

## October – December 2020

### Gaza

Pray for the health of people in Gaza as a number of COVID-19 infections have been recorded.

Thank God that 40 women completed the *Mind and Body* program to help them cope with their breast cancer diagnoses. Pray that more women will be able to be trained and have their psychological burdens eased.

Pray for peace in Gaza, especially as new diplomatic ties between Israel and some Arab states unsettle the region.

### East Jerusalem

Thank God that 87 children were able to take part in special education courses at the Spafford Children's Center, including speech and play therapy, despite COVID-19 restraints.

Thanks too that, during the lockdown, the Center was able to work with UNICEF who gave funding to provide more than 200 teenagers in East Jerusalem with remedial education and psychosocial support via online courses.

### Vanuatu

Thank God that there are still no recorded cases of coronavirus present in Vanuatu. Pray that this will continue to be the case. Pray also for the secondary effect of COVID-19, which has severely depressed the local economy with reductions in tourism and trade.

Thank God for the team of pastors and their spouses who ministered door-to-door in the aftermath of TC Harold. This allowed people to receive care, practical help and information, and raise any issues or concerns.

### Solomon Islands

Pray for continued recovery efforts in the Solomon Islands in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Harold earlier this year, particularly regarding reliable access to food.

Thank God that COVID-19 prevention messages have continued to be disseminated to communities, particularly in Guadalcanal, Western and Malaita provinces. Praise God for the unity and help of the local churches in getting health messages out to their communities.

### Kenya

Pray for the work of the Nyumba Kumis (volunteer community leaders) who have been supporting households through the pandemic who have suffered with reduced income as a result of markets closing and the resultant inability to sell farm produce and livestock.

Pray that the ongoing work of the project will continue, including the important work in training leaders on how to prevent, identify and report on issues of child protection and gender violence.

### Mozambique

Thank God for the work of the Equipas de Vida (Life Teams), who, along with 400 clergy and other trained staff, have reached more than 45,000 people about understanding and preventing COVID-19.

Pray that communities will be receptive to these health messages. Pray also for a peaceful resolution of the civil strife taking place in the neighbouring province of Cabo Delgado. This is a major concern within the region and for the national government.

## South Africa

Thank God for the wonderful transformation of many lives in the Diocese of Grahamstown as AOA's support for the project came to an end on 30 June. The Diocese has shown that it is very resilient in the face of major challenges. Please give thanks for all that has been achieved over many years in responding to HIV and AIDS, food security issues, and gender-based violence.

Pray for wisdom for the staff of the Department of Social Responsibility in the Diocese of Grahamstown as they become self-sustaining in their programs.

## Ethiopia

Pray for the people in the Afar region as they face severe flooding in the region.

Pray for the work of Valerie Browning and APDA as they seem to move from one challenge to the next: political instability, drought, flooding, community health and education. In recent times they have distributed food and shelter and hygiene/sanitation assistance to 1,220 households in flood-affected regions.

## India

Pray for the continued health of people in the self-help groups in our work in Kolkata, as the nation struggles to implement physical distancing measures in the wake of growing COVID-19 infections.

Continue to pray for our partner, Cathedral Relief Service, as they find ways to work in small groups as well as remotely despite the impacts of the virus.

## Myanmar

Pray for the success and sustainability of the work of Akhaya as it continues to support vulnerable women trainees in silversmithing and provides online life skills training sessions.

Pray that the country will be able to limit the number of cases of COVID-19 and that they will be able to increase testing capacity.

## Emergencies

Pray for all of the church members of CAN DO as we continue to support communities recovering from the effects of Tropical Cyclone Harold across the Pacific.

Pray for resilience in communities in the Pacific as they face the dual problems of continuing recovery from Tropical Cyclone Harold while mitigating the secondary impacts of COVID-19 restrictions which are damaging to their livelihoods.

Pray too for people affected by the recent explosion in the port area of Beirut. Pray for the Middle East Council of Churches as it tries to implement a local response.

## Australia

Thank God for the extraordinary generosity of our supporters as they continue to faithfully support our work despite the economic uncertainties brought on by COVID-19.

Thank God that we have been able to continue to maintain our relationships with Anglican churches throughout Australia during the lockdown period through the creative use of technology.

Thanks too for Federal and State government stimulus measures, some of which have helped to ensure the continuity of our programs.