

IN PARTNERSHIP

August 2023



Borehole Gives Esther New Strength

Do you think you could balance a 20-litre bucket of water on your head? It might be easy for the first thirty seconds. But, how about for an hour?

70-year-old Esther has done this. Every day. For more than 20 years.

Living on her own in rural Zimbabwe, Esther collected water every day. This was from a dirty river, located four kilometres from her home. The daily walk wore her down. The path was dangerous; the ground uneven and steep, with loose rocks everywhere. This made her tired.

One day, Esther sat with some others from her village. Word had gotten out that there would be a borehole drilled in their village! Maybe Esther's long walks to collect water would finally be over.

GMP Relief and Development partner Showers of Blessing installs boreholes that provide safe water for rural communities in Zimbabwe. Boreholes that help people like Esther.

In May 2023, Showers of Blessing installed a borehole in Esther's village!

When the water flowed out of the borehole, Esther danced for joy. She celebrated alongside others. "She never thought that would happen in her lifetime," said Boniface, Showers of Blessing Director.

Esther no longer needs to become weary, walking a dangerous trail to collect water. The borehole is close to Esther's home. Now she only needs to walk 500 metres!

Because of the borehole, Esther can focus her energy on establishing her garden. "Although I do not have much energy left, I should be able to grow a few vegetables," she said.

Showers of Blessing gifted Esther with an avocado tree. "It will provide much-needed fruit one day," Esther said with a smile.

You might not be able to balance a large bucket of water on your head, but you can ask your friends and family to donate to Safe Water September! Thanks to challenge takers like you, SWS can help people like Esther to not only provide safe water but to also create opportunities for better livelihoods.



Esther collecting water

Sign up for the Safe Water September Challenge today. Raise funds and change lives!

www.safewaterseptember.org.au

Sign up now!



Australian Aid 

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

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News & Events

Thank You for giving to the COCOA Mid Year Appeal

Thank you for your generous support of the COCOA Mid Year Appeal. So far \$113,181.25 has been raised. You can still help us to reach the target of \$120,000 by giving online or by phone. Your gift to the COCOA Mid-Year Appeal can enable lasting, positive change for many people like Kirsty and her family. Thanks to generosity from people like you, Kirsty and her family received two female goats and training from GMP Relief and Development partner, Christian Care. The family now have a herd of eight goats, easing the pressure to buy food! It is not too late to give. Free Call 1800 467 222 or give online www.gmp.org.au/secondchance

Take the Safe Water September Challenge

Take part in the 2023 challenge and celebrate ten years of SWS! Drink nothing but water all September and raise funds for safe water projects in Zimbabwe, Vanuatu and Bangladesh. Visit the SWS website to sign up now! www.safewaterseptember.org.au

UN International Youth Day

The 2023 UN International Youth Day theme is Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World. Green skills are “knowledge, abilities, values and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society”. While green skills are relevant for people of all ages, they have heightened importance for younger people, who can contribute to the green transition for a longer period of time. On August 12, look out on the GMP Facebook page for a story from our partners!

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



Dear Friends,

A big ‘thank you’ to the many of you who completed our recent supporter survey. This information is helpful in making wise strategic decisions to ensure Global Mission Partners continues to faithfully serve into the future.

It was particularly helpful to learn which countries were of greatest interest to you, how you’d like us to communicate with you and how frequently. Our supporters are also proud that GMP expresses mission in both word and deed—the full expression of the gospel.

The other week, I had the opportunity to talk with Yabru Jerry, Executive Director of the Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ (MECOC) in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Towards the end of a lengthy call discussing a range of topics, Yabru casually mentioned that a church in their network baptised over 100 people. This was in the river one Sunday a few weeks prior. I paused, amazed and somewhat stunned.

I have mentioned this in several settings since. One pastor said to me, “I’d be surprised if we have baptised that many people in our movement here in Australia this year”. I’m not confident that statement is completely true. But what is most remarkable is that in PNG’s highlands, through our shared partnership, God is changing hearts in surprising numbers.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we saw the same happen here?

Our sometimes sleepy, well-resourced Christianity can learn something from our brothers and sisters abroad. Church communities located in remote locations, like PNG, ought to

be an inspiration to Christians in developed contexts like ours. They are without buildings, AV systems, comfortable seats - let alone basic plumbing. But their passion and zeal for the gospel is simple and infectious. The type of virus I pray we might catch and spread liberally.

Of course, we point to secularism as the main reason people in developed nations don’t willingly respond to the gospel message.

I attended a recent presentation by Dr. Andrew Root. He visited Australia at the invitation of Churches of Christ SA & NT and Churches of Christ in NSW & ACT. Dr Root explained that a vacuum effect has taken place. Paradoxically, the emerging forms of secularism show signs of an increased spiritual search and a longing for meaning.

Those who attended Dr. Root’s presentations were invited to ask, “Will we be motivated by fear of context or the beauty of the gospel?” It feels like the Australian Church is greatly discouraged by spending too much time focusing on the decline of recent years. When, in fact, the gospel is sprouting in surprising places, like the highlands of PNG.

This is thanks to the faithful and sacrificial generosity of many people like you. To the many people who have contributed to Global Mission Partners over the years. My prayer is that we will continue to support these kingdom growth projects for many more years to come.

In Faith,
John Lamerton,
Executive Officer



SPOTLIGHT

Buhle has grown up with a loving home at KCV

From Abandonment to Aspiration

Buhle’s mother abandoned her as a toddler. The landlord found her in their home alone and took her to Khayelihle Children’s Village (KCV). This tragic event marked the beginning of a transformative journey for Buhle.

GMP Relief and Development partner KCV, in Zimbabwe, provides a safe and loving home for abandoned children like Buhle. At KCV, Buhle received shelter, care, and an education. The village covered all her educational expenses, including school fees, books, and uniforms. KCV gave her a home filled with love and support.

Growing up at KCV shaped Buhle’s character. The village’s nurturing environment had a profound impact on her. Learning about God at KCV has provided comfort and solace while navigating difficult moments. “I think if I had stayed with my original family, I may never have known God. Knowing God helps me when I think life is difficult,” Buhle said.

Now 21 years old, Buhle says, “KCV has brought me up to be who I am today. I have become a young woman who loves people and respects other people”.

The support received at KCV has enabled her to pursue her further

studies. She enrolled at Polytec in 2020 and aspires to a career in hospitality and tourism.

Buhle is studying tourism and hospitality management. She has enjoyed exploring various aspects of the industry. “The bar section, waitressing, the kitchen, the accounts and marketing department.” Buhle aspires to work in catering.

Reflecting on her journey so far, Buhle says, “Me personally, I think it has been the best for me. The best home I have experienced in my life”. She also credits God with enriching her life in many ways. Faith has played an essential role in shaping her personal development. “The Bible teaches us to love people and reminds me of the most important things in life.”

The nurturing she received from KCV has shaped her into the fine young woman she is today. “I am from people that can nurture someone, they can build up someone to be a better person,” she said.

Buhle’s story shows the transformative power of a loving home.

She is ready to face the world with confidence and determination. Buhle’s experiences have shaped

her into a compassionate young woman. She will make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of many.

You can sponsor a child and help children like Buhle to reach their true potential.

Would you like to partner with children that have lost parents or extended family through war, disease or poverty? Or whose parents have given them up in the hope that someone else has the resources to raise them?

Your gift of \$40 a month will ensure that vulnerable children receive care and education through Khayelihle Children’s Village in Zimbabwe or Emmanuel Children’s Program in South Sudan. With your support these children can look forward to a bright future and reconnection with extended family.

Please contact the GMP office for more information. Free Call 1800 467 222, scan the QR code or visit www.gmp.org.au/childsponsorship

Find out more





Laksmi and Her Orange Rickshaw

Laksmi drives her orange rickshaw through the Prakash Tekadi slums in Mumbai, India. She transports passengers every morning, then works at her small shop in the afternoon. Her two businesses provide for herself and her adult son. Yet, this wasn't always the case.

Residents of the Prakash Tekadi slum, like Laksmi, were born into extreme poverty. The small community of squatters lacks access to basic services like medical care and education. Basic literacy skills, like reading and writing, are rare.

GMP Relief and Development partner Hosanna Ministries provides vocational training and literacy classes for the residents of Prakash Tekadi. These classes help give people the skills they need to gain employment

or start a business to earn a secure income.

Laksmi attended Hosanna Ministries literacy and tailoring classes. She is very grateful for this opportunity. She not only gained practical skills, but the self-confidence to start her two businesses. Laksmi set up a small shop in her house and applied to the government for financial help to buy a rickshaw. Without literacy skills, the application would have been impossible.

With the money she earns from the two businesses, Laksmi wants to give her son a better life. With her new source of income, she has been able to pay for her son to take part in a drug rehabilitation program. She hopes this will give him a second chance to start over.

All this is possible with your support of literacy and vocational training classes. Your support helps many people like Laksmi gain the skills they need to earn an income and begin to break the cycle of poverty.

Now, every day is a new opportunity for Laksmi, as she drives her orange rickshaw through the slums each morning.



Hosanna Ministries' Vocational Training Project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

ICCM Plan for an Exciting Future

One of the newest partners for the International Church Partnerships (ICP) program is the International Christian College of Manila (ICCM). They have persevered through difficult circumstances; surviving pandemic lockdown in Manila, Philippines. Now they are planning for an exciting future.

ICCM are currently renting and desires to have a facility of its own. In a generous gesture, a church member gave them land! So, after the legal process is observed ICCM will build purpose-made facilities on their new land.

Recently, ten students graduated from ICCM. They were studying to be pastors, but also to have another profession, such as teaching. This is crucial in the Philippines, where most churches can only afford to employ a part-time pastor.

A faculty member, Gerwin Castillo, writes:

“The students were conferred with a bachelor’s degree in Theology. The graduation was well attended by the parents of the students, neighbouring churches, friends and partners in

the ministry. Many students will do practical evangelism and outreach ministry while the college is on vacation. Thank you very much for your devoted support and partnership with ICCM.”

Thank you for your support. It helps people persevere in sometimes difficult circumstances. It gives them solid hope for the future.

Find out more about the International Christian College of Manila (ICCM) at www.gmp.org.au/iccm