

The Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea

"This is what the first century Christian Church must have looked like," Prince Charles told his companions after visiting Anglican mission stations in Papua New Guinea.

The remark was a tribute to the simple, vital faith of people largely uneducated by Australian standards, but who know Christ in a deeply personal way.

Their faith is expressed in vigorous evangelism and in practical caring ministries. The Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea operates three excellent base hospitals, many bush hospitals and aid posts, two outstanding high schools and dozens of village schools. Its licensed evangelists take the gospel where it has never gone before. Its indigenous clergy minister faithfully in village and town.

The diocese is poor, almost desperately so. Most of its income is the annual grant of around \$200,000 from ABM. Expatriate missionaries, from the Bishop down, get a basic stipend of about \$30 a month—less than many Australians spend on tobacco.

Now the race is on to make the diocese independent in fact as well as in name. This need will be even more urgent when the country achieves political independence. But the diocese will need the support of Australian Anglicans for many years, especially in financially costly fields such as theological training and communications, and in personnel who can pass on their expertise to others.



A Papuan Franciscan lectures trainee evangelists at the Evangelists' Training College, Jegerata, Papua.

The Anglican Diocese of Papua New Guinea

Number of Parishes: 7. **Parochial Districts:** 8. **Mission Districts in Bush:** 35. **Bishops:** 4. **Other workers:** 20. **Licensed Evangelists:** 155 (plus unpaid village evangelists). **Student Teachers:** 60. **Number of Parish Priests:** Indigenous, 50; Deacons, 10; Expatriates, 40. **Specialist Priests not in Parish work:** 13 (included in previous figures). **Primary and Secondary School Teachers:** 282. (These teachers are trained in evangelism). **Medical Orderlies, etc.:** 95. **Ordinands:** 33.



"Tell me if this hurts"
—a Church medical worker in action.



The Australian Board of Missions

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