

IN PARTNERSHIP

February 2023



Medical Camp Helps Usha See Again

Medical Camp run by Hosanna Ministries, India

Prakash Tekadi is not a safe place. Located in the Ambarnath district of Mumbai, India, many people are rag pickers, illiterate and living in squalor near a large rubbish dump. Accessing healthcare is difficult. Illnesses and health problems of the vulnerable go unattended. Children and the elderly are most at risk.

The 180 residents of Prakesh Tekadi live near the main garbage tip in extreme poverty and unhygienic conditions. The health risks can include asthma, respiratory illnesses, cuts, stomach pain, recurrences of flu, cholera, diarrhea, malaria, cough, skin irritations, and tuberculosis. The burning of waste can also cause health problems such as eye irritation. Medical help can be difficult to access because navigating to a clinic, filling in forms or signing consent for treatment while illiterate is challenging.

To address this issue, GMP Relief and Development partner, Hosanna Ministries, organised a free medical camp in the Prakesh Tekadi slum.

The medical camp was held in August 2022 at the Emmanuel Education Centre, in partnership with a local hospital. A team of doctors and nurses were sent to assist. This included a gynaecologist, paediatrician, dermatologist and an Ears Nose Throat specialist. During the early evening three-hour session, a total of 154 patients were given a check-up. A total of 25 patients were referred to the hospital for further examinations. Medicines were given as per the doctor's prescription. All free of cost. Providing a medical camp helps to improve the health and education of the community and bring life-changing care to people like Usha.

Usha, a 55-year-old woman, suffered from cataracts. She had previously attended surgery; however, the operation was not done properly. After one year she had the same problem, but with the other eye. Usha was attended by the doctor at the Hosanna Medical Camp and referred to

Raigad Hospital for surgery. This was also free! Usha was admitted to the hospital in September and the operation was successful! Danny Gaikwad of Hosanna Ministries shared, "She is now able to see clearly with her eyes. She is grateful".

A workshop was also arranged for pregnant women at the same time as the medical camp with a focus on prenatal and postnatal care. Women learned how their baby is formed and what care is taken, as well as the importance for the mother and baby to attend their local hospital. At the end of the workshop, healthy food packages were distributed to the participants.

By providing healthcare and education opportunities, like the medical camp, Hosanna Ministries will raise standards of living, and improve the health for some of the world's most vulnerable people. With your continued support, Hosanna Ministries can care for people like Usha.

News & Events



Welcome John Lamerton

John Lamerton commenced as GMP Executive Officer on 30 January 2023. Join us as we welcome him to the team!

Walk for Hope

Walk for Hope is the opportunity at Easter to support evangelism, church planting and ministry training across the nations. At Easter we remember the greatest blessing that we have received in Jesus' sacrifice. We are blessed to know God, and his great love for us. But we're also blessed to share this with others. This Easter, when you support Walk for Hope, you will help our church partners share Jesus' blessing with others. The Walk for Hope devotional resources will be available for churches and individuals to download during March.

Important Dates for 2023

April	Walk for Hope Easter Appeal
June	COCOA Mid-Year Appeal
September	Safe Water September
October	Great Gifts Launch
November	Annual Report
December	COCOA Christmas Offering

Pakistan Appeal Closure

Thank you for your generosity towards the Pakistan Floods Appeal. A total of \$1,850 has been raised to respond to the emergency through ACT Alliance. The appeal has now officially closed.

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

A Season of New Things

The beginning of the new year can be disorientating. You may, like me, feel like it is hard to remember what day (let alone date!) it is between Christmas and early January – this is compounded if you are on holidays.

By the beginning of February, however, we are expected to have pulled ourselves together and to scowl if people still utter 'Happy New Year' to us. Yet, there is a newness that comes with each year – as artificial as January 1st is as a day to mark beginnings – that we should not be in a hurry to forget nor sweep away that sense of newness.

In Isaiah 42:9 we are reminded, 'See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being, I announce them to you'.

New things are coming. As we enter 2023 in earnest now, we have almost come to dread new things. What new things? Another new variant of the pandemic? Another shift in our social fabric? Another new way of working, socialising or being?

It is during a season of new things that we can often see the fingerprints of Jesus upon us.

Here at GMP, we are starting a new season as we welcome our

new EO, John Lamerton. We are looking forward to seeing what new emphases he will bring, what new shoots will emerge, what new things will grow from the foundation that has been laid these past 15 years and, indeed, well beyond that.

So, John, it is good to have you on board and we look forward to walking 2023 with you. You are part of the GMP family now and we welcome you with open arms.

We hope that you sense not just a newness at GMP, but in your lives, too. We have emerged from some difficult, difficult times.

May 2023 be a time of new opportunities.

May 2023 be a time where you experience Jesus anew.

May 2023 be a time where old wounds no longer ache.

May 2023 be a time where God's voice announces goodness, wholeness and hope into your life.

We look forward to your partnership as we seek to work with our partners to transform lives this year.

Craig Brown,
GMP Deputy Executive Officer and
ICP Director

GMP stands with our Indigenous brothers and sisters among the complexity that occurs when Australia Day/Invasion Day is acknowledged. We recognise that this is a difficult time for many, as they mourn wounds from the past, losses of land and family, culture and language. We recognise that, and we also seek to work in partnership with Indigenous people and organisations to seek reconciliation with non-Indigenous Australians, as together we live in and share in the goodness of this abundant land.



Kaurna Yarta Tour with Uncle Frank Wanganeen

It was a privilege for 21 people to walk on the lands of the Kaurna People. Each step taken with a deep and gracious welcome and a listening ear towards Indigenous Elder, Uncle Frank, who shared his story, on country that he is so profoundly connected to.

The Kaurna Yarta Tour took place in South Australia and was facilitated by Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA). Participants from Churches of Christ SA/NT and GMP staff spent seven hours together touring the significant Indigenous sites around Adelaide.

Val, GMP staff member, said that Uncle Frank encouraged deep listening to the land and creation. It was a time of “reflecting on questions of values, justice and healing through the eyes of the Kaurna Aboriginal people”.

Anthony, one of the ministers on the tour, was compelled by Uncle Frank’s storytelling. “I listened to

a past I did not know, to stories yearning to be heard time and again. Listened with a people who extend their hand in friendship toward those who have been on these lands for but a moment.”

Gloria was amazed at the places she had never seen or looked at properly. She was fully engaged in the journey. “It was part history, part prayer walk, part cross-culture learning experience.”

Anthony also shared that the tour opened the eyes and ears of his heart to a possibility that, “we can walk these lands together, humbly, respectfully, lightly, with justice and grace”.

Participants were deeply impacted by the experience. “It was one of the best days I have had for a long, long time and will stay with me forever. Deep listening and heartfelt sharing, respect and sorrow,” Gloria explained. Days later after the tour, Anthony described how he

was feeling, “Still filled with a holy disturbance and trusting it to do the necessary work within me, for the sake of these lands and the peoples who live upon them”. Val shared, “To stop, listen, learn and identify with the history and some of the ongoing issues for Aboriginal peoples on this land has expanded my understanding, compassion and partnership in our journey together on this land. A beautiful gift of grace and generosity in the sharing that was so appreciated by all who took part.”

The Indigenous Australian culture is very respectful and honouring of their Elders. Taking this historical, cultural and spiritual city tour with traditional owner and Christian elder, Uncle Frank Wanganeen, helped us reflect on questions of values, justice and healing, and to see the city we call Adelaide (Tarndanya – land of the red kangaroo) through the eyes of the First Nations Kaurna people. Thank you, Uncle Frank, for your humble, faithful leadership.

If you would like to engage with your local Indigenous story and people, please contact Nick Wight. Email: nick@gmp.org.au

Planting Seedlings in South Sudan

We saw tragic damage when floods devastated our local community in 2022, destroying homes and crops, a disaster for the people of South Sudan, especially Aweil.

Environmental protection is a global concern. Climate change has become a major threat to our local community. We used to have rain at a similar time each year but today it can go for a long time without raining. This often causes drought and famine. Or come too plentifully in the very shortest periods of time, which causes flooding.

Therefore, the question is, what are the measures to put in place to protect and fight climate change in South Sudan and return the rain strategically? Our response has been the planting of seedlings in all social institutions such as schools, hospitals, churches, government offices in sub-counties and markets. They will take care of those trees. The good news is that there is a high chance of survival of most trees in these places and in the future, we hope and pray to have regular rain that falls on time.



Paulino Malou, Director of Christian Mercy International.

Made in God's Image

GMP Relief and Development program COCOA hosted their first Made in God's Image workshop in Fiji.

The pilot is the first of many workshops that will be implemented throughout the Pacific region, and eventually across all GMP partner countries. The project seeks to influence local understandings, attitudes and behaviours towards vulnerable groups across their communities. The first participants to receive the training were local pastors and their wives.

Church leaders have a unique position to help lead cultural change. When we realise that we are made in the image of God, it shapes the way we view ourselves and others. Looking closely at what the Bible says equips us to maintain healthy attitudes and care for the most vulnerable in the world. The workshop emphasised the importance of valuing women, children and people living with a disability.

Sadly, in the Pacific region 68% of women and girls experience violence in their homes and

communities. While child protection policies do exist among some churches, there is a need to connect such policies more deeply into these communities. There are also approximately 1.7 million people struggling with disability in Pacific Island countries. People living with disabilities in these areas have limited access to education, employment and other social services which leads to exclusion, prejudice, discrimination and rejection.

In the workshop, pastors and their wives became aware of those in their congregations with disabilities and possible definitions of disability. "We thought we didn't have anyone with a disability but now we are thinking of each individual and the difficulties they have," commented one pastor. Participants also identified some unfair attitudes and practices in their communities and even among church members. One person said, "It is unfair to expect women to do household chores, for example. Cooking and cleaning, where both [partners] are working." Another said, "Men are often controlling. Women are sometimes devalued and disrespected."



Nirmala and Raj discuss ways to include and support women in the church and Fijian society.

Following the workshop, the participants determined what action they could take in their churches. One person said, "I have three sermon ideas from this. Thank you so much for this teaching."

We are all Made in God's Image. With the resources provided in the workshop and this biblical principle clear in their minds, church leaders can better engage others, start conversations about gender equality, disability inclusion, and child protection in their communities. They can become agents of change.

To find out more, or donate toward the Made in God's Image pilot project visit www.gmp.org.au/madeingodsimage

Country is the Very Fabric of our Hearts

"Country is incredibly significant to Indigenous people in Australia...."

Uncle Norman Terrick is a Wurundjeri elder (the traditional owners of much of the Melbourne and surrounding areas). He often participates as the Indigenous contributor on the IMA Songlines tours held in Melbourne on a semi-regular basis and is also a member of the Melbourne Indigenous Church Fellowship, a partner ministry with IMA. Uncle Norman Terrick shared this reflection on country:

"Since the colonisation of Australia, we have lost language, family, our laws, our ceremonies and...

our country. The very fabric of our lives and society was torn apart – the things that held us together, kept us strong – emotionally and mentally – were ripped from our hearts. It happened not just in one day but over many years.

"Ethnographer, Deborah Rose, says, 'People talk about country in the same way that they would talk about a person: they speak to country, sing to country, visit country, worry about country, feel sorry for country, and long for country. People say that country knows, hears, smells, takes notice, takes care, is sorry or unhappy...country is a living entity with a yesterday, today and



Uncle Norman Terrick, Wurundjeri Elder and member of the Melbourne Indigenous Church Fellowship.

tomorrow, with a consciousness, and a will toward life. Because of this richness, country is home, and peace; nourishment for body, mind and spirit.'

"Country is the very fabric of our hearts."