

# IN PARTNERSHIP

February 2024



## Weaving a Self-Sustainable Life

Zingnun lives in the remote hills of Bangladesh. She has struggled to support her family due to her disability. Zingnun would weave wool to make blankets and other handicrafts to sell in her village. But her products looked like everyone else's. She wasn't making enough profit to support her family.

Zingnun's life took a positive turn when she participated in handicrafts training through GMP Relief and Development partner, the Community Advancement Forum (CAF).

The Community Advancement Forum supports women and vulnerable farmers by providing handicraft marketing and design training. They create communal experiences to make blankets and to preserve traditional skills. They teach people business planning, which empowers them to sell their products for a better profit.

After participating in the training, Zingnun said her "design became very unique and in high demand."

Our partners trained 60 women in 2023. They want to reach 1000 women and vulnerable farmers. This goal highlights how significant the need is for this life-changing training.

Before the training, Zingnun earned a 15 percent profit on her products at the local market. Now, she is making 30 percent!

With newfound confidence and unique products, Zingnun can support her family. "It is very much supportive to my family," she shared.

You could help people like Zingnun.

This year, you can help provide long-term stability for our partners. Regular support can empower people like Zingnun to create lasting change in their own lives. You can enable people like Zingnun to break free from the poverty cycle and be self-reliant.

There are many ways to give to Global Mission Partners. Please visit our website to learn more, or call us to discuss how your generosity can create a long-term impact for people like Zingnun this year.

### Thank you!

Thank you for your support of the COCOA Christmas Offering. Your generosity will go a long way helping people facing crisis in the places we partner. It contributes to life-changing relief and development work that helps people like Zingnun break free from the cycle of poverty.

If you haven't already, there's still time to donate and help someone like Zingnun. Visit [www.gmp.org.au/hope](http://www.gmp.org.au/hope) for more information.



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

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## News & Events

### Walk for Hope Easter Appeal

Here in Australia, we walk together in the hope of a reconciled nation. Over the years, many Christians have planted seeds of investing in Indigenous ministries. This Easter, we ask you to walk alongside our partners and help bring these seeds to new life! When you give to Walk for Hope this year, you can help provide ministry training and opportunities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians. To walk alongside them in partnership.

### Mrs Vuma Retires as Director of KCV, Zimbabwe

Mrs Vimbai Vuma started as a Khayelihle Children's Village Board member in 2005. She was elected Chairperson of the Board in 2010. Then she was appointed Director of the Village in 2015, a position held until her retirement in December 2023. Mr Mbonisi Mabhena, who has broad financial and managerial experience, will take over as director in January 2024. We want to thank Mrs Vuma for her years of faithful service and wish her all the best for her retirement.

### Rev Dr Ash Barker presents 'Seedbeds'

Ash and Anji Barker will visit various churches in Queensland and Australia during February and March to share about Seedbeds. A practical and innovative program that aims to develop leaders for social change. Information about locations and dates can be found on the website [www.seedbeds.org.au](http://www.seedbeds.org.au) or directly via this link <https://bit.ly/QLDVICdates>. You can also like their new Facebook page- Seedbeds Australia. To give to this initiative, visit [www.extend.org.au/our-projects/seedbeds](http://www.extend.org.au/our-projects/seedbeds)

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

# Participating in the Mission of Love

Welcome to 2024.

I'm genuinely excited about all God has in store for the Global Mission Partners community this year.

In my prayers and reflections over recent weeks, I've found God reminding me of his "mission of love" to the world (John 3:16-17).

One of my all-time favourite missiologists is David Bosch, most famous for writing the book Transforming Mission. The first time I read this book was slowly over two years because its content was so rich. Bosch wrote in this book, "To participate in mission is to participate in the movement of God's love toward people, since God is a fountain of sending love."

Of course, Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, also famously made this point quite poetically.

If we speak in tongues, have the gift of prophecy, fathom all mysteries and knowledge, have faith that can move mountains, or give to people in poverty but do not have love... we are nothing or gain nothing. "I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." (1 Cor 13:1-3).

Paul continues to describe what love is:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others; it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Cor 13:4-8)

It's easy to read these words at weddings and write them in cards to loved ones. But these are Paul's

words, a leader of the early church spreading the good news of Jesus throughout pagan Asia-minor (Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Cyprus, Greece and Malta) all the way to Rome.

This is an agape-sacrificial type of love that he's writing about and encouraging the church to embody as it participates in God's mission.

Our partners are inspiring examples of sharing God's love in desperate settings.

Amidst significant food shortages in Zimbabwe, Christian Care is training farmers for improved food security.

As refugees from neighbouring conflicts shelter in South Sudan, Christian Mercy International feeds and cares for over 150 families.

While low-caste families pick through rubbish for their survival, Hosanna Ministries is providing early education to children to break the cycle of poverty.

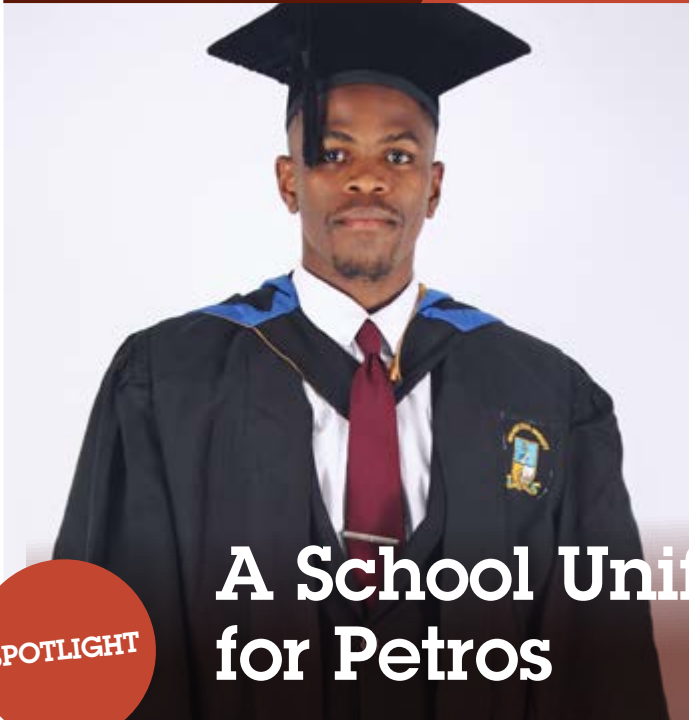
Among Indigenous youth struggling to find their place in this world, Dareton Youth and Community Centre provides a safe place to find community.

God's love is the life-changing balm for those living amidst hard places and challenging circumstances.

Today, may we draw from that fountain of God's love and consider ways to share it liberally as our ongoing participation in God's mission to the world this year.

I look forward to serving with you during 2024.

John Lamerton,  
Chief Executive Officer



**SPOTLIGHT**

# A School Uniform for Petros

Groceries and goodies Petros donated to Khayelihle Children's Village

Petros did not have school shoes or socks. He would walk with his eldest sister 5km daily to school in Zimbabwe. Without protection for his feet from the dirt and rocks. At home, their father was abusive, and their mother had partial paralysis from a stroke. Petros and his siblings learned to care for themselves very early in life.

When Petros's mother passed away, he was 11 years old. "All our relatives disappeared after the funeral," he said. Yet, Petros was not alone. His teacher knew about the family's need for support and contacted one of the leaders at Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV).

KCV provides a loving home to orphaned or vulnerable children like Petros. At KCV, the kids live in family groups of various ages in each of the five households. House mothers, fathers and aunties look after the children. They are loved by the staff, fed, clothed and have access to a good education. Where possible, KCV also seeks out the extended family of the children that come to them and helps reunite them where it is safe and supportive for the children.

Petros and his siblings found a new family at KCV. "When we arrived at KCV, it was like a dream heaven on earth," Petros reflected. It was the first time the children watched TV or played sports. Each

day, the KCV bus would take the children to and from school, and Petros never had to walk to school again. "I remember how I cried when I was given a full uniform with a satchel at KCV. It was packed with a lunchbox full of food for school with a bottled drink with juice inside. That, to me, was God answering my prayers." Petros had everything he needed.

Living at KCV, Petros finally felt like a child. It gave him hope and security that he had never known before. KCV also gave him the foundation he needed to succeed academically and professionally.

Petros completed high school and earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with honours. He is the founder and managing director of a car wash business today. He has a vision to help youth off the streets and provide them with jobs. God has blessed him with a beautiful family, including a wife and two daughters.

Petros continued to remember KCV many years after he left. We were told he has generously blessed the children's village by delivering essential groceries and goodies for the kids' lunchboxes.

"Today, I am a graduate and entrepreneur making a difference in the world because of you," Petros shared. "I thank you all for

your continued support towards our family and KCV. Thank you all. God bless."

The Great Gift of Shirt and Socks from the Global Mission Partners' Great Gifts catalogue will help give children living at KCV a new school uniform. You can provide a child, like Petros, with a new shirt, skirt, shorts, socks, or shoes.

You can give a Great Gift any time of the year, not just Christmas! With Australian kids returning to school, why not take this opportunity to share the gift of a uniform for a child at KCV? Whenever you choose to give a Great Gift, it will be a gift of real purpose.



**Great Gifts for back to school time!**

Celebrate the start of the school year by giving a Great Gift that supports children. The gift of a Shirt and Socks will help a child at KCV fit in at school!

[www.greatgifts.org.au](http://www.greatgifts.org.au)



## Precious Received Safe Water for Christmas!

*Left: Precious at the new borehole Center and Right: Precious collecting water from a hand-dug well*

Precious and her husband lived in an urban area of Zimbabwe with easy access to water. They could drink fresh water from a tap, have showers, and flush toilets. Unfortunately, economic instability forced them to move to a rural village. They became farmers and faced many challenges in finding safe water.

When Precious, her husband and their one-year-old child arrived at their new home, they built shelters, started growing their food and raised animals. They walked long distances under the scorching sun to collect water from hand-dug wells. They struggled to find water during the seasons of drought.

The water source was unsafe. This was a cause for worry and further embarrassment for Precious. "I have been living here for two years now, but I have been hesitant to invite my

mother to visit as I feared that she would be distressed with the source and condition of my drinking water," she said.

Precious and her family needed a reliable, safe, reliable water source close to their home.

Their prayers for water were finally answered. Our Relief and Development partner, Showers of Blessing, drilled a borehole in their village.

Boniface Mpofu, Showers of Blessing Director, happily shared, "December 5, 2023, will always be a memorable date for Precious. Showers of Blessing delivered the precious gift of water to her village!"

This precious gift of water arrived for the family in time for Christmas.

Overjoyed, Precious invited her mother to visit and celebrate the holiday. "As soon as the pump is installed, I will make sure she visits me," Precious had said.

Showers of Blessing donated six new boreholes to different communities in 2023. Thanks to your support and through initiatives like Safe Water September, Precious's village is one of the many communities to receive the life-changing gift of safe water close to home.



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

## Can I Visit You this Year?

I love visiting churches and hearing about their rich missional histories. Meeting and sharing some time with the congregation to listen to their heart for their local community and beyond!

As I started my role with Global Mission Partners, I connected with many wonderful people in our Church of Christ movement. I met many of you in Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria. Each church is unique in what it is doing in its local context, and yet we have a shared language. We are all part of one family!

Thank you so much for your partnership and support of Global Mission Partners. Thank you for sharing your time and your stories with me. Thank you for inviting me to preach and share stories with you! I love talking about our international partners' incredible work in their communities.

Together, we are making a difference!

If you would like someone from Global Mission Partners to come and speak at your church or event this year, please email me at [carly@gmp.org.au](mailto:carly@gmp.org.au)



I would love to hear from you.

Carly Cassidy,  
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