

# IN PARTNERSHIP

March 2023



## Blessings Beyond Expectation

There are many picturesque islands with tropical beaches and coconut trees located in the East Timor province, however, people face many challenges living in these isolated settings. When Melati and Kemala arrived to minister on one of these far-flung islands, they found the children had limited access to education. Even some eleventh-grade students couldn't read. They also found that many people did not yet know Jesus or share their faith in him.

However, Melati and Kemala weren't discouraged. Having experienced God's blessing firsthand, they travelled faithfully to share it with others. The impact of that blessing was beyond their expectations.

Melati and Kemala are fourth-year students at the Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia (CCTSI), an international church partner of GMP. CCTSI offers theological training with an emphasis on practical mission.

The two CCTSI students travelled to the island, taking almost two full days to get there from Java. Melati and Kemala embarked on their adventure to share the good news, to participate in children's ministry and to bless the community as part of their church planting practical assessment. Hery Susanto, CCTSI Director, says, "They mostly work with local people while sharing the gospel with them".

Melati and Kemala are passionate about improving the education of children. So, laden with resources, the two women travelled by plane, a

local boat and then public transport to arrive at the village. They brought things like books, pencils, and bags. It is difficult to get school supplies from other islands.

Melati and Kemala are also passionate about sharing how much Jesus loves children. CCTSI distributes thousands of *Christ Comic* books all over Indonesia. So, Melati and Kemala used the *Christ Comic* books to share the story of Jesus with the children. "Sharing that Jesus really loves them, and Jesus wants them to be saved," Hery explained. The *Christ Comics* help children gain an understanding of Bible stories through pictures. They have been a real blessing.

Children weren't the only ones who benefited from Melati and Kemala's presence on the island. As they shared their faith, it inspired others to do the same.

Because of Melati and Kemala's faithfulness, three young men from the island responded to God's calling for their lives. Now these men are enrolled at CCTSI! Hery says, "This opportunity is something beyond their imagination". They now study abroad, gaining new experiences and enlarging their worldviews.

These men received the blessing of Jesus and now study at CCTSI where they will learn to share that blessing with others, just like Melati and Kemala. And God's blessing will continue to be shared with the people of East Timor province through them. "Local people have a better understanding of the islanders' worldview," Hery highlighted. "In the

future, we will send them back there to develop their own people. It is a double blessing for both sides."

At Easter we remember the greatest blessing we have received. That of eternal life with God, through Jesus' sacrifice. We are blessed to know God and his deep love for us. And we are called to share that with others. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Your support of GMP International Church Partnerships, enables people like Melati and Kemala to continue to share God's blessing and inspire others to do the same. It can help provide theological education and training for local people throughout Indonesia and neighbouring countries to equip them to minister to their own communities.

Melati and Kemala completed their mission assignment and returned to CCTSI for further study. Both women will graduate in June 2023. Until then, their passion for children's education and sharing the gospel is being expressed locally on their home island, where they continue to develop their practical ministry skills.

You can also share the blessing of Jesus this Easter.

When you give to Walk for Hope you can help people like Melati and Kemala to share the love of Jesus. Your support will help train faithful Christians so they can spread the gospel and be a blessing to the people around them.

Find out more or donate now at [www.WalkforHope.com.au](http://www.WalkforHope.com.au)

## News & Events

### Walk for Hope Easter Appeal

Walk for Hope is the opportunity at Easter to support evangelism, church planting and ministry training across the nations. At Easter we remember the greatest blessing that we have received in Jesus' sacrifice. We are blessed to know God, and his great love for us. But we're also blessed to share this with others. This Easter, when you support Walk for Hope, you will help our church partners share Jesus' blessing with others. [The Walk for Hope devotional resources are now available for churches and individuals to download during March.](#) [www.WalkforHope.com.au](http://www.WalkforHope.com.au)

### Türkiye Syria Earthquake Appeal

Help give life-saving support to people affected by the Türkiye Syria Earthquakes. Donations to the appeal will be directed through the ACT Alliance. GMP is a member of the ACT Alliance, an international network of church agencies responding to disasters around the world. Give today at [www.gmp.org.au/TurkiyeEarthquake](http://www.gmp.org.au/TurkiyeEarthquake)

### COCOA Reference Group

GMP is recruiting for its COCOA Reference Group, which is responsible for reviewing COCOA projects and policies. We are looking for people with international development qualifications. Supporters from WA and QLD are encouraged to apply, as those states are currently not represented on the group. Please contact COCOA Director, Colin Scott, ([colin@gmp.org.au](mailto:colin@gmp.org.au)) if you are interested in further information.

### International Women's Day

Happy International Women's Day! On March 8 we celebrate the women like Akanksha, who taught computer classes run by Hosanna Ministries in India. Akanksha has been helping women gain confidence to get the vocational training they need to apply for a job. Read the full story here [www.gmp.org.au/MeetAkanksha](http://www.gmp.org.au/MeetAkanksha)

# Inextinguishable Passion

Dear Friends,

Since joining Global Mission Partners, I have enjoyed spending time with the team, Board and partners, learning from their stories, reflecting on our shared vision for lives transformed through partnership and being inspired by the inextinguishable passion for mission and justice. God is clearly bringing new life to many through our partnerships.

Of course, none of us were expecting the earthquake which shook southern Türkiye and northern Syria early in February. Heartbreakingly, 45,000 people were lost in the devastation and over 1 million people became homeless at the onset of winter. Thankfully, the global aid community were swift to respond, and our Christian partner agencies through the ACT Alliance were on the ground providing relief within days of the disaster. Thank you to all who donated generously and sacrificially to this appeal - amidst significant suffering, your gifts are bringing great comfort.

As always, our Christian hope is a resurrected one. We believe and know that out of pain comes new life. We believe this for all our ICP and COCOA partners working endlessly amidst difficult circumstances, whether it's promoting peace in South Sudan, educating vulnerable people in India, providing safe water in Zimbabwe or preparing communities for disasters in

Vanuatu - our partners are daily bringing new life where there is hardship. Your support is gratefully making that possible.

Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) is also preparing for new birth. We are prayerfully listening to our Indigenous friends for ways to participate in the Voice to Parliament process, which I believe will be a significant moment in our national history. We hope to launch new resources to help us take part in these discussions thoughtfully and faithfully.

As I serve GMP's vision going forward, my hope is that we will be refreshed by Jesus' call to love God and love our neighbour. Christian love for the vulnerable and our faith in God should provide the footing we need to navigate the challenges ahead. My desire is for GMP to continue being a highly trusted NGO and facilitator of Christian mission - internationally as well as nationally among our Indigenous partners and friends.

Lastly, I also wish to celebrate John Gilmore's significant contribution to the Global Mission Partners story and gratefully receive the baton of servant leadership passed on from him.

In faith,

John Lamerton,  
Executive Officer



## We're Hiring a Chief Finance Officer!

Are you a senior finance professional looking to make a real difference in the world? Do you want to join a national team working on global issues? Are you committed to Christian mission and justice? Do you want flexibility and a positive culture?

Come join the GMP executive leadership team! We are seeking applicants for the newly created

position of Chief Finance Officer to help provide strategic leadership to our financial management and corporate services, which supports our partnerships responding to real-world needs across Australia and throughout the world.

Find out more or apply at [www.gmp.org.au/employment](http://www.gmp.org.au/employment)



# Share the Blessing of Jesus

THIS EASTER



## Walk for Hope

When Walk for Hope was first launched in 2018, it was envisioned as being a peer-to-peer sponsored fundraiser that linked supporters here in Australia to the issue of accessibility for many of GMP partners' – the fact that many of them had to walk long distances to church, including pastors in places like Zimbabwe, who often had to walk to many churches that they were leading.

While the idea of walking to raise funds was a step in the right direction, we soon realised that it was not inclusive of those with mobility issues and could potentially raise problems if, for example, someone fell on a walk that was organised by a church.

The idea of walking for hope, however, still resonated with us at GMP. Our partners and ourselves walk for hope, for faith, for love – we are on a long journey of walking towards Jesus and being Christlike in our lives and actions. Many of our partners, as I mentioned, walk to church communities where they renew each others' faith for the days and weeks ahead. You may walk as well and, if you do, then you are walking in solidarity with our partners.

Hope is a much-needed virtue in our ICP settings, and it helps us to keep walking in the light no matter how the darkness crowds in. So, in 2023, we're encouraging you to Walk for Hope with us, with our partners. When you give to Walk for Hope, you can be assured that

those funds go to building up the strength of our churches in places as diverse as Fiji, South Sudan, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Over Easter, may your hope be renewed as you walk with Jesus and with others. We are blessed to know God, and his great love for us. As we remember the greatest blessing that we have received in Jesus' sacrifice, we're also blessed to share this with others. May you renew the hope of others as you listen, encourage, pray and give.

Craig Brown,  
Deputy Executive Officer and  
ICP Director

Find out more at  
[www.WalkforHope.com.au](http://www.WalkforHope.com.au)

## Blessed to be a Blessing in PNG

Russell is using music to bless a remote village in East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. He enjoys creating and performing songs for local church outreach and Sunday services. "I commit myself to be actively involved in the church's worship program," Russell said. Standing at the front of the simple wooden church building with his guitar hanging over his shoulder, Russell, confidently with a smile, leads the church in worship. This is without other musicians or instruments. No microphone, no electrical leads or speakers. The small congregation sings and claps along to an upbeat worship song in their native language.

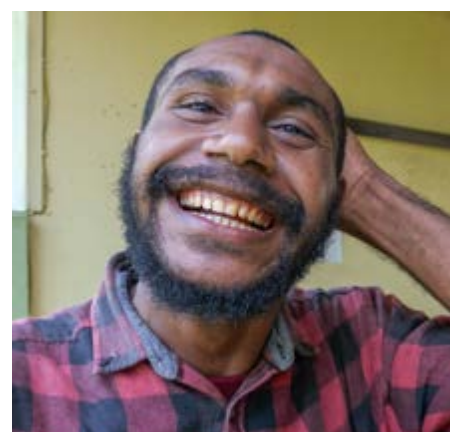
For the past three years, while ministering at his church, Russell has been studying social work at university. "Most of my childhood,

I dreamed of serving people... of serving humanity," Russell told us. The degree will enable him to better assist people, he says.

The East Sepik Province is one well-known tribal heartland of Papua New Guinea, famous for the Sepik River. The challenges faced by people there include poverty and little access to education, healthcare and infrastructure. There are many cases of gender-based violence, and unhelpful traditional practices.

While Russell can serve others through music, he is choosing now to expand his skillset to bless his community further. Russell is blessed to be a blessing.

"My mission, my plan, is to work with people in the community." With his love for the local church



and his training in social work, Russell will be ready to meet the spiritual and social needs of the people.

This Easter, when you support Walk for Hope, you help our international church partners share the blessing of Jesus with others. Partners like Russell.  
[www.WalkforHope.com.au](http://www.WalkforHope.com.au)





# Providing an Inheritance for the Kids of Kufa

Content Warning: Rape

Lillian (second from left) and others at a community consultation, Kufa, Zimbabwe

For many years, the only water source for Kufa Village in Zimbabwe was 10km away, in mountainous terrain. The women and girls of Kufa were left with the dangerous task of collecting wood and water for their families. These journeys could expose them to rape and robbery.

Lillian is one of these women, living in Kufa. She travelled this journey often to collect water. “We were travelling nearly 10km,” she shared.

This wasn’t the only challenge for the community. The children of Kufa struggled to make the long trip to school.

“It was heart-wrenching to hear the stories of very young ones, aged as little as six years, walking four kilometres over a mountain down through the valley to school every day,” Showers of Blessing Director, Boniface Mpofu, shared.

Water can have a flow on effect for a community. It’s now helping provide an education to the kids of Kufa.

In 2015, GMP relief and development partner Showers of Blessing, drilled and installed a borehole that uses a hand pump. The bore was a much-welcomed development in the area. The new water source meant an end to the long and dangerous walks through the mountains for women like Lillian. The community expressed their appreciation and care for the new water source and created a committee of five women and three men to care for the borehole.

In 2018, the community and the dedicated committee saw a need to develop the water project further. With Showers of Blessing’s help, they upgraded the bore to include a solar powered pump. A solar pump can make water supply more reliable. One benefit is that people don’t have to rely on pumping by hand to collect water. Having the water pumped into tanks makes the water accessible to more people, particularly for elderly people and people with disabilities who struggle to use the hand pump.

The development brought water closer to every household. That is impacting more than the domestic lives of people in the community.

“What a day I had when I visited the community to realise that the abundant water Showers of Blessing had provided had attracted the attention of the government to approve and construct a school for the community!” Boniface shared.

The abundance of water means the community have enough to make bricks for a new school called Muvungani.

“The water that we use for the school we are building is used to make bricks and cooking, to build the toilets and the teachers’ houses,” Lillian shared. “We are planning to build blocks from grade one to grade seven.” She says the community aim to have their school ready in 2023.

“We thank you for everything you have done for us in this village,

it was so backwards, we didn’t have water.” Lillian said, “They have enabled us to do the development that we couldn’t do because of [lack of] water”.

Boniface also shared his feelings of fulfillment about the project’s development. “The community got a start-up through water provided and are developing and maintaining the facility without much assistance. It’s also gratifying to feel that our approach of helping a community to develop, as opposed to developing a community, is bearing fruit.”

The water source is also helping the community develop other projects. Follow on projects like household gardens, new home construction and livestock projects can help boost employment prospects in the community. Kufa has even had a small village shop open.

Lilian says, “They have left us with a bit of good life, and this is now the inheritance of our kids of tomorrow”.

**March 22 is World Water Day.** The story of Kufa is one example of how your partnership has implemented positive change over many years, providing safe water and sanitation projects through GMP relief and development partner Showers of Blessing Trust in Zimbabwe.

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