



Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Summer 2016 Newsletter

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

WINTER VISIT FROM DOGURA TO CANTERBURY & SOUTH-EAST



+Tennyson and Martin Gardham enjoy a tea-break on a busy trip

As readers of the Summer 2014 Newsletter will know, +Tennyson Bogar became Bishop of Dogura in May 2014. He attended the New Bishops' course at Canterbury early in 2016 before meeting PNGCP supporters in South-East England. Martin Gardham organized his tour and writes:

"PNGCP funded a further nine days for +Tennyson in the UK after the end of the Bishops' course, during which he spent time in Canterbury, Folkestone, Oxford and London, whilst visiting a number of other places, including Udimore (near Rye, East Sussex) where there is a long-standing and active group of PNGCP supporters.

+Tennyson told us that he found the New Bishops course interesting and helpful, and that he appreciated the opportunity to share stories and ideas with bishops from other parts of the Anglican Communion, whose problems were often similar to his even when their cultural and material settings were very different. He mentioned that he particularly enjoyed the sessions on relationships, which we thought was a natural reaction for a Melanesian.

During his time with us in Canterbury, +Tennyson spoke to a group of parishioners from St Stephen's, Hackington and shared a meal with the Parish Priest who, like himself, had spent many years as a military chaplain. The parishioners were very interested in a DVD of two patrols made by +Tennyson in the mountains behind Dogura* during the early days of his episcopacy. They were amazed by the physical demands such patrols make on the participants and found the idea of sleeping by the riverside at night especially difficult to get their heads around!

+Tennyson is an excellent communicator, and we were impressed by his skill in holding the attention of his audience and answering their questions fully and pertinently. No doubt it helped that, in addition to ourselves, two of those present had links with Papua New Guinea and a number of other members of ACPNG had visited St Stephen's over the last ten years.

We enjoyed 'storying' with +Tennyson as well as showing him something of Canterbury. It was clear that he had been thinking hard about the needs and potential of his diocese and the priorities for the early years of his episcopate. Two things particularly mentioned were the importance to the diocese of the trade store and boat - no surprises there! - and his intention of setting up a programme to provide his parish priests with better and more permanent accommodation.

We were told by +Peter Ramsden that on his way to Canterbury (by train), +Tennyson was delighted to see some real 'sipsip'. We were able to tell +Tennyson that there had been sheep at Dogura in the 1950's, but we don't think he believed us until we showed him an old photograph in which a named Papuan is pictured shepherding a group of horned Dorsets.

Visits such as +Tennyson's are one of the most effective ways of helping people in the UK understand the nature of ACPNG and the challenges it faces. We are fortunate that the Anglican Communion Office helps make a number of such visits possible."

** Copies of +Tennyson's 'Patrols' DVD are available from Janet Wells (020 7582 9905) for £5 to cover production and postage*



PNGCP Treasurer, Gill Wilkinson, and Anglican Communion's Director of Mission, John Kafwanka, farewell +Tennyson at Heathrow Airport

POPONDOTA DIOCESAN PROFILE

The following results from my meeting with +Lindsley Ihove, Bishop of Popondota, at the Common Life Missions Conference in Auckland in October 2015 – Editor.

With its Diocesan Office and Cathedral on the edge of Popondetta Town, the administrative capital of the Northern (Oro) Province, Popondota Diocese is geographically the smallest but has the largest number of Anglicans of any of ACPNG's five dioceses. +Lindsley estimates that there are some 70,000+ Anglicans today, rather than the reputed 120,000 some 15 years ago. The diocese has 45 parishes and 10 mission districts with approximately 100 chapels, served by 55 priests and 83 catechists. Looking to the future, of the eight Oro students then at Newton Theological College, three Grade 12 ordinands graduated at the end of 2015, each with the academic potential to benefit from further training.

The Diocesan compound comprises the Diocesan Office and Cathedral; Mothers Union office; Girls Friendly Society headquarters; a residential training centre built and run by the Diocesan Youth; diocesan sub-office of Anglicare PNG; together with accommodation for the bishop and diocesan staff. A number of buildings are rented out commercially and there are plans to develop more space, including the current Diocesan Office, for rent. Development plans mooted for the site entail building a new Diocesan Office and transit-house, and converting the space under the bishop's house into visitors' accommodation and a small chapel.

In addition to the bishop, Diocesan Office staff comprise: Diocesan Secretary, Finance Clerk and a Reception Clerk. Fr. Matthew Aigaba, formerly a government officer, is Vicar General and Dean of the Cathedral. Fr. Isaiah Masida is the International Chaplain for the Girls Friendly Society. Fr. Selby Tangara has overall responsibility for youth and lay training throughout the diocese, working closely with the Diocesan Youth Worker, Stephen Gaibari. There were some 1,500 participants in the most recent Youth Conference in Eroro parish in September 2015. The Mothers Union has a full-time diocesan worker, supporting over 7,000 members. +Lindsley's wife, Mo. Felicity, is responsible for the training of clergy wives,



Bishop Lindsley with the past Archbishop of Canterbury during Dr Rowan Williams's visit to the diocese in October 2012

with the unofficial motto, "No more kitchen wives!". They run a support programme that includes: visiting the sick at home and in hospital; raising 500 kina (£125) as a gift to each diocesan priest on retirement; and raising money for clergy family coffins.

In addition to the long-established Martyrs Memorial High School (currently with AOG member, Jessie Jim, as Principal), a financial gift from the local politician has helped establish a new high school at Sakarina. Bishop Bevan Meredith High School is now in its second year and building dormitories under Principal, Fr. Blake Angoro. Roger Baboa continues as the Diocesan Education Secretary. The Anglican-run St. Margaret's Hospital, at Oro Bay, was opened by the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, in 2012. With a visiting doctor from Popondetta General Hospital, and under the guidance of Sr. Mildred Laksen, it offers accident, maternity and general practice services. Nearby St Margaret's Nursing School, led by Petra Goviro, trains community health workers.

+Lindsley saw his major challenge in the diocese as the



Crowd outside Popondatta's Resurrection Cathedral for enthronement of their bishop



Popondetta MU training class in Resurrection Cathedral



Village church Baptism in Popondota Diocese



Installation of a village priest in Popondota Diocese

lack of stipend for priests. In an effort to provide each with a small allowance each year, designated funds are raised through an annual St Lawrence Giving Day and a Bishop's Fundraising Walk. He highlighted the following elements amongst the distinguishing features of his diocese:

- New parishes being established through the Home Missions programme.
- Laity trained through the Evangelists' Training Programme, run by the bishop and Fr. Benstead Baretta, were preaching confidently and well. The Village Deacon training programme includes preaching, Bible studies, counselling and pastoral work.

ACPNG HOUSE OF BISHOPS SPEAK OUT

Concerned about two worsening situations impacting on the lives of PNG citizens, the ACPNG House of Bishops issued two media statements earlier this year. The first drew attention to the continuing occupation and oppression of West Papua by Indonesia, causing many to seek refuge in neighbouring PNG. There have been growing calls for independence despite a crackdown on protest activity. Recently, police arrested more than 1,000 protestors who took part in a pro-West Papua Independence march. International journalists are not allowed into the province and reports indicate that local journalists covering protests are harassed and blocked by police and military officials.

++Clyde's statement read: "At their recent meeting, the ACPNG Bishops spoke in support of our Melanesian brothers and sisters of West Papua. The ACPNG Constitution affirms the dignity of human life and the need to show respect for all people. The bishops wish to express on behalf of the Anglican Church the hope that the Governments of Papua New Guinea and of West Papua will make every effort to give freedom to the many displaced people of West Papua to settle and re-establish their sense of livelihood; their homes and gardens. We appreciate the PNG Government's initiative to provide citizenship to West Papuans who are living in PNG. We

- The diocese is home to most of the Provincial institutions, including Newton Theological College

Three religious orders have their PNG headquarters in Popondota diocese. The Community of the Sisters of the Visitation at Hetune, currently with six Sisters, four novices and two seekers, run services for battered wives, for those living with HIV & AIDS, and for delinquent girls. Nearby, the seven Franciscan Brothers in the Friary provide prayer, parish and pastoral services, in addition to their secure unit for delinquent boys. Finally, members of the Melanesian Brotherhood have their PNG headquarters at Doboduru, supporting frontline cells of Brothers other PNG settlements and mission areas.

are clear that it is a Gospel imperative that we must 'love the Lord our God and secondly love our neighbours as ourselves'. Therefore we stand in solidarity with the people of West Papua."

Then, in early July, the following report appeared on the Anglican Communion News Service website:

"The Bishops of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea have warned of the "severe destruction to our nation" if ongoing political violence is not resolved through "responsible honesty". Students have been boycotting lessons and blockading campuses for several weeks. They accuse Prime Minister Peter O'Neill of corruption and are demanding he steps down. On Saturday, one student was killed after being stabbed in a night of violence in which several university buildings were set on fire. There were fire-bomb attacks on another university the night before, and earlier this month police in Port Moresby opened fire on student protestors."

In a statement, the Primate of PNG, Archbishop Clyde Igara, quoted the famous passage from Micah 6:8 'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God' before adding that the "bishops of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea call on all political leaders, public servants and others who are implicated, to be responsibly honest in

the current political climate, because dishonesty will bring severe destruction to our nation.

We call on those union leaders, student leaders, political leaders who are responding to the current situation to be honest and be sure that what they are doing is in the best interests of the common people, so that children and students do not become the victims of reactions to crises for self-centred motives. We ask all Christians to earnestly pray for God's wisdom to be revealed in this situation."

The PNG's National Fraud and Anti-Corruption Directorate has sought to arrest Prime Minister Peter O'Neill on corruption charges since June 2014 but have been blocked by a series of political and legal moves which have reached PNG's Supreme Court.

PNG, ACPNG & PNGCP News:

- Congratulations to Norwich Diocese who raised £25,000 in their 2016 Lent Appeal to provide an additional double classroom and support for Christ the King School, Orobada, Port Moresby Diocese
- Bishop Peter and Sue Ramsden enjoyed attending the Holyroodhouse Royal Garden Party earlier this summer, thanks to an invitation arranged by PNG's retiring UK High Commissioner and long-time PNGCP friend, Winnie Kiap
- Ida Baure, PNG Mothers Union President has been elected to the MU International Action and Outreach Committee, a role that will bring her to London twice a year
- PNGCP Committee member, Ed Backhouse, a Durham theological student, is returning for a second placement with ACPNG. Having previously enjoyed a parish placement in Port Moresby Diocese, this summer's two-month placement will include separate weeks in Dogura and Popondetta, a fortnight in Port Moresby and a month working in the rural parish of Menpa, NGI Diocese. He will speak about his experiences at the Day Conference on 1st October
- NGI and Dogura Dioceses are now without the benefit of coastal boat services. The Dogura trade-store, a source of essential income for the diocese, is only kept barely operational by goods brought in by +Tennyson's dinghy

PNGCP Day Conference – 1st October 2016

Welcomed by new PNGCP Chair, +Peter Ramsden, the two main speakers will be:

- Fr Barrie Slatter on his church-building work in the Jimi
- Ed Backhouse fresh from his ACPNG placement

Coffee from 10.30am, with Eucharist at 11.30am and programme finishing around 3.30pm. Drinks and afternoon tea provided, with lunch available (donation) if you notify Janet Wells in advance on 020 7582 9905, or bring your own

Venue: Lambeth Mission and St Mary's Methodist church at 3-5 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7DQ.

PLEASE NOTE: Lambeth North tube station is closed. Waterloo main-line/Tube station is 10 mins. walk. Buses 3, 59, 159, 344, 360 and 507 stop nearby.

- Also adversely affecting diocesan income, NGI Diocese lost a major chunk of its oil-palm plantation in the recent floods.
- Many were shocked to hear of the untimely death, in May 2016, of Fr Charlie Wadedika, the lively young parish priest based on Mt Hagen diocesan compound
- Lynn and Tony Fry's previous ACPNG mission volunteers from the Norwich Diocese (story in the Summer 2015 Newsletter), are planning to return to Simbai Vocational Training Centre in September for a two-year involvement
- Fr Newton Ekoda, Lecturer at Kerina Evangelists' College, has been appointed Pacific Youth Representative for the Anglican Alliance. In this capacity he has been to the Solomon Islands, and expects to be going to Fiji around September
- The upgrade of St Margaret's, Oro Bay, is now complete and formal application is being submitted to the Department of Health for the Health Centre to become a Rural Hospital. Whilst most positions can be filled by PNG trained workers, there is an acute shortage of Medical Staff in PNG. The Hospital needs a Resident Doctor to work on-site attending to out-patients and in-patients, also being involved in regular patrols to outlying Aid-posts and Clinics.

With grateful thanks to the following for their contributions and help in compiling this Newsletter to: +Lindsley Ihove; Martin & Aileen Gardham; Janet Wells; Margaret Poynton; Anglican Communion News Service; Peter Milburn; Jasper Rea. Any comments, queries or ideas to the Editor, John Rea johndellarea@yahoo.co.uk



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