

Enhancing Ministry in the Philippines



*We are God's servants,
working together*
– 1 Corinthians 3:9a (NRSV)

*Pastor Jun Trinidad, Bishop Dixie Taclabao and Bishop Danilo Bustamante at the ECP Conference in Baguio.
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In total we are trying to raise \$12,500 in 2009

How do you see the Church? Is it church leaders in exquisite robes, performing arcane rites, being watched by an entranced laity? Or is it a vision where the people in the pews collaborate with clergy to bring about God's kingdom on earth? Certainly for Bishop Alexander Wandag of the Diocese of Santiago in the Philippines lay people have a crucial role to play. The Lay Ministries Program is designed to encourage and empower the people in the pews to 'roll up their sleeves' and take up their role as faithful, integral members of God's Church. Bishop Wandag says, 'The availability of trained lay leaders is a major step towards being self-reliant. The presence of trained lay leaders to assist their priests in selected ministerial work will allow the clergy to evangelize, reaching out to communities not yet reached by the Church. Local lay leaders can forge ahead with ministerial jobs, not having to wait for the presence of their parish priest.'

It's much the same for the Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of the Central Philippines, Bishop Dixie Taclabao. He tells us that the Integrated Evangelism and Empowerment Project running in his Diocese has three goals – it's working towards Church renewal, towards reaching out, and towards self reliance. Bishop Dixie sees training the three main lay organizations in his diocese as an

integral part of the achievement of these goals. One is for women and is called Episcopal Church Women (ECW), one is for men – the Brotherhood of St. Andrew (BSA), and one for young people – Samahang Kabataan ug Episcopal Church ng Pilipinas (SKEP) There is a need to empower the lay organizations since laypeople are the frontline ministers of the Church. By updating their knowledge and skills, lay members of the Church can make a massive contribution to the mission of God's Church in this part of the Philippines.



- **\$30** teaches a lay leader musical skills for use in worship
- **\$120** is the cost of a two-day religious education training course for teachers in the Diocese of Santiago

Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and in particular for Bishop Alexander Wandag and Bishop Dixie Taclobao and their priests and people.
- Pray that the lay people of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines will be empowered and transformed by programs such as these, and that they will therefore assist the Church's mission and in its determination to become self-reliant.

Other Resources:

<http://episcopalchurchphilippines.org>

Robert McLean - Church to Church Manager

Robert has often described himself as a professional Anglican who has worked in a variety of Church contexts. His motivation is to help the Church to become stronger, more vibrant and focused on growth.

Although the development sector is new for him, Robert finds it both challenging and rewarding. His most significant moment at ABM was hearing a first-hand account of the plight of the people of Zimbabwe from the Bishop of Harare, Dr Sebastian Bakare. Robert is grateful for the generous support that ABM donors give to this project and to the Church to Church

As the manager of the Church to Church Program, he is able to develop the skills he's acquire Anglican Church during most of his adult life. Robert says that whether it is through his contact Australia or in our partner Churches overseas, he knows that he is working with members of his own family.



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OUR VISION ABM wants to see people everywhere experience the wholeness of life God offers in Jesus Christ, and to this end support our partners as they participate in God's mission.

OUR PROFILE ABM is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia.

We work with Anglican Church Partners to develop and provide for the spiritual, social and material needs of people, both overseas and within Indigenous communities in Australia. We help the Anglican Church and the wider community realise and respond to the call for each of us to be a part of God's hope for the world.