



SPRING 2025

⋮ *Restoration  
in Action*

THE GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS QUARTERLY

**GLOBAL  
MISSION  
PARTNERS**

GOOD NEWS INSIDE —————>

# From *the Team...*

Across Australia, people are getting ready to change lives this September.

Global Mission Partners' annual fundraising challenge Safe Water September is on the horizon. We are looking forward to gathering our community to raise money for life-changing safe water projects implemented by our local partners.



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I've often been on the road over the past few months, meeting young people who are passionate about making a difference in their world. Safe Water September is a great opportunity for people of all ages to put their faith into action!

We love this opportunity to connect young people with our partners. We are excited to share stories from Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Vanuatu about the importance of safe water and the impact your support has in their communities. You can read more about the impacts of water on page 4.

Young people, adults, and churches across Australia are preparing to give up all their beverages and drink only water for the month of September to raise money and awareness for safe water projects. Can you and your church join them? Discover the impact you can have and join the challenge at [safewaterseptember.org.au](http://safewaterseptember.org.au)

There's plenty of other news in this edition from our partners here in Australia and around the world. I hope you are as encouraged as I am as you read!

Take care,



Mitch Salmon,  
National NextGen Lead



# Good News

YOUR IMPACT

## Highlights from the Nyozani Circuit, Zimbabwe

Evangelist Mahlangu from the Nyozani Circuit shares exciting developments in youth and children's ministry. Three young people decided to follow Jesus at a recent combined youth service in Bulawayo. Four Valleys Church of Christ has established a new children's program. The youth at Lochard and Inyozani Churches of Christ will mould bricks when the rainy season ends, allowing for the construction of two new church buildings. The evangelist shares: "We will be holding a young preacher's workshop to equip young people with the skills for pulpit ministry."

## Midwifery Program in Bangladesh

A Midwifery program was launched in 2024 to empower women by helping them achieve self-reliant income to support their families. The first 15 graduates have since been employed at various private and public hospitals and clinics throughout Bangladesh. Stafy Bawm dreamed of becoming a nurse. She shared, "I learned how to serve people with love and care, and now I am serving the people with love and care".

## Emerging Leaders Supported through the Indigenous Pathways Program

Jessie and Yilleen are two emerging young leaders participating in our partner Dhiyaan's True Fella program. This year, both men will receive support through our Indigenous Ministries Australia Pathways program to attend two On Country Immersion trips, where they will be mentored by Indigenous leaders, Billy Jangala Williams and Luke Houghton.



• Above: Jesse, Billy Jangala  
• Williams, Nick Wight, Luke  
• Houghton and Yileen.



• Above: Jesse, Below: Yileen





## *Abundant Water for Pertunia*

In Zimbabwe, Pertunia, a mother of four who is new to her village, joins the many women on their daily trek to collect water from a contaminated river that is drying up. Some days, she waits in line until ten o'clock at night, only to return home empty-handed, contemplating how she will try again tomorrow.

Pertunia's husband passed away, so all her household duties, plus her family's survival, are now her sole responsibility. She needs water to drink, bathe, wash clothes and keep her home tidy. Pertunia wants to help her children grow up strong, but collecting water from an unsafe source doesn't help.

The ongoing drought in Zimbabwe is causing riverbeds to dry up. Without access to a borehole, communities like Pertunia's are forced to search for any available water source. This practice is unsafe and often leads to illness and other community development issues.

Our Relief and Development partner, Showers of Blessing, helps people like Pertunia access water from a safe and permanent water source close to their homes by installing boreholes.

With your support, Showers of Blessing went to Pertunia's village to determine the best location for drilling a borehole for her community. It was on Pertunia's land!

Fortunately, Pertunia had heard about the benefits of a borehole, which gave her motivation. "I said they can go ahead and drill," she replied.

The community worked together to clear access roads for the drilling through Pertunia's land.

Pertunia praises the community's efforts in supporting the borehole project. She was particularly happy about how "everyone worked together!"

After many years of collecting water from the river, Pertunia now has a community borehole on her land and will never be empty-handed again.

The borehole flows continuously, providing more than enough water for her and her community.

"I am happy because I had challenges in accessing water, [but] today, we've

...



*“I am happy because I had challenges in accessing water, [but] today, we’ve managed to plant our own vegetables.”*

managed to plant our own vegetables. We were confined to buying from other villages. Now we can plant our vegetables and sell them later,” she shared.

Pertunia believes Showers of Blessing was a divine intervention that has significantly benefited her community. “It is God’s work. He remembered our community,” she said.

Grateful for the improvements brought by the borehole, Pertunia explains how she feels: “The way I see it? I’m just happy!”

Many people, like Pertunia, still lack access to safe water in rural Zimbabwe. You can help transform their lives by joining the Safe Water September challenge. You can donate today at [www.safewaterseptember.org.au](http://www.safewaterseptember.org.au)



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



- Above: Pertunia is happy because she now has clean, safe water from the borehole installed by Showers of Blessing.

Below: Vegetables growing in Pertunia’s community thanks to the borehole





## *Healing the Trauma After the Earthquake*

The earthquake that struck Vanuatu on December 17, 2024, was devastating. Despite this, when I arrived in Port Vila this May, the air was full of anticipation and hope.

Local pastors and leaders were gathering for Healing the Trauma workshops.

Healing the Trauma is a series of workshops created by our partners, the Churches of Christ Conference of Vanuatu (CCCV). The workshops help participants explore how trauma impacts their thoughts, emotions, and bodies. It also gives them opportunities to share their stories.

Your generous donations to the Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal enabled us to respond to the situation quickly. Following the earthquake, Global Mission Partners collaborated with CCCV to assess the damage. Our partners delivered local materials and emergency supplies to those affected in the areas.

Now, our focus is on helping people cope with the ongoing trauma caused by the earthquake. This is through workshops, counselling, pastoral care, and help in accessing local services. Healing the Trauma workshops are part of this approach.

At the beginning of March, six church leaders in Luganville, Santo, were trained as facilitators for Healing the Trauma. They then travelled to Port Vila to conduct the training with 12 church leaders, pastors, and chiefs. Workshops have been facilitated in the community as a result.

In April, another team, this time 13 people, participated in the Healing the Trauma training in Luganville. This team then conducted training for 60 other leaders in Port Vila. These 60 leaders will facilitate workshops for Sunday Schools, youth groups, schools and women's and men's programs.

During my visit, I observed the training run at a local school. I listened to biblical passages that discussed what it means to bring our concerns and fears to God. I also heard many powerful stories, as we explored ways to identify and address trauma.

Each trainer brought their own moving stories. I was captivated by their resilience and commitment to healing.

My fondest memory is hearing the heartfelt stories of several young Christian leaders. They shared with me, sitting under a



- Young leaders, both women and men, are dedicating their lives to serve their local communities in the face of natural disasters.*

mango tree in front of the Sarabetu Church. Young leaders, both women and men, are dedicating their lives to serve their local communities in the face of natural disasters. These commitments are driven by a desire to stand up for God. What an inspiration!

Watching the leaders gather, I could see their joy radiating from the time together. They encouraged one another and shared ideas on how to transform their communities. I was deeply encouraged by this experience.

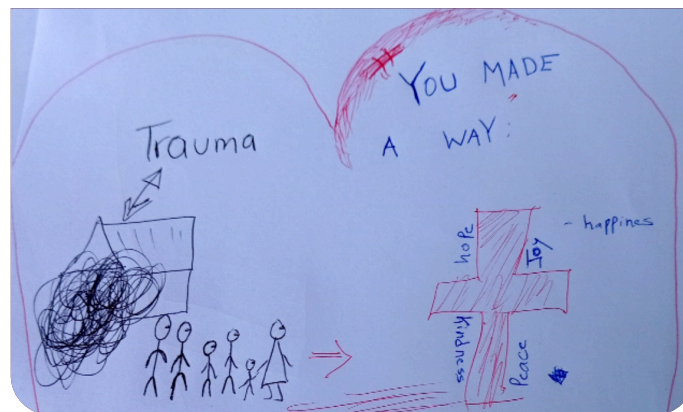
Please pray for the teams as they train and continue to support the people of Port Vila over the coming months. May healing take place in the lives of many people experiencing post-traumatic stress and physical and emotional suffering.

My experience visiting Port Vila wasn't just about learning. It was a celebration of faith, resilience, and the human capacity to heal and uplift one another. I left full of hope, inspired by the strength of these Christian leaders. Leaders who are making a difference, even in the face of adversity.



Colin Battersby

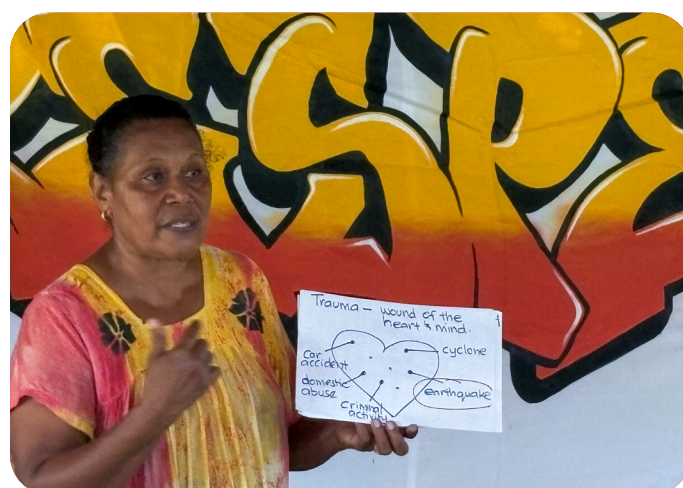
Director of Engagement



Top: A child's drawing from the workshop showing their experience before and after the workshop.

- Above: One of the Healing the Trauma workshops held on Efate.

Below: Mrs Doreen Taiki, Deaconess at Freshwater Church of Christ, sharing during a workshop





## *Appointing Pastor Bin in Vietnam*

In April, Global Mission Partners' CEO, John Lamerton, and Major Gifts Manager, Craig Brown, undertook an urgent trip to Vietnam. The leader of the Vietnam Churches of Christ, Pastor Doan, had suffered a debilitating stroke.

Pastor Doan has been responsible for leading a small network of churches in Vietnam for over ten years. When she had the stroke, Doan was unable to communicate, so the church leaders had to make some new adjustments. They were mostly trying to understand the breadth of Pastor Doan's role and determining who was responsible for what came next.

Church representatives gathered with John and Craig in Ho Chi Minh City to discuss the next steps forward. In the space of a day, an updated partnership agreement was signed, a new committee formed, and Pastor Nguyen Tan Bin was appointed as the National Director for the Churches of Christ in Vietnam, pending an official vote in 18 months.

Pastor Bin resides in Central Vietnam, with his wife, daughter, and son, where he leads the local Church of Christ. Pastor Bin is a

natural networker with a proactive approach to ministry. He has recruited new churches to join the Vietnam Churches of Christ, with a vision to assist vulnerable people.

"As the National Representative of the Church of Christ in Vietnam, my current challenge is to expand God's work to more provinces nationwide," Pastor Bin explained.

"Under Pastor Bin's leadership, the Churches of Christ in Vietnam are in good hands," Craig said. "He has worked closely with Global Mission Partners over the years, is well respected within the movement and is a strong leader."

Pastor Bin shared how you can support him in his new role, "I ask you to pray for my ministry so that God may grant me the grace to fulfil His calling."

At the end of their trip to Vietnam, John and Craig were able to visit Pastor Doan, whose recovery was progressing slowly but well. They prayed for her, and she was able to understand the changes and give her blessing to Pastor Bin.



# On the Ground

PARTNER UPDATE

## 11 Indigenous Young People Attend Youth Alive Event in Mildura

The Dareton Youth and Community Centre took 11 young people to a local Youth Alive event in Mildura, Victoria. This was an answer to prayer, as the youth had never participated in an event like this before. Clinton, the chairman of the youth centre, reflected, "It was great to see these young people come and share in this experience with around 110 other youth, all there to hear about God as well as worship and praise him." Some of the young people started listening to the songs after the event and shared how they really enjoyed themselves.

## Discipleship Program for Local Pastors in Indonesia

Hery Susanto, Director at the Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia, was invited to facilitate discipleship training with local teachers, farmers, carpenters, and livestock breeders. Participants are also pastors, both husbands and wives, who serve in local churches. Hery noted, "The knowledge from this discipleship program is helping them to run their businesses according to God's kingdom guidelines."

## Promoting Hygiene for Women and Girls in India

Our partner, Hosanna Ministries, encourages women living in poverty to attend workshops on menstrual hygiene to understand the importance of using sanitary pads.



One participant shared, "I have two teenage daughters. They used old cotton cloths and often reused the same cloth, which caused discomfort and health problems." During workshops, women and girls receive sanitary pads. Now, the participant is better equipped to help her daughters. Understanding the importance of sanitary pads significantly benefits the personal hygiene and overall health of women and girls living in the squatter community.



# Let's Pray

PRAYER PARTNERS

## Australia

### *Indigenous Ministries Australia*

- Please pray for those who will participate in First Nations Immersion experiences from August to October.
- Please pray for the planning and development of our Indigenous Ministries Australia emerging leaders network.
- Please pray for the family of Rose Johnson from Tamworth, NSW, as they grieve her passing. Rose served in ministry alongside her husband, Frank, for many decades with the Churches of Christ Indigenous Ministries.
- Pray for the future of the Norseman church and for Peter and Francis Jetta in Bunbury, Western Australia.
- We thank God for the recent incorporation of the Dareton Youth and Community Centre, NSW.

## Indonesia

### *Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia*

- Pray for Dr. Hery Susanto and Theodorus as they plan their visit to Australia to visit churches and supporters of Global Mission Partners.
- Thank you for your prayers. The dormitory project has progressed to the construction of the second floor.
- Pray that God will send us at least 20 new students who are ready to be guided in serving the mission field.

## *Asia Pacific International*

- Eight new church planters will be commissioned to go into the field in August. Please pray for them as they settle into their new locations.
- Please pray for church planters who face health challenges. Pray for the clinic, which is open five afternoons a week on the campus, specifically for the mothers and babies and others in the community.
- Several churches are completing the construction of their places of worship.

## South Sudan

### *Christian Mercy International*

- Butros and Joseph, who have been studying theology at a university in Uganda, have now graduated. Pray for the other two students, Gabriel and Ezra, who will graduate in 2026.
- The Conference of Church of Christ leaders will gather in October from 13 states in South Sudan. Pray for the preparation of this gathering, travel, good health and resources for the leaders attending.
- We are collaborating with ten local primary schools to enhance their understanding of child protection policies. Please pray for the children, teachers, and community groups involved.

### *Laid Foundation of South Sudan*

- Pray for the peace workshops to help guide individuals in mediating and reconciling family disputes.



- There are many people who seek revenge for those who have been killed in conflict. Pray that they can learn forgiveness through the community peace training.

## Thailand

### *Churches of Christ Thailand*

- We will celebrate the National and Indigenous Christian Remembrance Day on August 3. Please pray for the younger generation, who will be empowered to advocate for their rights, disseminate their culture, and preserve their wisdom and way of life.
- We are currently experiencing heavy rain, which can lead to landslides, floods, and epidemics. Pray for the country during the rainy season.

## Vanuatu

### *Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu*

- Pray for us as we seek God's guidance on how to renew our Bible leadership training to better connect with the younger generation.
- Pray that we can find ways to promote a mission-based health approach to local healthcare facilities where patients would, for example, encounter God's care and compassion through a nurse before they even receive medicine.

## Vietnam

### *Churches of Christ in Vietnam*

- Pray for Pastor Bin in his new role to fulfil the vision God has placed in his heart for the Church of Christ in Vietnam.
- Pray for the monthly national fellowship and prayer meeting for all pastors and staff of the Church of Christ. The Representative Board also meets bi-monthly for fellowship and prayer.

⋮ PLEASE PRAY

Find *prayer points*  
updated regularly on our  
website or *social media*

GMP.ORG.AU

@GMPAUSTRALIA

## Zimbabwe

### *Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe*

- Pray for pastors and evangelists who work in challenging conditions in rural areas during this cold weather.
- The Preaching Club meets for training once a month. Pray for the younger generation as they learn skills for assisting the evangelists in their congregation.

### *Khayelihle Children's Village*

- Pray for consistency and sustainability in our income-generating projects (horticulture, poultry, and cattle), so we may continue to provide for the children's physical and educational needs.
- Pray for the children as they prepare to write their second-term examinations.
- Pray for the children. May they find hope, identity, and joy in Christ. Pray for the caregivers, house parents, administrative team, and leadership.

### *Showers of Blessing Trust*

- Please pray for the next communities we aim to assist, which have limited access to water and currently rely on shallow, seasonal wells. Additionally, drilling for long-term perennial boreholes is extremely challenging due to the rocky terrain, which increases the likelihood of encountering dry holes.

⋮ SAFE WATER SEPTEMBER

# *Help End the Wait for Water*



**It's hard to believe that just one month without your favourite drinks can make a difference!**

Drink only water this September, and raise funds to help provide safe water, sanitation and improved hygiene to those who need it the most.

**You can give safe water to people like Pertunia (Pg 4).**

Thanks to Safe Water September, Pertunia no longer has to wait hours for water; she has it in abundance! Our partner in Zimbabwe, Showers of Blessing, drilled a borehole in Pertunia's village. The borehole flows continuously, providing more than enough water for the whole community.

**Many people like Pertunia are still waiting for water.** When you take the Safe Water September challenge or donate, you help end their wait. With your help, more people like Pertunia can gain safe, clean water close to home.

Last year, we raised enough to give around 7,180 people access to safe water. This year, help us raise \$195,000 to have an even greater impact!

**Sign up to take the Safe Water September challenge or donate to help end the wait for water.**



**safewaterseptember.  
org.au**



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