EASTER 2026

Sowing, Growing, Thriving!

THE GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS QUARTERLY

GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS

GOOD NEWS INSIDE →

From *the Team...*

Welcome to our first Quarterly Edition for 2026, themed Sowing, Growing, Thriving.

The words of Jesus in Matthew 13 offer a profound image of the kingdom of heaven: *"like a grain of mustard seed... the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown... it becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."* This parable reminds us that God's work often begins in ways that seem small or unremarkable, yet through His faithfulness, these beginnings mature into places of strength, refuge, and enduring hope.

Across this edition, we see this truth expressed in many forms. Small acts of compassion, early steps in leadership, the steady perseverance of local churches, and the faithful service of long-standing partners all reveal the quiet but unmistakable growth of the kingdom**—seeds sown in faith becoming branches of shelter and renewal.**

From safe water flowing in rural Zimbabwe, to emerging Indigenous leaders gathering in South Australia, to students in Indonesia being equipped and sent into new communities, each story bears witness to God's ability to transform humble beginnings into lasting impact. These accounts remind us that the kingdom advances not only through significant initiatives but through the consistent, prayerful, and collaborative work of God's people.

As you read, we invite you to continue praying for our partners across the globe (see Let's Pray), and to consider how you might plant a seed this Easter to share God's love and provide practical, hands-on care for your brothers and sisters in Christ around the world in Zimbabwe, Thailand, Vanuatu, and for emerging Christian First Nations leaders in Australia.

Thank you for your faithful partnership as we co-labour to bring hope, healing, and restoration in the love of Christ. May you be encouraged by the ways your prayers, generosity, and shared mission continue to nurture kingdom growth in communities near and far. And may we remain attentive to the small opportunities God places before us, trusting that He is cultivating them into something far greater than we can yet see.

Yours in Christ,

Leah Odongo

Director of Partnerships

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Good News

: YOUR IMPACT

Dareton Youth and Community Centre is Now Registered as a Charity

What began in the 1940s with one woman choosing compassion and standing alongside Aboriginal families has grown into the Dareton Youth and Community Centre. Over the years, with the investment and support of various leaders, this vision was brought to life, transforming the centre into a place where young people feel safe, welcomed, and genuinely valued.

Each week, around 15 to 25 young people walk through the centre's doors to eat together, try new skills, explore music and art and spend time in an environment where they are encouraged to be themselves. Community members say the change has been clear. Young people are more settled. Their confidence is lifting. Hope is taking root.

Now a registered charity, the centre is positioned to strengthen this work into the future, enabling deeper support, stronger partnerships and lasting impact for young people and the Dareton community.

Safe Water Brings Relief and New Hope in Rural Zimbabwe

For families in Mberengwa and Insiza districts, daily life has long been shaped by the search for water. Our partner Showers of Blessing

Trust has drilled five new boreholes, bringing safe water closer to communities.

In Mvurachena Village, families once walked up to six kilometres through remote and dangerous terrain to collect water from unsafe sources, often leaving home before dawn. Now, safe water is available within the village. Long walks have ended, families have more time together, and the community is beginning small income projects, including chicken rearing.

With local committees established and installations completed with minimal environmental impact, your support is helping bring clean water, dignity, and renewed stability to families who have carried this burden for far too long.

Training and Sending Students for Church Planting and Sharing God's Love in Indonesia

In Indonesia, the Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia is equipping students for ministry through theological education alongside practical, community-based preparation. Following their training, seven students have been sent to serve in new areas, including Muslim-majority contexts, supporting church planting and evangelism. As a result of this training and sending ministry, 13 people were baptised across multiple locations in 2025, including Sumatra, Salatiga, and Manado, reflecting the ongoing fruit of this work.

A Shared Calling to Partner in God's Harvest

For many years, I read Matthew 9:37 and felt the weight of "not doing enough" or of somehow falling short of what was expected as God's "worker." It wasn't until later in life that I began to see this verse as an invitation filled with hope and purpose and not condemnation.

What makes this passage so hope-filled is its context. In the verses before, Jesus forgives and heals a paralysed man, calls Matthew (a tax collector) to follow him, raises a girl from the dead, heals a sick woman, and restores sight to the blind. He travels through towns proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, noticing the crowds and responding to their needs with deep compassion.

Matthew 9:37 reflects the heart, mission, and command of God and Jesus to go into the world. We have a responsibility to love, care for, and support the wider church because that is what the Kingdom of God is about. Being sent into the harvest is just as much about caring for, resourcing, and strengthening those in the harvest, including our brothers and sisters living in complex and difficult countries, as it is about being there ourselves.

The passage is an invitation to recognise the good news of the kingdom and to respond through prayer and action - to open our hearts with compassion and seek God's guidance in how individually and collectively we respond.

For example, Global Mission Partners recently received devastating news from one of our partners about the natural disaster in Vietnam. Pastor Bin shared, "Natural disasters, such as storms and floods, are occurring, and we are in great need of essential supplies to help those affected. This support would also make it easier to share the Gospel in the love of Christ." In the midst of this tragedy, the local church in Vietnam is responding and inviting us in Australia to partner with them in the healing and restoration of families impacted by this event.

By walking alongside local churches, such as those in Vietnam, and leaders across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, we can support them as they serve their communities. This is not just about funding projects; it is about joining our brothers and sisters to bring hope, healing, and restoration within their own contexts.

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." – Matthew 9:37

Matthew 9:37 reminds us that the focus is not only on the scale of the harvest but also on taking practical steps to bring hope and restoration wherever He calls us.

Every prayer, gift, and act of support becomes part of God's larger story, bringing transformation and hope where it is needed most. In serving others, we experience the same hope and transformation we share.

Ultimately, this work also unifies the church as we co-labour to bring God's love into the world.

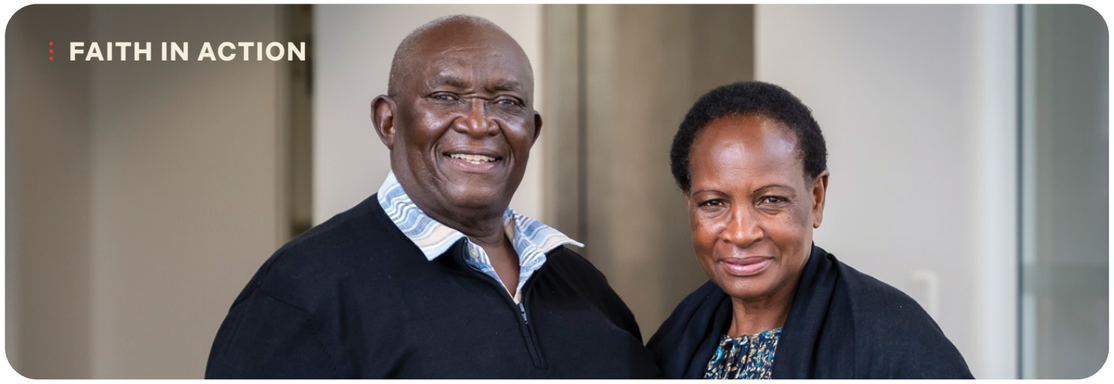
This year, we are launching a new initiative aimed at nurturing and empowering Christian leaders within the church communities we partner with around the world, as well as with Indigenous Ministry here in Australia. This will be a significant opportunity for you to deepen your partnership with us in God's harvest. We look forward to sharing more details about this initiative with you in the coming months.

Jenni White,

International Church Partnerships Manager

Above: John Lamerton visits Pastor Bin in Vietnam

Below: Emerging Christian leaders in South Sudan recently graduated with their degrees in theology



BJ and Chipo's Retirement: Celebrating 30 Years of Ministry

BJ Mpofu is a gifted preacher, pastor, and mentor who has shaped many Christian leaders to go out and make disciples in Zimbabwe. Over the past 30 years, he has been a key leader in the Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe, bringing the gospel to rural communities, often travelling by motorbike.

With BJ's support and guidance, along with other Christian leaders, more than 77 churches have been planted, and over three thousand people have committed their lives to Christ. BJ has also played an integral role in establishing the Showers of Blessing Trust, a development program that provides safe water access in communities by drilling boreholes to access groundwater.

"Our first trip to Australia was in 2000 when I was the President of the Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe, attending the World Convention in Brisbane." During his second trip in 2003, BJ spoke at the Marion Church of Christ in Adelaide. "I remember speaking passionately about our vision for the church in our country... and the need for three motorbikes [for evangelists]". BJ also has fond memories of his visit to the Howrah Church of Christ in Hobart, Tasmania. "Their love for mission touched my heart," he recalls.

From 2003 to 2025, BJ and his wife Chipo have visited Australia 15 times! BJ shares, "We have made many friends in Australia, and the support we have received has been excellent ever since the beginning." Thanks to this support, BJ reports that there are now 85 active church congregations in the Zvishavane area.

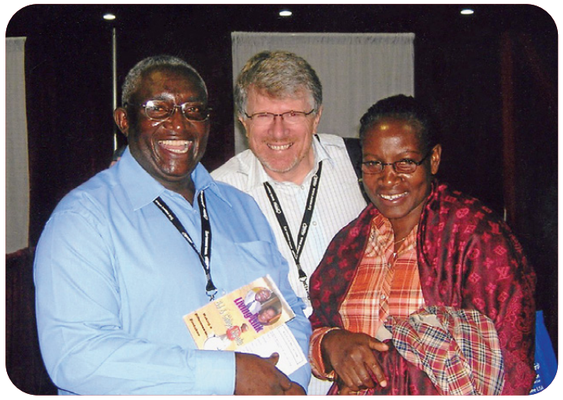
This year marks the end of a chapter for BJ as he retires from his role with the Associated Churches of Christ. "I leave our mission work with great satisfaction in knowing how God has used us [both himself and Chipo]."

BJ extends his appreciation to those who have supported him over the years. "I would like to thank all the people who have diligently supported us throughout our mission work. I am especially grateful to the Executive Officers at Global Mission Partners: Jeff May, Jeff Weston, Peter Overton, and, for a long period, John Gilmore. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the most recent CEO, John Lamerton, who has been an inspiration to me during our time working together. I must also mention Val Zerna, the longest-serving member of Global Mission Partners staff I have worked with, who represented us in a very special way."

"When our partners visit your churches and events to share their stories, they testify to God's power across cultures and generations."

While BJ is retiring, he knows that it might take him a while to "fully retire" as there is still work to be done. Although as he begins to slow down, he extends an invitation to those travelling through Bulawayo: "Our house will remain open for visitors from Australia and those on mission work," just as many of you have opened your homes to BJ and Chipo during their visits to Australia over the years.

We would like to acknowledge BJ and Chipo for their incredible, faithful, and passionate service to the Kingdom of God. We congratulate them on reaching 30 years in ministry. We pray for God's richest blessings upon them as they retire and embark on a new journey together in this next season of their lives.



Above: BJ and Chipo with former Executive Officer, John Gilmore (2008)

Below: BJ with the Motorbike Evangelists in Bulawayo

Emerging Indigenous Leaders Gather in South Australia

From November 23-26, 2025, the first combined Indigenous Ministries Australia and Baptist Mission Australia Emerging Leaders Gathering took place on Peramangk Country at the scenic Wirraway Campsite in Strathalbyn, South Australia.

The gathering aimed to nurture emerging Indigenous Christian leaders by providing networking, community building, and mentorship. Guests included established Indigenous Elders, Uncle Don Hayward, Uncle Paul Tanner and Aunty Maria Anderson Tanner.

Their guidance helped illuminate key topics such as sustainability and resilience in ministry, truth-telling, self-care, and vulnerability. Through storytelling, prayer, and shared experiences, the gathering not only nurtured leadership development but also celebrated the rich cultural tapestry of Indigenous communities.

Attendees spoke highly of the event's impact, highlighting how it facilitated meaningful connections in what can often be a lonely ministry journey. Lonny Bendessi from Aboriginal Berean Community Church in South Australia highlighted the communal spirit: "... this gathering helps us to realise that we're not alone, but we are all doing this together."

Participants expressed a strong desire for such gatherings to become annual events, with a particular focus on mental, spiritual, and cultural well-being. Dan Riches, a participant from the Balga Evangelical Aboriginal Church in Western Australia, shared his thoughts on the event's impact:

"This gathering has been great for me personally... It's good to learn from [others], and we've had some other people come and speak to us... which has been a really good thing."

Elder Maria Anderson-Tanner praised the event for its community focus. "The Emerging Leaders Gathering did an amazing job bringing our community together," she said.

With a commitment to genuine partnership and community-building, the event marked a significant step toward strengthening ties between Indigenous leaders and the broader church community, paving the way for future collaboration and growth.

On *the Ground*

PARTNER UPDATE

Join a First Nations Immersion Experience in 2026

Immersion Experiences are cultural learning tours, gatherings, or retreats that allow small groups to learn about Indigenous perspectives and culture in their local area. They offer an incredible opportunity to listen, learn, and connect with others, with creation, and with one's own story. This year, you can visit Dareton Youth and Community Centre in April, meet the Dusty Feet Mob in South Australia in May or explore Bunjalung country with our partners Juraki in September.

For more information and to express your interest in joining these trips, use the link to our website www.gmp.org.au/get-involved/discovery-visits/first-nations-immersion-experiences Or contact Nick Wight nick@gmp.org.au

South Sudan Families Rebuild after Displacement

Between July and September 2025, our partner Laid Foundation South Sudan supported vulnerable families living in the Salaam area of Juba, many of whom were returnees or people displaced by conflict. Working with local leaders, the organisation identified 800 households facing the greatest hardship and delivered food baskets to each family in August. Before this support, many households were surviving on one meal a day. After receiving assistance, families reported that they could eat twice a day and redirect small amounts of income toward essentials like school fees.

Alongside food relief, livelihood training helped families begin small gardens and home-based income activities. Despite ongoing challenges, including rising need and difficult access, this support is helping families take early steps toward stability and hope.

Vanuatu Churches Embrace a Season of Renewal

After many years marked by strain and misunderstanding, church leaders and communities in Vanuatu have taken meaningful steps toward renewed relationships and reconciliation. Through culturally significant expressions of respect and shared commitment, connections have been strengthened and unity reaffirmed. This renewed harmony is already creating space for fresh ministry opportunities, including the training of Sunday School teachers and ongoing efforts to support communities still recovering from recent natural disasters. It is a hopeful reminder that healing and unity can create fertile ground for lasting Gospel impact.

Let's Pray

PRAYER PARTNERS

Australia

Indigenous Ministries Australia

- Pray for Indigenous leaders as they serve in ministry, bringing gospel-shaped hope for healing, restoration, and reconciliation for generations to come.
- Please pray for Dareton Youth and Community Centre as they continue to serve.

Bangladesh

Bandarban Hill Churches of Christ

- Pray for provision and resources to support displaced families, especially through women's livelihood projects and basic household needs.
- Pray for strength and perseverance for pastors, women leaders and volunteers serving in remote and challenging conditions.

Indonesia

Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia

- Pray for students and graduates serving in Muslim-majority areas, asking for wisdom, courage and cultural sensitivity.
- Pray that community engagement through farming, tutoring and small businesses continues to open hearts to the love of Jesus.

Asia Pacific International

- Pray for protection and boldness for missionaries serving in pioneering and unreached areas.
- Pray that Bible translation work is completed faithfully and received openly by local communities.

Papua New Guinea

Gandep Bible School

- Pray that students are well-equipped spiritually and practically for ministry in rural and remote contexts.
- Pray for sustainable resources and strong leadership as the school continues to train future pastors and evangelists.

Philippines

International Christian College of Manila

- Pray for students to grow in faith, character and leadership as they prepare for Christian service.
- Pray for wisdom and provision for the college as it forms future leaders for the church and wider community.

Thailand

Churches of Christ Thailand and Social Development and Services Unit

- Pray for wisdom and unity as churches combine evangelism with social development and community care.
- Pray for open doors for the gospel and lasting impact through education, health and social programs.

Samut Songkhram Evangelism Center

- Pray for leaders and volunteers to be encouraged and effective in their outreach in the community.

South Sudan

Christian Mercy International

- Pray for unity, protection and strength for church leaders serving amid instability and hardship.
- Pray for church planting, leadership training and relief and development ministries to bring both spiritual and practical hope.

Laid Foundation of South Sudan

- Pray for sustainable development projects that restore dignity and provide long-term livelihoods.
- Pray for peace, safety and healing for communities affected by conflict and displacement.

Vanuatu

Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu

- Pray for lasting healing and unity among churches in Vanuatu following recent reconciliation efforts.
- Pray for protection during cyclone season and restoration for communities still recovering from past disasters.

Londua Technical College

- Pray for students to gain practical skills that lead to employment, stability and community transformation.
- Pray for provision, staff capacity and long-term sustainability of the college.

PLEASE PRAY

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

GMP.ORG.AU

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Vietnam

The Churches of Christ in Vietnam

- Please pray for the 300 vulnerable families affected by the floods in Central Vietnam, for relief, recovery and hope as they rebuild their lives

Zimbabwe

Associated Churches of Christ Zimbabwe

- Pray for church leaders to be strengthened as they shepherd congregations in challenging economic conditions and remain strong and hopeful despite hardship.

Showers of Blessing Trust

- Pray for wisdom and provision as the trust serves vulnerable communities through safe water and sanitation initiatives.
- Pray that practical support continues to point people toward lasting hope in Christ.

Khayelihle Children's Village

- Pray for the children to experience safety, healing and a deep sense of belonging.
- Pray for staff and carers to have strength, compassion and endurance in their daily work.

EASTER

Planting *Seeds* this Easter

The harvest is large, but the workers are few. That's why Global Mission Partners is dedicated to supporting local leaders around the world with the training, development, support and care that's right for them. Raising up leaders to grow the global church, together.

Just as a seedling needs nurturing, this Easter, your gift, your seed, can be a deeply powerful way to share God's love and provide practical, hands-on care for your brothers and sisters in Christ around the world in Zimbabwe, Thailand, Vanuatu, and for emerging Christian First Nations leaders in Australia.

This Easter, you can provide empowerment and care for leaders like Pastor Thaung in Thailand.

Pastor Thaung ministers to his community– vulnerable migrant families in low-paying jobs such as vegetable farming, factory work, or construction.

Because Pastor Thaung receives regular support from people like you, he is equipped as a leader, empowered to wholeheartedly commit to his community long-term, connect with vulnerable families and provide resources to help them meet Christ.

Your regular gifts are important for encouraging and equipping leaders around the world as they grow in their own leadership skills and serve their communities, sowing seeds of love, introducing people to Jesus, and ultimately helping to prepare for God's harvest.

You will receive more information about the Easter Appeal in the post soon. In the meantime, please take some time to pray about planting seeds this Easter.

When your passion to share Jesus' love joins with the dedication of local Christian leaders, amazing things happen!

A Great Gifts Thank You!

Thank you to the many generous supporters and Churches who shared love through our Great Gifts Appeal in the lead-up to Christmas. The impact doesn't stop at Christmas — The Great Gifts Catalogue is a beautiful way to bless others all year round.

Our **Illustrated Greeting Card Bundle ($45)** includes five beautifully designed cards — perfect for birthdays, thank-yous and moments of encouragement throughout the year. You can order them today at **www.greatgifts.org.au**

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GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS

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