

# IN PARTNERSHIP

APRIL 2018



Walking to church shapes our expectations. It creates a space for preparation and reflection about what we will experience. In a busy world, walking is a change of pace, an opportunity to prepare for what we anticipate.

I was in Zimbabwe at the end of a long day. I had preached three times and there had been a lot of driving. We pulled up near a disused farmhouse where a group of people was waiting for us. I was tired, and did not feel like preaching again. We greeted the people. "Where have you come from?" I asked. "Over behind those hills," they replied. I could see the hills. "How far have you come?" "About 20km," they said. I was silent. People had walked 20km, on paved roads and bush tracks to meet me and to listen to me! At that moment my tiredness was gone. I was ready to share.

I wonder how walking to, and from, our gathering in Zimbabwe shaped the expectations of those people? Walking over such a distance creates space to think, anticipate and to be

silent. Maybe the long walk home was a chance to reflect and chat, with God and fellow walkers, about what had been experienced. Maybe walking home from church is also important...taking time to ponder on the shared experience of worship... rather than being caught up in what we plan to do next. On the day of Jesus' resurrection, some of his followers were travelling to Emmaus, about 10km away, when a stranger overheard their conversation, came near, listened and shared with them. When they reached their destination, the stranger accepted the invitation to stay and shared a meal. He is then revealed as the risen Christ. Their response is to run – back to Jerusalem. A walk becomes a run!

On Good Friday, I had high anticipation of my walk to church to support Walk for Hope. I only walked 7km or so, not over mountains, or along roads, like our friends in Zimbabwe. I reflected on what would come from this walking. Walk for Hope will support the ongoing sharing of the good news of the risen Lord. Our partners across the world

will be inviting those who hear to walk with Jesus.

*John Gilmore,*  
Executive Officer

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## News & Events



### Great Gifts for Mother's Day!

Give a gift this Mother's Day that brings real change! Place your order from the Great Gift catalogue before Friday May 4, so that you can receive your cards in the post in time for Mother's Day! [www.greatgifts.org.au](http://www.greatgifts.org.au)



### Walk for Hope- Thank You!

The GMP Easter campaign, Walk for Hope, was held on Good Friday! Thank you for your involvement and support – raising funds and walking to church! Please let us know about your experience. If you missed out, you can still make a donation towards Walk for Hope – helping evangelists in remote areas to share the gospel. You can give online at [www.WalkForHope.com.au](http://www.WalkForHope.com.au) or please give us a call.



April (embody), Mary and Joel (Juraki), Brendon (Dareton), and Jessie (embody) after the campfire conversation.

From March 23-25 the embody team travelled to Belgrave Heights, to be a part of SURRENDER:18 Saints and Citizens. The conference was a great time of listening, learning and experiencing authentic community.

We were privileged to share a space in the connect hub with IMA partners Juraki Surf and Culture, and Brendon Garlett who is working as a Chaplain in partnership with the Dareton Youth and Community Centre. The Campfire conversation, hosted by April and Jessie (embody) was an amazing opportunity to hear more of both the Juraki and Dareton Stories, and how we can be effective supporters of their ministries. It was a privilege to be part of the conversation.

It's very exciting to look to the future of these partnerships and the ways we can support one another. We are so thankful to IMA, Brendon and the whole Juraki mob for their contribution. Thank you also to SURRENDER for having us.

If you'd like to be a part of what happens next – follow embody, Juraki or IMA on social media.

**Facebook** @embodyau @juraki\_surf @IMA\_Australia  
**Instagram** @embodyau @jurakisurfculture

*Elise Andrews,*  
 Embody (VIC)



The Christian Women's Fellowship group (CWF) at Boondall Church of Christ, QLD, had been supporting Nomalanga from Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV) in Zimbabwe for quite a few years. When Nomalanga undertook a fashion and design course, she mentioned that her aim was to have a sewing machine, so she could help support herself. This led to a conversation between Boondall Church and KCV, and the provision of a sewing machine and a gift towards purchasing material that Nomalanga (and any others who were interested) could use. Vimbai Vuma, KCV Director, recently shared

some good news: "We finally bought the sewing machine. We are very excited about it. Many children will benefit from the sewing machine. We are sure that we will be able to get enough materials (threads, fabric, zips, laces) with the support you sent us. May the good Lord bless the ladies at Boondall Church in abundance." Boondall CWF and the church combined together to raise funds for the purchase of this sewing machine. It was exciting to see this happen!

*Val Zerna,*  
 Partnership Coordinator SA/NT



SPOTLIGHT

## Lives Changed Through Tutoring Ministry

Iman and Eko walk 6km from Tanen to Malibari village every weekend, to help tutor school kids. Iman is a new student at the Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia (CCTSI), and Eko is completing his thesis. This tutoring ministry assists the Malibari village children, helping them keep up with their studies at school. Tutoring also provides opportunities to reach out to other children in the community, children like Juwedi.

Juwedi is 12 years old. He dropped out of school because he had

trouble following the teachers. He preferred working with his parents in the fields, or with labourers fixing nearby roads. He is not talkative and has few friends his own age. But ever since Iman and Eko have been visiting his village, Juwedi has been attending the tutoring classes and has become much more communicative and is making new friends! He loves the tutoring program and is always the first to arrive. He comes from a non-believer background, so Iman and Eko invited him to join them at church – if he felt comfortable. Now, Juwedi goes to

the Sunday service even though he has to walk 6km from his house.

Lives are being changed through the tutoring program. We are seeing that God can use small things to make big changes in people's lives. Please keep praying for Iman's and Eko's ministry, so they can bear more fruit. And also pray for young Juwedi as he grows in his new faith.

*Hery Susanto,*  
Indonesia

## Meet Menpoi Mru

Menpoi Mru travels 15km to spend time with 120 members of a local village in Bangladesh. Since October 2016, he has been going to the village and teaching them the gospel. He has the strength and confidence to do this through God's help, even though there are great challenges to bring change to the village, and

to share Christ with them. Before Menpoi's visits the village had not known God's love. Menpoi's basic teaching is providing adults with answers about the story of Jesus and God's love. He asks them, "What is salvation, eternal life and death?" He also shares various Christian chorus songs and Bible stories.



*Vana Bawm,*  
Bangladesh

## Fiona Briers is Visiting Australia!



Fiona Briers will soon be in Australia sharing about Bright Solutions Vietnam! If you'd like to hear about Bright Solutions contact us below!

**Melbourne**  
25th April - 4th May, 7th - 13th May  
Contact Sam Curkpatrick -  
[sam@gmp.org.au](mailto:sam@gmp.org.au)

Photo Courtesy of  
Ngoc Tran/Oi Vietnam

**Adelaide**  
4th - 6th May  
Contact Val Zerna - [val@gmp.org.au](mailto:val@gmp.org.au)

**Sydney**  
14th - 17th May, 21st - 25th May  
Contact Colin Scott -  
[colin@gmp.org.au](mailto:colin@gmp.org.au)

**Queensland**  
18th - 20th May  
Contact Vicki Marney -  
[vicki@gmp.org.au](mailto:vicki@gmp.org.au)



Left: Thembe buying undies for the kids  
Right: Happy KCV kids with new undies!

## Posting Big Parcels: Gifts of Unrequested Goods

In 2012, staff at the Fresh Hope office (Churches of Christ in NSW) decided to help Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV) in Zimbabwe. They asked what the current need was and the reply came back – new underwear for all of the children. They set about raising money with a donation jar in the lunchroom and a competition decorating cardboard cutout undies. The idea was to ship over a big load of undies in a variety of sizes. However, some research brought that idea to a halt. The transport and import fees were going to outstrip the value of the underwear. Taking that amount of underwear in your luggage would also mean you would be stopped at the customs gate.

Research shows that Australians are generous people who like to respond in practical ways – like the undies project (codenamed 'Easter Bloomers!'). In 2015, after Cyclone Pam, 70 shipping containers arrived in Vanuatu. Unfortunately, they clogged crucial wharf space, keeping out much needed supplies and costing locals at least two million Australian dollars. A generous response is exactly what is needed in an emergency, and in the ongoing emergency of poverty across the world, but sending unrequested goods has its downsides:

- They are not targeted to the specific needs of communities, which in an emergency situation can change rapidly. Only people on the ground can make good decisions about what is needed;
- They clog emergency supply chains. Local government and

communities bear this cost, both in dollars and in time lost, and

- They often arrive too late to be useful. They take up the time of aid workers and local people who are working on the next stage.

All up, unrequested goods are slow and wasteful. This is true outside of emergency situations as well. The toy car or socks that we lovingly put in a box for someone overseas may make no sense to someone who always goes barefoot. Local people can make much better decisions about what a great gift looks like.

Sending money enables trusted organisations on the ground to make the critical decisions about what is needed:

- Money gets there quickly and can be directed toward energy or water supply, or life-saving medicine – whatever is most needed;
- Money can be redirected if there is excess. It never goes to landfill;
- Money doesn't create the additional burden of sorting for the recipients, and
- Money helps revitalise the local economy so that things return to normal more quickly.

Part of GMP's support to people affected by the Ambae volcano eruption was through providing vouchers for two local shops. This meant people could buy exactly what they needed, the shops could use their established supply chains,



The Wall of Undies in the lunchroom at the Fresh Hope Office, part of their fundraising activities for KCV

and the vouchers helped rebuild their business more quickly. We also discourage and restrict sending gifts to sponsor children overseas. This avoids giving inappropriate things (because we make our decisions based on Australian culture, rather than the recipient's culture). It also reduces the potential of jealousy from those who do not receive gifts.

At GMP we know the locals, and we let the people decide what is best for them. The Easter Bloomers project had a happy ending. A small group decided to make a partner visit to KCV. They used the money raised to go shopping with KCV staff and with the older girls. Everyone got what they wanted – size and style – and could bloom all the more knowing that their extended family in Australia cared enough to listen to them above their own ideas.

PS: There was money left over so they purchased some shoes as well! No landfill!

Colin Scott,  
COCOA Director