

IN PARTNERSHIP

SEPTEMBER 2018



Intentional Relationships

The claim that we know someone is a big one. It indicates that we have invested in who they are, their life story and their ups and downs. It is to say we appreciate who they are. We can only do this if we take the other person seriously.

We arrive at this depth, having given them time, listened and shared together. Doing this requires intentionality and it becomes a two-way process. It is impossible to know the other without we ourselves also being known and so it becomes a mutual experience of relational depth.

In Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonica he describes his spirit and outlook in working with them. "So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us" (1 Thess 2:8). What a picture this verse paints.

The relationship Paul established was one of deep care, mutuality and motivated by love. In the centre of this is the sharing of the Gospel. This picture is warm, strong and long term.

Partnerships in mission, wherever they are located, are relational at their heart. To enter into a partnership in mission is to enter a journey of being known and getting to know. Partnerships are not a contract of convenience or a passing moment in time. They are long-term mutual investments in each other with the gospel of God at the centre.

Such long-term commitments seem to be unfashionable in the fast paced and increasingly temporary culture of today. Yet, it is these long-term investments in each other that lay the foundations for long-term transformative change. The change we seek in mission partnerships includes growth in self-reliance, sustainability and governance.

GMP's partnerships are shaped by a desire to know and understand each other. The investment in them is both personal and formal. We know our partners and they know us through the teams, representatives and staff that visit. What is exciting is that as they know us, and we know them, so we experience mutual growth and encouragement.

I trust that as we move forward and consider opportunities in mission, we will do so, entering into relationships based on trust, warmth, commitment and joy.


John Gilmore,
Executive Officer

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For even more of the latest news, check out our website or follow us on facebook.

 www.gmp.org.au

 facebook.com/gmpaustralia

News & Events



Introducing the Director of International Church Partnerships (ICP) and Deputy Executive Officer

Global Mission Partners announces the appointment of Craig Brown as the Director of International Church Partnership and Deputy Executive Officer. Craig brings to this part-time role previous experience with GMP, relationships with GMP partners and a background in ministry and national leadership in Churches of Christ. We welcome Craig and wish him God's blessing as he joins the GMP team again!

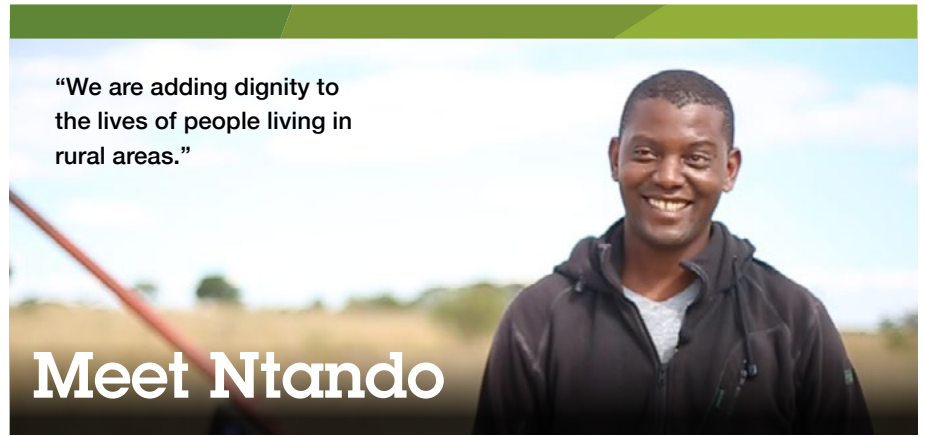


Welcome to the Team, Lauren!

Lauren Butler comes from a background in journalism and has joined the GMP team to build a library of stories. Lauren says, *"Story telling is such a beautiful way of sharing emotion, growing in knowledge and stepping into someone else's experience. I'm excited to be joining the great team in the Melbourne office and working on stories that tell of the wonderful things God is doing through GMP around the world."*

The Justice Conference, October 26-27

GMP is a partner for The Justice Conference 2018. In the midst of a fractured and crumbling world we could be forgiven for following a narrative of failure and helplessness. But God is writing a different story of restoration and renewal. You can register for the conference online at: www.thejusticeconference.com.au



Meet Ntando

Ntando has seen the devastating impact that a lack of water can have on Zimbabwean families. With shallow backyard wells drying up, people are forced to look for water in streams and rivers, which are often contaminated. Since starting work with Showers of Blessings in 2017, Ntando has become familiar with one common question. *"Can you drill a borehole for me."*

Collecting water is a difficult task which takes many hours and a great deal of perseverance. Because water is so heavy to carry, they must rely on using less. Communities ask for boreholes and, as a result, they benefit from better health and saved time. This time can be spent working, studying or maintaining their homes.

For Ntando, the process of drilling a borehole is more challenging and rewarding than he could have imagined. People are much happier to collect water from a borehole than from distant rivers and streams. Being able to access safe water from a borehole means that they no longer have to worry about how clean the water is. Ntando is overjoyed to be working on such important projects. He encourages everyone to give to the work of Showers of Blessings so he can continue to drill boreholes and make a difference.

Read Ntando's full story here: <http://www.embody.org.au/the-movement/blog/can-you-drill-a-borehole-for-me>

Drilling a Borehole in Takavarasha

We have provided the community of Takavarasha, 60 kilometres from Zvishavane, Zimbabwe, with safe water through the drilling and installation of a borehole. We were surprised when even an 80-year-old man, Sikiya (who is blind), did not want to be left out, as he came to witness the drilling! The unity and joy displayed by the community gave us hope that the facility will be well looked after. The long distance of 10 kilometres that they undertook every day to access water has come to an end. We praise the Almighty for hearing their many years of prayer for water.

Boniface Mpofu,
Zimbabwe



Unite is hopeful for the future

SPOTLIGHT

Safe Water Restores a Community!

Like most parents, Unite is concerned for her children's safety and wellbeing. As a teacher, she cares about their education and their future. Living in rural Zimbabwe, worrying for her children's lives was once a daily reality for Unite.

Unite's children are growing up in a community where safe water was once scarce, and collecting water could be a dangerous process.

Without running water within the community, children would often visit the local river to collect water for drinking. Being young, the children were susceptible to preventable diseases like diarrhoea, which can be severe or even deadly.

As she reflects, Unite grows sombre. It was difficult to watch children as they collected water and she remembers a time when children from the community drowned in the river as they retrieved drinking water.

A well near a local school provided hope for a time, but it also caused problems. Parents became afraid to send their children to school for fear of them falling into the open well while collecting water.

As a teacher, Unite saw the devastating impact that a lack of safe water had on children's education. When contaminated rubbish was found in the well, Unite's fellow teachers stopped attending work for fear of becoming sick.

Without enough teachers, her children could not learn.

For Unite, Showers of Blessings' provision of a borehole means more than having safe water to drink and cook with. The borehole has restored the community with health, education and safety.

With safe water available, the community has been able to rebuild its school. Unite is thrilled to report

that many teachers are applying to teach. As a result, education has become easily accessible to local children.

As she tells of the changes the borehole has made in her community and the lives of her children, Unite runs out of words.

"I'm too excited."

While diarrhoea is the leading cause of death among children in sub-Saharan Africa, Unite no longer worries for her two young children. They have safe water to drink, well prepared food to eat and even have enough clean water to bathe in.

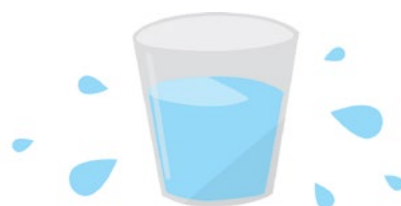
While the community has come a long way, Unite is hopeful that work in her village is not complete. She looks forward to future projects, which will make it even easier to access life-changing water.

Safe Water September 2018

Safe Water September (SWS) is live for 2018! SWS is a challenge to drink nothing but water for the entire month of September, to raise funds for safe water projects in rural Zimbabwe. For every \$20 you raise, one person gains access to life-changing safe water. It's not too late to get your church or community involved and sign up to take the challenge or donate today at:

www.SafeWaterSeptember.org.au

Visit and 'like' the Safe Water September Facebook page to follow along with more safe water stories and videos during the month of September.



SAFE WATER SEPTEMBER
TAKE THE CHALLENGE

ONE MONTH. JUST WATER. RAISE FUNDS. CHANGE LIVES.



The ladies in their saris!

Our Journey with Vuci Rd in Fiji

Nowra Church of Christ, NSW, sent a team to Fiji to visit GMP partners at Vuci Rd church. Margaret Kirk said, "Each year we visit (we have now made four trips) we find the bond between the folks at Vuci Rd, our team, and our home church in Nowra grow stronger. We have learnt much from the Indo-Fijian way of doing life and ministry." Read the full article online in the 'News' section of the GMP website.

Helping Can Be Tricky

Playing with orphaned kids when I'm on holidays, or sending practical supplies, sending quick fix help, welfare, voluntourism, unrequested gifts in kind, and thinking that slavery is over... there are lots of ways that trying to help others can be tricky. You might say, "But God has called us to help people! Is God trying us, by making it complicated?" I don't think so. As in everything, God is most concerned with the attitude of our hearts when we try to help others. Humility, compassion and treating others as our equals, is critical. That is why partnership is so important to GMP.

Partnership recognises that we, and those we seek to help, are equals. We both have something to give and to receive. Ask anyone who has visited a GMP partner and they will tell you their story of receiving more than they gave! This is the way God has constructed the world. As we give to others we grow more into the people we were intended to be, and understand more of God's generosity (Mark 8:35). Old attitudes like "beggars can't be choosers" fade away. This is a medieval idea anyway, and certainly not a Christian one. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," (Luke 6:31) begins to reign in our heart and actions.

A good attitude will mean that we ask questions when we work through a development organisation or a mission agency. How do they relate to the people that they help? What is their model of helping? What are the risks and opportunities? For Australian development organisations, the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) sets high standards of practice for its members. Checking whether an organisation is a member is a great first step, to ensure that your gift is being used well. By the way, GMP is a member of ACFID!

So far this year, we have looked at five issues that can make helping tricky. We have five to go, so below is a little half-time quiz to see if it is making sense so far. Just tick the items that you think are good practice and cross out the ones which you think are not so good:

- Don't suggest new ways of doing things until you understand what is behind the current local practice;
- Only give money, and don't find out who you are helping and how;

- Be sensitive to the way the organisation or agency talks about the people it helps;
- Give people stuff that makes them look to you every year for more;
- Give to the needs that you see without asking anyone local for the big picture;
- Check out the organisation's or agency's website;
- Give so you can get your photo taken putting a smile on someone else's face;
- Take time to think about where your gift can have the most impact;
- Use an agency that you don't know anything about, and
- Join a trip to meet some partners face-to-face.

ANSWERS HERE: <https://www.gmp.org.au/about-us/news/the-do-s-and-don-ts-of-mission>

Colin Scott,
COCOA Director



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