

Pew Reflections REFLECTIONS BEM

ABM celebrates its 175th Anniversary on 29 October 2025. In the run-up to that celebration, we present a series of vignettes which have been produced by friends of ABM which reflect on various themes – celebration, mission, partnership and so on.

We hope that you will enjoy these reflections and share them through your pew sheets with your faith community. Choose whichever ones you think your faith community will resonate the most with. We present them in no particular order. As other vignettes arrive they will be added to this document.

175 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY
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Celebrating **175** Years

My own first memory of ABM was meeting Bishop Ken Mason in the early 80s when he was also Bishop Protector for the Society of St Francis, the Anglican Franciscan order. ABM has had a long connection with the Franciscan Brothers – particularly because of our brothers in PNG and Solomons, and also Korea and elsewhere. Many of our older brothers knew and worked with ABM missionaries in PNG, ‘back in the day’. We work under different arrangements, different structures – but at grassroots level we are all people who have a passion for the gospel and for helping build up local church ministries and programmes. To me, ABM feels like a family connection.

Brother Christopher John SSF



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Celebrating **175** Years



A Faithful Light

In times of trial and change, ABM has stood beside the Church of the Province of Myanmar as a true partner in Christ. Your 175 years of mission reflect God's love across nations and generations.

With deep gratitude, we thank God for your enduring witness. May your light continue to shine with hope and healing.

With blessings from your sisters and brothers in Myanmar.

++Stephen Than Myint Oo

Archbishop and Primate

Church of the Province of Myanmar

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Celebrating 175 Years

My first work trip when I joined Episcopal Relief & Development 18 years ago, was to Myanmar where I not only met local partners but also got introduced to the Anglican Board of Mission's long historical presence in Myanmar. Over the subsequent 18 years, I have had the privilege of learning more about ABM's transformational footprint across the Anglican world, often through joint-monitoring visits including with Julianne in Juba, with Terry in Manila, with Isabel in Nanjing, with Kate in New Plymouth, with John in Bangkok, and most recently with Lina in Colombo. Anglican Board of Mission - Anglicans in Development has a rich history of partnership beyond the above incomplete list where there are funded-projects. Just as valuable, but much less visible, are the countless ABM-AID initiatives of accompaniment, coaching and mentorship afforded to community leaders and change agents across the world. I can't imagine that there has been a single week in the past 18 years where I haven't had some sort of ABM engagement – be it on zoom, field visit, email or a network call. ABM-AID is a very close thought-partner of Episcopal Relief & Development and I have been enriched by our interactions. Friends, a Happy 175th Birthday! The future looks brighter with ABM leading the way!

Nagulan Nesiah, who works for ERD in Sri Lanka



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Celebrating 175 Years

I went on ABM's Encounter Program as a school chaplain on behalf of Selwyn College, Senior Secondary School in the Anglican Church of Melanesia and it was a great opportunity for me as I learned and experienced different school setup, leadership managements, pastoral care giving approach including the context and establishment of new links between the Anglican schools in Australia and ACOM Schools in Solomon Islands. The schools in Solomon Islands are changing with contemporary times. It is therefore important for us to experience the context in Australian Schools and chaplaincy responsibilities involved. I recommend that we must continue rekindle our relationship and mission strategy again to make friends and build new understanding that will build bridges to further strengthen relationships between our two provinces with mutual support towards a balance and holistic mission and church growth in this 21st century.

I am positively aware that in the future ABM Encounter Program will continue to ignite the new Spirit of building strong connections and relationships between our two Provinces of making the Gospel of Christ known to all in our own context of making disciples for the Kingdom of God.

Finally, I acknowledge the ABM staff especially those whom I personally encountered during my three months in Australia through the program, especially Dr Julianne Stewart, Lorraine Forster, and Robert McLean, as well as Board member Stephen Harrison. I also met the current Archbishop of Brisbane when he was a Rector at St Mark's in Sunshine Coast. He is the grandson of Bishop Baddley, one of the missionary Bishops in Melanesia. To God be the Glory great things He has done. Shalom.



Bishop Rickson Maumaru

The Rt Rev Rickson Maomaoru (Diocese of Southern Malaita and Sikaiana).



Celebrating 175 Years



The Bishop of Bunbury, the Rt Rev Dr Ian Coutts, left, with the Bishop of Kapsabet, the Rt Rev Dr Paul Korir.

This photo signifies the ties of friendship and gospel partnership between the Anglican Diocese of Kapsabet (Anglican Church of Kenya) and the ABM where the Diocese of Bunbury plays the link and catalyst role which cannot

be broken. By commending us to the ABM, Bunbury Diocese became an Angel sent by God. With the financial support from ABM, during the height and very difficult times of the infamous Covid-19, lives were touched, saved, transformed, renewed, revived and restored in our Diocese. Thanks be to God!

Happy 175th Anniversary to Anglican Board of Mission, Australia and we wish you many more fruitful years full of God's grace, favour and provision. Indeed God's work done in God's way will never lack. Continue excelling in the grace of giving and our God of remembrance will never leave you nor forsake you (2 Corinthians 8:7). Bunbury Diocese became a bridge for us to get to ABM, the power unity of purpose in serving Almighty God across the continents! Long live ABM!

Paul Korir, Bishop of Kapsabet

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Celebrating 175 Years

We give thanks for the 175th anniversary of the Anglican Board of Mission – truly an ‘Always Blessed Mission.’

Twenty-three years ago, as a priest pioneering the Jeju Church, I received vital support from ABM for three years. That partnership greatly strengthened our ministry.

Today, as Bishop of Busan, I honour the legacy of the late Revd David Cobbett, ABM missionary and founder of Dongnae Church in 1964. His faithful witness continues to inspire our diocese.

We join in the prayer of Luke 17:5, ‘Increase our faith!’

Onesimus Dongshin Park
Bishop of Busan
Primate of the Anglican
Church of Korea

Bishop Onesimus Park



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Celebrating **175** Years

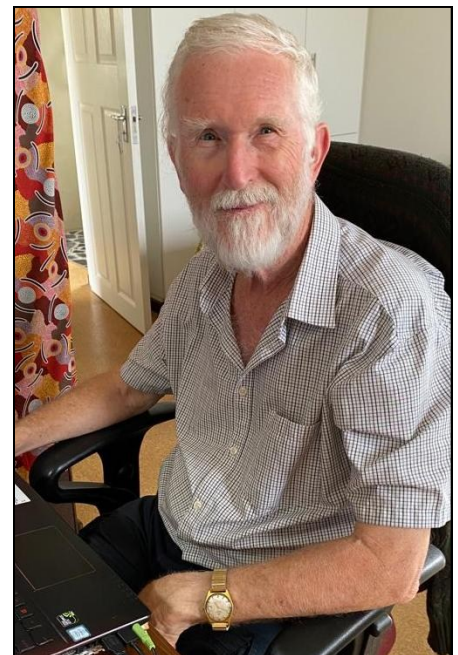
What was a South African doing on the staff of ABM in the late 1990s? The answer is that in 1994 I wrote an article on Anglicans and mission in GrapeVine, a journal that I founded in 1982 and that, from 1988 and into the 1990s, was published by an ABM-funded media project under the Anglican Church of Southern Africa's Department of Mission, of which I was director. Bishop Brian Kyme, ABM's national director at the time, read the article and wrote to invite me to serve as national mission education officer. I was interviewed in Sydney on my way back home from an Anglican mission consultation in Singapore, and in January 1995 Lorna, John (then 8), David (then 5) and I left Cape Town and moved into the ABM house in Earlwood in Sydney.

Four memorable years followed as I travelled around Australia to address clergy schools and diocesan conferences and lead mission workshops, preached in supportive parishes, edited Partners, launched ABM's journal interMission, and developed resources for the team of regional directors to use in their own work. We returned to South Africa at the end of 1998, as intended when I agreed to join ABM.

We were greatly enriched by our experience of life in Australia, and are deeply grateful to Brian Kyme (who died in 2020) and to ABM for all that they gave us. Several colleagues, such as Tim Gibson and Debra Saffrey-Collins, became good friends with whom I have stayed in contact.

I send my warmest greetings to the ABM family, especially to John Deane, who was development officer when we were both based at 91 Bathurst Street; and I give thanks for ABM's 175 years of witness to and advocacy for the transforming mission of God.

The Rev Mike McCoy
Crossways Farm Village, Thornhill, Eastern Cape

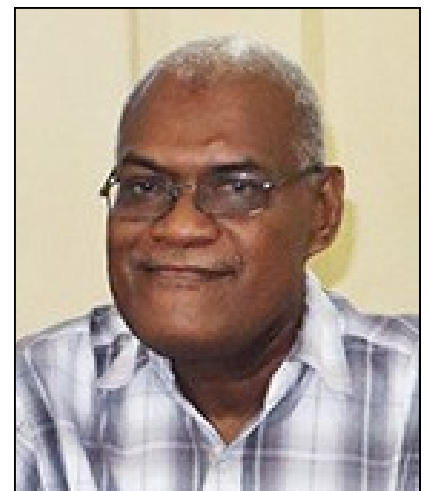


Fr Mike McCoy at home in
South Africa



Celebrating 175 Years

It was one of my greatest privileges serving alongside dedicated and professional staff of the ABM since 2012. The ABM has always dedicated itself to empowering and serving the vulnerable and those in the margins of our communities and stepping in to fill the gaps when the ACoM is unable to provide the services itself. In doing so, it stays true to its motto of “Working for Love, Hope, and Justice”. As an organization whose origins was closely associated with the Melanesian Mission, I would like to wish the ABM joyful 175th Anniversary celebrations and wishing it many more years of fruitful engagement with its partners bringing hope to people across our region and beyond.



Dr Abraham Hauriasi,
the Anglican Church of
Melanesia's General
Secretary

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Celebrating 175 Years

Jesus taught that compassion, when combined with practical action, has the power to transform lives. He calls us to care for the poor and vulnerable as a true expression of our love for God. Anglican Missions (AM), based in Aotearoa New Zealand, and the Anglican Board of Missions (ABM), both embody this gospel calling in faithful and tangible ways.

While AM may be the relative newcomer, established 'only' in 1919, our relationship with ABM stretches back many years and has always been characterised by mutual respect, collaboration, and generosity. ABM has consistently shared wisdom, resources, and inspiration with us, and this spirit of partnership has flourished in recent years through joint programmes and emergency responses, particularly in the Pacific.

It is a privilege to be part of this enduring and valued relationship. On behalf of the Anglican Missions Board and our staff team, I offer heartfelt congratulations on reaching 175 years. That is truly an extraordinary achievement. In te reo Māori, *whakamānawa* means to bless, honour, and venerate - and that is exactly what I do now.

The Rev Michael Hartfield
National Director, Anglican Missions



The Rev Michael Hartfield

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Celebrating **175** Years

I have many happy memories of times spent with ABM staff and missionaries; not least of the 1991 ACPNG Centenary, when I liaised mainly with Fr John Stephenson and Colleen Hodge in the Sydney Office. I was charged with making arrangements for twelve pilgrims from UK to join the celebrations in PNG - in addition of course to the official Lambeth Palace entourage. Our party included Fr Doug Jones (ABM) and his wife Caroline (PNGCP).

It seemed quite surreal, on that historic day, 10th August, my birthday by a happy coincidence, to be on Kaieta Beach, where the pioneer missionaries: Albert Maclaren (originally from UK and ordained in Brisbane) and Copland King (from Sydney Diocese) had first landed in 1891...



Chris Luxton, Secretary, Papua New Guinea Church Partnership (1998-2010). St Laurence's Day - 10th August, 1991 Centenary of the Anglican Church in PNG.

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Celebrating 175 Years

On visits to South Korea and Australia in 2017, while serving as the Asia and the Pacific Partnership officer for The Episcopal Church (TEC), it was a blessing to meet Mr Robert McLean, ABM Partnerships Coordinator for the Anglican Board of Mission – Australia. An introduction followed to the Rev Dr John Deane, Executive Director (ABM & AID), before gatherings of the Primates and General Secretaries at the FONO in Honiara, North Queensland, and Taranaki (NZ). We shared fruitful program planning to network theological education resources, clergy and lay leadership training, and mentoring community and church change agents. ABM and Anglican Alliance's Oceania Regional Advisory Council provides support for the Anglican Communion helping those in need around the world.

Celebrating ABM's 175th Anniversary, we give thanks for the work of our Anglican partners in Australia who are supporting these regional leadership development efforts. It has been an honor for me to work with Archbishop Geoffery and Lynn Smith, Bishop Keith Joseph in North Queensland, and Bishop Jeffrey Driver and colleagues seeking to support Anglican institutions in Melanesia and Papua New Guinea, including Bishop Newton School of Theology and the Modawa Institute of Higher Education in Popondetta, PNG.

Thank you for the ongoing coordination for Anglican relief and development efforts with Myanmar and partnership work with Melanesia and Papua New Guinea.
Congratulations!

*The Rev Canon Bruce W.
Woodcock, New York, USA*



Fr Bruce, right, with ABM staff



Celebrating **175** Years



ABM has been very impactful to the rural poor communities in this part of the world (Lower Eastern Kenya) which is in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands of Kenya. Communities have been adversely affected by effects of climate change but ABM has over time brought lasting hope in their lives through impactful projects. The love of Christ has been very well depicted through its partnership with Anglican Development Services Eastern in reaching out to all communities in need without discrimination. May God bless ABM and all its supporters.

John Mutua
Chief Executive Officer
Anglican Development Services –
Eastern, Anglican Church of Kenya

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Celebrating 175 Years



Fr Giles Motisi standing in front of the administration office with the Modawa Tree (New Guinea rosewood) in the background.

'Strongly grows the Modawa Tree'

This was the title of Bishop David Hand's Book. This referred to the corner post of the first chapel built by the two pioneer missionaries Albert Maclaren and Copland King. It sprouted and now is a large tree.

The new institute bears that name as a spiritual symbol of the grow of the church. It symbolises the past but at the same time gives us the hope in to the future.

ABM was the initiator at the beginning and has been a partner in the spiritual journey of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. May ABM, too, grow as strongly as the Modawa Tree.

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Celebrating 175 Years



Bishop Sam Sahu

Greetings and prayers from Melanesia.

It is a blessing to have been invited by ACoM, through the office of the General Secretary, to share with you a brief reflection about ABM as it prepares to celebrate its 175th Anniversary on 29 October, 2025.

From 2005 to 2008, I served with the ACoM Board of Mission as Mission

Secretary. My experience and memory of working as a friend in partnership with the then ABM Executive Director, Linda Kurti, was very good – a real blessing in Christ. I learnt a lot from Linda and the Rev Dr John Deane.

I remember well my visit to Sydney in September 2006 - a week-long look and learn experience. Taking their Sunday service of Holy Communion and preaching at the Anglican Church of St James was and is a living memory for me.

I can honestly say those four years helped to prepare me well for my later calling as the 5th Bishop of Malaita, ACoM. And after 14 years as a servant to the *Missio Dei* in Malaita Diocese, Melanesia, I am happily retired.

In Christ,

Sam Sahu

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