

IN PARTNERSHIP

April 2024



Children Create a Healthy Future through Family Gardens

Mwoyo sits in his classroom, completing his agriculture quiz. His mind wanders to the family garden, which he waters each afternoon. When he walks to the school bus, he looks to the sky. It hasn't rained for a long time.

He's not discouraged because he has a borehole. And his family knows how to farm to maximise their water source.

Relief and Development partner Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV) is in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. It is a region with some of the most erratic rainfall patterns in the country. Despite this challenge, the KCV farm continues to harvest vegetables. Through family gardens, children like Mwoyo receive healthy meals every day.

KCV has six hectares of farmland. Six boreholes irrigate two hectares, and four hectares are rain-fed. Because of the inconsistent rainfall, KCV started practising conservation farming last year. Good results have come from the maize crop, and the family gardens have produced various vegetables. These crops help provide a nutritious diet for the children.

The children living in the village enjoy participating in the farming process. There are five houses, and each home group maintains its family garden.

"I water our family garden regularly. This has taught me to be responsible," said one child. The most important changes for me at the village have been the installation of water tanks and solar geysers at every house." This makes storing water during drought and carrying water to the gardens in buckets easier.

"It has provided us many butternuts, leafy vegetables, tomatoes and maize. It has enabled us to eat more vegetables such as okra, kale, tomato and onion. This protects us from diseases," said another child.

Not only does the farm provide vegetables for the children, but it has a high potential for profit. They could sell their produce at the local markets and reinvest the profits into the village. In recent years, the village has started raising chickens to help supplement their grocery budget; another brood is being raised now. They also sell the milk produced by their dairy cows.

Thembe Mbambo, the Donor Child Sponsorship Relations Officer at KCV, shared hope for the enterprise. "There is anticipation that with the newly hired business manager, Lloyd, the farm will perform well and begin to generate money." She reported that Lloyd has many ideas for "revamping the farm and launching new initiatives."

The children and team at KCV appreciate your support as they continue to move towards self-sufficiency.

Mrs Vuma, former KCV Director, shared how your support is important to reaching their goal, explaining that self-sufficiency will be made easier with the "safety net of long-term support."

The new KCV Business Director, Mr Mbonisi Mabhena, will assist KCV further with the farming projects. He has broad financial and managerial experience and can help with future endeavours. This includes developing a new business plan and initiatives to engage young adults without family connections or relatives who are still living at KCV.

At Khayelihle Children's Village, children are creating a better future. Thank you for your continued support of vulnerable children like Mwoyo. They have a home full of people who support their health and education and provide a safe and loving place to live with purpose.

You can learn more about Khayelihle Children's Village on our website.

News & Events

Walk for Hope Easter Appeal

Thank you for your generosity towards supporting Indigenous Ministries this Easter. You can continue to donate and walk alongside emerging Indigenous leaders. To help people like Lonny access ministry training and culturally appropriate mentoring. You can continue to give during April. Give today to help sow seeds of hope and restoration in our nation. Visit www.walkforhope.com.au

A Great Gift for Mother's Day

We have the perfect gift for all types of mothers in your life. Have you seen the Great Gifts of Beekeeping, Lentils and Rice, School Uniform, Goats, or the Community Garden? You can give a gift of real purpose this Mother's Day, bring real and lasting change to people in need and tell your mum or mother figure how much you love her! Visit www.greatgifts.org.au to buy your Great Gift today. Remember to buy your gift so you have enough time to receive the gift card in the post. Alternatively, you can print your card at home.

The Global Mission Partners Adelaide Office has Moved!

Our Adelaide team moved office in March! The new Adelaide office will be in Gouger St, Adelaide. You can rest assured your post and phone calls will be redirected to our new office. If you need to reach us, you can continue to mail to our PO Box and get in touch by calling 1800 467 222.

For more news and updates, follow us on Facebook or Instagram @gmpaustralia

Walking With the Broken

About eight years ago, Danny and Glory moved their family into the community of Thane on the outskirts of Mumbai, India, where there are high levels of poverty, unemployment, and out-of-school youth. From here, they serve the people of Prakash Takadi, a community that relies on rag-picking for survival. Under the banner of Hosanna Ministries, they provide education and health clinics, helping the next generation break the cycle of poverty.

In Vanuatu, Pastor Owen and his family moved into the jungle outside Santo. They cleared a track, now a road big enough for a vehicle, and thinned out the thick bush to make room for more families to build timber and thatched homes, many relocating from Ambae after the volcano eruptions there destroyed their villages. They are considered 'refugees' from another island, and under Owen's leadership, they have advocated for electricity and solar power, established boreholes, and built churches to foster community and connection.

Then, in South Sudan, Santino, who escaped the country during its civil war and whose family lives in neighbouring Kenya, has returned to lead a church and provide peace-building workshops to prevent further inter-tribal conflicts.

These are Christian leaders – partners of Global Mission Partners – who take Jesus' example to walk with the broken and vulnerable seriously.

As we celebrate Jesus' victory over death this Easter, our partners are causing me to further reflect on his incarnation, suffering and resurrection.

John 1:14 reads, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus dwelt among us. In the vein of true Christian mission, our partners "dwell" among their communities, incarnating themselves like Jesus to bring hope and build a brighter future.

Fleming Rutledge said, "The Incarnation demonstrates that God is not afraid to get his hands dirty in saving us." Similarly, our partners demonstrate to us what it means to get our hands dirty and serve as part of God's mission in the world.

Jesus' mission also involved suffering, to the point of death. On the way to the cross, he faced treachery, humiliation and violence.

Peter the Apostle reminds us that, "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:23-24).

Jesus' suffering and sacrifice was so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. This is the Gospel in its simplest form. And the early church was known for its suffering for the gospel too.

Our partners today often suffer as part of their faithful witness and proximity to poverty. They face fear of rejection, hardship and the constant pain felt by those around them. However, they do this faithfully, driven by Jesus' resurrection; the vision of new life.

NT Wright says "The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom... It is the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven. The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it."

As we celebrate Easter, let's remember our Global Mission Partners, who, inspired by Jesus, dwell, suffer and are bringing new life in difficult circumstances.

John Lamerton,
Chief Executive Officer



SPOTLIGHT

Water Promotes Peace in Mlove Community

Nebious' neighbour was angry. His goat was drinking from her fresh bucket of water. Having walked four kilometres in the heat to fetch it, the goat was contaminating it! She picked up a rock and threw it at the goat's head.

Nebius lost his goat.

In Zimbabwe, water scarcity can lead to conflicts within communities. When water is scarce or polluted, or when people have unequal or no access to water, resentment can build. When people and animals face difficulty finding safe water, it can be a matter of life and death.

Consider Nebius' goat's story. Maybe if it could, it would tell you about its long, tiring journey, only to find limited dirty water in a river or dam – how it began sinking in the mud when walking on top of the drying riverbed.

Nebius' goat was desperate for water. It did whatever it could to find it.

Without safe water close to home, collecting enough water for drinking, washing, and bathing can take hours. For Nebius' neighbour, having the bucket of water contaminated could mean another

tiring journey to the river, another heavy bucket to carry home.

A lack of safe water can spark conflict.

Boniface Mpofu, Project Director, Showers of Blessing, installs boreholes in rural villages in Zimbabwe. He has often seen how safe water close to home improves relationships and enriches people's lives. He said, "Our responsibility is to ensure everyone has access to clean water. It is an essential element for both humans and animals, and it is crucial that we provide it without delay." This is a big step towards peace.

Nebius was able to relate to his neighbour's situation. He did not take any action against her for killing the goat. He understood the need for clean water.

Instead, he expressed relief; Showers of Blessing installed a borehole in their village. An angry encounter like this would now be a thing of the past. Everyone would now have plenty of safe water to access close to their homes.

"Nebius' story made us change our original plan," Boniface explained. They would construct a borehole for the village to have a small

reservoir. "For excess water to spill into for the benefit of animals. And for the community to easily pump water for their animals," Boniface reported.

Water can spark conflict or promote peace. Nebius is going to enjoy the water from the new borehole. He will also live free from the conflict caused by insufficient water for everyone in the community.

This article was written to celebrate World Water Day on March 22

You can learn more about the connection between water and peace on the United Nations website. www.un.org/en/observances/water-day

You can also learn more about Showers of Blessing on our website.



Showers of Blessing's project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

The Power of Partnership and Prayer

I was fortunate enough to visit one of our incredible NSW church partners in March. Hurstville Church of Christ is located in the centre of the fast-growing suburb of Hurstville, as is their heart for local mission.

It was such a pleasure to sit with Tanwin and listen to how they connect with their local community.

Hurstville is a multicultural area, with 47% of the population having a Chinese background. The church provides English classes and playgroups and partners with other churches to run a community meal called 'Our Meal Soul Food'.

Something that Tanwin said really warmed my heart. "Instead of

trying to do things in our own strength, we pray and see where God is at work. Then we follow the call there," he shared. "It usually happens organically, and it is often easier and more fruitful work when you join in with what God is already doing."

It was a privilege to spend some time praying together. The church has long supported Global Mission Partners—specifically Indigenous Ministries Australia, International Church Partnerships and Christian Mercy International in South Sudan.

Thank you for keeping GMP in your prayers. God moves powerfully through partnerships and prayer.



If you would like your church to partner with us in prayer, please email me at carly@gmp.org.au

Carly Cassidy,
National Church Relationship
Manager



Children living in the Bandarban Hills, Bangladesh, struggle to attend school. The dense forest makes the journey to the nearest school unsafe, and the paths between the scattered houses are steep and dangerous.

Yet, despite these challenges, the Bawm tribe wants to educate their children. The community wanted to build dormitories so their children could live closer to local schools and continue their education. In response, Global Mission Partners helped to establish a hostel in 2012.

Today, Rowangchari Hostel currently has 38 students. The hostel is a safe place to call home, especially for girls who would otherwise need to walk long

distances in the dark to reach their homes.

The hostel management has started initiatives to help the program become self-sustainable. This has included agriculture, farming and raising livestock. The small enterprises help provide subsidies for accommodation, food, clothing, and education.

The most recent initiative is two three-wheeled tuk-tuks. These were purchased for Rowangchari Hostel and another hostel nearby, which would also benefit. The Chuanchu Hope of Children Home Residential School has 65 students.

The hostels offer a small taxi business in the local area.

Two drivers receive income to support their families, and the hostels gain financial support for their operation costs.

Vana Bawm, Project Director, reported they can also access vital emergency care. They have driven young people living at the hostels to the hospital to receive help when sick. Without the tuk-tuks, this access to healthcare wasn't possible.

Thanks to your support, some of the poorest families can send their children to school. The problematic walk through the Bandarban Hills is no longer an obstacle to their education.