

25 April 2006

Hi there.

I know it was long but I hope all the figures and details of my last letter (Quarterly Report) gave you a deeper insight into what CCMP is about and the real impact we can have. This letter should not be long but it will again be a bit different. In most of my letters I've shared stories, challenges, convictions and experiences. Many people have been challenged and asked what they can do or how they can get involved or contribute. So, this month, I just want to share with you a little of what has been happening and then give you a list of needs that you can maybe stick on your fridge, or somewhere you will see it regularly, and from time to time there may be something on the list that you feel you can do something about!

The past month has been very encouraging. With our volunteers at the UBomi OButsha Ministry Centre we have begun defining more clearly the different programmes we are running (or wish to run) in order to meet the vision and objectives of our work in the community. We have begun appointing programme leaders, recruiting more volunteers to meet the visions and objectives of the programmes and held some planning meetings for individual programmes.

Monday mornings have become a time for team building and motivation with these volunteers. Although all these volunteers are from the community, many are strangers to each other and so, for now, we are still getting to know each other and why we are here and spending time building relationships so that we can work together effectively as a team. Some are elderly ex-professionals; some are young students and some have actually come to us for help but found an opportunity to contribute too. All are connected to the community around the Centre and so have a direct interest in a successful outcome of the all our programmes. Many of these programmes are already running but most can be run more effectively and there are some new ones that still need a lot of work. We will soon also use Mondays as a training day to develop the skills and capacity of these volunteers to do the work they have set out to do.

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays have become our main feeding days for different groups of people according to their assessed needs and Wednesday mornings have had the introduction of an adult life-skills workshop mainly for members of the families we are assisting but open to all members of the community. We have begun these workshops by presenting and challenging the people with the 'Good News' of salvation Jesus brought. This has included two screenings of the Jesus movie (a first for many) in Xhosa and we have seen many people recommit their lives to God's purpose and some coming to a brand new experience of salvation. Including a witchdoctor! All those who attend this meeting are welcomed to stay for some soup and bread. These times will in the future also be used to address many of the social challenges typically faced in poor communities.

Teenagers next. With no direct influence (other than discussions in life-skills on being proactive and hard working) the teenagers have, out of their own, formed a fundraising team to raise money for things needed around the Centre. Their first event was a modeling competition! Among themselves they managed to collect some money to buy prizes (soap, deodorants, facecloths, toothpaste and toothbrushes!) and sold contestant tickets for R1 and R2 a piece. Parents and community members were invited to watch and the teenagers took the opportunity to share with them what the Centre is all about and why they should send their kids to the programmes! We pulled out some of the more

'fancy' donated clothing we have and gave it to contestants who really needed them. Many of these kids have never had the opportunity to dress up this nice and it was so great to see them feeling special for a few hours. The teenagers managed to raise R196 that day – no small feat out here – and they plan to use that for their next event, a hotdog sale. They plan to do something each month and then spend the money they have raised every six months on something needed at the Centre. Well done to them! Since the end of last year, our lack of a 'professional' youth leader for club has pushed us to put together a fresh new committee from among the teenagers to lead club. Meeting with all the youth, we discussed some different roles that need to be taken care of, what the responsibilities of the people in those roles would be and then we nominated and voted for leaders to take charge of the positions created and lead the youth as a team. These kids are really growing.

For those of you don't know, 'UBomi OButsha' means 'New Life'.

The food ministry has been blessed this last month with enough to meet the need of all the ministries/community projects we are currently committed to supporting. We haven't had a day that we have had to cut here or decrease there! It's been good. We have also been blessed with another freezer in a particular church and some people who will be stocking it with cooked and frozen mixed vegetable puree/ soup that we will collect and then distribute along with the bread. In time we hope to have a similar system going in many churches.

Thank you everyone for your willingness in supporting me and the work of CCMP or your willingness to join with others as we answer God's charge to us to reach out to the poor.

Jesus once had this to say,

"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its savor, with what shall it be salted? It is no longer good for anything, but to be thrown out and to be trodden underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under the grain-measure, but on a lamp stand. And it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."

Matt 5:13-16.

OK. That's all for now. Let's get to the list.

Blessings.

M a r k.



Combined Christian Ministries to the Poor

ISAIAH 58

<u>The Need</u>	<u>It's Purpose</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing and blankets. 	<p>Winter is fast approaching and there are many people who are not going to be able to keep themselves warm.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More food donations from stores/corporate's. 	<p>There are many community based organizations doing valuable work in poor communities who find that one of their biggest hindrances is a lack of nutrition for the people among whom they work.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice cream tubs filled with cooked and frozen pureed veg (+- 200L / wk). 	<p>Many of the ministries/community projects we support with bread do not have the resources to make a very nutritious soup. These pureed vegetables make an excellent base and can be used to open doors for more people to help more people who need it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty ice cream tubs. 	<p>For the soup we cook and freeze ourselves.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small (250ml, 350ml, 500ml) sealed tubs with frozen vegetable soup. 	<p>This will be distributed to groups involved in Home Based Care (HBC) of families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS where adequate nutrition in the home is critical. Our own HBC group will also use these when visiting those in hospital in the last stages of AIDS, to feed them and proactively seek opportunities to assist/intervene in their homes where needed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk staples. (rice, samp, beans, flour, tin fish, tin beans, etc.) 	<p>Some of the families (currently 33) we assist are in a very poor position to meet their own needs and have very little hope of being able to do so in the near future. Over and above the bread we give, these families also receive from the donated fruit, veg and other foods that are donated. These families all have children whose futures are dangerously at risk.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpeting and underfelt (4 x 12m) 	To prepare the room we wish to use for an educare programme for the small children from the families mentioned above.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 x lined baby mattresses. 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 x baby blankets. 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working educational toys. 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 x plastic kids' tables. 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 x plastic kids' chairs. 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 x plastic cups, plates and spoons. 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational posters. 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV and Video/DVD player. 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational videos. (Barney, etc) 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coloring books, paper, crayons etc. 	Educare programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School stationery and bags. 	To continue to assist many of the children and teenagers who consistently attend the programmes we offer and need help with their education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building alterations. (Kitchen shelves & counters, ventilation, paving, etc.) 	In order for the UBomi OButsha Centre (our community based project) to continue to grow and work effectively a few changes/upgrades need to be made.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White PVA paint. 	After seven years, the UBomi OButsha Centre needs a fresh coat!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 bakkies. 	<p>The bakkie we have needs either a lot of work or to be replaced. We will also soon be needing more wheels as we are able to help more people.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers. 	<p>As our feeding project grows it will need to change its workings a bit and that will require some more manpower. Someone to manage it fulltime and volunteers who can commit to help for periods of time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training by professional volunteers. 	<p>Professionals who would like to contribute with regards to training of volunteers in matters including HIV/AIDS, HBC, Counseling, First Aid, Child Care, Nutrition, Youth Work, Evangelism, etc. Or to present topics in a more general way at our 'Wednesday Workshops' with community members. Themes we have established are: The Gospel, Education, Health, Family Matters, Substance Abuse, Apathy and Laziness, Crime.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to share in churches or with smaller interest groups etc. 	<p>There are many who live the 'better life' who want to actively do something for those less fortunate and we would like to be able to offer these people an opportunity to join their efforts with others who feel the same, into a combined christian ministry.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate funding and donations. 	<p>Many of the projects and programmes we currently run, and intend to run in the future, require funding and donations of different kinds. We have much of the willing and needed manpower and now we need the resources to implement our projects and programmes more effectively.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal financial support. (50 x R100 per month needed. 28 still required.) 	<p>CCMP does not pay salaries or wages. Although it is currently able to pay a stipend to fulltime workers, it is not nearly enough to supplement a regular salaried income. Fulltime workers rely on the support of others who themselves wish to partner in the effort.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer 	<p>As a Christian (Christ) centered effort we understand that all we endeavor is meaningless unless it comes from the will of God and His desire to restore mankind to Himself. We understand that there is a very strong and rampant opposition to this, the effects of which we are exposed to every day, and that our efforts are not just physical but spiritual and need to be dealt with as such.</p>