



MEET THE LOCALS

IMPACT REPORT 2018/19

Australian Churches of Christ
Global Mission Partners

WHAT A YEAR! YOUR IMPACT IS WORTH CELEBRATING

Every year, your impact is worth celebrating! Your generosity changes the lives of many, and makes a difference to people in need. Read on for a small selection of important highlights you've helped achieve.

MISSION is our participation
in God's plan for restitution,
reconciliation and redemption,
locally, nationally and globally.



YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR



This year you've helped make possible:

International Church Partnerships in **10** Countries

International Development Partnerships in **8** Countries

8 Indigenous ministry projects in Australia

262 people involved in embody campaigns

MEET YÊN* SHELTER AND A SIMPLE TOILET HAVE GIVEN HER HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

When dengue fever took the life of her son, it seemed that things could not possibly become more difficult for Yên, living in Binh Phuoc. But a horrific accident changed everything, leaving her with a significant head injury and without a safe place to call home.

After the accident, Yên was hospitalised for some time before being allowed to return to the home she had been living in with her mother and brother.

While she received advice from a traditional medicine specialist to assist with her rehabilitation, Yên also required ongoing medical attention, including an operation to her injured hand, costing VND 6,000,000 (\$A360) – a huge amount of money for a person in her situation.

When she returned to live at her mother's house, it soon became apparent that it would not be a safe place to recover. Her brother, who was convinced that she should move out, became repeatedly violent towards her and left her no choice but to leave the family home, with nowhere to go.

Without help, Yên would have had no choice but to continue living with her mother in a violent environment. While some people with disabilities in rural Vietnam can get some government assistance, there is no guarantee of help or when it may arrive.

Because of generous donations from people like you, the Binh Phuoc Association for the Disabled, the Poor and Orphaned (BPADPO) is able to help people such as Yên. When Mr Mon, a BPADPO District Representative, heard about Yên's situation, he found out that her sister owned a vacant house in the village.

With the help of generous supporters, and through BPADPO's Community Support in Health and Self Care project, Mr Mon gained permission from Yên's sister to repair the floor and install a new roof, as well as adding an inside toilet and a wall to create some rooms.

A toilet and secure shelter may seem simple, but they improve dignity, health, sanitation and societal inclusion for people like Yên. Without access to a toilet, people have no choice but to defecate in the open. This makes the environment unclean, with faeces contaminating water and food. Without proper hygiene, diarrhoeal disease can spread quickly.

It also puts people at risk of being attacked. Defecating in the open means a lack of privacy and safety, particularly for those who already face social exclusion or



"I am very happy. When I got this house, I cried for three days and three nights. My son is also very happy."

violence. For people living with disabilities, particularly those that affect mobility, defecating outside can be difficult and unsafe. As a people group already facing social exclusion, this puts them at particular risk. Women and girls face a high risk of being attacked in these situations.

So for Yên, to have an indoor toilet means so much. She has independence, as well as a toilet she can use with dignity and without fear of being attacked. She has a clean environment to live in, so that she can eat and wash without the risk of disease.

BPADPO covered the costs to complete Yên's new house, while her family contributed labour. Yên moved in just before Tet (Vietnamese New Year), giving her a sense of independence and, importantly, a safe place to live with her children.

Now, as she sits inside her home in Binh Phuoc, Yên's hair is pulled to one side and evidence of her head injury remains – but things have changed significantly in her life.

"I am very happy. When I got this house, I cried for three days and three nights. My son is also very happy," she said.

Thanks to your support, BPADPO can continue to provide practical help to people like Yên, giving them a new outlook on life and hope for a better future.

* The name of this woman has been changed to protect her identity.

MEET THE LOCALS

ADDRESS FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND BOARD CHAIR

The opportunities that GMP have are limitless. An important facet of our work is being clear about what we will and won't do, given all the opportunities before us.

GMP operates in a complex and fluid local, political, national and international environment, with aspects of these that are at times beyond our control. This leads the Board and Staff to reflect on the impact of change on the future.

Some good questions to ponder then, are: What is the place of the church in Australia? Why is it that, in a fundamentally wealthy country, we are accepting a record low in our nation's investment in foreign aid? How can we respond with compassion and grace to the cry for justice we hear from our Indigenous peoples? On what basis can we continue? And many more.

Changes in governmental expectations of Christian and charitable organisations are resulting in new and higher levels of regulation and control. Our points of accountability seem to multiply, which adds to the cost burden and difficulty in our work.

All these questions and challenges would be easy to accommodate if we lived individualistically and were not linked or partnered to others. Our reality is that we are connected Christian people in one body. Even more deeply connected through the creative action of God to the whole of humanity. If our vision is connected to God as creator, we can echo and be inspired by the words of Paul in Romans as he reflects on creation and our part in it.

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God – Romans 8:19-21 (NRSV).

Creation set free, the freedom of the glory of the children of God; and for this creation waits. Here we have a vision we can share. A vision of a renewed earth and renewed people who are free to live in justice and joy. In this we also have our mandate as Global Mission Partners as we seek to see transformed lives.

One of the distinctive aspects of this is the relationship we have with our partners. They are not shaped by a legally binding agreement, or a spirit of control, because fundamentally they come out of knowing each other. We know who they are, we know the communities that are being invested in, we know the opportunities and challenges they have, and we share a vision of their future with them.

We know the locals, and they know us.

It is our sense of who they are and how we can partner together into the future that gives us energy. Yes, the environment is tough. Much of this is outside of our immediate control. What we can do is listen, encourage, guide, and affirm each other as we tackle the opportunities we have.

There are encouraging signs, and in this report, you will read many stories about our partners. The re-establishment of the Hedland Aboriginal Fellowship, news of baptisms, church planting in Papua New Guinea, peace building initiatives in South Sudan, continuing water projects in Zimbabwe, church development in Fiji, centenary celebrations in Bangladesh, and many others. When we focus on these and the many other stories our hearts are filled with hope and we have greater resolve to continue in partnership.

All you read about in this report has been created by our partners in collaboration with our teams. We can say with integrity we are partners and what we do together comes out of these partnerships.

We, as GMP, deeply appreciate your involvement in partnership in the Gospel and the tasks that are before us on your behalf. Partners, churches in Australia and overseas, supporters, volunteers, staff and Board – we need you all, and as we do our part, the telling of the Good News of Jesus in word and deed has an impact.

Barrie Yesberg *John Gilmore*

Barrie Yesberg
Board Chair

John Gilmore
Executive Officer



John Gilmore, and Samuel Vusi at the opening of the Boarding Master's House, Londua Bombua School, Vanuatu

OUR PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD



- International Church Partnerships (ICP) Projects
- Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) Projects
- Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) Projects
- embody Communities



Australia
Projects: IMA, embody
Areas of work: Indigenous Ministry and embody campaigns



India
Projects: ICP, COCOA
Areas of work: Church partnership and welfare programs (ICP); livelihoods (COCOA)



South Sudan
Projects: ICP, COCOA
Areas of work: Church and leadership development (ICP); education, livelihood development (COCOA)



Vietnam
Projects: ICP, COCOA
Areas of work: Church and leadership development (ICP); livelihood development, water and sanitation (COCOA)



Bangladesh
Projects: ICP, COCOA
Areas of work: Church and leadership development (ICP); education (COCOA)



Indonesia
Projects: ICP
Areas of work: Church and leadership development (ICP)




Thailand
Projects: ICP, COCOA
Areas of work: Church leadership and development (ICP); livelihood development (COCOA)



Zimbabwe
Projects: ICP, COCOA
Areas of work: Church and leadership development, supporting evangelists (ICP); vulnerable children, water and sanitation (COCOA)



Fiji
Projects: ICP
Areas of work: Church and leadership development (ICP)



Papua New Guinea
Projects: ICP, COCOA
Areas of work: Church and leadership development (ICP); education, access to healthcare (COCOA)



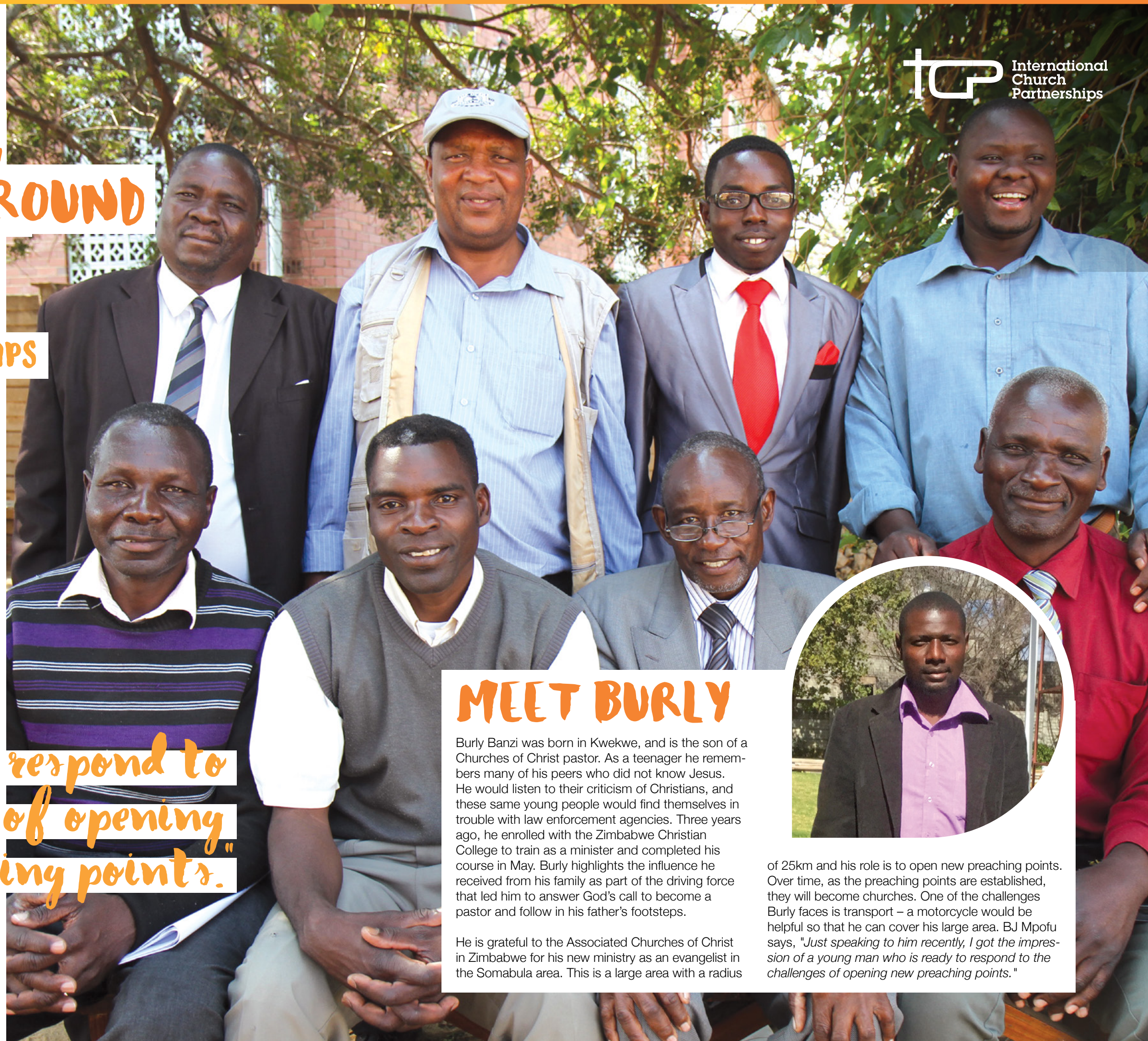
Vanuatu
Projects: ICP, COCOA
Areas of work: Church and leadership development (ICP); community development, (COCOA)

CONNECTING CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

International Church Partnerships (ICP) focused on impacting the global church by supporting our international church partners in their mission commitment. We do this by connecting Australian people and churches to those across the nations so that we can support, encourage and resource the work of the gospel in Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Thailand, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

"He is ready to respond to the challenges of opening new preaching points."



MEET BURLY

Burly Banzi was born in Kwekwe, and is the son of a Churches of Christ pastor. As a teenager he remembers many of his peers who did not know Jesus. He would listen to their criticism of Christians, and these same young people would find themselves in trouble with law enforcement agencies. Three years ago, he enrolled with the Zimbabwe Christian College to train as a minister and completed his course in May. Burly highlights the influence he received from his family as part of the driving force that led him to answer God's call to become a pastor and follow in his father's footsteps.

He is grateful to the Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe for his new ministry as an evangelist in the Somabula area. This is a large area with a radius



of 25km and his role is to open new preaching points. Over time, as the preaching points are established, they will become churches. One of the challenges Burly faces is transport – a motorcycle would be helpful so that he can cover his large area. BJ Mpofu says, "Just speaking to him recently, I got the impression of a young man who is ready to respond to the challenges of opening new preaching points."



HELPING LOCALS FLOURISH

One of the unifying features about GMP across all of our ministries, in settings as diverse as Zimbabwe to Thailand to Papua New Guinea, is the partnership we share with the locals.

In our International Church Partnerships, it is not just that the partnership with the locals is important – it is that the flourishing of the locals is paramount to the work of ICP.

We acknowledge this fact in many ways. We take seriously the agency and expertise of the locals. It is our partners and friends on the ground who know their context better than us, who know their culture and their needs better than we do, and who live the joys and the difficulties of their context daily. We have the privilege of visiting, as do our supportive Australian churches, and gaining a glimpse of those contexts – but this does not make us experts.

This means that we listen to our partners when they talk about church planting, evangelism and leadership development. We, of course, have our views and opinions, but we recognise that these are influenced by our context. When our partners in Fiji, for instance, tell us that a church building is important in their setting (where there are numerous churches with buildings), we don't point out that they should take a house church approach as many people do in Indonesia, Vietnam and Bangladesh. We don't see the programs we fund as being the same across different, local contexts.

We make it a key principle to know the locals, to listen when they speak, and to give them space to advise us. We hold firmly to the aims we want to achieve in ICP: evangelism, church leadership development and growing healthy and sustainable churches. We also hold firmly to the fact that the locals know how to best achieve these goals in their settings.

Evangelism looks different in Zimbabwe, where there is a freedom for evangelists to start churches at places like Rupemba, or in Fiji, where the church at Lomowai can meet in an open field without fear. In Vietnam and Bangladesh, and parts of Indonesia, evangelism is not so public – and takes place in a context of visitation, the provision of services and in other discreet ways that take into account an environment that is not always welcoming of Christians in a public arena.

There are different needs based on factors such as geography, economics and culture. Supplying evangelists in Zimbabwe with motorbikes is a practical solution, but not so practical in Papua New Guinea, where travel is often best done on the rivers. Despite being neighbours, India and Bangladesh have different needs and requirements in order to grow their churches; as do Vanuatu and Fiji. We know – through listening and visiting with our partners – that Indonesia cannot be seen as monocultural, but has significant diversity within its regions.

Our programs reflect the fact that we have met the locals, and that we see them, hear them, and respect them enough to be guided by them in each of their unique environments.

Your support helps enable the locals to flourish.

Craig Brown
ICP Director

YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

MEET BABY MINISTER TO WOMEN AND GIRLS

Baby Thanempar (BTh.) is the Secretary of the Bandarban Hills Churches of Christ Women's Auxiliary in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. This is a suitably long title for an expansive ministry. Baby works faithfully to minister to the women and girls under her care. Her ministry takes place in what can be considered challenging circumstances, where there is prejudice against her sex, faith and ethnicity. Despite the difficulties, she perseveres. Along with Baby, there is a committee of eight other women ministering to women and girls.



...advocating for human rights to teaching Sunday School, counselling, and leading Bible studies."

The women's ministry in Bangladesh is growing, and Baby's days can range from advocating for human rights to teaching Sunday School, counselling, and leading Bible studies. Her ministry also includes sitting with women who have been victims of domestic violence, which is a crucial aspect of her work in a male-dominated setting where there is little recourse to help. On top of that, Baby also helps with the hand-crafts that are made by the women of the Bandarban

Hills Churches of Christ that support the outreach ministry to the Mru people.

It is locals like Baby that are making a huge difference in their communities. We are so pleased to have the privilege of partnering with her in this vital ministry.

This year you helped ICP projects achieve:

Church Partnerships in
10
Countries

120
trained
pastors
under Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ

In South Sudan supporting

10
churches

150
baptisms

1340
& church —
members

Provided or maintained
30
motorcycles
for evangelists
in Zimbabwe

209
baptisms
through Asia Pacific
Christian Mission
International School
(Indonesia)

Supported
16
churches
across Bangladesh

LIFE-CHANGING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS AID

Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) is the relief and development program of Global Mission Partners. Gifts to COCOA are tax deductible under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme. COCOA projects are developed with, and implemented by, our partners around the world. Our vision is to see our partners resourced and equipped to pursue their own aspirations and be agents of change in their own communities.

*"I will not starve again
as we now have water on
our doorstep."*



Supported by the Australian Government.



MEET MARISA

Marisa has grown up with a hazardous 7km walk to the Ngezi River to fetch water as a part of her everyday life. But now she is older, her age has made the walk a struggle. When she makes the long journey, she can feel pain in her chest. She can only manage to carry 5L of water back with her. She can't manage the trip any longer.

She has no choice but to send her children down to the river. While they are gone, Marisa is anxious. She is afraid that they may not come back alive. This journey to the river must be made every day.

Last year, Marisa became sick. She was rushed to the hospital, and was told she had cholera from drinking river water. The doctors told her that she should not drink the water without boiling it first. Her worries grew – scared that her children would be thirsty enough that they would not wait. Scared that they would get sick, and not be as lucky as she was to recover.



But now, Marisa's fears are being eased. Just 500m from her home, a borehole has been drilled. There will be safe, clean drinking water for her community. She smiles brightly as she says, "We are very happy and thankful that we have clean drinking water which will also be enjoyed by our grandchildren."

"Even if I send my grandkids with the cart as they used to, I can get more water easily," she says. "And even start a small vegetable garden. I will not starve again as we now have water on our doorstep."



AGENTS OF CHANGE

Our vision at COCOA is to see our partners resourced and equipped to pursue their own aspirations and be agents of change in their own communities. It is no surprise, then, that our new strategic plan focuses on the development of our partners.

It is really important for us to know the locals. We need to hear the needs and aspirations of people caring for kids that have lost their parents in South Sudan. We need to listen to communities marginalised by their ethnicity in the remote hills of Thailand. These needs and aspirations are the starting point for all of our projects.

We also ask our partners for feedback on how we are going with this. This is an important part of developing respectful relationships, and allowing partners to initiate projects that they need. We are incredibly proud that words like “patient”, “helpful” and “open to discussion” made up a significant portion of our partners’ feedback!

Locals know the culture and have a passion for their community, which only locals can have. Our constant aim is to keep listening to them and to bring the best of international practice to their ideas. This means connecting our projects with Sustainable Development Goals, and working towards these targets together with our partners. It means pursuing full accreditation with the Australian Government to maximize our impact.

This year, supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program, Showers of Blessing in Zimbabwe is drilling wells in drought-prone parts of Zimbabwe, and training and empowering these communities to get the most out of their water through workshops and small grants. Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu (CCCV) is training communities about the needs of people on the

margins and supporting locally designed projects in response to these needs. Bright Solutions in Vietnam is setting up local structures to carry this ministry into the future, enabling marginalised women to gain independence and hope. Our current base accreditation has enabled us to operate and expand these projects.

Our partners in Fiji and Vanuatu are very conscious of the impact of climate change on their nations. The volcano on Ambae in Vanuatu is yet to settle completely, and both nations have experienced cyclones in recent years. Even Zimbabwe has been affected by a cyclone this year. In response we are engaging with the Church Agency Network – Disaster Operations to work with other church agencies to strengthen disaster resilience in these places.

Working through local Churches of Christ partners means that our efforts to make change in the lives of disadvantaged people are never disconnected from the need for complete transformation through relationship with Christ. Churches and conferences have parallel and separate programs of reaching out to people, some of which are supported by GMP’s ICP program.

It’s thanks to supporters like you that we are able to help our partners make such a difference. Without you we could not be empowering people to create and run these life-changing projects. You are agents of change in the world.

Colin Scott
COCOA Director

YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

MEET FARZANA VOCATIONAL EDUCATION GAVE HER NEW OPPORTUNITIES...

Farzana’s dad died when she was a baby, so her mum has always worked. Her two brothers, a rickshaw driver and a welder, are now both bringing in some money for the family. Farzana did well at school, but there wasn’t enough money for Farzana to continue beyond the 10th Standard. Consequently, she had been “just” helping at home for six years before Hosanna Ministries brought their vocational education program to the Ambernath Slum in Mumbai. Farzana jumped at the chance to be involved. She particularly enjoyed all of the different patterns that the tailoring course introduced her to. The biggest change for her is that she is now contributing to the family, and her family and neighbours have recognised her increase in status. Her first blouse sold for 60 rupees and she is now bringing in about 500 rupees each month. She loves stitching wedding clothes and hopes to make sewing her career.



“She loves stitching wedding clothes and hopes to make sewing her career.”

This year you helped COCOA projects give:

3500 people
access to
Safe Water

125 people
access to
a new toilet
and sanitation training

478 people
basic
medical care
and health education

626 children
access to
education

479 people
better ability
to earn their
own income

735 people
to help shape
new projects and
express their needs

170 households
livestock to
improve their livelihoods

2 vulnerable children
connection to safe
& supportive families

EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

GMP seeks to partner with, and among, Australian Indigenous people, focusing on Indigenous ministry and development. Our Indigenous ministries have been developed and planned by a council of Indigenous people to allow for in-depth direction setting from key Indigenous leaders and communities around the country.



"...a lifelong compassion expressed through managing the centre in Dareton."

MEET ILKER

Ilker is a long-term local of Dareton in outback NSW but his story stretches back to his home country of Turkey where, as a child, he fled to Europe as a refugee. Growing up in Germany he experienced disconnection from his culture and family that led him to a life on the streets. It was in this time of desperation that Ilker experienced the love and acceptance of a youth drop-in centre that he credits as instilling a lifelong compassion in him for young people which he now expresses through managing the centre in Dareton.



In his own words Ilker says, "I'm aware that I keep going on about how important our youth centre has become. Well I'm never going to stop saying it! The respect and appreciation that I receive from the youth, provides the drive for me to continue in this wonderful and important cause."



Western Australia Ministry Retreat

ON SOLID ROCK

“Standing on solid rock, standing on sacred ground” are the central lyrics to rock group Goanna’s 1980s anthem about Aboriginal land rights, and they also reflect the place that IMA now stands on after another year. Over the last 12 months we’ve been seeing the fruit of our first four years of operations in the building of a solid rock of trusting relationships and mutual respect.

Although Indigenous Australians continue to face many hardships including a lack of cultural understandings from the broader community, structural and institutional racism and intergenerational trauma, there are many incredible stories of resilience, healing and community development amongst our IMA partners.

There’s a great importance to this building of relationships. Greater impact can be made when there is deep respect and understanding of one another.

In March 2019, IMA supported nine people to attend the Melbourne Surrender conference, held on Wurundjeri land, near what is now Belgrave. Through the Welcome to Country ceremony, Surrender showed its deep respect and honour of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. We were all called to reflect on the sacredness of place and God’s desire for healing between all peoples.

Margaret Moses Martin, from the Port Hedland church, was moved by the welcome that she received on Wurundjeri land from Auntie Joy Murphy. *“Tears have been just rolling from my eyes all afternoon. I respect you for coming and it means much to me.”*

This ‘relational platform’ that IMA has now established has positioned us well to plan and implement a range of new programs and initiatives. These include IMA playing a key role in the inaugural Surrender WA gathering, the development of the IMA Pathways – ministry

training support program, new community led projects in a number of our partner ministries, and the planning and development of an annual Indigenous ministry briefing seminar.

We are developing pathways for partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous churches and communities, including the launch of our Church Resource Kits, and we’re incredibly thankful to have seen a real growth of interest and activity in this area.

We continue to work alongside Indigenous Christian communities in Bunbury, Perth, Norseman and Port Hedland in Western Australia, Dareton and Mt Druitt in New South Wales, Footscray in Victoria and also Ceduna in South Australia. In each setting, and with each partner project, we continue to affirm locally led and owned community visions for ministry and development. Both research and our own experiences tell us that this is the only way to see partnerships of true equality and mutual blessing flourish.

IMA, together with our Indigenous ministry partners, continues to work towards an Australia that honours and respects all traditions and God-given cultures through the restorative work of the Spirit – that helps us walk together in humility, compassion and understanding.

Colin Battersby
Partnership Coordinator, WA

YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

MEET DAWN YAMATJI YINGGARDA WOMAN

Dawn Gilchrist (nee Noble) is a Yamatji Yinggarda woman from the Upper Gascoyne region. Born on Bidgemia Station east of Carnarvon, she became a registered nurse and midwife, and also specialised in the operating theatre, before doing community nursing and health promotions.

This year, Dawn was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to community health. Dawn currently serves as a member of the Indigenous Ministries Australia Council.

“I grew up on a sheep station at a time when Aboriginal people were considered just flora and fauna. I actually got my official birth certificate in 2016, so now I’m an “official” person. But the Lord knew me right from the beginning and He has just nurtured me through my whole life.

“I’m grateful for growing up on the station with my family, learning about my culture and that has really stood me in good stead over the years, especially now that I can talk about our cultural things, because it was a real experience for me.”



“...the Lord knew me right from the beginning and He has just nurtured me through my whole life.”

This year you helped IMA achieve:

 **8** Indigenous ministry projects

 **3** Church Resource kits developed

Partners Across **5** States in Australia 

85 Aboriginal Christians supported to attend Surrender Conference 

Over **50** Youth accessing our programs every week

20 in Dareton 

30 in Moorditj Keila 

CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN MISSION

EMBODY

embody exists to empower, encourage and support a national community of young people who are passionate about mission. We want to see God's Kingdom come, to be the best stewards of the resources we currently have, and to support those who are the most vulnerable and marginalised in our world.



"...the boys raised over \$600 - giving safe water to over 30 people!"

MEET HUDSON AND TOBY

Hudson (7) and Toby (5) heard about Safe Water September, and decided they wanted to help out! They stayed strong through fun events like School Sports Day and the Royal Adelaide Show, and their hard work paid off. Along with their Nana Anne, the boys raised over \$600 - giving safe water to over 30 people! We look forward to hearing about their participation in 2019!





April Holmes, The Leprosy Mission and embody Alumni shares at a Victorian embody Mission Conversation

CREATING NETWORKS

The embody network continues to grow with new ways of partnering together. A community of practice, facilitated by embody staff, is emerging. Partnerships with local churches are emerging to codesign exposure and discovery trips for young people. It's been another great year as embody!

It's been a privilege partnering with local churches and youth groups, seeing them participate and become more passionate about global mission.

In NSW, embody formed a partnership with Fresh Hope Engage, and have worked together to help churches engage in mission locally, nationally and globally. Seeing how local churches and youth groups are eager to participate and become more passionate about wrestling with issues of justice and poverty is encouraging. The next generation has a strong desire to be advocates for change, and embody is committed to building a network that equips them to make a difference.

In Victoria, there has been a particular focus on neighbourhood mission, through a series of Mission Conversations. In November, a group gathered at Boronia Community Church of Christ over dinner. Presenter Catherine Hingley walked us through techniques and spiritual patterns that help us get to know the neighbourhood around us, and tune in to what God is up to and the ways in which we can partner. In May, we gathered at York Street Church of Christ and Discovery Church for conversations about living in partnership with God in our neighbourhoods, facilitated by Brad Coath. We also welcomed our new Victorian

Relationships Coordinator, Mitchell Salmon, who is excited to grow this new network and continue the conversation into 2019 and beyond.

Once again, we were blown away by the results of Safe Water September. After five years, it's clear that there is a passionate network of people who believe in this cause! In 2018, we raised enough to provide over 6,000 people with access to safe water close to home. At State Youth Games 2019, we had 70 signups for the upcoming challenge. It was encouraging to see a lot of the same faces coming back to take part again.

In addition to this, embody was also able to attend Surrender Melbourne in 2019, alongside Interserve; Surrender Adelaide in 2018, and Justice Conference in Melbourne. We thank God for how he keeps growing and strengthening the embody network. We look forward with anticipation to see what God has in store over the next year!

Natalie Oakes
embody National Coordinator

YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

MEET JENNY AND THE TEAM FROM BALAKLAVA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Balaklava Church of Christ has been participating in Safe Water September since 2014. Since taking up the challenge, the team has raised more than \$34,000, which means they've provided over 1,700 people in rural Zimbabwe with safe water. How good is that?!

Over this time, the team has grown from five to 27 people! For team leader Jenny, organising a team of this number was about raising support, sharing encouragement and celebrating milestones.

"I always started promoting Safe Water September at the start of August to get those who wanted to participate to slow down on their hot drinks, and give those who wanted to financially support a reminder that sponsoring people was coming up," Jenny shared.

"I've promoted SWS through our weekly church newsletter, showing the promo video for Safe Water September in the church service, and provided a weekly update throughout August and September in church."

At the end of the challenge, Balaklava Church celebrates with an after-church event, with a variety of hot and cold drinks available for a donation, with all money raised added to the total team tally. It's amazing to see how much happens when people are working together for a cause!



"...the team has raised more than \$34,000, which means they've provided over 1,700 people in rural Zimbabwe with safe water."

This year you helped Safe Water September achieve:

262
people
taking the challenge

39
teams
taking the challenge

Receiving
1903
donations

Raising more than:
\$128,000

Giving more than
6400 people
access to safe water

PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

People and programs are intimately linked in GMP. We don't have programs without people behind them, people sustaining them and people benefiting from them.



It's partnerships like these that bring real change in our world.



Team from Sunnybank Church of Christ in Fiji, with Muneshwar

PARTNER VISITS

Meeting our partners in their local context is a privilege and encouragement for everyone involved. It brings deeper insights, greater understanding, and builds genuine relationships.

This year, a group of young men from Devonport Church of Christ (Tas) led by Dominic Piscioneri, visited Lautoka Church of Christ in Fiji. Over the last nine years, the relationship between these churches has grown, as has the friendship between Dominic and Lautoka's pastor, David Reddy.

In their discussions, the two found the young men in their churches were in need of guidance as they transitioned from childhood to adulthood. Over the course of the trip, the boys from both churches got to know each other, discussing the topics that concerned them – gaming, sexual attraction, and culture. They also spent time playing sport, music, and performing together.

As they spent a lot of time together, many of the boys from Devonport developed a close friendship with Joy, Pastor Reddy's son. "When meeting Joy for the first time he was quiet," said Zac. "Throughout the trip he warmed to us and, in the end, we had such a great relationship that we were able to talk deeply with each other. It was more than a team; it was a family in Christ, sharing His good news."

Joy commented, "I really enjoyed the youth service during the Devonport visit. I made new friends. Sharing with them life experiences, and how God helps in various situations, was very encouraging."

David reflected on the effect of the team's visit. "The Devonport visit to our church brings a time of happiness in being able to connect with people and reflect on each other's experiences," he said. "I've always

been encouraged by the time spent together. Being able to share what it's like to be in ministry in Fiji brings me pleasure. I've gotten to know many people and made some very good friends. Even though we're from different places and walks of life, we share in serving Christ."

Dominic also felt encouraged by the experience. "Witnessing the growth in friendship between the team and Joy, from awkward hellos on day one, to team hugs coupled with masked tears on day ten as they said goodbye, was a very satisfying finish to an amazing journey," Dominic said.

"Sharing over nine years has taken us on a path of growing closer; establishing us as one church together. As we completed our trip in 2019, I realised that we have been one family, established in love, right from the start."

14 went on Partner Visits with teams **GMP in 2019**

PEOPLE IN MISSION

GMP continues to support the sending of people into mission settings, both as volunteers and as those who are supported financially.



BJ and Chipu Mpofu

BJ and Chipu Mpofu resource and encourage Zimbabwean church leaders. BJ is on the Board of the Zimbabwean Christian College and is a key coordinator for GMP partner visits to Zimbabwe.



Brendon Garlett

Brendon is pioneering culturally relevant and relational outreach opportunities among the local Indigenous community as well as working closely with Ilker, Jacqui, Josh and the team at the Dareton Youth and Community Centre, NSW.



Fiona Briers

Fiona leads the Bright Solutions program in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, giving training, employment and dignity to marginalised women. She also encourages local leaders.



Dave Powell and Kate Appleby

Dave and Kate have been school chaplains in the Kimberley, flying out from Derby to Noonkanbah and Millijiddee each week, running emotional and social well-being programs in a number of classes, coaching after-school sports programs, as well as connecting with and counselling individual children. Dave and Kate were married in January 2019 and concluded their roles in this ministry at the end of the 2018 school year.



Gwenyth Beale

Born in Papua New Guinea to pioneer missionaries, Frank and Win Beale, Gwenyth returned to the country of her birth in 2016 as a literacy specialist to equip national teachers of elementary school and adult educators to teach literacy in their own language. Health issues have meant she has only been able to work from home this year. Her goal is to help nationals learn to read and write in their own language, and also train and mentor literacy workers to educate others.



Bruce Edwards

Bruce Edwards, Director of Fiji Community Churches of Christ, has been living and working in Fiji since 2013. He concluded his key role in the development and mentoring of local pastors at the end of 2018. Bruce's work enlarged the capacity of church leaders and helped local churches move towards self-reliance.

ASSOCIATES IN MISSION



Jamie and Claudia Boland

The Boland family moved to South Sudan to serve full-time at the start of 2013. In early 2014 they were forced to relocate to Uganda due to the civil war in South Sudan. Jamie joined the faculty of Africa Renewal University where he serves as Academic Coordinator and lecturer of theology. The Bolands are now training more South Sudanese pastors than in their time in Sudan, along with pastors from Uganda and the surrounding East African nations.



Chris and Jodie MacCartney

Along with daughters, Grace, Ruby and Millie, Chris and Jodie have lived and served in Bangkok alongside people living in poverty since January 2007. The MacCartney's primary ministry focus is to empower and equip local leaders to recognise their place in God's kingdom, and to develop projects with neighbours that help to alleviate poverty in their community. Chris and Jodie co-founded Second Chance Bangkok with neighbours in 2009.



Dr Ash and Anji Barker

After 25 years of urban mission in Melbourne and Bangkok, Ash Barker is now immersed in the multi-racial and multi-religious inner city neighbourhood of Winson Green, Birmingham (UK), as the Founding Director of Newbiggin House. Together with his wife, Anji, they founded the Newbiggin School for Urban Leadership, which aims to mobilise, form and equip Christian leaders.



EMERGENCY & WELFARE PROGRAMS

Emergency Appeals

Indonesia – Sulawesi Emergency Appeal – ACT Alliance

On 28 September 2018, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.4 hit Central Sulawesi. This earthquake triggered a tsunami that hit the Sulawesi coast. Two provinces were directly affected by the earthquake and tsunami: Central Sulawesi Province (Donggala, Palu City, Sigi and Parigi Moutong) and West Sulawesi Province (North Mamuju District). GMP is working through the ACT Alliance's Indonesia Forum to support their work in providing assistance to the affected people.

Vanuatu – Ambae Volcano

GMP continued to provide assistance to Ambae communities affected by the ongoing volcanic activity. This assistance included vouchers that provided funds to communities on Ambae to access food and basic household supplies, fresh food and seedlings. Due to the ongoing volcanic activity, Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu (CCCV) have implemented a project to continue supporting Ambae communities that GMP is funding. See Ambae Disaster Preparedness – Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu (CCCV) (Page 29) for further information.

Zimbabwe – Tropical Cyclone Idai

The flooding caused by the powerful Tropical Cyclone Idai weather system that struck on 15 March 2019 continues to cause destruction in Zimbabwe. Crops and livestock have been destroyed in areas already facing rising food insecurity. Overall, more than 16,000 households are estimated to be affected. GMP is working through the ACT Alliance's Zimbabwe Forum to support their work in providing assistance to the affected people.

Welfare Programs

GMP offers care and support to people in practical ways that do not fit the criteria for a development project. This is a part of our non-tax deductible work. Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we are able to provide health care for people who cannot afford it, and care for children so that they can access education.

Baramati and Shrigonda Children's Homes

The children's homes in Baramati and Shrigonda, India, provide quality care for children and ensure that they have access to schooling. At Shrigonda, the girls attend the school linked to the home, and the boys at Baramati attend the local Churches of Christ schools. They are subject to and meet the requirements of the state of Maharashtra. Most of the children return home in the school holidays.

Gnyan Sampada School

The Gnyan Sampada School in Yavatmal, India, enables low-income families to access quality education. It's a Christian school that welcomes students from all religious communities. They also support children living in remote communities having access to local schools through subsidies for fees and uniforms. The residential program has closed, and a new focus on providing adult training and education is being explored.

Ashwood Memorial Hospital

The Ashwood Memorial Hospital continues to provide medical care to people regardless of their ability to pay. GMP visited Ashwood during the year and affirmed the changes in the governance systems of the hospital and the related programs. The Ashwood Hospital Board is now governed by a competency-based Board and is beginning to plan a renovation of the hospital buildings.

YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

MEET PAUL PASTOR FROM AMBAE, VANUATU

Paul is the pastor of the Amata Church, and a leader in his community. He and his family, and some others from his community moved to Santo after their village was devastated by the eruption of Manaro Voui volcano.

Water was one of their most urgent needs. Without ways to collect water, people like Paul relied on whatever water they could find. They had no choice but to travel to collect water wherever it was available – regardless of the quality of water.

"Back on the island, we had water from the rain," Paul said. "We built an underground well to store the water. Before the volcano erupted, we had good water in the wells. Clean. But when the volcano erupted, ash fell and our water became dirty. We moved over to Santo – but we had no water on the land that we bought."

Access to safe water is vital for any community. For Paul, it means his granddaughter is protected from waterborne diseases like diarrhoea. It means his community can wash their food, making it safe to eat. It means they can wash, bathe, cook and grow their food safely.

Amata were lucky that an old borehole was a few hundred meters from their new community. But the bore is difficult to operate, and water is heavy to carry.

"Every day, we had to go and get the water. 100–200 metres to get water from the underground bore," Paul said. "It is hard work for us to get the water. Every day we have to go and get it to use for cooking and washing. Hand pumped, every day."

Because of supporters like you, GMP was able to provide the community on Santo with a water tank on



"We thank you so much for the tank; it has helped us so much."

their land, enabling them to gather their own water. You also helped provide a roof extension, giving proper gutters and piping, so the community could effectively harvest rain water in the tank.

"The co-ordinator of the relief came and asked us, 'What do you need?' and we said, 'We need water'. We thank you so much for the tank; it has helped us so much. It's easier to get water."



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

*We couldn't do it
without you.*

Above & Back Cover: Emmanuel
School Students, South Sudan



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