

A life beautifully lived

October 2018 Issue 24



In September we heard of the tragic death of Beth Adamson who for many years faithfully served the Anglican Communion and the cause of gender justice through her mentoring and support of Anglican delegates to annual sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and her co-chairing of the Working Group on Girls.

Many past members of delegations to CSW sent in tributes to Beth and these were collected in a book which has been sent to Beth's family.

To see the book, visit <http://bit.ly/2PjKYUm>. Some of the tributes from different parts of the Communion were read out during a celebration of Beth's life at the Salvation Army Center in New York City on 5 October.

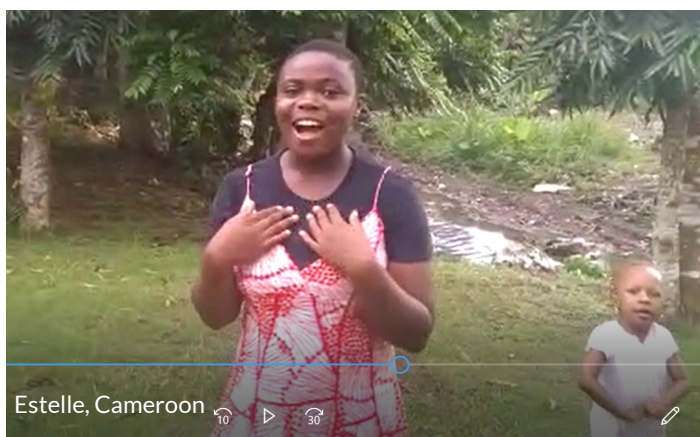
Our thanksgiving for Beth's life and ministry, and our prayers for her family continue. "Death is not an extinguishing of a light: rather it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has arrived."

"If not us, who will do it? Who will speak up for the girl child?" Beth Adamson 1952–2018

11 October: International Day of the Girl

Each year the International Day of the Girl aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, and promote girls' empowerment.

For Estelle in Cameroon, a member of the Girls' Friendly Society (GFS), creation care is key to health and a sustainable future for herself, her family and community. The rubber industry in her town has polluted the air and children are getting asthma. So she has been planting trees in her compound to mitigate the harmful effects of the pollution. If you belong to IAWN's Facebook group you can watch her video message. She is an inspiration to us all to get involved with adaptation, mitigation and climate justice.



The Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence

The Sixteen Days of Activism, 25 November to 10 December, are nearly here and give us an opportunity to raise awareness and take action in our churches and communities to end and prevent gender-based violence.

Find out how we are inviting cathedrals and churches to get involved at <http://bit.ly/2QCVFBH>. Let us know what you are doing. Email terrie.robinson@anglicancommunion.org.

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News from Around the Communion

Injustice is like a serpent that bites only bare feet

Odete Liber of the Anglican Episcopal Church in Brazil let us know that she has been travelling in southern Brazil to undertake evaluation and monitoring of her Province's SADD projects which are partnered by Episcopal Relief & Development. SADD is the acronym for the *Serviço Anglicano de Diaconia e Desenvolvimento* meaning Anglican Service of Diaconia and Development.



Odete said, "I realised the sad reality of people in conditions of social vulnerability. For those who are poor, it means to be invisible to others, and for these people, injustice is like a serpent that bites only bare feet. As well as invisibility there is a lack of opportunity for socio-economic change. Rights are denied and people are held back. But 'blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled' (Matthew 5.6).

"I am glad to be here in the midst of so many suffering lives and no opportunities, for I am a part of this work of 'loving service'. Our Church has been prophetic, announcing and denouncing injustices and through these projects making the Kingdom of God visible to those who are invisible.

"As C S Lewis said, 'There is always a little perfume on the hands that offer roses, in the hands that know how to be generous. Giving what little you have to those who have less still enriches the giver, makes your soul even more beautiful. Giving to the neighbour joy seems so simple. In the eyes of God, however, it is the most beautiful of the arts'."

New Provincial Links for IAWN

A warm welcome to Revd Numia Tomoana and Revd Marnie Peterson who have been chosen by their Provinces to serve as their Provincial Links to IAWN.

Numia (photo top right) belongs to the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia. She writes, "It is an honour to be selected. I work full-time at our regional hospital as *Kaitakawaenga* which means a navigator, advocate, and spiritual and cultural supporter for our Maori people. I am a mother of four and a new grandmother of a precious baby. I am also *Minita a Rohe*, or Priest in Charge of a small Ministry team and parish.

"Since returning from the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2013 (UNCSD59) where I was a delegate for my



Province, I have been motivated into taking a more active role in the advancement of the wellbeing and safety of women and their families. I am a Board member of Awhina Maori Counselling Services for victims of sexual abuse, violence, youth, addictions, mental health, and intervention programmes within secondary schools. The Service is based on our indigenous cultural values. I am a Council member of the Anglican Women's Studies Centre in our Province, which supports Anglican women with theological education, mentorship, publishing, attending conferences, leadership opportunities, promoting gender equity, women's events and special Church Services, and global issues/celebrations. I am delighted to be part of a dedicated group of strong women within IAWN."

Marnie is a priest of the Anglican Church of Canada serving in the Diocese of New Westminster. She is the Assistant to the Rector for Evangelism & Christian Formation at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver. In the midst of her multiple duties, she provides leadership for the St Brigid Community, an emerging, LGBTQ-affirming Christian community in her city. She has a great interest in the issues women face throughout the world and is eager to engage with activities aiming to end and prevent human trafficking.

Natal, South Africa: No hiding behind culture

The Anglican Diocese of Natal in South Africa has made commitments towards addressing gender based violence committed by and against its own members. Bishop Dino Gabriel and his gender ministry team are putting in place plans to equip local parish churches and their leaders to address gender based violence effectively.

Plans include clergy workshops on gender based violence; applying the Province's Pastoral Standards to investigating past and current cases of clergy misconduct and instituting disciplinary processes; and opening safe spaces for honest conversations about gender at congregational level.

In a recent press conference Bishop Dino Gabriel said, "The tragedy of gender-based violence and femicide is that they take place in the most intimate relations among people."

He also said that patriarchy is often at the centre of men abusing women and is often sheltered by culture; "Any culture should be life-enhancing but at times they can also deprive people of their humanity. We cannot hide behind culture and say these things are acceptable."

Have you joined our Facebook group at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IntAngWomen>

News from Around the Communion

Collaborating for Gender Justice in Bangalore, India



Steering Group member Moumita Biswas from the Church North India took an instrumental role in the running of a certificate course for church leaders and pastors on Ecumenical Formation for Gender Justice at Vishranthinilayam, Bangalore.

The course was run in June this year as a partnership of the Women Concerns Ministry of the National Council of Churches in India, the Women's Fellowship of the Church of South India, and Australian Church Women Inc.

Zambia: Human Rights address to St Veronica Guild

Following her participation in UNCSW61, Noreen Njovu from the Anglican Diocese of Lusaka in Zambia was determined to get in touch with the Zambian Human Rights Commission to find out how it could partner with the church. As a result, representatives of the Human Rights Commission have visited the St Veronica Guild during its national conference in August and talked to about 300



women on 'what human rights are'; gender-based violence, property grabbing and children's rights.



Human Rights Commission officers have also addressed a diocesan Youth Conference about their human rights and responsibilities.

Madagascar: Days for Girls focus on sanitary kits

Girls and women may miss school and work if they don't have supplies of sanitary pads. In Africa, for example, it is estimated that one in ten girls miss school when they have their periods (source: UNESCO).

Missing days at school can lead girls to drop out altogether, putting them at greater risk of child marriage, and getting pregnant at a younger age.

Supported by the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders (SAMS), Jacqueline Lowe is spending three years in Madagascar to assist women there to overcome poverty through education and the love of Jesus. Jacqueline and Sue Babbs, a visitor from the USA, have recently been travelling to villages offering 'Days for Girls'.

The Days for Girls project teaches young women and girls about the human body, male and female, the menstrual cycle, how babies are conceived and how to make, use and care for re-usable fabric sanitary kits.

Local women are also taught how to make presentations, so that more people can be involved in rolling out the project.



There are patterns for washable sanitary pads on-line, such as the one: <http://bit.ly/2OjAYht>.

News from Around the Communion

CSI Women's Fellowship Platinum Jubilee



Many congratulations to the Women's Fellowship of the Church of South India who have commemorated their Platinum Jubilee in Bangalore City on 27 September. A thousand women leaders along with Bishops from different Dioceses and other leaders attended the celebration in Bishop Cotton School. The Bishop of Nandyal Diocese in CSI, the Rt Revd Eggoni Pushpa Lalitha, the only woman Bishop in Asia, was also present. The formation of the CSI Women's Fellowship followed one year after the formation of the Church of South India, on 27 September 1947.

Canada: Circles of Wisdom and Power

In Canada on 1 November, Anglican women and girls have been invited to join a collaboration of women's organisations hosting "circles with a sacred center" for women and girls attending the Parliament of the World's Religions (<https://parliamentofreligions.org>) in Toronto, Ontario. The circles will connect with each other through the Facebook page 'Alchemy of Women's Collective Wisdom & Power'. Contact AlchemyofWomen@gmail.com for more information.

Preventing violence against women: House of Sarah



This year, the Anglican House of Sarah in Fiji has strengthened its work on preventing violence against women. With support from the Fiji Women's Fund and the UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office, staff will work in three communities using the SASA! Faith prevention model, adapted to the Fijian context. The SASA! Faith model enables communities to examine their attitudes, beliefs, actions, how they relate to one another and how they use power to influence and control. The project will span four years. Find out more about SASA! Faith at <http://bit.ly/2ycDSdE>.

Mothers' Union Burundi 70 years celebration

In August, the Mothers' Union in Burundi celebrated 70 years of service, which has included playing a key role in transforming individuals, families and communities through equipping women with basic skills. In the early days, the movement focused on weaving, sewing and cooking while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Over the years they have moved to the forefront of tackling illiteracy in the country through its Literacy & Development Programme. Now their Literacy & Financial Education Programme is

facilitating the setting up of small businesses and the management of savings and assets.



Advocacy has also been an important part of the Burundi Mothers' Union contribution as it has engaged with social issues, including gender-based violence.

Did you know? The UN Climate Change Learning Partnership offers free on-line short courses. For example, 'Gender and Environment' looks at the linkages between gender and the environment and helps the student to become an effective change-maker for sustainable development. More information at <http://bit.ly/21PBkXc>.

IAWN Steering Group News

In September, Pumla Titus from the Anglican Church of Southern Africa represented the IAWN Steering Group (which she chairs) at a consultation near Johannesburg organised by the Anglican Communion Environmental Network. The consultation was for bishops, women leaders and youth leaders from southern, central and east Africa, who are involved in adaptation, mitigation and witness in an era of climate change. Participants shared their experience and plans for the future, and together drew up 'An Urgent Cry for Ecological Justice: Reclaiming the Gospel Imperative for All Creation'. Read this important statement at <http://bit.ly/2OUKDuf>. (Pumla is bottom right in the photo below.)



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Lizzi Green at lizzigreen48@gmail.com

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