



life-changing
partnerships

IN PARTNERSHIP



www.gmp.org.au | October 2017



Girls from Gnyan Sampada Residential School, India, create some sand art

Seeking Change

So what do we hope to see from the ministry of Global Mission Partners? It is an important question to answer and reflect on. One word comes to mind, and that word is change!

GMP seeks change, in and for people. We seek change, physically, emotionally, relationally, spiritually, and for whole communities. This is the work we have been established to do, and quite frankly, without seeing signs of change we have no purpose or future in our work.

An important reality is that change can only come when we work together. We work together for change, with you our partners in Australia, and you our partners around the world. This ministry is an expression of who we all are. We are united by our faith in Jesus Christ and our strong sense of call to undertake this work and, additionally, we are united in one particular family of churches.

We are Churches of Christ at work seeking change. Everywhere we work we do what we do under this umbrella of identity. It is a privilege for us to have this opportunity, to express our care, compassion and love in action. We are not motivated by planting 'flags of identity'. Rather our motivation is drawn from the patterns of Christ's ministry.

When in Matthew 25:34-36 Jesus describes very real human need, he also describes a response: thirsty – a drink; naked – clothing; stranger – welcome; sick – care, and in prison – visited. Each action in response to a need is practical. Each asks something of the other in response to the need that is identified. Each cannot be outsourced to others and each is a moment where change happens. The contrast of the "sheep" and "goats" is seen in the cry of the "goats" – "If we had known it was you (Son of Man) we would have responded!" What separates the

two groups is a combination of motivation and action. A motivation of compassion ("When did we see you?") combined with practical, transforming action.

This month we launch our new GMP Great Gifts Catalogue. Take a moment to have a look at it. Pay attention to the gifts, and notice how practical they are. Each one is part of a bigger response to a particular need. Each response has at its heart compassion and grounded practicality. It is why we can be confident in our theme and invitation to "bring real change". Such change can only happen as we take up the opportunities we have, and respond together. Your use of the catalogue is an important element in our common work of making change real.

John Gilmore,
Executive Officer

This Month in InPartnership

INPARTNERSHIP October 17

Seeking Change	1
Welcome to the Team!	2
Safe Water September: 2,000 Lives Changed	2
Juraki Surf and Culture	3
Great Gifts Bringing Real Change	4
Reconnecting Children with their Relatives	5
Changing the World without Leaving Home: Mission is a Complex Thing	6
Lives Saved by Chickens	7
Saksham means Empowerment	7
More about Fragility than Strength	8
Patrisius Changing Lives with Fertiliser	8

*Love thy
neighbour*

OCTOBER 27 + 28 | 2017 | MELBOURNE

Now in its third year, the Justice Conference in 2017 will explore Jesus' command to love thy neighbour. Join us in Melbourne on October 27-28. For more information check out the conference website www.thejusticeconference.com.au



Welcome to the Team!

Audrey Lim has started her new role in the Adelaide office as the Database and Administration Assistant. Audrey is taking over responsibilities from Melinda Van Vuuren, who has commenced a year's maternity leave. Welcome to the team, Audrey, and congratulations to Melinda with the arrival of a baby boy!

Safe Water September (SWS): 2,000 Lives Changed

At the time of writing, we have raised more than \$70,000 for Safe Water September. This means that more than 3,500 people will gain access to safe water with new borehole installations in various communities throughout rural Zimbabwe, and during October that number will keep rising! Over 378 profiles were created during the SWS challenge, including 40 teams from churches and groups around Australia! The Aquaholics team from Bendigo Church of Christ ran a bake sale, carwash and a silent auction to raise funds for SWS. Other churches were taking up offerings, providing opportunities for people to share about SWS, and generally supporting each other through the caffeine withdrawals! There has also been some great engagement through social media with challenge

takers posting creative and funny photos while raising awareness of water and sanitation issues. We at embody are so proud that we can be a part of this together, and we hope to continue this good work in the future. We are excited with all the new challenge takers and the commitment from those who have been a part of the challenge from previous years. The total amount raised by Safe Water September since its inception in 2014 is almost \$370,000 – an incredible feat from our little community! Thank you for your contribution to make safe water a reality!

Even though September has been and gone, there is still time to donate to SWS. We will keep the donations open through October and into November, so you still have plenty of



The Aquaholics Bake Sale

opportunities to impact a life. Water can create a massive difference, and the best news is that for just \$20 you can change somebody's life.

Head to www.safewaterseptember.org.au to donate and be part of something bigger!

Mitch Varcoe,
embody National Campaigns and
Resourcing Manager



Juraki Surf and Culture

Apparently, there are only three permanent dolphin populations on the northern NSW and southern QLD coast – one at Byron Bay, one at Stradbroke Island and the other at Fingal Head. This was just one of the fascinating pieces of information that local Bunjalung and Christian leader, Kyle Slabb, shared with the Juraki volunteer team at the Juraki surf and culture event. We heard that as we stood on the headland, watching the dolphins surf the waves below us, and the whales spouting and flapping their tails further out. Kyle's whole family, including brother Joel and his wife Mary, as event organisers, are right at the centre of the community as they host Indigenous competitors and families from around Australia for this significant event in the beautiful waters of their traditional home on the Tweed River.

Once again, IMA had the privilege of taking a bunch of volunteers from chilly Melbourne to the idyllic beaches of Fingal to listen, learn and serve under the guidance of the Slabb family. It was hardly tough work learning to make fairy floss and snow cones, as well as helping set up the odd marquee amidst surf school lessons and a unique cultural awareness walk with Kyle... but someone had to do it! Other highlights included the powerful Welcome to Country and Mixing of

the Waters ceremony on the main surf beach, the culture and music night, and sleeping in our Dhiyaan swags under the stars.

For the Juraki volunteers who attended in 2016 and 2017, the insight into the God-given strengths of Indigenous culture were invaluable, as were the beginnings of friendships that provide the best context for reconciliation in our land.

"As volunteers we were able to build relationships with people in that community and work under the direction of the local leaders. It was an incredible experience. We were able to learn more about the history of their land whilst also getting a unique experience of their culture and faith." – Carly

"What a privilege it was to be part of the recent Juraki Surf Carnival at Fingal Head. You couldn't get a more beautiful setting to relax and do 'mission'. We were welcomed in as family and had the rare opportunity to build relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Christians. We got to slow down and simply listen and learn from our Indigenous brothers and sisters and, in doing so, we grew in our respect for them and all they are doing to bring reconciliation and healing to not only their community, but to all Australians. I can't wait to go back next year." – Andrew

Welcome to Country and Mixing of the Waters ceremony, Fingal Head

"An amazing weekend! We were welcomed with the sound of a didgeridoo and the smells of eucalyptus smoke on the golden sands of Fingal Head on a fine Friday morning and the welcome only got warmer from there! To watch great athletes tackle the tricky Fingal waves and to dive into its chilly arms under the golden winter sun is a memory that will be long enjoyed." – Steve

"One of the major highlights for my daughter, Hannah and me, was sleeping in swags on the Fingal Primary School oval. So unique. We also loved the headland walk, the Saturday night concert/celebration and the chance to chat with Kyle about his culture and his view on life." – Phil

Special thanks to Andrew Russell from One Community for all of his help in the promotion and organisation of our team this year. I'm sure he'd agree it won't be the last time we visit the dolphins at Fingal Head and, like them, we might just be tempted to become permanent locals.

Nick Wight,
IMA Coordinator East



Pictured on the front cover of the catalogue are residents of the Khayelihle Children's Village, Zimbabwe

Great Gifts Bringing Real Change

Global Mission Partners (GMP) invests in people and has deep relationships with our partners. We believe real change happens through authentic relationships and when we work together, we can create ongoing and lasting change. We believe that this can happen in partnership with you and your church! God calls us to remember others and their needs, rather than putting ourselves first. The GMP Great Gifts Catalogue is a great way of doing this.

The catalogue is creative, engaging, and includes a range of gifts and a variety of prices. Each gift relates to a particular project supporting church partnership, Indigenous ministry or relief and development. The gifts in the catalogue also support projects in India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Papua

New Guinea, Vanuatu, Vietnam, South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Australia. Gifts over \$2 to COCOA projects receive a tax-deductible receipt. Giving to ICP and IMA is not tax-deductible. Donors will receive a card featuring the gift to give to family or friends. Gift cards can be received electronically or by mail (with an envelope). People can contribute to all, or part, of a gift. Gifts are consolidated and support initiatives that bring real change.

Join us in promoting and distributing the new GMP Great Gift Catalogue! The Great Gifts Catalogue is a practical way of inviting you, your family and friends and the members of your church to be a direct part of bringing real change. The new catalogues are available early in October to make it easier for people to plan their Christmas giving.

Many people throughout the year also use them for any occasion requiring a gift! You can request a hard copy of the catalogue, or place your Great Gifts order online at www.greatgifts.org.au.

Together, we can bring change to people around the world by giving holistic gifts that have a real impact, gifts that bring real change.

For more ideas on how to make the most of the Great Gifts Catalogue, including running a Great Gifts Stall, check out www.greatgifts.org.au/resources or contact info@gmp.org.au or freecall 1800 467 222 for a hard copy.

John Gilmore,
Executive Officer



\$55

Audio Visual Gear

Port Hedland Aboriginal Church desperately needs a projector, laptop, mixer and microphone to help them create a relevant space for worship
IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



\$100

Fuel for Evangelists

People living in remote areas, isolated from regular church fellowship, will be encouraged when a local evangelist visits them **IN ZIMBABWE**

Did You Know?

You can support pastors in Bangladesh, Indonesia or Zimbabwe. Through the Great Gifts Catalogue, you can give a monthly gift to help invest into the next generation of new pastors to share the good news with their communities. You can also start a sponsorship journey and support pastors throughout the whole year!



www.greatgifts.org.au



Reconnecting Children with their Relatives

Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV) is a beautiful home, providing a safe environment for abandoned, abused and orphaned children to live, attend school and church, and participate in life-skills activities. When relatives of the children can be identified, KCV works with these children to find them a safe and supportive family situation. This includes an investigation into family living conditions. Introductions are made with regular supervised visits, and then children will move out of KCV and into homes with their relatives for long-term kinship care. Over the past two years, 31 children have been reconnected with their families!

The reasons why these 31 children have lived at KCV vary. For nine of the children, their biological fathers are alive but at the time the children were placed in KCV, the fathers were sick and could not afford to look after them. Four of the children's mothers were single and could not afford to provide for the children

at that time, and 18 children were orphaned and there were disputes in most extended families as to who will take responsibility for them. This has all occurred during difficult times in Zimbabwe, where there was drought and the country faced many economic challenges.

KCV believes it is important to reconnect children with their relatives, so they know where they come from, as it fosters in them a sense of belonging. Children's needs are better met in a small family group. It is also claimed that a child living with relatives performs better at school. KCV has played an important part in children's lives by equipping them with education, and giving them love, shelter and assisting them to grow spiritually. All these efforts have helped the children to be responsible people. Hence they have managed to gradually adjust to living with their relatives.

When children are reconnected with their relatives, KCV provides initial financial support through a small business start-up program. This helps families generate the extra income required to support their new child with items like food supplements and education. The children often visit our KCV office and we get a chance to ask them questions. One girl is now living with her biological father and her uncle's family. She is still adjusting to her lifestyle. One teenage girl who was reconnected with her community and extended family commented, "Now I know I have a family and a place to go." Another of the children reported that it is a wonderful experience to live with her grandmother. She had the chance to meet other relatives during a recent visit to South Africa.

Vimbai Vuma,
Acting KCV Director

Support the KCV Reconnection Program and kids in Zimbabwe through the Great Gifts catalogue:



Local Business

A business start-up program will help support families, enabling them to provide safe and supportive kinship care for vulnerable kids **IN ZIMBABWE**



Holiday Outing

A picnic, church camp or trip to the park provides a vulnerable child from Khayelihle Children's Village with inclusion, joy and happy memories **IN ZIMBABWE**

Did You Know?

There are more Great Gifts that bring real change to people around the world! You can find them all online, or get in touch and we'll send you a copy of the full catalogue!



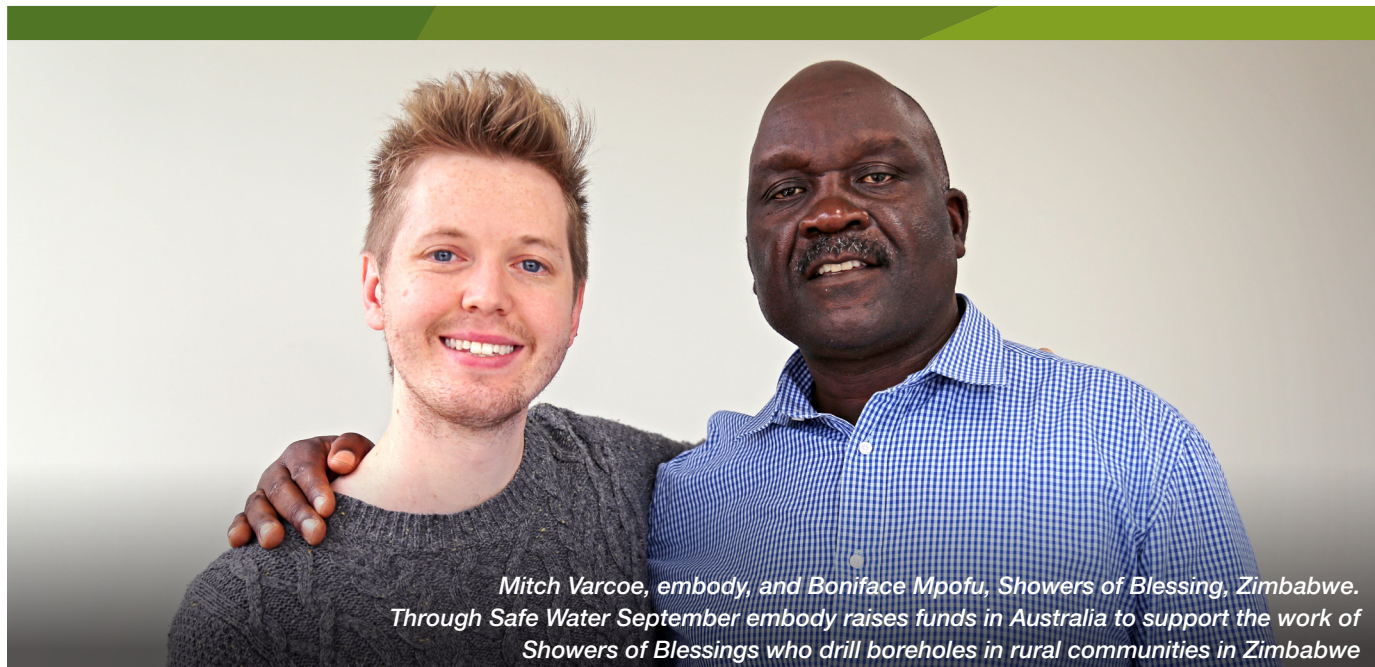
www.greatgifts.org.au



1800 467 222 (FREECALL)



info@gmp.or.au



Mitch Varcoe, embody, and Boniface Mpofu, Showers of Blessing, Zimbabwe. Through Safe Water September embody raises funds in Australia to support the work of Showers of Blessings who drill boreholes in rural communities in Zimbabwe

Changing the World Without Leaving Home: Mission is Complex

In days gone by any talk about mission was about leaving home, and now we have seen a heap of ways to change the world without leaving home. What is going on? Did we get it wrong in the past? Has the world changed that much?

There was a time when I believed that the only thing that needed to be done in mission was to tell people four essential truths about God. Gradually, God showed me that the way Christians related to those they were sharing essential truths with was what really mattered. When God put me in the city amongst homeless, unemployed and disconnected people, it was clear that a practical response to people on the margins was needed if they were going to embrace those essential truths. That practical response is actually an essential truth. Imagine for a moment that you are the Son of God. You know that everything will be sorted out in the end. God will act justly (Gen 18:25). The glory ahead will supersede any present suffering (Rom 8:18). What you could do then, is focus exclusively on that glory. When a blind person bumped into you, for example, you would say, "Don't worry pal. The glory that is ahead of you far exceeds your present suffering. Follow me and don't worry about your blindness!" (Mk 8:22-26).

Jesus, of course, did not respond that way. Despite having a better picture of what is ahead than any of us, he considered now a vital part of the future. He worked changing people's present circumstances, like physical blindness. He saw those circumstances as tied up with the kingdom, which ultimately changes everything completely. Christians have always been people concerned about the now and the not yet at the same time. This hasn't changed. Mission has always been about going and telling, and doing and being, at the same time.

However, the world has changed. More and more there are capable Christians called into God's mission in their own places (South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Vanuatu...) which Australians can stand alongside in support, as well as places where there is a skills shortage (Fiji, Vietnam, Nicaragua...) where we can send along someone with the skills to support the local effort and bring it to maturity. Mission is not only about leaving home but also about partnering with those working in their home country.

So mission is this complex thing – not just about sharing truth, but about demonstrating it in practical, authentic ways; not just about leaving home but about partnering from home. Our series

about changing the world without leaving home takes us another step. It reminds us that mission requires a holistic response from each of us – not just telling essential truths or supporting others to do that, not just helping in practical ways or supporting others to do that, but acting in our own lives, ways that resonate with the change we want to see for the world: standing in solidarity with poor communities to help them achieve justice, consuming in the knowledge that we have to share the earth's resources with seven billion other people, almost all of whom are poorer than we are, and consuming ethically so that we are not adding to the injustice we are challenging.

Like all good things, all God things, it comes back to challenge us in our inner most being – our spirits. There we wrestle with consuming for ourselves or consuming with others in mind, sticking up for our rights or those of others across the globe. This struggle, Jesus says, is an essential one, for it keeps us on the trail of following him (Mt 5:47; 6:24).

*Colin Scott,
COCOA Director*



Lives Saved by Chickens

Mr Jaikaew was earning a very small income, and could not always find work. He spent a lot of his money on tobacco and alcohol. This made his family suffer, and become unhappy. "When I drank, my son and my wife left the house to live with their neighbours, until I had a better mood." Pastor Paitoon Saekoh and Elder Sutin Saowapek introduced the chicken micro-enterprise project to Mr Jaikaew's community. The main occupation is planting rice once a year in the rainy season. Many young people leave the village to work in another area because they do not have regular work in the village. "I thought that it (the idea of raising

chickens) was interesting, but I did not have the land to build chicken farms. When my younger brother realised that we were interested in raising chickens, he gave us his land to build the chicken house for us." Mr and Mrs Jaikaew also received some financial help from their son to invest in some chickens with GMP. When Mr Jaikaew started raising chickens, he decided to stop drinking. "I give more time now to my family and look after the chickens well." Mr and Mrs Jaikaew have now raised and sold 2,000 chickens!

Auranat Katue,
Thailand

Give a Gift of Chicken Micro-enterprise



Chicken Micro-Enterprise

A chicken farm provides sustainable income opportunities for ethnic minority families, which helps them access healthcare and education **IN THAILAND**

Saksham Means Empowerment

Looking at the girls and women in remote villages and slums in India, it is disturbing to see that the majority of them do not have equal rights or opportunities in their families or society. They have no education or skill that is required for work. Their voices are not heard in the family, and most of them are oppressed and exploited. By empowering such underprivileged girls and women with a tailoring course, the "Saksham" project aims to give them a chance to fight all the odds and to do something for themselves as well as their families. One such example is Noorjahan. She belongs to a Muslim family living in the suburban slums of Mumbai in a small hut with her husband, three children and in-laws. The burden often falls on one person to run the home. Her husband works as a night watchman on a very low income. Noorjahan wanted to help her family and her husband by doing

some work so that they could meet their family's needs. Noorjahan, having no basic education, found it hard to get a job. Saksham gave her the opportunity to learn how to stitch women's clothes. She was eager to learn new things and was one of the brilliant students of her group. Coming from a community that is very conservative, she had a hard time leaving her house for classes. She has now successfully completed six months of the course and started working from home, stitching the clothes of her community members and earning an income. The condition of her family is still not good, but she is now confident, has the skills, and works hard for her children and her family.

Daniel Gaikwad,
Hosanna Ministries India



Noorjahan with her two children



Tailoring Course

A vocational education course provides a person living in a Mumbai slum with the skills to develop a small tailoring business **IN INDIA**

More About Fragility Than Strength

I was anticipating vibrant, indigenous expressions of worship. I was imagining four-part harmonies and a church carried by song and laughter. But, expectations are often flipped on their head. I visited the Fiji Community Churches of Christ in August, which turned out to be more about fragility than strength. This network of small churches spread across the main island of Viti Levu brings together Indo-Fijian Christians who are often first-generation believers. These churches struggle with resources and meet mostly in houses or open-walled shelters. Engagement with Christian faith among these churches seems to occur at a few key intersections: healing, prayerful petition, and the thankful acceptance of salvation. It seems there has not been the sort of formation here that shapes faith through an articulate conversation with society and culture, beyond the direct efficacy of traditional Bible words and images. Yet, lives

are clearly being transformed. Witnesses to miraculous healings abound in stories and tears, and entire families are being brought into new communities of prayer and hope. There is great possibility in the abundance of children as well as the sacrifices made by even the poorest of the poor. I was touched by one old woman's donation of 17 bricks to the Lomawai building project – much more than she could afford. Ministers supported by GMP like David Reddy, Raj Deo and Muneshwar Gaunder are welcomed by local Hindu families through their pastoral care and visitation. They are humble but sure in their constant efforts to bring others to Christ. Following Cyclone Winston in 2016, these leaders became a dignifying and loving presence in the lives of many, delivering food supplies and tarpaulins to those overlooked by a country overburdened with devastation. The Indo-Fijian church might be fragile. But it has a soft,



Above: Worship at Lomawai church, Fiji
Below: Sam Curkpatrick sharing at Lomawai church



vulnerable heart that trusts in God's present reality and future. GMP will continue to walk with these churches and individuals as they grow into a healthy, vibrant community of Christ.

Sam Curkpatrick,
Partnership Coordinator VIC/TAS

Patrisius Changing Lives with Fertiliser

During the past six months, all of our students at the Churches of Christ Theological School Indonesia (CCTSI) have been exploring different kinds of ministry with local churches, and building strong connections with villagers through their training programs. One example is breeding livestock and making organic fertiliser. The first group to run the training was led by our student, Patrisius Tauho, who made organic fertiliser out of cattle urine. Patrisius said, "We started with introducing the importance of using organic fertiliser, not just for the sake of the farmers but also to keep our environment healthy, like what God intended by creating the earth. Initially, not many people were interested until they saw that the crops are much better than those farmers who have been

farming many years without it. After one month of trying the fertiliser on their plants, they found the results were amazing! Their harvest was the biggest harvest they had ever had. This attracted other farmers, curious to know how, and what was the secret." In the last six months of this practical outreach, the students have learnt about showing love to others and the importance and willingness of listening to others needs through training villagers. We focus on farming, but as interactions go well and there is time to talk, we begin to understand their deeper struggles and needs. We can then share the gospel with them; sharing the gospel to influence their ordinary life. Patrisius said, "I love to share the gospel with them, and see the many joyful faces they show after joining in this project. They are changed from hopelessness to hopefulness."



Patrisius has been studying for one year at CCTSI and continues to work with his farming neighbours, while studying theology.

Hery Susanto,
Indonesia



Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.

PO Box 341 Torrensville Plaza SA 5031 Ph: 08 8352 3466 Freecall: 1800 467 222

Fax: 08 8234 5373 Email: info@gmp.org.au ABN 30 455 408 814

