

# IN PARTNERSHIP

November 2022



## Where Will Your Turkey Go?

Left: James  
Right: James' sibling,  
Retina and James

Eight-year-old James was born in a family with five children: one girl and four boys. When he was 18 months old, his mother, Retina, learned that he had cerebral palsy. He has difficulty sitting upright, needs assistance eating and has difficulty speaking. Much of Retina's time is spent looking after James.

People with disability living in rural areas of Zimbabwe often have little support. They rely on their family members to care for them, meaning their families have less time to be involved in farming to earn an income. Small-scale farms are an opportunity to earn a sustainable income to help families pay for food, medical care and other essentials. If the person with disability is able, they can assist to care for the animals.

The Zimbabwe Conservation Farming Project, run by GMP relief and development partners Christian Care, supports vulnerable communities to develop initiatives for food security. This includes supporting people with disability, like James. The project assists families to raise small-scale farms with livestock, such as turkeys, rabbits, chickens or goats. James and his family received two turkeys

and two goats! Both James' mother and father are unemployed, so the Conservation Farming Project has brought the family new hope for a positive future.

The goats have multiplied to four and there are now 11 turkeys. Retina sold some of the turkeys and bought clothes and food for James and the whole family. The family also slaughtered two of the turkeys for meat for the family. They constructed a pen for both the turkeys and the goats. The two female goats are pregnant again and three of the turkeys are laying eggs, hence James' stock is increasing. James' mother has taken thirty eggs to a local farmer who runs an incubator to be hatched. Soon James will have over thirty turkeys. A mature turkey sells at US\$20 and a mature goat at US\$40.

James' family now has a small-scale farm!

You can't put a turkey on a plane and send it to Zimbabwe, but you can purchase a Turkey from the Great Gifts Catalogue! You can send support to our local GMP partners like Christian Care, who will assist vulnerable families in the community with turkeys and goats.

James' mother and father appreciate the assistance given to their family. Retina said, "My son now owns goats and turkeys and it was never going to be possible without the project."

Give a Great Gift with real impact and send support to places like Zimbabwe to help people like James!

*The Zimbabwe Conservation project is run in partnership with Act for Peace.*

## GREAT GIFTS

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## News & Events

### Great Gifts Cards

When you purchase a Great Gift for Christmas this includes a printed card for the gift recipient. To receive printed cards in time for Christmas, all orders must be into the GMP office by Friday 9 December. Alternatively, you can print your own cards at home! For this option, all orders must be into the GMP office by Thursday 22 December. Purchase your Great Gifts today online at [www.greatgifts.org.au](http://www.greatgifts.org.au) or Freecall 1800 467 222.

### GMP Extend Flood Appeal

GMP Extend, our entity for emergency responses in Australia, has launched an appeal to assist people in recovering from the impact of the severe flooding in Victoria and Tasmania. This appeal will distribute funds to assist local churches and Churches of Christ agencies to give immediate care for those affected by the floods. Please give to support those devastated by these floods. Donations \$2 or more are tax-deductible. Give online at [www.extend.org.au/floodsappeal](http://www.extend.org.au/floodsappeal) or Freecall 1800 467 222.

### Pakistan Floods Appeal

Thank you for your generosity towards the Pakistan Floods Appeal. A total of \$1,850 has been raised to respond to the emergency through ACT Alliance. Donations will be closing on 30 November. Find out more or give now at [www.gmp.org.au/pakistanfloodsappeal](http://www.gmp.org.au/pakistanfloodsappeal).

### Embody Mission Communities

embody Mission Communities are a year-long leadership development opportunity for young leaders. It is one way to support young people in mission and justice work in your local church. You can register your interest for 2023 now. For more information, please email Mitch at [mitch@embody.org.au](mailto:mitch@embody.org.au).

### Safe Water September Thank You!

Thank you everyone who donated or took the challenge. Together we've raised over \$177,000. Donations are now closed. Thank you for your generosity!

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



*GMP partners at the Partnering Together for Stronger Communities Conference, Chiang Mai, photographed by John Gilmore*

## Change is Coming

Change is coming. This change is personal and involves GMP and our partners. After 15 years as the GMP Executive Officer, I conclude at the end of this month! For most of that time I have written an article for each edition of In Partnership. Now it is the last one. What do I say?

The first affirmation that comes to mind is 'mission is a team activity'. What we do is not about an individual – it is what we do together. Nothing GMP does is possible without our partners around the world. We are totally dependent on them. They have the local knowledge, ideas and dreams. We come along side and join with them to see what we can do together.

Thank you to all our partners, those overseas, those in Australia and the Indigenous communities we are connected to. Nothing happens without you. You have the dream as to what is possible, it is your ideas we seek to bring into being and we cannot be in mission without you.

'Mission is not just about what the individual does.' Words are inadequate to express the depth of my appreciation for the members of the GMP Board with whom I have served. I have been privileged to work with three Board chairs. I could not have asked for more empowering or encouraging people. They have shown immeasurable grace with me – time and time again.

Over the 15 years, I have worked alongside more than 40 staff. I can honestly say that each has taught, shaped and guided me. It has been a wonderful experience to work with such a group of people committed

to mission and to the part they played in GMP. Yes, there have been ups and downs. At times we have frustrated each other. There have been disagreements and some of these have been complex. I am not the same person who began with GMP – I have changed and a large part of that is due to the team I have worked with.

When I began with GMP I did not know what to expect. There were many ideas and hopes and opportunities. Some have been embraced and have been fulfilled. Not everything we have set out to do has worked. People have been let down and disappointed when something did not happen as had been anticipated. I regret this and seek your understanding and forgiveness.

I look to the future of GMP with great optimism. There are so many opportunities ahead, and such strong foundations on which to build this future. Part of me wishes I could hang around to see what will happen!

None of what I have been part of was possible without the sacrificial support and love of Meewon and our family. My deepest thanks to them for their care, patience and grace in my many absences.

I say farewell with deep confidence in the partners, staff and Board of GMP. I believe that God will bless and guide the future as it is revealed.

*John Gilmore,*  
Executive Officer



John Gilmore and Samuel Vusi at the opening of the Boarding Masters house at Londua Bombua Primary School, Vanuatu

## An Appreciation: John Gilmore

Since John Gilmore began as GMP's Executive Officer in 2008, GMP has grown across its partnerships, whether they be in international settings, Indigenous Australian settings or with local Churches of Christ organisations and churches.

John's energy, insight, vision and ability to put ideas into action while inspiring others to do the same has been integral to GMP's growth. A significant factor in GMP's health has been John's commitment to an expansive vision of God's Kingdom rather than maintaining the organisational status quo in a rapidly shifting world.

Part of John's legacy is the growth in GMP's international partners – South Sudan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines all joined GMP during his time as EO. GMP also took on Churches of Christ ministry to, with, and alongside Indigenous people here in Australia. While these achievements may only take up a few lines, they represent countless conversations, trips to speak to people face to face, and many hours of strategising and promoting these partnerships. GMP achieving full DFAT accreditation was also a result of John's drive for GMP to be the best partner it could be. GMP Board Chair, Barrie Yesberg, sums it up well: "The Board expresses their great appreciation for the work and activities in which John has been involved in this ministry. When John arrived, GMP was in a level of crisis and with a steady hand he has guided GMP into the organisation we see today. With retirement, John leaves behind

a Christian mission organisation fulfilling its mission."

John's enthusiasm to see GMP grow – not for its own sake – and be an organisation that transforms lives, livelihoods and engages in authentic partnership is contagious. We have made it a way of operating and ministering at GMP. It's appropriate to let some of our partners share their thoughts about John's ministry through GMP.

"John's servant leadership qualities over the years assisted Showers of Blessing to grow through healthy partnership."  
(Boniface Mpofo, Zimbabwe)

"John is a very good person. I have loved working with him in his ministry with MECOC leaders."  
(Silas Gibe, PNG)

"Our friendship has brought forth many changes in Bangladesh through church partnership and community development activities. You have changed us."  
(Vana Bawm, Bangladesh)

"John is a servant leader. He worked in partnership with CMI by fulfilling the GMP value for lasting change. He often consulted the grassroots people who have problems to come up with a decision on how to eradicate poverty cycles in our region."  
(Paulino Malou, South Sudan)

"We are so grateful and will never forget Ps John's hard work in Vietnam. We thank God for giving us a good leader like you. Your understanding, concern, encouragement, intercession and teaching have made our ministry



grow. You have always been an example for us to follow, in serving God humbly, in His grace and love."  
(Pastor T, Vietnam)

"John made me believe that even small help can give a big impact on people. His wise leadership will live in our memories. On behalf of your Indonesian brothers and sisters, I say, 'Keep doing good works for impacting nations.'"  
(Hery Susanto, Indonesia)

On a personal note, John has helped create a culture of expansiveness, professionalism and compassion across GMP. He has been willing to teach, help staff grow, and use mistakes as learning opportunities, while constantly working to help people find fulfilment in their roles. His EO role has never diminished his pastoral care of staff. We'll miss him, and trust that his retirement is one that continues his journey of transforming lives.

*Craig Brown,*  
Deputy Executive Officer  
and ICP Director



Using the tubewell, Happy Hills Village, Bangladesh

## A Tube Well for Happy Hills Village

Despite its name, Happy Hills Village in Bangladesh was “Unhappy for water,” according to GMP partner, Vana Bawm.

The remote village in the Bandarban Hills experiences a water crisis each year during the dry season. This threatens the livelihoods and health of the community.

The Happy Hills Village is located at the top of the mountains. To collect water, people must trek down the dangerous terrain to a small local river. During the extreme heat of the dry season, the riverbed dries up and water becomes scarce. The long walk down the mountain takes at least an hour and returning up the steep hills during the dry season can leave people dehydrated and feeling dizzy. Because the water levels are so low, people do not get enough water. Vana said their days and nights are spent in worry, fighting for their survival, “They want the water.”

When Vana visited the village to conduct a survey, in his role as Project Director, he saw the lifestyles of the people, “Forget bathing and cooking – there isn’t enough water for that.” All their water comes from a small, dried-up and potentially contaminated river source. Many people in the village contract water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera. Bathing in unclean water also causes infections. For those who can afford it, safe water

can be purchased at the local market. People carry containers and pots to the market and pay to have them filled with safe water. However, not many of the people from Happy Hills Village can afford to purchase this water. The 60 families in the village pool their resources together to fill one small pot of water per household. “They didn’t have clean water for anything other than drinking,” Vana said. All of this is what makes Happy Hills Village not so ‘happy.’

However, thanks to GMP’s aid and development partner, Community Advancement Forum (CAF), Happy Hills Village doesn’t have to be “unhappy for water” any longer.

A tube well was installed in the Happy Hills Village this year through the CAF Community Sustainability project. The digging process began in March 2022 and was completed by May. As the deep drilling began, “Everyone [in the village] started bubbling in their hearts as they found water,” Vana said. There will now be plenty of water pumped to the top of the mountain. The community was very excited. The water will refresh everybody during the dry season. Vana tasted the water and says, “The water is cool in the summer heat.”

A local government official inaugurated the tube well at the opening ceremony. One mother



Installing the tubewell

holding her baby collecting water from the well was full of gratitude, “On behalf of the Happy Hill Village, special thanks to the program for providing the new tube well, which truly reduced our suffering for water every year and fills [us] with unspeakable joy.” Another man exclaimed, “It is beyond our imagination we would receive this facility in our village.”

Thank you for being a part of Safe Water September. You are helping make safe water accessible to remote villages like Happy Hills, in Bangladesh.



Bangladesh CAF - Community Sustainability Program is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).