



Report on Sustainability Programs at Henry Baker College



From left to right: Check dams, Meenachil River dried up and polluted



Dr. Abraham Daniel
Principal
Henry Baker College

Henry Baker College was started in 1981 with the sole objective of providing higher Education to the less privileged Tribal and Dalit communities who are struggling for survival. The College is run by the Church of South India Diocese of East Kerala Diocese whose people are tribal in majority. In the past thirty years this College has been exerting great influence in the community around by its distinct programs in curricular and co-curricular activities. The college is a member of CUAC and managed by East Kerala Diocese of Church of South India.

While addressing sustainability as a responsibility of Higher Education institutions we have been in the task of ensuring the sustainability of Indigenous Tribal Communities who are on the verge of extinction by the inroad of modernization. By our varying curricular & co-curricular activities we have been able to bring the first generation learners of tribal families who are residing in forest region to the light of learning. Moreover children of tea garden workers who lost their livelihood by the closing of the tea garden in the wake of liberalization are also provided higher education through this institution. The Women's Hostel with a capacity of sixty, house the destitute children from tribal and tea garden areas.

Our College is situated in a highly region close to the Western ghats in Kerala. By its very geographical setting, scarcity of drinking water is a major social issue of the community around. Hence in the past ten years we have been involved in systematic programs for water conservation and ensuring the right of pure water to all. Towards this the following programs are conducted:

Construction of Check dam: As the first step for water conservation, we have constructed a check dam across the small river flowing through the border of the College. What we have done was *making the running water walk*. Before the construction of the permanent check dam, as a pilot project the volunteers of National Service Scheme Unit of our college constructed a temporary check dam using 1000 above sand filled sacks and proved its viability in water conservation. This helped to increase the water table in the wells around.

Rain water harvesting: For rainwater harvesting volunteers from college dug up pits in the farm yards for collecting rain water in the ground during monsoon rain. Construction of Ferro-cement tanks for collecting rainwater from roof top was promoted in villages. This stored water could be used in drought season.



Ferro-cement tanks

Water Pollution research- Meenachil River Kerala, India:

As a progressing stage of water conservation initiative, in 2010 Dr. Aneyamma Varghese the program officer of National Service Scheme of the college and Head Deptt. of Chemistry completed a research leading to Ph.D in Mahatma Gandhi University to study water pollution of the major river Meenachil in Kerala which supplies drinking water to more than fifty-four Panchayaths and three Municipal towns of Kerala as it flows further to Vembanad lake.

Findings of research:

The river water was analyzed seasonally for two consecutive years and the general observation is that during pre monsoon the river water is more polluted with respect to DO, BOD, COD, Fluoride and metals. This is because during monsoon and post monsoon the run off carries pollutants from the agricultural lands and township waste to the river and hence the concentration of pollutants gets increased. The town waste such as waste from markets, hospitals, automobile workshops and residential houses are directly flowing to the river with out following the statutory pollution control devices. Based on the research of Dr. Aneyamma Varghese (HOD of Chemistry), the effect is this:

- High concentration of Zinc will lead to stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, anaemia and lower the levels of good cholesterol.
- High concentration of Copper lead to kidney and liver damage.
- High concentration of Chromium cause respiratory disorders and gastro-intestinal problems.
- High concentration of Manganese affects liver, kidney, pancreas and intestine.

To sum up, the result of the study was alarming, that the pollution of water in the river is increasing day by day and will lead to health problems for humans and aquatic life. The findings are sent to government authorities for proper action.

Focus for next ten years:

Now this college on completing thirty years of its service looks forward with more projects to ensure a sustainable living for all and especially to those on the margins.

Immediate programs: Dr. Aneyamma Varghese is on a Project for analyzing the drinking water quality of wells from five Panchayats in the surrounding area of college. We plan installing lighting in the campus using Solar Power, first one unit as a sample project to study the feasibility and to extend to more units for the use of the entire college.

As we focus on sustainability as a major concern of this millennium, we are committed to think globally and act locally. We consider it is our duty to take steps for sustaining our natural resources especially water which is very the basic requirement for sustaining life on this earth, for the poor or the rich, for the East or the West. Sustaining the tribal communities, who are on the verge of extinction, is also a major task ahead for us which is equally important.

We welcome the world community to our campus for exchange and learning.



HORIZONS



The Rev. Canon James G. Callaway
General Secretary

Academe so often is characterized as an Ivory Tower standing far apart from the trials and vicissitudes of everyday life. In my first eight months as general secretary I have now visited about a quarter of the CUAC colleges and universities in the US, UK and India, including the three Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the US. In about half I have had the privilege of meeting with student for at least half an hour of dialogue.

In our Anglican colleges I have always found the disciplines of the academy to be alive and well. But like the unicorn, there has been no Ivory Tower to be found. Rather I have almost uniformly found students, grounded in the discipline of their studies, largely engaged in changing the communities around them.

In India, student engagement in the larger world is very much about the environment and water. This issue of “Compass Points” highlights the incredible impact Henry Baker College, Melukavu Kerala has had for over a decade in providing and protecting a supply of clean water for their community. With virtually no resources other than the knowledge and imagination of faculty and students they are changing the community’s ecosphere. While the circumstances vary, this is a theme that our colleges and universities repeat again and again, when students work to preserve the sustainability of fragile communities. In small communities such as Melukavu or Denmark, South Carolina, a college is a major engine in a community’s employment and well being. Most of our Anglican colleges have a prodigious number of first generation students, ranging from ten to forty percent. What we describe as “service learning” is the desire of students in the shelter of academe to test and use their skills by finding what difference they can make in the communities around them.

The theme of the Sewanee Triennial was Sustainability. A principal emphasis from the Triennial was a commitment to build vibrant exchanges within CUAC both near and far. Students and faculty at CUAC schools meeting through exchanges either of faculty or students, or even a sharing an e-class bring the richness of our global network alive. The focus for exchanges in this period is sustainability as an expression of our mission and values. Sustainability comes in many dimensions: environmental, economic and institutional. But perhaps the sustainability we most deeply seek is for the human family as a whole to thrive and persist. This is getting back to the roots of why there were Anglican colleges and universities in the first place. We do not exist for ourselves or in isolation. The Anglican colleges and universities are ultimately accountable to God for the difference we make in the next generation of leaders and citizens we raise-up. It is clear in my travels that such work is well underway.

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Anglican Education and Sustainable Communities

The Rev. Canon Jeff Golliher, Ph.d
Program Director for the Environment and Sustainable Communities
Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations



There have been few times in history when people have had to face a challenge like this. Environmental crises have happened before, but never on a scale this large and with consequences so great. The challenge, which seems contradictory, is to adapt to those changes that are already taking place, while at the same time changing the direction in which we're headed. This is what makes the new goal of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion -- "Sustainability: A New Context for Higher Education" -- so important; and its decision to create a program of student/faculty exchanges among its institutions, so strategic.

I would like to comment on this important initiative beginning with some background as it relates to the United Nations, where I live out part of my vocation with the Anglican Communion. You might recall that the word "sustainability" became more widely known internationally as a result of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. There, the nations of the world adopted "sustainable development" as their strategic vision for addressing issues of economic injustice and environmental destruction. After twenty-five years of deliberation, political leaders and policy-makers acknowledged that the causes of the two (the environment and economics) are closely tied -- as are the solutions. The road since 1992 has not been easy. Political battles at the UN and within member States (especially the United States) have been fought over the meaning and implications of sustainability. Tragically, the resolution of critical problems involving climate change/renewable energy, water shortages, and sustainable food/agriculture has been stymied as the debate wears on.

One lesson that has been learned is that we cannot effectively meet the challenges we face by considering them to be problems "in the world" but separate from us, including our educational institutions. Rather, the environmental crisis touches the very heart of who we are as people, as teachers and students, and as Anglicans. I'm thinking of our colleges and universities, our theology schools and seminaries, and our member congregations -- as well as the moral principles that we teach and demonstrate by the example of our actions in the communities where we live.

In a nutshell, no real progress, not on the depth and scale that we need, can be made until we bring the message home -- to our communities. The key word in all of this is "community," all kinds of communities, both rural and urban. Sustainable development that ignores or overlooks the communities of which we are a part is not sustainable at all. The key insight is that Anglican colleges and universities are communities in themselves, part of larger communities in their locales and regions -- and these are part of the larger earth community that we know as the "web of life." The fact is that the reaching the goal of sustainability depends on our willingness to become a functional part of local communities as well as the larger earth community in ways that nurture the one life that we all share.

Once we understand sustainability in the context of community, it's easier to realize where any specific college or university might begin. Student/faculty exchanges could apply to any number of academic departments or programs; for example, ecology, biology, environmental science, philosophy and environmental ethics, economics and the environment, anthropology, and the arts. A point of entry might involve programs concerning water, food, or health, or issues around women's rights (a hugely significant dimension of sustainability). In Kerala, India, the Henry Baker College's program in water conservation (illustrated in these pages) exemplifies the pursuit of sustainability in a situation where service to the poor is a significant part of a college's work. In other situations, perhaps people involved in institutional operations, buildings, and grounds could also participate. Every dimension of community life is interwoven with the others. The web of life is like that -- everyone and everything is involved. As it is with the web of life, so it is with our communities.

Sustainability in the context of community also tells us that each institution can make contributions to the web of life in its own distinctive way. Diversity within our colleges and institutions is an inherent strength, rather than an obstacle or problem to overcome. There is more than one model of sustainability, multiple paths toward sustainability available to pursue, and as many ways to participate as there are people with the commitment and desire. This also means that if we want our educational institutions to become – and we clearly do – then we all need to participate, sharing ideas and experiences not only about what we already know and have put into practice, but also what we learn along the way.

Writing from the standpoint of the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations, I know that practical, working, real life models of sustainability are what we need, now more than anytime in history. I also know that we're all in this together; and working together, the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion are uniquely positioned to prepare this generation and the next to live in a better, more sustainable way.

Madras Christian College Launches 175th Anniversary Celebrations



The Revd Dr Jeremy Law presents the President of Madras Christian College, Dr Alexander Jesudasan with a congratulatory certificate from CUAC. Left to right: The Revd Dr Jeremy Law, the Very Revd Dr Robert Willis, Dr Alexander Jesudasan, the Revd Canon Ivor Smith Cameron

During a Service of Thanksgiving to launch MCC's 175th anniversary, 'Celebrating History and Serving Humanity', Dr Jeremy Law, Dean of Chapel at Canterbury Christ Church University in England presented a certificate of congratulations from CUAC, signed by its patron, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dr Rowan Williams.

Dr Law travelled to Chennai with his colleague, the Very Revd Dr Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, who addressed the gathering. Dr Willis framed the college's celebration with the challenge that "a human being must give his mind, body and soul to God and live in a community dedicated to hospitality".

He began with the Epiphany story of "wise men from the east travelling to Jerusalem to worship the infant Jesus where wisdom knelt before innocence". Then, referring to the three Scottish missionaries who founded MCC, John Anderson, Robert Johnston

and John Braidwood, he described them as "three wise men from the west, which had come to India to undertake the mission of spreading wisdom before vulnerable humanity".

MCC's chaplain, the Revd Dr Maher Spurgeon, one of the organisers of the celebration, leads CUAC's Indian Chapter. When asked about the anniversary he said, "This is a time for rejoicing in the present as we are all part of the history of the college at this point in time. It is a privilege given by God to be part of this college in this part of her history and a time for the re-dedication of the future."

Following a recent visit by CUAC's Secretary General, the Revd Canon James Callaway in November 2011, Chaplains Dr Spurgeon and Dr Law will be working on developing shared resources for CUAC chaplains for use throughout the 130 members on five continents. These colleges were founded on faith, but now reach far beyond the Christian minority in support of instilling values in students of all faiths and of none.

MCC has a lively chapel community which draws participants far beyond the college itself. One of India's top ten colleges, MCC's Tambaram campus is sited on 365 acres of sylvan scrub jungle in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Canterbury Christ Church University signs Memorandum of Understanding with Lady Doak College in Madurai, Tamil Nadu



The agreement will consolidate links between the institutions and help them to work together on future academic projects. One potential project, led by Dr Alex Kent from the University's Department of Geographical and Life Science, aims to identify and map factors influencing food security and environmental quality in a series of nine villages in southern India.

Building on existing links Lady Doak College shares with the local communities in Tamil Nadu, Dr Kent will look to encourage villagers to share their expertise and local knowledge to help map land use, rural road networks, irrigation channels, and drinking water pipelines, as well as analyse proximity to agricultural markets. The information will be used to evaluate existing environmental quality and try to improve rural development, while helping the communities gain a greater sense of awareness of environmental and health issues which relate directly to everyday life, from access to clean drinking water and agricultural markets, to the condition of local infrastructure and effective waste disposal.

Professor Margaret Andrews, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students), and Peter Milburn, Director of the University's Medway Campus, visited Dr. Mercy Pushpalatha (Principal) at Lady Doak College in Madurai last month to mark the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions.

Peter Milburn said: "The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Lady Doak College represents another important international academic development for the University. Importantly the research being carried out by both institutions will have a direct and beneficial impact on the communities of Tamil Nadu. "Through the signing of this memorandum the links between our two institutions will be further strengthened and provide a platform to future collaboration and partnership."

Both institutions are leading members of The Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion, a world-wide association of over 120 institutions of higher education, promoting and supporting partnership and collaborative research and development between Christian Foundation universities and colleges throughout the world.

-Jeanette Earl, Media Relations Officer, Canterbury Christ Church University



Bishop Grosseteste Celebrates 150 Years: 1862-2012

*Professor Muriel Robinson,
Principal of Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln*

Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln is celebrating its milestone 150th anniversary this year. The then Lincoln Diocesan Training School first opened its doors in January 1862, with just forty students. Since then some 18,000 students have passed through our doors and some 10,000,000 children have been taught by our graduates. Colleagues are building a map showing all the schools across the world where BG-trained teachers have worked. One thing which remains an abiding characteristic, though, is our Anglican foundation and our strong links with the Diocese of Lincoln.

Although we very much value our tradition, things have changed a great deal over the years and we are always looking to the future. For example, among the very strict rules from the early twentieth century was a requirement that 'No new acquaintance shall be made in Lincoln'. Now we greatly value the diversity of ways in which we engage with the local community. We encourage our students to engage with the community through voluntary activity and formal placements and are proud that this January saw the opening of BG Futures, a new facility supporting enterprising start-up businesses. At our Homecoming Weekend in May we hope many of our past students will come back to enjoy the celebrations and see the progress being made on our new library extension.

