



Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Easter 2018 Newsletter

PNGCP is the UK-based mission agency dedicated to raising awareness and support for the Anglican Church in PNG

HIGHLANDS EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

Late February, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck, 35 km deep, close to the Highlands Province capital of Mendi. Continuing aftershocks of magnitude 5 or more have been experienced as far afield as Kokopo and Kimbe (NGI Diocese) and Lae (ACPNG HQ). More than 100 people are reported dead, with many hundreds more injured. There is widespread, serious damage to property, roads and other infrastructure, with landslips blocking water-courses and the consequent danger of flooding. Mining and gas operations in the area were immediately halted. A state of emergency has been declared for affected areas in the Provinces of Hela, Enga, Southern and Western Highlands



Mission Aviation Fellowship and its associated ministry, Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship, with its high-frequency radio network, have been heavily involved in gathering information for the Government and other authorities, distributing relief supplies and evacuating injured people.



Churches are helping to coordinate relief efforts and are working across denominations to ensure aid reached those most in need.



ACPNG is focussing its efforts on the Jimi, Chimbu, Siane and Momase areas where homes and food-gardens have been severely damaged and there is an urgent need for food, safe water and medical supplies, as well as carpentry and gardening tools, building materials, canvas for shelter and second-hand clothes.



The Church is purchasing supplies locally in Goroka and Mt Hagen, for transport to parishes by road or air. Archbishop Allan Migi has established an ACPNG Disasters Fund and is asking Anglicans throughout his Province, together with overseas partners and friends, to support this major emergency with prayers and donations.

IF YOU CAN, PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE PNGCP EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

ARCHBISHOP ALLAN'S EMERGING PRIMATIAL ROLES

Leadership: There is encouraging evidence that Archbishop Allan Migi has used the ideas, insight and experience accrued over a decade as ACPNG's Senior Bishop to good effect in his first six months as Primate. This was glimpsed in the personal priorities he shared with us in his UK visit late last year and, back home, reinforced by Provincial Council's agreement to his 10-point Plan 'to restore order to ACPNG' and acceptance of a revised Strategic Plan.

To help achieve simple and effective leadership for his Province, Archbishop Allan is determined that, for the first time, the Primate, along with ACPNG's Health and Education Services' leadership, should be co-located alongside the Anglican National Office's General-Secretary, financial and administrative staff on the Lae campus. The early results are encouraging, including: close cooperation between ANO and the Archbishop's Office, with improved oversight and use of overseas funds; the General Secretary leading a revitalised ANO staff team and providing well-received management courses for staff and clergy; and the new Finance Director working to provide up-to-date financial records and information.

For the first time for some years, a full programme of key management meetings – House of Bishops; Finance Committee; ACPNG Board of Trustees; Newton College and Kerina College Councils; Management Committees of the Anglican Health Service and Anglican Education Service - was reinstated throughout the week of the March 2018 Provincial Council meeting, to make the most cost-effective use of travel and time together.

Prophetic: Last autumn, the ACPNG House of Bishops spoke out publicly against corruption within the PNG Government. In February this year, Archbishop Allan proved that you don't have to be based in the capital to have the country's media beat a path to your door, when he spoke out about recent child 'witchcraft' murders as 'child abuse in its worst form'. This was within the context of an increase in sorcery-related killings in PNG in recent months. The condemnation was the lead article on the Anglican Communion News Service (ACNS) website and reported in Australia and New Zealand.



Archbishop Allan in his Lae office

The Anglican Bishop of Port Moresby, Denny Guka, also spoke out on the subject in his role as Chair of the PNG Council of Churches, as a follow-up to the Archbishop's Press and TV coverage in PNG. He explained that the Church is partnering with Government to raise awareness about sorcery-related issues. He also shared his belief that, to get to the root of the problem, Church leaders need to visit rural communities where sorcery and witchcraft originate, to sit with the people and talk about the dangers and effects of these practices.

Just days later, ACPNG again provided the lead article for the ACNS website, with Archbishop Allan helping raise awareness of the PNG earthquake disaster described on page 1 and appealing for help throughout the wider Anglican Communion.

Pastoral: In addition to his ACPNG-wide pastoral role, Archbishop Allan has negotiated with the Bishop of Aipo Rongo, Nathan Ingen, that, as his Assistant Bishop, he might exercise pastoral support to the parishes in the Morobe Deanery.

SEWING-MACHINE MINISTRY

In 2014, the Bishop of Edinburgh's Lent Appeal raised funds for sewing-machines for the wives of clergy serving in Anglican parishes throughout PNG. Last year, PNGCP gave funds to provide sewing machines for the wives of graduating students at Newton Theological College, recognising the long-term benefit of this gift for the wellbeing and income of their families. Margaret Poynton, Archbishop's Executive Assistant, who helped purchase these machines for the Graduation, also provided this report and pictures.

“Sewing machines can be an integral part of proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed, meeting not only physical needs, but also the need for fellowship and skills training. One step towards wholeness - one step towards halting urban drift.

During my time in Port Moresby, I saw Mothers Miriam Igara and Angie Dehupa spend many happy hours underneath the house with groups of women sharing their time and knowledge around the sewing machine. Sometimes making crafts for church fund-raising, at other times they could be found making very simple no-pattern-required ‘meri blouses’, deftly folding and cutting their materials and expertly making tucks to give the puffed sleeve look and fullness to the dress itself. I’m sure a lot of counselling and encouragement also happened along the way. Mother Miriam is one of the best seamstresses I’ve ever met. When Archbishop Clyde retired, she was presented with a more versatile model as a farewell gift from the Province. By now, it will have sewn many miles of thread providing clothing for the poor as part of the family’s new rural ministry.

In 2017, I had the privilege of working with Newton College for eight months. One of the delights of being a female student at Newton College has always been the opportunity to learn how to use a sewing machine. I saw first-hand the dedication of the staff wives teaching the female students the basics of sewing, starting with sheets, pillows and pillow cases, all neatly edged and sturdy. An alb was produced for their husbands; also, one each for the ‘single boys’. As the year progressed, black and purple Graduation Gowns for the final year students and uniforms for the second-year students who would be catering for graduation emerged from the classroom. Mid-year, the ladies made new covers for the kneelers, giving an instant face-lift to the Chapel. Chasubles and stoles were exquisitely made for some for students, with others sold to provide funds for restocking the supplies of needles, threads etc. and other Women’s Programme activities in the College.

The 2017 grant from PNGCP, topped up from the Archbishop’s Discretionary Fund, enabled all three staff wives who do the teaching, Mothers Annette Bera, Barbara Jinga and Julia Motisi, and the seven graduating students’ wives to each receive a new, basic, hand Singer sewing-machine. Yes, they still make them black with gold writing! Importantly, they are strong and almost indestructible. Thanks to the thoughtfulness of PNGCP supporters, a new generation of married Clergy will now enjoy this life-long benefit.”

Given the benefit and welcome for this initiative, the PNGCP Committee intends to repeat it for future Newton College graduations and extend the commitment to catechists’ wives leaving Kerina Evangelists’ College, Tsendiap. Thanks to the PNGCP supporters who kindly sponsored a sewing-machine this past Christmas. Ed.



Mother Annette Bera with her new machine



Two graduating students’ wives with their new machines on the College campus

PNGCP & ACPNG NEWS

- Recognising his reconciliation and mediation experience, Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, has been invited on to UN Secretary General's Mediation Panel to look at ACPNG's contribution to the 2019 Bourgainville referendum
- Archbishop Allan Migi and Primates from the other three Anglican provinces in the Oceania region recently held their annual meeting in Fiji. They were joined by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion as the meeting was the also the first of five regional meetings of Primates being held over the next two years in the run-up to the 2020 Lambeth Conference. In addition to the Lambeth Conference, they discussed pressing issues in the Oceania region, including climate change and violence against women and children
- ACPNG General Secretary, Dennis Kabekabe, was also in Fiji for the regional meeting of the Anglican Alliance (the Anglican Communion's relief & development agency) for which his Solomons-born wife, Tagolyn, is the Oceania Field Officer
- Congratulations to Anglicare PNG's National Director, Heni Meke, on her award nomination for the Mitchell Global Humanitarian Award at the recent Australasian Aid Conference. The award recognises individuals and organisations supported by Australian Aid who have made an outstanding contribution to international development.
- With 20 years experience in theological education, retired Archbishop of Adelaide, Jeffrey Driver, has been appointed Newton College Principal for 2018, with a developmental role which includes helping Principal-designate, Fr Giles Motisi, prepare to take over next year
- The NZ-based Williams Trust is providing travel funding for the Archbishop, House of Bishops and the Archbishop's Executive Assistant
- Fr Peter Moi, past Newton College Principal and Archbishop's Chaplain, is now Dean of St John's Cathedral, Port Moresby, with responsibility for clergy and lay training
- Replacing Trevor Terina and to be Lae-based, Bradley Gideon has been appointed Interim Anglican Health Secretary, after a previous AHS career including OiC at St Margaret's and Diocesan Health Secretary in Aipo Rongo.
- Led by Sr Maria, the Solomons-based Sisters of Melanesia are establishing a PNG presence in Madang
- Each ACPNG diocese is to receive K100,000 and each Anglican Religious Order working in PNG K20,000 from a large Australian bequest
- ACPNG is preparing a website and Facebook page, and about to publish a Newsletter to heighten visibility
- Charles Dalton, past ACPNG General Secretary, died suddenly in PNG in December
- Ted Kelly, 1960's mission volunteer in Gona, Popondota Diocese, and past PNGCP General Secretary, has given his valuable stock of films, papers and books to PNGCP
- Brenda Worton has died, just two years after her husband, Geoff, leaving their ACPNG pictures, diaries, books and a bequest to PNGCP. They worked as mission partners at Martyrs School, then Holy Name School in the early 1990's
- Sydney-born Fr Ron Morris has died, age 88. He was Martyrs School Principal 1967-77; then a PNG Education Inspector for 16 years; and a Canon Emeritus of ACPNG

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 22nd September 2018

PNGCP Supporters' Day Conference in London

Saturday 28th September 2019

PNGCP Supporters' Day Conference at Little St Mary's Cambridge
with our Patron, Bishop Rowan Williams

Grateful thanks for their help in compiling and distributing this Newsletter to: Archbishop Allan Migi; Bishop Denny Guka; Margaret Poynton; Peter Milburn; Bishop Peter Ramsden; Janet Wells; Jasper Rea and to Goodwin Poole, former ACPNG Registrar, for the Digicel Earthquake pictures. Any comments, queries or ideas to the Editor, John Rea johndellarea@yahoo.co.uk

Please donate now to the PNGCP EARTHQUAKE APPEAL, by cheque to the address below, or through the 'Virgin Giving' button on the website WWW.PNGCP.ORG.UK



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