

IN PARTNERSHIP

September 2024



Pipeline Provides Safe Water for 140 Families

Our partners, the Community Advancement Forum, work in isolated areas, so sending images can be challenging. This image is of Happy Hills Village, another village that received safe water, thanks to your support!

Faruk Para, a small village in the remote Bandarban Hills of Bangladesh, is home to 140 families. They collect their daily water from the spring in the southern part of the village. It is not safe to drink. The children suffer from waterborne diseases like diarrhea, cholera, dysentery and scabies.

However, there is nowhere else to get water.

The worst part is that even the dirty water is scarce when the spring water dries up. Year after year, families fight for survival. There's insufficient water to maintain good hygiene. This means even more people get sick. Ten people in the community also live with disabilities, putting their health and livelihoods at even greater risk.

Faruk Para's families wanted to provide their children with a better future. They dreamed of a life where they could collect water with ease. Where they didn't have to fight for survival and watch their children get sick from the dirty water. So, the community created a Water Development Committee.

In 2022, the committee approached our relief and development partner, the Community Advancement Forum (CAF). The committee had an idea

to install a 1.7km water pipeline to connect to a water reservoir and tank. But they needed help.

The pipe was to have six sub-points along the line so that the different families in the village could access water close to their doorsteps. CAF helped to make this dream a reality.

The installation was a success!

The new pipeline now provides fresh, clean and safe water to the 140 families, approximately 1264 people living in Faruk Para. Each household uses at least 200 litres daily for drinking, cooking, cleaning and bathing. They no longer need to walk to the southern point of the village, as there are now many water points to access water using the pipeline.

Children are no longer getting sick from the contaminated water and the unhygienic conditions. They can now spend more time at school because they are healthy! The parents can now devote time to household activities, providing hygienic and safer homes. And they can spend time earning additional income rather than just struggling for survival.

The Faruk Para Water Development Committee is serious about initiating

activities in the village and protecting the village's water supply and pipeline.

Vana Bawm, CAF Project Manager, shared, "The committee is active and oversees water management. There is a guideline for the water users about do's and don'ts." Each household also pays a small annual contribution to help maintain the pipeline. If they don't pay, there is a fee. Everyone is motivated to take ownership.

With the community so involved in the project, it's no surprise they're planning for the future. They hope to increase their water supply by installing a larger tank. This will help continue to provide for the needs of growing families.

The families of Faruk Para are delighted to have the pipeline installed and expressed their gratitude to CAF and those who support Safe Water September.



Bangladesh Community Sustainability Project – Community Advancement Forum (CAF) is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

News & Events

Safe Water September

Over 316 individuals and 46 teams have signed up to drink only water in September. This is to raise funds for safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Vanuatu. Donate to Safe Water September today to help people living in poverty have a better future with access to safe water. Find out more, watch videos and donate online at www.safewaterseptember.org.au

BJ and Chipu Mpfu are visiting Australia this November

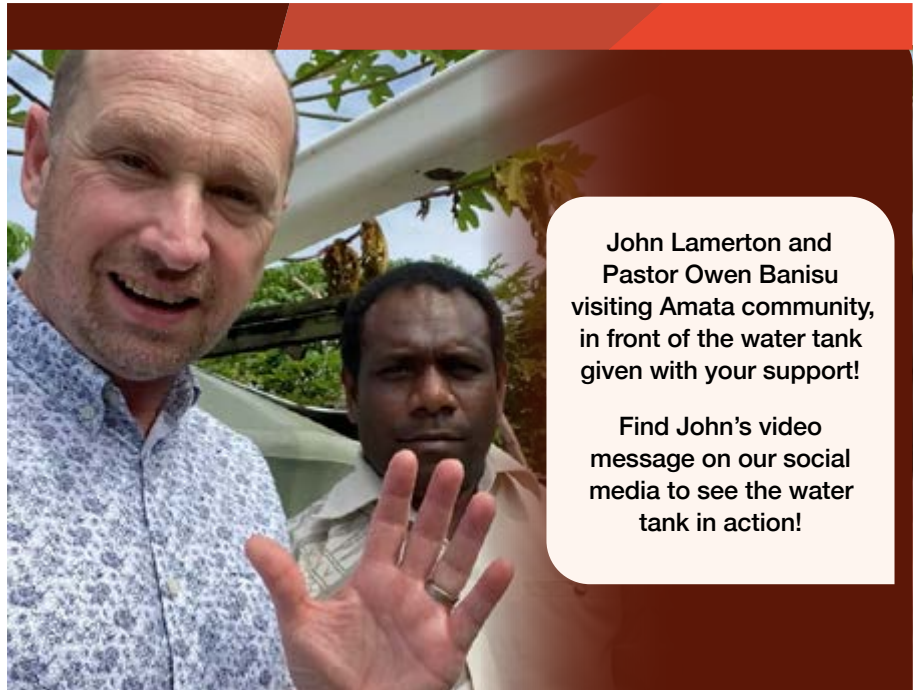


Global Mission Partners are hosting BJ and Chipu in Australia from November 8th–24th to share about these unique ministries and how God’s love is transforming communities with his many friends and supporters in Australia. BJ Mpfu has seen the gospel arrive in rural communities by motorbike countless times over the 30 years he’s been a key leader in the Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe.

To find out when BJ will visit a church near you, please contact:

Carly Cassidy,
National Church
Relationships Manager,
carly@gmp.org.au

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



John Lamerton and Pastor Owen Banisu visiting Amata community, in front of the water tank given with your support!

Find John’s video message on our social media to see the water tank in action!

Testing the Water Tanks in Vanuatu

As Christians, we know the importance that Jesus placed on caring for the hungry and thirsty in our world (Matthew 25:31-46).

Last year, I travelled to Vanuatu to see the water tanks donated by the Safe Water September challenge and how they have impacted the communities there.

While some improvements have largely been made thanks to advancements in development, today, providing clean, drinkable water to vulnerable communities is still challenging. This is because the number of natural disasters, often droughts, is increasing, and man-made disasters, such as conflicts, are also on the rise, displacing populations and placing pressure on resources such as water.

Globally, 1 in 4 people do not have access to clean water today (ref. <https://ourworldindata.org/clean-water>).

The community in Amata, just outside of Santo, has exploded in population due to the volcanic eruption on Ambae in 2018. It is now a community of internally displaced people, refugees in their own nation, living humbly along the coastal shores. This local population growth

has increased the demand for the daily water needed for drinking and subsistence farming.

Thanks to those who donated to Safe Water September, many homes in Amata received a water tank in 2019. These thousand-litre water tanks harvest water off the roof gutters and are close to homes for easy access. Today, those tanks continue to provide safe water.

Safe Water September has begun again this year, and we continue to raise much-needed funds for clean water projects in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Vanuatu.

In Mark 9:41, Jesus shares, “Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.”

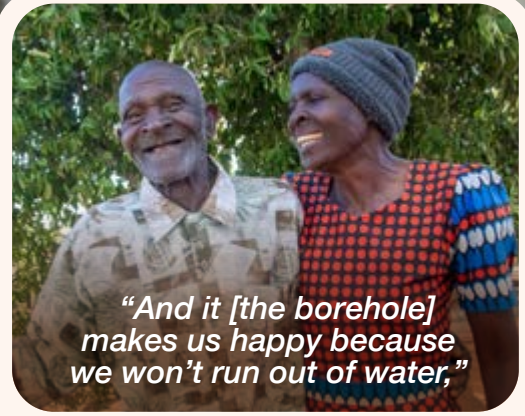
With this in mind, let us ask how many cups of water we might possibly give this Safe Water September simply because we belong to the Messiah.

In Faith,

John Lamerton,
Chief Executive Officer

SPOTLIGHT

Water is Now Within Reach



“And it [the borehole] makes us happy because we won’t run out of water,”

Otilea and her father, Samson, are happy that water is now within reach.

In Zimbabwe, women walk long distances to find the cleanest water they can use, but it’s still dirty, taken from local rivers or hand-dug wells. This is common when villages in Zimbabwe do not have a borehole.

Walking to collect water is an exhausting journey that Otilea and her friends must undertake. “It’s left to the woman who is [already] overwhelmed by other things,” Otilea explains. She has known all her life that this is a task for women and girls. “It doesn’t matter how far the water source is; she [woman] will strive to get there to fetch it,” she says.

Fetching water is a challenging task, even when accompanied by friends. Women dedicate most of their time to collecting water, often putting themselves at risk. Even children (both boys and girls) will sacrifice their education and school attendance to assist their mothers. It is essential for survival.

Women take pride in collecting water for their families. However, Otilea mentions that if the women complain, the men goad them and tell them to “stop complaining” about the distance they walk. It is the woman’s duty and joy as wives to take care of the household. Which includes fetching water for drinking, bathing and chores.

Gender expectations are clearly defined. A man does not usually take the journey to fetch water unless their wife is sick, they

are helping an elderly parent, or they may not be married. Otilea knows that the long journey is not something people look forward to do. “When something is out of reach, no one wants to take it on,” Otilea explains.

Showers of Blessing installed a borehole in Otilea’s village. With safe water now in the village, she noticed big changes in her community.

Firstly, she noticed they were drinking clean water! Having the water close by reduced physical strain and exhaustion for the women. Health, livelihoods, and education improved, and gardens were established.

After installing the borehole, the men became interested in helping and started to collect water. “We’ve noticed a change, as our husbands now offer to fetch water for us,” Otilea said happily.

Samson, Otilea’s father, is thankful for the borehole, “We were relieved when you did this for us, so that we could access water close to our homes,” he said. Samson, who is 102 years old, relies on his children to collect water for him. He is now advocating that other villages near him get a borehole.

The challenge of obtaining water has been overcome. Collecting water is now easy, the water is ‘no longer out of reach’. With a borehole in the village, everyone can put more time into other activities.

“These days, they [men] are running around with wheelbarrows and carts”. Otilea said that the men enjoy transporting the water to maintain their new community gardens and can give extra water to the animals.

“And it [the borehole] makes us happy because we won’t run out of water,” she shared.

Because of the reduced time to collect water, family relations have improved. There is a relaxed atmosphere in the village because the women now have more time to spend with their families and everyone can build stronger relationships with each other.

Otilea finds immense joy in witnessing the positive change in her community. Safe water close to home has started to restore everyone’s quality of life, happiness, and well-being.

Water should be in reach for everyone. You can help end the daily struggle of women like Otilea. Donate to Safe Water September today at www.safewaterseptember.org.au



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

God Answers Radhika

Father's Day



Radhika's father walked out on her mother when she was born. "He denied I was his daughter," she said. Growing up, she longed for a father figure, "My father is there, but he is not connecting with us," she shared.

Radhika attended church, but when her sister-in-law passed away, she stopped. Overwhelmed by the grief in her life, Radhika decided it was not a place she wanted to go.

When Radhika became sick, she returned to church. The pastor's prayers comforted her. Radhika then

chose once and for all, "I will live a Christian life." The pastor helped her remove the idols from her house and prayed with her.

Lomowai Church, a partner of Global Mission Partners, became Radhika's church. It was a positive community where she could belong and grow as a Christian. Most of all, Radhika experienced the unconditional love of God as her father.

God has answered Radhika's prayers in small and big ways. Showing her that he cares for her.

It took 32 years, but Radhika's father returned to her. "He had no relationship with us. But he came back to us! All these years, I was waiting, waiting, and I was praying." She could not believe it!

Radhika's father continues to contact his daughter. He helped her celebrate her birthday. "He sent money for cake and clothes." Radhika says, "God answered my prayers."

God is an Almighty Father in Heaven who will always care for you as his child. He is a father to the fatherless and will adopt you as his own.

Wading through the Challenges in Papua New Guinea

Ministry in Papua New Guinea (PNG) has unique challenges and highlights. You might remember seeing landslides on the news in PNG earlier this year. Heavy rainfalls caused these during March. Thankfully, our partners were not directly impacted. However, Alois from the Melanesian Evangelical Church of Christ (MECOC) Conference in PNG recently shared how challenges, like the weather, can interfere with ministry.

MECOC is committed to church planting and leadership training in three main districts. Many of the churches they plant are in remote areas where the focus has been on people's growth and spiritual development. Alois says, "With the word of God, the health and education development of our communities has been successful." Despite the good reports, the reality of ministry work in remote areas is a constant challenge.

The weather has affected MECOC's ministry. Some churches near rivers have reported heavy rainfall interrupting their usual programs. When the rivers flooded in March, the churches were left waiting for government assistance and disaster relief support. It has been difficult for them to receive emergency support if the flooding has cut off access to their village.

Communication where our partners work is another challenge they face. Due to old, reconditioned VHF radios, they use solar power, but that is intermittent. MECOC has no reliable source of direct communication with local churches and district conference leaders.

The ministry in PNG faces difficulties, but the dedication and resilience of the community and its pastors continue to impact the lives of the people in the region positively.

For example, four churches have been planted in a new ethnic group that MECOC had never reached before, which is a testament to their resilience.

Other news comes from the Middle Ramu District, which is progressing well through church planting and baptising new Christians in the provinces of Enga and Jiwaka. The Gandep Bible College has opened again, with Pastor Steven Yamok as the Principal. The diploma program is in progress to help rebuild the college administrative system.

Your support is invaluable, and your prayers are a source of strength in difficult places like PNG. Since the first Churches of Christ missionaries planted tiny seeds for the future, more than 100 national pastors now share the task of evangelism and church planting in PNG. Your continued support and prayers are integral to this work.