

ISSUE 29



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Dear friend,

In my role as CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid I encounter both suffering and pain. But I also have the great privilege of witnessing miracles. Streams of water flowing in arid landscapes. Boys defending their sisters' human rights. Men and women sharing in the responsibility for family planning and women's health.

For this, and so much more, I am thankful. However, at the start of this year, my miracle was you.

Our Christmas appeal for the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza has reached over \$190,000, as I write this column. It is a figure beyond my wildest dreams. Your gifts are an answer to prayers. Your generosity a response to the call of the prophets to care for the marginalised.

The money you've given will reach Gaza's most vulnerable, those affected by the war and in desperate need of health care. Your gift will ensure that the staff at Al-Ahli will receive their salaries. Staff that has continued to serve in spite carry personal loss, trauma and risk for their own lives.

As the eyes of the world move on to other conflicts and areas of unrest, and the situation in Gaza City remains dire, I take great comfort in knowing that our supporters haven chosen to bring hope and light to darkness.

Yours in Christ,

Jo Knight
CEO, Anglican Overseas Aid





Gaza, Middle East

‘Your support enables us to cover staff salaries, secure essential needs and supplies, and keep critical departments functioning – ensuring that care remains available to those who have nowhere else to turn.’

A personal ‘Thank You’ from Al-Ahli’s Hospital Director

‘Looking ahead, we hold onto hope – hope for recovery, for rebuilding lives, and for a future where care can be given without fear.’

‘With the continued support of partners like AOA and its generous supporters, Al-Ahli will remain a place of compassion, peace, and dignity for all who come through its doors.’

Suhaila, Hospital Director at Al-Ahli Hospital, Gaza



A Christmas miracle

This Christmas you were an answer to prayers. You heeded the call of the Old Testament prophets to care for the marginalised. You kept the beacon of the Al-Ahli Hospital burning brightly in the dark. Thank you!

As this article is written, our appeal to raise funds for the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza has reached over \$190,000. It is an extraordinary response to an urgent need from our partner.

The Al-Ahli Hospital now provides outpatient care to approximately 11,000 patients every month. It performs 15-20 surgical operations daily, and delivers ongoing wound care to nearly 3,000 people, many of whom are victims of war-related injuries.

Staff continue to care for patients with severe injuries and deep emotional trauma, while also addressing the long-term medical consequences of months of conflict.

At present, a ceasefire is in place, offering a fragile sense of relief to people across Gaza. Families are cautiously hopeful as they wait to see whether this pause in violence will lead to something more lasting.

Even in this uncertain moment, Al-Ahli remains a place of refuge, healing, and quiet perseverance.

It is this place of refuge and healing you have helped sustain.

Your giving has helped wounded and traumatised children receive critical care. Your gift is Al-Ahli's Christmas miracle. Thank you!





‘We cannot thank the Ahli team and their partners enough. You saved our son, gave him a chance to heal and restored hope to our family.’

Mother to five-year-old Ishmael,* Gaza.

The difference you make

Five-year-old Ishmael* and his family were seeking shelter when shrapnel pierced his head and back. Ishmael’s mother and brother were also wounded.

But thanks to your support, the Al-Ahli Hospital and its medical team could give Ishmael urgent medical care and specialised treatment to stabilise his condition. Ishmael has now received therapy to regain strength and manage his injuries.

Thank you for being a parent of many in Gaza.

*For privacy reasons, we are not using Ishmael’s real name.

New hope for Felistar's family

In 2023, the area of Kenya where Felistar lives suffered a severe drought. A local food program that you made possible, kept her and her entire family alive.

When we visit, the home is bathed in the golden light of late afternoon. A river runs through the valley below Felistar's yard. It was always the main water source for her remote community.

Three years ago however, the river ran dry. Felistar and other women spent hours every day, trying to bring up even a little water from the dry riverbed.

You can read more about this story in 'Called To Care', CEO Jo Knight's new book, published by IVP UK.

During this drought, an AOA funded food program kept Felistar and her family alive.

You also made it possible for Felistar to take steps to protect herself and her family from future dry periods.

Thanks to your support, Felistar was able to install a water tank on the property. Chickens - a low-water food and income source - happily strut about.

As Felistar shows us these initiatives, a beautiful smile lights up her face. The same smile which is mirrored in her young children's faces.

Thank you for bringing joy and food security to Felistar.





‘I am happy with what I am doing to prepare against drought. It means I can take care of my children and provide for them.’

Felistar, Kenya



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

Hello there Jo Knight...

Through her work with global poverty and justice, Jo Knight saw how the church can be a real force for transformation. This became the inspiration as she started writing a book exploring how climate change brings both challenges and opportunities. We caught up with her to hear more.

I wrote 'Called To Care' out of a deep concern for our hurting, warming world, Jo explains. Through my work with AOA, I've watched how climate change has harmed people in extreme poverty.

It multiplies and intensifies threats like floods, droughts, and food insecurity, and yet many Australian churches have never been exposed to the message about caring for our creation.

There was simply a gap between my experience in working with the global church - which deals with consequences of climate change on a daily basis - and with Christians in Australia. My conviction is now that the Church must step fully into its calling.

I see a need for us to embrace a bigger, more holistic vision. A vision that in God's wisdom is good for the world and good for us.

As a mother - on a more personal level - I also reflect on the legacy we are leaving for our children. The time for transformation is now.



You can buy 'Called To Care' via our website or by calling our office: 1800 249 880.

If you had to summarise your book in one sentence, what would it be?

What if we took God's call to care for people and our planet seriously?

I believe that sentence provides us with an invitation to enlarge our imagination. We are called to play a part in caring for our neighbour and caring for our world.

‘The opposite of love is indifference.’

What does caring look like for you on a personal level?

For many years I've been sitting with the phrase, ‘the opposite of love is indifference.’ When I say, ‘we are called to care’, it is that yearning - that conviction or lament - that has stirred compassion in me.

I am privileged to work in a sector where I can share stories from the frontlines, but the call to care encompasses so much more than my vocation. It is about how my family navigates our everyday life, what

choices we make living in a high consumption culture in a big city.

What does ‘living simply and justly’ mean for us, and how can we be considerate of the depths of the footprints we leave behind.

What impact do you hope your book will have on the reader?

I hope it can be a catalyst that leads to conversations, convictions and actions - that people will take a next step. Exactly what that looks like will be different for different people of course. But I want us to stop dismissing climate justice as a political, partisan issue with no relation to our faith.

Instead, I hope we can approach the topic from a Biblical perspective. Firstly, that means understanding the role of the church.

Secondly, naming the problems and owning the part we play.

Thirdly, we need to not give in to apathy but instead be the change we want to see. We need to answer God's calling to care for both nature and the people living in it.





Never too late to change

Thanks your support, Irene - a 45-year-old mother of six - was able to attend a Wise Choices For Life training program. It gave her a new sense of direction, her children are back at school and she has reconciled with her husband.

‘Life was bad,’ Irene says. ‘I was emotional and lonely, and I did what I felt like, without thinking and caring.’

It was a lifestyle that led to lack of care, both for her children and for Irene herself. Her marriage broke down and her children left school.

What was needed was support to make informed decisions, to restore family relationships and secure schooling for her children.

Through her church, Irene heard about Wise Choices For Life. She was initially reluctant to attend, but decided to give it a chance.

The training was made possible thanks to your support for AOA, and it changed Irene’s life forever.

Irene learned to embrace hope, self-worth and positive decision-making.

The training gave her a renewed sense of confidence and direction. It enabled her to face life’s challenges with an empowered mindset.

‘I found peace in my heart and started working on myself, and helping others.’

‘I felt good,’ Irene explains. ‘I found peace in my heart and started working on myself, and helping others. I can tell you that all my friends and other women who have got the Wise Choices for Life training are so different.’

Irene’s children are now back at school, and she has reconciled with her husband. This would not have happened without your support. Thank you!

About Wise Choices For Life

Wise Choices For Life provides professional reproductive health and life skills training. For the 2025/2026 financial year, the aim is to empower 11,666 participants toward greater self-reliance and social dignity.

Recent program highlights:

- Staff have trained 3,139 students, contributing to decreased pregnancy rates.
- 300 people living with HIV and or disabilities have participated in economic empowerment training.
- 393 inmates across six prisons received training and were equipped with skills needed to avoid crime and risky sexual behaviours.
- 105 influential stakeholders, including church, clan, and local council leaders, transitioned from passive enablers to active safeguarding, pledging to end child marriage.

Thanks to your support, Irene was able to find peace, and her children have returned to school.



The power of knowledge

Severe diarrhea. Expensive medical treatments. Community tension. Families in the Nampula region face many challenges. But thanks to your support, new hygiene practices have stopped the spread of the dreadful illness.

Imagine watching your child become sick with diarrhea.

You do not understand why, but what you see is that fluids are leaving the tiny body in your arms a lot quicker than you can replenish them.

Soon, the eyes that used to sparkle with mischief and joy, are covered with a dull filter.

For many families in the Nampula region in Mozambique, an increase in diarrheal disease was a major concern. Expensive medical treatments

led to financial strain and local conflicts.

Community leaders were blamed for putting cholera in the water, and chlorinated water was believed to be the reason for the increase of the disease.

Faced with these challenges, AOA's partner in Mozambique decided to run a training sessions on sanitation and hygiene practices.

Eighty-eight men, women and children attended.

They learned about how defecating near rivers, consuming unwashed food, and disposing of children's feces in the same containers used to store drinking water, were the real risk factors.

Thanks to your generous gift, the risk of diarrhea and dehydration has been greatly reduced.

Now, they are committed to change. This

includes sharing their knowledge with neighbours and family members, as well as well as building latrines in their homes.

Tension is reducing and community relations are improving. Thanks to your generous gift, the risk of diarrhea and dehydration has been reduced.

Your financial support is bringing people together, working for the greater good of their local communities.



Your support has enabled training sessions on sanitation and hygiene, which has stopped the spread of diarrhea in the Nampula Region of Mozambique.



Pray with us

‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God’


Philippians 4:6

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the invitation in your word to bring our requests and needs to you. Thank you that we do not have to be anxious. You O Lord, are mighty to save. We confidently ask that you bring peace, healing and restoration to Gaza. Strengthen the heroic staff at the Al-Ahli Hospital. and give them hope. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the amazing work our partners all over the world are carrying out. As they face danger and opposition in different forms, we pray for favour, protection, grace, and strength. Grant them wisdom and hope as they serve the people you have called them to care for. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.







Can you be the answer to prayer?

Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world. It has recently suffered from internal unrest, displacements as well as multifaceted crisis in the wake of USAID leaving.

AOA's partner in the field is bravely fighting a battle on several fronts, but they need your help.

Our partner in Mozambique is currently active in 90 different communities in the Nampula region. They work to ensure health, food security, nutrition and sanitation hygiene.

They are carrying out this mission while the impact and effects of USAID's withdrawal are getting increasingly worse. Families are struggling to access HIV medication and Malaria tablets, local clinics have shut down.

In a recent online meeting with our partner, they shared their concern about food insecurity and poverty.

Our partner's prayer and hope is for every family to be able to afford two meals per day. This would decrease the risk for malnutrition and susceptibility for disease.

Can you help AOA's partner in Nampula? Can you support them as they continue serving the people in their communities? Can you be the answer to their prayers?

Donate here



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