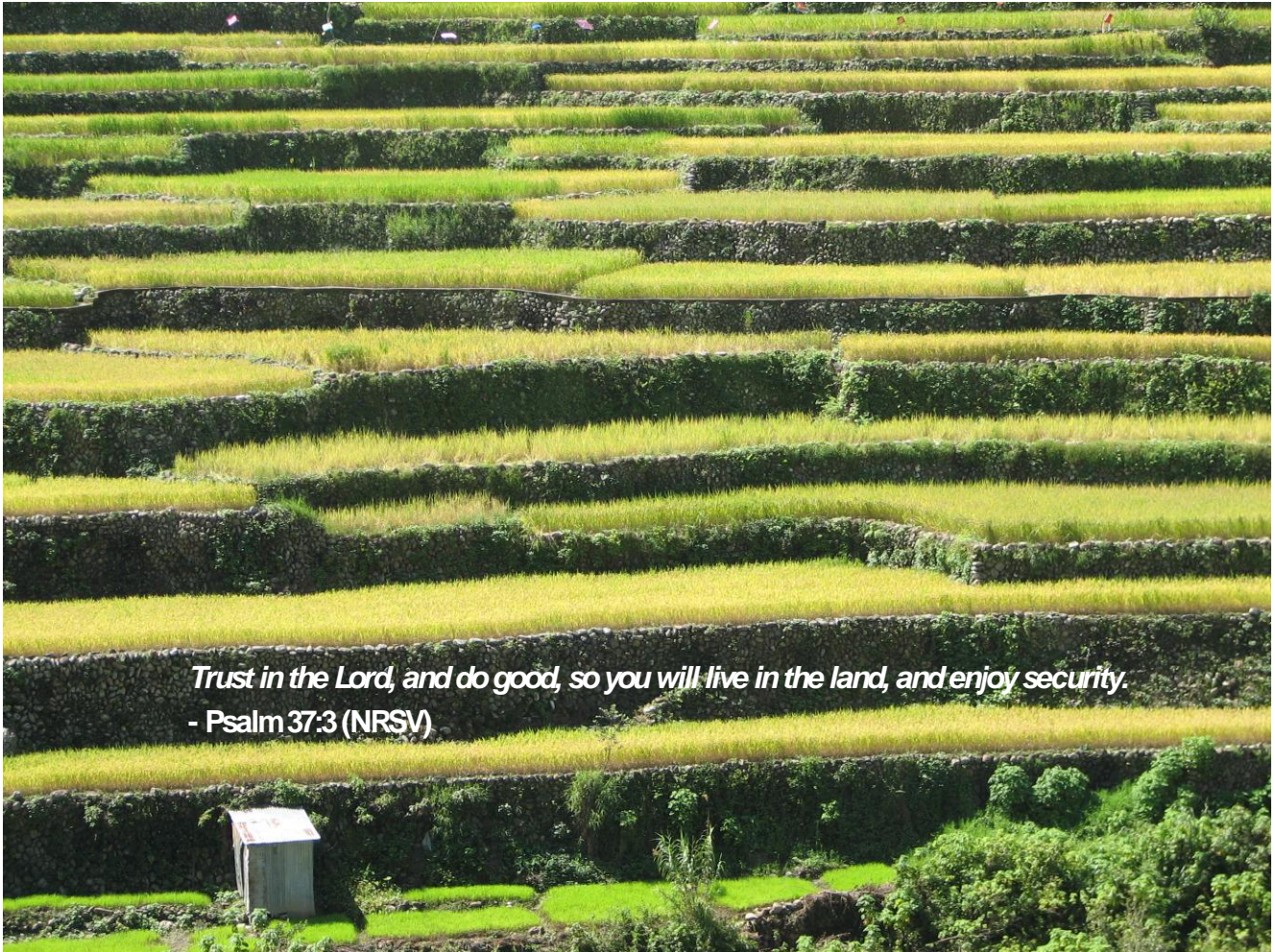


Food Security in the Philippines



Trust in the Lord, and do good, so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- Psalm 37:3 (NRSV)

Rice terraces in Lacman, Philippines © Julianne Stewart/ABM 2008

In total we are trying to raise \$150,000 in 2009

The 2008 food crisis, which saw the price of rice increase due to a worldwide supply shortage, has had a significant impact on the Philippines. About 80% of the country's population spends 24% of their income on rice (BBC 2008) so with the declining rice imports, there is a real concern for the food security of the local people.

In rural communities where many rely on subsistence farming for their livelihood and where vital infrastructure is lacking (such as roads, water and irrigation systems, and post-harvest facilities) and social services (such as health and education), poverty and hunger has been further exacerbated by the crisis.

ABM's programs in the Philippines aims at providing these communities with resources like equipment and fertilizer to help improve on their farm yields, to teach them ways to supplement their incomes and become more skilled, to provide leadership training for community leaders as well as

Once self-sufficient in rice, the country is now the world's biggest importer of the crop, which is also a major staple food for half the world's population. (BBC:2008)

to educate them on methods to lessen the negative impact on the environment. With improvement in these areas, households should benefit from increased incomes which can be spent on other basic needs such as health and education, as well as having access to more food.

ABM is supporting this program in the Philippines through a number of activities:

Agricultural inputs - \$60,000 is needed

- By providing farmers in poor rural communities with equipment, access to facilities and other agricultural supplies, ABM hopes to improve their lives and abilities to become more self-sufficient.
- Production of staple food crops is assisted with the provision of post-harvest facilities such as rice and corn mills, threshers, shellers, drying pavements and grains storage. The incidence for food spoilage is also greatly reduced.
- Both men and women benefit from the use of such equipment – there is less heavy lifting involved, and women and children, in particular, spend less time pounding rice or corn. This frees them up for activities such as study and leisure as well as allowing them to work on other chores.
- Other inputs include seed supplies and irrigation facilities, which allow farmers to plant more than one crop per year, especially during drier months. Farmers are also given advice on seed propagation and organic fertiliser production as ways to help productivity and care for their environment.

Livestock Distribution - \$40,000 is needed

- This program aims to provide poor families with an alternative source of income by the distribution of at least one pig, cow, goat or chicken. This would essentially be a small scale backyard activity where the animals may be raised and bred, with their milk, eggs or meat sold for income, or to feed the families themselves. The animal waste would also provide them with organic fertilizer which has a lower environmental impact than processed varieties.

Food Processing - \$25,000 is needed

- This year ABM, together with ECP's development workers, are supporting this program which seeks to teach rural farmers about methods to better preserve and store their produce to cut down on wastage, especially in cases of over production. Many of these farmers often lack the knowledge or the technology to be able to make the most of their yields. Providing education on food processing will give them increased capability to sustain their livelihoods and support their families.

Small scale fishing activities - \$25,000 is needed

- In Mindanao, this program aims to help disadvantaged families in a coastal community develop viable incomes by providing fishing equipment as well as build a facility to process fish sauce. Training is part of the program that bonds the community together while they learn the skills they need to make this program a success.

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.

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- **Project completion** - ongoing

\$6.50 pays for a bag of cement; 600 bags are needed to construct a drying pavement

\$46 buys a piglet

\$285 runs a community workshop teaching livestock rearing

\$1,771 buys one sugarcane presser

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the safety and security of Diocesan Community Development Workers who live in the communities whilst projects are being implemented.
- Pray for continuing success of these projects; that the local communities are benefitting from them and are able to support their families.
- Give thanks and praise for the work of the ECP development team involved in these projects.
- Pray for ECP's new Prime Bishop elect, Edward Malecndan and for the clergy and people of the six dioceses in the ECP.



Other Resources:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/tour/province.cfm?ID=P2>

Lina Magallanes - South East Asia Program Manager

Through her work with ABM, Lina feels that she is able to help, even indirectly, to improve the lives of those less fortunate than herself. She has been key in continuing to build ABM's relationship with the Church of the Province of Myanmar. This is a demonstration of her keen interest in the same part of the world that she comes from - South East Asia.

As an integral part of the ABM family, Lina remembers when she gave birth to her son and was sent a card by the Primate 'on behalf of 4 million nominal Anglicans'. She recognizes that the ABM family is continually evolving and feels blessed to be a part of an organization that is 'an instrument of God's mission in the world'.

"Through our partners, ABM works in places where there is not much hope through partner churches—reaching out not only to Christians but to the wider community as well," Lina says.



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