

IN PARTNERSHIP

October 2020



Star Became a Shining Light to Children in Zimbabwe



We all have gifts to give. And we can use those gifts to help others. Whether it is material resources or skills, when we realise our potential, we can help others realise their potential too.

When Star was just 14, her mother passed away. She and her siblings were left alone on the streets of Zimbabwe. With no family to take care of them, their life was a struggle.

But then, Star and her siblings were given a home at the Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV). With the encouragement of her teachers, carers and sponsors, Star began to realise she was "fearfully and wonderfully made" with a unique set of gifts and capabilities.

Star said she was given the opportunity to improve herself through various experiences and responsibilities at KCV. Her self-confidence grew, as did her English, and her relationship with Christ. "I realised the potential that I had inside me while I was at KCV," Star shared with us, "having the ability to lead other children at youth groups and serving in church. I was appointed as

a Prefect and Head Girl of the school at high school. It was very challenging, but it taught and encouraged me so much."

Star realised her inner potential as a teenager while living at KCV. She pursued a degree in Media and Society Studies, but Zimbabwe's poor economic climate made it difficult for her to find work. Eventually, Star found work that allowed her to use her heart for coaching and changing lives of children in orphanages and poor communities. Now, Star works with an aid organisation helping other orphaned children just like her.

"I look at my story and I find it a motivation to always achieve more and inspire children who grew up like me, who are vulnerable and orphaned. I have an ambition of becoming one of the world's recognised motivational speakers. I desire to live to change the mindset of an orphaned child."

"I want to be a symbol of hope to those who are about to give up on life. I want to live my life in a way that transforms other people for the Kingdom of God," she said.

Star hopes to continue working to establish an organisation that will help Africa's most vulnerable children, giving them the kinds of opportunities that she was given at KCV.

October marks the launch of the new GMP Great Gifts catalogue. When you give a Great Gift, you help support people like Star to reach their full potential. Whether your gift fights poverty, builds up local Christian communities, or stands with Australia's First Peoples, your Gift supports local people to realise their full potential. Now, that's real impact!

You can read Star's full story on the GMP website www.gmp.org.au/news/2020-news/star

You can purchase your Great Gifts online now at www.greatgifts.org.au

*TD - Great Gifts of relief and development are tax-deductible.



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News & Events



NAIDOC Week 8-15 November

NAIDOC Week is a great opportunity to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities while participating in a range of activities. More information can be found online at: www.naidoc.org.au/about/naidoc-week or follow updates on the [IMA Facebook page](#).



Safe Water September 2020

Together we've raised over \$172,000. This is more than 8,600 lives that can be changed through life changing water. Congratulations to all challenge takers and a massive 'Thank You' to those who donated. It is not too late to make further donations during October. Visit safewaterseptember.org.au to give now.

**GREAT GIFTS
REAL IMPACT**

2020 Great Gifts Catalogue Online Now!

We all have gifts to give. And we can use those gifts to help others. Great Gifts help fight poverty, build up local Christian communities, and stand with Australia's First Peoples. Your Great Gift will support local people to realise their full potential. Now, that's real impact!



Motivated by Compassion

It has been a strange year! Nothing has happened as we predicted. We began the year with plans which have been radically changed or abandoned. At the same time, new opportunities have opened up that we did not anticipate.

Our plans for teams, volunteers and staff to visit our partners have not come to pass. Planned visits from partners and some new project developments have been put on hold. We now have strong Zoom connections with many partners.

The new opportunities we are experiencing are rich and encouraging. We have also seen your encouraging commitment to supporting GMP partners. This has been highlighted in the record-breaking response to Safe Water September. Your generosity is opening doors as we work with our partners in Zimbabwe and Vanuatu. More exciting still is the work by our partners to support their communities facing COVID-19.

In Bangladesh, there are plans to reach out to more than 600 households with COVID-19 information in local languages, along with food and hygiene kits and livelihood support. In Marial Bai, South Sudan, teachers at the Emmanuel School needing to access students restricted to their homes have been given push bikes to make it easier to visit them. In the same area, small stall holders and charcoal sellers are being assisted to find new ways of generating reliable income.

IMA partners are providing community members with Essentials Packs, to encourage and support some vulnerable Indigenous families.

Our common motivation can be summed up in one word: 'compassion', a word used in the Gospels to describe the emotional response of Jesus to people in need. In Greek, it is a strong and emotive word describing a deep, gut-based emotion. When it is used about Jesus, this word is always linked to action. Jesus acts, motivated by compassion.

This is also what motivates our giving, our partner's response and our commitment to others. We reach out in care and with the prayerful hope that such care will be a symbol of the presence of our loving compassionate Emmanuel – God with us.

John Gilmore,
Executive Officer

SPOTLIGHT



Left: Pastor Sukiran baptizing a young person in the new CCTSI pool, Indonesia. Right: Members from BHCOC meeting to pray and fast, Bangladesh.

A New Look for Baptism and Evangelism

During the global pandemic, baptism and evangelism has taken on a ‘new look’ with the introduction of face masks and social distancing. Our partners in Indonesia, South Sudan and Bangladesh are positively embracing the change:

Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia (CCTSI)

CCTSI have installed a new baptismal pool on their property, using a fresh water supply sourced 100 meters underground. Academic Dean, Hery Susanto, says, “It is much safer and secure than baptising people in public places.” Before the pandemic, baptising people in a public swimming pool or rivers attracted unwanted attention from the community. “Since the installation, almost every week a local church will do a baptism here.”

Soon after installation, one church from Mujo village came to use the pool to baptise several young people. When asked what it was like to baptise people wearing a face mask, Pastor Sukiran (CCTSI alumni) said he “felt weird” but that he must follow protocols, so he didn’t mind doing that. Pastor Sukiran says of the pandemic, “Positively, members have become more active and turning up on time to the service.” Due to restrictions on numbers when gathering, members realise they might miss out on a spot in the service. During the week, the pastors and elders will visit houses and discuss the sermon, “We should be ready in good or bad times.”

Hery says of the new baptismal pool, “We now feel safe, and making sure we are acting within the government regulations. We are so excited that our new water and new baptistry can be used to bring refreshment to new souls!”

Christian Mercy International (CMI) South Sudan



Baptisms in South Sudan

CMI Director, Paulino Malou Bol, reports that 11 people were baptised on a recent visit to southern Aweil. Also, during this visit, while preaching at a funeral, a young ‘street man’ approached Paulino and asked, ‘how to receive life after death.’ Paulino was prepared to share from Romans 3:23, and

further explained to all at the funeral about eternity and the many rooms in God’s heavenly kingdom for those who accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Paulino reports, “This young man made a commitment and confessed by his tongue to be born again.”

Bandarban Hills Church of Christ (BHCOC) Bangladesh

General Secretary, Vana Bawm, shared how the church has fasted and prayed for Australian partners during the pandemic. Vana says, “Being Christians, we are called to stand strong in times of crisis. Our God is strong and faithful in His promises to us. We believe our prayer support will be a great (spiritual) weapon in this time of crisis.” There have also been open doors to share the good news during the COVID pandemic and baptise new believers. Pastor Lazarlian, involved with the youth ministry and literature ministry, shared that, “Two boys and girls recently have obeyed the gospel and been baptised into Christ.” It is the Lord who has opened this door following the lockdown in Bangladesh.



Rosa, Pentecost Island, Vanuatu.

The Great Gift of a Water Tank

Water is happiness and harmony in Baravet Village on Pentecost Island, Vanuatu. Rosa used to walk a long way down the hill each day for water – no simple task with a baby and toddler in tow. Now she gets clean water via a short walk to the new reserve tank.

The people of Baravet chose the upgrading of the water supply as their community project because the existing water tank was tiny. There were only a few water points around the village giving a weak

flow of brown, rusty water. People waited a long time for water, and sometimes the taps did not work. There were arguments about maintenance and some people went back to collecting water from streams. It was not a healthy situation.

Rosa noticed the cooperative spirit of all the villagers as they worked together on the water project. Men laid pipes while women provided food. The new pipes now provide clean water to many vulnerable

households. People have taken on responsibility for the care of their water points. With water for all now, there are few complaints in the community.

Rosa enjoys more time at home and in her garden since having a water tank nearby.

When you purchase the Great Gift of a Water Tank, people like Rosa and her community can access water storage and clean, convenient water in Vanuatu.



WATER TANK

\$150

A water tank allows for storage and access to clean, convenient water for communities in VANUATU



TOILET

\$70

Installing new toilets in the remote Bandarban Hills district provides increased hygiene and sanitation and reduces disease in BANGLADESH

WASH Great Gift Cards

You can increase your Great Gifts impact this year by ordering special WASH gift cards to send to your friends and family. These cards feature unique illustrations representing GMP partnerships and life-changing projects in Water, Health and Sanitation (WASH). When you order \$75 or more of Great Gifts, you can add a pack of WASH cards to your order for \$15 and help support WASH projects.

