



**Christian  
World Service**  
ACTION AGAINST POVERTY



**Winter 2025**

# Supporters Newsletter

## MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE



Photo: BBC

When the worst earthquake in 100 years hit Myanmar recently, our global partner, the ACT Alliance was swift to meet with its members working in that area to apply whatever help they could.

However, in Myanmar, providing the aid we all want to see for the tens of thousands of those horribly impacted is no easy challenge.

Myanmar remains tangled in civil war. Its ruling military junta are reported to have called for a ceasefire following the quake, yet they have continued their attacks on those they deem “rebels”.

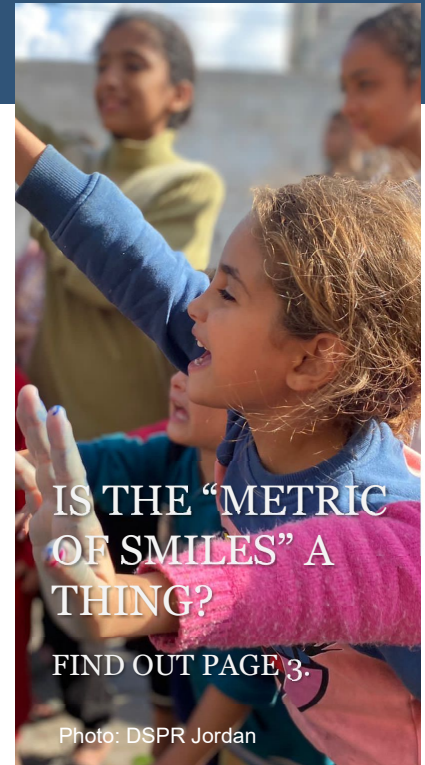
Of late this is some of what we know:

- \* Approximately 3,600 people

have died, and approximately 5,000 people have been injured. Actual figures may be much higher due to disrupted communications.

- \* Preliminary damage assessments show widespread destruction including approximately 12,000 homes that have been destroyed, and a further 37,000 damaged.
- \* Christian Aid (an ACT Alliance partner) is mainly focusing on the most impacted areas in the Northwest of Myanmar- Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and Magway to provide life-saving interventions and emergency response activities from their own emergency fund. But with the massive destruction that has happened in these areas, there are significant unmet needs and the communities require timely emergency responses.
- \* While mis-use of aid funds remains a risk we must navigate, we are confident in the unique skills and cultural awareness of our **ACT Alliance partners** who are driven in their work by the same God we worship through Christ.

Thank you to all those who have given to help the Myanmar earthquake response. Please do pause to pray for those caught in the horrendous aftermath and for our ACT Alliance partners to be able to bring life-giving aid to them.



IS THE “METRIC  
OF SMILES” A  
THING?

FIND OUT PAGE 3.

Photo: DSPR Jordan

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The recent CWS donor survey is providing wonderful new insight on how we can improve.
- Helping victims of the Myanmar earthquake remains tricky (Page 2)
- Cross denomination collaborations point to a more unified way ahead (Page4)
- We are blessed to have the leadership we do (Page4)

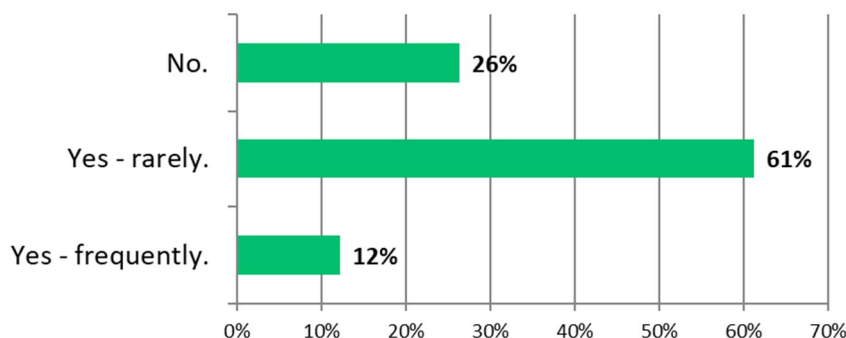


**Donate now at** [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

# SURVEY FEEDBACK

Having a better understanding of CWS donors/supporters is vital to strengthening our ability to serve the most vulnerable in our world. For example, in our recent CWS donor/supporter 2025 survey, posted and emailed, this was the answer to one question:

Our website at [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz) is critical as a means for supporters to keep in touch and up to date about our mission. Have you ever visited it?



As you can see, we have work to do. We need to do better than 12% of our supporters keeping up to date about our mission via our website.

How does this relate to better serving the most vulnerable in our world? It pushes us to refine how we better serve our generous donors and supporters. And any potentially new donors or supporters. We recognise they expect to know that their money

is doing or going to do what we said it would do.

Our website is the most cost-effective place for us to answer

that question so that anyone can check in at any time.

Also through the survey we received notes of encouragement such as:

- \* *"As a Christian based Organisation, I like to support you when I can. Keep up the good work."*
- \* *"I really like your partnership with grassroots organisations in developing countries."*
- \* *"I'm not one to respond to survey's, so I have surprised myself today!"*
- \* *"We are glad to support CWS as part of the global ecumenical family supporting the poor and vulnerable."*

Thank you for your honest feedback. We will set to work improving our website for you. Plus we will be reporting more of the findings from our CWS 2025 donor / supporter survey in the coming months.



## GOOD NEWS FOR TONGA

Our very own Rob Wayne (CWS International Partnerships Lead) has been rewarded for undertaking months of preparations and negotiation with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade on a funding package for Strengthening Community Resilience in Tonga. It has been granted resulting in an allocation of approximately \$450,000 for this work distributed over the next three years.

Well done Rob.

This represents another move towards increasing our focus on providing aid to the most vulnerable of our neighbours in Oceania.

## MORE GOOD NEWS FROM OUR MRS MAFI CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We are delighted to report that our Christmas Appeal 2024 has raised just over \$300,000! This is an immense contribution

in support of our mission to aid people caught in poverty and injustice in our world. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be reporting here and on our website about how that funding has been put to work.

# actalliance

CWS is part of the ACT Alliance—a global faith-based coalition of 140 members whose goal is to promote a locally-led and coordinated approach to advocacy, humanitarian and developmental issues.



# CHURCHES HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TEAM

## VANUATU EARTHQUAKE

CWS facilitates a group known as the Churches Humanitarian Response team, with whom we collaborate on emergencies that take place across Oceania. Thankfully, this year there have been no devastating cyclones that hit the islands. However in December, the group focused on what might be needed in response to the **earthquake in Vanuatu**.

Through your generous support we have been able to partner with both the Anglican and the Presbyterian Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand to contribute to the work of Anglicans in Port Vila helping those displaced and providing food and shelter. They also facilitated collecting food from parishes and communities from neighbouring islands and transferring it to Port Vila where it was distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

As the locals have wrestled with their emotional responses to the



Global Mission volunteer Neville Jones



Photo 1: Overall View of building



Photo 2: Overall View of building



Photo 3: External view of damage to external wall

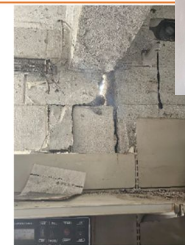


Photo 4: Internal view of damage to external wall. Note loss of support for first floor beam. Recommend beam propped

Engineers Allen Spring and Kim Wealleans.

crisis, support has provided psychosocial intervention through trained counsellors and volunteers.

We have also supported the Presbyterian church in Aotearoa New Zealand who arranged for a team of structural engineers to travel to Port Vila from March 1-8 and assess the safety of the Vanuatu Presbyterian Church Buildings.

Engineers Allen Spring and Kim Wealleans, accompanied by Global Mission volunteer Neville Jones, made visual assessments of several buildings.

They were also asked to inspect the Vanuatu Council of Churches building. At the time of this writing they have recommended demolition of one building for safety reasons.

## IS THE “METRIC OF SMILES” A THING?

Well, that depends.

Recently we highlighted “the metric of smiles” in our Autumn appeal. When we use any metric system to measure increasing smiles, we are also on our way to measuring another vital metric: **the metric of increased hope.**

But, increased smiles and increased hope are only achieved after many other metrics are first applied by our expert CWS partners on the ground. For example, the simple metric of “Three square meals” is normal for New Zealanders. **Not so for 11% of the world’s population.**

Or, put another way, not so for close to 880 million people!

Importantly we don’t want to appear to over-simplify the challenge in measuring and showing the impact of the work of our CWS partners. They must navigate many complex metrics in order to bless those we aim to bless.

However, we are basing this metric on one that has remained constant in God’s creation since the garden of Eden:

*“A merry heart does good, like medicine,  
But a broken spirit dries the bones.”*

Proverbs 17:22

Lets keep counting the smiles, that reflect increased hope and lead to merry hearts.



A metric of smiles even in Gaza because of the help and hope given by our CWS partner in that region.

Thank you for making this possible for so many otherwise caught in poverty and injustice.

## CWS PROFILE: OUR CHAIRPERSON



Fe'iloakatau Kaho  
Tevi (Fei)

Fei brings considerable international experience to the role. He has advised to Pacific governments on sustainability, development, climate and disaster response and on West Papua and has been the chairperson of PANG (Pacific Network on Globalisation) since 2006.

From 2000-2008 he served as the executive secretary for the Pacific Region of the World Council of Churches before working as the General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of

Churches from 2008-2011. In both positions, he brought Pacific Churches and others together on key regional issues like sustainable development and climate resettlement.

Fei is Vicar General for the Diocese of Polynesia and a member of the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. He represents the Anglican Church on the CWS board.

## PARTNER FOR LIFE & BEQUESTS

**Every donation received by CWS enables our international aid partners to do more.** To bless more. To help increase the metric of smiles and therefore increase the metric of hope amongst our beneficiaries other-wise caught in poverty and injustice in the world. To every donor who donates financially in any way, we want you to be clear: your generosity is deeply valued. Thank you.

In the mix of ways to support the CWS mission, I wanted to highlight two:

1. **Becoming a regular giver (Partner for Life).**
2. **Leaving a gift in your will (a bequest).**

Here's why these two forms of giving are so impactful.

Firstly, regular giving as a **Partner for Life** costs less for CWS to administer. That results in more of the gifted money

getting to our mission partners.

Also, the stability of the financial support from our **Partner for Life** donors gives our leadership more solidarity in their ability to plan ahead.

Secondly, **bequests**.

Last year, when combined, several bequests made up of a broad range of values received by CWS amounted to just over \$1 million. Critically, any amount that is within a person's capacity represents generosity that leads to reduced cost of administration. This again means more money from any bequest can be distributed to our partners and will bless those who we ultimately want to see blessed (see my reference to our ACT Alliance partner MONLAR in the cover letter with this newsletter).

If you want to know more about becoming a **Partner for Life** or about leaving a gift in your will (a **bequest**), please feel free

to contact me directly on either :

- my mobile (021 777 672)
- or by email:

**malcolm.sproull@cws.org.nz**

I will be delighted to help anyway I can.



Malcolm Sproull  
Domestic Partnerships  
Lead, Christian World  
Service



**Christian  
World Service**  
ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

Donate now at  
**www.cws.org.nz**

Phone 0800 74 73 72 or post to CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140.