

# IN PARTNERSHIP

July 2024



## There is No Life Without Water

You can help give safe water to people like Suko by taking the Safe Water September challenge! Find out more on page 2 or get involved at [www.safewaterseptember.org.au](http://www.safewaterseptember.org.au)

Suko has been waiting for her life to begin for a long time. She wants to start a garden, look after animals, provide for her children's school fees, build a house and earn a better income. Everything was put on hold because one crucial thing was missing: water.

Collecting water was disheartening and time-consuming for Suko. Living in rural Zimbabwe, she walked three kilometres every day to the closest water source. She waited in line for hours to collect a restricted amount of water, paying a fee for the water, she carried the water for three kilometres back home. It is a challenging task.

"It was very difficult for us," Suko said. "We find that the whole day was spent fetching water," The water was also expensive for Suko, who didn't have much income.

Once home, the water was prioritised for drinking and cooking. Cleaning her house and clothes would have to wait. Any water left wouldn't be enough to complete the tasks. This led to poor hygiene and sanitation in her household.

Without a clean water supply nearby, many of Suko's dreams would have to wait, too. She could never create the life she wanted. Earning an income, building a house, and even spending

time with her family were out of reach. So much of her time needed to be spent collecting water that Suko and her family were forced to put things on hold.

Then, one day, life began to change for Suko.

Our partner, Showers of Blessing, installed two boreholes in Suko's village. Now she only walks 500 metres to a safe, clean water source!

It has helped her whole community to better their livelihoods.

Suko is delighted! There are no queues, and the water is free. She doesn't have to follow the strict rules for how much water she can collect or worry about whether she can afford it. Water is in plenty of supply.

Now, there is enough water to drink, cook, and clean her house. "I can now wash my dresses!" she says happily.

Suko also has lots of chickens roaming in her garden. You can even hear the sound of goats and donkeys!

Vusimusi, her husband, shared, "We plant vegetables like onions, tomatoes and fruit trees like peaches, guavas and bananas." They have a good harvest. "We get lots of tomatoes to sell to our neighbours," adds Suko.

She enjoys watering the garden.

The borehole has also helped the family to spend more time together, "I spend a lot of time with my family now that water is close to home," reported Suko.

Suko is hopeful for the future, "Water is plenty; there are many projects I wish to do."

Easy access to safe water, thanks to the boreholes, has given Suko and her family a new life! They can attend to their hygiene, grow food in their garden and keep animals. They can earn additional income and invest in their future.

All because of water.

It has also given life to the greater community who have been busy making bricks and building their houses.

"It is now possible for us to live where there is water," reflected Vusimusi. "Without water there is no life."

**Australian Aid** 

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

## News & Events

### NAIDOC Week

Held across the country from 7-14 July 2024, NAIDOC Week will celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The 2024 theme is Keep the fire burning! Blak, loud and proud. The theme honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture – with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Learn more at [www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au)

### Safe Water September



The Safe Water September challenge for 2024 launched at State Youth Games (SYG), Victoria, over the King's Birthday long weekend in June. Mitchell Salmon, National NextGen Lead, manned the stall in the SYG village to spread the news and help young people sign up for the challenge.

Take the Safe Water September challenge and give better futures to people living in poverty, through life-saving water programs! Give up your favourite drinks for one month, and raise money to fund desperately needed water, sanitation and hygiene programs.

Find out more and sign up at [www.safewaterseptember.org.au](http://www.safewaterseptember.org.au)

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



Remy Sese and his wife Theresa have served Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) for over nine years in Western Australia (WA). During that time, they strengthened relations with many of the Indigenous churches, and this network of relationships is a credit to them both.

Remy has travelled far and wide through WA, offering his welcoming smile and prayerful encouragement among many communities. For some leaders in remote towns, he has been one of the few visitors they've received, and he has represented IMA and Global Mission Partners with great respect.

Remy joined IMA at a time of significant challenge for the Churches of Christ's Indigenous ministry, ACCIM, which faced an uncertain future. He was able to develop deep and trusting relationships that helped him navigate this transition to IMA and, in turn, helped lay a foundation for the next season of ministry.

Remy and Theresa have faithfully worked together to promote and encourage deep, prayerful support for Aboriginal ministry in Western Australia. Theresa has participated in Indigenous community activities and helped communicate monthly news and prayer needs to IMA supporters.

Sadly, Global Mission Partners hasn't been immune to a broader, challenging financial climate and we are unable to continue to support Remy's position. This means Remy will conclude his role on 30 June 2024. We understand this decision

will come with disappointment, especially for those who have been blessed by Remy's warmth and character.

We are gladdened to know that Remy will be returning to QLD, where he will take up a role with the Aboriginal and Islander Christian Fellowship (AICF), where he has strong relationships from his previous time in ministry in the state.

Going forward, IMA will have one national manager, Nick Wight. Nick will continue to foster the network of Indigenous Christian leaders and assist Australian Churches of Christ to engage with their ministries and programs.

Nick says of Remy, "We are deeply grateful to Remy for his depth of commitment, wisdom and experience and his faithful service to our IMA partners and the Indigenous Christian communities of WA. I will personally miss his passionate advocacy for the Aboriginal church and his constant reminders to trust in God's plans, but I'm pleased we'll still be able to connect in his new role in QLD".

We thank God for the many Indigenous leaders and ministries blessed by Remy and Theresa's time in IMA.

As we endeavour to continue the work of IMA in WA, we are filled with gratitude for the ongoing support from so many of you in this work. Please continue to pray with us as we discern the best ways to resource and inspire a new season of Indigenous Christian ministry.



*Global Mission Partners Australian staff meet with our South Sudanese partners in Kenya*

## The Power of Partnership

At the core of the Global Mission Partners model is the desire to partner well.

In mid-June, I had the delight of meeting with our South Sudan partners, from LAFOSS and CMI. Sadly, the ongoing conflict in Sudan meant it was too unsafe for us to travel to meet with our partners in their home environment, and at the advice of our partners, we chose Kenya as the second-best and safest alternative.

We met in the town of Kisumu, sitting on both the Equator and the shores of Lake Victoria (the start of the River Nile). It was a nice reunion for some of us, as we'd last connected at our Partnering Through Stronger Communities (PTSC) workshops last year in Thailand, but some of the parties were new to one another, so it was good to become acquainted over meals of chicken and rice.

Typically, our visits involve meeting community members and hearing on-the-ground reports from beneficiaries of our partner's work (we document the findings as part of our monitoring and evaluation), so in the absence of being able to do this, we facilitated several key discussions, to allow both LAFOSS and CMI to provide some updates.

Our first morning devotion allowed us to reflect on 1 Peter 3:8-18 and those gathered all shared in some way how not repaying evil with evil and pursuing peace is a challenge

in a context where revenge and violence are a daily experience, and forgiveness is difficult after their civil war.

Each participant expressed the importance of putting this into practice as an example for others and that Jesus' crucifixion is the example we ought to follow.

LAFOSS shared how the Peace Clubs they operate in about 25 schools are intended to help the next generation be peacemakers. Pursuing peace is still needed in South Sudan, and our partners are at the forefront of promoting this Christian mandate.

Santino (LAFOSS) and Paulino (CMI) shared how their current projects are progressing and their future plans and challenges. LAFOSS is preparing to launch a new project to serve the many refugees who have settled in Juba, South Sudan's capital, many of whom have been escaping the conflict in Sudan, and to provide livelihood training.

CMI shared how their distribution of goats benefits local families and attracts more families to their network of schools, improving education in the Aweil area. Paulino shared that many students are now graduating and pursuing further studies at university.

In addition to hearing about the positive impact our partners are having, we also discussed governance models and financial

planning and enjoyed sharing meals and deepening our connection - the important work of partnering well.

Profoundly, Monica (Finance Officer, CMI) shared a powerful African parable with us.

A man sat with a group of friends, held out his fist, and asked his friends to guess if the butterfly he was holding was alive or dead. He secretly planned that if they answered "alive", he could crush the insect, and if they said "dead", he could easily release it. They considered and debated this for a long time without a conclusion.

A madman from their village arrived, and the group explained the riddle. In frustration, the group dispersed one by one, leaving the man with the insect and the madman remaining.

Once alone, the madman answered, "The answer is easy. It doesn't matter if what is in your hands is alive or dead, what matters most is that you have power in your hands."

After we had listened to the despairing situation in South Sudan, this highlighted the point perfectly. Our partners have the power to help the most vulnerable. We have the power in our hands to help our partners.

Together, let's continue to use our power to bring life.

John Lamerton,  
Chief Executive Officer

# Walking Alongside Youth Through Mentoring

For many years, Ilker Deli has shown unwavering commitment to the young people of Dareton. As manager of the Dareton Youth and Community Centre, each week, he and his team provide a space and activities that help nurture their development and provide a supportive environment. Programs like cooking or gardening help young people improve their self-confidence and life skills.

However, his commitment goes beyond just programs.

Ilker is also dedicated to walking alongside young people through mentoring. Including “the things we say or how we help kids think about life through different perspectives.” Ilker explained this can happen “with a good yarn. Chatting about life in a very normal way.”

For Ilker, fostering a stronger, more connected community is most important. He also prioritises supporting young people throughout

their lives. Not only while they attend the centre but even as they transition into adulthood.

One of Ilker’s dreams is to extend the youth centre’s focus to support young people after they turn eighteen. “Especially during times of unemployment,” he said. This is one of the main challenges in Dareton.

Ilker has also observed that many former young people return to the centre. It might be to support their younger siblings or because they want to visit and catch up. “I also see them out and about around Dareton and stop for a chat,” he shared.

Ilker is sowing hope for a better future for the young people he cares for.

Mentoring is a long-term investment in someone’s life. As such, the results aren’t always seen immediately. Ilker says he doesn’t always see the fruit of his mentoring, but he is hopeful it is making a difference. “[I’m] sowing



*Ilker Deli at the Dareton Youth and Community Centre*

the seeds in young people’s lives and hoping for the best,” he said.

Your support of Indigenous Ministries Australia can help people like Ilker walk alongside and mentor young Indigenous people. You can support IMA through our website or in prayer. For more information on how you can be involved, contact Nick Wight, IMA Coordinator, at [nick@gmp.org.au](mailto:nick@gmp.org.au)

# Kardinia Church Visit Dareton Youth and Community Centre

In May, a small team from Kardinia Church in Geelong, Victoria, had the opportunity to visit the Dareton Youth and Community Centre and meet with people from the local communities in Dareton and Mildura.

It was a time of listening, learning and seeking to understand the history of the Indigenous People in the area and their connection to land, water and culture. We were ably led by Nick Wight from Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) who has an abundance of knowledge and insight of the region

and the people who live and work there. We met with leaders of local churches in Dareton and Mildura.

It was wonderful to spend time at the Dareton Youth and Community Centre, connecting with Ilker, volunteers from the Dareton Combined Parish Church and hanging out with the youth who come to the centre on a regular basis.

The visit to Dareton has challenged us in many ways. We want to learn more about our own region, Wadawurrong land. We want to connect and listen



to Indigenous people as we seek to understand, to respect and to be restored in relationship.

Karen Evans,  
Missions Leader,  
Kardinia Church

If you would like to organise a Discovery Visit to connect with any of our IMA partners, please contact Nick Wight, IMA Coordinator, at [nick@gmp.org.au](mailto:nick@gmp.org.au) for more information.