



QUARTERLY EDITION 3: 2026

# Seasons of Renewal

THE GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS QUARTERLY

**GLOBAL  
MISSION  
PARTNERS**

GOOD NEWS INSIDE 

## From the Team...

Renewal seldom announces itself. It begins underground, in dry seasons and quiet acts of faithfulness, long before there is any green to see. The stories gathered here are full of that hidden growth- small beginnings that, in God's hands, become something far larger than they first appeared.

In Dareton, seven young people attended a Youth Alive event and each one responded to the invitation to follow Jesus, while around fifty children engaged with the centre's programs this term, including new faces from Wentworth and Gol Gol. In Northern Thailand, a repaired greenhouse stood firm through a hailstorm and protected a farmer's whole harvest, so a family kept the food and income a single season could so easily have taken.

You'll also meet Naomi, who on Barunggam Country at Bethel Farm discovered that as the land heals, so do those who tend it. You'll meet Ruth, who set out to serve children living with disabilities in Indonesia and found God reshaping her own heart through their joy and their sincere, wordless praise. And you'll travel with Garry to Salatiga, where thirty-two partner leaders gathered and he learned that partnership is not merely how the work is supported- partnership *is* the work.

Across farms and classrooms, youth centres and workshops, the same pattern emerges. Renewal grows not through intervention from a distance, but through presence, patient love, and walking humbly alongside one another. "See, I am doing a new thing!" God says. "Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19).

May these stories open your eyes to the new thing springing up, and may you sense God's quiet, faithful renewal in your own life this season.

Grace and Peace,



Colin Battersby  
Director of Engagement

## Good News

YOUR IMPACT

**IMA-** Seven young people from Dareton Youth & Community Centre attended a local Youth Alive event in May, with all seven responding to the altar call. The term has also seen around 50 different young people engage with the centre's programs, including new participants from Wentworth and Gol Gol.



**COCOA-** In Northern Thailand, a farmer recently saw the benefits of a repaired greenhouse when it protected his crops during a hail storm that would otherwise have destroyed his harvest. Instead of losing a season's income, he was able to protect the crops his family relies on for food and financial security.

**ICP-** In June, Global Mission Partners Director of Partnerships Leah and International Church Partnerships (ICP) Manager Jenni visited Papua New Guinea to strengthen the partnership with the Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ (MECOC).

During the visit, they facilitated leadership and organisational development workshops, met with the Board, and worked together on future planning. The visit concluded with the Board committing to a new action plan, providing a strong foundation for the partnership to continue growing and serving communities across Papua New Guinea.

This work will help MECOC leaders strengthen their planning, leadership and organisational capacity, enabling them to better support their churches and serve local communities across Papua New Guinea.

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## Partnership is the Work

By Garry Sanossian

Every three years, Global Mission Partners brings together leaders from across its international partner network to invest in something that is often difficult to measure, but essential for lasting community development: strong partnerships.

This year, I had the opportunity to attend the Partnering Together for Stronger Communities (PTSC) workshop in Salatiga, Indonesia. Hosted by the Church of Christ Theological School of Indonesia, the two-week gathering brought together 32 leaders from partner organisations to learn from one another, reflect on their work and strengthen the organisations serving communities across the network.

PTSC is much more than a training workshop. It is an intentional investment in the people, relationships and organisations that underpin effective community development. By creating space for leaders

to share experiences and learn from one another, the workshop strengthens both organisations and the partnerships that enable communities to flourish.

The workshop was made possible through the support of the Australian Government through Australian Aid. That investment recognised that lasting change is built not only through projects on the ground, but by equipping local leaders, strengthening organisations and fostering long-term collaboration.

As a first-time attendee, I found the experience deeply encouraging. Partnership is easy to describe in theory. Sitting alongside leaders from different countries and contexts brought it to life. Hearing their stories, understanding the challenges they navigate each day and witnessing their commitment to serving their communities gave me a deeper appreciation for the people behind the projects.

Across the two weeks, we explored the foundations of effective community development and organisational leadership. We reflected on vision, mission, purpose and sustainability while exploring project design, accountability, safeguarding, leadership, financial sustainability and caring for the wellbeing of those serving others.

What stood out to me was that these topics were never treated in isolation. Each one reinforced the others. A clear vision shapes an organisation's purpose, strong governance builds trust, and sound planning and stewardship help ensure communities are served well. Safeguarding, too, is far more than a policy. It reflects a commitment to creating environments where people are respected, protected and able to flourish.

One of the strongest lessons for me was that partnership is not one-directional. It is about walking alongside one another, sharing responsibility and recognising that every partner brings valuable knowledge, experience and perspective. The peer learning sessions captured this well. Rather than simply receiving information, partners shared their successes, challenges and local insights. It was a powerful reminder that some of the most valuable learning comes from listening to those who know their communities best.

One of the highlights was visiting a community program in Tanen village, where I saw how LEMKERSA, the Churches of Christ in Indonesia, expresses God's love through practical service. Several times each year, volunteers visit the village to provide health checks, physiotherapy, cooking classes, haircuts and other practical support for local residents. Seeing the church faithfully serving in these simple but meaningful ways reminded me that community development is ultimately about people, building relationships, responding to local needs and demonstrating Christ's love through practical care.



For me, the most powerful part of the gathering was seeing partnership embodied. It was reflected in the conversations over meals, the daily devotions, the partner briefs, the honest questions, the laughter, the prayers, and the willingness to learn from one another. These moments reminded me that strong partnerships are built over time through trust, patience, presence and mutual respect.

I left Salatiga reminded that partnership is not measured only in reports, projects, or outcomes. It is seen in the people who serve faithfully, often quietly, with courage, care, and deep commitment to their communities.

Partnering Together for Stronger Communities reminded me that lasting change cannot be achieved from a distance. It grows through shared commitment, local leadership and relationships that deepen through trust, mutual learning, and time.

Partnership is not simply the way the work is supported. Partnership is the work.



# Part Of A Larger Story

by Naomi Giles

Several years ago, as I counted off the years in life and faith, I had two things emerge as high priorities on my bucket list. One was to have an on-country experience, where I could sit and hear stories and wisdom from First Nations Elders, and secondly, to go somewhere to immerse myself in learning about care of the earth. These were two areas of my discipleship where I felt I was sorely lacking. On Barunggam land at Bethel Farm near Dalby, I was graciously gifted with both.

My first visit was as part of the churches of Christ Belly & Bones creative cohort in August 2024. We were warmly welcomed by the dhiyaan family (One Meat Mob) overseen by Billy and Vicki Williams, invited into the yarnning circle to listen in to ancient stories of language, lore and land. We were able to rest in the generous and gracious hospitality of a family who in love guided us through to a place of receiving.

As Billy (Jangala) spoke around the campfire at night, the stars, which stretch out like sparkling canopy on this big sky country, began to reveal ancient stories, all of which were new to me. This was a taste of the oral wisdom held by aboriginal peoples, passed down generations and across clan lines.

In staying here over three days, I experienced Bethel as a sacred place, where under vast skies heaven seems to touch earth. There is a sacred story waiting to be told to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

As you settle into your stay you find it's not only the people, but also the place, that has wisdom and grace to impart. The 40-acre property itself stands as a living testament to what happens when people walk in the right relationship with each other and the land. These dusty acres are transforming into a place of variety and abundance, of beauty and renewal. As the earth heals, so do those who tend it.

So deep was the impact of my time at Bethel Farm, I felt a deep longing to continue the journey of learning. So, in my sabbatical year (2025) I asked if I could return, this time to spend six weeks in community.

During my time there, the GMP Indigenous Ministries Australia immersion group came through – a gathering of an eclectic group of leaders from across churches and communities.



It's fair to say that it's often a struggle for those who teach and lead as a vocation to adopt the posture of learners, but through IMA's Nick Wight's gentle guidance, each one was given the space to enter in where they were able to.

We were invited into the story of the land, of culture and history. Encouraged to explore how our own stories interacted with the greater story of our nation's history, and our response as ministers and leaders, called to be ones who walk in the humble way of reconciliation with God and with all people.

Around the campfire the group reflected on the activities and learnings of the day, the encounters, the questions, the grappling and the grief. It was a sacred time for all of us.

Stories have been told a long time in this nation, with a myriad of dialects, song and dance, drawing from and passing on deep wisdom about the right ways of living in relationship with land and people.

As people of faith, what has come before us (history) is central to our understanding. Why would we ignore such a rich resource right here in our land, that can inform and enhance our spirituality? Why wouldn't we drink deeply from a well of knowledge that can reconnect us with the first sacred commissioning we all receive, to be caretakers of God's creation?

As leaders and followers, we can choose to move from unknowing into knowing. There are ears and hearts much more attuned than

ours, that can act as guides along this way. We have been invited to humble ourselves as students - to trust, listen and grapple with our own prejudice, history and blind spots in order to walk this way.

I haven't figured it all out, I'm still on a journey, sometimes still blundering blindly along. But as I awaken to the larger story of this nation, layer after layer of realisation breaks in of how much has been lost in the years since this land was colonised.

But somehow among the ruins, I sense there is a voice calling us to still ourselves and listen deeply. There is an invitation to join with the big story of this great southern land, a deeper healing that we can be a part of.

Perhaps, like the dhiyaan community at Bethel, rather than being overcome by what cannot be undone, we can embrace truth and walk on in healing to experience what is possible when we live in the right relationship with God and each other.

*Applications are now open for the dhiyaan Immersion Trip (27 to 30 September 2026). Join this unique on-country experience at Bethel Farm near Dalby to listen, learn and walk together towards healing and reconciliation. Find out more and apply: <https://www.gmp.org.au/ima-dhiyaan-discovery-visit/>*



# Discovering God's Limitless Grace

*\* Name changed for privacy*

When Ruth began her field placement at the Emmanuel Foundation in Indonesia, she arrived with a strong interest in children with special needs and inclusive education.

Over six months of serving, God reshaped her heart and reminded her that every person bears dignity and purpose.

"Ministry in the world of children with special needs is very close to my heart," Ruth said. "I believe it is not a coincidence and not without reason that God placed it there."

Ruth, a student at Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia (CCTSI), completed her Field Practice Study at the Emmanuel Foundation, which has served communities in Indonesia for 25 years.

Through the Emmanuel Foundation, Ruth served in education, food rescue, disaster recovery and disability support, gaining a firsthand understanding of both the challenges people face and the dignity they carry.

In one moment, she noticed a woman who kept away from the crowd. When Ruth approached her, she realised the woman was mute.

"Silence was peace for her because even when she spoke, no one could understand what she was saying," Ruth said. "But I hoped that the woman would not be shunned by the surrounding community."

That lesson became even more personal through the IDEA Programme for children and young people with disabilities.

"This program is the heartbeat of my service," Ruth said. "Its goal is very noble, namely to ensure every child receives the right to education, sincere guidance, and space to grow independently."



One memorable experience was accompanying young people with disabilities during a hospitality workshop preparing them for hotel work.

"There is a happiness that cannot be explained in words every time I am able to understand their world," she said. "Just seeing their genuine smiles fills my heart with profound joy."

As she spent more time with deaf children, Ruth began learning sign language, and they patiently helped her communicate.

One child especially stayed with her. He dreamed of studying overseas, spoke English well and loved Australia.

"Seeing his great ambition, I realized that physical limitations are just a condition, not a barrier for a soul that wants to soar high," she said.

Ruth also celebrated Christmas with children from the IDEA Programme and local schools. As she led worship, she watched children participate with joy, including deaf children who could not hear the music.

"From them, I learned that beautiful praise is not only about a melodious voice but also praise sung with a heart that is truly sincere and pure," she said.

The children's joy changed the way Ruth saw herself. She said she had struggled with impatience, anger, pessimism and bitterness.

"When I entered their world, I was required to be more patient, calm and to interact with them with love," she said. "They have contributed greatly to the changes in my life, and I am very grateful because God used them to shape my personality to be better."

Ruth said the children taught her gratitude, the value of small acts of encouragement, and that God often uses those we serve to transform us.

"I, who initially didn't care much about other people's lives, have become very interested in the lives of others, especially the lives of those with special needs," she said.

Ruth hopes to continue studying Special and Inclusive Education and serve in remote parts of Indonesia, helping parents better support children with special needs.

"No child is ever considered crazy or hidden," she said, "because every child with special needs is an extraordinary gift from God that must be fully supported in their growth and development."

For Ruth, the Emmanuel Foundation has become a place of formation, where faith is expressed through education, compassion and the love of Christ.

"During my service at CCTSI and in this Foundation, I realized that when serving, I also carry the name of Lord Jesus with me," she said.

## On the Ground

⋮ PARTNER UPDATE

**IMA-** The Dareton Youth & Community Centre continues to provide a safe and welcoming space for local young people. This term, around 50 children attended the Friday program, with an average weekly attendance of 17 and a peak of 30.

Seven older youth also attended a local Youth Alive event, where each responded to the invitation to follow Jesus. The leadership team, made up of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Christian leaders, continues to grow in unity as they serve together. They are also taking time over the school holidays to reflect, pray and strengthen the program for the months ahead.

**COCOA-** Representatives from the Australian Government, through the Australian Embassy in Zimbabwe, visited Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV) to see its work supporting vulnerable children and families.

The visit included a tour of the village, discussions with staff, and an overview of KCV's child protection, education and community development programs. It also provided an opportunity to strengthen engagement with development partners and highlight the impact of KCV's ongoing work in the community.



**ICP-** The Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe recently held its conference under the theme "When Jesus Builds His Church," based on Matthew 16:18 and Ephesians 2:18-20. The conference focused on Christ as the foundation of the Church and encouraged faithful leadership, unity, discipleship and mission.

# Let's Pray

PRAYER PARTNERS

## Australia

*Indigenous Ministries Australia*

- Pray for the strengthening of relationships between our Indigenous leaders.
- Pray for provision for Dareton Youth Community Centre.

## Bangladesh

*Bandarban Hill Churches of Christ*

- Pray for pastors and evangelists as they continue ministry in challenging conditions.
- Pray for the construction of the BHCOC office building and the reconstruction of the Era Mru Church.

## India

*Hosanna Ministries*

- Pray for the local ministry leaders, that God would strengthen, encourage and sustain them as they faithfully serve their communities.
- Pray for strong partnerships, open doors for greater ministry impact and the provision of the resources needed to continue and expand this vital work.

## Indonesia

*Asia Pacific International*

- Pray for church planters and their families serving in challenging contexts.

- Pray for funding, progress, and resources needed for places of worship, gatherings, and outreach.

## Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia

- Pray for sufficient funding to complete the second stage of the dormitory project.
- Pray for God's provision and for strong, fruitful partnerships.

## Papua New Guinea

*The Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ*

- Pray for smooth coordination of the team's work.
- Pray for safe access to remote areas and favourable weather conditions.

## Philippines

*International Christian College of Manila*

- Pray for a strong finish to the academic year and growth in enrollment.
- Pray for wisdom for leadership as they plan future campus and financial needs.

## South Sudan

*Christian Mercy International*

- Pray for peace as instability continues to affect communities.
- Pray for the construction of a temporary building for Juba West Church of Christ.

- Pray for the establishment of Juba International Bible College to train future leaders.

## Laid Foundation of South Sudan

- Pray that those affected by war and displacement experience peace, safety and healing.

## Thailand

*Churches of Christ Thailand and Social Development and Services Unit*

- Pray for wisdom and unity as churches integrate evangelism with community care.

## Samut Songkhram Evangelism Center

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

## Vanuatu

*Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu*

- Pray for God's protection over the people of Vanuatu, wisdom for authorities and safety for communities as volcanic activity on Ambae continues.

## Vietnam

*The Churches of Christ in Vietnam*

- Pray for continued growth of the church in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and beyond.
- Pray for communities in the Central Highlands facing water shortages.
- Pray that God would raise up more workers and leaders to disciple and strengthen new believers.

PLEASE PRAY

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

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## Zimbabwe

*Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe*

- Pray for provision for churches meeting in temporary spaces and for unity and growth among leaders and congregations.
- Pray for children and families supported through church initiatives, that they would be strengthened in daily life and education.

## Khayelihle Children's Village

- Pray for children in care to experience healing, safety and restoration.
- Pray for staff, caregivers, and foster families to have wisdom, strength and unity.
- Pray for sustainability of the village, including agricultural projects and water resources.

CAMPAIGN



# SAFE water SEPTEMBER



Clean water is easy to take for granted. We turn on a tap, fill a glass, wash our hands and prepare a meal. But for many communities in Zimbabwe, Vanuatu and Bangladesh, safe water is not always close, reliable or clean.

For families living without secure access to safe water, each day can involve long walks to collect water from unsafe sources such as rivers, ponds or unprotected wells. Drinking this water can lead to illnesses like diarrhoea, cholera and other waterborne diseases, which weaken health and make it difficult for adults to work and children to learn.

Children often miss school not only because they become sick, but also because they are needed to help collect water, sometimes spending hours each day on this task. Women and girls carry most of this responsibility, limiting their opportunities for education and work. The lack of safe water touches every part of life, from children's education to families' health and the ability of communities to flourish.

This September, Global Mission Partners invites churches, small groups, families and individuals to take part in **Safe Water September**.

Through local partners, funds raised support safe water, sanitation and hygiene projects, including practical initiatives such as water tanks, pipe systems and hygiene training. These projects help improve health, reduce disease, support education and create lasting change.

By giving, praying and sharing the need, you can stand with communities working toward a healthier and more hopeful future.

For more information, please visit:  
<https://safewaterseptember.org.au/>



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Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.  
ABN 30 455 408 814  
[www.gmp.org.au](http://www.gmp.org.au) : 1800 467 222  
PO Box 341 Torrensville Plaza, SA 5031

Global Mission Partners Extend Ltd (ABN 32 634 033 079) | Global Mission Partners Assist Ltd (ABN 58 655 166 555)