



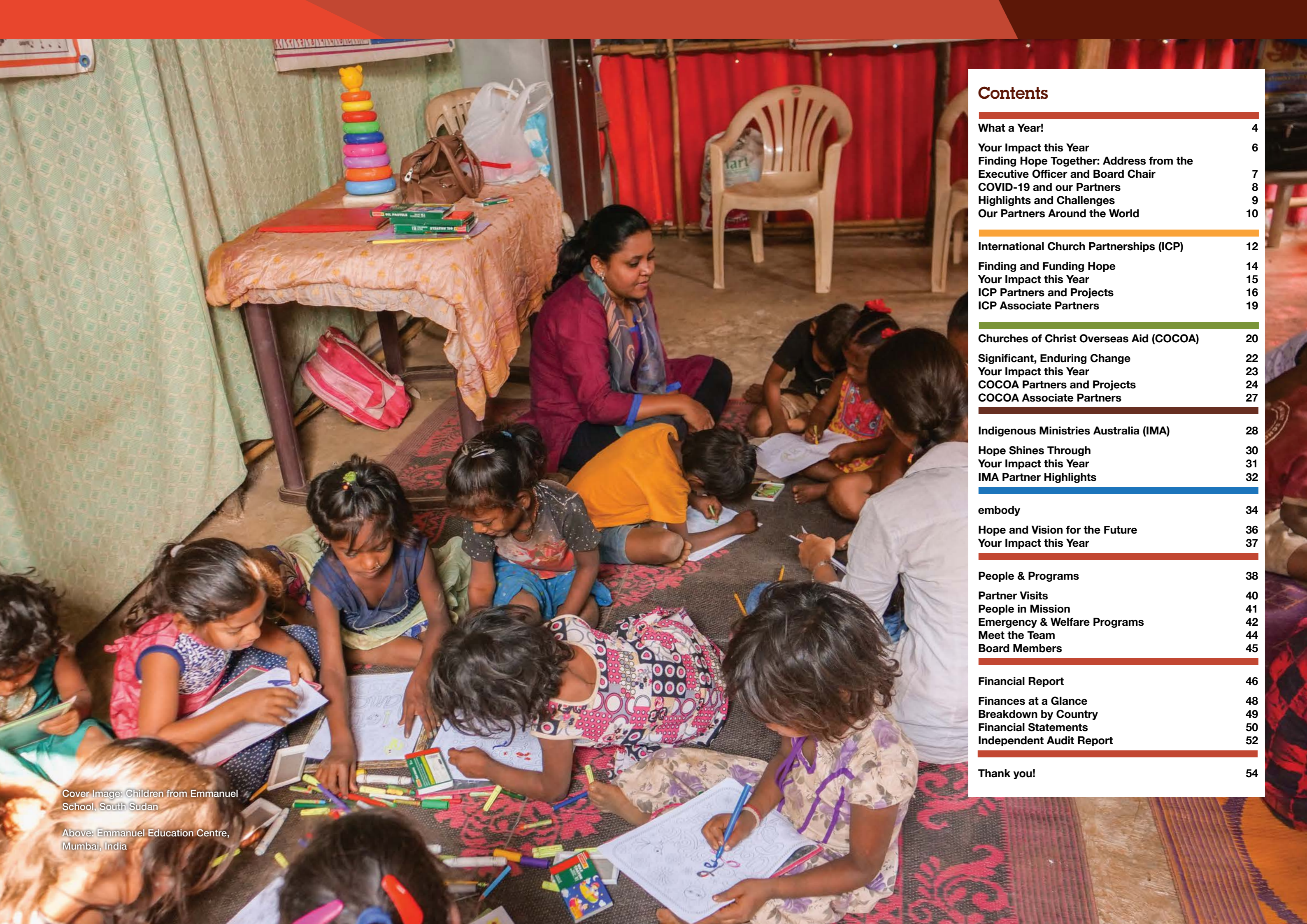
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# FINDING HOPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

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Australian Churches of Christ  
Global Mission Partners



Cover Image: Children from Emmanuel School, South Sudan

Above: Emmanuel Education Centre, Mumbai, India

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# WHAT A YEAR!

## YOUR IMPACT IS WORTH CELEBRATING

Every year, your impact is worth celebrating! Your generosity changes the lives of many, and makes a difference to people in need. Read on for a small selection of important highlights you've helped achieve.



Image: School Peace Club, South Sudan

# YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR



This year you've helped make possible:

International Church Partnerships in **11** Countries

International Development Partnerships in **7** Countries

**8** Indigenous ministry projects in Australia

**262** people involved in embody campaigns

# FINDING HOPE TOGETHER

## ADDRESS FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND BOARD CHAIR

It is not easy to sum up the past year. We have lived with COVID-19 and its impact for many, many months. Unpredictable change is the new normal!

We have experienced this in Australia with lockdowns, travel restrictions and curfews, just to name some of the limits to our daily life. A year ago, we expected the easing of restrictions. Instead, we face a new reality of the lasting impact of COVID-19, both here and in our partner countries.

There is a unifying aspect to COVID-19. We have a common vulnerability to the virus in all its variants and have a fervent hope that life can return to what was 'normal'.

We've seen so many contrasts in this year. Simple realities have been reshaped. In some states, local churches were not able to meet in person for several months. In others, offerings are no longer taken up on a Sunday – all giving is now online! For many of us, our workspace is also our home, and the travel we have taken for granted is not possible.

It is also true to say we have never needed each other more – in an environment where we can't visit our international or local partners.

Micah Australia led the 'End COVID For All' campaign, which has had a positive impact and continues to be a focus. The Australian Government has increased its assistance to Pacific nations, with a desire to support their response to COVID-19. Such assistance includes support for vaccines and testing. However, we have also seen an ongoing decline in the Australian Budget that is available for overseas aid.

In last year's Annual Report, we commented on GMP's Strategic Planning process. Planning generally assumes a stable environment. This has not been the case. It is hard to describe our current operating environment. GMP has remained steady in our work and financial viability, providing the space to ask deeper questions about our future. At the same time, our obligations under the National Redress Scheme are significant. The GMP Board initiated a review of GMP – staffing, structure and focus – and these outcomes are being finalised. This led to a decision: to pause our longer-term strategic plan and focus on the present realities, and to take time to discern what God is saying to GMP.

Good directions are emerging. More than ever, we affirm our commitment is to seeing "lives transformed through partnerships." This transformation includes our Australian supporters, Indigenous communities and international partners. Commitment to being in mission is a two-way process of transformation. When we affirm "we know the locals and they know us" we are talking about a two-way process. This includes mutual appreciation of contexts, strengths, vulnerabilities and partnership. GMP wants to see these partnerships grow and strengthen as we connect relationally in mission.

One of the ironies is making and affirming this deep commitment in a season where travel has stopped, and where we have had to become more creative in the ways we communicate and maintain relationships with our partners.

This year marks 130 years of corporate overseas mission activity by Churches of Christ in Australia. A driving aspect of this vision, which in 1891 created the first Foreign Mission Committee, was:

The call to mission was not just to 'people at home that were like us', it was to the stranger in our midst and to those far off. This commitment was expressed through the work and activity of individuals and through an understanding that Churches in Australia had a responsibility to work together and to make such mission possible.

The early discussions also included an exploration of Churches of Christ's relationship and responsibility for activities with Australian Aboriginal people.

This call to mission is a corporate one. It is about all of us and our response to people with different languages, cultures and settings. It is both local and global. When we act together, we are in solidarity with each other and have the assurance of God's presence in our midst.

We appreciate the support of all our partners: local churches, State Conferences, individual supporters, people in mission in Australia and internationally, the GMP Board and staff. All of us engaged in this mission enterprise know that we do find hope together.

*Barrie Yesberg*  
Barrie Yesberg  
Board Chair

*John Gilmore*  
John Gilmore  
Executive Officer



GMP Partners attending the Partnering Together for Stronger Communities training conference, 2017

## COVID-19 AND OUR PARTNERS

In moments of shared crises, our default can be to look to ourselves first and make sure that we are fine. Since March 2020, GMP has managed to balance both a concern for our organisational context (staff working from home where appropriate, moving to Zoom meetings and mandating 'mental health days' for staff in affected locations) and for our Indigenous and international partners, who were experiencing the same crisis but – often – without the infrastructure and government support we take for granted here in Australia.

At the time of writing, I have released 61 updates to the staff and Board on the numbers of COVID-19 cases, lives lost, vaccination and testing rates, and other relevant statistics. We need to remember that statistics are often a removed way of examining a crisis. Behind every life lost, for example – behind every 'one' – there is a grieving family, friends who have lost a companion, a ministry that has been robbed of a uniquely gifted person and a community that has been lessened by the loss of just 'one' person.

When COVID-19 first hit, we felt quite fortunate at GMP. The governments of our partner countries handled the initial outbreak well, with Thailand and Vietnam being hailed as early 'success' stories. Places like Fiji, Vanuatu, PNG, Zimbabwe and South Sudan were given time to prepare due to their isolation from the source of the outbreak. We were concerned about densely populated nations such as Bangladesh and India in the first wave. We ensured that we stayed in touch with our partners via Zoom and various social media platforms.

That has all changed in the last reporting year. While South Sudan and PNG appear to have escaped the worst of COVID-19, their testing and reporting rates are low, unreliable and erratic. Vanuatu, pleasingly, has had only one death and four cases – but in a nation that relies so heavily on tourism, the economic impact of COVID-19 cannot be underplayed.

Elsewhere, it is grim reading. Early success stories such as Vietnam, Thailand and Fiji have experienced terrible second waves. The tragedies in India and Indonesia have been well documented, but less so have been the stories emanating from Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and the Philippines. When we hear of lockdowns in Australia they come with levels of government support. Our partners do not have this security. In Mumbai, Manila, the Bandarban Hills and Bulawayo, people experienced extended lockdowns – sometimes on extremely short notice – without government support, leaving households with limited access to finances, food and medical supplies. ICP pastors and COCOA workers could not travel to remote communities to do their important work. GMP has been encouraged by our supporters' responses to these situations, both in terms of finances and prayer. Our partners have developed creative and compassionate initiatives in their vastly different contexts.

While the Australian experience is well known to us, we have barely heard of the Indigenous communities' experiences with COVID-19, until recently, in the mainstream media or at government press conferences. GMP continues to work closely with, and through, IMA to walk alongside our Indigenous sisters and brothers during these unsettling times. Practical support was given in deep consultation with those representing their communities.

GMP knows that COVID-19 will be a factor for some time and will continue to adapt our systems and staff to that reality. We will also assist our international and Indigenous partners to cope with this new world we are all citizens in.

  
Craig Brown  
Deputy Executive Officer

## HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

Given the unpredictable nature of the past year, GMP wants to express our appreciation to our local and international partners, local church and individual supporters for their encouragement, participation and partnership with GMP. We are deeply encouraged by the strong, resilient and hopeful partnerships we share. No amount of planning could have anticipated the season that we find ourselves in. With deep gratitude, we look back and are humbled by the support we have been able to sustain for all our partners. We have been able to maintain all our commitments.

It is also encouraging to report that this year we met and exceeded our income targets for Safe Water September, the Great Gift Catalogue, COCOA Christmas Offering, End of Financial Year Appeal and the Easter Walk for Hope (which raised double its targeted amount).

At the same time, we have seen a decline in local church direct giving, and in support for specific mission project commitments including GMP's child sponsorship program. This had an impact on GMP's budgeted income.

To the end of December, GMP's total income remained below the threshold for the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper program. Given the fall in the value of GMP's investments and loss of investment income, the year would have been much harder to navigate, from a financial point of view, without this support. We were able to retain our staff. The Board expressed its appreciation for this assistance directly to the Federal Government.

The impact of COVID-19 on our partners has come in waves. You can read about it in more detail elsewhere in this report. Given the devastation and ongoing impact of COVID-19 in India, we launched a COVID Ministry Appeal for India and other settings where COVID-19 is out of control. This appeal was structured to support local church ministry, and so funds were able to be passed on without some of the compliance issues that apply to tax-deductible giving. To date, we have received more than \$150,000 and distributed around half of the income. We continue to monitor the situation in our partner countries so that we can continue to provide support to vulnerable people.

A real blessing for the future of GMP and our work has been a number of significant bequests and donations (almost all received in 2021). These large donations included support for church planting in Indonesia, Khayelihle Children's Village infrastructure in Zimbabwe, a new Initiative Fund for Indigenous Ministry in Australia, and a sizeable gift for COCOA's 'area of greatest need'. These bequests arrived unexpectedly, and are invested in the GMP Bequest Reserve – in keeping with Board Policy. This reserve now totals more than \$1.8m. In the course of a year, it supplies a significant amount of income. We have also been advised of two other bequests that are in the process of administration.

GMP Extend, a separate entity wholly owned by GMP, has developed with an increased number of partners and levels of income. Through Extend, we provided support and ongoing assistance to those affected by the Perth bushfires.

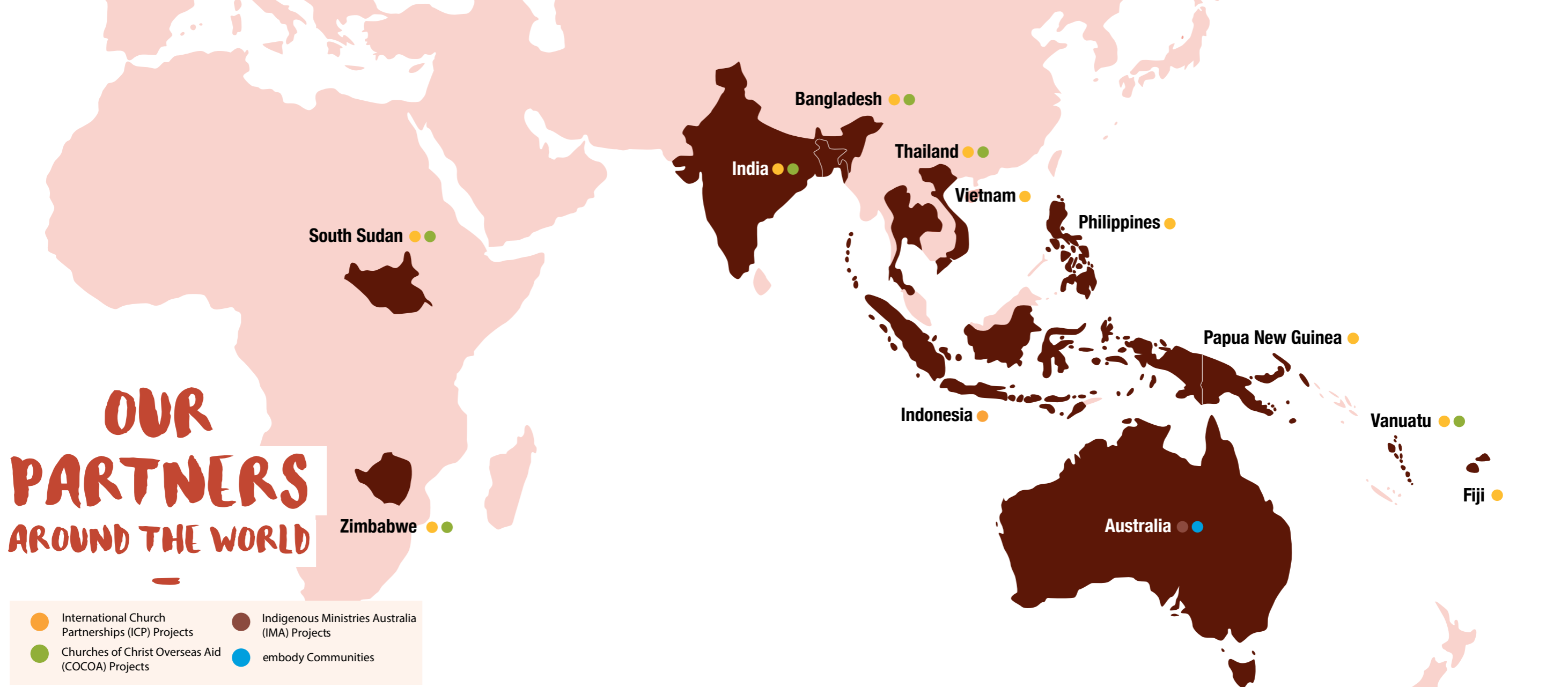
The ongoing impact of COVID-19 has led to internal changes at GMP. Our staff meet each week by Zoom and stay well connected as a team. In Sydney, all staff now work from home. With the shift in the location of the Vic-Tas Conference office to South Melbourne, GMP negotiated the use of space at One Church (Blackburn). Our staff now combine working from home and in the office. We have appreciated the hospitality of Fresh Hope NSW and the Vic-Tas Conference over the years. The Adelaide office continues to operate as usual.

During the year there were also staff changes at GMP. In September 2020 we farewelled Vicki Marney, who now works as one of the Queensland Churches of Christ Regional Engagement Partners. We have appreciated Vicki's enthusiasm and we honour her commitment to the people of Vanuatu and Queensland. Early in 2021, we welcomed Emily Wood to the GMP Team as the embody Network Developer. Emily is Sydney-based and works two days a week. We also farewelled Audrey Lim who has been an important part of GMP's Admin team. More recently, our part-time Graphics Designer, Eli Minuz, has moved to a casual role with GMP. Vic/Tas Partnership Coordinator, Sam Curkpatrick, was granted a significant research grant and concluded with us in mid-2021 to take up this opportunity. It is always hard to say goodbye to staff we have come to value, not just professionally, but personally. In light of a number of factors, we are in the process of restructuring the GMP Partnership Coordinator roles.

Last year we reported that GMP was managing the Redress obligations that flow from the child mission activities of the former Australian Churches of Christ Indigenous Ministry (ACCIM). These Redress matters relate to ACCIM's past and not to GMP itself. At this stage there are numerous applications, and the potential exposure to Redress exceeds the assets of IMA. GMP, with the State Conferences, the Council of Churches of Christ in Australia and the National Redress Scheme, is seeking a way forward so that the commitment we have to ministry with Australia's First Peoples is maintained while addressing the trauma of the past. No ICP or COCOA assets are involved in Redress matters.

GMP could not operate effectively without a large number of people being involved. We acknowledge and appreciate our Board members, staff, ICP, COCOA and IMA Reference Group members, and volunteers. We appreciate your work with us and all that you do to support and resource our partners in Australia and internationally.

# OUR PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD



- International Church Partnerships (ICP) Projects
- Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) Projects
- Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) Projects
- embody Communities



**Australia**  
**Projects:** IMA, embody  
**Areas of work:** Indigenous Ministry and embody campaigns



**India**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church partnership and welfare programs (ICP); livelihoods, schooling, health care (COCOA)



**Philippines**  
**Projects:** ICP  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP)



**Vanuatu**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP); community development, disaster risk reduction (COCOA)



**Bangladesh**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP); sanitation, schooling, livelihoods (COCOA)



**Indonesia**  
**Projects:** ICP  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP)



**South Sudan**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP); schooling, livelihoods (COCOA)



**Vietnam**  
**Projects:** ICP  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP)




**Fiji**  
**Projects:** ICP  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP)



**Papua New Guinea**  
**Projects:** ICP  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP)



**Thailand**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church leadership and development (ICP); livelihoods (COCOA)



**Zimbabwe**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development, supporting evangelists (ICP); vulnerable children, safe water (COCOA)

# CONNECTING CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

## INTERNATIONAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

International Church Partnerships (ICP) focus on partnering with the global church by supporting our international church partners in their mission commitment.

We do this by connecting Australian people and churches to those across the nations so that we can support, encourage and resource the work of the gospel in Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Sudan, Thailand, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

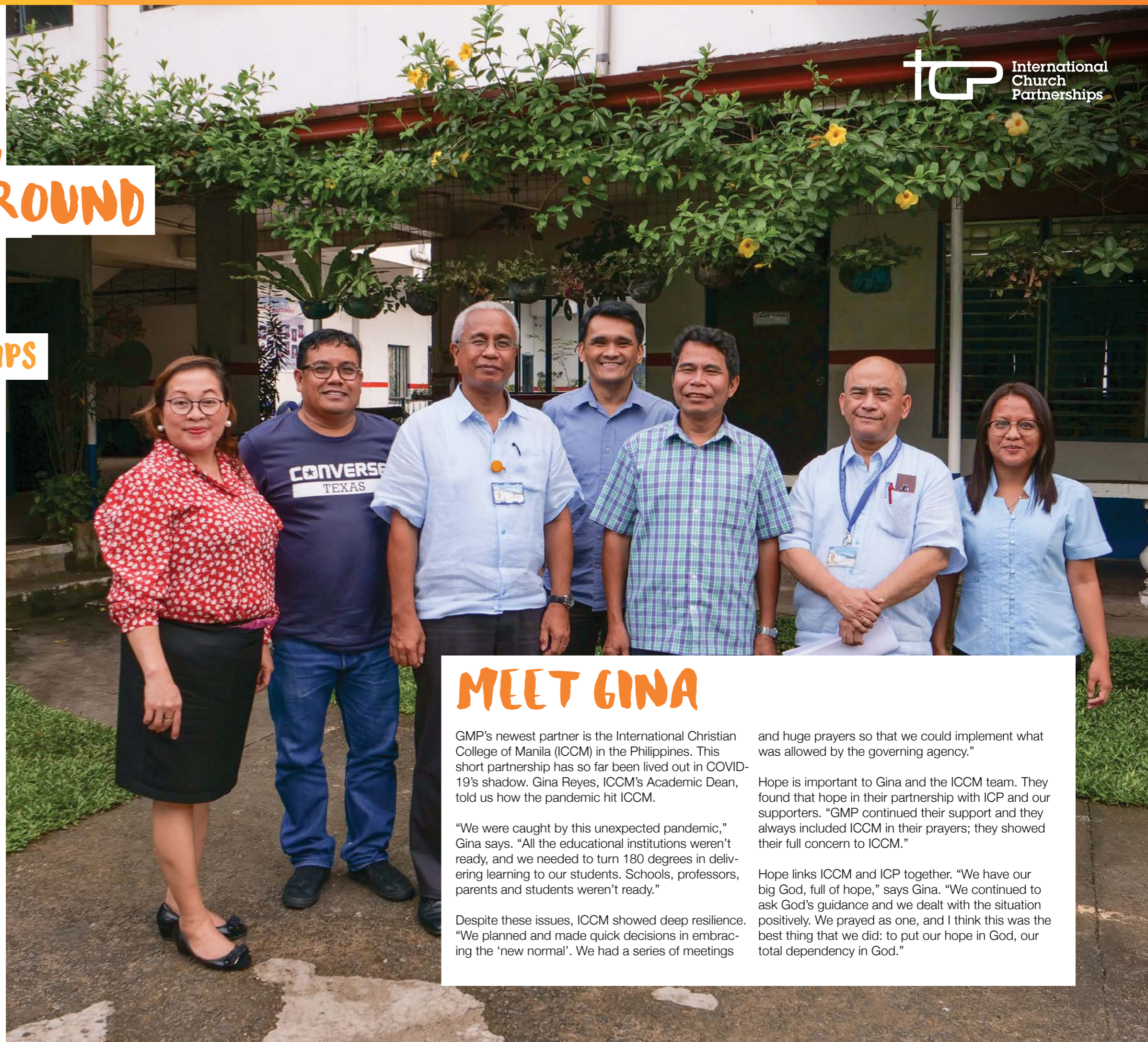


Image: ICCM Staff: Gina J. Reyes, Academic Dean, Edwin Reyes, Board Secretary, Ricardo Garcia, College President, Gerwin Castillo, Promotion, Arthur Santiago, Chairman of the Board, Dr. Sam Lubag, Theology Program Head, Clahren J. Tamonde, College Registrar

### MEET GINA

GMP's newest partner is the International Christian College of Manila (ICCM) in the Philippines. This short partnership has so far been lived out in COVID-19's shadow. Gina Reyes, ICCM's Academic Dean, told us how the pandemic hit ICCM.

"We were caught by this unexpected pandemic," Gina says. "All the educational institutions weren't ready, and we needed to turn 180 degrees in delivering learning to our students. Schools, professors, parents and students weren't ready."

Despite these issues, ICCM showed deep resilience. "We planned and made quick decisions in embracing the 'new normal'. We had a series of meetings

and huge prayers so that we could implement what was allowed by the governing agency."

Hope is important to Gina and the ICCM team. They found that hope in their partnership with ICP and our supporters. "GMP continued their support and they always included ICCM in their prayers; they showed their full concern to ICCM."

Hope links ICCM and ICP together. "We have our big God, full of hope," says Gina. "We continued to ask God's guidance and we dealt with the situation positively. We prayed as one, and I think this was the best thing that we did: to put our hope in God, our total dependency in God."



Members of Lomowai Church, Fiji

## FINDING AND FUNDING HOPE

**As I wrote this article, I mistyped the title and it came out as Funding Hope. It struck me that's what happens at ICP. That's what you — our valued supporters — do every time you give.**

You fund hope whenever you give or pray. You enable our partners to help their churches, their training colleges and their people to find hope. It is a powerful thought in this past year, which has been completely lived out in the shadows of COVID-19. It shows no sign of not being a factor in our lives, here in Australia and across the globe, for some time to come.

One of the outstanding examples of hope has been your support of the Walk for Hope appeal. In 2020, Walk for Hope launched in the midst of a national lockdown. While it raised more than the previous year, it failed to meet its modest projected target. In 2021 Walk for Hope raised \$54,000! This is double what we aimed for! This appeal allows us to directly fund hope so that others may find hope. We were also deeply encouraged by the response to our COVID-19 Ministry Appeal, which has raised more than \$150,000.

Other examples of finding hope have emerged in our partnerships. In Fiji, our churches have adapted with ingenuity and flexibility to not having a GMP staffer on the ground, as well as to the inability of GMP staff to travel. In this difficult season, they have expanded their ministry and are seeing their churches grow. In South Sudan, church buildings are becoming places of year-round ministry and evangelism through the simple act of waterproofing them. In the Philippines our newest

partner, the International Christian College of Manila, has adapted to virtual teaching, as have our partners in Indonesia — all through funding from our supporters.

Our partners have emerged from the past year like us, not unscathed but resilient and hopeful. We will continue to stand with them, because the hope that the Bible talks of does shine in the darkness. In Hebrews, the persecuted church is encouraged by the writer to hold on to “this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” (Heb 6:19 NRSV). Our partners across the globe have done this — and they have done it with your help, your support and your prayers. You are helping them to be anchored in hope.

Following Jesus is about hope. Hope that from the beginning transcended ignorance, religious traditions, persecution, Empire, crucifixion, death and burial. Many of our partners face situations that challenge their hope — and your support helps them find that hope afresh each day.

## YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

### MEET PAULINO

South Sudan struggles with poverty, inadequate infrastructure, political instability and ethnic and tribal violence. Paulino Malou is an entrepreneurial and focused leader, who sees the problems — but also believes in a God who can overcome them. “I believe and trust in Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour,” Paulino says. “That keeps me and our evangelists healthy and hopeful in our mission work.”

Key difficulties to the work the evangelists do is their lack of transport and the poor state of church buildings. “Most of the Churches of Christ are under trees with grass thatching rooves which do not keep out the rain during the rainy season. That is difficult for the believers.” Through your support, ICP was able to provide a simple way of helping people meet in churches — plastic sheets, which was Paulino’s idea. “We were excited for the supports of plastic sheets to five Churches of Christ here in Aweil,” he says.



**“Our partnership has made a tangible difference to the life of the local congregations here in South Sudan”**

Training leaders is a long-term strategy, and ICP has worked with Paulino to do this. “Our partnership has made a tangible difference to the life of the local congregations here in South Sudan: you have provided Bibles for the evangelists and for students at Aweil Bible College.”

Paulino’s source of hope while facing difficulties is simple, but deep: “My hope is in Jesus our Lord and Saviour.”

### This year you helped ICP projects achieve:

Church Partnerships in **11** Countries

COVID-19 support provided by local churches in **India & Fiji**

Provided food kits to a community of around **30** transgender people in India that will feed their families for a month

**350** supply kits containing vital food and health supplies distributed through church institutions in India

Provided approximately **35** people affected by leprosy with medical help that will last for one month in India

**150** food hampers distributed to people in need in Fiji

**157** Students attending bible college in Indonesia, South Sudan and the Philippines



# ICP PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

## BANGLADESH

ICP supports 16 churches in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in eastern Bangladesh. The Bandarban Hills Churches of Christ (BHCOC) focuses on evangelism, church planting, leadership training, women's ministry and youth ministry.

### Challenges

Most of the challenges in Bangladesh are of a 'good' nature – our partners want to expand their ministry and the infrastructure supporting it. Unfortunately, the vision of our partners has expanded beyond their current budget. The context in which the BHCOC works is one in which their churches suffer prejudice based on their faith and ethnicity.

### Strengths

The office facilities and hostel planned for Ruma were initially delayed due to costing. However, the BHCOC was able to source the material and labour themselves at a much better rate, with support from funds raised by Australian supporters. Not only is the office built, it has displayed the ingenuity of the BHCOC's leadership. In late 2020, leadership training occurred for over 70 people.

### How Your Support is Finding Hope

By supporting ICP in Bangladesh, the hope of Jesus is finding its way into the small towns and villages dotted throughout the Bandarban Hills via dedicated church planters.

## FIJI

ICP supports three churches in Fiji, based in Lautoka, Lomowai (Sigatoka) and Vuci Rd (Suva). ICP has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nakasi Church (Suva), who use the GMP-owned facility for their services.

### Challenges

GMP staff have been unable to travel to Fiji since Dec 2019. Pastor Lim, who worked alongside and mentored Muneshwar at Lomowai, returned to Korea in 2020. For the first time, there has been no oversight of any of the churches in Fiji by foreign missionaries. Unfortunately, the simmering toxicity at the Nakasi Church flared up again in early 2020.

### Strengths

Now a truly indigenous-led movement, the Fijian churches have thrived despite the odds. They adapted to COVID-19 by bringing services and activities online, or ministering remotely to congregants. In partnership with the Fiji Council of Churches, the situation at Nakasi appears to have been resolved. ICP is truly grateful for this outcome.

### How Your Support is Finding Hope

You are supporting a new era of local leadership that is drawing people to the churches and hearing the gospel. Hope is afresh in Fiji through this difficult time.

## INDIA

ICP primarily supports child welfare facilities in India, but also raised funds in the 2020/21 financial year to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in Mumbai's slums.

### Challenges

Obviously, COVID-19 has meant that the assessment of GMP's ongoing work in India will be delayed. Key leaders fell ill, and others had to isolate.

### Strengths

The response to COVID-19 by our partners in Mumbai, especially, is to be celebrated. In the sprawling, often chaotic slums of Mumbai, food packages were handed out to a diverse number of people and marginalised groups. The reporting back to GMP has been prompt and transparent.

### How Your Support is Finding Hope

Children are being educated, and people living in the slums of Mumbai are finding the local churches to be places of hope during India's COVID-19 crisis.

## INDONESIA

ICP works closely with mission training colleges in Bandung (West Java) and Salatiga (Central Java). These colleges train students to plant churches across Indonesia and focus on being a blessing to their local communities while they do it.

### Challenges

Martono's illness was a setback to the discipleship training and pastoral work he did through the Asia Pacific Christian Mission International School (API). He is slowly recovering, but his energy is missed. COVID-19 has impacted Indonesia terribly and forced a shift to remote learning. The team at the Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia (Salatiga) battled the ramifications and restrictions of COVID-19.

### Strengths

The transition from Peter Sugiarto to Leila Nugroho (API) as GMP's main contact was seamless. Leila is based at the college campus, meaning that connecting with GMP is easier to do as she travels less. We have enjoyed meeting and working alongside her via Zoom. Both our Indonesian partners are well established and excel at training effective missionaries.

### How Your Support is Finding Hope

You are supporting two training institutions with a passion for mission and for community. This training brings people closer to Jesus.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ (MECOC) are ICP's partners in Papua New Guinea, with over 100 churches stretching throughout the East Sepik region. ICP supports training centres in Gandepe and Yamen.

### Challenges

PNG is visited regularly by GMP's Executive Officer, John Gilmore, which would see any (usually governance) issues discussed and worked through face-to-face. This has not been possible for the past 18 months.

### Strengths

The passion to evangelise by MECOC is obvious; it's their heartbeat. While there are disadvantages to the remote East Sepik region where the churches are located, they have been spared the worst of the COVID-19 outbreak in Port Moresby.

### How Your Support is Finding Hope

Local churches and emerging leaders in PNG are bringing hope through your support.

## PHILIPPINES

Our newest partnership is with the International Christian College of Manila (ICCM), who train students for ministry and other vocations that can help support them as they lead churches part-time.

### Challenges

COVID-19 meant that Manila experienced long periods of lockdown. Remote learning is difficult for rural students, where internet coverage is often poor. The lack of international travel has been problematic, as GMP staff would usually visit early in the partnership to establish foundational relationships. The land that ICCM leases is not a long-term proposition.

### Strengths

One can only be impressed by ICCM's resilience in facing COVID-19. They are quick to respond to questions and to make themselves available online. We are building a good foundation for an ongoing partnership.

### How Your Support is Finding Hope

Students are being trained to be bi-vocational pastors. In settings where pastoral work is rarely – if ever – paid as full-time work, ICCM's focus on providing pastoral and teaching degrees (for example) means that students graduate with a vocational path that is sustainable, as well as hope for the future.

## SOUTH SUDAN

ICP supports a diverse range of ministry in South Sudan, including chaplaincy, training church leaders at Aweil Bible College, and supporting local churches with basic ministry necessities.

### Challenges

After 10 years of independence, South Sudan is still a difficult environment to live in. Internet coverage is a problem that has been highlighted by COVID-19. Although ICP is not focused on church buildings, in South Sudan many churches cannot be used to meet in during the rainy season.

### Strengths

Paulino Malou is a vibrant, energetic and capable leader who is building an excellent culture of Christian leadership around him. The potential impact of the churches on South Sudanese society is significant.

### How Your Support is Finding Hope

In an impoverished setting, your support trains new leaders, and enables them to bring hope to their people.

## THAILAND

ICP continues to partner with the Church of Christ Thailand (CCT) as they support the Plang churches, 90 minutes west of Bangkok.

### Challenges

COVID-19 meant that the last GMP visit to Thailand was made in February 2020. This is significant given that there was a change in leadership, and reporting back to ICP has not been adequate. We are currently holding some funds until this is rectified and are exploring options to improve communication. COVID-19 has hit Thailand badly – Bangkok in particular – over the last few reporting months, meaning people are working from home.

# ICP PARTNERS AND PROJECTS CONT.

## Strengths

The CCT is an excellent organisation in terms of having a broad scope of what Christian ministry can be — from evangelism through to much-needed ministries that deal with social issues. They naturally pivot to marginalised groups.

## How Your Support is Finding Hope

The Plang churches are made up of a tribal group that has no legal standing in Thailand. Your support gives hope to a people who — on the surface — seem to have little hope.

## VANUATU

In partnership with the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu (CCCV), ICP focuses on supporting local churches, training leaders and, as a lesser priority, maintaining church facilities.

## Challenges

COVID-19 has restricted not only GMP staff visits, but also visits from supportive Australian churches. Like PNG and Fiji, Vanuatu is one of the partners that GMP staff regularly visit. In so doing, we work through cultural differences in terms of governance, compliance and administration. Church teams can see where their funds go and the impact they make. We are also adapting to changes in leadership at the CCCV.

## Strengths

The church is resilient in the face of economic challenges caused by a dramatic drop in tourism throughout Vanuatu. Against a backdrop of volcanic eruptions and tropical cyclones, the church continues to reach out. We have been pleased to see an openness to minister to vulnerable people emerge from the CCCV.

## How Your Support is Finding Hope

When the world seems volatile to the people of Vanuatu, they have hope through the reliable support of people such as yourself. The Londua Chaplain is also supported by your generosity.

## VIETNAM

ICP primarily focuses on leadership training and support in the small house churches scattered throughout Vietnam.

## Challenges

Vietnam is another of our partners who have deeply missed face-to-face visits. Pastor Doan provides leadership and support to the churches and their leaders but COVID-19 restrictions have also limited her freedom to travel. She has been encouraged by Fiona Briers' presence in Vietnam over many years and, with Fiona's return to Australia, this will be missed.

## Strengths

The churches are small, so have been able to continue meeting despite COVID-19 restrictions being imposed on larger gatherings. Discipleship and evangelism are at the forefront of the mission of these house churches.

## How Your Support is Finding Hope

These churches band together to show Jesus to others — you wouldn't believe how much hope you give by supporting them without (often) having met them.

## ZIMBABWE

In close partnership with the Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe (ACCZ), ICP supports local churches and in particular, evangelists who minister to as many as six churches each.

## Challenges

Government corruption, the lack of support for essential services such as health and education, as well as a chronically high unemployment and inflation rates mean that Zimbabweans as a whole, and their churches, often struggle to make ends meet.

## Strengths

There is no more resilient set of churches than those in the ACCZ. They face obstacles at almost every turn. Yet they are planting new churches, baptising new believers, officiating at marriages and comforting mourners at funerals. They believe in prayer and that the church is the living Body of Christ, able to transform lives.

## How Your Support is Finding Hope

One key example is through the provision of motor-cycles for pastors who lead multiple churches. This enables them to meet with their people, and provide them with hope in a nation that seems to be lacking it.

## ICP ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

**One of the ways GMP supports mission is by making available practical, administrative and financial support for ministries that do not have an Australian presence, or the systems required for operational support.**

### Mother's Love, India

Mother's Love provided care through the provision of pre- and post-natal support for women, and for children trapped in poverty. Mother's Love was founded in tribute to Ruth Skillicorn and is led by Pamela Kumar, the adopted daughter of Keith Skillicorn. Keith died in 2018, having made a huge contribution to the lives of people in India and in Australia. ICP provides support with the management of finances and the sending of regular payments for support. Due to a combination of factors, Mother's Love has now been wound down.

### Reaching Hands, India

Dr. Iris Paul founded the Reaching Hands Society in Orissa, building on the work of her late husband. Their son, Remo Paul, is the Director. The focus of Reaching Hands is on community health clinics, education, church planting and prison ministry. The door is opened for them to share the Christian message through their healthcare and education programs. The villages they work in are isolated and people there have few resources. They have also distributed COVID-19 emergency relief packages this year.

### Geon Homes and Asia Gospel Mission, South Korea

Geon Homes continues to focus on the care, support and education of children. This includes residential (for abandoned children) and non-residential programs (local children). The second ministry, Asia Gospel Mission, supports pastors and churches in rural settings with few resources. After many years of creative leadership by Dr. Yoon Kwon Chae, this ministry is now led by his son, John Chae.

### Newbigin School for Urban Leadership, Birmingham, UK

Newbigin School for Urban Leadership is based in Winson Green, Birmingham, UK. This multiracial, inner city neighbourhood was the seedbed for the industrial revolution where some of the first urban industrialised neighbourhoods began over 200 years ago. The centre is led by Dr. Ash Barker, and seeks to cultivate an environment for urban change, raising up more resilient, compassionate and innovative urban leaders, able to shape our new urban world from the ground up.

# LIFE-CHANGING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS AID

Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) is the international community development program of Global Mission Partners, working to overcome poverty through accompanying communities living in poverty toward realising their aspirations for wellbeing.

COCOA works in Asia, Africa and the Pacific, focusing on Clean Water, Primary Health Care, Quality Schooling and Productive Livelihoods. We partner with local civil-society organisations that are part of the communities that they serve, letting their aspirations for well-being drive our projects.

Image: Children from Emmanuel School,  
South Sudan

COCOA  
Churches of Christ Overseas Aid

actalliance



## MEET PAULINO

In 2016, GMP decided to invest heavily in Christian Mercy International in South Sudan. In particular, to invest in its founding director, Paulino Malou, enabling him to study community work in Uganda. Last year, South Sudan started to see the return on that investment.

Paulino took the lead in mobilising Churches of Christ to protect themselves from the pandemic and to reach out to those most at risk – people like street-based sellers of tea, nuts and charcoal who were put out of business by lockdowns, and children at Emmanuel school. Paulino trained as a pastor and continues to teach Bible college students, but the knowledge and skills he gained in Uganda and his continuing studies (at his own cost) will reap benefits for the Aweil Region for many years to come. His wife, Lydia, and their family are the founding joy on which the rest of his life is built.



Ntando, Showers of Blessing, speaking to a community that have installed a new borehole, Zimbabwe

## SIGNIFICANT, ENDURING CHANGE

Two stories particularly reflected COCOA's work this year. In Zimbabwe, when a borehole was installed in their community, one member commented, "The water project is important as it has opened up opportunities to plan other things at a household or village level." Her words describe what we always hope will happen in our projects – that our small intervention will be a catalyst that enables locals to do much more than what we put into the project plan. Much more than we can even imagine, in fact.

The second story was from a participant in a peace-building workshop in South Sudan. She said, "Before the workshop we were feeling, 'This one is Nuer, this one is Mandari, this one is Dinka'. But after the workshop we are not feeling that now." Her words reflect a seismic change in attitude. These stories are a strong sign that COCOA projects are supporting significant and enduring change in people's lives. These people will go on to make significant and enduring change in their communities for years to come.

We set our minds to becoming a 'competent and innovative church agency' in our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. We feel an increasing confidence that we are on track with that direction. COCOA is represented on two ACFID committees – not an easy achievement for a small agency. Our evaluation framework is functioning well

and we have found the confidence to be flexible when projects need it. The journey toward accreditation has improved our analysis of gender, disability and environment in projects. It has restructured our capacity building and strengthened our compliance monitoring.

The pandemic has taught us new and useful ways of working online. We have had to boost the internet capability of a number of partners to make this effective. The pandemic has also reminded us just how much we enjoy seeing our partners face to face.

We recruited two new people for the COCOA Reference Group this year: Wendy Suma and Chris Morey, while Claire Egan joined as a new member of the Board. Gordon Buxton and April Holmes continued as the stalwarts of the group. We introduced companioning, a process where a committee member gets involved with a project so they can help present it to the group for approval. We also introduced Partner Spots, with one partner online each meeting, talking about their context and the challenges they face. This quickly became the highlight of the meetings. Heartfelt thanks to the COCOA team who throw themselves wholeheartedly into this challenging but rewarding work.

## YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

### IMPROVING HEALTH WITH TOILETS

Members of Cramady Village were selected to receive toilets. A member of the community reports, "Our Mru data has been requested and collected many times by many people from many NGOs. Often our people refuse to provide the information, the reason being that they are not getting any programs in our village. All that happens is that people collect data. We were finally approached by the Community Advancement Forum (CAF) introducing the Community Sustainability Project (CSP) of toilet installation. I personally had doubts again because of what we had experienced with other NGOs.



*"I think having a toilet is the most important factor of maintaining health in the family and our society"*

"Anyway, I agreed as did other members in our village. And on 5 February 2021 the construction work began at our village, showing the reliability of the program. Formerly we practiced toileting in the open, under the bushes. From generation after generation this was a habit. People from outside adjusted to our practice.

"I think having a toilet is the most important factor of maintaining health in the family and our society. It means reducing disease infection in the family and community, and safety for young girls and women. It is very supportive for improving our living standards. I appreciate the donors for this program and thank CAF for the CSP toilet installation program."

This year you helped COCOA projects give:

**2860 people** received COVID relief of food, masks, soap, and COVID education

**141 people** took part in vocational or higher education

**5013 people** were able to access **Safe Water**

**3 Children** with a **disability** received a wheelchair

**50 of the most vulnerable children** received goats to support their schooling costs

**8 teachers** received bicycles to visit isolated students

# COCOA PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

As we do each year, we collected all the learnings and effectiveness feedback from reports produced throughout this past year and the 11 evaluations that were conducted. In our partners' learning, participation was clearly the strongest theme, followed by context and communication. Participation was about recognising that the most important ingredients (ideas, commitment and the ability to work together) already exist within the community. Secondly, it showed how participation makes all the difference to the success of projects.

Compiling the evaluations, we found that for 29% of objectives there was evidence that they were achieved in proportion with the project design. For a further 41%, there was evidence that the outcome was achieved. The mid-partnership reviews also affirmed that GMP's relationship with our partners is warm and helpful.

Analysing our projects against our theory of change reflected strength – strength in familiar areas of 'Develop respectful relationships' and 'Partners initiate projects', and in new areas like 'Encourage civil society engagement'. There was a small rise in the ratings across the board, leaving us more to do in contributing to partners becoming more sustainable. Pleasingly, there was a human rights component in every project.

Our profile for the next level of accreditation with DFAT was submitted just before the close of the financial year. It represents a lot of work across the whole GMP team as it is GMP, not just COCOA, that is accredited. The process made us look at every area of our systems, and we have made significant changes to financial monitoring, and to capacity assessment and capacity building.

## Christian Mercy International (CMI), South Sudan

### Emmanuel School

Children at Emmanuel School in Marial Bai are feeling safer as they see a chain-link fence going up around their school. The fence will stop cattle, as well as people, wandering through. This creates a safer environment which is more conducive to learning.

CMI continues to work with the school to make it more independent. The government has begun paying the teachers' wages; carers of each student now have three goats to generate income to pay school fees and other education costs. One carer had done her calculations and was clear (and ecstatic!) that the goats would breed enough to get her child through high school. Families involved in the school said they now feel that

their children are receiving a quality education and there is a good hope of that education continuing through high school because of the financial support gained from raising the goats.

Meanwhile, the students felt the school uniform was of most significance for them. It gave a sense of belonging. This was the feedback that came from the evaluation of the Emmanuel 3 project. This project also enabled the school to qualify for the Food for Education program which now provides lunch for the students. In addition, the Director was supported to study community work and bring additional skills to the task of leading CMI.

The Emmanuel 3 project finished in December and was followed by the Education project in January. The new focus is on extending the lessons learnt at Emmanuel to other schools, as recommended by the evaluation. Across 10 not-for-profit schools in the Aweil region vulnerable children in Grade 1 will receive three goats to support their schooling, selected teachers will complete their own high school education and nutritional gardens will be established. Feedback from carers of students with a disability was that program support was most needed, so people with a disability have been prioritised to receive goats and teacher training programs.

### Mill Project

The Mill Project enabled the Chelkou community to produce and sell timber at a previously impossible scale. This was accomplished through access to portable saw mill technology. The impact was broad, continuing the impetus for the school building project – but it also moved a group of vulnerable women into a new and collective venture in a restaurant. In one year, timber was sold to the value of 10 times the average annual wage nationally. This represents three times the investment of project funding. These were the findings of the end of project evaluation conducted in 2020.

### Plough Project

Ploughs went to 20 family farms in Mayen Tiit, Maluooth, Warpach and Akkuakou, along with the relevant training. While flood and drought distorted the harvest figures, it appears that ploughs enable farmers to double or triple the amount of land they can cultivate. There was also an unexpected cultural shift as people recognised that cows could draw a plough. The evaluation envisioned that a similar project could be built on the learning of this one, in regard to understanding harvest times and recording harvest returns. It also recommended exploring conservation farming as an alternative, which is underway.

## Laid Foundation of South Sudan (LAFOSS), South Sudan

After a great second peace-building conference, bringing together conflicted tribes and helping find non-violent ways to resolve conflict and to grasp the value of peace, the peace building project halted for the remainder of 2020. Two other activities, School Peace Clubs and Community Awareness, also had to be stopped because of lockdown. In 2021, restrictions eased and schools opened. Leaders in six schools have been trained to lead peace clubs in their school. Seven communities have engaged in small-scale seminars on reconciliation and peace. The latter are in the communities associated with the leaders who attended the peace building conference.

## Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV), Zimbabwe

In line with the various COVID-19 restrictions, KCV students went to school consistently, throughout the year and avoided coronavirus infection – a big achievement! For most of 2020, this meant supervising the children in the library as they accessed online lessons. In 2021, children attended school three days of one week and two days the next to allow lessons to be conducted with social distancing. Locations were identified for the planned prevention workshop which will gather community workers together to brainstorm strategies to help at risk families keep caring for their children.

Documentation, including a thorough manual, was completed for the new transition and follow-up regime for children reconnecting with relatives. Revising the transition process was a recommendation of last year's project evaluation. Research into fostering and adoption was completed. Fostering was identified as the only realistic option for children from KCV. This could be pursued through the prevention workshop, and through promotion in the Churches of Christ network.

## Organisation of Showers of Blessing Trust (OSBT), Zimbabwe

Despite being unable to travel to communities because of lockdown for a significant part of the year, OSBT reached its goal of installing eight boreholes over the year. Water usage workshops were conducted for three of these. No livelihood workshops were conducted. A total of 4,381 people gained access to clean water, located at least two kilometres closer and – in many cases – up to seven kilometres closer than their previous water source. Boreholes give women and children, who do most of the hard work of carrying water, significant time back in the day for other activities. OSBT also explored another aspect of empowerment – by asking women on borehole committees whether this had created leadership opportunities for them.

## Community Advancement Forum (CAF), Bangladesh

### Community Sustainability Project (CSP)

This new project works with hill tribe communities in the Bandarban Hills to improve their access to education, improve sanitation, and provide income-generating activities.

In the first six months of the project, achievements included installing 60 latrines in a number of villages. With the installation, project staff provided training in latrine maintenance and personal hygiene. The latrines and training will reduce the illness and safety issues that come with open defecation. This aspect was affirmed by the evaluation of the previous project and has continued.

Another achievement was the handicraft-marketing training for 60 women from various villages. The women were excited to attend the training, to learn new designs and how to market their handicrafts better. They have requested more workshops to help them increase their income.

CAF reports monthly to the local authorities on project implementation. The feedback is that the local authorities and participants really value these activities. Activities have had to be rescheduled and rethought because of COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns.



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

# COCOA PARTNERS AND PROJECTS CONT.

## Hosanna Ministries, India

### Vocational Education and Training 3

Hosanna Ministries offers courses in tailoring and computer skills in Lasina and Kochi Villages in the Yavatmal District, and in Ambernath in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. They are taking up the recommendation of the prior project evaluation to continue both courses in a wider variety of locations. Tailoring participants learned how to make blouses worn with saris and dresses for special occasions. This program provides skills for participants to sew for their families, and earn income by sewing for their neighbours.

In computer classes, participants were taught basic Word, Excel and PowerPoint skills. At the course's conclusion, students take a government examination. Most passed this exam and received a recognised certificate that can be used to help find a job or continue with higher education.

COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns disrupted the planned schedule, especially from April-June 2021. From July 2020-March 2021, 25 people were trained in tailoring and 35 in computing.

### Prakash Tekadi Community Building Project

This project works with the rag-picking slum community of Prakash Tekadi to increase the education and health of community members.

This year the project has focused on responding to the community's needs created by lockdowns. When restrictions allow, children attend the education centre for basic education and a nutritious snack. Many school-age children stay home when schools close, so this fills part of their day with education. It also supplements their nutrition, when healthy food can be difficult to obtain. Approximately 40 children regularly attend with enthusiasm — a good showing for a non-compulsory school!

When restrictions were eased, the project staff conducted house visits to six to eight households per week. During these visits, they check people's temperatures and provide information on COVID-19, government restrictions, and other general health information. When restrictions were in place, the project staff maintained contact via telephone.

COVID-19 emergency help, food packages, masks and sanitisers, have been provided to community members.

## Churches of Christ Conference, Vanuatu

### Vanuatu Partnership Community Project

This was the final year of the project. The focus was revisiting the participating communities on Tanna, Pentecost and Maewo to follow up on their projects and to provide further training. Projects in seven communities were completed, including repairing two water pipe systems, three market houses, two guest houses and a pre-school.

One challenge is the time taken to get building supplies to the communities. Not everything ordered arrives simultaneously. Another challenge is that with natural disasters such as Tropical Cyclone Harold, some of the water pipes provided to communities on Pentecost were damaged and needed repairing.

When revisiting communities, additional training was provided to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as hand washing and other hygienic practices.

This project received support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

### Disaster Response and Preparedness Project

This new project aims to increase a community's ability to prepare for, and respond to, natural disasters in Penama, Sanma and Malampa Provinces. Initial networking was completed towards establishing Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCCs) in seven communities. Following this will be training for communities in disaster preparedness, including food security.

The Disaster Desk Officer has established networks with other disaster response and church agencies. They have also liaised with government departments to ensure that the project is consistent with Vanuatu Government requirements.

The project is also assisting communities impacted by Tropical Cyclone Harold in rebuilding activities, and continuing to assist Ambae communities in adjusting to living with an active volcano. The project is working with a community in Malo to repair the roof of the building used as an evaluation centre that was damaged during TC Harold's path of destruction.

We are also working with communities on Ambae to provide pigs, chickens and fish to communities that cannot afford to restock following the 2018 evacuation from the island due to the volcanic eruption.

## Emergency Projects Report

### Christian Mercy International (CMI), South Sudan

#### COVID-19

CMI was quick to identify community groups that needed extra help to survive the pandemic. Street sellers of tea, groundnuts and charcoal instantly lost their livelihoods when lockdown was enforced. Without savings and living hand-to-mouth, they were in need of the support that CMI provided. Tiny amounts of start-up capital got them back into business after lockdown.

Bicycles were dispatched to teachers at Emmanuel School so that they could visit students and help them continue their studies while the school was closed. Masks were provided for Grade 8 students and teachers, and hand-washing stations helped to get students back to school after the lockdown lifted.

### Community Advancement Forum (CAF), Bangladesh

#### COVID-19 Emergency

Like the rest of the world during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bangladeshi Government has declared a number of state of emergencies and imposed lockdowns. This created economic hardships, particularly for vulnerable communities in the Bandarban Hills.

Through the Bawm COVID-19 Response Committee, CAF prepared an emergency project to provide food and hygiene kits, as well as other assistance.

GMP contributed to this emergency project and provided support to 600 vulnerable households in Bandarban, Ruma and Rwangchary. These households were provided with masks, rice, soap, salt, oil, dal and a gunny bag.

## COCOA ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

**Where Churches of Christ churches and affiliated organisations have a strong relationship with a community overseas, COCOA provides a design and quality assurance service to assist them in implementing quality development projects with their international partner.**

### Live Connection/Father's Divine Love Ministries (FDLM) – Poultry, Uganda

Live Connection's partner in Uganda, Father's Divine Love Ministries' (FDLM) Poultry Project, built a large-scale chicken farm to provide employment for the carers of vulnerable children. Unfortunately, their first batch of chickens was stolen. They worked to strengthen security and restock the farm. No progress was reported this year because of COVID-19. Live Connection has decided to close its development work, so this project and the partnership conclude at the end of the year. Thank you, Live Connection, for some innovative projects and a warm relationship.

### Churches of Christ in Queensland/ Medical Santo, Vanuatu

There was no project activity this year and the project has transitioned to GMP Extend.



*Vanuatu Partnership Community Project – Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu (CCCV) is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*

# EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

## INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

GMP seeks to partner with, and among, Australian Indigenous people, focusing on Indigenous ministry and development. Our Indigenous ministries have been developed and planned by a council of Indigenous people to allow for in-depth direction setting from key Indigenous leaders and communities around the country.



Image: Dena Gower and Connie Clinch, IMA West Retreat 2021



### MEET PASTOR GREG AND MARGARET LITTLE

Pastor Greg Little and Margaret, his wife, are respected Noongar Christian elders who have faithfully served in ministry for many years. Greg has pastored the Bunbury Aboriginal Christian Fellowship for the last 13 years. Both Greg and Margaret desire to see their community know God's love and hope. The Lord has placed on Greg's heart a deep desire to share with WA church congregations about what God is doing in Indigenous communities, and to see how churches can walk alongside our Indigenous sisters and brothers in ministry.



A firepit gathering, Australia

## HOPE SHINES THROUGH

**Amid life's present challenges and uncertainty, hope continues to shine through in unexpected ways.**

The disruption to our 'normal' way of working has provided an opportunity for IMA and its partners to adapt and find creative ways to strengthen existing programs, while also exploring new initiatives.

### Hope Through Stories

Hope can be found through sharing stories, and creating spaces for listening and learning to First Nations' voices. This is central to IMA's work. Last November, IMA, along with several Christian organisations in Perth, partnered to host a film and language festival, 'Our Country Speaks', to hear and reflect on stories told by Australian Indigenous elders. IMA facilitated the 'pilot' Adelaide cultural learning city tour with traditional owner, Frank Wanganeen, and a group of Churches of Christ leaders including the State Minister, Peter Barney. Plans keep developing for a fantastic opportunity for listening, learning, praying and connecting between our churches and the Indigenous Kurna people of the Adelaide area.

### Hope Through the Next Generations

IMA pastoral outreach worker, Brendon Garlett, is seeing healing and connection coming through prayerful presence and loving relationships in the outback NSW community of Dareton. Here, through the friendships and example of Brendon and Amy's children amongst other local youth (many who have struggled with unstable home lives and school attendance), they are beginning to see healthy routines develop, students return to school, and people participate in youth group activities. These are signs of real hope.

### Hope Through Friendship

Churches across Australia have continued to develop friendships with our Indigenous sisters and brothers in ministry through prayer, financial support and participation in shared gatherings. Greg Little from Bunbury has been invited by WA churches to preach, and five churches will be involved in an IMA Discovery Trip out to Norseman Community Church later this year.

### Hope for Healing

Over the past year there have been times of intense grief. Many have lost loved ones and continue to suffer the trauma associated with childhood sexual abuse. There are also signs of hope. Hope springing from the faithful testimonies of those now with the Lord, and hope for a pathway toward justice and healing as Christian organisations respond to the National Redress Scheme.

### Hope for the Future

There are many signs of hope for the future of Indigenous ministry in Australia. The growing interest in First Nation language programs is evident at a local level through our partners in Bunbury (Noongar) and Norseman (Ngadjju). Meanwhile, Ngaama Ministry's Cultural Training program 'Ni' (listen) has provided churches, schools and community leaders opportunities to learn about First Nations' cultures and our shared history. The IMA Pathways Program, which supports Indigenous Christian leadership training, continues to grow, with the first cohort of students commencing at the start of 2022.

### Hope in God

Despite recent travel restrictions, IMA partners gather regularly. Connecting by phone, Zoom and in person where possible, they share and pray together. We are grateful for the prayers of our supporters, and for the way prayer ensures that our ultimate hope for our work is in God.

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Is. 40:31)

## YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

### BRENDON AND AMY GARLETT AND FAMILY

"Praise God for His faithfulness to us during our fourth year of ministry in Dareton. It has been a joy to see the kids in the community grow up together with our children, and a blessing to have them become a part of our lives. We have welcomed many kids into our home over the years, and it makes me proud how respectful they are of my family's faith in Christ. We can see how God is with us; being here in the community representing Christ has influenced the kids.



The spiritual battle is real and we are faced with a real spiritual enemy that leads many down the wrong path. Over the years here, we have seen how easily they choose that path. Over the past year, friends of our children seemed to head slowly down the wrong path. It became discouraging for my wife and I, as our hearts mourned for them.

But God is good and has brought them slowly back into our lives. The amazing thing is that they are regularly coming home and going back to school almost every

day with our girls. Compare that to the past two years where they struggled to even go to school, would often get into fights and were getting suspended. Our home is open for anyone to come and be a part of our lives, and it's a joy to be able to share God's Word with people of all ages.

It's a great blessing to witness God at work, and we hope and pray they may come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour one day."

### This year you helped IMA achieve:

 **8** Indigenous ministry projects

Partners Across **4** States in Australia 

**3** Cultural Training Workshops  
run by Ngaama Ministries and supported by IMA

**59** Young People   
accessing the Dareton Youth and Community Centre

Regular Radio interviews of IMA Leaders and Partners on 98five (Western Australia) 

**6** Locally Produced Short Films 

**9** Church Speaking engagements 

**3** Melbourne Songlines Tours \*Before lockdown 

And the **1st** Adelaide On Country tour 



# IMA PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

## IMA East

### Dareton

#### Highlights:

- The purchase and renovation work at the Youth and Community Centre has made secure the long-term use of the property as a place of safety and healing.
- The increasing numbers of youth continuing to use the Centre, to connect with healthy programs, culture and faith.
- The growing, organic youth group and church.
- The positive influence of the Garlett family among the Dareton youth.

#### Challenges:

- The differing COVID-19 regulations between NSW and VIC caused uncertainty and anxiety in the community.
- The Centre is on the lookout for an Indigenous female support worker (part-time) that would allow an increase in hours and activities.

## South Australia

#### Highlights:

- A new generation of leadership has stepped into key roles at Tjilgamooda Church, Ceduna.
- Renewed connections have been established with the State Conference of Churches of Christ in SA/NT and Tjilgamooda Church.
- Our first Adelaide 'on country' tour was piloted.

#### Challenges:

- Sustaining and connecting the remote and under-resourced Indigenous churches.
- Supporting and developing the next generation of leaders.

## Victoria

#### Highlights:

- Melbourne Indigenous Church Fellowship developed an arts and healing program.
- The recommencement of the Melbourne Songlines tours.
- The recommencement of services (including a NAIDOC special service) for the Melbourne Indigenous Church Fellowship.

#### Challenges:

- Melbourne Indigenous Church Fellowship pastor-training workshops and suicide prevention workshop have been delayed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

## IMA West

### Norseman

#### Highlights:

- The willingness of the Ngadju Native Title Trust to contribute to repairing the Norseman Church property.
- The Norseman Church and its leaders have developed strong relationships within the community, including with the Ngadju Trust, the police and the Norseman Council. Pastor Kevin Tucker has been invited to participate in community events and celebrations.
- Many children are still attending Norseman Community Church gatherings.

#### Challenges:

- The repairs to the Norseman property have taken longer than anticipated, which means the Norseman building has not been available to use for services.
- There has been a lot of mining work in and around Norseman. This is a challenge for the church to find new ways of reaching these miners.

## Port Hedland

#### Highlights:

- New people have been attending the church over the past six months.
- People are volunteering within the church, indicating greater personal ownership and commitment.
- A good relationship is developing with the local Torres Strait Islander community in Hedland. About 100 people recently attended the 150th anniversary of the 'Coming of the Light' Christian festival on 1 July 2021 at the church.

#### Challenges:

- The passing of our dear brother and pastor early in 2021.

- It has been a challenge to engage with Indigenous men from the community. There is a need to develop a suitable program so that more men can be meaningfully involved in the church.
- We need someone who can help in a church administrator role.
- Consistent attendance and commitment within the church.

## Esperance

#### Highlights:

- A number of people from the local Indigenous community have begun to attend the church.

#### Challenges:

- Consistent attendance and commitment within this small fellowship.
- Finding new ways of reaching out to the wider community.

## Bunbury

#### Highlights:

- Being able to celebrate a wedding within the church family and a number of rededications.
- The church kitchen was renovated with the help of some of the church family.
- The church has experienced a growth in attendance at church services.
- Preaching opportunities for Greg Little at churches across Perth and regional WA.
- New leaders are emerging within the fellowship, including Peter Jetta who dedicated his life to the Lord and is now applying for the Minister Accreditation Course to become a church leader.

#### Challenges:

- Sickness and COVID-19 restrictions have put an additional strain on the Bunbury leadership as they endeavour to ensure that people are cared for and remain safe.
- Grief experienced within the church fellowship due to the loss of several family members over the past year.

## Ngaama Ministries (Perth)

#### Highlights:

- Ngaama has been able to develop a strong network of supporters and partners including Mt Pleasant Baptist Church, Lifestreams Church and Zion Ministries. Each have contributed to events which Ngaama has either initiated or coordinated, including the annual NAIDOC Gospel Concert and Ngaama's Annual Indigenous Art Exhibitions.
- Growing interest in Ngaama's 'Ni' (listen) Cultural Training Sessions. Workshops were held at Mt Pleasant Baptist Church, Riverview Church and Lifestreams Church.

#### Challenges:

- Needing to find a permanent place for the ministry to operate.
- Working towards Indigenous leaders taking a lead role in managing Indigenous programs and Christian ministry.

## Moorditj Keila (MK)

#### Highlights:

- The establishment of an op-shop to raise funds for MK programs.
- The appointment of a new manager, Noongar yorga, Connie Clinch.
- The success of the driving licensing program, supported by TEARfund.

# CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN MISSION

## EMBODY

embody exists to empower, encourage and support a national community of young people who are passionate about mission. We want to see God's Kingdom come, to be the best stewards of the resources we currently have, and to support those who are the most vulnerable and marginalised in our world.

Image: Mitchell Salmon, Embody National Coordinator



## MEET BRENDAN

### Kingsley Church of Christ

Kingsley Church of Christ in Western Australia has taken part in the Safe Water September challenge in 2019 and 2020. Brendan Taylor says, "We got on board with Safe Water September after we heard Boniface Mpofu speak about how the Showers of Blessing team involve the community in their projects. We wanted to support something that not only helped bring clean drinking water, but also empowered the communities it was being brought to. One of my highlights has been seeing others get involved and the conversations that come out of it."



The Safe Water September team from Elizabeth Church of Christ, South Australia

## HOPE AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE

**This year has been full of challenges and excitement for the embody network. We have continued to connect with local churches and leaders to help support and resource mission involving, and led by, young people.**

COVID-19 has had a profound effect on ministries with young people around Australia. embody made ourselves available to assist, support and encourage leaders of young people during this challenging season of ministry. It has been a profound pleasure to lead our Mission Community cohorts during this season. We can directly support leaders of young people as they navigate new forms of ministry and mission together.

Our pilot Mission Community wrapped up in November 2020. This marked the end of one form of community for our cohort, and the beginning of ongoing informal connections and support. Members of the pilot group reported that they felt more connected to other leaders and churches in their networks than they did before the Mission Community. The coaching program also helped them gain a greater appreciation for the role of mission in discipleship formation. It gave them a greater awareness of themselves as leaders. A new cohort began in January 2021. We look forward to continuing to invite leaders of young people, and young people themselves, to participate in this community of mutual support as we find hope, and take action, together.

2020's Safe Water September fundraising campaign exceeded all expectations. This demonstrates that the national embody network is capable of doing amazing things together, even during challenging times. Together, 262 challenge takers across 47 teams raised over \$178,000 for safe water projects in Zimbabwe and Vanuatu. This broke the previous year's fundraising record of \$162,000. It was an incredible source of hope for the embody network and our on-the-ground partners. Our active challenge-taker community was smaller

in 2020, but the impact was greater. The generosity of supporters from around Australia blew us away.

Our monthly podcast series Mission Unplugged continued though this year. Each month we shared a conversation with a young person who is engaged in mission, justice, or development work. The opportunity to gather and share these stories has been encouraging to us, and we hope it has been inspiring for the next generation of Christians and their leaders.

In staffing news, we farewelled Jessie Skelly from his New South Wales-based role. His advocacy for local churches, ministers, and young people remains part of the core mission of embody. In February we were excited to welcome Emily Wood as our new embody Network Developer, based in the Sydney area and connecting with churches around Australia. Emily has had experience with embody as a volunteer ambassador, and has worked with the COCOA team during her international development studies. We are incredibly blessed to have her as part of our team.

embody is an exciting space to work in. It is filled with enthusiasm and love for the national Australian church, and for the development of strong networks of young people gathering around Jesus' mission to love and serve others. Your generous support and encouragement help us continue to make a difference in the lives of people of all ages. You help us invite and empower them into the amazing things God has in store for them. Young people are full of hope and vision for a future that is loving, fair and just. It's a future we can reach together.

## YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

### MEET MORIAH

Moriah is the Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator at Discovery Church in Melbourne's eastern suburbs. Her role is to help develop and maintain Discovery's local and international mission and community development partnerships and initiatives. Her background is in international aid and development, and she is passionate about churches doing mission in ways that are contextually appropriate, effective, and informed by best practices. She also believes in helping young people learn how to do these things in their local neighbourhoods as well as internationally.

Moriah was part of the very first embody Mission Community cohort. When COVID-19 began to affect Melbourne churches and change the ways we could gather, the Mission Community continued to meet regularly over Zoom to share insights, struggles, and to encourage and pray for one another. Being new in her church-based role, this was an opportunity for Moriah to connect with other peer leaders from Churches of Christ communities. The Mission Community gathered a range of leaders, with skills and backgrounds ranging across local church youth ministry, youth social work, and international mission and development. The group



**"Being part of the Mission Community was so encouraging for me."**

was united in their passion for helping the local church, and the young people the church serves, to be the best they can be for God's Kingdom.

"Being part of the Mission Community was so encouraging for me. I loved being able to connect with like-minded peers across our movement who share a passion for leading people in all things mission and justice."

#### This year you helped Mission Communities support:

**10**   
**Leaders**

**Across**  
**8**   
**local churches**

**100%**  
**engaging deeper**  
**in mission**

#### And you helped Safe Water September achieve:

**262**   
**people**  
**taking the challenge**

**47**   
**teams**  
**taking the challenge**

**And**  
**1761**   
**donors**

#### Raising more than:

**\$178,961** 

#### Giving approximately

**7,150**   
**people**  
**access to safe water, hygiene**  
**and sanitation** 

# PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

People and programs are intimately linked in GMP. We don't have programs without people behind them, people sustaining them and people benefiting from them.



Image: Tailoring Course participants, Mumbai, India



Colin Scott visiting partners in Zimbabwe, 2018

## PARTNER VISITS

**“We know the locals and they know us” is a recurring phrase at GMP — and a reality for GMP teams and partners. To truly know and understand each other has proven more difficult this year with COVID-19 restricting travel. No international Partner Visits have been possible.**

Our partners reflected on what it means for them to have visitors come, the difference in a year when Partner Visits weren't possible, and finding hope in other ways of connection.

“Partner Visits play a crucial role in supporting the ministry in Lautoka, Fiji,” says David Reddy. “Having fellowship together and sharing from the Word, as well as personal experiences and testimonies, are a huge form of encouragement to me as well as the church members. Also, these visits gave our partners a chance to see how things are being done in ministry here. They give input on ways that would make the work here more effective. With restrictions on travel, there is definitely a void where encouragement and input in ministry is concerned.”

In Zimbabwe, Vimbai Vuma from Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV) reflects, “Visitors come to interact with the children, and that is very important as they feel loved and valued because people sacrifice to come. These visits include mentoring, sports galas, games and special meals. When people come to visit, they get first-hand information and learn more about KCV. It is different from just hearing about Khayelihle from church gatherings or reading about it from newsletters.”

From India, Daniel Gaikwad says, “It is always a blessing when teams from Australia visit. They give us so much love and encouragement. The children attending school in the slum community are typically

not given any importance in family and community life. They really enjoy all the activities a team conducts. We also get to learn new crafts and activities. The team members are equally blessed by our love and hospitality towards them. Not having the team visits means that we miss out on all the above blessings.”

Daniel Trihandarkha comments, “The time in the past where our brothers and sisters from Australia came to Indonesia was a time of joy. That joy included both rest and community. In extending hospitality, work is no longer burdensome, suffering is put aside for a moment, thus it is joy and rest for us. It is encouraging and humbling when you Aussies say to us, ‘We want to listen and learn from you.’ Moreover, when you said that the visits have been life-changing, we didn't quite get how it worked that way. Yet we realised how impactful it is when good will and yearning come together affecting our lives. It changed us too.”

“Nobody could have imagined a day where everything stops. We grieved. Initially we felt isolated and alone. When churches closed, travel was banned and the media was clamouring death and fear 24/7, we were paralysed. Online interaction was initially challenging, but we slowly embraced it with joy because the yearning remains the same. You are affecting us, and we are impacting you. This current predicament brings out the best in us. It is hope. Hoping in faith – that we will be together again, worshipping our Lord Jesus again. Hope is strong, firm like an anchor, it enters the sanctuary behind the curtain.”

## PEOPLE IN MISSION

**GMP continues to support the sending of people into mission settings, both as volunteers and as those who are supported financially.**



### BJ and Chipo Mpfu

BJ Mpfu continues to mentor, resource and encourage Zimbabwean church leaders. BJ is on the Board of the Zimbabwean Christian College and is a key coordinator for GMP partner visits to Zimbabwe when they are possible. COVID-19 has brought extra challenges for each of these activities.



### Brendon Garlett

Brendon is pioneering culturally relevant and relational outreach opportunities among the local Indigenous community. He is also working closely with Ilker, Jacqui, Josh and the team at the Dareton Youth and Community Centre, NSW.



### Fiona Briers

Fiona has led the Bright Solutions program in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, for the past 10 years. During that time, she has trained, employed and helped marginalised women gain dignity, and encouraged local church leaders. COVID-19 significantly impacted Bright Solutions with the loss of markets, leading to the company's early closure on 30 June 2020. Fiona stayed in Vietnam until June 2021 to oversee the legal dissolution of Bright Solutions Vietnam. She returned home to two weeks of hotel quarantine, and awaits God's leading for the future.

## ASSOCIATES IN MISSION



### Jamie and Claudia Boland

The Boland family moved to South Sudan to serve full-time at the start of 2013. In early 2014 they were forced to relocate to Uganda due to the civil war in South Sudan. Jamie joined the faculty of Africa Renewal University, where he serves as Academic Coordinator and lectures in theology. The Bolands are now training more South Sudanese pastors than when in Sudan, along with pastors from Uganda and the surrounding East African nations.



### Chris and Jodie MacCartney

With their daughters, Grace, Ruby and Millie, Chris and Jodie lived and served in Bangkok alongside people living in poverty since January 2007. Together with their neighbours, the MacCartneys witnessed first-hand the transformative love and grace of God among the slum community in which they lived. The MacCartney's primary ministry focus was to empower and equip local leaders to recognise their place in God's kingdom, and to develop projects with neighbours to help alleviate poverty in their community. Chris and Jodie co-founded Second Chance Bangkok with their neighbours in 2009. The challenges of COVID-19 and the changing family needs saw the MacCartneys return to Australia towards the end of 2020.



### Dr Ash and Anji Barker

After 25 years of urban mission in Melbourne and Bangkok, Ash Barker is now immersed in the multi-racial and multi-religious inner-city neighbourhood of Winson Green, Birmingham (UK) as the Founding Director of Newbigin House. Together with his wife, Anji, they founded the Newbigin School for Urban Leadership to mobilise, form and equip Christian leaders.

\*Photo of Fiona Briers courtesy Ngoc Tran –Oi Vietnam



## EMERGENCY & WELFARE PROGRAMS

### Welfare Programs

Caring for people is at the heart of the work of GMP. Not all we do aligns with the work of Churches of Christ Overseas Aid. Some we undertake and are able to use non-tax-deductible funds for such purposes. This care and support to people is practical and includes care for children and access to education. These programs also operate within GMP's policy framework.

The children's homes in Baramati and Shrigonda, India, provide quality care for children and ensure that they have access to schooling. There continue to be changes in the way that these homes are regulated. The Shrigonda home provides access to education for girls. The girls who had been boarding have been learning on-line from home since March 2020 with support from the Shrigonda Home. Education for rural girls in India is an important way of empowerment. Some of the boys at Baramati are placed by the government due to their family situation. Other boys are boarders and attend local Churches of Christ schools. During the year we received news that two boys had absconded over the high fence and tragically had drowned. In cooperation with GMP and the local authorities, the Boys Home has cared for the family of the boys, the other residents and staff, and also reviewed the child safety policies, security and care. GMP notified the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of this tragedy.

The Gnyan Sampada School in Lasina, India, continues to provide low-income families with access to quality education. It's a school that welcomes students from all faith communities. Many children are not able to attend this school and are provided with subsidies for fees and uniforms so that they can go to other local schools.

The Ashwood Memorial Hospital continues to provide medical care to people regardless of their ability to pay. The hospital has had an important role as it has remained COVID free and able to provide an ongoing maternity care program. The planned renovation of the hospital buildings is delayed due to the COVID situation.

### Emergency Appeals

#### Lebanon Emergency Appeal – ACT Alliance

On 4 August 2020, two massive explosions rocked Beirut, Lebanon's capital. An estimated 2,750 tons of unsecured ammonium nitrate exploded in a warehouse at the Port of Beirut causing 218 deaths, injuring 7,000 people and caused billions of dollars of property damage. Damaged infrastructure included schools and healthcare facilities, as well as the destruction of 85% of the country's grain. It left around 300,000 people homeless.

GMP supported the ACT Alliance in response to the Beirut blast. Our support contributed to six local organisations assisting people with access to medical care, shelter, food and schooling.

#### Tropical Cyclone Harold, Vanuatu

TC Harold was a Category 5 tropical cyclone which hit Vanuatu on 6 April 2020, first making landfall on the southern part of Espiritu Santo and then moving across and making landfall over South Pentecost. Approximately a third of Vanuatu's population was impacted by the storm. Following the cyclone, damage assessments were undertaken by the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu (CCCV) as well as the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). CCCV conducted an immediate assessment through communities on Malo, Tutuba and Mavea, Espiritu Santo and Pentecost islands, which showed significant damage to buildings and crops. NDMO assessments reported extensive damage to houses, evacuation centres, gardens, water systems, health facilities and classrooms to Pentecost, Santo, Malo, Ambryn, Malekula, Epi, Tongoa and Shepherd Islands, and Merelava in Torba Province.

CCCV are working with the NDMO and other agencies in responding to this emergency. Training on Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate was held at Vunamele



Images left and above: COVID-19 Relief provided through the COVID-19 Ministry Appeal by Hosanna Ministries, Mumbai, India



Image above: Ashwood Staff given grocery kits through the COVID-19 Ministry Appeal by Churches of Christ in Western India

Church of Christ on 12-16 October 2020. In consultation with the CCCV Secretary-General, the Malo communities of Afnaro and Afnaleleo were selected for initial assistance due to their proximity to Santo and need for assistance before the cyclone season. Assistance was also given to those in south and central Pentecost. The CCCV Disaster Desk Officer worked with the Afnaleleo community to design a project to repair the evacuation centre.

#### COVID-19 Ministry Appeal

COVID-19 significantly impacted each of our partners and their communities throughout the year. These Churches of Christ partners are well located in these vulnerable communities to provide direct and grass roots care and support.

Compassionate supporters helped achieve the following through the COVID-19 Ministry Appeal:

- 350 supply kits containing vital food and health supplies distributed to people in need through church institutions in India;
- Around 35 people affected by leprosy provided with medical help that will last for one month in India;
- A marginalised community of around 30 transgender people in India provided with food kits that will feed their families for a month;
- 150 food hampers distributed to people in need in Fiji. Each food hamper is worth about 50FJD and was distributed equally between the church community and those outside the church.



From top left: Remy Sese, Elise Andrews, Colin Scott, Emily Wood, Craig Brown, John Gilmore, Suzanne Hayes, Lisa Szepessy, Val Zerna, Mitchell Salmon, Nick Wight, Jan Bayliss, Gavian Chan, Zach Blackmore, Melinda Van Vuuren

# MEET THE TEAM

## STAFF MEMBERS\*

Executive Officer \_\_\_\_\_ John Gilmore  
 Deputy Executive Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Craig Brown

### Partnership Coordinators

Partnership Coordinator (NSW) \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Scott  
 Partnership Coordinator (SA/NT) \_\_\_\_\_ Val Zerna  
 Partnership Coordinator (VIC/TAS) \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel Curkpatrick  
 Partnership Coordinator (QLD) \_\_\_\_\_ Vicki Marney  
 (Concluded Oct 2020)  
 Partnership Coordinator (WA) \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Battersby

### Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA)

COCOA Director \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Scott  
 COCOA Partner Education Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Jan Bayliss  
 COCOA Program Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Suzanne Hayes

### International Church Partnerships (ICP)

ICP Director \_\_\_\_\_ Craig Brown

### Indigenous Ministries Australia

IMA Coordinator (East) \_\_\_\_\_ Nick Wight  
 IMA Coordinators (West) \_\_\_\_\_ Remy Sese  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Battersby

### embody

embody National Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Mitch Salmon  
 embody Relationships  
 Mission Catalyst (NSW) \_\_\_\_\_ Jessie Skelly  
 (Concluded Oct 2020)  
 embody Network  
 Developer (NSW) \_\_\_\_\_ Emily Wood

## Finance and Administration

Finance and Administration  
 Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Szepessy  
 Bookkeeper \_\_\_\_\_ Katrina Davidson  
 Receipting and  
 Assistant Bookkeeper \_\_\_\_\_ Susan Thomas  
 Database and Administration \_\_\_\_\_ Audrey Lim  
 (Concluded June 2021)  
 Administration Assistant \_\_\_\_\_ Melinda van Vuuren

## Communications

Director of Communications  
 and Design \_\_\_\_\_ Elise Andrews  
 Media and Communications  
 Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Rachel Conteh  
 Graphic Designer \_\_\_\_\_ Eli Minuz  
 Social Media \_\_\_\_\_ Kyra Foster  
 Copy Writer \_\_\_\_\_ Zach Blackmore

## Marketing

Director of Marketing and  
 Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_ Gavian Chan  
 Supporter Care \_\_\_\_\_ Val Zerna  
 Database Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Terence Ng

# BOARD MEMBERS

## Barrie Yesberg

Chair and Executive  
 Member, WA

Ordained Minister of Churches  
 of Christ, Australian Federal  
 Police Chaplain, Royal Australian  
 Navy Reserve Principal Chaplain,  
 and Indigenous missionary  
 experience with the Federal  
 Aborigines Mission Board.  
 Involved in Warnbro Community  
 Church in Western Australia.  
 Married with four children, and  
 six grandchildren.

## John Gilmore

Executive Officer, VIC

Master of Theology. Executive  
 Director of Mission and Ministry  
 for Churches of Christ VIC/TAS  
 for 10 years. National Council  
 of Churches in Australia  
 (NCCA), Act for Peace Director  
 and Chair of the Board,  
 NCCA Director and Micah  
 Australia Director. Ten years  
 active involvement in Christian  
 Conference Asia.

## Roger Bawden

Treasurer and Chair of the  
 Finance Risk and Audit  
 Committee, Member GMP  
 Review Group, QLD

Diploma of Business, retired  
 missionary and businessman.  
 Worked in senior management  
 roles for 40 years including  
 Vanuatu, national retail business,  
 aged care and state-wide  
 retirement villages. Actively  
 involved in the life of the Bribie  
 Island Church of Christ through  
 worship leading, music and  
 other activities.

## Gordon Buxton

Member COCOA Reference  
 Group, Member Finance Risk  
 and Audit Committee, NSW

Established Yooralla Youth  
 Ministries and Yooralla  
 Overseas Development Fund,  
 which is a registered aid and  
 development fund. More  
 than 30 years' experience  
 as a consultant in customer  
 focused operations and human  
 resources management.

## Symon Pratt

Member ICP Reference  
 Group, VIC

Graduate Diploma of Divinity,  
 Masters in Arts (Ministry  
 Practice), Bachelor of Business  
 (Marketing) and a Graduate  
 Diploma in Business (Travel  
 and Tourism). Senior Pastor  
 at One2One Church of Christ,  
 Ballarat, and previously at  
 Bundaberg Church of Christ.  
 Formerly Associate Pastor  
 at CrossCulture working  
 with children, youth and  
 university students including  
 ChildSafe Training, leadership  
 development, and leading local  
 and international mission trips.

## Mark Riessen

Deputy Chair, Member of  
 Board Executive, SA

Masters in Theology, currently  
 studying a Doctor of Ministry.  
 Mission and Ministry Director  
 with Churches of Christ in SA  
 & NT. Director of the Tabor  
 Churches of Christ Study  
 Centre where he lectures  
 in Effective Community  
 Engagement, Leadership for  
 Ministry and Churches of Christ  
 Identity.

## Vandana Thavare

Member GMP Review  
 Group, Member ICP  
 Reference Group, WA

Degree in Physiotherapy.  
 Currently undertaking a  
 Graduate Diploma in Divinity  
 part-time. Has worked in  
 far north WA and in the  
 NT, including with several  
 Indigenous communities. Born  
 in India to Bhimrao and Kanta  
 Thavare, she moved with her  
 family to Fiji where they served  
 as missionaries with OMB (now  
 GMP) from December 2001  
 until 2006.

## Sarah Tan

(Concluded December 2020)  
 Member COCOA Reference  
 Group, VIC

Bachelor of Law (Hons).  
 Working as a lawyer and  
 Registered Migration Agent  
 since 2010 at an international  
 immigration firm. Two years'  
 experience with an international  
 NGO volunteering as a Legal  
 Fellow in India, and then helping  
 to establish the organisation's  
 Australian operations in Sydney.  
 Attending Red Church of Christ,  
 she is also a participant of an  
 Emerging Leaders Group of  
 Christian workers based in  
 Melbourne's CBD.

## Sean Kum

(Concluded December 2020)  
 Member Finance Risk and  
 Audit Committee, WA

Master of Science, Bachelor  
 of Commerce and Cert IV.  
 R.E. (REIWA). Held senior  
 management positions  
 in retail, commercial  
 property management,  
 telecommunications and  
 payment technology.  
 Multilingual, and spent some  
 years living and working  
 in Asia. Experience in  
 leadership, management and  
 cross-cultural understanding.  
 Currently working as a real  
 estate executive in Perth.

## Janet Woodlock

(Elected December 2020)  
 Deputy Board Chair,  
 Member Board Executive,  
 Redress Task Group, VIC

BSc, Dip Ed, MDiv, Cert IV  
 in Workplace and Business  
 Coaching. Teacher and  
 ordained Churches of Christ  
 minister. Janet works as a  
 coach and trainer with Christian  
 Coaching Institute. She has  
 worked for the National  
 Council of Churches, Churches  
 of Christ in Australia, and  
 Churches of Christ in Vic/  
 Tas. Janet is working as the  
 chaplain at Kilvington Grammar  
 School.

## Claire Egan

(Elected December 2020)  
 Member of Board  
 Executive, Member of  
 COCOA Reference Group,  
 Member of the Policy and  
 Governance Group, VIC

Working for Churches of  
 Christ Vic/Tas for the past  
 13 years. Involved in various  
 leadership positions in  
 local churches including  
 boards, committees, and  
 youth ministry. Studied  
 communications, and worked  
 in para-church organisations  
 for most of her career.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Finances are important - they put into action the compassion, care and desire to make a difference for those who support GMP.

The following financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID website at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au).

The full statutory financial statements are available on our website at [www.gmp.org.au/annualreport](http://www.gmp.org.au/annualreport)

**Image: A boy drinks from a borehole, Zimbabwe**





# Finance Comments

## General Comments

There is much we can give thanks for when we reflect on the 2020-2021 financial year. It was such a challenging year for everyone. The impact of COVID was felt by all. While we have seen some encouraging signs of recovery the COVID reality remains with us.

GMP was well supported through the Government's Job Keeper scheme. We were able to retain staff and meet our commitments to partners. We operated within the rules of the scheme and with the rules regarding the payment of salaries and accordingly, some staff received a higher salary for some months and this has affected our cost ratios and shown a greater percentage spent on non-program costs.

Giving to GMP Campaigns was very encouraging through the financial year. We appreciated increased giving to the Christmas Appeal, Great Gifts, End of Financial Year Appeal, Safe Water September, and the Easter Appeal (Walk for Hope). There has been a drop in giving from churches and we are exploring how we sustain this important support while at the same time building relationships with individual supporters.

A real highlight has been the unexpected receipt of several bequests and gifts. Significant gifts were made to GMP from the windup of the EB Charitable Trust. This additional income was received after January 2021 and has been invested and applied in keeping with the intent of the donors. This meant that ICP and COCOA finished the year in surplus with increased assets.

## National Redress Scheme

Last year we reported that GMP is a Participating Institution in the National Redress Scheme. This step is part of taking responsibility for past matters in relation to alleged abuse of children cared for in mission settings operated by the former Australian Churches of Christ Indigenous Ministries.

We want to be clear that this matter impacts the funds available for Indigenous Ministries Australia and not the other funds associated with COCOA and International Church Partnerships.

As at the end of June 2021 invoices in relation to Redress totalling \$2,620,877 have been received. Last financial year an amount of \$573,400 was paid. Additional costs in relation to legal advice and administration totalling \$51,857 have been met. Based on applications in hand, and the average amount of redress, we estimate that the likely redress exposure is a further amount of \$3.4 million. This is substantially more than the assets available to meet the costs. These payments are the cause of the deficit in IMA's operating statement and so impacted the overall GMP result.

GMP is in the process of working with the Council of Churches of Christ in Australia to determine a pathway through this unanticipated situation. GMP remains committed to a continuing ministry with Australia's First Peoples and to also being engaged with the National Redress Scheme. It is clear that some cared for as children live with the ongoing impact of trauma and we are seeking to respond with compassion and grace.

# Finances at a Glance

Global Mission Partners operates with three distinct funds. Each is managed and accounted for separately. Job Keeper receipts are included in our cost ratios and a greater percentage was spent on non-program costs than in the past.

## International Church Partnerships (ICP)

The International Church Partnership fund supports church projects with a priority on evangelism, church and leadership development and as well as investing in programs that care for adults and children. In 2020-2021 \$697,929 was made available for program implementation, support and community education.

## Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA)

Churches of Christ Overseas Aid is an approved fund under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme and satisfies the requirements for Department of Foreign

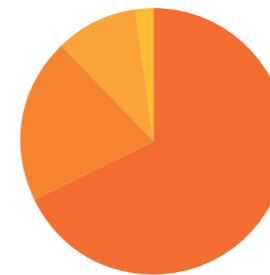
Affairs and Trade Base Accreditation. COCOA has policies and priorities that guide the use of funds in keeping with these bodies. In 2020-2021 \$933,817 was made available for program implementation and community education. This is less than in some previous years due to a change in accounting where only those funds that are fully acquitted are reported as being spent and all former Associate Partners are now being managed through GMP Extend.

## Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA)

Indigenous Ministries Australia is supported through the Indigenous Partnership Fund. In 2020-2021 \$480,129 was made available for program implementation and community education. GMP has opted into the National Redress Scheme and Redress invoices totalling \$2,620,877 have been received in the 2020-2021 financial year.

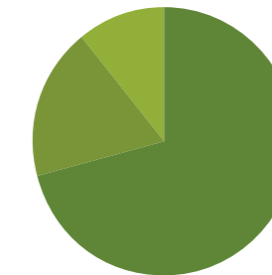
# Finances at a Glance cont.

## International Church Partnerships (ICP)



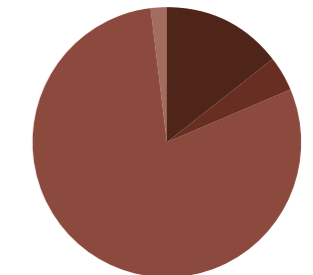
● **Program + Com. Ed. 63.72%**  
 ● **Administration 19.03%**  
 ● **Redress 9.38%**  
 ● **Fundraising 7.87%**

## Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA)



● **Program + Com. Ed. 71.09%**  
 ● **Administration 18.22%**  
 ● **Fundraising 10.69%**

## Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA)



● **Program + Com. Ed. 14.58%**  
 ● **Administration 4.17%**  
 ● **Redress 79.57%**  
 ● **Fundraising 1.68%**

# Breakdown by Country

## Funds sent to ICP Programs

ICP Program	\$	Associate Partners	\$
Bangladesh	26,357	Mother's Love	10,952
Fiji	51,449	Geon Homes and Korea Christian Gospel Mission	5,014
India	35,007	Reaching Hands	1,917
Indonesia	20,815		
Philippines	15,595		
Papua New Guinea	39,906		
South Sudan	12,137		
Thailand	-		
Vanuatu	13,698		
Vietnam	21,976		
Zimbabwe	54,364		
People in Mission	61,841		
Emergency	51,693		
Other	106,864		
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>511,702</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>17,883</b>

## ICP Total

529,585

## Funds sent to COCOA Programs

COCOA Program	\$	Associate Partners	\$
Bangladesh	46,366	HumeRidge PNG	30,561
Fiji	-	Vanuatu Medical	33,005
India	24,940	Zambia Hartwell	-
Papua New Guinea	-		
South Sudan	81,485		
Thailand	-		
Vanuatu	13,683		
Vanuatu ANCP	56,863		
Vietnam	1,581		
Zimbabwe	132,660		
Zimbabwe ANCP	154,229		
Emergency	35,843		
COVID Response	18,442		
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>566,092</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>63,566</b>

## COCOA Total

629,658

## Funds sent to IMA Programs

IMA Program	\$	Associate Partners	\$
Projects and Ministries	114,464		
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>114,464</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>-</b>

## IMA Total

114,464

Note: These figures are derived from the Audited Financial Statements available at [www.gmp.org.au](http://www.gmp.org.au)

## Grand Total

1,273,707

Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.  
Income Statement – Extract

	2021			2020		
	ICP	COCOA	IMA	ICP	COCOA	IMA
<b>Revenue</b>						
Donations and Gifts						
Monetary	988,113	1,267,965	214,020	677,209	1,501,157	122,519
Non-Monetary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trusts, Legacies and Bequests	175,815	403,751	23,077	54,613	20,825	1,425
Grants						
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade	-	150,000	-	-	150,000	-
Investment Income	77,234	11,812	66,630	109,137	16,773	113,609
Other Income	212,292	256,747	369,897	98,880	122,231	96,607
<b>Subtotal International Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Revenue</b>	<b>1,453,454</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>673,624</b>	<b>939,839</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>334,160</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,453,454</b>	<b>2,090,275</b>	<b>673,624</b>	<b>939,839</b>	<b>1,810,986</b>	<b>334,160</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
International Programs						
Funds to International Programs	529,585	629,657	-	584,638	1,283,085	-
Program Support Costs	61,974	135,795	-	63,628	109,000	-
Community Education	106,370	168,365	-	130,955	190,217	-
Fundraising Costs - Public	86,197	140,425	-	84,870	137,555	-
Accountability and Administration	311,123	239,374	-	211,603	275,060	-
(Profit)/Loss on sale of shares	(1,102)	-	-	59,807	-	-
<b>Subtotal International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,313,616</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,994,917</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Subtotal International Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>1,094,147</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,135,501</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Domestic Programs						
Funds to Domestic Indigenous Programs	-	-	114,464	-	-	130,877
Program Support Costs	-	-	292,057	-	-	183,495
Community Education	-	-	73,608	-	-	105,031
Fundraising Costs - Public	-	-	55,172	-	-	49,549
Accountability and Administration	-	-	2,758,301	-	-	731,622
(Profit)/Loss on sale of shares	-	-	13,202	-	-	58,049
<b>Subtotal Domestic Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,306,804</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,258,623</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,094,147</b>	<b>1,313,616</b>	<b>3,306,804</b>	<b>1,135,501</b>	<b>1,994,917</b>	<b>1,258,623</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>359,307</b>	<b>776,659</b>	<b>(2,633,180)</b>	<b>(195,662)</b>	<b>(183,930)</b>	<b>(924,461)</b>

Notes to the Income Statement:

- COCOA funds are used exclusively for International Aid and Development activity.
- ICP Funds are used in International Religious Adherence Promotion and Welfare Programs.
- IMA Funds are used in Domestic Indigenous Programs.
- No funds are used for International or Domestic Political Programs.
- There were no grants received from other Australian or Overseas agencies.
- There was no expenditure under the headings 'Fundraising Costs: Government, multilateral and private' or 'non-monetary' expenditure.

Notes to the Statement of Financial Position:

- GMP has a nil inventory, holds no assets for sale, has no non-current trade or other receivables, no investment property, no borrowings, tax or other financial liabilities, current or non-current.

Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.  
Statement of Financial Position

	2021			2020		
	ICP	COCOA	IMA	ICP	COCOA	IMA
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash and Cash Equivalents	688,720	538,729	227,603	446,687	(88,152)	158,362
Trade and Other Receivables	45,575	10,059	9,021	64,766	36,189	43,419
Other Assets	3,098	6,867	18,077	5,675	16,228	1,626
Financial Assets	3,489,843	893,205	1,025,561	2,641,474	536,761	2,183,887
Property, Plant & Equipment	11,761	14,283	1,021,413	16,472	23,325	1,028,066
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4,238,997</b>	<b>1,463,143</b>	<b>2,301,675</b>	<b>3,175,074</b>	<b>524,351</b>	<b>3,415,360</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Trade and Other Payables	91,908	36,238	1,900,859	85,906	24,538	619,657
Provisions	53,809	90,753	69,676	56,654	97,699	56,016
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>145,717</b>	<b>126,991</b>	<b>1,970,535</b>	<b>142,560</b>	<b>122,237</b>	<b>675,673</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,093,280</b>	<b>1,336,151</b>	<b>331,141</b>	<b>3,032,514</b>	<b>402,114</b>	<b>2,739,687</b>
<b>Equity</b>						
Specified Project Reserves and Trust Funds	3,241,912	1,158,548	2,818,394	3,041,855	749,987	2,729,101
Asset Revaluation Reserve	644,457	230,535	975,991	141,459	127,217	746,580
Accumulated Surplus	206,911	(52,932)	(3,463,244)	(150,800)	(475,090)	(735,994)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>4,093,280</b>	<b>1,336,151</b>	<b>331,141</b>	<b>3,032,514</b>	<b>402,114</b>	<b>2,739,687</b>

Statement of Changes in Equity

2021	Accumulated Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Specified Reserves	Total
<b>Balance at 1 July 2020</b>	(1,361,884)	1,015,256	6,520,943	6,174,315
Deficit for the Year	(2,187,439)	-	-	(2,187,439)
Movement in Reserves	(508,002)	-	508,002	-
Other Adjustments to Retained Earnings	748,060	-	-	748,060
Adjustment to Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	835,727	-	835,727
Increase in Trust Valuation / Interest	-	-	93,111	93,111
Other Movements in Specified Reserves	-	-	96,798	96,798
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>(3,309,265)</b>	<b>1,850,983</b>	<b>7,218,854</b>	<b>5,760,572</b>
2020	Accumulated Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Specified Reserves	Total
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	(610,885)	1,865,884	6,619,517	7,874,516
Deficit for the year	(1,104,512)	-	-	(1,104,512)
Movement in reserves	19,428	-	(19,428)	-
Other adjustments to retained earnings	334,085	-	-	334,085
Adjustment to asset revaluation reserve	-	(850,628)	-	(850,628)
Increase in trust valuation / interest	-	-	2,349	2,349
Other movements in specified reserves	-	-	(81,495)	(81,495)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>(1,361,884)</b>	<b>1,015,256</b>	<b>6,520,943</b>	<b>6,174,315</b>

## Statement by the Board

The Board declares that the financial extracts of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd. for the year ended 30 June 2021, as set out on the previous pages, has been derived from, and are consistent with, the full audited financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd. The full financial report is available on request and is in accordance with relevant legislation, accounting standards, provides a true and fair view of our financial position and performance, and indicates that GMP can pay its debts as and when they become due. This Declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for, and on behalf of the Board by:

Barrie Yesberg  
Board Chair




John Gilmore  
Executive Officer



7 October 2021

## Independent Audit Report



**Moore Australia Audit (SAINT) Pty Ltd**  
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**Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd**  
**Independent Audit Report to the members of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd**  
**Report on the Extract Financial Report**

The accompanying extract financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd, on pages 50 and 51, comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, statement of changes in equity and income statement – extract for the year then ended and the statement by the Board. The report is derived from the audited financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021. It does not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards.

**Board's Responsibility for the Extract Financial Report**

The Board is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the extract financial report derived from the full financial report which was prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Corporations Act 2001, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. This responsibility includes:

- establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation of the extract financial report;
- selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and
- making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the extract financial report based on our audit procedures. We conducted an independent audit, in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, of the financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021. Our report for the year was signed on 5 October 2021 and was not subject to any modification. The Australian Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

Our procedures in respect to the extract financial report included testing that the information in the extract financial report is derived from, and is consistent with, the full financial report for the year. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the extract financial report is consistent with the full financial report.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the extract financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021 is consistent with the full financial report from which it is derived upon which we expressed a qualified opinion.

*Moore Australia*  
**MOORE AUSTRALIA AUDIT (SAINT) PTY LTD**  
ABN 34 144 550 461

*Graeme P Rodda*  
**GRAEME P RODDA**  
Director - Audit & Assurance Services  
Adelaide, South Australia  
7 October 2021

Moore Australia Audit (SAINT) Pty Ltd – ABN 34 144 550 461. Authorised Audit Company Registered Number 374246. An independent member of Moore Global Network Limited - members in principal cities throughout the world. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



### Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.

Churches of Christ established the Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners (GMP) in 1891. Our strong history is evident in the quality and values of our partnerships, both internationally and in Australia.

#### Our Vision:

Every Church Partnering in Global Mission

#### Our Mission:

Linking People, Churches and Resources across Nations

#### Our Expectation:

Life-Changing Partnerships

#### GMP Values

- Gospel Centred
- Committed to Sharing
- Respecting People
- Meeting Human Need
- Working for Lasting Change
- In Partnership
- Seeking Independence and Maturity
- Demonstrating High Standards of Practice

#### Registered Office:

2 Danby Street  
Torrensville SA 5031

#### Postal Address:

PO Box 341  
Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

**Freecall:** 1800 467 222

**Phone:** 08 8352 3466

**Fax:** 08 8234 5373

**Website:** www.gmp.org.au

**Email:** info@gmp.org.au

### GMP fulfills its mission through three distinct programs:



International Church Partnerships (ICP) prioritises church planting and development, evangelism and outreach, and the training and development of leaders.



Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) is an approved aid and development program with a focus on empowering communities in poverty.



Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) focuses on Indigenous ministry and development.

GMP is a company limited by guarantee. The company members are the State Churches of Christ bodies and the Council of Churches of Christ in Australia, and each appoints up to two voting representatives. The members elect the directors. GMP is registered in each State according to local requirements for fundraising.

#### Australian Business Number:

30 455 408 814



ACFID  
MEMBER

GMP is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is committed to full adherence to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory code of practice (www.acfid.asn.au).

The ACFID Code of Conduct describes standards of practice for its members, including a complaints procedure. Please direct any complaints regarding GMP to the Executive Officer on +61 8 8352 3466. Complaints regarding breaches of the Code can also be directed to ACFID (www.acfid.asn.au).

GMP is also a member of the Church Agencies Network, the Micah Coalition, and the ACT Alliance, and is accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

All photos (unless otherwise credited) are taken by GMP staff, represent actual GMP projects or partnerships and are taken with permission.

Based on communications with our partners, all statistics presented were accurate at the time of printing.

The stories in the Annual Report have been shared with permission and some names have been changed.



**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!**

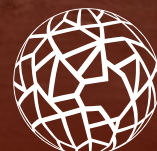
**We couldn't do it  
without you.**

Above: Children from Emmanuel Childcare Centre who benefited from food packets distributed by Hosanna Ministries, Mumbai, India  
Back Cover: Goats provided to caretakers at Emmanuel School, South Sudan



Australian Churches of Christ  
Global Mission Partners Ltd.

[www.gmp.org.au](http://www.gmp.org.au)



ACFID  
MEMBER