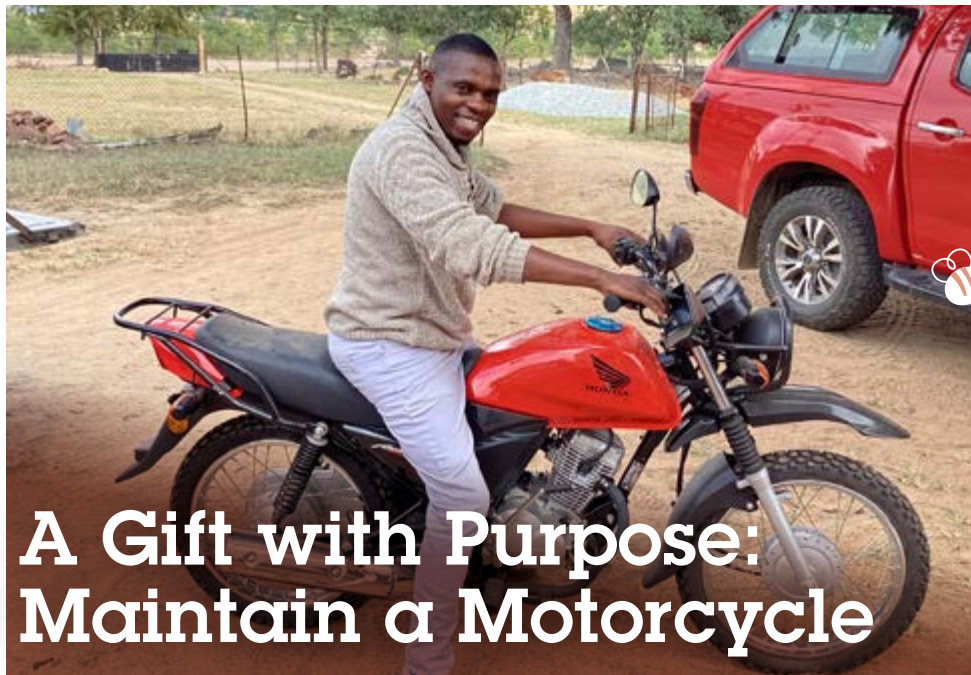


IN PARTNERSHIP

November 2023



A Gift with Purpose: Maintain a Motorcycle

Churches located in rural Zimbabwe are remote and difficult to access by foot. Pastors and evangelists walk very long distances to serve their many congregations. These long walks create hardship rather than joy, distracting them from caring for their communities.

Imagine how significant it is for the pastors to receive word of four new motorcycles!

Global Mission Partners is helping to equip pastors and evangelists in rural Zimbabwe to minister in their local setting. One way to do this has been to provide motorcycles and maintenance.

When Pastor Mahlangu received a motorcycle, he realised he could plant more churches. He has already shown remarkable leadership overseeing four churches. With passion for preaching and a heart for evangelism, it is no surprise that he has opened a fifth church.

Likewise, Pastor Magunga has a vision to expand his current congregation, from one to five

churches by the end of this year. So far, he has used his motorcycle to establish two new preaching points in Pretoria and Nil Mine.

Pastor Ndlovu has been serving his area since 2003. Being an experienced evangelist, thousands of people are guided by his spiritual leadership. He is a compassionate and committed leader, mentoring and training many lay preachers. One practical way he uses his motorcycle is to visit the sick in his many congregations. Pastor Ndlovu ensures that members are cared for.

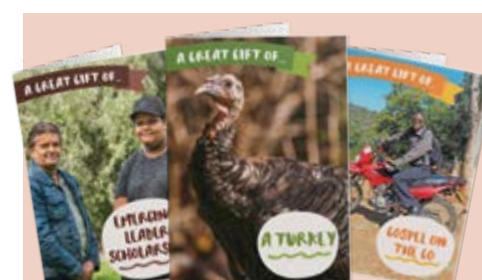
With the help of his motorcycle, Pastor Masuku leads eight churches.

His focus is to train preachers to provide more intellectual spiritual nourishment. He is finding that more people are receiving an education and need solid teaching. With a motorbike, Pastor Masuku can travel and train more people for ministry service.

The provision of a motorcycle might seem like a small gesture, but it is a gift with purpose. Travelling long distances no longer hinders these

dedicated pastors and evangelists. They can share the good news with ease and provide pastoral care for many communities.

When you buy the Great Gift of Maintain a Motorcycle you will resource pastors and evangelists who have unwavering commitment and passion for the gospel.



**Get your Great Gift cards
in time for Christmas**

Make your order online or return your order form from the printed catalogue by Friday, December 8 to ensure you receive your Great Gift cards by post before Christmas. Alternatively, you can have a print-at-home gift card emailed to you.

GREAT GIFTS

Catalogue 2023-24



**OUT
NOW**

Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.

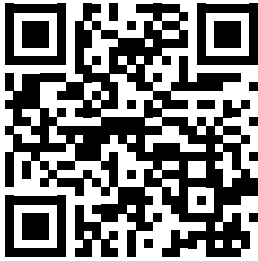
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News & Events

Great Gifts Catalogue 2023/2024

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



Safe Water September – Thank You

A big thank you to all SWS challenge takers and people who donated! Your efforts will help provide life-changing safe water, hygiene, and sanitation in Zimbabwe, Vanuatu, and Bangladesh. Congratulations on completing the tenth year of the SWS challenge! Donations have now closed. Read Samson's story on page 4.

Prayer for Israel and Palestine

Please join us in prayer for our brothers and sisters suffering due to the conflict in Israel and Palestine. You can download a prayer resource at www.gmp.org.au/middleeastcrisisappeal

COCOA Christmas Offering

Your church can take up an offering during December to support Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA). Please contact the office to request green giving envelopes or you can give online at www.gmp.org.au/hope

Visiting Vanuatu

Dear Friends,

What a privilege it is to serve our partners throughout the world.

Recently, Barrie Yesberg (GMP Board Chair) and I had the opportunity to travel and visit the Churches of Christ Conference of Vanuatu (CCCV). We were invited to attend the signing of an MOU between South Seas Evangelical Churches from the Solomon Islands and CCCV, as they seek to strengthen ties for greater collaboration in the areas of leadership development, training and mission.

This visit allowed us to spend some time getting to know the new General Secretary, Owen Bani and the CCCV team based in Santo. We spent the days travelling out to remote islands and villages, visiting churches and projects supported by our supporters and meeting the locals and hearing their stories.

On the Sunday, we enjoyed a vibrant worship gathering in the church at Bombua village. It was a helpful cultural lesson, as what I thought at first was a small gathering of a dozen people, was actually the preservice worship as dozens of children had their Sunday School lesson in the shade of a nearby palm tree. When that concluded the chapel filled and the exuberance lifted. All ages gathered, men on the right, women on the left, no seat was spare and people flowed out onto the steps. The joy in the worship was electric. We sang songs affirming God's goodness and our gracious acceptance as his beloved children. Holding hands with strangers and praising God with song and swinging hips was one of the most moving worship experiences I've had in a long time. It refreshed my soul.

Later that day, we visited newly established communities, formed by the refugees from Ambae when the volcano erupted. Only a third of people originally from Ambae live there today, everyone else has moved out of fear to

resettle on other islands like Santo. A challenge for these families is limited public services and accessing essentials like clean water, so it was pleasing to meet families who had benefited from water tanks donated with your support and CCCV's efforts.

The next day we travelled to remote villages in the central highlands of Santo. Here we met with village and church leaders and heard Owen Bani's vision that every community ought to have three things - a school, an aid station (small health clinic) and a church. In the far-flung village of Butmas, we saw the French-speaking school (the children didn't reply to any of my attempts to practise my limited French! More practice needed) and saw the centrally located aid centre, but when we came to the church, it was missing with only its foundations left. The 2020 Cyclone Harold had blown it into the jungle. Chief David said, "We can educate our children and care for our sick, but the heart and soul of our community is missing".

Cyclone's are a common feature in Vanuatu's calendar. Kevin and Judy caused havoc earlier this year and at the time of writing this, Lola has just left her mark. Global Mission Partners is supporting three disaster recovery projects currently and looking at doing more through the Church Action Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO), especially in the area of disaster preparedness.

On the island Malo, just south of Luganville on Santo, Barrie observed newly built churches with cyclone proofing built into their design. This will allow communities to have a central place to seek safety together when the alarm is sounded. It's projects like these, when Christian community and good development practice come together, that inspires me as I consider the future of Global Mission Partners.

In faith,
John Lamerton



SPOTLIGHT

The gift of a turkey created a positive change in Shupiko's life.

Give a Gift with Real Purpose at Christmas

The Global Mission Partners' new Great Gifts Catalogue is available just in time for Christmas!

The catalogue offers exciting new gifts that are meaningful and bring lasting change to people in need. With each gift, you can contribute to a cause that has a real purpose.

The gift of Beekeeping has transformed Ngonidzashe's life. Through beekeeping, she now enjoys a reliable income, enabling her to support her family, provide education for her children, and care for her elderly parents.

The Great Gift of a Turkey created positive change in Shupiko's life. She received training in conservation farming and can now raise small livestock. "It makes our day-to-day living better. We do not struggle to get meat and to pay for school fees," she said.

The Great Gifts catalogue is full of some old favourite gifts too!

Relief and Development partner Paulino Malou, says the Great Gift of a Goat continues to be vital in the lives of children and their caretakers in South Sudan. Raising and selling

goats helps to "meet the challenges of uniforms, school fees, scholastics materials such as pens and pencils," he said.

By ordering a Great Gift this Christmas, you can change someone's life for the better.

Give the gift of a Community Garden to help Indigenous youth learn to grow their own food, cook and eat healthy meals. Or give the gift of Solar Panels to supply power for communication with churches and their local leaders in Papua New Guinea.

Great Gifts have life-changing purpose, and they can bring joy to your loved ones. When you give a Great Gift, you will receive a specially designed gift card, so that you can write a Christmas message. Or you can have a print-at-home gift card emailed to you.

Your church can get involved to change lives too!

You could speak at your church and share about the Great Gifts. You can also run a Great Gift stall at your church. The Great Gifts website has many resources to help you

do this including a video. You can download them at www.greatgifts.org.au.

If you would like one of our team to visit your church, provide a video message for your service or if you have any questions, please contact Carly, our National Church Relationships Manager, at carly@gmp.org.au or call 1800 467 222.

GREAT GIFTS

Catalogue 2023-24

Your Great Gifts this Christmas can give real purpose. Give a Great Gift with real purpose today and experience the joy of a gift that keeps on giving.

Shop online now at www.greatgifts.org.au

A Memorable Partner Visit for Marcus

Marcus didn't know what to expect when he went on his first Partner Visit to Vanuatu. Despite all the uncertainties, he felt confident. He attended training with 11 other people from his church. This prepared them all to participate within another culture.

In September, Nigel and Karen Potticary, from Toowoomba North Church of Christ, led the team to Vanuatu. "We piled into the back of a Toyota Hilux with our luggage and headed out to where we would be staying," described Marcus. Everything was new. The land, the people, the food, the culture. "My jaw was sore after the first day because most of the time it was agape," Marcus remarked.

With ready hearts to serve, the team got straight into work!

They were servicing cars, generators, and an old truck. They helped with building projects, helped with plumbing and waterproofing. They mowed the grounds and replaced lights. Fixed toilets and showers and doors. Painted and installed drywall. Even screen-printed shirts! "I was grateful for the opportunity to give

back there," Marcus said of his contribution.

Their trip also had a spiritual impact. The team led devotions, prayed, sang and danced in skirts. Helped with youth groups and a kids club. "It was once in a lifetime experience to meet some of those people," Marcus reflected. "We would share food with them afterwards and spent time playing with children (often kicking around a football or dancing). It was a magical time."

Toowoomba North church has had a partnership in place with the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu, focusing on Ambae. They have been visiting partners there for many years. Nigel said that it had been four years since their last visit. "Our relationship is [still] very strong even after [the] absence." Marcus saw the hospitality evident in the partnership. "I cannot say enough good things about the goodness of those people and that place."

Marcus enjoyed his first visit to Vanuatu and has some advice for others who want to participate in a Partner Visit. "I found it's best to hold any expectations of what it'll be

The Toowoomba North Church of Christ team, (Marcus back left, Nigel front, right).



like. Just prepare for it and find out when you get there, and when you do, engage and be in the moment."

Nigel is now preparing for another team to visit in December.

Global Mission Partners connects local churches in missional partnerships, both internationally and here in Australia through Indigenous Ministry partners. If you would like to visit one of our partners in 2024 or establish a Church-to-Church partnership, please get in touch with us! You will never be the same.

"I grew a lot as a person and learnt values that will stay with me for the rest of my life," Marcus said.

Thank You for Giving Samson Safe Water!

Samson is 102 years old and lives in Chiwekwe Village, Zimbabwe. At his age, he struggles to collect water for himself. To help, young people with ox carts bring him water. "It was really challenging for me as I cannot walk for long distances and so I always had to depend on the boys," said Samson.

With your support, Global Mission Partners Relief and Development partner, Showers of Blessing, drilled and installed a borehole in Samson's village. Less than five minutes' walk from his home!

The borehole is flowing, and Samson proclaims he is "overjoyed".

"We do not have the resources but if we did, we would organise a huge celebration as a sincere thank you," Samson expressed.

Over the past ten years, through Safe Water September, many people have experienced this joy, like Samson. Safe water close to communities brings not only great health, hygiene and safety; but great joy when the burdens of water are lifted.

Thank you for supporting Safe Water September this year! Your generosity and commitment makes these projects possible and continues to improve life for people like Samson.



At the time of publication, \$137,885 has been generously given to Safe Water September, which will change up to 5515 lives. Thank you for your support. Donations have now closed.



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