



# Beyond Mission

According to the Australian National Retailers Association, Australians spent over \$25 billion on Christmas in 2011. That is an average of just over \$1000 per person. Is it possible that we have too much stuff?

The MAMI Christmas Card program is an opportunity in place of your normal Christmas gift. How does it work? Simply make a tax-deductible donation of \$10 to buy four Chooks, \$15 to buy a tool box, \$20 to buy a Panda bear (soft toy that is, not a real one) and \$35 a goat. In place of a gift one receives a special Christmas card to give to someone explaining what you have done on their behalf.

In 2006 Fr Charlie Burrows wrote to the MAMI office with the suggestion of the Goats scholarship which has now expanded to the very successful “Goats & Chooks for Books Scholarship.” This is what he had to say by way of introduction three years ago.

“As Missionaries our task is to encourage ‘Kingdom Values’ or Human/humanitarian values necessary for a ‘healthy society.’ Two of these values are ‘commitment’ and ‘responsibility’. If a child accepts a goat he or she must make a ‘commitment’ which involves learning about goats, fodder, goat house, disease, parasites etc. And also be committed to collecting grass and leaves every day to feed the goat. Also the pens must be cleaned daily to avoid parasites. Practicing the commitment makes them become responsible people. Now if you can rear a goat (kid) you are well on the way to be able to rear a child... This is ‘emotional intelligence’ achieved only with commitment, practice and being responsible.”

“The second aspect of the program is ‘entrepreneurship’ 40% of the work force is ‘unemployed’ hence the need to form people to be ‘self-employed’. Healthy goats earn more money.”



On the fourth day of Christmas  
my true love gave to me...  
four calling chooks!



On the first day of Christmas  
my true love gave to me...  
a goatt



“The third aspect is practice in self sufficiency- contributing to family income with an increase in feeling of self-worth, awareness of one’s potential, capability and if one doesn’t love oneself one cannot love someone else.”

“The last aspect is money earned to pay for transportation to school, books and clothing.”

Three years on from this proposal thanks to your generosity the “goats & chooks” program has been an incredible success. Here are some entertaining but powerful reflections from the young people themselves about their experience of the Goat Scholarship.

“My goat’s womb is bigger and have not breed yet and I am happy for the goat scholarship program because it can lighten the school fees burden because my grandparents that pay all school fees. I live with my grandparents because my parents live in another city.”

“ My goat gave birth to two baby goats in the middle of the night. When the mother will gave birth, she bleat so loud and the billygoat belong to the neighbour also bleat so people in the house all woke up and out of the house with candles – my goat gave birth to baby goats helped by my grandmother. Thank you for the goat scholarship because it really helps me to pay the school fees – my father was forbid me to study again because no money for the school fees. My mother sells fired meals in Jeruklegi traditional market. I have 3 younger siblings. We live with step father. I did not attend the school for almost 2 months. Since I attend school, I have not paid the school fees.

I can sell the goats when they are bigger to pay the school fees. “

“ My goat gave birth to two baby goats and they both are healthy. Every 3 months someone from the school give worm medicine to those two goats. There were some children around my house that coming and seeing my goat and they gave foods to my goat and my goat almost died because got poison – foam came out from the mouth and then we gave her young coconut and thank God that she is fine and able to breed.”

“My father fell down from coconut tree and ill for long time. He cannot move this legs and thighs. He cannot tap the coconut sugar anymore. I have a dream that I can study in state school but my father cannot pay the school fees so I study in Yos Sudarso Senior High School Jeruklegi. I study in this school and I got goat scholarship.”

The reflections focus just on the goats because the chooks were only introduced last Christmas, but I am sure it won’t be long before we get some just as powerful updates about the chooks.

The Goats & Chooks appeal last Christmas raised most twice as much as last over \$40,000. As you can see from the reflections, the vision of Fr Charlie to inculcate values of commitment and responsibility, to create budding entrepreneurs, give an opportunity for a sustainable income and to provide for education have become a reality in the lives of many young people in Central Java, thanks to your generosity.

## ACTIVITIES

- 1 Describe the type of poverty exhibited by the excessive spending in Australia each Christmas.
- 2 Identify the four key aspects of the Goats and Chooks for Books Scholarship.
- 3 Identify three types of poverty this program addresses, include at least one quote from a child in the program.
- 4 Explain the commitment that students need to make to the goat.
- 5 Describe a commitment you have had to make in the past. Did you keep it?
- 6 Describe how giving up one Christmas present could help both you and an Indonesian child. Could you do it?