

IN PARTNERSHIP

December 2024



GREAT GIFTS

MORE THAN A PAIR OF GLASSES

Mehluli struggled to read the letters in his books. Everything was starting to get blurry. He knew he needed help from a doctor. Luckily, Mehluli lived with his siblings at Khayelihle Children's Village in Zimbabwe. He knew they would help him to get some new glasses!

Mehluli's elder sister was 17 when she started caring for her three younger siblings. Their mother passed away, and their father left the children while struggling with depression. Mehluli and his siblings were vulnerable without any adults to care for them.

In 2009, someone reported their situation to the Department of Social Welfare. Khayelihle Children's Village was contacted and cared for Mehluli and his two younger siblings. "I was seven years old," Mehluli said.

KCV had a significant impact on Mehluli's life. The siblings received a safe and secure home, education, and healthcare. "Meeting up with new parents and new friends developed me socially and



THIS IS MEHLULI THE YEAR HE ARRIVED AT KCV!



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT OF KCV, MEHLULI IS NOW A SUCCESSFUL YOUNG ADULT.



emotionally. Now, I have people to share my problems with," he reflected. KCV also developed me spiritually," he explained.

While living at KCV, Mehluli experienced health challenges. "All my medical bills were paid for every time when I fell sick. When I had eye complications, KCV paid for my medical bills and bought me a pair of spectacles," he shared.

KCV also provides the children with new school uniform items each year, such as a new shirt, skirt, shorts, or shoes. A uniform instills confidence in a child, so they proudly wear it to school.

KCV gave Mehluli and his siblings a safe and secure home with people who cared for their well-being. Mehluli attended school with his siblings. Everyone dressed smartly, and Mehluli was excited to wear his new glasses.

Thanks to your support of KCV, Mehluli is now a successful young adult. He is focused on creating a better future for himself. He is currently completing his second year at university. "If it were not for KCV, I would have never reached this stage," he said.

Mehluli wants to thank everyone who "had a hand" in supporting him and his siblings.



THE GREAT GIFT OF SHOES AND SOCKS

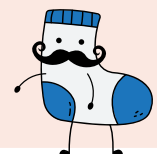
GIVE A GREAT GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS!

You can give a Great Gift this Christmas and support a student like Mehluli! Order your gifts online today!

GREATGIFTS.ORG.AU



ORDER YOUR GREAT GIFTS ONLINE OR CALL 1800 467 222



News & Events

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As this is the last edition for 2024 the Global Mission Partners team wishes you a safe and happy Christmas! Our news will be back in early 2025, with a brand new look. Find out more on page 12.

Annual Report

Discover the impact we've had together during the 2023-24 Financial Year. You can download the Annual Report 2024 at www.gmp.org.au/annualreports

Great Gifts Catalogue 2024-25

Last chance to order your gift cards for Christmas! Order gifts that make an impact today at www.greatgifts.org.au

Global Mission Partners Office Closure

The Global Mission Partners Office is closed from Monday 23rd December and reopens on Monday 6th January 2025.

Vale Sonny Graham

Eldest of the Ngadju Elders, Sonny Graham, passed away on Saturday, 16th November, after more than a year of ill health at the age of 86. Global Mission Partners, through our IMA programs and the Churches of Christ in Australia, pass on our sincerest condolences to his beloved wife and partner in life and ministry, Fran, along with their children and the extended Graham family.

IMA Resources for January 26

If you would like to receive the IMA Church Service Resource Kit, developed especially for Churches of Christ congregations to use during a service on or near January 26th.

Please get in contact with us during December or download the resources at www.gmp.org.au/imakits



Praise and Peace

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace to those on whom his favour rests!



John Lamerton,
Chief Executive
Officer

This is the cry of a whole company of angels at the announcement of Jesus' birth, as told in Luke 2:8-15. The shepherds who heard this angelic choir were probably getting over the shock of one angel who had appeared, telling them not to be afraid and that the Messiah had been born. Then, many more angels arrive, declaring God's glory and offering peace to all whom God favours. Once the surprise wears off, the shocked shepherds make their way to Bethlehem to "see this thing that has happened".

At that time, under Roman military rule, ongoing political tensions and heavy religious expectations, Jesus was born to the supernatural angelic announcement.

In this setting, the two things the angels declare are praise and peace.

This past year, I have had the privilege and joy of singing praises with our partners in their native languages, including hip-swaying worship in Zimbabwe and melodic traditional praise in Indonesia. Alongside our partners, we join the angels in their declaration, "Glory to God in the highest heaven"!

The birth of the Messiah is a praiseworthy event as it heralded a new peaceful era. Peace on earth for all of us who find favour with God, reconciled by the Son, restored by the Father, renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Much of our world longs for true peace. Like the time when Jesus

was born, our partners serve their communities while facing great uncertainty and hardship due to conflict, political instability, religious persecution as well as difficult spiritual dynamics. They spend themselves to bring God's peace into these situations.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, let's join the angels in declaring God's praise and recommit ourselves to the task of being peacemakers.

2025 will also herald new things for Global Mission Partners. Our Board has renewed our vision and mission statements, and our team looks forward to releasing a refreshed brand and website. I believe these will be small but important markers for our future in which I trust God will be glorified, and together, we bring more peace to our hurting world.

Vision

Our vision is to see every Christian active in God's mission, offering hope, love and restoration throughout the world.

Mission

Global Mission Partners exists to inspire and resource locally-led, high-impact, community development and Christian partnerships.

Thank you for being an important part of the Global Mission Partners family. Your support is bringing praise and peace!



Observing 'Word and Deed' in Indonesia

At the beginning of November, a team of five Churches of Christ leaders from Australia, travelled to Indonesia to meet with our partners—the Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia (CCTSI) and Asia Pacific Christian Mission International School (API).

It was a wonderful experience highlighting the importance of being holistic in mission.

The students from CCTSI and API are trained on integral mission by learning theology and how to sustain themselves in ministry with service in their community. Each weekend students are sent to join various ministries that are meeting needs. We witnessed some of this service.

From hiking up the mountains and visiting a small farm, observing a preschool, to an iced tea shop on a busy streetside, we learned how initiatives like education and small business can be used to sustain church planting initiatives.

In one village, we visited a preschool education ministry that provides a safe place for vulnerable children to learn. We observed beautiful preschool teachers interacting with their students and saw the benefits of offering good quality education in a remote, rural setting.

Meeting the needs of the community also helps local church leaders build relationships. We were greeted by the chief and his wife at their village. This highlights the hard work, time, effort and goodwill our partners have established in the community.

Many people in the communities we visited work as rice field farmers, plantation workers, and traders. Our partner, Gideon, from (API), said that local churches have provided training in iron welding or even to create fishponds. Others are engaged in cooking skills and learning to make and sell chips.

These skills lead to business opportunities, open doors to build relationships and share the gospel while churches are planted. They can also help to support the church and its members as they grow.

We were encouraged by the way the students and graduates live out Christ's call and follow His example. They are loving on their neighbours in such powerful ways. They are beacons of light in so many different areas, and they are participating in God's mission through word and deed.

It was a pleasure to be able to spend time with our partners and to visit many different church plants and see their hard work in action.



Carly Cassidy,
National Church
Relationships
Manager.

2025 Global Mission Kick Off

Join us for a light lunch and conversation about the future directions of Global Mission Partners. This event is an opportunity for Church Mission Leaders and all those invested in mission partnerships to connect with our team, ask questions, pray for our partners and get a preview of what's coming next!

Monday 17th February

12:30–2:00pm
for a light lunch

One Church, Blackburn
Melbourne

RSVP by the 12th February.
Scan the QR code to register.

MELBOURNE EVENT



Sharing Inspiring Stories from Zimbabwe: BJ and Chipo Visit Australia



What a blessing it has been to host our partners, BJ and Chipo Mpfu. Over the three-week visit in November, they travelled to four states visiting churches and supporters to share inspiring stories.

From learning more about the Zimbabwe pastors and evangelists and the importance of a motorbike to hearing about the work of our relief and development partners, Khayelihle Childrens Village (KCV) and being encouraged by the impact of Showers of Blessings, it has been an incredible time of celebrating the work being done in Zimbabwe. God is at work through our partners and the church is growing.



Western Australia

Beginning in WA, BJ and Chipo kicked off their National Speaking Tour at Subi Church with a special supporter event followed by church services at True North Church, where BJ's message was streamed online and live to a second campus. Following this, BJ and Chipo shared some inspirational stories at Bassendean Church of Christ and had a unique opportunity to connect with over 100 faithful supporters at True North Church's weekly Senior's gathering. After an enjoyable visit to Kings Parks (Kaarta Garup), BJ recorded an interview on Perth's Christian radio station, Sonshine, which broadcasts to nearly half a million listeners each month.



Watch BJ speak at True North Church



Tasmania

While BJ and Chipo didn't get to visit Tasmania this time, they did chat with supporters through a Zoom call while they were in Melbourne. It was so encouraging!



New South Wales

In NSW, BJ and Chipo loved meeting with the COCOA team and attended the Collective Conference at Stanwell Tops, south of Sydney, with more than 170 delegates. Colin Scott from COCOA said BJ shared a hope-filled message that got delegates thinking outside their comfort zones. “BJ outlined the challenges of distance, drought and poverty that evangelists in Zimbabwe face and the good news that God is with them and continues to bring new people into the Kingdom despite the challenges,” he shared.



Victoria

In VIC, One Church in Blackburn became BJ and Chipo's home base. On Sunday afternoon, BJ preached in the service. A time of fellowship was organised with many of their long-term friends and supporters, including a moment of prayer with former Global Mission Partners Executive Officer, John Gilmore.



Watch
BJ speak
at One.
Church



South Australia

In SA, BJ and Chipo were welcomed by Brooklyn Park and Elizabeth Church of Christ. Approximately 30 people attended the Adelaide Supporter Event. One supporter said she now has some great resources to share with her church for their December missions spot!



Thank You!

We want to thank all of you who made the effort to come and see BJ and Chipo in each state. We are so grateful for your love and support of our international partners. Thank you for your generosity and for walking alongside BJ and Chipo for many years!

Emergency Relief Restores Peace for Mary



Mary fled with her children to escape violence in Sudan during the April 2023 conflict. In the panic, she was separated from her husband. Mary used to live in South Sudan, so she was returning home. But crossing the border, she faced a fight for her survival.

Help from our partner Christian Mercy International (CMI) saved Mary's life.

Mary was one of 1,500 people crossing the border into South Sudan daily. CMI worked with local authorities to support women and children entering the country. With your generosity, Global Mission Partners could fund emergency support to many of the women.

"I thank God that the local authority connected us with Christian Mercy International," Mary said.

Mary fled without anything to support her livelihood. "[I left] without anything in terms of property, such as household utensils, [for my home], and clothing for my children". Her husband is still missing.

CMI gave Mary plastic sheets for temporary shelter, food, blankets and mosquito nets.

These items were a lifeline for Mary and her children.

Eventually, Mary was reconnected with the community which her family was originally from. The chief allocated her a small piece of land to farm. CMI continued assisting Mary this year by providing food support while she started farming.

Mary planted sorghum, groundnuts, okra, and pumpkin in March this year. Then, there was significant flooding. Luckily, her farm escaped the flooding, which helped her plants to grow. Paulino Malou, CMI Director, provided photographs of Mary's sorghum field in September. It looked tall and plentiful.

Mary harvested her crops during October and November and plans to construct a permanent dwelling on the allocated land. "I will use this harvest to secure my construction," she explains.

It has turned out well for Mary, but not everyone's story has had such a peaceful ending.

CMI is assisting 80 women who have returned home to South Sudan to escape the violence. Like Mary, they also received land for farming. Unfortunately, the recent floods affected 50 women's farmlands. Their crops are destroyed, and the soil is damaged.

With your help, CMI can continue supporting the women while they re-establish their farms.

Mary is thankful for the love CMI shows to her and the other women, which has empowered them to establish new lives for themselves within a fragile country.

Mary appreciates "the support of basic needs" that enabled her to reach where she is today.

Christian Mercy International has managed three emergency response projects in recent years and has developed a positive relationship with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, which helps to manage emergencies.

With your support, CMI is well-placed to continue restoring God's peace in one of the world's most challenging places.

Help restore God's peace this Christmas by supporting relief and development work in difficult places like South Sudan.

When you give to the COCOA Christmas Offering, you help our partners work in heart-breaking situations, restoring people's lives through practical and effective development solutions.

And it's truly good news for people like Mary!

Look out for the COCOA Christmas Offering envelopes in your church during December, or contact us to make a donation.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING



Give now to share peace

Scan the QR code



New Wheels and New Friends for Atap

Atap believed she'd never be able to do much because of her disability. She can't walk. She didn't attend school. She had only one friend and relied on her family for everything. This affected her perception of herself from a young age. "It makes me a failure," she thought.

Christian Mercy International (CMI) works in Atap's community, providing access to education for vulnerable children. CMI assists ten schools in the district. They support children and their carers through livelihood activities. When they met Atap's, they wanted to help her see her value.

With your support, they bought Atap a wheelchair.

"Upon receiving a wheelchair from CMI, my life was restored," Atap declared.

The wheelchair gave Atap confidence and enabled her to enrol in her local school. "I never had an idea of going to school, let alone doing anything on my own because I cannot walk," she reflected.

With the wheelchair, Atap gained independence.

Now, Atap can be like the other children. "With this wheelchair, my life has changed. I began to go to school now like any other neighbour's children and started making friends in our classroom," she said.

The wheelchair has also ended Atap's isolation. Before having a wheelchair, it was difficult for Atap to make friends. "Even though I had one [friend], we could not move together as friends do." With her new wheelchair, Atap can now get to know more friends at school!

Because of your support, CMI helped Atap realise she has a purpose. Despite Atap having "feeble legs," she discovered her independence through the support of a wheelchair. She now has confidence in herself and dreams for the future.

"I learned that being disabled is not inability; I might be disabled physically, but my brain is not,"



Atap said. "I will continue with my studies up to class eight. By God's grace, I can finish my high school."

December 3 is International Day of People with Disability. Our partners aim to serve the most vulnerable in their communities. This includes people with disability. Many of our partners work with people with disability to provide practical help and restore dignity where they have been marginalised.

Your support plays a crucial role in enabling life-changing support for people like Atap.

A FAMILY TRANSFORMED...

Christian Mercy International are also transforming families through their Goat Project.

For Adeng, going to school seemed impossible. Her family simply couldn't afford it. But then, one day, everything changed.

Her family received a life-changing gift: a Great Gift of a Goat.

That one goat multiplied, providing an income stream that will last for years to come. Adeng's family can now afford to send her to school!

Adeng's mother, Atong is very grateful. "Not one of us believed our child could go to school based on our situation. But upon receiving the goats, my situation changed," she says with a smile.



GIVE THE GREAT GIFT OF A GOAT

GREATGIFTS.ORG.AU

Breaking Ground for Training Facilities in Manila

Finding a permanent location was “a long-cherished vision” for the International Christian College of Manila (ICCM). Thanks to a new partnership venture with the Churches of Christ Project 7 church in the Philippines, the college is one step closer to its dream.

ICCM was renting facilities, causing uncertainty for the future of the college. Now, with a permanent location secured, they have hope that one day soon, it will host the new ICCM college facilities. The future facilities will also include a new church worship centre for the Project 7 church.

College leadership and church leaders jointly “broke ground” in

October during a simple ceremony. “On this ground will soon rise the permanent campus,” Pastor Gerwin from ICCM reported.

The groundbreaking ceremony formally marks the start of a new faith journey for the staff and the 70 students enrolled.

“Plans have been drawn up, and strategies formulated for proceeding with the building and the eventual transfer to the new campus,” Ricardo Garcia, ICCM President, reports.

This is great news for the college, and ICCM asks for prayer support as they navigate the next steps. They have faith in God’s ongoing provision.



“God’s work, done in God’s way, will never lack God’s provision,” Pastor Gerwin said.

The new location is a significant step forward for the college. It will help ensure ICCM can continue to develop faithful leaders into the future.



*New Look,
New Publication,
Same high-impact,
locally-led partnerships*

**We can’t wait to share something new for
Global Mission Partners...**

A new quarterly printed publication is coming in 2025 along with continuing monthly email news. Look out for these new ways of sharing news from February next year.

FOR THE LATEST FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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