

IN PARTNERSHIP

June 2024



A Better Future for Babita

When Pramod lost his job, he opened a small ironing shop to iron clothes for special events. Babita, his wife, desired to provide tailoring services to the customers. But she needed to improve her sewing skills first.

Babita lives with Pramod and their seven-year-old son in Yavatmal, a small town in central India. She has always been interested in sewing. However, had yet to pursue it while caring for her household. So, with Pramod now offering ironing services, this was the perfect time for Babita to enrol in a sewing class!

Our Relief and Development partner, Hosanna Ministries, provided vocational training for Babita. The training helps participants learn new sewing skills and gain confidence. It can help participants to find a job, start a business or pursue further education.

Many women in remote parts of India have limited or no access to good schools. With girls' education not prioritised, many are married as children and never learn to read or write. This means they have limited options to help earn an income to support their families.

This is where Hosanna Ministries' training can be transformational.

Thanks to the tailoring training, Babita finally learned how to, in her words,

“stitch properly”. She started providing tailoring services in the shop with her husband.

Babita didn't think she could be a successful tailor and business owner one day.

Babita purchased electric and foot pedal sewing machines and bought materials wholesale. She focused on designing and making clothes to sell rather than offering minor alterations. She learned in the training that this would provide a better profit.

Located on a busy street in Yavatmal, Babita and Pramod's shop stands out. It is a small building with an iron sheet and wooden frame construction. Nestled between two large concrete structures. There is colourful signage and a display of sparkly, colourful threads.

Babita showed us one of the clothes she was working on- a beautiful maroon top with gold trim.

Pramod sets his table at the front of the shop to iron customer's clothes. Very few people own an iron in the community, so they pay Pramod for his ironing services. He uses a hot coal iron. His service gets very busy during the Indian festivals and weddings!

Babita and her husband are growing a successful business.

Thanks to the Hosanna Ministries vocational training, Babita can now use her passion and skills to make a profit. She can contribute to the family income.

Together, providing a quality service that ensures their customers keep returning.

Hosanna Ministries is just one of our partners who provide life-changing support to people in truly challenging places. By supporting our partners as they walk alongside their communities, you can help enable education and training that empowers people to help themselves out of poverty.

Your tax-deductible gift to the COCOA End of Financial Appeal can invest in education and training that brings long-lasting hope.

Give before June 30 at
www.gmp.org.au/EOFY or
call 1800 46.7 222

Australian Aid 

Hosanna Ministries' Vocational Training Project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

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News & Events

COCOA End of Financial Year Appeal

Empower Better Futures with Vocational Training! Please make a tax-deductible donation before June 30. Many people remain trapped in poverty. Your support at this EOFY means our partners can implement life-changing programs that bring hope of ending the generational cycle of poverty for people like Babita and Pramod. Your gift can continue the life-changing work of partners like Hosanna Ministries in India. Giving your tax-deductible gift today can invest in education and training that brings long-lasting hope. A gift that never stops giving, opening opportunities for people to end the cruelty of poverty for themselves. Give now at www.gmp.org.au/EOFY or call 1800 467 222

Vale Ps John Liu

Dear Friends, it is with great sadness that I share Ps John Liu passed away in May at his home village on Maewo Island, Vanuatu. Ps John Liu was an early student at Banmatmat Bible College, showing great potential in ministry work amongst many Churches of Christ in Vanuatu (CCCV). His potential was seen to be of such significance that he went to Australia to study theology, and then on to Pacific Theological College (Fiji). He held a bachelor's degree (one of few Pastors in Vanuatu to do so). He was best known for his depth of wisdom, theology and positive nature. John is a key figure throughout the history of CCCV due to his role as lecturer and principal of Banmatmat Bible College. His other roles included serving the conference and supporting local pastors in different ways. Please pray for his family and the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu at this time. From Peter Bryant, CCCV.

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



**Empower better futures
with vocational training**

GIVE NOW



Your Generosity Has a Significant Impact

Dear Friends,

Intensifying international conflicts, disasters, pandemics and the cost-of-living crisis is pushing more people than ever into poverty.

One of those very vulnerable places is Yavatmal, a small town in central India. Many people here struggle to access meaningful work. They depend on unreliable employment for daily survival.

For the youth growing up here, their future is without hope and the recent economic challenges means they may repeat what their parents and grandparents have always done. They are trapped in a cycle of poverty.

The good news is that our partner, Hosanna Ministries, provides basic education, care for children, medical care, literacy, and vocational training for adults. In Yavatmal, Hosanna focuses on providing training in computer skills, beautician skills and tailoring. Life-changing programs that bring hope of ending the generational cycle of poverty.

I'm excited to share that Hosanna Ministries has plans for a new program to support a nearby community of people who are blind or vision impaired. Marginalised and unable to work because of their disabilities, this community is extremely vulnerable. Hosanna Ministries has seen their need and over the past year, has been planning, in consultation with the community, a new project to help them earn a living and access the support they desperately need.

As we approach the end of the financial year, and I hope with your help, we want to help launch this project and close a funding gap to ensure these plans go ahead.

As a supporter of our work, you will know that many of our international partners focus on providing education, resources and training that empower people to improve their own livelihoods. Helping people gain the skills, resources and understanding to earn an income can help them break free from poverty without relying on ongoing hand-outs.

We are praying and hoping to raise \$200,000 before 30 June and I want to ask if you can help us achieve this goal.

There are many people who remain trapped in poverty. Your ongoing support means our partners can continue their life-changing work and even expand it.

As Proverbs 11:25 reminds us "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Your generosity this end of the financial year will have a significant impact through these life-giving programs.

In Faith,

John Lamerton,
Chief Executive Officer

SPOTLIGHT



Left: Workshop facilitators and participants, Port Vila. Above: Priscilla sharing after the workshops.

Promoting Dignity, Inclusion and Protection in Vanuatu

Priscilla is a mother of two and the wife of a local pastor in Vanuatu. She has always been told that her role is inside the home. Priscilla says it is very common for husbands to decide all the roles and responsibilities. “They think the mamma’s work inside the home.”

While she lives in a loving and safe home, sadly, many women like Priscilla do not.

In the Pacific region, approximately 68% of women and girls experience gender-based violence.

Women are not the only ones who are vulnerable. Churches need to strengthen their child protection policies and implement methods of inclusion, especially for people living with disability.

The Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu (CCCV) is working towards this through the Promoting Dignity, Inclusion and Protection (PDIP) project. This project is aimed at church leaders because in Vanuatu, for example, church leaders have significant influence throughout their communities.

The training unpacks a strong theme in Genesis, that all people are created in God’s image. This provides a strong foundation for participants to look at everyone in their community through this framework. The workshops challenge the participants to implement their learning, promoting dignity, inclusion and protection

in their households, churches and wider communities.

This training is also vital for the churches to invest in and implement development outcomes. During most recent workshops, the Child Protection Unit of the Port Vila police led a session for the participants in Port Vila, Efate. Then Churches of Christ Medical Santo led a session on including people with disability during the workshops held in Luganville, Santo. Both sessions encouraged the church leaders that they are not alone in including and protecting vulnerable groups in their communities.

The Promoting Dignity, Inclusion and Protection workshops began as a pilot program in Fiji in 2023. Since then, it has also been implemented in Vanuatu twice with Global Mission Partners staff and on various islands in Vanuatu by local CCCV facilitators.

Esline Toamavute, the only woman to be the Secretary-General of the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu is one of the facilitators. Pastor Samuel Gavare from Malo also facilitates the PDIP workshops together with Esline. She says, “While running the training on the islands, I have seen the joy, interest, and compassion from the participants. It has given me much joy and hope for a positive impact in the churches”.

Because of the Promoting Dignity, Inclusion and Protection workshops, pastors now use the Made in God’s Image theme in their preaching,

are planning to build ramps to make their church buildings more accessible, and include women in leading their family devotions or other church activities. Participants also shared how they have better appreciated their spouse or other relationships with women.

Even Priscilla can now say her husband thinks differently!

During the most recent workshops in April, Priscilla and her husband, Pastor Presley, learned how they can work together inside their home – that he can help too. “Now pastor can cook! Something he didn’t do [before]. The training helps him to [think to] do that.”

In partnership with DFAT’s ANCP, the Promoting Dignity, Inclusion and Protection project will continue with further workshops for other locations in Vanuatu and is considering expanding to other GMP partner countries.

You can learn more about the CCCV and the Promoting Dignity, Inclusion and Protection (PDIP) project on our website.

Australian Aid 

Promoting Dignity, Inclusion and Protection is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)

Graduates Gather Under Mango Trees to Celebrate!



One of our South Sudanese partners, Christian Mercy International (CMI), organised a retreat for twenty-five students to celebrate and mark the end of their three years of study. Some are preparing to plant churches, others to serve in their churches or within their community. They gathered with joy under the mango trees. “It was a wonderful day,” reported CMI Director, Paulino Malou.

Nine of the 25 students graduated from the Aweil Bible College.

Aweil Bible College plays a pivotal role in developing Christian leaders. The need for trained evangelists and pastors is rising as the church grows in South Sudan. Yet, opportunities for theological and pastoral studies are scarce. Many travel internationally for ministry training, studying in places like Kenya and Uganda.

Our partner, CMI supports the college to train more local pastors and evangelists. Providing training in the country reduces expenses and helps students spend more time with family. Students graduate with a diploma or certificate and the skills to begin ministry, church planting or serving the community.

As the graduates prepare to return to their homes and begin their ministry, Paulino shared with them the difficult situations Jesus went through. Highlighting the challenges and “insecurities” the graduates might face as they begin preaching the gospel. However, his message focused on hope. He encouraged them to “keep [your] heart strong and to trust in God.”

From this most recent group of Aweil Bible College graduates, Paulino confidently said, “One student who graduated with a diploma will go back

home [to Warrap state] and plant Churches of Christ over there.”

Your partnership makes these initiatives possible! Your support helps to make local theological training possible and ministry training more available. It provides ongoing encouragement for local Churches of Christ pastors and evangelists.

With your help, Global Mission Partners has recently provided Bibles to the college through CMI. The Bibles are a local translation of the Dinka language. This means students can share the good news in their own language!

If you’d like to support International Church Partnerships to train and develop local church and ministry leaders in South Sudan, other African countries, Asia, or the Pacific, please contact us for more information.

An Invitation to Feed and Clothe

What a joy it was last week to visit Church of Christ churches across Queensland. I met incredible ministry teams fulfilling God’s call to share his light and love in their communities. I have seen God’s heart at work everywhere, and it was no different at Burleigh Heads.

Walking into the space of Burleigh Church of Christ, you are greeted by a sea of people. Some are there for the Op Shop, some for the food pantry and some for the café. Many of them are facing challenging times, and yet here in the comfort of this little church, they have a big smile on their face; they are at home.

I was handed a little flyer with information about the church and its current sermon series, appropriately

titled “Charity – Feed and Clothe”. Something that Burleigh Church of Christ does extremely well, in word and deed.

Burleigh Church of Christ has been partnering with Global Mission Partners for many years, supporting Church of Christ Overseas Aid, Indigenous Ministries, and many other projects. They have a tradition that is deeply rooted in the teaching of Jesus, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and care for the least among us.

Ann guided me around the various rooms, which were full of conversations and vibrant music. She introduced me to everyone we passed; she knew them all by name, and they knew her. The staff and volunteers were not only there to practice that



“charity,” but it was at the very core of who they were.

At Global Mission Partners, we desire to inspire and resource mission, both locally and internationally. What a privilege it was to see Ann and the team at Burleigh being so intentional and involved in mission in so many ways.

Participating in God’s mission helps us to grow a deeper understanding of God’s heart for his people, and his world.

If you would like to learn more about partnering, you can email me at carly@gmp.org.au