

IN PARTNERSHIP

OCTOBER 2018



Working together is what empowers our projects to have real impact. It's people like you whose generosity enables the ongoing work of our partners. This month, it is exciting to announce that GMP launches our 2018-19 Great Gift catalogue. Let me tell you how your Great Gifts are making an impact!

For Ranwas Community, in Vanuatu, the gift of pipes has made a real impact. Being isolated, they found accessing safe drinking water a demanding task. Members of the community were collecting water from a local stream. It was time consuming and difficult, and the water quality was unsafe. Elderly members of the community struggled to make the journey. The community set up a water system. However, the pipes eventually wore out and needed to be replaced. Without new pipes their source of clean water in their village was threatened. Thanks to generous people like you, the gift of new pipes ensured they had clean, safe water. The results were immediate – the water pressure increased making the tank overflow! A second concrete tank was installed to hold the new abundance of water. This is the impact that buying a Great Gift can have!

Onkar is a 19-year-old hard-working youth, whose life has been completely transformed by the gift of a computer class. His parents are agricultural labourers, working long days on other people's farms. They earn very low wages, making it difficult for Onkar to continue his education. Onkar had to give up his higher education to work and help support the family. Danny from GMP connected with Onkar, who has now undergone four months of the basic computer course through the Hosanna Vocational Training project 'Saksham'. Onkar has successfully completed the course! He did very well and was given a job to teach computers to the other students. He says he is grateful to Saksham for providing him with this skills training which has not only helped him gain an education, but also a job. This is the impact that buying a Great Gift can have!

Your support is vital in fighting poverty, building local Christian communities, and standing with Australia's first peoples. You can buy a Cow to improve livelihoods in Bangladesh, or New Tyres for a motorbike evangelist in Zimbabwe, or Leadership Textbooks for an Indigenous leader here in Australia. Every gift you donate invests in local solutions that

will change people's lives for the better.

It's your generosity and continued support, that will help give practical gifts and have real impact.

John Gilmore,
Executive Officer

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News & Events



Meet Mitch GMP welcomes Mitch Salmon as the new embody VIC/TAS Relationship Manager. Mitch is looking forward to journeying with leaders of young people to activate the potential of children, youth, young adults and families into mission in the local and global neighbourhood. He is always up for a coffee and a chat about mission, so get in touch at mitch@gmp.org.au



Welcome Eli GMP welcomes Eli Minuz as Graphic Designer. Eli has completed studies in Visual Art and Communication Design and is inspired to work for organisations that are making a positive impact in the world. Welcome Eli!

The Justice Conference, October 26-27

GMP is a partner for The Justice Conference 2018. In the midst of a fractured and crumbling world we could be forgiven for following a narrative of failure and helplessness. But God is writing a different story. Register online at www.thejusticeconference.com.au



Thank you to our volunteers who helped with the Great Gifts mail-out in Adelaide!

Buy a Great Gift

You can make a real impact this year when you purchase a gift from the Great Gifts catalogue 2018-19 and support GMP partners internationally, and here in Australia! www.greatgifts.org.au



New Borehole Fills Siphonhwe with Joy

Siphonhwe (fifth from the left) with friends in her community

The Safe Water September (SWS) challenge has concluded, but the impact remains. So far, \$101,339 has been raised for safe water projects in Zimbabwe. Donations will be used to support communities in rural Zimbabwe to access safe water, bringing joy to people like Siphonhwe.

In Siphonhwe's community, clean water was scarce. Making a humble living as a small-scale farmer, access to water was vital for both her family and the animals that make them a living. As a divorcee with three children, Siphonhwe faced significant challenges. With more than 3.5 million people dying from water and sanitation-related causes worldwide each year, the lack of water output threatened to devastate the community. Knowing how important safe water is, Siphonhwe volunteered as chairperson of the local borehole committee. When she joined, the committee already had one borehole from Showers of Blessings, but the output of water was too low to meet the community's needs. The committee requested that another borehole be drilled and, much to Siphonhwe's joy, the

request was granted. With a small farm and little help, day-to-day life is still difficult for Siphonhwe – but with access to clean water, better health and more time to dedicate to her work, she has high hopes for her community and the generations to come.

Thank you for participating in the SWS challenge, or supporting someone who drank only water for the month! It's not too late to give a financial gift towards SWS. You can give online at: www.safewaterseptember.org.au



GMP Partnership Coordinator, Val Zerna, and friends promoting the SWS Challenge at Elizabeth Church of Christ, SA.

Tribute to Former ACCIM Staff Members

Global Mission Partners pays tribute to former staff members of the Australian Churches of Christ Indigenous Ministries (ACCIM) whose lives were celebrated in the past few weeks – Don Oakes, Laurie Errington, Bill Hetherington and Frank Johnson. We send sympathy

and prayers for comfort to the families of these men and give thanks to God for their commitment to ministry and to the Indigenous people of Australia. The full tribute can be read online in the 'News' section of the GMP website.



A Foundation of Hope in Fiji

SPOTLIGHT

When Pastor Raj Deo met Rukmani at Lomawai in 1999, she was 56 and had suffered chronic back pain since childhood. She was unable to do manual labour – a significant challenge for a widow whose only source of livelihood was the sugar cane farm she took responsibility for after her husband’s death 16 years earlier.

Pastor Raj, who also came from a local cane-farming family, was then pastoring an Assemblies of God church nearby. He asked if he could pray for Rukmani and, despite her Hindu background, she agreed. For the first time in decades, she found herself free from pain. Doctors were astounded at the change in the state of her spine.

Following this miraculous healing, Rukmani dedicated her life to Christ. For several years she was part of a small group of Christians in a predominantly Hindu community of Indo-Fijian farmers. Pastor Raj had moved on to pastor the Church of Christ at Vitogo. There was no formal church in Rukmani’s area, but a small group met together regularly to pray and encourage one another in her home. Pastor Raj would visit and encourage them when he returned for family matters.

In 2012, Pastor Raj introduced Rukmani and the small group of Christians to Pastor Muneshwar

Goundar, who had moved to nearby Sigatoka to begin church planting work with the Fiji Community Churches of Christ. In addition to his work in Sigatoka, Muneshwar began to visit and encourage the group with midweek meetings. In 2014, in a makeshift shelter on a neighbouring farm, a Sunday service commenced in Lomawai for the first time.

The Sunday meetings were an answer to the community’s prayers, but Rukmani dreamed for the Lomawai community to have its own permanent church. In 2015, she donated half an acre of her farmland so that the church could be established.

Because her farmland is leasehold, the bureaucratic process of transferring the land to the church and rezoning was a protracted and frustrating one for Rukmani and the church. In March 2018, after years of waiting, Rukmani stood up in the church, under the same makeshift shelter, but on land that she had donated.

With joy in her heart, she offered praise to God because, just one day earlier, she had helped to pour the concrete slab for a water tank for the church. Others have assisted with other construction, building a toilet block and a storage shed, and Rukmani continues to encourage

members of the church to work together to see a permanent church building established.

Now 75, the woman who was once unable to do manual work because of her crippling back pain can now be seen cutting grass in the church compound with a machete, or raking up after others. She leads by example to raise money for the building, raising and selling chickens and donating her proceeds to the building fund.

Rukmani says she does it with joy, thanksgiving, and deep love for her Lord and Saviour Jesus, who restored her both physically and spiritually, and gave her new hope.

Bruce Edwards,
Fiji



Team Transport

Pastors in Fiji are one team separated by long distances. Your gift towards transport costs will enable pastors to attend team meetings together **IN FIJI**

Witnessing Indigenous Culture at Juraki

Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA), I cannot thank you enough for giving us the opportunity to join you in Fingal for Juraki. It was one of the best weekends of the year! Prior to the IMA trip, I had never been exposed to Indigenous communities nor did I have much knowledge

about their culture. And I think this was the most valuable takeaway lesson from the trip. These people have such a rich culture and it is something I now think everyone should be a witness to. The cultural walk and opening ceremony were two of my highlights because it

depicted Indigenous culture so respectfully and beautifully.

Emily Renwick,
VIC

If you would like to be updated on future IMA trips and opportunities please contact nick@gmp.org.au



Yorta Yorta Elder and Melbourne Indigenous Church member, Uncle Roy Alexander, shares the stories and significance behind the possum skin cloak during a Melbourne Songlines tour

Songlines Walking Tour

The Songlines walking tour of inner city sites in Melbourne is designed to offer an insight into local Indigenous history and culture with a view to increasing awareness and sensitivity to the social, political, physical and spiritual forces affecting many Indigenous Australians both in the past and today. Tim Holman shared some reflections after participation on a tour in September:

It's so important to understand some of the history (good and bad) about the place we live. The Songlines tour helped me to grasp a little of why the sites and stories are so important to Indigenous Australians. I felt a strong pull to be more engaged with local Indigenous people. We are all so connected – our actions can and often do have incredible impacts across generations. The Indigenous people

are still suffering the consequences of the actions of others from over 100 years ago. It had me thinking about what kind of legacy I want to leave behind from my own life. How can I contribute to some healing for the injustices of the past? Lots of things to pray about.

If you would like to book a Songlines tour in Melbourne, please contact nick@gmp.org.au

When Helping Hurts: Inequality

Between 1990 and 2015, the Millennium Development Goal of halving extreme poverty was achieved. While poverty went down overall, it did not go down evenly. In fact, over the same period, inequality increased significantly. This includes inequality between countries, within countries and between individuals globally.

Unfortunately, these gaps are getting bigger not smaller. In the

US, new research by economist Thomas Piketty shows that over the last 30 years the growth in the incomes of the bottom 50% has been zero, whereas incomes of the top 1% have grown 300%. Now at some level we are a bit accustomed to inequality. Not everyone has the same resources or skills, so not everyone will have the same sized mansion, right? There is also the idea that some level of inequality is needed to drive our economy.

The reality, however, is that inequality destabilises our society. We need a biblical way of sharing the wealth of God's good earth!

Find out what you can do to change this – read the full article online in the 'News' section of the GMP website.

Colin Scott,
COCOA Director



You can support the work of IMA by purchasing one of the following gifts online at: www.greatgifts.org.au



\$15

Cooking Classes

Cooking classes will equip Indigenous young people to explore and develop their creativity, self-esteem and life skills **IN NEW SOUTH WALES**



\$30

Leadership Textbooks

Provide Indigenous leaders living in remote communities access to new theological and ministry training resources **IN AUSTRALIA**



\$100

Firepit Gathering

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