

IN PARTNERSHIP

June 2022



A Sustainable Future with The Goat Project



Tiaraliet receives Goats!

Emmanuel Student and his Caretaker with Goats, South Sudan

For many years, partners like you have supported the Emmanuel School in South Sudan, an initiative of Christian Mercy International (CMI). The education program has supported children affected by the civil conflict, providing access to precious education. You might remember helping provide classrooms, funding for daily meals and, more recently, goats to help children's caretakers earn additional income for school expenses.

Your continued support not only helped make these changes possible but has extended its impact even further.

GMP has been working with CMI and Emmanuel School since 2010. Over that time, CMI has secured government support for teachers' wages and World Food Programme support for the daily meal. The introduction of goats means that carers can support their children's education through school fees and uniforms into the future. This is important news, as it makes the program sustainable for the long term. This would not have been

possible without your help, and the help of people like you over the years.

This also means more positive change can be made!

With a more sustainable future for Emmanuel School, CMI can now focus on extending the Children's Education Program to benefit other small, not-for-profit schools. New students will benefit from your assistance at schools like Tiaraliet School.

Tiaraliet has just received goats for the first time! Three goats were given to each of the children's caretakers in March. The goats were given to the caretakers of Grade One children and specifically to students with a disability, students without parents or those with greater needs for support. These children are some of the most vulnerable in their community.

Introducing the Goat Project to Tiaraliet School means the students' caretakers will now have extra income to pay for their child's

education needs today and into the future.

CMI Director Paulino Malou told us, "The community were so happy. They said that GMP and COCOA have done great and blessed work toward supporting the community of Aweil and the ten community and church-based schools."

Your support of our partners in South Sudan and your gift to the COCOA Mid-Year Appeal is vital in making changes like these.

COCOA Mid-Year Appeal

Your tax deductible gift will enable lasting, positive change in the lives of many people.

Give before June 30 to claim your tax deduction. FreeCall 1800 467 222 or give online today at www.gmp.org.au



News & Events

Mid-Year Appeal

Your partnership enables lasting, positive change in the lives of many people. With your support, our partners in local communities work to find practical and sustainable solutions to help them improve their lives. You can keep making these changes possible. Your tax deductible gift will enable lasting, positive change in the lives of many people. Give before June 30 to claim your tax deduction. FreeCall 1800 467 222 or give online today at www.gmp.org.au

National Reconciliation Week May 27 – June 3.

The National Reconciliation Week 2022 theme, “Be Brave. Make Change.” is a challenge to all Australians – individuals, families, communities, organisations and government – to Be Brave and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can Make Change for the benefit of all Australians.

For more information visit <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au>

State Youth Games

State Youth Games is a weekend sport and art event for high schoolers and young adults. State Youth Games is running in SA, WA and VIC. Look out for which events embody will be attending on their social media (@embodyau).

WA - June 3-6

<http://sygwa.com.au>

VIC – June 10-13

<http://stateyouthgames.com/vic/>

SA – June 10-13

<https://www.stateyouthgames.net>

COVID-19 Ministry Appeal Update

Thanks to your generous support over \$155,000 was raised. Read how your generosity is changing lives through the COVID-19 Support Project in Thailand on page 3.

Walk for Hope

Together we raised over \$30,000, that will help many communities overseas have access to the joy of the gospel. Thank You!



Gracious Generosity

Generosity is often thought of as a financial act.

That’s both important and true. At GMP, we have certainly experienced the generosity of our supporters over the past two years in heart-warming and eye-opening ways. We are so thankful. As important as financial generosity is, however, it does not encompass all of what generosity represents.

There is also the generosity of ideas – where people can share ideas freely, but also receive new ideas and new contexts with an open spirit. The new ways that many of us now combine working remotely and at the office is an example of this generosity towards new ideas, and towards one another.

Then there is the generosity of time – we all adore those people who, when they sense something is going on with us, set aside the time and space to hear us. They refrain from offering advice, risk-management strategies and trying to fix us. They listen. They create space. They are generous.

Then there are our partners, both here and in Australia. I have already mentioned individual supporters and local churches, who have given of their finances, prayers, and encouragement during these difficult days for us all. I think of some of our partners across our global family, and how they generously lavish time

and energy – which are finite for us all – on GMP staff and church teams when we visit. Our partners in places like Zimbabwe, Indonesia, and Bangladesh spring to mind because of how I have experienced their generosity. I was never left to my own devices to find a meal, to have a conversation, to get from point A to point B, or to find opportunities to meet a church or an individual. That generosity costs them. Often, they give up a week of their ministry and work, their enjoyment of family and leisure, to ensure that visitors from Australia experience the reality of their local context.

This generosity stems from the gracious generosity of Jesus. We have just come through Easter, where Jesus’ abundant love on the cross and through the resurrection is remembered. Now, we celebrate Pentecost – where the Spirit of Jesus was given freely to all believers, no matter their age, sex, ethnicity, or experience. That generosity was freely given at great cost. It still flows on – we remember Pentecost as a historic event that has a present impact and reality.

Generosity costs, yes, but its ripples flow on and on. May you both give and receive generously.

Craig Brown,
GMP Deputy Executive Officer
and ICP Director

Update on GMP's Executive Officer

In the last issue of In Partnership, John Gilmore indicated that he will conclude in his role at the end of November. The GMP Board has appointed a Recruitment Working Group and have engaged a consultant to work with the Board in the search for a future Executive Officer.

It is expected that the advertisement will be circulated from July 1 with applications closing on 29 July 2022.

This is an important task and the Board seeks your prayerful support as the recruitment process commences.



SPOTLIGHT

Thailand COVID-19 Support Project

The Social Development and Services Unit (SDSU) of the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) conducted a COVID-19 Support Project from November 2021 through to January 2022. This was with the partnership of GMP through International Church Partnerships (ICP). The GMP COVID-19 Ministry Appeal was established in April 2021 and raised over \$155,000 to assist partners internationally and in Australia. The SDSU was one partner that benefited from the funds raised.

The SDSU coordinated their COVID-19 Support Project in Thailand closely with local church and community volunteers as well as community public health officials. Thanks to your support of the appeal, the SDSU was able to provide essential supplies to 7,287 vulnerable people in severe need.

The SDSU has expansive experience in social work, advocating and campaigning and in community education. Experience which enabled them to provide essential assistance to 1,250 families across several church community districts and to provide it speedily, appropriately, and effectively.

SDSU intentionally linked with the local church community to

distribute survival bags containing items such as rice, vegetable oil, canned fish, salt, seasoning powder, and mama noodles. The SDSU also distributed milk for children, sanitary products, face masks and sanitiser. They distributed the survival bags to around 82 communities located in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Tak, Mae Hong Son, Kanchanaburi, Phetchaburi and Prachuap Khiri Khan.

Survival bags were distributed to people living in poverty in both urban and rural areas, some living with HIV/AIDS. Some live in areas where they are inaccessible to public health services and those who do not have Thai citizenship and have limited access to rights. The SDSU helped those who were directly infected with Covid and facing quarantine and self-isolation, and families or communities locked down for periods of time.

The SDSU is committed to keeping everyone safe from COVID-19 spread, both those who are receiving the help, and those staff and volunteers who are delivering the help. True partnership was demonstrated and activated between GMP, SDSU and the church districts within the CCT. Good networking

took place and public health care was provided.

The recovery process regarding health, economy and social needs can be slow and burdensome to families and community. As the COVID-19 outbreak continued to spread during February and March, some staff and volunteers in the CCT were restricted to working from home and felt unable to work normally. However, the SDSU reports that, as of April, people have felt, “more at peace and at ease with the situation and returning to work in person and feeling more able to serve fully again.”

Thank you!

Thanks to your generous support over \$155,000 was raised for the COVID-19 Ministry Appeal. As well as the assistance through the SDSU your support has enabled the distribution of 350 supply kits in India, and 150 food hampers to people in need in Fiji. It helped give one month’s medical supplies to 35 people affected by leprosy. It also gave food kits to a marginalised community of around 30 transgender people in India. Thank you for your support.

Hery Susanto Appointed as Director of CCTSI

We would like to congratulate Dr. Hery Susanto on his appointment as the new Director for the Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia (CCTSI). A special service was held where Mr Petrus, who served as CCTSI Director for the past ten years, was presented with a plaque of appreciation. The CCTSI flag was also passed to Hery as a symbol of taking over the responsibility. Hery's former role as Academic Dean will now be performed by Mr Theodorus Miradji. The theme for this special service was "Lead and Be Led by the Spirit".

Hery gave a devotion based on the verses taken from Exodus 33:13-15. Hery said, "If you (God) alone, don't guide us, don't ask us to move from here," acknowledging that it is only through God's Spirit that can we truly carry out the task of leadership. Mr Daniel Trihandarkha, the Churches of Christ National leader, also gave an address encouraging the four personnel of the CCTSI leadership to lead together as a team. "The four of us knelt and submitted before God, that we are going to wholeheartedly and faithfully serve," Hery said.



Dr Hery Susanto (left) being presented with the CCTSI Flag

CCTSI is based in Salatiga, Indonesia, and has a vision to train church planters and equip young people to follow Jesus.

Localisation and How it Works at GMP

In 2016, the word "localisation" was buzzing around at the World Humanitarian Summit. At first, we at Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) wondered what it was. As we learned more, we found it looked pretty much like what we have been aiming to achieve for a while.

Simply put, localisation is about shifting power and leadership to local people.

A localised approach empowers and builds the capacity of local NGOs, rather than sending in an international agency. It recognises that local people and organisations are best placed to lead development in their own country and that the right and responsibility for the direction of development lies with local people.

In both our church partnerships and our relief and development program, Global Mission Partners (GMP) focuses on working with local partners in empowerment and development of further capacity. We only send Australians or other outsiders when we can't find the right people locally. People 'on the ground' know the language and the culture and are invested in the community because they are part

of it. This has helped us to focus on our partners' unique situations and aspirations - partners like Christian Mercy International (CMI) in South Sudan.

The new Return the Rains program is led by South Sudanese local, Paulino Malou, the Director of CMI. The program was developed to address local environmental issues that have affected the agricultural sector. With CMI in consultation with the government, NGOs, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the project is well-planned. So far, local people in the Aweil area have planted 5,000 trees based on training from CMI. Planting trees improves rainfall to help create a better future for growing food, people's health, and their ability to earn a sustainable income. Currently, the survival rate for trees after three months is an outstanding 99.5 percent! CMI took the initiative in this program, choosing a project that CMI could implement, and that they were motivated to get involved in.

Developing local partner capacity is a crucial strategy for long-term development. To listen, learn, and improve together. This includes informing partners of the latest requirements and introducing



Paulino Malou

partners to ways of gaining expertise they may lack. Sometimes we need to wrestle with ideas or keep partners accountable and insist they meet the relevant standards. For example, standards in child protection are non-negotiable when working with vulnerable people. Occasionally partners opt-out of the process, but even if a partnership with GMP ends, the capacity that partners have gained will continue to bear fruit in their context.

A localised approach creates a deeper impact for GMP and our partners. It puts locals in their rightful place - in charge of the changes that happen in their community. We have respectful, long-term, and often very personal relationships with our partners. We were encouraged by Paulino. "GMP is different," he said, "They really listen. If you have an idea, they will listen to it."