



life-changing
partnerships



IN PARTNERSHIP

www.gmp.org.au | April 2017



GMP partners recently gathered in Thailand for an inspired and hope-filled time together.

Found in the Action of God

Christian faith is future orientated. We are invited to live our lives faithfully trusting in the guidance and present love of God. The prayer Jesus taught us has this as a clear emphasis: “Thy kingdom come – on earth – as it is in heaven”.

Having a future perspective gives us hope in the present, irrespective of our circumstances. Times and life may be tough, and the future uncertain. However, what the future holds is not based on the present – it is based on the action of God who is seen in the resurrection, and this perspective is the foundation of our hope.

This sense of hope is key to effective mission. There are new opportunities presented to GMP and there are ways that we can respond to such requests. Our response can be to say “yes” to everything, or to say “no” to everything. Neither orientation on its own is helpful or realistic.

A hope-based alternative is to say something like “let’s see what we can do” and to discern with care what is possible. This is a hope-based decision that has a future element to it, and one that discerns where resources are best directed.

Let me share two examples of hope-based decisions.

The training gathering of GMP partners in Thailand was inspiring. The opportunity to be with people keen to see change in the situations people face – and the creativity with which they plan for that change – affirmed the decision to bring them together. No one who came lacked hope. Each one had a sense of God’s presence in what they do, and an expectation of what can be done.

A second hope-based decision occurs whenever GMP receives a bequest. We are blessed by this generosity, and the funds are invested and applied with the intent of building a strong,

ongoing ministry. Some funds are earmarked for particular purposes and are used in this way. Other funds are available for general use, and recently they have created an opportunity for initiatives in the area of marketing and communication – with a goal to connect new generations of supporters and churches with our partners.

There are many other hope-based stories that could be told; people recommitting their lives to Christ, the re-establishment of the Hedland Aboriginal Fellowship, the number of people attending the Bandarban Hills Churches of Christ Annual Conference, and the generous response of people to the impact of the famine in South Sudan.

Our faith is future orientated. We look to the future and place our trust in the grace and providence of God, as seen in the resurrection of Jesus.

John Gilmore,
Executive Officer

This Month in InPartnership

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Sons of Korah are playing in Melbourne as part of the Churches of Christ Vic/Tas Summit. ChurchesofChrist.org.au/summit

Employment Opportunity – Marketing Manager

Do you have a desire to engage people and churches in mission? A passion to be part of the process of meeting the needs of the poor and marginalised? A creative imagination to find new ways to communicate and reach

out in the discovery and support of mission? If the answer is YES, then come and join the dynamic team at GMP's Melbourne office and lead us in developing new and creative ways to present the stories of GMP's partners to churches and supporters.

For further information and a copy of the Role Description please contact John Gilmore, Executive Officer, Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners at jjgilmore@gmp.org.au. Applications close April 28th



Your support of GMP means people like Mr Hardi are hearing the gospel for the first time.

When Mr Hardi was facing hardships, he felt compelled to approach Patrisius, an evangelist supported by GMP, sensing that he could help. Through their friendship, Mr Hardi was able to hear how much Jesus loves him and accept Jesus as Lord. When Mr Hardi shared about his family troubles, Patrisius said "You know that I and my wife are Christian, so if you come to me

to help you with your problem. It means that I will bring you to the Lord Jesus because He is the true helper." Patrisius opened the Bible to Matthew 11:28-30 and his wife read it for Mr Hardi in his own language: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (NIV) Patrisius asked him, "Do you believe that Jesus is Lord and He can give

you rest?" and Mr Hardi said, "Yes, I believe". He confessed Jesus as Lord and they prayed together. This is the impact of your support – Mr Hardi's and many other lives being transformed by knowing Jesus.

You can donate to the GMP Easter campaign on our website, using the envelope provided at your church or by requesting a giving form from our office. Freecall 1800 467 222. Thank you for your generosity this Easter!



GMP partners from all around the world meeting together in Thailand

Partnering Together for Stronger Communities

What do you get when you put 27 people from nine countries representing 14 different GMP partners together with four GMP staff in Chiang Mai, Thailand?

An amazing, lively organism of learning and motivation.

Our international partners came together in March for the first time, to attend Partnering Together for Stronger Communities – nine days of learning and sharing through workshops, cultural experiences, worship and project visits. The goal was to equip our partners in designing and managing their projects, to consider ways to care for people who are often left out, and to recognise the vulnerabilities of children and the environment.

John, Colin, Suzanne and Jan from GMP and a guest speaker from the Church of Christ in Thailand provided input. Our partners also gave a presentation about their own work. We could not have imagined the event going any better.

Everyone loved being together and meeting people they had previously only read about through In Partnership. As we took in some of the local sights, there were endless photos with new friends, and the applause and respect from the rest of the group when each partner gave a presentation was warm, enthusiastic and peppered with words of encouragement.

Everyone participated wholeheartedly in the learning sessions. No one was sidetracked by their mobile phone or overcome by all the new things they were experiencing. Everyone was there for every session – from breakfast to dinner and everything in between! Recreation time was great fun too, with many people learning to play table tennis for the first time or showing off their prowess at badminton.

The group selected this statement as capturing the biggest change that the conference had made for them: “We learned the importance



Danny and Smita Gaikwad at the Partnering Together for Stronger Communities Conference.

of working with the people – not for the people. We have created a big GMP family across continents and oceans.”

Colin Scott,
Cocoa Director



Cheryl Reid and Karen Potticary learning how to cook with the Christian Women's Fellowship

Toowoomba North Ventures to East Ambae

In September 2016 a team from Toowoomba North Church of Christ ventured to East Ambae, Vanuatu. The team did not go with expectations to do, but rather to be, and to step out in faith and to build relationships in His name.

The team arrived in Espiritu Santo to meet with the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu (CCCV), to purchase water tanks and to meet with the staff of Medical Santo (GMP Associate Partner) before flying to Longana. Jaylyne from Medical Santo travelled with the team during the visit. The eight-day trip was filled with visiting schools, health centres and churches within the Lans Bulu Island Council area. On visiting the first aid post in South Ambae, which services 220 people, we were shocked that they had no water. The team decided that this would be the site for one of the

purchased water tanks. Another highlight was the donation of 100 pairs of reading glasses and seeing people in the community choosing their new glasses! The team also visited the Christian Women's Fellowship, and the elderly who were sick, including the Chief of Lovunvilli, who was bedridden due to a stroke he suffered two years ago. We prayed and sang Amazing Grace, with him awakening and singing with us! We have since heard that he has now passed away.

The afternoons were filled with playing sport with the local kids. The men in the team worked in the community doing odd jobs. The evenings included singing and preaching at the worship services. God stretched us all in our ability to serve him through singing and bringing a message from his Word. The team was filled with gratitude

and thanks, and one team member reflected that: "Our hearts changed forever, touched by God's people. Many tears flowed, and promises were made to continue to build on this relationship."

Upon returning to Australia, the team met with the Toowoomba North Church of Christ Board, with the purpose of establishing a Church-to-Church Partnership with the Lans Bulu Island Council. Toowoomba North plan to send a team to Vanuatu in 2017.

Vicki Marney,
QLD Partnership Coordinator

If you would like to begin a Church-to-Church partnership or find out more about it, please contact a GMP Partnership Coordinator in your State. Call us today and we will put you in touch with the right person!

Update from Port Hedland

Ministry in Port Hedland continues after a lot of work in and around the church building. John Edwards, David and Margaret Moses-Martin and Basil have been the important link to starting the fellowship again in Churches of Christ Hedland Aboriginal Fellowships. These leaders initiate weekly fellowship gatherings and connect to various support groups such as drug, alcohol, suicide prevention and other support groups in the Community.

We continue to trust God for 2017!

Remy Sese,
IMA Coordinator West

If you would like to follow along with more news from IMA make sure to like our page on Facebook! @imaaustralia

Theresa Sese is encouraging two of the young people who were formerly at Wongutha CAPS, a Christian Aboriginal parent directed school.





Rebecca and Greg Little (Bunbury), John Gilmore (GMP Executive Officer), Kevin Tucker (Dareton), Mitch Varcoe (embody National Campaigns and Resourcing Manager), Samuel Curkpatrick (Partnership Coordinator VIC/TAS), Kirsten Gray (embody Relationships Manager QLD), and Natalie Oakes (embody National Coordinator) at SURRENDER:17

IMA at Surrender Conference

Over the March 24-26 weekend at Belgrave Heights, GMP and the Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) program were again pleased to partner with the SURRENDER community in helping create a unique space for Christians from around the country (and world!) to share stories of what God is doing in their local neighbourhood, especially those facing hardships and marginalisation. As the East Coordinator for IMA, I help plan and coordinate the Indigenous content and participation in SURRENDER including

programming the Saturday night and helping design a culturally safe and appropriate event. IMA was able to bring together some of their leaders from WA (Greg, Margaret and Rebecca Little, Bunbury) with others from SA (Steven Carr, Ceduna) and NSW (Kevin & Debbie Tucker and their girls, Dareton) for a time of encouragement, reflection, networking and sharing about their ministries. It was pleasing to have some of the emerging Indigenous leaders affiliated with Churches of Christ in QLD present as well. The teaching, opportunities to share,

pray and support one another were invaluable for Indigenous ministries from right around the country, particularly as they can participate in a space designed for safe cross-cultural learning and connections. There was an overwhelming spirit of graceful invitation to the wider church from Indigenous Christians to continue to listen and learn and to walk with them as they seek the coming of the Kingdom for all in this land.

Nick Wight,
IMA Coordinator East

Meet Prince Zulu

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the sponsorship of my theological education possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honour, and I am deeply appreciative of your support. I am doing a three-year course in theology at the Theological College of Zimbabwe. This is my final year and I am grateful for being equipped for transformation. At this college, students are grounded in the biblical, doctrinal and historical content of the Christian faith. I am able to live out a relevant faith and I am committed to the growth of the kingdom in both church and society. With this training, I can help all our people discover their design so that they are equipped to serve Christ effectively in some ministry within or outside our church.

The Theological College of Zimbabwe helps students become life-long learners. After graduation, I want to enrol for the 18-month postgraduate diploma in education. This is a part-time program run under the auspices of Solusi University. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their



Prince Zulu working in children's ministry

goals, just as you have helped me. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you that I will work hard and eventually give something back to others, as both teacher/pastor and possibly a scholarship to future students like myself.

Prince Zulu,
Zimbabwe

If you would like to support pastors and evangelists around the world, make sure you donate to the GMP Easter campaign during April. You will find more information on page 2.



Christian Mercy International Director, Paulino Malou, shakes hands with the Acting Director General of Education, Mawien Gokting Mawien, confirming the ministry's commitment to support Emmanuel school teachers' salaries

Changing the World Without Leaving Home: Human Rights

Affirming human rights is a useful way to engage in changing the world. The concept of human rights is that every person has rights because they are a person. No additional qualifications (money, race, status, ability, or age) are needed. Human rights are concepts that Christians can affirm and use. This article aims to outline the basics of human rights from a Christian point of view.

Key Human Rights Documents

There are numerous documents outlining human rights. The most significant is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This was adopted by the United Nations in 1948 after the close of World War II, in the hope of preventing further atrocities against people. This document speaks about rights as the entitlement of all people, and focuses on rights with respect to governments. For example, Article 17 says, "You have the right to own property and it cannot randomly be taken away from you." The declaration is also aware that having rights means having responsibilities. Article 29 says, "We all have a responsibility to the people around us and should protect their rights and freedoms." The final article, Article 30, reinforces the principle of the first, which is that rights are intrinsic to all people, "There is nothing in this declaration that justifies any person or country

taking away the rights to which we are all entitled."

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted in 1989 and is the key document on the rights of children. Like the UDHR, it focuses on non-discrimination including not discriminating against children based on the status of their parents. Children have a right to a nationality, a name and a family. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979. It defines what constitutes discrimination against women, and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

Human Rights and the Bible

The idea of human rights has been criticised because it is essentially self-referential. Humans are asserting that they have rights. From a Christian point of view, humans do have rights and value, and God affirms this. People are made in the image of God (Gen 1:27). So, while the statements in the declarations are what people have affirmed for themselves, they are in fact largely based on biblical principles. Some people call this general revelation – people picking up the way God has put the world together without realising it was God who did it. Similarly, the Bible affirms the equal value of women and men (Gen 1:27)

and the value of children (Ps 127:3; Mk 10:13-15), and the CEDAW and CRC also express these key values. Human rights provide a great deal of shared values – common ground – which Christians and non-yet Christians can work on together.

Right-based Programming

Many development practitioners today are working toward a "rights-based approach" to their programs. This means focusing on defending the rights of the groups they are working with and assisting the group who is responsible for protecting these rights to uphold their responsibility. The latter are called "duty bearers" and, most often, this is the government. COCOA is moving in the direction of rights-based programming. In South Sudan, for example, we have been paying teachers to provide education for children orphaned by the North-South war. Recently we helped to build some school buildings. This enables the school to qualify for government support. We have challenged the Ministry of Education to take up their responsibility for paying the teachers. We have also agreed to assist them by supporting training for teachers to get their qualifications up to standard.

Colin Scott,
COCOA Director



Farmers from Mayen Tiit first site for CMI ploughs project

Mayen Tiit Ox Ploughs Project

Farmers in Aweil East, South Sudan, still cultivate the ground by hand – an exhausting and time consuming task using a stick. They have seen other areas adopt ox or donkey drawn ploughs which drastically cut their ploughing time, expand their farm size and increase their yields. When a farmer uses oxen or a donkey the task goes from taking one month to a mere two or three hours, and increases the yield ten-fold.

Since 2014, Churches of Christ in South Sudan has implemented a program providing ox-drawn ploughs. Our local partner, Christian

Mercy International (CMI), works with farmers, providing them with oxen, ploughs and training. They have 10 farms each supporting 15 families. There are two people living in the community who have been trained in the use of ploughs by another organisation. These people then train others in the dry season, so that the farmers are ready to plant seeds before the rains arrive. The ox plough project increases the production of food in areas where leaders have identified the poorer families. The farmers, who were given machines and oxen, are engaging the community to

have empowerment, hope and self-resilience for sustainability. Paulino from CMI says, “It has strengthened community participation and teamwork and given us a new spirit to let us accomplish our goals as we focus on better harvesting towards the end of this year.” In return for the ploughs and oxen provided by CMI and supported by GMP, the farmers will invest part of the money from their increased harvests into their community development projects.

Colin Scott,
COCOA Director

GMP South Sudan Famine Appeal

In February 2017 famine was declared in Unity State and Northern Bahr el Ghazal State (where COCOA’s Emmanuel, Ploughs, and Health Professional Support Projects are located). This comes at a time when South Sudan is already in crisis. Three million people have been forced to flee their homes, and 7.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection because of conflict, inter-community violence, economic decline, disease and climate shock. The fighting has simply meant that

farmers have been unable to plant and grow food for their communities.

In response to the South Sudan famine crisis, Global Mission Partners is partnering with the ACT Alliance South Sudan forum members and the South Sudan Council of Churches. These organisations have staff and resources on the ground and can act quickly and provide food relief, nutrition, emergency health, seeds, tools and care. Around 250,000 severely affected people across

South Sudan will benefit. Details of the response are on the ACT Alliance website <http://actalliance.org/alerts/famine-crisis-response-in-south-sudan>

Your tax-deductible gift to Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) will bring humanitarian assistance to those in greatest need. Please give now to provide urgent emergency relief for those facing famine in South Sudan. You can free call us 1800 467 222 or visit our website www.gmp.org.au



embody at Surrender

Natalie Oakes, embody National Coordinator, and Kirsten Gray, embody Relationships Manager QLD, at SURRENDER:17

The whole embody team was able to get together in Melbourne to attend Surrender Conference, March 24-26. Surrender is a melting pot of cultures, opinions and creeds, and it is a great place to join others for engaging conversations.

This year the conference theme was “embodying the way” and there were so many encouraging and challenging examples of how, as Christians, we can be embodying the way of Christ in our communities, both locally and globally.

As an embody team we were able to gather with other like minded youth and young adult groups, to engage in conversations about how we are

helping young people to be involved in local and global mission. It was encouraging to hear other’s stories and learn from our experiences. It was also exciting, just to be able to hang out and laugh together.

The best part about the weekend was the opportunity to launch Prayer Matters 2017! This year we have teamed up with our friends from Dhiyaan, a faith community based in Brisbane, to guide us in our prayer for the week. The theme this year is WARRUWI which is Gamilaraay language for pathway. During one week of Prayer Matters in April, embody seeks to help you pray in a way that may open pathways for you to connect with

this country and its custodians, communities and most importantly, the Creator and to pray with and for issues facing Indigenous Australians. So head to www.embody.org.au/prayermatters2017 and sign up to join with us in prayer from May 1-5.

On a final note, we want to extend a huge thank you to Billy Williams from Dhiyaan who has written the content for Prayer Matters 2017. He has shared his heart and his experiences, to give us an engaging prayer journey.

Mitch Varcoe,
embody National Campaigns and Resourcing Manager

WARRUWI: Prayer Matters, May 1-5

The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life...”
Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

What does it mean to pray together as Australians? As first and following peoples, how can we pray together for God’s mission in our country?

This year we want to learn about prayer from our Indigenous brothers and sisters. That’s why we teamed up with our friends from Dhiyaan, a faith community based in Brisbane, and asked them to guide us in

prayer for one week. WARRUWI is a Gamilaraay word for “pathway.” This week of prayer seeks to help you pray in a way that may open pathways for you to connect with this country and its custodians, communities and, most importantly, the Creator.

Join us May 1-5 as we learn and pray together for issues facing Indigenous Australians.

Sign up at www.embody.org.au/prayermatters2017



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