

# IN PARTNERSHIP

October 2023



## A Gift with Purpose: Beekeeping

Health problems have made it difficult for Ngonidzashe to find a job. As a 48-year-old single mother caring for five children, she struggles to support her family.

Global Mission Partners Relief and Development partner Christian Care initiates beekeeping projects in the Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe. These projects help vulnerable people like Ngonidzashe earn a reliable income and achieve sustainable livelihoods and food security.

Beekeeping is an accessible project that accommodates Ngonidzashe's needs. "I cannot perform heavy jobs, so I find beekeeping a much easier project," she said.

Ngonidzashe received her first beehive from Christian Care in November 2022. As one of the few females to learn beekeeping in her region, she is a leader in her field. Ngonidzashe is already reaping the benefits from the honey harvest, with goals to increase her beehives.

She also looks forward to transforming her health by eating

the honey. "I have chest problems. Honey cures chest ailments," says Ngonidzashe.

The decline of bees worldwide has a negative impact on the food systems. Global Mission Partners and Christian Care, along with Act for Peace, have joined the global call to save pollinators through this project. Beekeeping not only helps to protect bees and their important role in food systems, but helps vulnerable people build sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

Zimbabwe has diverse ecosystems, rich floral resources, and a favourable beekeeping climate. In arid areas where crops and other enterprises fail, beekeeping can succeed. It also fits well alongside many other livelihood interventions that Christian Care provides.

Because of beekeeping, Ngonidzashe can now provide for her children's education. To pay school fees for her daughter and the four other children in her care. "I sell the honey to buy food for my children and for their health. My parents are old and cannot

take care of themselves. I also get cash from honey sales to take care of them," Ngonidzashe said.

Ngonidzashe is paving the way for female empowerment and sustainability within her community.

When you buy the Great Gift of Beekeeping you will give a gift with purpose. Providing essential beekeeping equipment like beehives, bee suits, beeswax, smokers, hive tools and bee brushes.

You will also help empower more women, like Ngonidzashe! All while preserving precious pollinators and nurturing Zimbabwe's local economy.

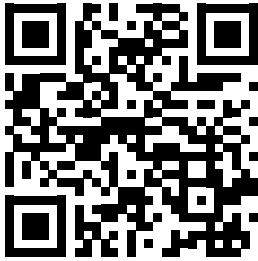


*Christian Care's Conservation Farming Project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)*

## News & Events

### Great Gifts Catalogue 2023/2024

Your Great Gifts this Christmas can give real purpose. This year, there are many new gifts to choose from, along with some old favourites. Help support Relief and Development, International Church Partnerships and Indigenous Ministry in Australia. All Great Gifts come with a specially designed gift card, so that you can write a personalised message inside and give to your loved ones. Will you give a Great Gift today and bring real purpose to someone's life? You can buy a Great Gift now at [www.greatgifts.org.au](http://www.greatgifts.org.au) or by scanning the QR code



### Safe Water September (SWS) Thank You!

A big thank you to all SWS challenge takers and people who donated! Your efforts will help provide life-changing safe water, hygiene, and sanitation in Zimbabwe, Vanuatu, and Bangladesh. Congratulations for completing the tenth year of the SWS challenge! It is not too late to donate if you missed out. Give online today at [www.safewaterseptember.org.au](http://www.safewaterseptember.org.au) Read Constance's story on page 4.

### Q&A with Boniface Mpofo, Showers of Blessing, Mission Unplugged Podcast.

Listen as Boniface answers questions submitted by the Safe Water September Community. He talks with embody about the process of installing a bore, the difference it makes in people's lives, and what happens after a bore is installed. You can listen to the podcast on Spotify or Anchor.

For more news and updates, follow us on Facebook or Instagram @gmpaustralia

# A Restoring and Renewing Response

The weather used to be a safe topic to start a conversation with. In recent days, it leads too often to stories of destruction and disruption to the familiar routines of life. This has been the case for Global Mission Partners' partners both in Australia and overseas and God has been making a way for Global Mission Partners to be part of a restoring and renewing response.

In Australia, Global Mission Partners is increasingly being called on to host appeals for responses to local weather emergencies like the flooding in northern NSW. We are forming a community of practice to help conferences and churches respond to natural disasters in increasingly effective ways. Please get in touch if your church is interested in being involved.

Across the world, evidence of a changing climate is everywhere. In South Sudan, communities learnt conservation agriculture techniques to preserve water in hot, dry climates, only to find their crop washed away by flooding. In the Bandarban Hills of Bangladesh the worst recorded flooding inundated the conference office as well as the homes of many families. Two COCOA staff members went to visit our partners in Vanuatu only to spend the time listening to the watery winds of Tropical Cyclone Judy and then Tropical Cyclone Kevin whistle past their doors barricaded with soaking towels. Borehole drilling in Zimbabwe was also rearranged by unseasonal rains.

Disaster responses are an increasing part of our work, and we are glad to have a growing repertoire of strategies to respond. Our partners have received

disaster response training, and the Community Advancement Forum in Bangladesh and Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu have initiated responses recently. Our membership with ACT Alliance, which enables us to respond to climate and other disasters in places where we don't have a partner, has been in constant use, ably managed by our newest staff member Eva Ntege-Dhizaala, who brings loads of experience in humanitarian work from her previous roles.

Last month, we added another disaster preparedness and response string to our bow by joining the Church Agency Network Disaster Operations Consortium. This will enable us to work with eight other Church Agencies in preparing communities for anticipatable disasters, and respond in a coordinated way when disaster strikes. This is a significant investment for Global Mission Partners and while we don't ask for more disasters to make it worthwhile, we do ask that God will make it an effective tool for preserving lives.

On a different note altogether, Jan Bayliss, COCOA Partner Education Officer, retires this month. Jan began her time at Global Mission Partners when she responded to an advertisement for administration help. But we noticed her missionary and teaching experience and she has headed up our partner education function for most of her time with us. We have enjoyed Jan's contribution to the team so much throughout the last 10 years and wish her every blessing in what is looking like a busy retirement.

Colin Scott,  
COCOA Director

SPOTLIGHT

Len Yarran, Dot Henry and Dawn Gilchrist supporting the Yes Campaign in Western Australia

## The Voice: Listening to Aboriginal Christian Leaders

The Voice to Parliament is an important step towards including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution. It has taken many years of hard work from dedicated individuals to gain support for this referendum. With the referendum approaching on October 14, we asked Dawn Gilchrist to share with us why the Voice to Parliament is important to her.

Dawn is a Yamatji Elder and Christian Leader. Over the years, she has worked with Australian Red Cross, WA Country Health Services (Goldfields) and Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Community Group. Dawn is also a former IMA Council Member and a Churches of Christ Federal Aboriginal Board Member. In 2019, Dawn was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to community health.

Dawn explains that being Aboriginal is not only part of her identity, but also part of Australia's identity.

Dawn says, "We have a shared history that is not acknowledged in the Constitution. I was born before the 1967 referendum when Aboriginal people were excluded from the Constitution and not fully recognised as people. We were treated as if we were part of the flora and fauna. It was an important historical moment for Australia to include us in the census but there is still no recognition of our existence and deep connections to this nation prior to colonisation."

Having a Voice to Parliament means that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will have representation and be able to speak about issues unique to their communities. This will give them autonomy and create new possibilities for their advancement. "Moving beyond symbolic gestures to genuine and lasting action," Dawn shares.

Dawn also highlights that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face disadvantage due to systemic deficiencies and ineffective policies. "For years I worked in the Health Department. It always seemed difficult to get real changes at the grassroots level."

The co-designers of the Voice to Parliament will work to address these disadvantages and find a way that allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to always have a voice on issues that impact them. "It will embrace the cultural knowledge and expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," Dawn shared.

"I have always believed that given meaningful and genuine support, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the strength and ability to make decisions that would benefit our communities," Dawn said.

Dawn also calls upon Christians to support the Voice to Parliament and embrace the Uluru Statement from the Heart. She believes that



Jesus taught compassion and love for all people, and it is important for churches to demonstrate that love by standing against injustice and working towards unity and equality.

"I trust that members of God's family in the Christian Church will respond with God's unconditional love, grace, and mercy as each one seeks His wisdom and power to heal our Nation and all its people," Dawn said.

Dawn suggests prayer would be helpful at this time. To reflect on justice, recognition, legislative change and equality for First Australians. To stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters on this journey towards a just and free nation, that amplifies our Indigenous people's voice and boldly shares their truth.

You can read more of Dawn's reflections in the full article on the [Global Mission Partners website](http://GlobalMissionPartners.org). Or find more resources at [www.gmp.org.au/thevoice](http://www.gmp.org.au/thevoice).

# South Sudan Refugee Crisis

On 15 April 2023, violence broke out in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), causing over 3.3 million people to flee their homes.

Since then, over 240,000 people have fled across the border to South Sudan, many are women and children, adding to the 2 million already internally displaced people.

Vacant warehouses are being turned into emergency accommodation, but many people are also sheltering under tarpaulins and plastic sheets. After the violence and long journey by foot, there is great need for medicine as many still wait for international aid.

Global Mission Partners Relief and Development partner, Christian Mercy

International (CMI) is located near the border with Sudan and has been ideally placed to respond to this crisis.

CMI was requested by the government to assist with the humanitarian crisis and given responsibility for 150 returnees and refugees. They have distributed tarpaulins, mosquito nets and blankets to this group as well as food support (like rice, beans and oil) for 35 breastfeeding or pregnant mothers in the group.

Athiang, a mother with a disability, received a food package. She expressed the immense crisis in war-torn Sudan, stating, "We have experienced a lot of suffering - killing of people. We were waiting for support from UNHCR, but they were taking long to arrive." Tragically, one of Athiang's children passed away during



this wait. Her prayer is this: "My God, may you provide me food to secure life of my remaining children".

The support given to Athiang through CMI has given her hope. Thankful for the food packages, she said, "We trust in God that he will provide for me and my family".

To cover this urgent response, Global Mission Partners has launched the South Sudan Refugee Crisis Appeal.

## Making Bricks, One Bucket of Water at a Time

Constance walks three kilometres to collect water for her daily needs. On top of this, she collects extra water to make bricks. Constance is building a toilet; but it is taking a very long time to finish.

Constance lives in rural Zimbabwe. The water that she collects each day "is not healthy at all," Constance said. "Sometimes you find other people doing laundry there. It is an open water source, and sometimes you just have to fetch that water and boil it. Sometimes I try and sieve it or, get some sort of way of trying to filter it."

Having a toilet is a necessity. It takes a lot of water to make concrete and bricks. Not having a close water source became a big challenge for her.

Making the bricks would take hours of demanding work. This gruelling work would be on top of already needing to collect water from the river for her daily use.

To build, Constance would need extra hands to help. Like someone to push a cart or wheelbarrow to carry the buckets of water. But people in her village are already burdened with the task of collecting water for their own needs.

When Constance found out that Showers of Blessing was going to install a borehole in her village, she was very excited.

Constance is now a less than a minute walk from where the borehole is. "I can actually keep an eye on it from where I'm staying." Constance is pleased. "I'm very happy that water was found in a place that is nearby."

Now, with the borehole close to her home, Constance not only has clean safe water for daily use but can finally finish making her toilet. "It will be open and accessible to everyone to use it," she explained. Her sons will help her to carry the water from the borehole and make the bricks.



Constance is very thankful for your support through Safe Water September. "I would like to thank very much those who gave us the funds to be able to drill the borehole and make it accessible to the community," she said.

You can give now to help people like Constance. Give vital safe water sanitation and hygiene to people in need, by donating now! [www.safewaterseptember.org.au](http://www.safewaterseptember.org.au)



Showers of Blessing Trust's (OSBT) project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)