

IN PARTNERSHIP

August 2022



Water Gives Safety and Dignity

Women and children nearby a borehole being installed, Zimbabwe

Clean drinking water is vital for everyone. It's easy to see how drinking dirty, contaminated water can make people sick and spread disease. However, the impact of not having clean water is bigger than just health. Not having clean, accessible water can take away people's safety and dignity.

This was the case in Baye Village community in Zimbabwe.

Two women walk to meet our team at a newly installed borehole. They come with their buckets, from their homes nearby, to collect water and tell us about what the new borehole means to them. With some help from Showers of Blessing Director, Boniface Mpofu, they share how they used to walk seven kilometres from home, with their children, to collect water.

"[They had to walk] all the way, seven to eight kilometres, to the river and then also in addition to the laundry, they had to carry some water back home. So, it was not just the water, it was the water and the laundry," Boniface explains.

However, this was more than just a long walk for laundry. The women and children also have to bathe at the same river.

"Their dignity is compromised because in most cases they bathe

in the open, more or less just hiding behind the bushes."

Imagine, having to bathe in a public river with only bushes to give you privacy!

There are open concrete tanks near the river. The women would go into the tanks and bathe there, using them to screen themselves from people passing by.

Not only is bathing in the open embarrassing, but it's also dangerous. The river is infested with crocodiles. "So more than anything, that was the biggest threat that they were encountering," Boniface said.

When they bathe in the river, they fear a sudden attack from the crocodiles. The women said, "It really was a very big problem for us".

Bathing in the open is embarrassing and puts the women and their children at risk from animals like crocodiles, but also at risk of sexual abuse if they're discovered. Unfortunately, without access to water close to home, they had no other option.

A borehole gives more than clean water to drink. It gives people the means to stay safe and keep their children safe as well. Having enough water close to home, means that

people can bathe at home, where it's safe and private.

A borehole was drilled closer to the women's homes! Now they can collect the water safely from the borehole, and bathe at home with dignity. "They are happy...because they don't worry about the dangers that the children were encountering," Boniface told us.

Thanks to Showers of Blessing and your support, the women are "at peace, they feel free because they're using the water from nearby. It's cleaner water so it's something that has really changed their life immensely." The access to water has also helped the women start vegetable gardens at their homes, meaning more nutritious food for their families.

You can help give safety and dignity to people without access to safe water. Take the Safe Water September Challenge, and drink nothing but water, all September. The money you raise will support these life-changing projects that give safety and dignity to people in need. Sign up now at www.safewaterseptember.org.au

The Showers of Blessing Trust (OSBT) project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

News & Events

Safe Water September

Take the Safe Water September challenge and give improved access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. It's simple. Drink nothing but water all September and raise money for safe water, hygiene and sanitation projects. Every \$25 you raise can improve one person's life! Sign up as an individual or as a team.

Sign up or donate today at www.safewaterseptember.org.au

The Justice Conference

The Justice Conference speaks to the fullness of biblical justice — that justice is not only good works, but also essential to our knowledge of God and our understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Starting out with two online events in August and September, The Justice Conference is then going on tour in October 2022 coming to a city near you!

Register online at www.thejusticeconference.com.au

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Each year on 9 August the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous people. This event celebrates these communities, their knowledge, achievements and the contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.

International Youth Day, Aug 12

The theme for this year's International Youth Day is Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages. The objective is to amplify the message that action is needed across all generations to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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

Which Part is Which?

I am quite intrigued by the way that Paul uses the image of the Body to describe the nature of the church. He, almost with humour, suggests that the body has parts that are weaker, inferior, less honourable or less respectable. This means there are also stronger and more superior, honourable and respectable parts of the body! Part of my intrigue is wondering which part is which!

It also seems that, within the body, conversations occur as to which parts are needed or not needed. When the eye says to the feet, 'I have no need of you!' It is assumed that the feet can hear the eye!

The members of the body are to care for one another, suffer together and rejoice together. All of this is done so there is no dissension in the body. This all sounds idyllic - like a body that is communicating sensitively, listening, and is aware of what is going on with the various parts of the body.

I am reminded from time to time that I do not exercise enough, nor make it to 10,000 steps! A body being

exercised is healthy. It is being used. Could it be that the exercise of the Body of Christ is its life in mission?

We learn from the image of the body that being active, being sensitive to what is happening around us and in us, caring about what we see, and hearing what is being said, is vitally important.

When we enter into mission relationships, they are two-way, and involve deep listening and active care. When we reach out beyond ourselves to our partners in mission, we, within the life of the body of Christ, share with others the activities of compassion, care and the invitation to others to be part of the body. We play our part as we listen, pray, are generous in giving and consistent in support.

Now the questions remain, which part is which? What I do know is: we fundamentally, and deeply, need each other.

John Gilmore
Executive Officer

Lunch to Honour Dena and Garry Gower

Recently we had the opportunity to thank Dena and Garry Gower for their many years of faithful ministry in Perth, at a lunch hosted by the City of South Perth.

Dena and Garry have impacted many lives through their tireless efforts in the community. We have valued their friendship and partnership with Indigenous Ministries Australia. The work they have done through Moorditj Keila and Ngaama Ministries has had a significant impact on many children, families and church communities.

From NAIDOC Gospel Dinners, Men and Women's Groups and Indigenous Art Exhibitions to radio interviews, cultural training workshops and ministry to the broader church



community of Perth, Dena and Garry have always sought to care and serve those around them. For that, we are incredibly grateful.

As one chapter closes, another begins. Please continue to pray for them as they settle into their new season and enjoy a time of reconnection and renewal with their family in Broome.



SPOTLIGHT

Computer Course, Hosanna Ministries, India

A Computer Course Changed Pallavi's Life

Pallavi lives with her mother and two sisters in Ambernath, in eastern Mumbai, India. After her father's death, her mother became very ill. Pallavi's older sister dropped out of school to financially support her family, making her the family's sole earner. Pallavi also needed a job to support her family. Without completing her education, however, Pallavi would have been restricted to manual labour, working in small stores, packing food grains or cleaning.

Pallavi dreamed of doing more than manual labour. She wanted to learn how to use a computer. When Pallavi met the social workers from Hosanna Ministries during an outreach in their community, the workers told Pallavi about a computer course she could enrol in. "I always wanted to gain computer skills but, due to financial problems, I could not afford these courses," she said.

Thanks to partners like you who support projects like Hosanna Ministries, Pallavi enrolled in the

computer course. Learning how to use a computer changed Pallavi's life. "I was able to complete the basic computer course, which has helped me get a small job in a local grocery store," Pallavi said.

Pallavi achieved her dream. She isn't a manual labourer! Pallavi has a desk job maintaining the stock of a grocery store where she works together with her older sister.

Pallavi now has a new goal to reach. After completing the basic computer course, she was encouraged to complete a higher computer education course. Pallavi said, "Now I am pursuing my Tally (accounting software) course through Hosanna Ministries." Pallavi is confident that, after completing the Tally course, she will get a "decent job in nearby offices or companies that will help support my mother and my sisters".

Getting an accounting job in the department of any company would be a 'big' achievement for Pallavi. "This will help us increase our family



Pallavi

income and standard of living. Also, we can make sure that my younger sister (16-years-old) completes her schooling and a college degree," Pallavi explained.

Completing the computer course gave Pallavi new confidence and hope for her future. "I am very grateful to all the donors who have generously sponsored the computer education," she reflected.



Showers of Blessing Trust's (OSBT) project, and Bangladesh CAF - Community Sustainability Program are supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)

Reflection on Full Accreditation: An 11-Year Journey

11 years ago, I joined with Global Mission Partners (GMP) in a vision. It was a vision to expand the life-changing work of our partners by becoming fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Thanks to God's provision, GMP has qualified for full accreditation. It has happened!

You may think that 11 years seems like a long time. Taking this time has been a blessing in many ways. It has enabled us to take all of GMP on the journey, changing and refining our thinking and systems. Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) projects are 'partner-led', meaning we prioritise the experience and aspirations of partners over our own. That priority has been the focus of the accreditation journey. As the COCOA program expands, we look for God's guidance in continuing to listen to the aspirations of partners and help them create change in their communities. Relating to partners and the communities that they serve must always be full of dignity and respect. This is God's way, and it is critical to the development of whatever the next 11 years hold.

Full accreditation gives GMP access to several government programs. The most significant one is the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), from which we receive funding.

Back in the 1990s, GMP, like most church agencies, received government funding. This was for a livelihoods project in Zimbabwe. When I started to manage the COCOA program in 2011, GMP was no longer receiving that government funding. So, we re-entered the

accreditation process. Before my appointment as COCOA Director, the Executive Officer managed all GMP programs. This delegation of duties was the first of many steps toward full accreditation.

After five years of preparations, we were given base accreditation in 2016. This gave us a fixed annual grant which we spread across two COCOA projects. Base accreditation was a necessary step before applying for full accreditation.

With full accreditation, we will now receive a grant in proportion to the amount of money we send to COCOA projects overseas. We have committed to contribute \$1 for every \$5 we receive from the Australian Government. The Australian Government will fund up to 83% of these projects – the rest of the funds must come from GMP. When you give to one of the supported projects, you extend our partners' work even further.

The grant amount has increased by over 300% from base to full accreditation! We will use the funds for four or five COCOA projects. This additional grant will support our partners' work further and create the possibility to explore new partnerships.

We have been working with our partners to prepare them for full accreditation over the last couple of years. We have been asking them to start thinking about ways they could use more funding and working to build their capacity. We need to produce the kind of rigour in accountability and practice that the ANCP demands.

We have also been preparing the staff team. I have become full-time with the COCOA program and have handed my Partnership Coordinator role with NSW and ACT churches to Val Zerna in Adelaide (email: churchcontact@gmp.org.au). Jan Bayliss, our COCOA Education Officer, is working an additional day managing our policy administration, and we have employed a new COCOA Project Officer, Eva Ntege-Dhizaala, working with myself and Suzanne Hayes.

Your ongoing partnership has made this possible – thank you. Your gifts and prayers for these programs will help increase the impact and life-changing work of our partners. And, of course, our other projects still need your support, too.

Despite changes in process, compliance, and project scale, our purpose for applying hasn't changed. We want to maintain an industry standard quality in the way we work, and we want to extend the benefits of that work further and further. As the COCOA program expands, we look for God's guidance in continuing to listen to the aspirations of our partners and to help them create positive changes in their communities. Relating to partners, and the communities that they serve, must always be full of dignity and respect. This is God's way, and it is critical to the development of whatever the next eleven years hold.

If you'd like to learn more about what full accreditation means for GMP, read our announcement here.

Colin Scott
COCOA Director