve their health, literacy and economic independence.

Valerie recently visited Australia, and she had strong words to say on ABC local radio about the international community's response to the drought and famine in East Africa.

"The world should try to listen to the local people," she said. "Do not just send [food and shelter] through your systems. Help the locals stand on their own feet."

The Africa Australia Community Engagement Scheme, which Valerie and the Afar Pastoralist Development Association coordinates in Ethiopia in partnership with Anglicord, attempts to do just that. Its focus in this region is providing maternal and child health care as a foundation for a strong community.

"1 in 12 mothers will die in childbirth," Valerie said. "One third of their children aren't going to reach the age of five. They are unable to feed themselves because they cannot talk for themselves."

Valerie describes her role with APDA, giving the people of the Afar a voice, as "the greatest privilege on earth".

Above: Access to drinking water is a critical issue for the people of the Afar. © Christof Krackhardt

Building from Strength to save mothers and children



PHILLIP WALKER is Anglicord's Africa Program Manager. A big part of his job is managing the Africa Australia Engagement Scheme which seeks to improve maternal and child health in the pastoralist communities of Ethiopia and Kenya. The program uses the strength based approach – working closely with partners to help them recognise their own potential and the strengths within their communities.

Q: WE KNOW A LOT ABOUT VALERIE BROWNING IN ETHIOPIA, BUT WHO ARE YOU WORKING WITH IN KENYA?

We work with Florence Nderitu – she is irreplaceable. A nurse by profession and a member of Mothers Union Kenya, she was on the verge of retiring, but when she heard about the strength based approach we were using, she changed her mind.

Our field officers in Kenya are James Senjure and Samuel Leesema. We are conscious to use local people from the community, and besides, Kenyans get things done! James, a Maasai in his early thirties, is unusual in that he and his wife restricted their family to three children, and he set his wife up in a business. He is currently putting himself through training for community health qualifications.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

Currently less than 10% of women go to the clinic to give birth. We want to get that number up to 50%, with all the relevant pre- and post- natal care. To address that, we have to build trust, because we are dealing with some

sensitive issues [such as traditional birthing practices, and gender roles]. That in turn involves meeting community needs around water, sanitation, and food security.

Q: WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THE STRENGTH BASED APPROACH YOU USE?

The impact of the strength based approach on staff is interesting. They no longer view development as outside experts coming in to do things, but facilitators assisting the community to come to its own realisation about how it might change.

Q: ARE YOU HOPEFUL THAT THINGS WILL CHANGE?

When people recognise that the things they are doing are harmful, but also that there is a better way, they come on board. Modernity and technology will also have an impact. There are practical things we can do to change too, like using “donkey ambulances” (stretchers pulled by donkeys) to transport women in labour to a clinic.

Left: The focus of Anglicord's work in Ethiopia and Kenya is the health of mothers and children. Photo: Christof Krackhardt.

'CAN DO' COMMUNITIES SHOW THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE



Florence Nderitu (front left) co-ordinates the maternal and child health program in Kenya, in partnership with Anglicord.



JO MAHER, International Program Manager with Anglicord, shares some practical examples of resourceful communities at work in Kenya and Mozambique

During my recent work in Mozambique [where Anglicord has a new HIV & AIDS program] we drove to an isolated village in the Diocese of Niassa, on the back of a big truck, driving over rough dirt tracks. When we arrived, we asked, “Can you show us your village?” and we took a “stock-take” tour. For many of those who came with us (about 60 people!) it was like seeing their village for the first time. Young, able bodied people, good soil (although lack of water was a problem), smokeless clay ovens (a simple and clever technology), structures set up under trees for community meetings... overall there was a huge level of resourcefulness.

They had also built a mud brick school for 300 children, prompting the government to supply teachers.

At the Good Samaritan clinic in Kenya, Nyeri, a group of elderly ladies from one of the HIV & AIDS support groups were excitedly clutching some photographs. Carting water is a big burden for older women and those caring for people with HIV & AIDS, but they had been unable to get anyone to fund a well. They began instead to save a little money out of their income, and were able to access funds from the Anglicord income-generating scheme, which funded five rainwater tanks. They were so excited to show the photos of the tanks. It gave them a great sense of satisfaction – after years of being passive, they saw what they could do and you got the sense then that they wouldn't stop. The strength based approach we use means we ask people to think *Continued page 6...*

Where the money went

From 1 July 2011
to 31 December 2011

Africa

Kenya: HIV & AIDS - Mothers Union (MU) Mt Kenya West	\$71,591.01
Lesotho: HIV & AIDS - St James Hospital	\$38,873.34
South Africa: HIV & AIDS - Diocese of Grahamstown	\$79,633.65
Mozambique: HIV & AIDS - Diocese of Niassa	\$57,711.23
Ethiopia/Kenya: AACES Maternal & Child Health - APDA/MU Mt Kenya West	\$361,122.25
Ethiopia: Health & Literacy - Greenlight Foundation	\$40,500.00
Ethiopia: Afar Maternity Unit - APDA	\$36,541.51
Tanzania: Solar Lights - Diocese of Ruaha	\$1,614.89
Burundi: Capacity Building - Mothers Union	\$11,000.00
South Africa: Institute for Healing Memories	\$110.00

Asia Pacific

Solomon Islands: HIV & AIDS - Anglican Church of Melanesia	\$14,184.88
Solomon Islands: Solar Lights - Anglican Church of Melanesia	\$71,012.92
Thailand: Karen Refugee Education, Capacity Building and Livelihood Project	\$948.51
India: Women's Empowerment - Cathedral Relief Services	\$6,480.50
Samoa: Rebuilding Community - Congressional Christian Church*	(\$19,043.28)

Middle East

Palestine: Breast Cancer Screening - Ahli Arab Hospital	\$14,706.18
Mission Middle East	\$3,904.31

Emergency relief and rehabilitation

Sudan: Emergency Preparedness - ACT Alliance	\$19,818.01
Pakistan Floods: ACT Alliance	\$295.00
Haiti: Earthquake Appeal - ACT Alliance	\$808.91
Sudanese: Emergency Malaria Appeal - ACT Alliance	\$48.82
Ethiopia/Kenya: Drought Relief - APDA	\$163,489.36
East Africa: Drought Appeal - ACT Alliance	\$34,577.26
Total	\$1,009,929.26

*Money sent for the second hall was returned to be used for an alternative project in Samoa.



Karen jump at frog opportunity

You might not know it from looking at them, but these slippery creatures are helping Karen refugees to secure a brighter future.

Frog farming is just one of the innovative income generating schemes being run along the Thai-Burma border, helping Karen refugees to earn an income while retaining their cultural heritage and securing an education. The schemes are administered by Karen Anglican Ministry at the Border (KAMB) in partnership with Anglicord.

Frogs are a popular food in Thailand, and, with Anglicord funding, St Gabriel's branch of MU (Mothers Union) have been growing and feeding them since August 2011. Each kilogram of frogs raises 100 baht (about \$3). Money from the project will help support MU nursery schools.

The frog farming project is one of the more challenging schemes to market because frogs are traditionally more expensive than chicken and fish. There is a fish pond project, however,

as well as a piggery, a weaving project, a chilli powder project, and even a dishwashing liquid making project.

KAMB brings together Anglicans in and around the refugee camps on the Thai Burma, where many thousands of Karen have fled since the 1980s, escaping the violence of the Burmese army. These communities, where people may stay for decades, struggle to meet their daily needs without the assistance of NGOs like Anglicord. KAMB has a particular focus on maintaining the Karen cultural identity, a process they call "Karenization".

Anglicord has worked in partnership with the Karen since January 1990 when a delegation of six from Melbourne visited the border. Regular visits of Anglicord staff, donors and volunteers have continued since that time.

Above: Each kilogram of frogs raises 100 baht (about \$3).

...Continued from page 5

a little differently – these women thought they needed a well, but what they really needed was water, and they used what they had to make that possible.

I thought there might be resistance to this new way of thinking, but rather, I was amazed at the level of enthusiasm and the "can-do" feeling there was.

JO MAHER

What's the best way to donate?

Thank you to all of you who have embraced the idea of donating to "where it's needed most" as opposed to selecting a specific program. Anglicord is committed to funding all of our projects, but giving to "where it's needed most" means we can direct those funds to the most pressing priorities at any given time, while our donors can be assured that the projects they wish to support will be adequately funded.

Please also consider donating online via our secure website. Online donation reduces our administration costs and helps your donation dollar go further.

Leave behind a smile

Bequests. Many people choose to leave a final gift to a charity in their Will. If you would like to learn more about leaving a bequest to Anglicord, please visit www.anglicord.org.au and type "bequest" in the search box, or call **1800 249 880**

JANE STILL, COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDRAISING MANAGER

At home with Anglicord

Women Die Waiting gets support of Senate

Anglicord's Women Die Waiting campaign, designed to improve access to early breast cancer diagnosis and treatment in Gaza, has received the support of the Australian Senate following the campaign's Canberra launch in October.

A motion commending the campaign was passed unanimously by the Senate, after being put by a group of Senators representing each of the major parties. Senators Lee Rhiannon (Greens), Michaelia Cash (Coalition) and Claire Moore (Labor) were moved to act together after watching Anglicord's documentary Women Die Waiting at Parliament House.

“Women should not be a part of the collateral damage in Palestine”

Maria Vamvakinou, MP, who launched the Women Die Waiting campaign

Since July 2011, Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza has performed over 500 Anglicord-funded breast screens, and has also provided breast health information sessions and training for health care workers.

At home, several parishes and community groups have gathered to raise money for the campaign. You can too – visit www.womendiewaiting.org.au to find out more.



Top: Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd met Anglicord's International Program Manager Jo Maher at the announcement of Australian Government's Dollar For Dollar initiative to assist the relief effort for the East Africa famine (October 2011). (Photo Anglicord)

Bottom: CEO Misha Coleman honoured former Victorian Premier John Kirner by wearing polka dots at the Women in Development lunch, hosted by Australian Volunteers International (December 2011). (Photo Bree Manley, AVI)

Who we are:



Misha Coleman,
CEO



Jo Maher,
International Program Manager



Phillip Walker,
Africa Program Manager



Kate Higgins,
Pacific & Solar Program Manager



Beth Hookey,
Asia & Middle East Program Manager



Ben Lakos,
International Programs Officer



Jane Still,
Communications & Fundraising Manager



Alison Preston,
Community Liaison Officer



Kathryn Barres,
Donor Relations and Database Officer



Helen Boyle
Office Manager/Reception



Suzanne Trimble,
Finance & Administration Manager



Melissa Zhao,
Financial Accountant

Our reading list:

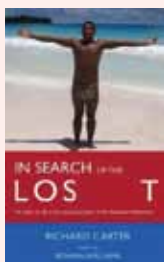
Sometimes after our busy day at Anglicord, we like to unwind with a good book. Here are some titles we've enjoyed and recommend, to learn about life for our partners, and to understand more about Anglicord's work.



Maalika
by Valerie Browning
Maalika is a compassionate, humorous and unflinching account of the life of Valerie Browning, an Australian midwife who has been

living in the Afar region of Ethiopia for over thirty years. Proceeds from the sale of the book are used to support the work of Anglicord in Ethiopia. It's \$35 (including postage and handling in Australia) and you can order your copy of "Maalika" from us.

Email anglicord@anglicord.org.au or call 1800 249 880.



In Search of the Lost.
The death and life of seven peacemakers of the Melanesian Brotherhood
by Richard Carter

In 2003, seven members of The Melanesian Brotherhood were brutally murdered as a result of ethnic conflict in the Solomon Islands. Richard Carter, a British priest, was a brother himself, and his diaries from that time recount the challenge of living out the Christian faith when confronted by great fear and loss. (Canterbury Press)



If you are still after a beautiful calendar to hang on your wall, Anglicord's 2012 Anglican Church Calendars can now be bought at half price – just \$6 each (+pph). Visit www.anglicord.org.au to order your copies, or call 1800 249 880.

Erratum: In our last newsletter, we reported that the person in the photograph with Annie Naw Nyo was Minister for Multicultural Affairs & Citizenship Mr Nicholas Kotsiras. It was in fact Parliamentary Secretary for Health Nick Wakeling.



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Yes! I want to help poor and marginalised people in the developing world.

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Anglicord is a member of the ACT Alliance, an alliance of 125 churches and related organisations that work together in humanitarian assistance, advocacy and development.

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