

IN PARTNERSHIP

November 2020



“India has become the second most affected country in the world,” Danny Gaikwad, from Hosanna Ministries, says. “Every day there are about 70,000 cases reported throughout the country.”

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an enormous impact in India. Despite this, Hosanna Ministries are finding ways to help people build resilience during this time.

“Students of our Tailoring Classes... The teachers have shown them how to stitch a mask,” Danny explains. “Having the skills to stitch face masks helped them to work from home and also earn money to financially support their families in this crisis.”

“One of the girls says being able to work from home was a great help for her family. She has two kids and her husband – who is a rickshaw driver – could not work during lockdown.”

And Hosanna Ministries are also buying these masks from the tailors they trained!

“We are giving face masks to the people living in the Prakash Tekadi community where we run the Emmanuel Education Centre,” Danny says. “This community is the poorest in the district. The people work as rag pickers, collecting plastic

bottles and metal items throughout the city and sell them in the evenings at the recycling plant.”

“The government has introduced many help packages during the pandemic but for many reasons the help is not actually reaching vulnerable people. Hosanna Ministries did food distribution relief work during the early months of lockdown. Now we also have the education and awareness program to educate the community members.”

“We try to explain how this disease spreads so fast. How one should protect themselves and their families, how regular washing of hands and using of face masks when they go out in a crowd helps.”

“They are happy that someone from outside is even visiting their community and talking to them and asking what problems they face,” Danny says. “Handing out facemasks and explaining to them the importance of using them makes them feel more secure and accepted.”

There is still lots of work to be done in light of the pandemic. But Danny and the rest of Hosanna Ministries will not give up.

“For us, resilience would firstly mean to bring the curve of the pandemic

down,” Danny says. He comments that through their plans for the immediate future they can “Keep the children, our staff and community members safe, starting with our Emmanuel Education Centre.”

We are all facing the same storm – but we are in different boats. Without the resources that we have in Australia, India faces a very different struggle against the virus. But people remain resilient – and your support can help them in that.

Sharing your offering this Christmas can help Hosanna Ministries to provide food, work and education to people living in poverty in communities like Prakash Tekadi. Your support gives more people the ability to face the pandemic with resilience.

“We can feel God’s hand always over our heads,” Danny says. “He has been and always will protect us inside our house as well as outside from this pandemic when we go into the community.”

You can learn more about the resilience of COCOA partners at the COCOA Global Christmas Dinner on December 5. Register for the online YouTube GMP family event now at <https://globalchristmasdinner.eventbrite.com.au>

News & Events

COCOA Global Christmas Dinner

You're invited to join the GMP family for an Online Global Christmas dinner! Gather around the table with us on Saturday December 5 and tune in to the exclusive YouTube premiere featuring updates from our relief and development partners across the world. This is an opportunity to eat, share and give together. Register for your free ticket at <https://globalchristmasdinner.eventbrite.com.au>

Great Gifts Children's Resources

Download Great Gift resources for your children to get involved! The activities pack is designed to help your family learn together about water, sanitation and hygiene projects, and our international partners. Download and print these resources from gmp.org.au/get-involved/resources/wash-children-s-resource

GMP 2019-20 Annual Report

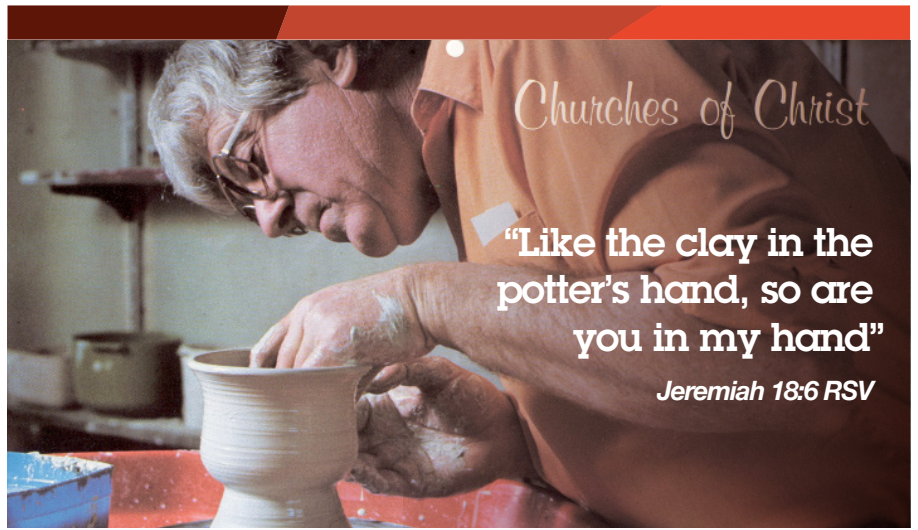
The GMP 2019-20 Impact Report and Annual Report are now available. Read how your support has been changing lives in the last financial year. Download the report from www.gmp.org.au/about-us/annual-reports

GMP Indonesia Symposium

Join an online presentation with Dr. Hery Susanto, Academic Dean of the Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia on Tuesday November 10 at 12:45pm AEDT. Please contact Sam Curkpatrick on **0432 582 945** or email sam@gmp.org.au for more information.

Expressions of Interest

The GMP Board invites Expressions of Interest in being a member of the GMP Board. We seek people with a love of mission, an understanding of governance and finance and willing to make a commitment to being part of a forward thinking and positive Board. Please make contact with the Board Chair – Barrie Yesberg - yesberggmp@gmail.com



Reshaped by God

John Gilmore's father moulding clay, Churches of Christ calendar

The meeting opened as expected; a welcome, the recognition of the Indigenous people of Australia and then an attendee brought a reflection. On the screen, so close, right in front of me, was an image that was to be the focus of reflection. It was the hands of a potter moulding a piece of clay. A powerful and sensuous picture of hands covered in clay caressing mud into a shape.

For a moment I saw someone else's hands – my Dad's. I remembered him in his studio and the image of his hands moulding clay on a Churches of Christ calendar. I could hear his voice preaching on God the potter and shaping us, the clay. In the moment I was deeply moved and missed my Dad and his hands!

One overused word in this season of change is 'pivot'. Organisations and ministries have 'pivoted' in response to the impact of, and the opportunities created by, COVID-19. Pivoting is a confusing word – if I fully pivot, I am back to where I began.

What about being moulded or reshaped? Yes, this is a time of ongoing disruption and change. Churches in some states are not meeting face to face. What we can do together has changed and so has the way GMP reaches out to churches. As it says in the words of the song addressed to God, 'You are the potter, and I am clay, make and mould me, this is what I pray...'; maybe we need to talk about us being reshaped by God. Isaiah 64:8 says 'we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand'. We want to be the work of the hand of God.

GMP prepared its Strategic Plan for 2020-2025, and the Board approved it in February 2020. We recognise that we need to pause and reflect on the past eight months of our COVID world. This pause is about us managing this time – as it is about creating space for God to mould and shape us.

We will be very clear about the core essence of our activity and identity and this will help in decision making. It will not be an easy process and where it leads will be a journey of learning and discovery.

GMP will be true to our mission of 'Linking People, Churches and Resources Across Nations' and so invest in 'Transforming Lives Through Partnerships'. How we do this is changing, and our prayer is that we will be moulded by the hands of God. It is also our prayer for all of you, our partners – here in Australia and overseas.

John Gilmore,
Executive Officer



Our Country Speaks

If you are living in Western Australia, one way to get involved with celebrating NAIDOC week is to support the Our Country Speaks Indigenous Film and Language Festival, 14-15 November. This is an initiative of Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) in partnership with the Bible Society, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, True North Church and the Surrender WA Hosting Partners. It will be a celebration of some of Australia's Indigenous Christian leaders and their stories of resilience, hope, culture and ministry. It will be a crucial time for the community to hear important stories about our shared history and future as a Nation through film and language workshops. More information can be found online www.facebook.com/our-country-speaks. There will also be some online content available through the [IMA Facebook page](#) after NAIDOC week.



Great Gift of a Firepit Gathering

Indigenous Australian communities are spread all over Australia, at times separated by vast distances. It can be hard for Indigenous leaders to connect with each other. The Firepit Gathering seeks to address this by making a space for Indigenous leaders, current and emerging, to come together for sharing, teaching and fellowship.

But with COVID-19, the situation has changed. Many remote Aboriginal communities have been self-isolating since the earliest stages of the pandemic. With government restrictions on gatherings and travel, these already outlying communities have become even more isolated.

What does a Firepit Gathering look like when you can't gather physically?

Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) is working with Indigenous ministry partners to create these spaces online.

This year, the IMA Western Australia Ministry Team (IMA-WA) met

regularly via Zoom. Thanks to supporters like you, a number of laptops were purchased for IMA partners, enabling them join these online meetings. The virtual meetings have assisted our different Indigenous ministry teams to come together to share updates, pray for each other and have a good yarn. All this despite COVID-19!

An Indigenous Film and Language Festival is being held during NAIDOC Week, 8-15 November. This is providing an opportunity for the IMA-WA leaders to come together, share stories, and strengthen relationships with the broader church community in WA.

IMA has also been involved with an online leadership forum called the Sand Talk Yarn. Indigenous leaders and cultural facilitators from the east coast are coming together and looking to apply Indigenous wisdom, based on the book 'Sand Talk' by Tyson Yunkaporta.

We are connecting in different ways, brought together by God. Without your help, IMA wouldn't be able to

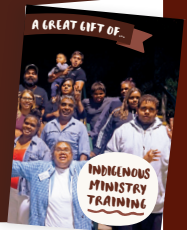
FIREPIT GATHERING \$100

Provide opportunity for isolated Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders to develop cultural learning, share stories and network at gatherings in AUSTRALIA



INDIGENOUS MINISTRY TRAINING \$35

Provide emerging Indigenous leaders supported access to tailored theological and practical ministry training in AUSTRALIA



COVID RELIEF PACK \$50

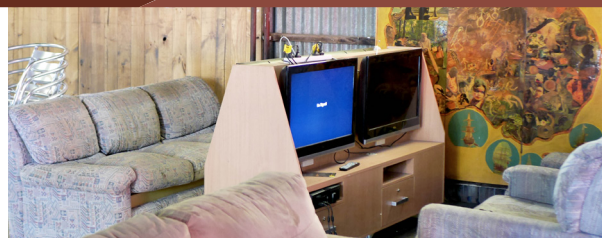
Provide vital grocery and health supplies to vulnerable Indigenous Australian families and individuals experiencing hardship during COVID-19.



Visit www.greatgifts.org.au

keep connecting with Indigenous ministry teams around Australia. You are bringing people together!

Your Great Gift of a Firepit Gathering will help our Indigenous ministry partners create new ways to share and connect. You are giving the opportunity to share stories, to teach, and to engage in fellowship together. Your Gift helps these leaders continue ministering to their communities during this time.



Good News from Dareton

Ilker Deli from Dareton Youth and Community Centre, NSW, has some good news! The centre officially re-opened after the lockdown period and is now following COVID-safe practices. In other exciting news, GMP has secured the long-term use of the property for ministry and the community with the purchase now complete. Ilker says, “Kids can come here and be themselves and be safe.” Brendon Garlett, who is pioneering culturally relevant and relational outreach in Dareton, has been connecting with the community since 2017. For example, he helps young guys fix their

bikes, builds relationships through golf, and recently started a youth church service at the Dareton Youth and Community Centre. Brendon reflects that it has taken some time to meet people and settle into the Dareton community, but God continues to encourage him to “be patient”. Brendon says, “It takes time to get into community – I’m just continuing to be there for people.” In more recent good news, Brendon and Amy have welcomed the birth of their sixth child, a healthy son – with all doing well. Congratulations!

Left: Some of the activities and facilities offered at the youth centre

Bottom right: Brendon leading first youth church service at the youth centre

What Does the Budget Mean for Australia’s Support of the Poor?

The recent 2020-21 Development Budget includes an additional \$304.7m to be spent in the Pacific and Timor-Leste, to help ward off the worst social and economic costs of COVID-19. The development community welcomed this initiative. This additional funding is targeted to help our Pacific neighbours with whom we have a unique relationship, and where we as a nation can have a significant impact. It reflects the value of looking beyond ourselves during difficult times.

For reasons yet to become clear, the additional \$304.7m was not included in the government’s Official Development Assistance (ODA). ODA is the amount that is recognised by international bodies as our contribution to releasing people from poverty. Our ODA was \$4.044B in 2019-20 and it will be \$4.000B in 2020-21. This shows

a decline to 0.60% of government spending, but remains at 0.21% of Gross National Income (GNI) – as our GNI has gone down because of COVID-19. Technically, it halts the steady decline in the ODA/GNI ratio since 1970 and, arguably, this is admirable in difficult times. In the bigger picture, Australia remains well below the OECD average of 0.3% (2019) and the UN target of 0.7%.

There has also been a shift to focus more aid to the Pacific and to South-East Asia. The downside of this shift is that desperately poor countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will receive much less support.

Read the full article ‘Where is Our Treasure’ by COCOA Director, Colin Scott, on the GMP website.

<https://gmp.org.au/news/2020-news/where-is-our-treasure>

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

\$12

Pens, pencils, paper, books, as well as exam papers and certificates are necessary to help kids achieve their best at Emmanuel School IN SOUTH SUDAN



PAIR OF PIGLETS

\$24

Pigs, chickens, and cattle will help a family kick-start their own small market business and provide income to exchange for goods in the Hill Tribes IN THAILAND



TOILET

\$70

Installing new toilets in the remote Bandarban Hills district provides increased hygiene and sanitation and reduces disease IN BANGLADESH



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