



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION

Working for Love, Hope & Justice

14th August, 2019

Appeal to help Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands

The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) will next month remember the Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, killed during the 2nd World War, and the Martyrs of Melanesia, killed in the 2003 Solomon Islands civil conflict, with an appeal to help Church Partners further empower their local communities.

As part of honouring those who died, the 2019 Martyrs Appeal has been launched this month with the theme *“transforming the lives of our partners through education”*.

Funds raised by the appeal will help two projects, the Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea and the Positive Parenting Program in the Solomon Islands.

The Theological College, located in Oro Province, is the only facility in PNG which trains men to become priests in the Anglican Church.

It is seeking funds for both the ongoing physical needs of the college, as well as continuing curriculum development and further education of staff.

The ABM says it is vital that the college is supported, for it is where the future leaders of the Church receive their training.

The students, often accompanied by their wives and children, live on the campus during the residential component of their four-year Diploma in Theology Course.

It says support is also needed for the complimentary program for the students’ wives, which includes literacy, health and sewing.

The ABM says funds raised will also go to a Positive Parenting Program which has been growing from strength to strength since it was implemented in the Solomon Islands six years ago.

This program is run through the Mothers’ Union and aims to encourage and equip parents to raise children in a healthy, positive way.

The ABM says it addresses underlying issues such as sex, early marriage, child abuse and other forms of family violence which are often taboo to discuss.

The ABM’s Pacific Programs Coordinator Kate Winney says the participants were asked to write down negative parenting habits and any descriptions of hurt or pain they may have experienced.

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“While singing hymns, these pieces of paper containing their negative experiences were nailed onto a cross and were then discarded in a fire as part of a ceremony. “

Ms Winney says it was a powerful and personal moment to witness - seeing mothers, fathers, church and community leaders let go and learn from the past, not only as parents but for each participant personally.

She says it was a reminder that this program is transformative – of families, communities, and people.

Please give generously to the ABM 2019 Martyrs Appeal so that many more lives can be transformed through these projects.

You can donate online at www.abmission.org/Martyrs2019

Contact Vivienne For, ABM Communications Coordinator at vivienne.for@abmission.org.au or (02) 8280 6832 for more information.

Photo Caption: Martha and Ivy who participated in a one-week facilitators’ training of the Positive Parenting Program in the Diocese of Hanuato’o. © Lina Magallanes/ABM, 2019.

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