

# IN PARTNERSHIP

November 2024



  
**GREAT GIFTS**  
CATALOGUE 2024-25



**THE GREAT GIFT OF  
ADULT LITERACY TRAINING**

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR LITERACY!

Shanta sat in her home, listening to the children singing and learning English in the small tin shed next door. Her son, Vicky, was among the first students to attend the Emmanuel Children's Centre, a project by Hosanna Ministries.

Shanta donated some of her family land for the centre's construction. She had never attended school, and so as she listened to the children learning, she wondered what it might be like if she were to learn to read and write.

Vicky and his two sisters enjoyed attending the activities. Vicky was interested in drawing and even earned first prize for his art! "I got school supplies—bags and stationery plus one meal a day," Vicky said.

Shanta could not provide these things for her children. The family always struggled to earn an income. Her husband, Harish, was fighting poor health and Tuberculosis, addictions, and eventually unemployment.

With the Emmanuel Children's Centre so close to her home, one day, Hosanna Ministries gave Shanta the opportunity to enrol in one of their adult classes. Hosanna Ministries also provides vocational training for adults

in tailoring and computers, and basic literacy courses.

Shanta had always wanted to learn to sew. With time, she completed a tailoring course and literacy training, which has helped close the gap in the education she missed as a child.

Shanta can now recognise the English alphabet and numbers. They are no longer confusing. "I needed to learn to understand them for sewing," she said. Shanta stood in her doorway with a big smile and showed us a skirt that she made.

Unfortunately, Shanta's son, Vicky, did not complete his schooling. However, the support he received from the Emmanuel Children's Centre helped him make good life decisions.

For the past six years, Vicky has tried several jobs, like packing jeans in a factory and housekeeping. He has recently started a business recycling and selling donated clothing. Vicky earns a small monthly income, but his mother says, "It is not enough," especially since her husband isn't working.



**SHANTA SEWING WITH  
HER NEW SKILLS!**

With the help of our partners, Hosanna Ministries, Shanta is now using her new literacy and tailoring skills to earn a small income and contribute to household expenses.

Hosanna Ministries is committed to providing ongoing opportunities for vulnerable children and adults to receive education in one of the poorest communities in metropolitan Mumbai. The Emmanuel Children's Centre continues to provide education and care for children in Shanta's community.

When you give the Great Gift of Adult Literacy you are supporting our partners in India to support people like Shanta and Vicky.

**Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.**

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## News & Events



### BJ and Chipu Mpofu Australian Speaking Tour

BJ and Chipu are visiting Australia this November. Connect with them at one of our supporter events, or sharing during church services in the following cities in November:

#### Perth:

##### Supporter Event:

Saturday 9th,  
2.30pm-4pm,  
Subi Church,  
Subiaco

Scan the QR code  
for more or to RSVP



Sunday 10th, 10 am  
True North Church (Merriwa)

Sunday 10th, 6 pm  
Bassendean Church of Christ

#### Sydney:

Wednesday 13th to  
Friday 15th,  
BJ will attend the  
NSW/ACT Collective

#### Melbourne:

##### Supporter Event:

Sunday 17th, 2 pm  
One. Church  
Scan the QR code  
for more or to RSVP



Sunday 17th, 10 am  
One. Church

#### Adelaide:

##### Supporter Event:

Saturday 23rd,  
10am  
Brooklyn Park  
Church of Christ  
Scan the QR code  
for more or to RSVP



Sunday, Nov 24,  
9 am & 10:45 am.  
Elizabeth Church of Christ

## GREAT GIFTS

CATALOGUE 2024-25

**FOR THE  
NATURE  
LOVER...**

**MANGO TREES**

**\$52**

**NUTRITION GARDEN**

**BEEKEEPING**

## GREAT GIFT BUNDLES!

You can make an even greater impact this Christmas with Great Gift Bundles. Look in the catalogue or website for the popular gifts we have bundled together for your loved ones. Imagine the good these will bring to the world!

There is a bundle for the mission-minded that gives local-language Bibles and theological training and supports motorbike evangelists. A bundle for animal lovers, including a chick, cow and goat!

A bundle for the nature lover in your life could transform life for a family like the Jere's.

The Jere family was deeply unhappy. They constantly faced food insecurity and financial instability in Zimbabwe.

"We had challenges getting enough food for the household despite ploughing a large area. We harvested maize grain, which was not adequate to take us through to the next season," said Mr Ernest Jere.

Our partner, Christian Care, empowered the family to grow their own Nutrition Garden. The Jere household received 5kg of maize seed, sorghum seed, and 5 litres of

foliar fertiliser. They were also taught about conservation farming and small livestock production.

All of this helped them increase their crop yields. "I never used to follow conservation farming principles," Ernest explained. Since receiving the training from Christian Care, Ernest has adhered to all the principles.

Thanks to a generous giver's Great Gift of a Nutrition Garden, the Jere's have enough to feed their family and some extra from their harvests to sell and support their livelihood.

When you give the Nature Lovers Great Gift bundle, you provide a nutrition garden plus the gifts of mango trees and beekeeping. This gift bundle goes even further, working for the greater good!

Buy a Great Gift Bundle today at [www.greatgifts.org.au](http://www.greatgifts.org.au)



*Christian Care's Conservation Farming Project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). It is funded and implemented in partnership with Act For Peace.*



## Partnering Well



John Lamerton,  
Chief Executive  
Officer

Many years ago, a small Church on the Northern Beaches in Sydney asked me to help advise them on their mission support and programs.

After a number of meetings with the senior leaders, listening to the church's interests and explaining the various possible projects they could support, they invited me to present four options to their Elders to consider. The brief for the "pitch night" was to share three overseas projects and one option among Indigenous people in Australia.

I weighed up the best options. I determined that this small church had financial resources, being in one of the wealthiest regions of Australia. Its members held senior roles in business and government so were well travelled and had exposure to global affairs. However, I also assessed they had low physical capacity due to the average age of the congregation.

To a room of about eight seasoned leaders, I shared options for them to support Christian discipleship work in the Pacific, human trafficking initiatives in Asia and child sponsorship projects in Africa. For each of these I asked for a three-year commitment. I also put forward an Indigenous option, but I explained that to build trusting relations, this would require a longer 10-year commitment. I was sure they would select one of the shorter-term overseas options.

Of course, when they called me a week later telling me that they'd opted for the Indigenous project I was genuinely surprised.

We agreed to take a small group of the leaders to the Northern Territory and introduce them to some of our friends and ministries there. On the trip, we met with a number of Christian organisations, churches and program leaders. One of those was an Indigenous Bible college in Darwin which had plans to expand their facilities to accommodate more students and also financial resources to achieve this. By God's providence alone, one of the church leaders in our group was a part-time architect and he sensed this was the project for them.

The Church applied themselves to a steep learning curve. They invited Indigenous Christian leaders to preach in their services, they hosted post-worship walks in their neighbouring national park to visit significant Indigenous sites and learn about the history of the area, and they read theology and Christian books written by Indigenous leaders.

Additionally, they sent a group each year to serve the Bible college in Darwin, providing volunteer labour to make repairs and improve the facilities. The part-time architect, part-time pastor, provided his professional services and helped design new dormitories and other facilities.

15 years later, that church continues to walk in partnership and provide support.

I share this story because this church demonstrated significant humility to learn about a culture and context they didn't know much about before. They utilised their strengths (relational, financial and skills) and adopted a longstanding posture of service to the partner.

As tempting as it may have been, they didn't accept a transactional approach (to send money and expect reports) and developed a genuine trusting friendship with the local leadership and their programs.

While the college in Darwin clearly benefited, the local church has also benefited through this engagement, providing experiences that deepen their members' relationships, discipleship and cultural learning around a shared mission and addressing a known injustice.

Hand-in-hand together, our partnerships facilitate the coming of God's Kingdom today.

I encourage all Churches of Christ in Australia to prayerfully consider how they might partner-well with our partners, either overseas or in Australia, or both!

# NANDA'S HEART FOR OTHERS...

Nanda's mother is a Christian, and her father is a Muslim. As a child, Nanda experienced both worlds. "Each week," she said, "sometimes I went to church, sometimes to mosque." Even with this exposure, she said, "I didn't know anything about church and ministry."

This is not unusual in Indonesia. Islam is the main religion, and Christianity represents only 11% of the population.

As part of Nanda's search to find a deeper faith, a friend recommended that she study at the Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia (CCTSI) "to be a better person."

While at Bible College, she grew in her faith and learned about ministry. She realised that her identity and life purpose are in Jesus. "Christ has redeemed me, so I might have a different life," she testified.

CCTSI is one of our international church partners. The college equips students with theological training and practical ministry skills, encouraging them to develop a vocation alongside ministry. This enables them to serve communities and build relationships while sharing the gospel.

Nanda shared, "I began to have a heart for children who couldn't get an education because they don't have financial support. Also, my heart was touched by elderly people who are afraid to live in old age and prepare for their death."

While studying, Nanda also gained a life motto: 'Being a home for the lost.' This motto became real to her as she ministered during her one-year practicum in Bali, where she worked with prisoners, those with mental illnesses, and young people desperately looking for someone to trust.

CCTSI arranges community placements for all ministry students as part of their education. The students live in communities to share the gospel and bless the locals. Supported by the college staff, they respond to the community's needs, forming relationships, running ministries, and even beginning missional businesses!

Though Nanda may have grown up unsure of her spirituality, she is now certain that she has God's love within her!

"God put something in my heart: love for others," she said.

When you give the Great Gift of a Student Pastor Placement, you enable students like Nanda to live in communities as examples of God's love. Nanda and many other students are passionate about sharing their faith with others. Your gift can bless a community with a Christian presence and support an emerging pastor in their theological education.

Nanda is grateful for the support of Australian individuals and supporters like you.



**"GOD PUT SOMETHING IN MY HEART: LOVE FOR OTHERS," SHE SAID.**

"I praise God that I'm not alone in this ministry through this partnership," she shared.

You can purchase a Great Gift like this and many others online at [www.greatgifts.org.au](http://www.greatgifts.org.au)



**THE GREAT GIFT OF A STUDENT PASTOR PLACEMENT**

**ORDER YOUR GREAT GIFTS ONLINE OR CALL 1800 467 222**

**ORDER YOUR GREAT GIFTS TODAY FOR CHRISTMAS!**

To receive gift cards in the mail in time for Christmas, please order your gifts before Sunday December 8th. Or order print-at-home gift cards!

**GREATGIFTS.ORG.AU**

