

## Overseas & Northern Outreach Newsletter - May 2023

### **Overseas Target Fund Update from Anglican Overseas Aid**

#### Church and Community Disaster Resilience in Tonga and Fiji.

This project has been established in cooperation with Anglican Overseas Aid who are coordinating the on the ground project work with local project partners, using funds provided by us, that is individual members, branches and dioceses of AMUA.



Checking supplies (left) and prepositioning a container (below)



AMUA's vital financial support has driven significant progress in the last six months. A project team of three national staff has been assembled and trained. The requirements for prepositioning and evacuation centres have been finalised with one container to be placed in each of the four parishes on Tongatapu, with another one each to be placed in Ha'apai and another in Vava'u. The halls at each parish were visited and plans have been made to assess current suitability to serve as evacuation centres and where necessary, repairs and installation of outstanding requirements will be addressed.

Meetings have been held with Church Wardens from each of the parishes to discuss the project and its implementation. Particular focus was placed on the need for church engagement to support community focussed activities and ensure the participation of women and those in the community who were not members of the church.

### **Northern Outreach Grants for 2023**

With the level of funds available from 2022 donations, it was not possible for AMUA to meet the full amount of funding sought this year. The following grants have been approved to support projects in our three northern dioceses which are consistent with the aims and objects of Mothers Union:

The Diocese of North Queensland for the purpose of supporting the travel costs of the Torres Strait Vice President, the Diocesan President and the Promotion & Education Coordinator.

The Diocese of Northern Territory to support travel costs for women and their children to attend a training camp for Children's Ministry Leaders and to support ongoing Safe Ministry Training, a project that AMUA has been supporting for a number of years.

The Diocese of North West Australia for its Fellow Worker's Conference (which AMUA supported most recently in 2019 and 2021).

## Overseas & Northern Outreach Newsletter - May 2023

### Overseas Projects

All overseas project funds are administered by Mary Sumner House. The Focus for projects is on a strengths based approach and local community development to empower community members to become self-sufficient. In a number of countries, the work of members is supported and nurtured by professional workers. These are known as Community Development Coordinators and their training and direction is facilitated by Mary Sumner House. Currently there are 14 Provincial Community Development Coordinators funded in this way. They currently work in: Burundi (1); Congo (1); Indian Ocean (1); Kenya (2); Myanmar (2); Rwanda (1); Southern Africa (1); South Sudan (1); Sudan (1); Tanzania (1); Uganda (2). This number includes 3 Assistant Provincial CDC's.

### What can you do as AMUA members to support our mission work?

You can be supportive by being informed, by praying for our members both here and around the world, and by financially contributing to the projects that are supported by Anglican Mothers Union Australia and Mary Sumner House.

In encouraging members to give out of generosity, according to their ability, some branches give members a collection jar to have at home for their loose change while in other branches there is a collection container at each meeting into which members can place their donation.

The Diocese of the Murray has shared with me that they will donate the offertory from their diocesan thanksgiving service held last year to the Northern Outreach fund and that in one branch in 2022 the branch members, together with other parishioners, raised funds for O&NO through a Lent Count your Blessings project.

In engaging the parish and wider community in the work of Mothers Union, at a branch and diocesan level there is also fundraising that can be undertaken. I recently attended a Coronation High Tea at Carine/Duncraig Branch in Perth, with all proceeds going to O&NO. Another branch in Perth Diocese, Warnbro, will also be shortly hosting a High Tea. A trading table, a raffle, a fashion parade, the sale of produce, are all possibilities for raising funds.

All donations to Overseas and Northern Outreach should be sent through diocesan treasurers to our AMUA treasurer. Please be sure to clearly identify whether the donation is for Northern Outreach, the Overseas Target Fund, or the Overseas work of MU (MSH).

### Queensland and Northern Territory Provincial Conference

I have just returned home from this conference held in Mackay, having been invited to be a guest speaker by Viv Feltham, DP for North Queensland which was this year's host diocese. The theme of the conference was Unity in Diversity, with sessions presented on the aspects of worship, service, prayer, and love. My task was to bring a world perspective to each of these areas, sharing a little about members in some of the other 83 countries where Mothers Union exists (I touched on some 20 countries). I thank Viv and the members from the three dioceses of Queensland and the Diocese of the Northern Territory for their hospitality and fellowship. I know Viv hopes to share about the conference in a future edition of the Mia Mia.

Blessings

Wendy Mabey  
Overseas & Northern Outreach Coordinator  
[ono@muaustralia.org.au](mailto:ono@muaustralia.org.au)

