

# IN PARTNERSHIP

October 2022



Many Black Lahu farmers living in the remote mountainous hill tribes of Thailand have long wanted to raise pigs - it's something they've yearned for. Raising pigs would create a good income, although they have struggled to find the means to afford the piglets.

GMP Relief and Development partner, the Churches of Christ Thailand Social Development and Services Unit (SDSU), have initiated a project to support the farmers. This enables the provision of seed funding to purchase piglets for the farmers, and assist with feed and training.

Piano, from the SDSU, recently visited the farmers participating in the Hill Tribe Sustainable Income Project.

Piano shared that one farmer "loves raising animals" and had expressed his dream of using that passion as an occupation and increasing his income. Others in the community were also interested in raising pigs. All their dreams became a reality when the project was introduced. With assistance from SDSU, farmers have learned what it really means to take care of pigs and establish a small piggery to support their livelihood.

Firstly, the farmers stressed the importance of keeping their piggeries away from the village to prevent spreading terrible odours which may harm the community.

Furthermore, they had the challenge of deciding which pigs to raise. Black pigs were preferred by one group of farmers since they are larger and produce tastier meat, which is more valuable. The second group wanted to raise white pigs as they are smaller, cheaper to raise, and sell more quickly.

Thankfully, no matter the pigs they choose, the farmers can now buy and raise pigs to support their family's income.

Experienced farmers from nearby communities volunteer their time to help the farmers in raising the pigs and provide advice on market prices when it comes time to sell them. Piano reports that potential buyers come to the village when they know there are pigs for sale. Each pig can bring 5,000 baht (approximately \$195AUD) in profit if the farmer has bought and raised two or more pigs.

You can't put a piglet on a plane and send it to the Black Lahu farmers in Thailand, but you can purchase a Pair of Piglets from the Great Gifts

Catalogue! You can send support to our local GMP partners like Piano, who will assist farmers in their community with piglets.

The community is thankful for your support. One farmer said, "We villagers are grateful because even though you didn't know us, you helped us."

Give a Great Gift with real impact and send support to places like Thailand to help people like the farmers of the hill tribes through the assistance of partners like Piano.

## GREAT GIFTS

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## News & Events

### New GMP Executive Officer

The GMP Board of Directors are pleased to announce that Mr John Lamerton has been appointed as the new Executive Officer, following the retirement of John Gilmore. John Lamerton will commence in his role on 30 January 2023. You can read the official statement on the GMP website [www.gmp.org.au/news](http://www.gmp.org.au/news)

Any questions relating to this statement can be addressed to the Board Chair - Barrie Yesberg, email: [yesberggmp@gmail.com](mailto:yesberggmp@gmail.com)

### Great Gifts Catalogue 2022

Give a Gift that goes a long way – but not by plane or post. Your gifts reach people all around the world with the help of our amazing local partners. So where will your gift go? Catalogues will be posted in October and headed your way! Order your gifts now online at [www.greatgifts.org.au](http://www.greatgifts.org.au)

### International Day of the Girl Child October 11

International Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations. The strength, health and empowerment of the world's girls is a matter for every single day of the year. The International Day of the Girl is an opportunity to recommit to this global imperative. Read Priti's story on page 3.

### Pakistan Floods Emergency Appeal

An unprecedented monsoon season has created havoc across Pakistan leaving people without food, shelter and other basic needs. In response, GMP has launched the Pakistan Floods emergency appeal. Donations given to the appeal will be directed through ACT Alliance. Please give now to assist people affected by the devastating floods. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. [www.gmp.org.au/pakistanfloodsappeal](http://www.gmp.org.au/pakistanfloodsappeal)

### Ukraine Appeal Update

Thank you for your generosity in responding to the Ukraine emergency. The appeal has now closed and we are no longer receiving donations.

## Care of Creation

In the past decade, GMP policies, and those of local churches, have grown in abundance! We now have so many. One of the good things about this is they provide an opportunity for us to be clear about what we believe about a particular matter. We are a Christian ministry and our core policies are drawn from our faith.

We were asked recently, by a regulatory body, about our 'Environment Policy'. They were particularly interested in understanding how we intend to reduce our impact on the environment. We revised what we had and then began to wonder. Behind what we do is what we believe.

Out of this came a new statement we have called 'Care of Creation'. In it we affirm that 'God created the earth for the enjoyment and support of all people, and gave people custodial rights and responsibilities for it. Land, sea and sky are gifts to be stewarded for the benefit of all people and for the generations to come. It reflects the love of the Creator and is the stage which God has given humanity to find life to the full, in communion with each other and with God. God sees Creation as

completely good. God will renew the Creation at the reconciliation of all things.'

There is much more in the policy, including our recognition of the custodianship of this land, Australia, by our First Nations peoples.

What we value and respect leads to our behaviour and decision-making. 'GMP in all its programming will give preference, wherever possible, for projects and activities that serve to better care for the environment and enable people's lives to be for the better.'

GMP will, through all our work, do all we can to care for creation and to honour the stewardship given us by our God. We will pay attention to the way that the most marginalised people are impacted by climate, and respond with compassion, care and advocacy. Safe Water September is a commitment to care for people impacted by a loss of access to safe water. It is also a way of saying God's intent in creation was safe water for all.

*John Gilmore*  
Executive Officer

## ACT Alliance: Season of Creation

This year's Celebration Guide is available online. It contains a section on climate advocacy, including activities related to ACT's climate programme and COP27. You can download the guide here: <https://bit.ly/CelebrationGuide2022>





# One Moment of Intervention for Priti

Children who are married before they turn 18 are at a high risk of exposure to violence, exploitation and abuse. Child marriage negatively impacts their rights to education, health and protection. It ends childhood.

GMP Relief and Development partner, Hosanna Ministries, works with vulnerable children in the slums of Mumbai, through the Prakash Tekadi Project. GMP partners, Danny and Smita who work from the Emmanuel Education Centre in the Prakash Tekadi slum, are familiar with the challenges and problems associated with child marriage. They advocate for children like Priti.

Danny and Smita have known Priti for the last five years. On the surface, Priti, 16, has been a punctual student who is determined to complete her education. However, digging deeper, we find that her parents had other plans for her.

Priti comes from a family living in poverty, with limited resources. Priti's parents, out of desperation, wished to marry off their daughter for money. Marriage would end Priti's education, and her childhood.

When hearing this, Smita advocated for Priti's right to an

education. Smita talked to Priti's mother and convinced her that education was important and not to marry Priti so soon.

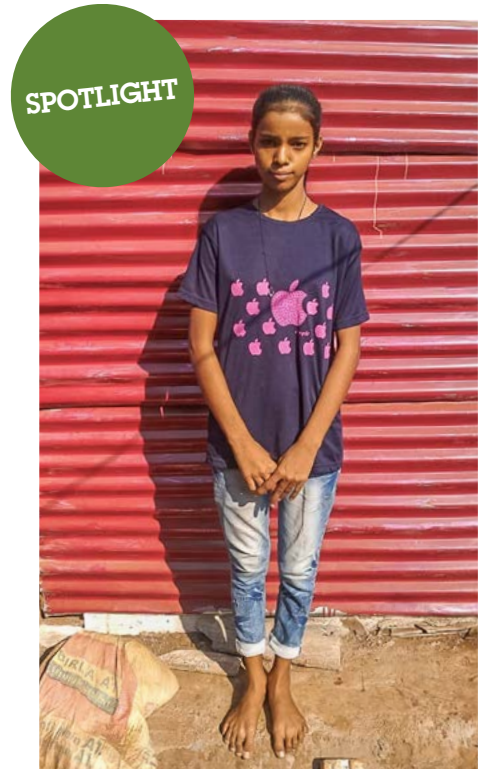
One moment of intervention changed Priti's life forever.

According to UNICEF, each year in India an estimated 1.5 million girls under 18 get married. Thanks to your support of Emmanuel Education Centre, Priti will not be one of them.

Stopping child marriages improves circumstances for girls like Priti. Hosanna Ministries also helps girls vulnerable to child marriage by improving health and nutrition, supporting the transition from primary to secondary school, and helping girls to develop skills to realise their economic potential.

Emmanuel Education Centre provides a nutritious meal daily for children, literacy programs and vocational training for women and youth. Priti says, "I am very grateful to my teachers who have helped me every day to complete my study."

Priti is confident about her future. She completed her matriculation examination. "I am very happy to score good marks," Priti said. Priti has been accepted for an



apprenticeship with a good company. This is a two-year skills training program after which she will get a job in the same company.

Your support of Hosanna Ministries, and the Prakash Tekadi Project, provides education and healthcare to girls like Priti. This support will help raise the standard of living and enable the community to break the cycle of poverty.

## Listen to a Safe Water September Podcast

Do you want to keep learning about the impact of safe water? There are two Safe Water September (SWS) related episodes on the embody Mission Unplugged podcast:

**Episode 17: Ntando Msimanga - Showers of Blessing.** Mitch Salmon and Ntando, a Field Officer with Showers of Blessing Trust in Zimbabwe, chat about the impact and importance of safe water, what it feels like to be changing lives, and how the things that catch your

attention might be the things God is suggesting you get involved with.

**Episode 23: Eliza and David Deith - Safe Water September.** Emily talks to Safe Water September challenge takers Eliza, 10, and her grandfather, David. SWS is always a challenge, but a worthy one.

Listen today on Spotify or Anchor or visit the embody website: <http://www.embody.org.au/missionunplugged>

*Safe Water September has raised \$170,482 so far towards safe water projects in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Vanuatu. Thanks for your generous support! You can still donate online to help change more people's lives at [www.safewaterseptember.org.au](http://www.safewaterseptember.org.au)*

# A Trip that Changed Lives - Southern Illawarra and New Day Head to Dareton

Southern Illawarra and New Day Church recently partnered to serve the Indigenous ministries of Dareton and Mildura Church of Christ. The impact of this shared experience has strengthened the churches' relationships, birthed common vision for the future and altered the course of some of the team members' lives.

Stephen Cathcart, pastor of Southern Illawarra Church, has been building a relationship with Dareton Youth and Community Centre in NSW since 2014. The Centre is a partner of GMP Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA). Stephen has been making the 10-hour journey and taking a team to serve almost every year since. In 2014, Southern Illawarra Church raised \$5,000 and gathered a team of tradies to head to Dareton and install false walls, power points and desks. The Centre, managed by Ilker Deli from Mildura Church of Christ, is a hub for the community and a safe place for its young people. It provides a space and a meal to local kids from 3pm-7pm Monday to Friday every week.

When describing his experience of visiting this community, Stephen said, "The Mission opens your eyes and you wonder, 'Am I in Australia?' You see rubbish on the street, feral dogs, broken down homes and cars, and you think, 'What is going on?'" Many children in this community go without meals regularly and find themselves in unsafe spaces. The drop-in centre has quickly become the place many teenagers gather to have their needs met, find a safe community and hear about Jesus' love and purpose for their lives."

From 3-7 July this year, Stephen led a joint team of nine members from Southern Illawarra and New Day Church in Wollongong to run kids' programs at Mildura Church of Christ and serve the Dareton drop-in centre. The team that went was a mix of teachers, school students and retirees who paid their own way, some even taking a week of annual leave to go.

"It's only going to be the Lord who can pull some of these young people



out of the spiral of poverty and give them a bigger vision for what their life could be," Stephen said. As is the case on mission trips, this experience also greatly impacted many team members. Hugh, 20, said, "Now, I am considering new career paths to give me opportunities to further support the Dareton community. This trip has changed my life."

If you or your church is hearing a call to be involved in reaching and supporting remote Indigenous communities, why not get in touch with IMA. Email [Nick@gmp.org.au](mailto:Nick@gmp.org.au)

You can read the full article **A TRIP THAT CHANGED LIVES – SOUTHERN ILLAWARRA AND NEW DAY HEAD TO DARETON** on the Fresh Hope NSW website.

# Joining the Fight Against Famine

The fourth annual Micah Women Leaders Delegation was held in September. Anne Simpson, churches of Christ NSW & ACT Network Engagement Ministry leader, joined a group of 40 influential leaders from across the Australian Church in Canberra, to advocate for the Help Fight Famine Campaign.

Anne said, "I can think of no greater way we can express our solidarity than to speak up... for the plight of those in our world today who are daily facing the threat of starvation. We pray they [parliament] will be moved to act."

Launched by Micah Australia this year, the Fight Famine Campaign is calling on the Australian Government to contribute \$150 million to prevent famine in

five at-risk countries - Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen, South Sudan and Afghanistan.

More than 40 meetings with Members of Parliament expressed the concerns of churches and development agencies represented. "Conflict, COVID, climate shocks and the war in Ukraine have converged to create the perfect storm for an unprecedented crisis," said Carly Smith, senior lobbyist for Micah Australia.

"It is an honour to be able to bring this voice to Parliament on behalf of our brothers and sisters around the world, and we believe it is a Biblical call to do so," said Anne.

Micah Australia is a coalition of Christian international development agencies under the



*Micah Women Leaders Delegation at Parliament house*

leadership of Rev. Tim Costello. It empowers Australian Christians to advocate for the most urgent global justice issues facing the world today.

Global Mission Partners is a long-time partner of Micah Australia. Read more about the Help Fight Famine campaign at [www.fightfamine.com.au](http://www.fightfamine.com.au)