

# IN PARTNERSHIP

NOVEMBER 2018



## Our Part to Play

Bright Solutions Vietnam works with marginalized women, teaching practical skills that empower them to manage their own futures.

Photo Courtesy of Ngoc Tran/Oi Vietnam

At Global Mission Partners, we say that we “know the locals.” It’s one of the things that distinguishes us. Although we are spread across the globe, we forge deep relationships, and we partner with people and projects through more than funding.

This is a Christ-like characteristic. Jesus had a grand, big-picture mission to save the world. But he did that through talking to and relating to people individually, as well as with crowds of people. Just open the Gospels and you’ll see Jesus taking notice of the people the crowds passed by: women, children, those afflicted by leprosy, disease, demonic activity, poverty or marginalisation because they were considered ritually ‘unclean’.

Jesus ate with them, shared with them and he sat with them. He knew the locals, and the locals knew him.

GMP takes this seriously. Paul encourages us to model our ministry after Jesus, and to notice and value individuals: “Now, you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27). If we are the body of Christ, we will

notice individuals who the rest of the crowds pass by.

Each of us has a role to play in showing the love of Jesus, and that can be expressed differently: whether that is financially supporting the training of evangelists (ICP), the provision of safe water (COCOA and embody), or building the strengths of Indigenous youth (IMA). It can be by praying for our partners, or embarking on a partner visit to one of our partners, here in Australia or around the world – places as diverse as tropical Fiji, sub-Saharan Zimbabwe or the bustling streets of Vietnam.

We all have a part to play. GMP has the privilege of walking with a diverse range of people, and one of the gifts we have is to know them and to be known by them, to be Christ to them as they are Christ to us. We invite you to explore how you can partner with GMP to represent the body of Christ to the individuals who the crowds pass by.

*Craig Brown,*  
Deputy Executive Officer and Director  
of International Church Partnerships

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### The Justice Conference 2018



Natalie Oakes and Mitch Salmon representing embody and GMP during the Justice Conference in Melbourne, October 26-27.

For even more of the latest news, check out our website or follow us on facebook.

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

 [facebook.com/gmpaustralia](https://facebook.com/gmpaustralia)

## News & Events

### Support Sulawesi Emergency Appeal

In response to the devastating earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Sulawesi, GMP has launched a Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) emergency appeal – in partnership with ACT Alliance – to raise critical support. You can donate to the appeal via the GMP website, or request a giving form by calling or emailing the office: [info@gmp.org.au](mailto:info@gmp.org.au)



#### Welcome Gavian!

GMP has appointed Gavian Chan as Director of Marketing and Fundraising. Gavian brings to the team 14 years experience with various well-known organisations. Gavian is thrilled to join the team and says, *“With a great team at GMP, I’m confident that we’ll embrace the opportunities and help take the organisation to the next level.”*

#### Great Gifts for Christmas

The GMP Great Gifts catalogue is a fantastic way to make a real impact this Christmas. If you would like to place an order to receive printed cards in time for Christmas, make sure you do so before December 10. You can then print your own cards at home or receive them via email until December 20. Find more information online at [www.greatgifts.org.au](http://www.greatgifts.org.au)

#### GMP Annual Report

The 2018 Annual Report is now available to read online. Together with partners in Australia and internationally GMP is investing in actions that change people’s lives for the better. Here’s the link [www.gmp.org.au/annualreports](http://www.gmp.org.au/annualreports). If you would prefer a copy posted to you, please contact the GMP office. FreeCall 1800 467 222.



## Building Relationships in Vanuatu

Members of the Castlemaine team playing sports with children

In 2017, Castlemaine Church of Christ (Victoria) signed a formal Partnership Agreement with Churches of Christ Conference Vanuatu on behalf of the East Santo Churches of Christ. They have been sending teams to Vanuatu since 2012, starting with three visits focusing on building construction. Then in 2016, the Sunday School in Australia raised funds for the primary school in Vanuatu and a team travelled again, providing materials for the primary school in Sara Village (East Santo).

Ian Jones, Mission Deacon, says, “At each partner visit since 2012, we have seen barriers broken and relationships formed to the extent that we really are now family. A partner visit is a time to give much blessing, but also to receive much blessing.” Ian’s last visit to Vanuatu was in September, to run a children’s sports day and visit the many East Santo Churches of Christ villages. Ian reports on the team’s visit:

“The team consisted of four adults: myself and Jenny Jones, Dave Tolputt and Marg Peck and five young people, Thomas Critchley, Levi Chaffey, Gabe McCoy, Paige Clapton and Alicia Garigos. I was planning on doing some health screening for diabetes and high blood pressure as these are becoming more common in the ni-Vanuatu population. The visit certainly achieved its goals. The sports day program was participated in with much enthusiasm by the children. We even managed to sow AFL seeds into a soccer and rugby-dominated culture! We managed to visit five of the six villages that make up the East Santo Churches of Christ. The hospitality provided to us

by the ni-Vanuatu locals was very humbling.

The young people on our team were taken out of their comfort zone. No running water, no electricity, no access to social media, sleeping on a roll mat on the floor, totally different food, but they coped admirably well. The team participated in a daily devotion on the fruit of the Spirit, ably led by Dave Tolputt. We were asked to look out for evidence of the fruit in our day-to-day activities and interactions.

There was also time for rest and relaxation with a visit to one of the renowned Blue Holes, Champagne Beach and Port Olry. We were also able to see first hand the effect on communities on Santo that the influx of people, displaced from Ambae as a result of the volcano, was having. The village of Rotal has gone from a handful of families, to receiving an additional 30 families. The team was able to provide some small practical help for this situation. The needs are great, but we can each do our little bit to help alleviate the situation.”

*Ian Jones,*  
VIC

Buy a Great Gift today and help GMP Partners in Vanuatu! [greatgifts.org.au](http://greatgifts.org.au)



#### Chaplain

Support Londua chaplain, Rexford, who will encourage, guide and care for students after the traumatic volcanic events on Ambae Island **IN VANUATU**



# Partnerships in South Sudan

SPOTLIGHT

Children learning about peace clubs

Christian Mercy International (CMI) in South Sudan implements activities within the push and pull of both material and spiritual poverty, developing education, health, and agriculture initiatives in the Aweil district. GMP has also established partnership with the LAID Foundation of South Sudan (LAFOSS), investing into peace-building initiatives in Juba.

According to CMI Director, Paulino Malou Bol, poverty in South Sudan is being fueled by factors such as famine, corruption, overpopulation, low literacy rate, war and conflict, inadequate health care, lack of development of better resources and lack of improved food security. Paulino expresses that, "The government is more like a dictatorship than a democracy. There seem to be no practices of good, honest leadership and Christians are not living out their faith so that they would be exemplary to others." CMI wants to make a difference in South Sudan and be a light.

One way LAFOSS is investing into future leadership of the country is through the establishment of Peace Clubs. LAFOSS have conducted a peace and conflict management conference for Christian and community leaders, motivating and training them to promote peace through their networks. They have also trained high school students to lead Peace Clubs in their schools. They are educating and helping to raise new leaders of peace. CMI aims to establish 25 Peace Clubs in local primary and high schools, as well as bringing together church and non-church leaders from different tribes. Santino Makol Ngor and Peter Makuei, who started

LAFOSS, are from the two major tribes that are fighting each other in South Sudan. Working together under Christ, they are aiming to demonstrate and promote the peaceful relationships they are seeking for their country. Santino, Executive Director of LAFOSS, reported on the impact of a Peace Club training in July:

"Nyakah – from a local tribe, was recently appointed chairlady, because she participated in the peace club workshop," he said.

Nyakah took up her story. "Because of the knowledge, I'm now able to talk about peace to my neighbourhood, community and friends. I have mediated six cases – I have led them in discussion until we have reached a peaceful conclusion!"

CMI wants to help meet basic needs like food, shelter, safe drinking water, clothes, medical care, education and other social services. CMI is currently tackling the issues of poverty through education. Emmanuel school, providing education and meals for orphaned and vulnerable children, was recently noted as the best school in the district level baseline research survey conducted by the County Education Department. By empowering caregivers of Emmanuel school students with small agriculture business initiatives and goats, children can now access further education and healthcare from the small family incomes earned.

Paulino has been studying social work and community development at university in Uganda to equip

him to lead CMI into the future. He is passionate about including the spiritual care of the community in the plan for tackling poverty. Paulino explains, "There is material poverty, and there is also spiritual poverty". CMI are providing counseling for displaced people in the local camp in Aweil, and encouraging local pastors to attend Bible College. Paulino has visited some South Sudanese refugees where he is studying in Uganda.

GMP supports the work of CMI and LAFOSS and is committed to partnering into the future to see the cycle of poverty end in South Sudan. One way you can help achieve this is by purchasing a Great Gift from the new catalogue to help the projects in South Sudan.

Buy a Great Gift of Real Impact in South Sudan! [greatgifts.org.au](http://greatgifts.org.au)



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## Peace Club

A Peace Club equips high school students with skills to deal with conflict and act for peace **IN SOUTH SUDAN**



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## Goat

Breeding goats assists Emmanuel School families to earn a small income to pay school fees and expenses **IN SOUTH SUDAN**



Rupemba School Principal with Otie and Chief

## God is Fixing All of Us

The water in the Ngezi River at Rupemba, Zimbabwe, was never good. Crocodiles made fetching water from it a dangerous chore, and many animals drank and muddied the water there. It got worse when people came seeking gold. The chemicals they used made the water toxic. So everyone was happy when Showers of Blessing Trust came along and sank several boreholes and clean, fresh water sprang up in abundance. Life changed considerably. The risk of water-borne disease was almost gone. The future of the school was secure. It was worth planting market gardens and building better houses.

The people of Rupemba noticed something else. The team who brought the borehole had something – something that contrasted with the careless values of the gold miners that their children were exposed to. They knew Showers of Blessing was a church group so they figured a church was what they needed. The Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe responded quickly with an evangelist who came to talk about a relationship with Jesus, and soon a church was established.

It doesn't always happen like this, but this story is a reminder that challenging poverty is not just about improving people's health or wealth. Poor people are just like us, broken in many dimensions: broken in our relationship with God, with others, with ourselves and with creation. Recognising that we are all broken brings humility to our work amongst the poor. It is not us and God fixing them, but God fixing all of us.

At Nanga, there is still no borehole. The Showers of Blessing team came but the community was in such

conflict there was no point in giving them something else to fight over. The borehole would have improved their relationship with creation – they would have received the water that they needed – but the brokenness of their relationships with one another got in the way.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (Colossians 1:19).

God is reconciling all things to himself through Jesus. God was concerned that people at Rupemba didn't have clean water, and concerned that they were not close to him.

Sometimes development sees the former and not the latter. Encouragingly, there is increasing recognition of spirituality as a key component in development. The Australian government's focus on working through the church networks in PNG and Vanuatu is just one example of this.

Sometimes evangelism sees only the latter and not the former. But Colossians reminds us that God is reconciling everything – not just souls – but everything. Encouragingly, the Lausanne Covenant and the Micah Declaration at the end of the 20th Century brought this perspective back into the mainstream of Christian thinking.

For GMP it makes perfect sense that people need reconciliation in all of their relationships. That's why we work through Christian

partners. That's why we have a development program – Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) and an evangelism program – International Church Partnerships (ICP) – which work together, and why our Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) program has both church and community aspects.

Along with our partners, the poor communities that they work amongst, and the whole of creation (Rom 8:21) we look forward to the reconciliation of all things – not being beamed up to a choir seat in heaven – but seeing relationships put right in every direction.

*Colin Scott,*  
COCOA Director

Choose a Great Gift that helps GMP partners in Zimbabwe: [greatgifts.org.au](http://greatgifts.org.au)



### Shirt or Skirt

A school uniform for children at KCV means they fit in at school and get an equal opportunity for a great education **IN ZIMBABWE**



### New Tyres

New tyres make a difference to a motorbike evangelist who rides frequently on rough rural dirt roads to share the gospel **IN ZIMBABWE**