

# IN PARTNERSHIP

AUGUST 2018



## The Promise of Freedom

Jesus offers to all who follow him the promise of freedom. Freedom from the Law was one of the earlier defining realities for the church. It was also a cause of tension, as Jews and Gentiles worked out how to be the people of Jesus together. Without the definitions and controls of the Law there was freedom and there were new opportunities. Over time, the followers of Jesus began to trust in the promise of the Spirit and the reality of a new law – the law of sacrificial love. In this trust there was a shift in the understanding of freedom.

The freedom offered by Jesus was not complete permissiveness. It was freedom from sin combined with accountability and grace (John 8:31-38). Peter also writes about this tension: “As servants (or slaves) of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil.” (1 Peter 2:16) Freedom comes with responsibility.

Being free within the boundaries set by Jesus is liberating. We have space in which to use our gifts, and experience the grace of forgiveness

and the strength of the Spirit. In this space, where we are deeply free, we become aware of all those who are not free.

Freedom is lost in many ways. Emotional and relational tension and disappointments can define people’s lives. Racism and discrimination traps people in ways that remove life-giving opportunities. Poverty and disaster reduce opportunities for human flourishing. Cultures that do not value and protect girls and women can be cruel and limit human potential. Government controls that restrict worship and create fear in people do not build trust and confidence. The impact of climate change on people limits the ability of communities to grow food and be self-reliant.

The ministry of Global Mission Partners that we share with churches in Australia and internationally challenges all these limits on freedom. It means we speak out and name the forces that bind and restrict people. Our calling is to use our freedom, and the opportunities we have, to advocate for freedom for all.

Our deepest hope is for a world where people find true and deep freedom in Jesus, and also have the opportunity to live well and to flourish without restrictions placed on them by others. When people and communities find such freedom, it is a life-changing transformation.


*John Gilmore,*  
Executive Officer

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## News & Events

### Safe Water September

Safe Water September is live for 2018! Safe Water September 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. Get your church or community involved and sign up to take the challenge at [SafeWaterSeptember.org.au](http://SafeWaterSeptember.org.au)

### The Justice Conference. October 26-27

GMP is a partner for The Justice Conference 2018. This year's theme is based on Revelation 21:5 "Behold, I am making all things new." 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. It is a story of restoration and renewal, and if we look amongst the rubble we begin to unearth it. You can register for the conference online at [www.thejusticeconference.com.au](http://www.thejusticeconference.com.au)

### Ros Beale Stamp Ministry Update

Ros Beale has been involved for more than a decade selling donated stamps and raising money for mission. Ros has raised just under \$20,000 from the sale of stamps! Unfortunately, Ros is unable to continue the stamp ministry, and so we now ask that people do not send her stamps. Thank you to those who have contributed to this ministry over the years, and a special 'thank you' to Ros!



### Twenty Years with GMP!

Anne Hughes has worked for twenty years with OMB/GMP in Adelaide and is now beginning her retirement. Thank you for your faithful service Anne, we'll miss you!



## What Impact Could You Have this September?

Imagine it's seven o'clock in the morning. You snooze your alarm a couple of times, get out of bed and run a steaming hot shower. When you get out 15 minutes later, you notice that the house plant your friend gave you for your birthday is looking a bit neglected. You grab a glass, fill it up at the sink and drown the plant back to life before rinsing last night's dishes and stacking them in the dishwasher. You turn on the coffee machine, use the toilet, grab a glass of water, brush your teeth and run out the door. When you get in the car, you realise you left your drink bottle on the kitchen bench. With no time to run back and get it, you go on your way. After all, there's water everywhere.

Your morning routine might seem pretty standard - but the harsh reality is that you used more safe water in your shower than someone in sub-Saharan Africa will use all day.

A huge 3.5 million people die from water and sanitation related causes each year, with 99 percent of these deaths occurring in the developing world. 650 million people worldwide don't have access to safe water at all. Water in rural Zimbabwe is collected from rivers. Many children contract preventable water borne diseases like diarrhoea, which kills more children than HIV/AIDS, malaria and measles combined. Others tragically drown while trying to fill their buckets. Women in sub-Saharan Africa spend a collective 16 million hours a day collecting

drinking water while children spend four million hours each day. Water can be more than 15 kilometres away and is collected in heavy buckets, which are then balanced on their shoulders and heads as they return. Some areas have open wells, though they pose significant health and safety risks of their own. Parents fear that their children will fall into the open wells near schools. Teachers in some areas have stopped going to work because they fear water contamination. A lack of safe water has a flow on effect, impacting health, nutrition, education, livelihood and so much more. We need your help to provide safe water to rural Zimbabwe and reduce negative impacts on these communities.

We're not saying you should stop showering - but it's worth considering what impact you could have by drinking only water in September. Safe Water September is a challenge to drink nothing but water for the entire month of September. While doing this, we encourage you to raise funds for bore water projects in rural Zimbabwe. For every \$20 you raise, one person will gain access to life-changing, life-saving safe water. We look forward to seeing you become a part of the challenge, and in turn, a part of the change.

Check out [www.safewaterseptember.org.au](http://www.safewaterseptember.org.au) to sign up today.





## New Day Care Centre in Mumbai

SPOTLIGHT

Above: Raghu with his mother  
Left: Emmanuel Day Care Centre, Mumbai Slums

Raghu is a 15-year-old boy who lives with his parents and sister in a shed made of tarpaulin sheets in an impoverished community in Mumbai. The condition and hygiene of their slum is terrible. Like many other children in the slums, Raghu's parents work as rag pickers. His whole family walks around the main urban areas collecting rags and selling them in the recycling plants for an extremely small income. Once they have the money, only then can the family buy some food. Raghu was admitted to a local school but, soon after, he had to drop his education to help support his family. Raghu's story is all too common in Mumbai.

GMP partner Hosanna Ministries are expanding their work in Mumbai to include education and livelihood

initiatives in the slums. We are happy to announce that in response to some of the needs in the slums, we have established a day care centre for underprivileged children. There are approximately 40 children who attend the program. Programs are free of charge, children can learn songs, Bible stories, basic reading and writing skills, crafts, dance, and subjects like science, math and computing. Each day we provide a small snack or some fruit. Like Raghu, the parents of these children work as rag pickers and are happy that their children are receiving the opportunity to learn to read and write.

There is hope for Raghu! Hosanna Ministries have also started a special program in the evening for children, teenagers and women who work during the day and are interested

in learning how to read and write. Here Raghu has started to read and write in Marathi, his own vernacular language. He is an obedient and sincere boy and shows eagerness to receive an education. His mother is very happy to see him come to our centre. She says, "Our situation forced Raghu to drop schooling but, with this new child care centre right in the middle of our community, it has given me hope that my son will get a good education and bring the whole family out of this extreme poverty."

Our prayer and hope is to engage with and help more children like Raghu. We praise and thank the Lord for his faithfulness, grace and provision over us.

*Daniel Gaikwad,*  
India

## In the Name of Jesus

There are many stories of what God is doing in the remote villages along the Ramu, the Keram and the mountain areas of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Let me tell you an exciting story of a whole village turning to the Lord in mass revival meetings.

There was a young girl by the name of Joy from Wengabu Village in the Chungribu area. Joy has been sick for more than five years, and her parents took her to the hospital many times but the medicines didn't help. Her parents turned to witchdoctors, spending more of their money in the hope of healing. The young girl's condition was getting worse every time they took the girl to see a new witchdoctor. Half of her body was paralysed.

Finally, the family gave up finding help for her, waiting to see when death would come. There was no hope for her survival.

One morning Joy's friend Joan, a new Christian from Misingi Village, was walking through her village and went to see Joy in her house. When Joan entered Joy's house she saw that her friend's condition was worse and her heart broke for her friend. Joan looked straight at Joy and said to her, "In the name of Jesus your sickness is gone." Immediately Joy sensed the power of the living Jesus flowing through the numbness of her body, and life and blood started circulating through her body. She felt that she could move her legs and arms! This miracle was a turning point for Joy's

parents, who surrendered their lives to the Lordship of Jesus and in the weeks after the miracle, a mass group of people came to Jesus too. Within a year, 87 converts were baptised. Praise God many people heard of what He is doing in this village and many are turning to Jesus each day. Now we have Pastor Titus to nurture the brand new church that is on fire for the Lord and reaching out to their neighbourhood.

This is one of the many stories of God's wonderful and miraculous hand moving among the hidden tribes to bring them to faith in Jesus Christ.

*Yabru Jerry,*  
PNG



## Modern Slavery

The people Colin Scott met in Aweil, South Sudan, who have been liberated from slavery

Aziz heard that his school would be closed for the month. His school, like many others in Uzbekistan, was closed so that the children could work in the fields picking cotton – for no wages, for the government, and in appalling conditions. Aziz knew what he would be doing, but he didn't know how to stop it. In Cambodia, a young girl named Chamroeun, gets off the bus in the city. Instantly she is bundled into a building. Rather than the promise of vocational school, Chamroeun finds herself trapped in the sex trade. The prosperity that her parents wanted for her was a fantasy.

Both Aziz and Chamroeun were involved in modern forms of slavery. As well as labour and sexual exploitation, modern slavery includes domestic servants who get paid little and have their freedom limited; forced marriage; being forced into crimes like pick-pocketing or carrying drugs; child soldiers, and organ harvesting. Twenty-one million people, 55% of them women, are trapped in the kinds of slavery listed above. It is marginalised people that are most susceptible to slavery.

In 2012, I met a group of women in Aweil, South Sudan, who were

liberated slaves. Most had a young child from their forced marriage. It was a moment of denial – this couldn't be happening, this couldn't be true, I thought – but it was right there in front of me. As people who believe that people are made in the image of God, we need to work to support the victims and challenge the powers that enslave them.

If you notice a situation where you think someone may be enslaved, you can report it to the police. Telltale signs are:

- Awkward behaviour as if someone else is controlling their behaviour;
- Signs of abuse, such as lack of self-esteem, anxiety, bruising or untreated wounds;
- Always short of money;
- Little contact with family, and
- Not in possession of their own legal documents.

You can also report to Stop the Traffik ([www.stopthetraffik.org/share-information](http://www.stopthetraffik.org/share-information)) who can give you more guidance about what to do.

You can join with others to challenge the systems that benefit from slavery. In 2013, GMP was involved in a campaign to stop children, like Aziz, being forced to work in the cotton fields. Cotton from Uzbekistan was traced to Australia in products made by Rivers. Along with many others, GMP supporters wrote cards and letters to Rivers, asking them to guarantee that their cotton was not harvested with child labour. After a time, Rivers responded, and children like Aziz were freed to focus on their schooling.

In 2017, GMP invited supporters to give their input on the Modern Slavery Act being debated in Federal Parliament. GMP continues to work with the Stop the Traffik campaign to highlight the issue of modern slavery and give people options to fight against it. Join with us to challenge the systems that benefit from slavery. Further resources can be found on the GMP and Stop the Traffik websites.

Colin Scott,  
COCOA Director

## Smoothies for Safe Water

State Youth Games (SYG) was held in Victoria over the long weekend in June. The camping atmosphere, with action packed sporting activities and evening ministry programs, provided the perfect opportunity for embody to get our smoothie bikes out for the

official launch of the 2018 Safe Water September (SWS) challenge! Will you sign up and take the challenge this year? ! Head over to [www.safewaterseptember.org.au](http://www.safewaterseptember.org.au) to find out more and get ready to drink lots of water!



Read more at [www.gmp.org.au/news](http://www.gmp.org.au/news)