

# Newsletter



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# President's Report



*Bill Hodgson writes from Moravia the home of the Moravian revivalist movement*

Together we are working for transformation.

In the history of revivals around the world throughout time the gospel has not only brought about restoration of people's relationship with their creator but also their relationships with each other, within families, marriages, communities and even nations. Social changes have always followed personal and community changes.

Very famously, historians record that the revivals in Wales and Australia at the turn of the 20 century actually brought about a slow down in the mines and a wave of business bankruptcies. So many rough coal miners were getting saved and stopped cursing that the ponies pulling the loads in the coal mines couldn't understand what they were being commanded and took a while to relearn the more civil language employed. The bankruptcies were mainly pubs!

Missionaries have long been associated with social reforms and restoration of healthy communities through education, health care, advocacy for the voiceless and poor and training people in social enterprises. Even the early years of the Salvation Army were characterised by fearless gospel preaching on the one hand and bold social reform and strategies for community transformation on the other. The two went together.

Jesus command to his followers in the Lord's prayer, to pray, "Thy will, Father, be done on earth as it is in heaven" was itself a prayer for social, as well as personal life transformation. The will of the Father being lived out in families, communities, government and national life will always be revolutionarily transformative, as a glimpse of heaven on earth.

As we work through GAIN we are working in this pattern. Partnering with others across the Body of Christ and in communities we are working for transformation through the power of God and the grace of the gospel of Jesus. Thank you so much for being a partner with us in this mission.

May God lead us on in his power to reveal this restoration.

Blessings.

**Bill Hodgson**  
President, GAIN Australia



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## Global Aid Network

**The Global Aid Network (GAIN) exists to demonstrate the love of God to those who are hurt and in need, through word and deed around the world with relief and development projects. First established in Canada in 1998, GAIN has expanded to 9 different locations around the world, such as Australia in 2003, to provide the necessary resources to over 52 different countries in need.**

[www.globalaid.net.au](http://www.globalaid.net.au)

## CEO'S REPORT



***My prayer is that all of us will be contagious Christians in showing God's love to the poor and needy communities around the world.***

# A new year started with great harvest

2016 was a year of growth for GAIN, especially the second half of 2016. It was a busy period as we had organised three medical missions in India, Cambodia and the Philippines.

2017 – The new year started with a great harvest. We undertook a Philippines medical mission in the region of Tacloban and Eastern Samar in February. Therefore, between the last newsletter and this one, we had four medical missions which helped over 6930 patients medically in 15 villages in Philippines, 8 in Cambodia and 9 in India.

When I look back, I can see many thousands being helped by a faithful bunch of 51 Australians (including 2 from Switzerland) by setting apart their time and money to support and go overseas to be in a not-so-comfortable environment. This shows a great deal of sacrifice. On top of that, we had more than 130 faithful local missionaries, pastors, medical professionals and students from each country to help their countrymen who are less fortunate than us.

I see a new wave of compassion ministries growing to show the love of God in word and deed. I can say the fact that we were able to do all this with so little resources is only by the grace of God and the support of hundreds of prayer warriors constantly praying for these missions. Thankfully, our counterpart in each country, the CCC groups of missionaries were very diligent

in the follow-up of these people who needed help. In this way, any help we were able to give would continue to give lasting comfort, peace and direction in the lives of many.

As we progress through 2017, my prayer is that God will help us not to get tired or weary and to raise many more new people to join the team in various capacities. To this end, we will continue to pray as Jesus said in Mathew 9:38 "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field". May God bless you.

**Jiji Skariah**  
CEO, GAIN Australia



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ABN 60 289 594 664



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All community development projects and disaster relief/rebuilding projects partnering with GDG (Global Development Group) are tax deductible.  
The tax deductible projects through GDG are as follows:  
J822 - Bihar Development Project (Solar Power)  
J897N - Water for Life Initiative – Benin  
J871R - Nepal Earthquake disaster relief Project  
J110.1 - GAIN International Projects (General)





## What's been happening in GAIN

### As a Supporter, what can you do for us?

- We need you to pray for us.
- We need you to tell your friends about us, and our activities.
- We need you to share about us at your church.
- Tell us if you know of people in other towns and states who would be able to be part of a network.
- Unashamedly, we need your financial support if you are in the position to help us.
- We are looking for people to partner with us so that we will one day have our own GAIN Australia & Power to Change office (property) in Sydney.
- You can be a GAIN Ambassador.

The year 2016 has passed so quickly, GAIN Australia Office has been busy with lots of work. We currently have some 12 people working in the office. Our volunteers are busy running the day-to-day affairs at the office, helping with preparations for Medical Missions and projects, organising exhibits at Mission Expos, presentations for Church missions, running BBQs, etc. One of our staff is based in Melbourne and networks and targets supporters from the Power to Change offices in Mulgrave.

On the more administrative side of things, we run Team Meetings every Wednesday. Team building training are also held. This has led to intentional forward planning and business improvement initiatives.

Jenny Haines manage the work in getting the Board meetings and AGM and other administration relating to Power to Change.

Our project managers Leo Kalinisan and Stanley Thomas plan and manage Medical Mission and the search for a permanent home (proposed property acquisition) for GAIN.

Helen Kalinisan and Alice Idiculas have been cleaning up our database and updating the D-Tracker system. They have done a tremendous job.

Divya Jayan has been managing our website and giving IT related help.

Bee Bee Koh has been a great help doing our accounting work. Peter Rhee shares the accounting work while Bee Bee is away.

Ivo Rodrigues and Sarojini Korale are busy helping with the office administration duties, hospitality and keeping the supplies replenished; and the office safe, secure and tidy.

Liza Mathew has been involved in marketing and organising the 'Call Centre'.

Melanie Bodo our GAIN staff in Melbourne is involved in the Water for Life initiative and spreading the word about GAIN.

We have been involved in several internal business improvement projects. Namely:

1. Creating an Office Management System,
2. Database Repair and maintenance,
3. Call-Centre Strategy,
4. IT Improvements TaskForce,
5. Property Acquisition (looking out for our own office building).

All our staff are happy to help each other to see that everything run smoothly. Birthdays and achievements are celebrated regularly.

We are in the process of planning for 2017 and beyond. We want to be able to intentionally visit and talk to churches and friends in the business world. Our hope is to extend beyond Sydney and be able to have active supporter networks in every major city in all the states of Australia.

A new development is that GAIN will become a "wholly-owned" subsidiary of Power to Change Australia. It is a good thing and we will be part of a bigger family and have more access to more professional, skilled and talented people, technology and services.

Jacob Idiculas  
COO, GAIN Australia

## Cambodia Medical Mission 2016

### Report

GAIN Medical Mission to Cambodia was held from 31st October to 13th November 2016. Thirteen 13 people came from Australia. We had 3 members from the GAIN office and 1 member from Power to Change. Six (6) members had previously been to Cambodia and Four (4) members were first-timers and have not participated in any missions of this sort!

We were assisted by 2 medical doctors, a dentist, an optometrist and 5 nurses. Other helpers included a dental student and about 15 Campus Crusade for Christ Cambodia (CCCC) student volunteers.

Jacob Idiculas was our Mission Team Leader and Roy Gardiner led the medical clinics on ground each day.

Joshua Chua from Carriers of Hope, Cambodia and Touch Borin, the National Director of Campus Crusade for Christ Cambodia were our local representatives. They did a sterling job of arranging the accommodation, transport and logistics. We were also helped on the ground by several GCM leaders and their wives.

It was good to meet and work with Joshua Chua. Joshua was a pioneer and an ex-GAIN staff working with Daniel Win in GAIN Sydney many years ago. His mother Dr Wong, (Dr Mrs Chua) from Malaysia was one of our volunteer doctors. She was a great inspiration and encouragement. We also had Dr Mai Lee from Sydney who was amazingly capable and tireless.

During the first week our GAIN Australia team were housed in a local Kampong Cham rural hotel and all meals were arranged at Joshua's Carriers of Hope mission house. This allowed for great camaraderie and friendship between our Australian team and the locals.

Debra a Korean Australian optometrist and her husband, Martin (Hong Kong Chinese Australian) were with us for the first week. We were able to see the tremendous work they are doing at the 'His Child' children & education ministry. They are in the course of building one of Cambodia's largest Christian school projects. They were of great encouragement to our team.

The mission field location for the first week was in the area of Kampong Cham, about 130 Km from the Capital city, Phnom Penh. There were 3 remote and rural locations.

During the 2nd week our mission field locations were in the general area of Battambang, 350 Km from Kg Cham. There were 2 remote and rural locations

All 5 locations were GCM work areas. It was good to work with our own Campus Crusade missionaries. Also, we were able to meet and invite some of our previous medical mission partners from the New Life Church to some of our activities and see them and our CCCC missionaries and GCM workers getting to know each other and working together. All indicated that they want to work together in future projects.

- Total Number of Medical patients: 511
- Total Number of Optometrist patients: 130
- Total Number of Dental patients: 45

An evangelistic luncheon was held in Kg Cham, organised by a couple who came to the Lord only 4 months earlier. The man's boss, a public servant who happens to be the Director of Cultural Affairs working for the Tbong Khmum provincial Governor attended the function with his wife and children and his entire staff.

Total Number of Medical patients

# 511

Total Number of Optometrist patients

# 130

Total Number of Dental patients

# 45

# Philippines Medical Mission 2016

Power to Change Students Ministry & Global Aid Network Joint Mission Trip

## Justin Chan

2016 Graduate – Teaching  
Melbourne University

From the 21st November to the 4th December 2016, we as an Australian GAIN team, partnered with GAIN Philippines and CCC Philippines to help further the reach of the Gospel to communities in Quezon City, Philippines.

The local GAIN team have been active in doing frequent medical missions around the country. However, this is the first time that university students from Power to Change Australia (formerly CCC Australia) have joined the mission.

For most of us in the Australian team, this was our first time doing a medical mission in the Philippines, so there were a lot of ‘unknowns’ for us.

On most days, our teams would set up a clinic at a local community ground, and bring patients through the 5 stations of registration, vital signs, counselling and prayer, medical and dental and pharmacy.

Members of the Australian team helped with crowd control and in guiding patients between the stations. Many of us in the team also had the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with local people. What I’ve loved about the people are their openness to listen and talk about the Gospel. God miraculously provided some local graduate doctors who so happened to find this mission online and made themselves available to serve alongside us. Many locals who came to our clinic were mothers and children. We saw an opportunity to engage with the kids while their parents were being treated. At first we struggled to find ideas and activities, but despite this and the language barrier, we were able to share the Gospel to the kids in a simple way. We helped them make ‘Gospel bracelets’, read Bible stories, and sang Christian songs. The children were very responsive and enjoyed spending time with the Australian team.

On one particular day we had the opportunity to do evangelism on the main campus at the University of the Philippines. Students here were very open, kind, and willing to talk about faith. On that day, we saw God lead several students to Christ – praise God! Also, some of us in the Australian team had never done campus outreach before, and it was great to see them courageously step out in faith, being empowered by God’s Spirit.

## My Testimony

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.” - Proverbs 3:5-6*

Right before this trip, I was finishing off my teaching course, and was really struggling with the direction for my future as I began the job-hunting process. Believe it or not, mission was not on my mind until long after the application deadlines for summer projects had passed. Nevertheless, my discipler encouraged me to apply for the Philippines Medical Mission anyway, and so I did.

At first, it honestly didn’t seem like this was meant to be. I left my old church at the beginning of the year and hadn’t connected with anyone from my new church. This made support-raising really difficult for me, since I was no longer in touch with my old church friends. This left me feeling disconnected and alone in this process.

Every day I would check my online fund-raising account, and every day it would read “\$0”, and every day I would simply say “God, I still trust you”. In the end, He provided – I met the target amount with \$5 extra! God had stretched my trust in Him so much already, but He wasn’t done with me yet.

After arriving in the country, we were first introduced to the lovely staff of CCC Philippines and then briefed about the day-to-day plan for our mission. We were told that on one of the days, we were going to visit a dumpsite in which a large community inhabited. The clinic would be set up at a local music school that provided music and hope to the kids who lived there. This came as a total surprise to me – I had no idea we would be visiting such a place! To me this place sounded like the cross-roads where all my passions (music, kids, teaching, helping developing countries) meet together.

I was so excited but at the same time anxious about what God would reveal to me that day or if He would break my heart for these people, so much so that I got quite emotional the night before. One of the Australian missionaries kindly sat me aside and helped me through my thinking. After a lengthy deep & meaningful chat, we came to the conclusion that I was struggling to entrust my future to God because I don’t fully desire in my heart to trust in the character, goodness, and promises He has for me. In fact, I discovered much of it came down to the fact that I was trying to prove to myself and my family that I could live independently from anyone and everyone and be successful in life (relating back to my job-hunting). I realised that the promises found in God’s Word were not just for the people around me, but also for myself so that I could rely and depend on Him in life and to fully welcome His guidance and control over the direction of my future, regardless of whether it will take a course to my liking or not.

When the day came, I was so inspired by the joy and hope God had given to these children. Their smiles were so

uplifting, and their energy contagious. I got to meet some of the music students from the school, who played some songs so we could worship together! These children were rich in spirit and blessed by God, and it was a blessing just to be there and see how much transformation God’s love has made to this community.

The day went by so fast, and coming away from that day, I certainly felt a greater sense of where God is calling me to in the future. In that moment there was no feeling of anxiety or worry, but rather a feeling that the desires of my heart were aligning to God’s, and that He will give me the desires of my heart.

Now that I’m back home from this incredible trip, I believe my trust in God is continually being stretched. As I resumed my job-searching, my concern had shifted from finding the most stable or financially secure job, to finding the job where I could make the most of the passions and ‘talents’ God has given me. I’ve learnt that by worrying, I cannot add an extra day to my life, but that my priority is to learn and know more and more about God’s character, to align myself with His character, and to trust in His character, even in the most unlikely situations.



## Ivy Yuan

International Student  
2016 Graduate – Journalism  
Monash University, Melbourne

In my final semester last year, I chose to go on the Philippines Medical Mission with GAIN. This was the first time that I would take part in a mission trip. I would like to describe it as a journey which is full of God’s grace and love, including the support raising process before the start of the trip, during which many people gave me encouragement, either financially or through prayer. During the 13-day medical mission, God used this to strengthen me in my faith and gave me a new view of evangelism and how to be a missionary.

The experience of this mission trip reminded me that God is the Creator of everything and everyone, including my family, my friends and the people I have relationships with in the present, past and in the future. God has put the people around me because He wants them to know about Him and hear the gospel. During the trip, many people shared their testimonies with me. I remember when a local missionary shared their personal experience about how God changed her family and right now all of her family members are followers of Jesus. God may have been using this encouraging story to tell me how to share the gospel with my families and friends and pray for them. In every aspect, this mission trip has transformed how I look at my life.

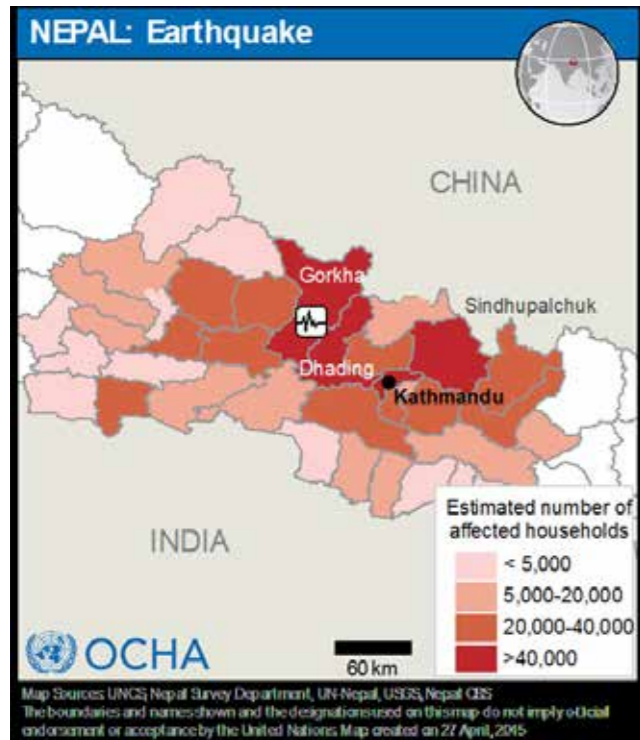
When I look back, the first day of the mission was quite challenging, but also amazing because I got a chance to share my personal testimony several times with local students. In the beginning, I felt a little bit uncomfortable when I shared my experience. But later, when I realised that I belong to God, I had no fear of the rejections of others, because He loves me. I used this opportunity to remind myself of who am I — “I once was lost, but now am found.” Sharing my personal salvation testimony helped me understand how I see myself, the strengths He has given me and my weaknesses.

Most of the time, I worked in the children ministry and helped the pharmacy section and counselling station sometimes. I enjoyed the time staying with the local kids, making bracelets for them and telling them the story about Jesus and how He loves us. Also, when I was in the counselling station, I often thought of the meaning of evangelism. It is not just about leading someone to become a Christian, but how to let the Holy Spirit flow into people’s hearts, open their eyes and let them truly know God’s majesty and love. And evangelism is not talking about ourselves and how many people we won, but is about pointing people to Jesus Christ, it is all about Him.

I would like to invite you to keep praying for the Filipino people; that God would continue to work in their hearts, minds and souls. Please pray that the children of God would continue to share His love and His Grace with others.



# How GAIN responded to the Nepal earthquake



GAIN responded to world humanitarian disasters in places like Haiti, the Philippines, Vanuatu and to Nepal. In some places GAIN Australia may not be able to get there themselves but does its part by raising the money for it. In some places, our partner response teams get there themselves.

GAIN Worldwide has a DART unit. In order to enhance the efforts of GAIN to meet the needs of people affected by those types of emergencies, the concept of a Disaster Assistance and Response Team (DART) has been developed. It is supposed to complement the regular work of GAIN by providing quick and flexible professional help in disaster areas with trained volunteers.

On April 25, 2015 at 11:56 local time, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, with the epicenter in Lamjung District (north-west) of Kathmandu and south of the China border. This event and dozens of aftershocks killed more than 8,000 and displaced 1.3 million people. Then, on May 12, another 7.3 magnitude earthquake wreaked further havoc just 76 km northeast of Kathmandu.

Global Aid Network (GAIN) immediately sent a crisis assessment team to survey the existing crisis conditions and complete a situational analysis of needs, resources, and personnel. Our focus was to evaluate how we can support and assist the 320 Campus Crusade National staff in their relief efforts on behalf of the Nepalese people impacted.

GAIN USA and Nepal Campus Crusade for Christ was to serve victims of the earthquake who would otherwise be neglected. They targeted victims reside in the tough places of Nepal—tough to get there and tough to live in. Moreover, the work work and followup were already being done those smaller, more isolated communities.

Nepal CCC, through its 120 field staff and 200 GCM leaders, had already developed relationships in these communities. People living in these mountain villages experience greater suffering because, even before the earthquake, the roads are primitive and poorly maintained. Now, with the earthquake those roads were severely damaged. GAIN understood that humanitarian aid will only reach these communities last, if at all.

Global Aid Network, in partnership with Nepal Campus Crusade for Christ, responded to the crisis with a three-phase project plan which focused on Phase 1. Emergency, Phase 2. Stabilization and Phase 3. Reconstruction. Based upon capacity available at the time, the decision was made to resource 1,000 families in phase one and two. In the third phase, to help 50 families rebuild their permanent homes. This plan provided the capacity to scale this project as additional resources (funds, supplies, and personnel) became available.

The Phase 1 provided water filtration kit for 1500 families, Staple food consisting of rice, noodles, oil, lentils, salt and sugar. Tarps were provided for 1000 families, 2 off road trucks with fuel and maintenance were made available.

In Phase 2, tents were provided for 1000 families, 3000



blankets and 5000 pairs of shoes. Hygiene supplies and disposable medical supplies were provided. 2 30ft. containers and storage and staging areas were provided.

And in Phase 3, 50 homes were rebuilt, school supplies for 1000 families were provided.

In the last year, GAIN resources from all other national organisations that make up GAIN Worldwide provided their resources. GAIN USA were helped on ground by GAIN Korea and others from Europe.

### The Impact:

The Nepal Campus Crusade for Christ staff numbers more than 100, with another 200 Campus Crusade for Christ International workers (mostly from neighbouring India serving alongside them. While other organizations, both Christian and secular, are sending tons of humanitarian assistance, none of which have the ability to combine practical help with spiritual guidance.

We give assistance to all, without conditions or reservations, fulfilling the Great Commandment as our Lord taught us. Experience has shown us, however, when we extend kindness to those in need, we discover abundant opportunities to share the good news with people who would otherwise be afraid or unwilling to hear it.

## Power to Change celebrates 50 years of ministry in Australia

GAIN is the humanitarian arm of Power to Change (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ Australia). Campus Crusade for Christ in Australia started in 1967 with the involvement of the Sydney Anglican Diocese's lay evangelism ministry led by an Anglican clergyman, Reverend Geoff Fletcher. Geoff was the NSW General Secretary of the Church Mission Society (CMS). Geoff was engaged in the ministry of the Sydney Anglican Diocese's Department of Evangelism and was its Director. He had got in touch with Campus Crusade for Christ in the USA and worked in cooperation with them. As the situations arose and focus changed, Geoff had a broader vision for the work he was doing. Lay Institute for Evangelism ministry (LIFE ministries) was autonomous and later Campus Crusade for Christ Australia.

One of the first strategies begun in Australia was the university ministry, known as Student Life. Over the past 50 years we have been known by several names as an overall organisation and have had dozens of differently named field ministries.

The organisation grew and moved into other states and cities of Australia. Imagine the number of students that have passed through our door in the last 50 years. Imagine the number of leaders serving in various fields and professions!

Campus Crusade also grew from a student-Campus organisation into various other ministries like . Church Movements, Campus, Youth, Families, Global Aid, Film, etc. Several other ministries matured into other ministries and are thriving elsewhere.

Power to Change Australia together with GAIN Australia will organise an event to celebrate its 50th Anniversary in Sydney on Saturday, 14th of October this year. You are invited. Please save the date and join us with your family and friends.

As part of this GAIN family, will you pray with us for this event? We want to celebrate 50 years of the Lord's goodness for His blessings, protection, provision and guidance. We thank God for the early pioneers. The thousands of people who have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord. We pray and thank God for what we have become today and the people serving with us today. We pray for his leading and vision for the future.

Will you tell as many people to come out and be part of it? We owe it to the pioneers who have served us and gone to be with the Lord!

Will you write to us about your involvement with Life Ministries / Campus Crusade for Christ and any story you can share. Please also note this is a year-long affair and if you want to help in any way, please let us know.





# Is “Helping” a feel-good thing?

Time, money or expertise – whether you have a little or a lot to offer, anyone can help change people’s lives. You can be a Game-changer!

Altruism is when we act to promote someone else’s welfare, even at a risk or cost to ourselves. Though some believe that humans are fundamentally self-interested, recent research suggests otherwise: Studies have found that people’s first impulse is to cooperate rather than compete; that even little children spontaneously help people in need out of a genuine concern for their welfare; and that even some animals (particularly, non-human primates) display altruism.

Scientists speculate that altruism has such deep roots in human nature because helping and cooperation promote the survival of our species. Indeed, Darwin himself argued that altruism, which he called “sympathy” or “benevolence,” is “an essential part of the social instincts.” Darwin’s claim is supported by recent neuroscience studies, which have shown that when people behave altruistically, their brains activate in regions that signal pleasure and reward, similar to when they eat chocolate!

Studies show that kids behave altruistically even before they’ve learned to talk. But too often, we don’t act on our propensities for kindness as we get older.

Here are some specific, science-based activities you can do to cultivating altruism.

- Random acts of kindness: How to feel happier by doing things for others.
- Feeling Connected: A writing exercise to foster connection and kindness.
- Put a human face on suffering: When reading the news, look for profiles of specific individuals and try to imagine what their lives have been like.
- Eliciting altruism: Create reminders of connectedness.

## **There are some broader ways to nurture our own altruistic instincts—and help motivate altruism in others.**

- Get connected: Feeling connected to other people—even by just reading words like “community” and “relationship”—makes us more altruistic. Reminders of connection can be very subtle: In one study, when toddlers simply saw two dolls facing each other in the background of a photo, they were three times more likely to be helpful than when they saw the dolls in other poses.
- Get personal: We’re more altruistic when we see people as individuals, not abstract statistics. So if you want to encourage aid to people in need, give their problem a human face. By the

same token, people respond more altruistically when they feel personally responsible for a problem: Bystanders to a crisis are much more likely to respond if singled out individually—“Hey, you in the striped shirt, can you help me?”—than if they hear a general appeal for help.

- See yourself in others: In general, people are much more likely to help members of their own group—but research has shown that who we think belongs to our “in-group” can be very malleable. Finding a thread of similarity with someone else—even something as simple as liking the same sport or sports team—can motivate altruistic action toward that person, in some cases overcoming group rivalries in the midst of conflict.
- Give thanks: Grateful people are more generous, perhaps because they’re paying forward the gifts they appreciate receiving from others. Receiving gratitude can also encourage altruism—for instance, when a waiter writes “thank you” on a restaurant bill his or her tip goes up beyond the normal.
- Lead by example: People who consistently display altruism encourage others to follow suit. Simply reading about extraordinary acts of kindness makes people more generous, perhaps because they experience the warm, uplifting feeling psychologists call “elevation,” which we get when we see unexpected acts of goodness. This is an especially important tip if you’re caring for kids: Research suggests altruistic children have parents or other caregivers who deliberately model helpful behavior or stress altruistic values.
- Put people in a good mood: Feeling happy makes people more generous. And because being generous seems to make people happy, researcher Lara Aknin sees a “positive feedback loop” to altruism that might benefit charitable organizations: “Reminding donors of earlier donations could make them happy, and experiencing happiness might lead to making a generous gift.” Organisations solicit donations during the happy times of the year. That is why you get a reminder or a request or a letter at Christmas and Easter!
- Encourage collaboration and emphasize shared goals: When kids have to work together on a task, they’re much more likely to share the fruits of their efforts evenly. When students participate in “cooperative learning” exercises in small groups, they’re more likely to show kindness toward their classmates in general.

**Acknowledge giving—but not with rewards: People are more likely to be altruistic when others will know of their good deeds, perhaps because they assume their kindness will be reciprocated down the line. But too much acknowledgment can backfire:**



## **Young kids who receive material rewards for kindness become less likely to help in the future.**

- Get time on your side: In seminal studies by Daniel Batson and John Darley, when people saw someone slumped on a sidewalk, their decision to help depended on a single factor: whether they were late to an appointment. They were altruistic only when they felt like they had the time to be—which offers important lessons for our increasingly busy culture: slow down, don’t over-schedule, and make time to be mindfully aware of your surroundings.
- Help build a supportive community: One study found that neighborhoods with more support structures for kids, like extracurricular activities and religious institutions, had teens who were more altruistic. The amount of wealth in their neighborhood wasn’t a factor. This suggests volunteering doesn’t just make you feel good—it also helps build a more altruistic community.
- Fight inequality: Studies suggest that when people feel an inflated sense of status, they become less generous. Perhaps that’s why wealthier people in Australia give a lower percentage of their income to charity, especially when they live in neighborhoods with a high proportion of other wealthy people. But when high-status people are made to feel a compassionate connection to others, or feel their status dip, they become more generous.

**This does not mean that humans are more altruistic than selfish; instead, evidence suggests we have deeply ingrained tendencies to act in either direction. Our challenge lies in finding ways to evoke the better angels of our nature.**

So, what makes the difference? What drives us? Speaking to a ‘colleague’ (a peer) recently from another humanitarian organization recently, she said faith-based organisations tend to have a better network of people who are driven by God’s love to want to help others and they have the advantage of co-believers supporting it. Is she right?

Yes, she is right. Sadly the dearth of Christian endeavour amongst us makes us feel that lots of good are already being done by others. We need to stop and evaluate as to what we can do to help those Christian organisations. Sometimes we cannot go ourselves, but we can send someone else. Sometimes we do not have the means to support financially but we can encourage someone else to give. Sometimes we cannot volunteer but we can ask someone to help. Altruism includes using our God-given mind, sense and creativity to encourage someone else to help!

Yes, true, we are driven by our love for God, who is the creator of the world, the sustainer, the protector and the guide of you and me. God is not interested in our ability, he is simply interested in our availability. This article is taken from various sources – Original authors acknowledged.

Christians believe we are saved by grace and not by our good works. We are justified by faith alone and not by works. Simply put we happened to be saved to do good works, not the other way around! Therefore, there are a few things we can do almost simply:

## **Pray**

Join our Prayer Supporters who are praying for GAIN Australia.

## **Volunteering**

Join our little army of volunteers who are positively impacting the lives of thousands of people in parts of South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific every year.

## **Fundraise for Us**

There are many ways you can raise funds for us – feel free to be creative.

## **Appeals**

Donate to our appeals, and help change the lives of thousands of Australians.

## **Be a Game-changer**

Time, money, physical strength or expertise – whether you have a little or a lot to offer, anyone can help change people’s lives.





# More than clean water in Benin

By Melanie Bodo – Water for Life Partnership Coordinator

The team and I were a little worried when we arrived in the village of Agbotokpa and saw that our water well no longer had a pump on it and appeared to be neglected. Before we got the chance to start questioning the villagers, the local church pastor approached us and explained what had happened to the water pump. He took us to visit their new water source and was very proud to show us what they had built - a water tower. They had used the bore hole GAIN provided to them to source the clean water and instead of pumping the water by hand, this was now done through an electric pump. The church pastor is a qualified mechanic and had hooked up a corn mill to the water source to obtain safe drinking water from the GAIN bore well. It was amazing to see the creativity used to improve the processes in this village. This water tower is now a very busy place with 1,400 people relying on it for safe drinking water.

The pastor was very thankful for GAIN's evangelism efforts in his village also, where 184 people attended the Jesus Film

screening. The local church grew from 80 members, to 150 people attending after GAIN's work in the village. The church continues to grow and now has 250 people attending services. God is changing lives in these villages and He is being glorified in the process.

In September I had the opportunity to visit the Water for Life Initiative in Benin, West Africa. It was so amazing to see the life-transforming impact of our projects, as it helped me to understand the struggles of the people that benefit from our projects and how important it is that our work in these villages continues. It was also a great opportunity to meet the GAIN Canada and Benin staff. They are such lovely and welcoming people who have a real heart for the poor and the lost and I had a great time getting to know them all. We were also able to discuss the opportunity of taking 'LIFE Teams' of Australian participants to visit the projects in the future. It's very exciting



to think that this project could soon be benefiting Aussies too through a life-changing visit to Africa.

While in Benin, I was also able to visit the first Australian-funded water well as part of the Water for Life Initiative. It was such a blessing to see the difference that the water source has made and will continue to make in the village of Podji Les Monts. The well had only just been installed, as it was drilled on 20th August 2016 and is 30 meters deep. The villagers took us for a walk to see the dirty and diseased water that they used to collect from swamps and hand dug wells and they were so pleased that GAIN had now provided them with clean water.

This well was funded by Sanctuary Life Ministries and we are so grateful for their donation and the impact it has had in the lives of many. In this village, 9 people were trained to take care of the operations of the well and 72 attended sanitation and hygiene training. Along with the provision of the well, 440 people attended the Jesus Film screening and various other outreach events took place resulting in 53 people making decisions to follow Christ. A nearby church then followed up with the new Christians and a church group was then established in the village of Podji Les Monts on 30th September 2016.

After seeing the results of our first project in Benin, we are excited to see the real physical and spiritual impact that this project will continue to have in the lives of many living without clean water.

Please contact [waterforlife@globalaid.net.au](mailto:waterforlife@globalaid.net.au) if you would like to request a speaker to visit your church or to learn more.

## Our dream - Our own GAIN Australia Office building

Our current offices are situated in the premises of a church here in North Parramatta. GAIN's Sydney office is responsible for its operations in Australia; and it also couples up as the regional office - for our operations in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Encouraged by our parent organisation **Power to Change Australia** we are in the course of looking to acquire an office building in Sydney. We are merely starting this venture with nothing - just with much prayer and hope to find a right location and a right building that we can call our own. Yes, it can be yours too! We all can be in it together!

Do you know of anyone who will bequeath for us to afford us our own place? We can attest to God's goodness that we are helping thousands of people to be treated physically and we are also seeing a great harvest for God kingdom. Also you can be assured that all who work with us are voluntary and missionaries raise their own private support.

We are interested in a location that is within 15 kilometres in radius of Parramatta/Epping, preferably in the North Western Sydney area close to major transport corridors. Perhaps a good plot of land or a land with a decent building on it. It will be a great blessing to share a "home" with our brothers and sisters in Power to Change.

Also, do you know of any other Christian organisation with similar interests that may want to invest in a project like this and join us? Please let us know.







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# Remembering Liza Mathews

By Jacob Idiculas

It saddens me to announce the untimely death of our beloved sister-in-Christ Liza Mathews. Liza died of complications arising from latter stage Cancer.

She leaves her husband Tiju, son Nathan (10yrs old); and her mother NiceAmma who has been here from Kerala, India since her hospitalization. She has a brother, Aji in Toronto, Canada and another brother in Mumbai, India.

Liza Mathews joined us last year and had gone through the motions of applying to be a Power to Change missionary. In GAiN she helped with marketing work, database, writing office procedures and was earmarked to set-up and start our GAiN 'call-centre' going. She was full of ideas and volunteered almost for everything anyone suggested. Even at last team meeting she attended, she volunteered to bring her "Biryani" dish for all to have at our year-end Christmas party. Sadly, she was unable to attend.

In her secular career she worked as a marketing executive in the banking sector.

She was such an enthusiastic person who had a bubbly personality that encouraged and lifted anyone who came into contact with her. Liza was a woman of faith who recognised that God did not give her the spirit of fear. She was a woman of faith who knew that God will give her the strength to cope for the battle with her illness. She always knew that nothing is too hard for God. No matter what she was going through she always looked happy. I am told even up to her last moments she was praising and thanking God and expectant of meeting her Lord.

She was special person, a special face, a special someone we cannot replace. Her death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal. She was such a special person. It was amazing the way she addressed both Jiji and I as "Jiji-Uncle" (Uncle Jiji) and "Jacob Uncle" (Uncle Jacob) the way many well brought-up young Kerala Indian men and women would do, in addressing or referring to someone their senior (ie.older) within their common sphere or social circle.



***We thank God for her life. She will always be remembered as a special friend and encourager.***

**Do keep a look out for our projects, videos and photos on our website and our GAiN Facebook page**

