

Abundance

THE MAGAZINE OF ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID | SUMMER 2021



**Sustainable
outcomes**

Hope and possibility for a new year

The Reverend Dr Bob Mitchell AM
CEO, Anglican Overseas Aid

As we start a new year, many of us will be glad that 2020 is behind us. In our last issue of Abundance, we discussed how it was a year like no other. The shadow of 2020 will linger on for millions of people throughout the world.

A new year though, signals new possibilities, and as the world eagerly watches the distribution of a COVID vaccine, we continue to hope and pray for better outcomes for many of the communities with whom we work.

In some of our projects, work has continued, despite the interruptions brought on by COVID-19. The Spafford Children's Center in East Jerusalem reopened in June. You can read about the wonderful work they are doing on page 5. In Kolkata, work with vulnerable women has also continued. Our partner there, Cathedral Relief Service, has worked to curb the spread of the virus, providing education on sanitation, and has supported sewing groups to shift to mask making to help keep the community safe. You can read about these efforts on page 4.

In this issue we also pay tribute to 30 years of transformation in South Africa as the Sinakho Safe Community Network project has come to an end. We have worked in partnership with the Diocese of Grahamstown for almost the whole time that AOA has been in existence, and thousands of lives have been changed. On page 10, we reflect on these three decades of work and change.

On pages 6 and 7 we look at the impact of our work over the last financial year in numbers. Of course, the work of development is not fully captured by these measurements, however they do give a real sense of how your support has impacted so many lives.

On page 9, we then look at the work of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and how they relate to what we do. We have provided a summary of

these goals and what they aim to achieve. I am sure you will be inspired by how far-reaching the goals are.

The basis of who we are and what we do continues to be informed by our commitment to the way of Christ. Our Bible study in this issue takes an in-depth look at the theme of our recent Christmas Appeal, Lifting Up The Lowly. Our Bible study is on page 8.

Closer to home, we have been hard at work preparing for our upcoming Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) accreditation. This is an important process for us, as a successful re-accreditation means we will remain eligible to receive funding from the Australian Government for many of our projects. You can read about how we are proceeding with this on page 13.

We are also seeing some changes in personnel on our Board. With some people ending their long-term service and others beginning, we thank God for the rich diversity of skills so generously provided to us. You can read about our Board changes on page 14.

The last year has been one of major disruption and challenge, as well as opportunity. We all hope that 2021 will be the year when we return to a semblance of normality. Either way, we will continue to serve the most vulnerable around the world. And we couldn't do it without your wonderful support. May you be blessed by this issue of Abundance.



All photos in this newsletter are supplied by AOA unless otherwise stated.

Front cover image: Empowered Xhosa women in South Africa stand together in the fight to ensure safer communities for women and girls

Right: The ACT Alliance for Gender Justice community of practice coordinated a campaign for #16Days of Activism in November and December.

Lifting up the lowly at Christmas

Many of you will have seen our recent Christmas Appeal, with the theme of lifting up the lowly. Highlighting the situation of Mary, the mother of Jesus, as an unwed pregnant teenager, we focused our appeal on the situation facing vulnerable women in Kenya.

The appeal officially ends on 31 January, and so far we have been so blessed by your generosity. Despite the many hardships of the last year, our donors have remained faithful in supporting our work. We literally could not survive without you.

Your contributions will make a tangible difference to the lives of women in Kenya and elsewhere.

Acting on gender justice

We have been successful with a number of recent grant applications with the ACT Alliance, a global network of church-based organisations engaged in humanitarian and advocacy work. One example is in working with our partner in the Solomon Islands, the Anglican Church of Melanesia, in building communities that are strong and safe for women.

The project, which starts in March, ensures that women are aware of and understand their rights and that women-led organisations have the resources they need to respond to issues of injustice. The project will work with traditional and faith leaders, men and boys and other stakeholders to ensure there is a greater respect and understanding of the disadvantage experienced by women.

Continuing to engage with churches despite restrictions

Church engagement for AOA has been very different last year. It was only in November that we were able to preach in person at churches in Melbourne again. Through the benefits of technology though, we were able to continue to speak in churches via either Zoom or by doing pre-recorded audio or video sermons.

We have been blessed by the enthusiasm of our supporter churches and are enormously grateful for the opportunities we have been afforded to keep

A breakfast with a difference

As members of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), we attended the annual ACFID Conference. COVID-19 provided the opportunity this time for the international development networks of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific to come together to hold a virtual conference. The focus of the conference was on fulfilling the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and included sessions on international development, humanitarian action and foreign policy.

The conference featured a virtual prayer breakfast which included a talk by our CEO, Bob Mitchell, on faith, hope and love in a time of COVID-19.



Hope and determination in Kolkata's slums

For women like Basanti, who lives in the slums of Kolkata, India, life means clinging to hope.

Basanti is one of many women who is learning embroidery skills as part of the Cathedral Relief Service training centre, which AOA supports. Being the mother of two children, her new skills enable her to earn money and keep them in school. She hopes for a brighter future and says, "I want to work hard and earn more to make the life of my children better."

The goal of the project in Kolkata is to ensure that local women and girls – who are some of India's most marginalised – receive skills training so they can earn a living to sustain themselves and their families. The project provides this training for more than 300 women in the slum communities so they can set up their own small businesses and marketable skills. The program also includes education about their health and rights.

As has been the case in many parts of the world, the government lockdown due to COVID-19 in India has had a devastating effect on people living in Kolkata's slums. Most people live from day to day, earning

meagre incomes running roadside stalls such as tea stands. With these sources of income removed, whole families who are already living below the poverty line are left without the means to fend for themselves.

While the project's work was suspended for a time due to the virus, CRS is now providing education on sanitation and producing masks and personal protective equipment. The project is even planning an increase in the number of women and adolescent girls participating and is extending the training to produce low cost sanitary napkins to ensure the women can continue to earn a living.

It also aims to help more girls have access to online education via smartphones, which may help prevent a surge in mental health conditions such as depression brought on by the pandemic.

For women like Basanti, hope abounds.

Below: Women learn skills like sewing and embroidery to help them earn an income so they can provide for themselves and their families. (This photo was taken before the pandemic) Photo credit, Cathedral Relief Service



Hope and healing go together in East Jerusalem

Amal smiles as she realises she has surpassed her own expectations of ever being able to cope in school.

She came to the Spafford Children's Center in East Jerusalem with poor concentration, weak motor skills and the inability to hold a pencil and draw shapes. Her confidence was shattered. She did not even have the will to finish simple tasks.

The Spafford Children's Center has been caring for children like Amal and her family for almost 100 years, adapting its services over the time to respond to the changing needs of Palestinian society.

The main focus of the Spafford Children's Center today is to provide therapy for children experiencing trauma as a result of the ongoing Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Children come into the Center with challenges such as stuttering or behavioural problems and are treated with speech therapy, art therapy, play therapy and drama therapy, all within an atmosphere of loving care and support.

For Amal, it is already having a positive effect. After intensive courses in Arabic, and through the use of innovative teaching methods that enable her to memorise things more quickly and easily, her ability in the Arabic language has vastly improved. Play Therapy is also helping her to overcome her reading and writing problems. As a result, her grades in school have improved and her teachers have recognised the benefit of her time at the Center.



Above and below: The children participate in play and art activities to improve their confidence, interaction, fine motor skills and coordination. Photo credit, Spafford Children's Center

East Jerusalem has not escaped COVID-19, with the Occupied Palestinian Territories (including East Jerusalem) recording over 120,000 cases*. Restrictions caused the Center to close for some of the year, however it continued remotely where possible, providing remedial education, therapeutic services and psychosocial support services to children, youth, and parents (particularly mothers).

Now the Center is back operating in a COVID-safe way, providing the most vulnerable children (aged

between 4-13 years) with the essential remedial education they need (Arabic, mathematics and English) as well as therapeutic courses such as speech and occupational therapy.

The Center has also resumed counselling sessions for parents to help them learn the best ways to support their children as society begins to open up again. For girls like Amal, the Spafford Children's Center is providing hope and healing.

*126,205 reported cases at 15/12/2020





Impact in numbers: Our year, 2019-2020

Every year we make sure that our programs are effective and impactful, and one way we do this is to understand our reach in numbers. Although the real difference that your support makes can't be measured in numbers alone, they do help to illustrate the reach of benefits to communities and how far your donations go.



In the last financial year, a total of 167,241 lives have been positively impacted with your help. This is a testament to both the power of your support as well as the hard work that has been undertaken by our local partners, who are a part of the communities we reach.

Here are just a few of the achievements across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East. For full information, see our 2020 Annual Report published on our website.

Above: Naomi, a woman in Kenya proudly shows off the sheds that she has built to house her chickens and rabbits. She has saved money through a savings group and now she runs a successful business.

Left: Naomi also keeps goats, which enables her to sell milk. The savings group not only provides funding for participants, but also a skill sharing forum and a support network for the women.

Above right: Men in Gaza participate in breast cancer awareness forums to help destigmatise the disease.



AFRICA

In **Ethiopia**, we enabled our partner, Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) to provide 9,000 women, men and girls access to a sustainable water source, with one water storage reservoir rehabilitated.

In **Kenya**, we supported our partner, the Anglican Church of Kenya, to enable 812 people to increase their household income as a result of engaging in a range of income generating activities.

In **Mozambique**, we assisted our partner, the Missionary Diocese of Nampula, to respond to COVID-19, training 3,263 volunteer community health workers in COVID-19 awareness and prevention and providing 5,300 vulnerable community members with soap and masks.

In **South Africa**, we supported our partner, the Department of Social Responsibility, Diocese of Grahamstown, to better respond to gender-based violence and child protection through strengthening eight women's organisations, and upskilling 280 school educators in responding to trauma, and creating 'safe schools'.

ASIA

In **India**, we helped our partner, Cathedral Relief Service, in Kolkata to train 278 women and girls in sustainable income generation, as well as inform 141 parents on the importance of keeping girls in school.

In **Myanmar**, we supported our partner, Akhaya, to train 13 vulnerable women as silver smiths to achieve a sustainable livelihood as well as in COVID-19 prevention.

PACIFIC

In the **Solomon Islands**, we supported our partner, the Anglican Church of Melanesia Solomon Islands (ACOM SI) and other church partners, to become more resilient in times of disaster by mapping 118 church-owned buildings as potential evacuation centres. ACOM SI also engaged 1,500 people in training to help them build sustainable livelihoods.

In **Vanuatu**, we supported our partner, the Anglican Church of Melanesia Vanuatu, to improve community safety through training 380 men and women on gender issues including family violence.

MIDDLE EAST

In **East Jerusalem**, our help supported the Spafford Children's Center to run play and speech therapy for 100 children with trauma-delayed development.

In **Gaza**, we supported our partner, the Ahli Arab Hospital, in co-operation with a range of community-based organisations, to deliver training in breast self-examination to 5,885 women, and educate 692 men on breast cancer to help destigmatise the disease.

The programs in Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Vanuatu and Gaza were supported by the Australian Government and donations from the Australian public through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Programs in the Solomon Islands were supported by the Australian Government and donations from the Australian public through the ANCP and the Australian Humanitarian Partnership.

Lifting up the lowly

BIBLE READING

“He has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.”
Luke 1:48 (NRSV)

BACKGROUND

The story of the annunciation of Jesus’ birth is shocking and scandalous. It is little wonder that Mary was disturbed when the angel announced to her that she, a virgin, would fall pregnant. Even more astounding was the news that the Son of God would grow in her womb!

Mary was young, unmarried, and living in a conservative and moralistic culture. Imagine the thoughts that would have flooded into her mind. She is engaged to be married, but her betrothed is not the father! How does she tell him?.

The community and family that Mary belonged to may have also looked upon her with shame, seeing her as the object of suspicion and scandal. How is she to respond?

Mary knows that God is with her; she is surrounded by love. The angel tells her to not be afraid. What happens to Mary is unimaginable to us, but as the story from Luke’s gospel tells us, nothing is impossible with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you relate to the feelings Mary would have experienced? Has there been a time in your life when you have learnt something really significant and you wondered how you would tell people?
2. How would Mary’s faith in God have helped her as she tried to process these feelings?
3. If you were part of Mary’s family or community, how would you have responded to her incredible news and situation?

APPLICATION

During this holiday season, think of some people in your family or community who may have been exposed to shame or judgement. Go and approach them and show them the love of the God who lifts up the lowly. If you are that person who has experienced those kinds of feelings, imagine God lifting you up and rejoicing in you.

REFLECTION

The story of Jesus’ birth is contrasted in Luke’s Gospel with that of the birth of his cousin, John the Baptist. Elizabeth, John’s mother, was old and well past child-bearing age. An older woman giving birth to her first child late in life, and a young teenage woman, in a culture where women were often marginalised.

Both women would have felt highly vulnerable. The situation for both these women was very challenging.

The wonder of the Gospel is that it is always the lowly who are the bearers of hope. A young, unmarried teenager is chosen as the one who will bring hope and light into this world.

The idealism of youth is something that many people struggle to hold on to in later years. This is why Mary’s revolutionary song is such a wonderful example to us. She bursts out in a spontaneous song of praise and rejoices in God’s upside-down kingdom, a kingdom where the last shall be first and those who are first will be last.

We have a God who is all loving, who experiences great joy in lifting up the lowly. May we be humble enough to rejoice like Mary in this God who we see in the life of Jesus, who invites those who are weary to come to him and rest. She is secure in the love of God for her. She is held and she is safe.

Tracking against the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the United Nations launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a bold plan to eliminate global poverty by 2030.

The SDGs are a successor to the Millennium Development Goals, eight targets which were adopted by the UN between 2000-2015.

The 17 SDGs were agreed on by 193 countries and outline how to provide inclusive, sustainable and resilient development for people all over the world. It sounds very broad, but the goals go into much detail, having a total of 169 targets.

The objectives of the SDGs include such ambitious plans as eradicating extreme poverty, taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, ensuring that all girls and boys get to go to school, and ending all forms of violence against children.

The goals relate directly to our work at AOA – they serve as a template for our long term goals, and an essential guide for our planning and reflections; our roadmap for change. Our focus areas of Self-Reliance, Health and Wellbeing, Disaster and Climate Adaptation, and Safe Relationships are linked to Sustainable Development Goals 8, 3, 13 and 5 respectively.

Drawing on the focus of SDG 5, Gender Equality, one of the main areas of our work is the empowerment of women and girls and the promotion of safe relationships. Targets in this goal include eliminating all forms of violence against women, including trafficking and sexual exploitation; eliminating all child, early and forced marriage; and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The spectre of COVID-19 has been a major setback to the achievement of the SDGs, some of which were on track to be achieved by 2030. For instance, the goals of reducing the deaths of children under 5 years of age, and increasing enrolment in primary school for

children were well on the way to being realised.

COVID-19 though has pushed 71 million people into extreme poverty this year. That is the first rise in extreme poverty since 1998. The lockdowns across the world are also increasing the risks of violence against women and girls.

As we mentioned in the last issue of Abundance, most of the projects that AOA supports have adapted their work to combat the effects of the virus. In addition to distributing essential supplies to the most vulnerable in the initial stage of the pandemic, our partners have been training their communities in prevention and good hygiene practices. They are also helping families maintain livelihoods, and are improving safety for women and children through direct support and by connecting them to lifesaving services.

While the pandemic has been a disaster, there are lessons we can learn from it. The slowing of economic activity cleared our skies and offered the opportunity to see the impact of our activity on our environment.

The challenge remains great indeed. But with your support, financially and through prayer, change is continuing to take place. The SDGs provide us with a worthy target. We are determined to play our part in helping to achieve all 17 goals.



Three decades of change in South Africa

On 30 June 2020, our partnership in South Africa with the Department of Social Responsibility (DSR), Diocese of Grahamstown, came to a close.

The 'Sinakho Safe Community' program in South Africa was supported by the Australian Government and donations from the Australian public through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

We have been proud to partner with the Australian Government in delivering this program.

There are always mixed feelings when a partnership comes to an end. While it is sad to say goodbye to communities we have been working with for many years, the end of a program is also acknowledgment that communities have been empowered to lead and drive their own change, which is the ultimate goal of our work. Community development is about the long-term, and we are very pleased to have been able to play a role in the strengths-based development of communities in the Diocese of Grahamstown.

Anglican Overseas Aid first began work with the Diocese of Grahamstown in 1990. The partnership came about from a request for assistance in advocacy made by the then Bishop, David Russell. From 1999, AOA worked with the DSR in the Eastern Cape Province, entering into a

Partnership Agreement in June of that year, with a grant of \$25,000 to support the program.

By 2004 the focus of our programming partnership was the prevention of HIV and AIDS through awareness raising, community education, community-based care to vulnerable groups, nutrition and reliable access to food.

Our partnership with the DSR evolved over time from mitigating the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic to the more broadly focussed Women's Empowerment Program.

This project supported vulnerable women by increasing their ability to feed their families through permaculture skills and building community intolerance towards violence against women and children.





Above: Young activists campaign for the end of violence against women.

Below left: The Eastern Cape Braille Institution is a key member of the Sinakho Safe Community Network.

A major part of the project was the development of the Safe Community Network, in which leading women and men were trained in gender issues, women-centred responses to violence and abuse, HIV and AIDS issues, the Sexual Offences Act, citizen forums and counselling. They focused on vulnerable groups within their community: rape victims, the elderly, youth and children, teaching them about the laws that should protect them. They also trained police, health, and justice staff about their duties under these laws.

The Women's Empowerment Program evolved into the recently completed Sinakho Safe Community Network. In this project, dynamic women leaders and male role-models were equipped to become a grass-roots Safe Persons Network. This network provides a safe and responsive way forward for people affected by violence and abuse.

This network continues to strengthen community efforts to protect women and children from violence and advocates for action on crime through their local police and justice system. The result is that now vulnerable people know where to seek help and have greater confidence to report sexual assault.

The project also built community resilience through permaculture skills and community gardens; improving

food security, promoting nutrition and building self-value amongst vulnerable women, young people and school children.

South Africa continues to face many challenges. HIV/AIDS rates remain high, unemployment is at least 30 percent and sexual and gender-based violence is prevalent across the country. Amidst these challenges, thanks to the long-term partnership between AOA and the DSR, communities in the Diocese of Grahamstown are now able to build on their firmly established safety networks. In this way communities are able to advocate for justice on their own behalf as they pursue lives with a greater sense of dignity and self-worth.

AOA would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Department of Social Responsibility over the course of the partnership, and we thank both AOA supporters and the Australian Government for the long-term assistance that has made these achievements possible.

Storytelling - our commitment to truth and dignity.

Anglican Overseas Aid's underpinning values capture the essence of what we stand for.

Along with justice, peace and reconciliation, we are also committed to acting in solidarity with the poor and marginalised, responding to their needs with compassion, and working in respectful ways that highlight their own strengths. We do this so that the end result of our work is that communities drive their own positive change.

The stories we tell along the way, both of development challenges and success, must reflect our values. Even more than that, they need to play a part in highlighting the unity we should have as humans in a global community. That is why this last year we have been working on putting a guide together for our team. This guide helps us to communicate stories in the best possible way, as always, with a commitment to truth, accuracy as well as dignity, and protections for those we work with.

The guide is called our Ethical Decision-Making Framework for Communications (EDMF). We know that often telling stories about poverty, need and transformation can touch on issues of vulnerability and trauma, and might involve triggering topics such as abuse and violence. This can impact the person telling the story, the person collecting the story, and those who read the published story.

To deal with these sensitivities, our EDMF puts together a series of questions that help guide our communications, both in text and images, and explores possible consequences of the way we collect, store, discuss and publish our stories. These questions are carefully designed to protect everyone involved, but particularly the most vulnerable, such as women, children and people living with a disability. They also serve to preserve privacy, and ensure our stories only ever promote the dignity of the people we work with.

In 2021 we intend to migrate to a cloud-based Digital Asset Management System so that we can securely store and more accurately catalogue our library of stories and images. We feel this will help us ethically manage sometimes very sensitive materials.

Story telling can be very a powerful tool in bringing about positive change. However, it is not without risk. Integrity is central to us and we take very seriously our ethical obligations in relation to the stories and pictures that we are entrusted with. We will, as best we can, communicate local voices, offer respect and sensitivity, advocate for rights, and inspire compassion and global responsibility.





Above: Belinda, AOA's Program Manager - Quality & Compliance speaks to female leaders in the Solomon Islands. The leaders have participated in the Gender Equality Theology Training. Their feedback has been very helpful in improving the design of the program.

Below left: Renee, AOA's Marketing and Fundraising Officer, speaks to women in Kenya, giving them the opportunity to tell their stories in their own words.

Preparing for reaccreditation

A significant portion of AOA's funding comes from the Australian Government, mainly through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). The ANCP is part of the Australian Government's overseas aid program and is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Anglican Overseas Aid has full accreditation with DFAT. This means we meet and operate in accordance with the highest quality standards required under the Australian Government Aid program to receive funding.

While we receive ANCP funds every year, we need to go through the formal and rigorous process of re-accreditation every five years. That time is rapidly approaching for us – we need to submit our re-accreditation documentation by June 2021 – so our staff have been hard at work making sure that we comply with all aspects of the accreditation standards.

To ensure that we gain re-accreditation, we need to be assessed by DFAT on such indicators as our organisational structure, program approaches, policies and practices. We need to demonstrate to DFAT that we are performing consistently and well against those indicators.

We also need to meet certain eligibility criteria, including being registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and being a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

Being accountable for the way our donations are used is crucial to our integrity as an organisation. It not only affects how we are seen by the Government and the general public, but, more importantly, it affects how the communities we work with are impacted by our programs.

From the way we run our projects to how we do our marketing and communications, DFAT accreditation keeps AOA accountable for every aspect of how we operate. It also ensures you, our supporters, that our work is of the highest quality.

Gifts and service a wonderful combination in our Board

We have been very fortunate over many years to have people of extraordinary talent and giftedness on our Board. These are the people who provide direction to AOA, often behind the scenes and without recognition. They do it as an expression of their deeply held values and without financial compensation.

There have recently been some changes to our Board. Some members will soon be completing their service, while others are just commencing. We want to acknowledge all these gifts and contributions.

Tony Hickson is one person who has served a lengthy time on the Board. For the last 10 years, he has provided his financial expertise to help ensure we make decisions that are prudent and consistent with our values. Tony has extensive management experience covering 40 years in two large multinational corporations and three medium-sized independent schools and colleges. His commitment to the not-for-profit sector is unquestioned, having held many

volunteer governance positions, including in churches and local and overseas mission agencies. Tony served as Chair of our Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. We are sad to farewell him from our Board after so many years, but he will continue to serve as a committee member for one final year.

Dr Chris Morgan is also leaving our Board following 6 years of service. Chris also served on Development Committee for 6 years, the last 3 as Chair. He has been appointed to the highly prestigious position of Senior Technical Advisor to a public health NGO affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. His expertise has taken him around the world, having



worked in health development in areas where there have been limited resources. Some of these areas include western China, Myanmar, Nepal, PNG, Kenya, South Africa and with the World Health Organization.

Dr Alison Morgan served as a co-opted expert on our Development Committee for six years. Alison has now been asked to join the World Bank in New York, as senior advisor on maternal and child health.

While some people leave our Board, others are commencing. One new member will be Grant Dawson. A chartered accountant, Grant has previously served as the Chief Financial Officer at World Vision Australia, is currently a senior consultant at Saward Dawson. He has a long and distinguished career leading in finance and corporate services.

Ros Clowes is another new addition to our Board. Ros has experience in fundraising for community groups and will be adding her expertise to our Fundraising and Communications Committee. She is a CPA and is a long-serving member at Glen Waverley Anglican Church.

In addition, two existing AOA Board members have been approved to serve another three year term. They are Bishop Paul Barker and Associate Professor Robin Ray. Bishop Paul is the Deputy Chair of AOA and the bishop of the Jumbunna episcopal area in the Diocese of Melbourne. Dr Ray is Associate Professor, adjunct to the College of Medicine and Dentistry at James Cook University and also serves on our Development Committee. Congratulations to both, and thank you!

AOA is privileged to be governed by people of extraordinary gifts and talents, but also people with a heart for service. The full list of AOA Board and Committee members is published at anglicanoverseasaid.org.au



Above: AOA's CEO and board members Tony Hickson, Dr Robin Ray, Glenn Scott and Claire Miller visiting our program in Gaza in 2019

Below left: AOA's CEO and board members Tony Hickson, Glenn Scott, and Dr Robin Ray visiting our program in Kenya in 2019.

The board trip to Gaza and Kenya as depicted in the photos was self-funded by the participating board directors.

The 'Imarisha Maisha' project in Kenya and the 'Women's Health and Wellbeing' project in Gaza are supported by the Australian Government and donations from the Australian public through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Free Lenten Reflections are now available

Order your copies today in time for the beginning of Lent (17th February). Available in English and Chinese.

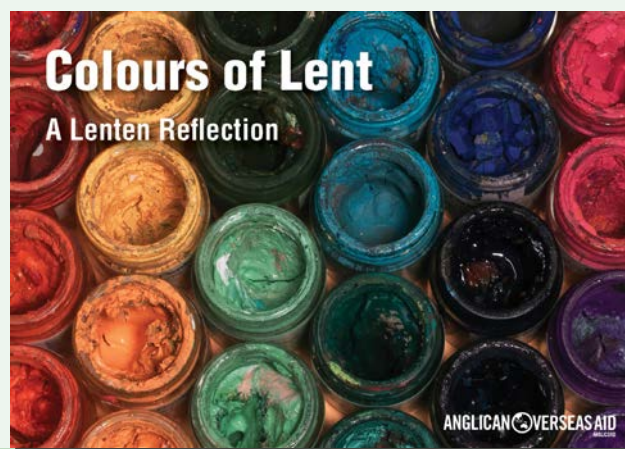
Stocks are limited - order before they run out!

For Christians, colours can be important symbols. Colours are a way of subtly drawing attention to underlying truths and meanings, conveying mood and emotion. This year, the 'Colours of Lent' theme is a journey inspired by the palette used in the Gospels to communicate the story at the heart of the Christian message.

We hope that you will follow with us on this solemn but hopeful journey. Our prayer is that you will be blessed with a deeper understanding of God's love for us as we meditate on Jesus' sacrifice and the hope that it brings.

To order, please email us at
aoa@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au

If you received the Advent Reflection, you will automatically receive the Lenten Reflection. Please contact us if you would like to change the amount that you receive.



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