

ISSUE 23

AOA Anglican
Overseas
Aid

Abundance

Magazine

Kenyan Appeal
Update: Food
Secure Schools

PAGE 04

We celebrate
Nadia's return
to School

PAGE 14



Thank You

“May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.” Ruth 2: 12

The story of Ruth is one of commitment to others. She left her family and traveled to a foreign land to support her mother-in-law, Naomi. Upon meeting Ruth, Boaz commends her for her faithfulness, love, and compassion.

And so, we commend you, our supporters. As the work of our partners has faced tremendous challenges in recent years from overlapping disasters, conflicts, displacement, COVID-19, and, most recently, the famine in East Africa, your commitment and prayers have touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

It can be easy to tire of doing good. Yet, when faced with the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and South Sudan, your support enabled AOA's local partners to respond quickly to the overwhelming needs.

As the continuing deterioration in Kenya became apparent, we asked for help to start an emergency feeding program - and many of you gave generously.

The notification of the sad passing of one of our supporters, Roger, was accompanied by a

generous bequest to continue his impact. His love and compassion meant tens of thousands of Kenyan children received life-saving food through this emergency program. You can read this amazing story on page 16. Roger's thoughtfulness and commitment to his global neighbours in need were indeed a blessing.

Rarely has our End of Financial Appeal had such urgency as this year's support for the Imarisha Maisha program in Kenya. Yet despite occurring in a time of increased financial pressure from rising living costs, approximately 15% of supporter responders made their highest-ever investment in the lives of people in need.

So to you, our supporters, we say thank you! Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your love of our global neighbours. Thank you for your inspiring sacrificial giving. Thank you for your prayers.

In the words of Boaz: 'May the Lord reward you for your deeds.'

I hope you find examples of the life-changing impact you have enabled on these pages.



Symbol of Transformation

'Symbols are powerful because they are the visible signs of invisible realities'
St Augustine



A key finding of the strategic review undertaken by AOA in 2022 was that many supporters said they couldn't remember the AOA logo. Those who did were unsure of its meaning; many felt it was outdated.

Symbols and logos are important because they convey messages, ideas, and beliefs quickly and concisely. Indeed our Christian faith is enriched by symbols, such as the cross.

The quote of St Augustine resonates strongly. As supporters, we are committed to loving our global neighbours, but the transformational impact is often unseen.

So what is at the heart of AOA, and how could this be communicated through a logo?

When the late Archbishop David Penman founded AOA, its purpose was to connect Australian Anglicans with Anglicans working amongst the world's poor so that together lives would be transformed. Today, 35 years later, this remains at the heart of AOA's mission.

The new AOA symbol consists of a partial 'A' on the left representing Australian Anglicans, a

circle representing the globe, with a second partial 'A' representing Anglican partners and their communities overseas.

Bishop Desmond Tutu often spoke of the concept of Ubuntu, that we live in a connected humanity. When one person's humanity is diminished, our collective humanity suffers. Reflecting this belief, the two 'A's in our logo only become whole when they are united. It represents our connectedness and mutual transformation.

Reflecting on the parable of The Good Samaritan, French theologian Jean Calvin wrote of a 'mutual obligation between all [people] ... knit together with a holy knot. We must not live for ourselves but for our neighbours.'

AOA seeks to connect Anglican communities globally, and our new logo represents our prayer that by loving our global neighbour, we will also be transformed, bound by our shared faith and desire for restoration.

A Grandmother's Love

Desperation filled the eyes of a loving grandmother as her granddaughter explained that she felt she had no choice but to leave her education and wed at the age of 14.




Committed to the pathway of early marriage, Shani (pictured left with her grandmother) left everything she knew: her loving family, trusted school friends, and the wider community. Deeply entrenched societal beliefs reinforcing female subordination contributed to Shani's limited prospects.

'I didn't feel like I had many other options,' she explains. Without access to education, the vicious poverty cycle once again, seemingly, claimed another victim. With many women just like Shani feeling pressure to desert their education, their everyday struggles are further exacerbated, and the cycle of oppression continues.

The Wise Choices for Life program provides vulnerable community members in Uganda with the knowledge and power to reject such learned discrimination and suppression. Having heard about Wise Choices from a school friend when her plans of marriage foiled, Shani made the leap and joined the program.

Her grandmother Grace, once riddled with angst witnessing her beloved granddaughter's plight, admits her delight when Shani decided to re-join her peers and commit to her high school education.

'I've seen my granddaughter change so much,' she says, as she witnessed Shani's transformation under the teachings of Wise Choices.



Grace admits to her delight when Shani decided to re-join her peers and commit to her high school education, 'I have less stress than I had before'.

By nurturing the voices of the marginalised, Wise Choices seeks to empower those like Shani. The lessons on assertive communication and the importance of self-hood have contributed to her empowerment and she is keen to pass on that teaching.

'I've learnt that my "no" can really mean "no" and my "yes" can mean "yes".'

'I would like to thank everyone at Wise Choices for Life,' she adds. 'And to those who support this program, thank you for all you have done for us.'

Anglican Overseas Aid established their partnership with Wise Choices for Life in 2022.

Wise Choices for Life exists to transform communities by training participants in reproductive health and life skills to break the poverty cycle.

'I've learnt that my
"no" can really mean
"no" and my "yes"
can mean "yes".'



Kenyan Appeal Update: Food Secure Schools

Thank you to all who have donated ensuring vulnerable children and their families do not go hungry.

They call it 'rain failure' and it is just that, a failure to rain has meant that Laikipia County, one of the areas where our partner the Anglican Church of Kenya, Mt Kenya West Diocese has seen vegetation, rivers and dams dry out resulting in the loss of livestock, livelihoods and hunger. Most men have migrated in search of pasture, leaving behind pregnant women, children, people with a disability and the elderly. They have been left with no source of food.

Thanks to the love and generosity of you, our faithful supporters, The Mt Kenya West Diocese's program, Imarisha Maisha can continue to ensure the longevity of food security.

Recently the program began working in some of the most marginalised and drought-affected areas to maintain and

'Schools have become community hubs, where bore water can be shared.'

ensure the safety of kitchen gardens already established in schools.

It will also develop new kitchen gardens in schools that have access to water. Ensuring produce from the gardens can provide food for students.

Gardens already established are becoming community hubs, where bore water is shared, and crops are grown. Teachers have also been educating parents on how to grow food, since many families are from tribes such as the Maasai, who are expert herders but unfamiliar with agriculture. This has been a transformative experience, with teachers seeing a subsequent increase in school attendance as families recognise its importance in meeting the holistic needs of students.



A kitchen garden ready for harvest at a primary school in Nyeri county where there is bore water.

In March, Jo Knight, the CEO of AOA visited The Imarisha Maisha program firsthand and witnessed both the challenges and power of the school kitchen garden. Beyond drought ravaged areas, she found thriving gardens providing sustenance for the whole community. However, as Jo drove deeper into the country, in Laikipia, the land became drier, and she was confronted with schools whose kitchen gardens are threatened.

'Everyone is desperate for water here and the school's water bore is something that is needed by all,' Jo emphasises.

She met Lawrence, a deputy head teacher in Laikipia County where the school's bore water is the only source of hydration. The previous night elephants had stormed into their garden, eating what they could, and in desperation attacked the water tanks. All that remained when Lawrence arrived were a few passionfruit vines.

As disheartening as this is, he will not be defeated. With money donated from our EOFY Appeal, we can ensure that Lawrence and other teachers in similar situations are equipped to protect their hard work.

Imarisha Maisha program staff are working to strengthen the



A water tank attacked by elephants in a school in the Laikipia district.

resilience of Kenyan communities. They are expanding their work to include a range of initiatives including promoting agriculture conservation, growing indigenous food crops and digging water pans.

Lawrence is grateful for the work the Imarisha Maisha program has contributed to his school, but during Jo's visit he asked for more: 'The little food we are receiving we appreciate, but we need more so we can continue to sustain our kids in school.'

With your generosity, we can respond to Lawrence's request and support schools and communities as they survive the impacts of this drought, we are also able to begin another emergency feeding program to ensure those most vulnerable are receiving nutrients as soon as possible.

Australian Aid

The Imarisha Maisha Program receives funding from the Australian Government, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Thank You

As the drought and famine continued in Kenya, so did our concerns for the well-being of the communities hardest hit.

As vital members of Anglican Overseas Aid, there was little choice but turn to you, our faithful supporters, to provide an urgent response. However, with the growing cost of living pressures, we knew that for many, it would be a challenge to respond.

Yet throughout the appeal, we were humbled and amazed by the response. For some, contributing at all was sacrificial given current circumstance.

Many supporters who may usually donate between \$30 to \$50, doubled their support. A significant number of supporters responded with their highest ever donation. We also rejoiced at old friends returning to again support this need.

Together as a community of supporters, your amazing response has enabled the emergency feeding program to be reinstated and the food secure schools program to begin. This means more than you could ever know for Millicent and the Imarisha Maisha team as they tirelessly work to support and restore community programs impacted by the drought.

With a visit scheduled in November, we look forward to sharing the impact of your support in the next edition of Abundance. Thank you!



Faith in Action: A Bible Reflection

This Bible reflection is brought to you by Millicent, who leads the Imarisha Maisha program, transforming communities with the Anglican Church of Kenya, Mt Kenya West Diocese.



'We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers.' 2 Corinthians 1: 8-11

The Horn of Africa and specifically Kenya has faced its worst drought in 40 years. We were stressed as we faced imminent danger. In our own strength we were at the point of collapse, but we did not collapse, we looked to God and by God's grace we found new strength. God sent deliverance just like he did to Paul.

Often, we find ourselves in situations where we do not know what to do. The circumstances of life swirl out of control, the pressure is overwhelming. But the promise of God is that in that moment he does what needs to be done. He will not leave us alone. He will not forget that we need him. God stands with us, and we never face the challenges alone. This brings us hope, a precious gift given to us because Jesus lives.

Praying for Millicent

Lord God, thank you that you are with us in times of immense crisis. Thank you for Millicent and the strength she has to continue doing your good work. Please continue to strengthen and comfort her as she brings hope and healing to those around her. In your mighty name we pray. Amen

Our Partners in Action

Here are just a few highlights from our partners who are working hard serving their communities.



Sri Lanka

Women who are relied upon to support their families financially engaged in an orientation program for the formation of Self-Help Groups.

The project run by our partner, Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service (LEADS), increases economic resilience by improving incomes and growing community-based savings.

Investing in gender equality not only ensures women their basic human rights, but it also advances the health and economic development of their families.



India

Women who undertook sewing training through the Cathedral Relief Service have joined the Nari Dana Women's Wing (Freedom Project) where they are producing clergy vestments for 26 Diocese Churches. The women have been trained in making cassocks for the clergy, which has enabled them to supplement their families' income.

The coming together of women in this way is seen as a gradual change in the quality of lifestyle and, more importantly, with the money earned their children are able to attend school.



Responding to Emergencies

South Sudan

Four consecutive years of flooding have left approximately two-thirds of South Sudan underwater. The rising waters have swept away homes, livestock, and crops, impacting thousands of people each year. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees reports that 460,000 people have fled to higher ground. With current conflict also taking place, communities are struggling to recover.

AOA has been working with partner South Sudanese Development and Relief Agency (SSUDRA) to support those most impacted by the floods, particularly women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or widowed, and children who have lost both parents and are now caring for siblings. SSUDRA will also work with communities to develop and strengthen their response to future disasters.

This project receives funding from the Emergency Action Alliance.



Ukraine

Money raised by our generous supporters for the Ukraine Conflict Response has been going directly to the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) ACT Alliance Appeal. So far, they have supported over 30,000 Ukrainian households who have fled to Poland. Support has included multipurpose cash vouchers, access to social workers, psychological support and the creation of child-friendly spaces in six refugee reception centers. Olga, who with her children fled from Odesa to Poland now works at the LWF Refugee Reception Centre in Gdansk.

‘This job makes me feel needed,’ she reports. ‘I’m also doing everything in my power to keep my children free from the stress caused by the war. I want them to have a normal life.’

This project receives funding from the Emergency Action Alliance.



Praying for Emergencies



South Sudan

Lord, we ask for flooding and conflict to cease. Please comfort those who have lost loved ones, livelihoods and their homes. Protect those who are vulnerable, help them to find safe places to live and develop livelihoods for their future.

Ukraine

Lord, we ask for an end to this conflict. Protect the people of Ukraine. Comfort them and bring peace, safety and security. Provide essential supplies like food and water. Heal those who are physically wounded and those who have experienced trauma.

Kenya

Lord, we lift up all those living with drought in Kenya. Protect those who are undernourished, bring them food and clean water. Provide for those who have lost livelihoods. Bring rain so that crops will grow and rivers will flow.

Building Safer Futures in the Solomons

Kelly Rae reflects on her recent visit to the Safe Strong Communities Project in the Solomon Islands.



The Safe Strong Communities Project receives funding from the Australian Government, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



I'm in Malaita in the Solomon Islands visiting our partner, the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

It's teeming with rain today. There's a solid curtain of water as I look out across the village. Freda and Rebecca, our partner staff, are here too. I have joined them at a Savings Club meeting. The women gathered visibly lean in to hear Sicilia, the Gwaunaoa Savings Club leader over the rain.

A retired teacher, Sicilia (pictured left) has thrived in her role nurturing the women's self-confidence, skills, and independence. Each member is saving at least \$8 a week, and no longer need to take out loans in times of crisis. Their main priority is covering children's school fees and starting small businesses.



Father Walter champions the Safe Strong Communities training.

We continue our journey, stopping to meet Father Walter at the Diocese of Malaita. The personal transformation he has experienced through 'Gender and Theology' training is heartening.

'I grew up in a strongly male-dominated culture – it's in my blood,' he tells me. While he found the first few days of the training confronting, he places his hand on his chest and insists, 'The training moulded me, it helps'.

Faith leaders can deepen their understanding of gender and gender-based violence. Creating safe spaces for this exploration and change takes great skill, respect for faith and culture, and grace. I'm grateful for our partnership and the change that is unfolding here.

Rebecca and I sit in the shade between meetings, and she reflects on the women she works with: 'There's power in them, energy.'

Cathy is leader of the Aibu Savings Group and mobilised the group members to make brightly coloured sarongs to sell. The project provided



Cathy, leader of the Aibu Savings Group.

the fabric and dye, with profits shared among members. This helped get them through the hardship of COVID lockdowns. Their confidence and business plans have grown, and they now jointly sell 10kg bags of rice in their village. When the group started, Cathy says their mentality was, 'What we earnt today, we spent today'. Now they set goals, save and allocate spending carefully.

As we head back to our vehicle, I think about the young people in these villages who will have a different start to life, all due to their mums, aunties, and grandmas' perseverance, hard work, and dedication.



Kelly is the Program Manager of Quality and Innovation and oversees gender equality projects in the Solomon Islands.

Health and empowerment go hand in hand



Towards Abundant Life for All receives funding from the Australian Government, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



When Muassite (above) started working for the Diocese of Nampula with the Towards Abundant Life for All project, she would travel three days to reach the Abundant Life offices, sleeping in the church quarters during her stay.

As violence broke out in her hometown and with the opportunity to purchase land and build a house in Nampula, Muassite was able to relocate. With her commute significantly shorter, she has been able to focus more time and energy on her important work.

Muassite coordinates 15 staff who are working in 92 communities throughout Nampula, Mozambique. Abundant Life has a focus on health issues including treatment for HIV, family planning, disease prevention and nutrition. The importance of focusing on such issues is vital with 13% of the population affected by HIV, it's

the country's number one cause of death, followed by Neonatal disorders and Tuberculosis.*

Muassite's team trains volunteers to become Life Team Members. They go door-to-door, educating people on health issues. The Abundant Life team also coordinate and train Health Committees, which are made up of volunteers advocating for the health needs of their community.

Gender justice is very close to Muassite's heart. She sees a direct correlation between women's empowerment and improved health outcomes.

'Because women are empowered, they can speak openly about being HIV positive and that it's possible to live long lives with HIV if you go for medication. With this form of empowerment comes a reduction in HIV cases.'

We also encourage (HIV) positive people to take proper treatment from the health center. Before they used traditional methods, many ended up dying or in poverty as they would sell all their property for traditional treatment that wasn't working.'

She continues to prioritise empowering women in her programs, ensuring that she hires female coordinators and female group presidents within the Life Teams.

'Previously, only men aired their views during meetings, and women stayed silent,' she

'With this form of empowerment comes reduction in HIV cases.'

explains. 'So as an organisation we are trying to eliminate these practices. That's why when I see women coordinators, I see transformation in these communities.'

By empowering women to speak about their health issues and leading the way through leadership opportunities for women, Muassite and her team are creating better health outcomes for the people of Nampula, demonstrating that equality is possible for all.

Muassite (far right) stands with a local Life Team.





Nadia Returns to School

After meeting with Life Team volunteers Nadia saw a world where completing her education could be possible.

Nadia's body was weak, and sickness was constant, after delivering her fifth child she yearned for relief. It was easy to quit school, in Mozambique it was expected when she married her husband Antonio, but to quit bearing children that was a battle harder fought.

When Nadia (pictured above with Antonio and their daughter) heard about family planning she eagerly spoke with Antonio, hoping he would understand what life could be like for her without constantly being pregnant. But it was a conversation he refused to have. That is, until the Life Team volunteers supported by the Towards Abundant Life for All program, came to their house and spoke to him at lengths about family planning. During this meeting Antonio came to realise that family planning was vital for their future.

For five years, they did not conceive. Instead, Nadia worked on her dream: she returned to school.

'Resuming study renewed my mind,' she explains. 'My dream is to finish school and perhaps become a teacher.' Nadia is setting an example for her children, one that Antonio is eager for their daughter to replicate.

'I want my daughter to grow up to be a teacher,' he says. 'For that to happen, she needs to be able to go to school, and she has to be protected from child marriage. I am going to protect her.'



Towards Abundant Life for All receives funding from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

A New Chapter Begins

Anglican Overseas Aid established its partnership with Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, just as AOA was being founded in 1988.

AOA's latest project with the hospital was the Women's Health and Wellbeing Project, which began in 2009. Since its inception, the project has improved breast cancer awareness and early detection. There has also been improvement in men's attitudes and their support for women accessing services, and there appears to be a groundswell in the community that recognises the need for preventative action concerning breast cancer.

Throughout the project, thousands of women have gained access to mammography screenings and have been taught how to do breast self-checks.



Women who are deaf undertake a self-examination breast screening workshop at Ahli Arab Hospital.

Hundreds have had ultrasounds, surgical procedures and undertaken Mind-Body programs.

AOA has marked the conclusion of the Women's Health and Wellbeing Project and the outcomes achieved by the Ahli Arab Hospital. Thank you for the generous support you have given to this project. You have ensured that women living in a context of occupation, constraint, poverty and conflict are being provided with essential health information and support while undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

AOA will now be partnering with the hospital on a new project titled Community Development and Child Wellbeing. In the Gaza Strip, almost half (48%) of the Palestinian population are under 18 years of age. Your donations will be used to improve the health and wellbeing of children suffering from malnutrition and low body weight, conditions which are often associated with illiteracy, poverty and maternal mortality.

We look forward to partnering with Ahli Arab Hospital on this project to ensure children are getting the best start to life under truly challenging circumstances.



In Gratitude

Roger, a dedicated schoolteacher, committed his life and legacy to teaching and assisting children.



Students (above) raise their cups, each day for three months their cups were filled with nutritional porridge.

Embarking on his career in 1956, Roger (pictured above right) worked tirelessly for 33 years to improve student education in a regional city. A committed member of his local Parish, he loved to sing from the Anglican Hymn Book and spent many years as choirmaster.

Roger lived a long and enjoyable life and upon his passing left a bequest to Anglican Overseas Aid to help people facing adversity.

Shortly after receiving Roger's bequest, AOA was advised of the worsening drought and pending famine in Kenya. Vulnerable children had little food and were dropping out of school. Roger's legacy funded an emergency feeding program in 77 primary schools across the region from November 2022 until February 2023. The program

fed 48,018 children who would have otherwise gone without.

Roger's gift provided vulnerable children with desperately needed food at their school and boosted enrollment and attendance. Roger indeed left a legacy of life!

You, too, can leave a lasting, life-changing legacy. Your gift can help transform the lives of people in great need, no matter how large or small.

For a confidential, no-obligation discussion to explore the possibility of including AOA in your will, please contact Darren Sterling on (03) 9495 6100 or dsterling@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au.

The Order of St Lazarus brings hope to Spafford

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem (the Order) continues as an integral supporter for Anglican Overseas Aid.

Contributing over \$85,000 to the Spafford Centre in East Jerusalem over the past five years. The Order has enabled AOA to provide vital resources and upfront services to Palestinian children.

Through the support of the Order, AOA has created change through organisations like the Spafford Children's Centre. Seeking to empower those who are often sidelined or marginalised, the Order has provided the necessary funds to ensure no one is left behind.

As the Spafford Centre aims to 'bring healing, hope, and prosperity' to children and families in East Jerusalem,



Above: The Spafford Centre Below Left: Darren Sterling (right) receives a check on behalf of AOA given by The Orders Anthony Kennedy (left)



the Order's mission has also been achieved.

The Victorian Orders Secretary Mr. John Molnar states, "some of the Order's best work can be seen with the support provided to the marginalised, the homeless and disadvantaged members of the community."

By helping those within this marginalised community, the Order seeks to 'give back', creating an impact that extends far beyond monetary value.



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Let Justice and Peace Flow

“Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

The prophet Isaiah’s words are full of hope. Hope for the regeneration of something only possible through the work of God.

Season of Creation is a time to step away from our daily habits and pray and advocate for God’s creation. The season begins September 1st, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends October 4th, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

We are proud to be celebrating this wonderful season, to ensure our prayers and advocacy for the regeneration of our changing world continue. At AOA we are often reminded of the impact of climate on our partners: cyclones that bring destruction to homes and lives, droughts that tear families apart and prolong hunger, floods that sweep away hopes and

dreams. It is on those already vulnerable – those who have done the least to contribute to the problem – that climate seems to have the most impact.

The Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Anglican Bishop of Reading, UK, states, ‘An economy of peace can be built instead of an economy of conflict.’ This seems hard to fathom, so we must come together with the hope and faith that God hears our cries. Let us live lives that show love to all by making choices that regenerate creation. Let us continue to bring our prayers and petitions, knowing God promises justice that rolls on like a river to all creation.

As we celebrate the Season of Creation with our ecumenical family worldwide, we encourage you to pray for justice and peace for those most impacted.

Season of Creation Prayer

Creator of All,

From your communion of love life sprung forth like a mighty river and the whole cosmos came into being.

On this Earth of overflowing love, the Word was made flesh and went forth with the life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice for all creation.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the most vulnerable. We broke with the flowing communion of love and sinned against you by not safeguarding the conditions for life.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished, and we ache at the sight of an economy of death, war and violence that we have inflicted on ourselves and on the Earth.

Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book of creation. Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation.

Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's justice and peace, and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all creatures around us, and all creation.

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Letting Justice and Peace Flourish

Our partners response to climate change



Planting trees in Kenya

The Imarisha Maisha program is working with communities to combat climate change by planting trees. One primary school was given 1,000 seedlings to cultivate, and parents participated in training on climate adaptation and conservation agriculture.



Green Anglicans support young climate activists

AOA is proud to partner with the Green Anglicans to ensure young climate activists and leaders from faith traditions can come together to identify, inspire and implement grassroots actions on climate justice and eco-system restoration in Southern and East Africa. They are Climate YES (Youth Ecumenical Summit) and are already working together to hold political leaders to account.



Sustainable farming in South Sudan

On land belonging to the Anglican Church of South Sudan 500 teak trees will be grown to encourage sustainable farming practices. Teak trees are a sustainable product with a long-life span and economic benefits, such as making furniture, railway carriages and electricity poles. The area will be an example of sustainable and resilient farming practices for communities.





Reweaving the Ecological Mat

In June, an exciting event took place at the AOA office as we organised the conference Reweaving the Ecological Mat, with guest presenter Revd. Dr Cliff Bird, a respected Pacific theologian. The conference brought together 14 Australian and New Zealand supporting partners and an Australian Government representative to learn about Reweaving the Ecological Mat. Developed by the Pacific Conference of Churches, Reweaving the Ecological Mat redefines and describes what 'fullness of life' looks like for people in the Pacific and informs what development work should be focused on achieving.



'It's so important for us to be led by our partners and understand their context better, so we don't accidentally or purposively bring in our own solutions,' commented one participant. 'REM is a framework for Pacific churches, based on Pacific priorities and knowledge and ways of being. It's a gift to us.'

We hope this conference and the connections that come out of it will be a catalyst for momentum and support as Reweaving the Ecological Mat is piloted with churches across the Pacific Region.



This project is funded through Australian Government, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Volunteer with AOA

Would you like an opportunity to contribute your time and talents?

There are so many ways that you can support AOA's work. We are looking for volunteers who are available semi regularly or even a couple of times a year. At times AOA needs assistance to fold and pack supporter materials, there are also opportunities for people who enjoy data entry or helping with events.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in please let us know.

You can email us at

aoa@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au or call (03) 9495 6100.





Anglican Overseas Aid,
PO Box 389, Abbotsford,
VIC 3067, Australia

www.anglicanoverseasaid.com
aoa@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au
(03) 9495 6100



Anglican
Overseas
Aid