



Wilson's Story

“I thought I was a nobody, now I know I’m a somebody!” – Wilson

Crouched over in the dirt, Wilson is surrounded by chickens. As Wilson goes about his work, there is no wiping the smile off his face. Those chickens changed his life.

Wilson was born and raised in a village in rural Zambia. But Wilson’s experience growing up was different to his peers.

“I was born with a disability on my hand and leg,” says Wilson. “I started school but was not able to write so I only went up to grade two.”

Wilson’s paralysis meant he could not hold a pencil to write. Without an education and with

barriers to working as a labourer, Wilson couldn’t find work. He felt like a burden on his family.

“I have always been called ‘chilema’, meaning the ‘paralytic’,” Wilson says. “Some people in my community, including some of my family members, thought I could only be a burden to those around me.”

It was hard for Wilson not to believe everything those around him were saying. He lived at home with his mother, grandmother and two younger siblings. He wanted to contribute to the household, but he didn’t know how.

Then ADRA began working in his area. With ADRA’s help, Wilson received five chickens and

CEO Message

ADRA has three values: connected, courageous and compassionate.



As ADRA Australia and ADRA New Zealand embark on our alliance, blending our two respective country offices into one focused team, I have been reflecting on what it means to be 'connected': connected

to each other, to our shared purpose, and to God.

What does it mean to be connected to our ADRA purpose? *To serve humanity so all may live as God intended.* Our ADRA purpose is inextricably linked to our life purpose.

Jesus' teachings tell us that our life purpose is defined as growing, serving, worshipping, connecting and sharing – all to extend the impact of God's kingdom here on earth! Jesus has called us to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40). He has also called us to go and spread the Good News with all the nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

What this looks like in practice is a life dedicated to and fuelled by our connection with God. In return, we get to experience fulfilment, significance and a hope-filled life!

When we hear the phrase 'being connected with God' a beautiful verse comes to mind. In John 15:5-7, Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

What an amazing promise. When we approach our day to day life in connection with God, we have His strength to do immeasurably more than we thought possible.

When we apply this promise to our ADRA purpose, it fills my heart with hope and joy to know that we are equipping ourselves to serve our neighbours and our God in the best way possible! And so it is my hope and prayer that this precious connection with God will be a reality for all of us.

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the necessary training to raise and breed them.

“I learned that I was supposed to feed my chickens every morning as they left the cage so that they are strong and healthy,” says Wilson. “I have been following all the things we were taught by ADRA on how to take care of chickens and they have multiplied – I have 50 chickens now!”

The chickens not only provided Wilson with a source of income, but they provided him with dignity and a sense of purpose. Now, Wilson is actively contributing to his household. He is helping to see his siblings through their schooling so they can have hope for a brighter future.

“I am supporting their education through the chickens,” Wilson says. “When anyone needs a school uniform or books, I just catch one chicken and sell in order to find money for what is needed. I couldn’t continue with school due to my disability, so I work to ensure my siblings can continue with their education.”

Wilson’s chickens are his pride and joy, and they have changed his life.

“I am very much respected here at home as a

result of this chicken project,” he says. “I am able to provide for the family and I am very much appreciated now compared to the way it used to be in the past. I am happy to be supporting the education of my siblings as a result of this chicken business.”

The support that Wilson received has transformed his life from one of hopelessness to hope. He is extremely grateful for the help he received and hopes that others like him may have the same opportunity too.

“I have been greatly helped as a result of these chickens,” Wilson says. “I am grateful to you for the help that you have given us through ADRA. Please continue, help many more people who are just like me. Thank you very much.”

Your donation can be matched up to five times when you give to an eligible ANCP project! Visit adra.org.au/hope or call 1800 242 372 to donate today!

The Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) contributes to the funding of this project.

ADRA Alliance Update

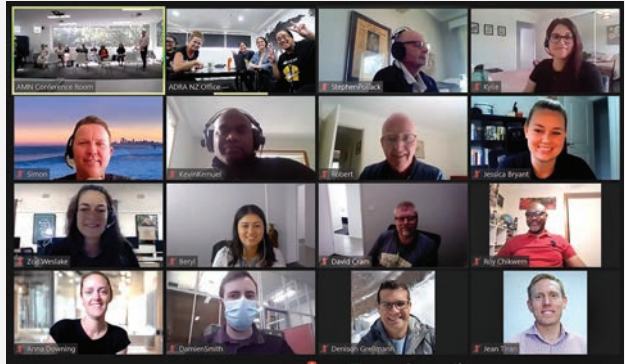


January 1 marked the start of an Alliance between ADRA in Australia and New Zealand.

As part of the global ADRA Network, both ADRA Australia and ADRA New Zealand share the same purpose to 'serve humanity so all may live as God intended'. The Alliance provides the opportunity to make both organisations stronger and have a greater reach and impact in the communities where ADRA works.

ADRA in Australia and New Zealand is now managed by a common management team and guided by common strategies. Both ADRA Australia and New Zealand maintain independent registrations with the Charities Commission and meet separate government and donor reporting requirements.

"Our resources, when shared, will benefit us not only in terms of efficiency but also by tapping into the expertise that each ADRA office has," said Pr Eddie Tupai, New Zealand



ADRA in Australia and New Zealand join for worship via Zoom

Pacific Union Conference President. "When we share those strengths, we will be a much more effective ministry body."

Almost six months in and both offices are already experiencing the benefits of the Alliance. Every Wednesday, staff from Australia and New Zealand join together for worship as well as sharing a staff meeting once a month, using Zoom to join the two offices. Additionally, the ADRA Board has been aligned and the first combined board meeting took place on March 23.

"It is exciting to see the two ADRA offices join together in our purpose," says Denison Grellmann, CEO for ADRA Australia and New Zealand. "With the combined


knowledge, experience and reach of both offices we are already seeing an increase in productivity and resource sharing."

"Our teams have already learned so much from our trans-Tasman counterparts and are anticipating greater synergy and enrichment for ADRA's impact as we strengthen our relationship," says Keryn McCutcheon, General Manager for ADRA New Zealand.

"Although we are only in our early days, the alliance has already helped us to share the news about our work much more efficiently," says Mark Collyns, the Communication Coordinator for ADRA New Zealand. "I am looking forward to helping more people thrive because of our shared resources."

ADRA Connections Go Local



 For the first time since COVID-19 restricted travel, an **ADRA Connections Go Local** trip took place from April 12-20.

The Go Local trip saw year 12 and recently graduated students from Prescott College Southern in South Australia visit Kangaroo Island to help with bushfire recovery efforts.

From December 2019, bushfire ripped through the island, burning nearly 50% of the land. Though the fire was declared safe on 6 February 2020, recovery efforts are still taking place across the island and the community will continue to heal for years to come.

The eleven participants spent their time on Kangaroo Island helping local farmers and residents with tasks like replacing burned fencing, weeding and general garden maintenance.

Altogether, the students removed 32,000 blue gum seedlings.

“It’s been good pulling up blue gum seedlings because we have learned that they are an endemic species,” says Kadmiel Tubo. “By pulling them up, we are helping the environment be able to recover from the bushfires better in the future.”

Over a year has passed since the bushfires ravaged the island, but the impact on the people and the land is still tangible. But the resilience of the locals was a key takeaway for the students.

“It’s been inspiring to hear about the people who lost their homes and livestock, and how they have had to overcome the challenges they faced,” says Dylan Marusic.

The Go Local Connections participants realised the impact that serving in their own backyard can have.

South Australia Youth Director Joel Slade says, “It is crazy how doing something so small can have such a big impact on others.”




Disaster Updates

Timor-Leste: Flooding



Collecting a kitchen kit

 After torrential rain hit Timor-Leste on April 4, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dili and ADRA Timor-Leste responded by distributing household kits.

These kits included bedding and kitchen items, food, cleaning supplies and drinking water for families requiring urgent support. “ADRA Timor-Leste is ready to keep supporting these services with available resources to help the affected families recover their lives,” says Deoniso Alves, ADRA Timor-Leste.

Due to the resulting flooding, 38 evacuation centres have been set up in Dili for over 13,000 severely affected people.

“I feel very happy because with the support from ADRA today we can receive some support, we receive kitchen kits and some other items that could help us normalize our houses,” says Macario, a local who was affected by the floods.




Mud damaged house

COVID-19 Response



Hand washing at Lae Adventist Primary School

 The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is partnering with ADRA to run various programs to respond to the pandemic.

One of these programs was a COVID-19 radio awareness program which reached approximately 10,000 people across PNG. The radio messaging provided awareness to people

of all ages, including children, and especially to vulnerable people in their communities.

The ADRA Church Partnership Program (CPP) in PNG has been able to help ten schools in the Morobe Province by providing ten handwashing stations which have benefited 5,947 students and teachers. These handwashing stations were made possible by the 45 plastic drums donated by Laga Industry Company, the ADRA WASH program and the carpentry department of the Morobe mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A food security training program was also provided as part of the COVID-19 response in the Western Province, which aimed to target four villages in Orimo. Thirty-six participants attended the training, where six different types of drought and pest resistant seeds were provided, and one multiplication plot was established. The training gave participants skills in growing and eating a variety of foods and the multiplication of seeding.

Cyclone Yasa



In mid-December 2020, category five cyclone Yasa hit Fiji, destroying homes, crops and belongings, and causing widespread flooding.

As a result, the spread of water-borne diseases is high. By 11 January 2021, 277 water, sanitation and hygiene kits had been distributed to 18 affected communities, which helped over 1,300 people. ADRA Fiji's primary concern was combatting the risk of waterborne diseases like leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue and diarrhoea.



Water and sanitation kit distribution

Because many water supplies were contaminated from the cyclone, one key component of the kits was a water filter that allowed river water to be safe for consumption.

“We’ve seen and heard the plight of the people who have contaminated water supplies,” says Akanisi Ranadinivugalei, ADRA Fiji’s distribution team leader. “We have positioned our response to first meet the immediate need of addressing water, sanitation and hygiene before we look into other areas of priority.”

“Our greatest appreciation goes to our donors for ensuring help arrives at the doorsteps of vulnerable communities,” says Akanisi.


“We were surprised when the team arrived today and they brought with them what is really needed here,” said the head of Nasigasiga Village. “We are thankful to ADRA for their assistance.”

Our Gift Catalogue has many gifts that help people devastated by disasters. Gifts such as *Fight Hunger* (\$9), *Crisis Food Hamper* (\$50) or a *Crisis Shelter Pack* (\$500) help people in Australia or overseas get back on their feet when disasters strike. Visit adra.org.au/gifts to choose your important gift.

How David's Gift Became A Sanctuary



The volunteers from the ADRA Community Care Centre in Wantirna

 David John Brown always cared about helping women in need and he wanted this to be his legacy. So, he left a gift in his will to ADRA.

David specified that his gift was to be used to support women's refuges. At the same time that David's gift came through to ADRA, a local Victorian project was in need of funding. This project partners with a women's refuge in the area and helps provide the women with food, hygiene and baby supplies, clothing and most of all, a safe sense of community.

"Thursdays are special in the building now," says Liz Heath, the Manager for the ADRA Community

Care Centre in Wantirna. "The kids and mums look forward to our deliveries and honestly, the food is the least of it. They are all looking forward to a chat and sometimes a prayer, or a shoulder to cry on."

The program is currently supporting 15 women and 26 children. And this support has been made possible by David's generosity.

"They have all been through so much and are in various stages of recovery," says Liz of the women that the program supports.

"If they have a need we try to meet it. Especially during lockdown – the op shops weren't open so we collected clothing and baby items for these women as most of our ladies arrive with nothing. We are a huge part of their support system."

Just like David, you can leave a gift in your Will to ADRA as a life-changing legacy for people in need. Find out more at adra.org.au/wills or call us on 1800 242 372 to request a brochure. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Evacuation Centres To Become Accessible



The Pacific Islands is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world.

Humanitarian organisations like ADRA work with locals to make communities ‘disaster ready.’

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Being ‘disaster ready’ includes activities like identifying evacuation centres using a Geographic Information System (GIS), having prepositioned supplies ready to distribute should disaster strike and preparing homes and crops in the lead up to a disaster.

In Fiji however, evacuation centres have failed to consider the needs of their disabled community members. Evacuation centres nationwide are not inclusive to those living with disabilities and the elderly.

But all of this is expected to change. The Church Agency Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) is working with its partners, including ADRA, to improve evacuation centres in Fiji through its Safe N Redi Project which is funded by the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP).

In many cases, churches act as evacuation centres in times of disaster. Katherine Madigibuli is CAN DO’s GIS Coordinator and is working with selected church sites to conduct mapping and evacuation centre retrofitting. The focus of the retrofitting is disability access. The collected information is shared with CAN DO partners like



Evacuation centre retrofitting consultation

ADRA to allow centres to be changed to become user friendly to people living with disabilities.

“There are lots of challenges faced by persons with disabilities in humanitarian situations, and evacuation centres is one of the priority areas to be improved,” says Jay Nasilasila, Disaster Risk Reduction officer for Fiji Disabled People’s Federation.

Katherine revealed that one of the reasons people with disabilities and the elderly do not move to evacuation centres during disasters is because it is not accessible and they do not have much privacy.

“For so long we have been neglected and we are grateful that the first step to improving the evacuation centres to accommodate us is being taken by CAN DO,” Jay says. “There is very little understanding on disability inclusion in disaster preparedness or response. Therefore, we acknowledge them for such a project that will see changes being taken to improve disaster preparedness for the vulnerable.”



The FARMS Project in Zambia is an ANCP Project



How Is My Donation Matched Five Times?

“Your donation can be matched up to five times when you give today!”

Chances are you will see this message from ADRA Australia towards the end of the financial year. So how does the match actually work?

ADRA Australia is a fully accredited Non-Government Organisation (NGO) with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Because of this, selected ADRA Australia overseas projects are eligible to partner with the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (also known as ANCP).

So what is ANCP?

ANCP has been running for the last 45 years and currently supports 57 Australian NGOs. It provides funding to NGOs for approved projects

in the form of annual grants.

Every year, ADRA Australia receives Australian Government funding through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) for eligible development programs. A requirement for this funding is that we commit to contribute \$1 for every \$5 we receive from the Australian Government. You can help us raise the amount that we have committed to contribute!

So when you see, “your donation can be matched up to five times when you give today!” it means that for every \$1 million we receive from the government, we have committed to contribute \$200,000 from donors like yourself. This helps ADRA’s programs extend into more and more communities overseas, helping to give hope for a brighter future.

Volunteer Profile



“Volunteering gives everyone the opportunity to use their God-given talents. It transforms lives. And you could be the reason someone’s life changes.” – Linda D’Abreu

From Tuesday to Thursday, you will find Linda at the ADRA Mt Druitt Community Care Centre. Linda sorts through donated goods for the op shop and helps distribute food parcels. And all with the warmest smile on her face.

Linda was born and raised in India, where she discovered her love for administration and working with people. Since then, she has used these skills to serve others.

For 10 years she worked for UNICEF in India in an administrative role until Linda and her husband moved to Australia to start a new life. But when the Global Financial Crisis hit, Linda lost her job, forcing her to find a new career.

She moved from the charitable sector into aged care, working as a recreational activity coordinator. She worked there for over eight years, organising activities for the residents and getting to care for them. “I loved spending time one on one time with the clients and getting to know them,” says Linda.

Linda was contemplating retirement when COVID-19 hit. Linda was already involved with volunteering at a food pantry in Redfern, but decided that she wanted to commit herself to serving her community.

“I wanted to be serving the community,” Linda says. “I wanted to be out there doing something for someone.” Upon seeing an advert in her local church magazine for the Mt Druitt ADRA Community Care Centre, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to do just that.



Linda at the ADRA Op Shop in Mt Druitt

Linda now enjoys volunteering at the Mt Druitt Community Care Centre three days a week. She finds it “relaxing just being amongst people.” And Linda has found this volunteering experience grants her many opportunities to talk to other people. With the added benefit of being able to speak Hindi, Linda can connect with a broader section of the community.

For Linda, the most impactful memory that she has had would be seeing the community’s needs being met. “I’ve met people who come in here and have felt at ease. Just being able to give people time and a smile make me happy.” Linda encourages everyone to “get involved in volunteering with whatever talents you have. In each of us, there is something; we have to look inside of us and find what it is.”

If you would like to volunteer for ADRA Australia, register your interest online at adra.org.au/volunteer, or call us on 1800 242 372.

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NOW I KNOW
I'M A SOMEBODY!

- WILSON

GIVE
Hope
FOR A
Brighter
FUTURE



Born with a disability, Wilson thought he'd be a burden on his family for the rest of his life.

After dropping out of school at the age of 8 because he couldn't hold a pencil, Wilson didn't hold much hope for the future. With ADRA's help Wilson learnt how to raise and breed chickens, and now he can support not only himself but also his family.

Your gift today can give people like Wilson hope for a brighter future!



To help others like Wilson
visit adra.org.au/hope
or call 1800 242 372

