

Overseas & Northern Outreach Newsletter – November 2023

Overseas Target Fund Update from Anglican Overseas Aid



For those of you who have a mobile phone or tablet with a camera to scan this QR code, it will take you to a YouTube video on our Overseas Target Fund Project. If you do not have this technology perhaps you can find someone among your family or friends that can assist you. It would be a marvellous way to share the work of Mothers Union with others.

While it is not possible for me to share the full text of the video in this newsletter, here are some pertinent comments:

... Anglican Missions is working with the local parishes preparing for the next disaster that we know will happen. Tonga is often described as the second most at risk nation in the world due to the impact of cyclones, volcanos, tsunamis and a whole host of other issues and this is only going to get worse with the impact of climate change We are continuing to focus on a number of different specific areas that will build preparedness and resilience with the local community. First and foremost, we are looking at prepositioning of emergency tools for assisting with cleaning up, now that's cleaning up before an emergency happens ... when a cyclone does occur there is still clean-up to be done so that the tools and trained teams of volunteers will be ready to go which will enable the prepositions supplies from other organisations to get through to where they are needed quickly and without hindrance. We are also involved in setting up churches to be used as evacuation centres, so making sure that they are accessible to women, to children, to people who maybe have a disability ... also making sure that to the wider community there is water available through collecting water off the roofs of the churches and off the church halls.... On behalf of the project team and the work of Anglican Overseas Aid, I really want to thank you for your support from Mothers Union, you support is really valuable and appreciated. Thank you.

Northern Outreach Grants for 2023

The Diocese of North West Australia held its Clergy Conference toward the end of September.



In his letter of thanks to Mothers Union for funding which assisted with the conference, Bishop Darryl wrote 'There were 36 adults and 33 children, together with our full time speakers ... and the children's programme staff and visiting seminar presenters.

We ran separate teens, primary and crèche programmes each day from 9am to 12.45pm to provide input for the children while their parents participated in the conference.' ... The evening programme was orientated towards family participation, including a movie night for the children with adult babysitting enabling clergy couples to go out on a 'date night'.



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A number of comments from clergy spouses were forwarded by Jocelyn Nichols.

'What a wonderful encouraging week we had with our fellow workers. I left the week, having spent quality time with co-workers, and being spurred on to make the most of every opportunity for Christ's sake. We thank you so much for making this week happen.'

'Thank you MU for the opportunity to be refreshed as a family for our ongoing Gospel work in the North West. It is a tremendous blessing to be able to join with other ministry families from around the Diocese, to share fellowship together and spur one another on in our love and service of Jesus our Lord.'

'Thank you for once again generously supporting our DNWA family conference. We feel like rural ministry truly is a family affair and being able to enjoy a week together as a family at conference is very special. The kids really look forward to catching up with their friends from other rural clergy families. It was a blessing to be together for the week and we thank you for your support.'

More from the diocese of North West Australia will be shared in the February 2024 newsletter.

I have recently received an annual report from the Diocese of North Queensland on their O & NO activities for 2023, which concludes with the following:

SEWING MACHINE FOR LOCKHART

A new sewing machine was donated to give to Elizabeth the new wife of Father Matthias at Lockhart River and material and accessories were also purchased. Elizabeth will use the machine to make linen for the Church and to give sewing lessons.

WONTOP-BI-BUYA COLLEGE

Many first nations women are trained in Ministry at the College, and we were asked to supply a graduating gift of a Dove. We have in the past provided prayer books and bibles.

GRANT FROM AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

A grant of \$7,500.00 was received this year. This subsidised expenses that occurred this year to provide ministry and resources to our First Nations women. We had monies remaining from previous years, so it was possible to pay for all the expenses incurred by Overseas and Northern Outreach NQ. Without the yearly grant from Australia, we would not be able to travel to the Torres Strait and the Vice President would not be able to visit the outlying island or to attend the Executive Meetings.

Blessings

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