

## A Volunteer's Story



**Moya Holle has been dedicated to ABM since she first heard about the organization in her parish as a teenager, becoming a member of the parish's branch of ABM's youth organisation. She worked for ABM for sixteen years and continued serving on the Board and with the Auxiliary for over twenty years. Moya continues to serve as a member of the Sydney Committee.**

I first went to St Thomas' North Sydney when I was five years old and when I was fourteen I joined the Comrades of St George. At the parish was a retired Assistant Bishop of Melanesia - Bishop Edward Wilton. He was affectionately known as 'Teddy Bish'. He was the curate and he frequently spoke of his work in the islands as a missionary evangelist. I think I caught the vision from him of taking the Christian mission - gospel to others.

In the early days, supporting mission was part of being in the church. It was what one did as a Christian. ABM supports the work of the Christian church in various places and I supported the sisters and brothers who are part of the family of the church. I support the Church in Australia as well. When we grew up there was hardly any difference between ABM and the Church. For me, mission is about supporting people in Asia or in Africa who don't have the facilities and wealth that the Australian church has. It's about sharing some of the bounty that we have with poorer churches.

A person with a mission is a person who has a message. Having a message of the Good News of Jesus Christ must be shared with other members - with those who don't know about the message of the Christian gospel. It's an evangelistic approach. It seems to me these days that everyone has mission statements. My sense of mission is Christian mission. It's an active thing - not passive. Someone who has a mission is active about doing something about the message. In my case, it's in relation to ABM.

There was a time when ABM stood for Australian Board of Missions. I think the change of name was a good thing as it broadened the idea of what ABM was about. Not small mission activities, but the overall message of Christian Mission.

In the parish I attend we pray each week for ABM and its work in Partner Churches, and encourage the parish to be involved in supporting the work of mission.

The idea of Christian mission has continued with me throughout my life. The things that I have done and supported have been shaped by that early understanding of Christian mission. Because of the belief in the overall Christian Mission my life has followed a course through the Christian Church. It has been a continual support and belief.

**Moya Holle  
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