



COMBINED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO THE POOR

NPO Reg. - 046-047

January 2008

Hi all.

Returning for the third time (my fourth year) to work with CCMP, I am again struck by how one can become so used to a desperate situation. Just how close so many of our neighbours live on the edge. How easily the lives of the really poor can slide into hopelessness with no means of their own to find a way out. Returning to work this year I have been met with disappointments of the news of how some of the people we have worked with last year have fallen off that edge but also joy meeting again with those who have taken what we have been able to give them and continue to grow in their capacity as contributing members of society and children of God. Also the children whose lives have changed and who have managed to stay out of harm's way during the festive season.

This letter is one that I don't really feel comfortable writing though. I wish someone else was doing it for me, but it is one that I have to write. In my last letter to you I shared a little about the bumpy financial ride I had last year. I understand we all have them but I find myself in a position where I cannot "produce" more to earn more, there is no prospect of promotion, no bonus and no annual increase! I do receive a small budgeted salary from the ministry account and then receive personal financial support from individuals who align themselves with what I am doing and partner with me in this way.

As I explained in my previous letter, for various understandable reasons, last year I lost some support and gained some too but on average I find myself considerably short compared to this time last year. I also know that if I don't address this issue before I am again completely engrossed with the work, I will never get to it and I will be facing a very difficult year. As a husband and father it is very debilitating not knowing if you will be able to contribute your fair share to the sustainability of your family and your children in particular.

So, this letter is a humbling personal one asking those of you who are able and, by the conviction of your faith, align yourself with what I do, and wish to support that, to do so. (I really wish someone else was writing this letter.) I'm not trying to pull a fast one here, and definitely not looking for any sympathy, but I do need the support of others who would align themselves with this work. And work it is.

Why do I do this? - I believe that the condition of this world is far fallen from the condition in which it was created and that through the person of Jesus Christ, God has begun a work that will restore all He created, beginning with man, to that original condition. And, as we realise and receive this work, we become partners in it. We are convicted to allow God to reach out to others through us, as He reached out to us through someone else. And so we act in whichever way we can. Also, I believe in the people of my country and my city. I know that because of our past we have some very large (and some unique) problems and that I can either complain and point fingers of blame or I can stand in the power of the redemption of God and do something about it. We will give our place in this world to our children one day; let us pass it on to them in the best condition that we can. If we ever want to be a part of any solution, we need to take responsibility for the problem. Not the blame, but responsibility.

I do need more support to continue working fulltime to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, break the yoke of oppression, preach the good news, give ability, etc, etc, etc, I hope that some of you can do it with me. When I first started with CCMP I wrote in a letter about my dilemma regarding how I should approach people to ask for financial support (go for as much as I can get or just wait and see what comes my way) and in the end I felt a fair balance would be to find

enough people who would support me with just R100 each a month. Obviously any amount will be appreciated at any time, but it seems to be a fair guide.

If you would like some more information on what I'm up to before you make a decision, you should visit our website (a bit rudimentary I know) where you can get hold of some recent reports and find some general information. www.ccmp.org.za.

Here are my bank details in case you need them (use which ever one is more convenient or cost effective for you):

Mark Lawler
ABSA: 713739472
Branch Code: 632005
Savings Account

Mark Lawler
Standard Bank: 080362095
Branch Code: 050017
Cheque Account

If you are in another country and would like to support me, these will probably be your two best options:

1. MoneyGram – International Money Transfer
This seems to be facilitated mostly by the post office network and also through foreign exchange bureaus and some banks. It is much cheaper than SWIFT transfers and you will simply need to forward me a reference number and password by email for me to be able to collect.
2. www.apostlesfeet.org
This is a Canadian based internet fundraising ministry that supports me and I guess will work best for someone from North America. You would need a credit card or a PayPal account though and the money will make its way to me via MoneyGram anyway!

You can also help by sharing what I'm doing with others who may be interested to get involved and support me financially. One more request - if you do decide to support me, I would like to know who you are, not to make you feel good (or chase you down if you stop supporting me ☹!) but just so that I can know who the team around me is. It makes a big difference. I do appreciate even those of you who do support me anonymously though, but I would prefer knowing who you are.

Lastly, to those of you who have supported me in the past and those who continue to support me now, a sincere and appreciative 'thank you'!

Blessings.

Mark Lawler
(Ministry Director)

PS: I think some kind of a get-together for those of you who can make it should be put on the calendar for this year! It would be interesting to see face to face all who share this conviction! ☺

PPS: Check this out – no pictures and I still can't keep a newsletter on one page!!