



# COMBINED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO THE POOR

ISAIAH 58

BUILDING BRIDGES, MEETING NEEDS & RESTORING LIVES – SIMPLY GETTING ON WITH THE JOB!

## Update Report – September 2008

### Introduction

September 2008 was, as usual, a busy month with the majority of energy and focus going towards the Ubomi Obutsha Centre. If you have been following the progress of the Centre through their quarterly reports over the past year you will realise the tremendous progress that is being made in this project. Key to this has been the empowering of community volunteers (some of whom originally came to the Centre themselves seeking help) to work together to address many of the needs within their own community. This has put the Centre on the right path towards becoming an independent community based NPO within the next few years and serving as a gateway for a more extensive combined Christian ministry to the poor into the surrounding community.

The challenge now is to focus more on building the bridges needed to facilitate opportunities for more people to contribute and respond to Christ's call to go and make disciples in a real way in a real world. Spreading the good news of God's redemption through the person of Jesus Christ, meeting the needs of people who are not able to do so for themselves, restoring dignity to those who have had it stripped from them, healing wounds inflicted by oppression and rebuilding their lives . . . this is our calling!

More attention needs to be given towards developing the collection and distribution of donations work that we do in support of community based organizations around Port Elizabeth, which has been suffering from the knock on effects of higher food and fuel prices and the lack of a dedicated coordinator. And more attention also needs to be given towards creating opportunities for people "of means" to put their convictions into some kind of action. This is no easy task as there are generally two large obstacles standing in the way of well meaning, and even motivated, people who desire to make a difference. Firstly, intimidating misconceptions of poor communities, particularly townships, which leads to fear; and secondly, a sense of being overwhelmed when faced with the realities of scale of need just in our own city.



Using the Ubomi Obutsha Centre as a starting point, we plan to address these issues in the following ways:

1. Extending invitations to visit the Centre and surrounding community with us and possibly conduct workshops that will give a more accurate perception of conditions and remove misplaced fears.
2. Identifying needs and packaging them into projects that can be tackled by individuals or groups without becoming overwhelming.
3. Raising funds towards the implementation of projects and to cover running costs.

Our regular reports will now include information regarding the progress of work regarding the above points.

### Highlights For The Month

1. Larger than usual collections of donated clothing helped us to assist 27 families whose shacks and belongings were destroyed by fire.
2. Progress and growth of the Ubomi Obutsha Centre – see overleaf.
3. A renewed interest by individuals who wish to be more actively involved.

### Challenges

1. The amount of donated food we receive remains low allowing us to support only 10 of the 21 CBO's on our register.
2. A lack of sufficient funding restricts our ability to grow as a platform for a combined effort addressing the needs of the poorest of the poor.
3. Limited fulltime staff and volunteers impedes our ability to maintain basic functions like administration and to develop certain activities.

### Needs

1. Financial support for running costs, staff and fulltime volunteers.
2. A new vehicle for the collection and distribution of donated food, clothing, etc.
3. People who wish to involve themselves in activities or projects.



Stats	Collected & Distributed Donations			Projects Supported  10	
	Bakery Goods:	22 trolleys, 37 bags, 21 boxes	Household Goods:		1 TV
	Fruit & Veg.:	39 crates	Miscellaneous:		1000 disposable nappies
	Soup Bones:	130 litres			

### Contact Details

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Nondumiso Langa (Centre Manager): 072 685 4379

Hamilton Matomane (Donations Collections): 079 662 4309

### Banking Details

Ministry Account: **First National Bank**

Staff Support Account: **Bidvest Bank**

Account Name: **Combined Christian Ministries to the Poor** Branch Name: **Newton Park**

Account Name: **Mark Lawler** Branch Name: **Johannesburg**

Account Number: **62000371170** Branch Code: **261050**

Account Number: **244090001** Branch Code: **462005**

Personal international donations can be made via MoneyGram – visit [www.moneygram.com](http://www.moneygram.com) for details

(Please reference any deposits for receipting purposes and inform us via email as to how funds should be allocated)



# Ubomi Obutsha Centre



DEVELOPING THE POOREST OF THE POOR IN OUR COMMUNITY, THROUGH THE LOVE OF CHRIST, TO LIVE PRODUCTIVE LIVES.

The "New Life" Centre is a Community Development Project of Combined Christian Ministries to the Poor

## Update Report – September 2008

### Highlights For The Month

1. Our initial two Social Work volunteer interns from Holland arrived and spent a few weeks familiarising themselves with the Centre and community. They are assisting our community volunteers with OVC interventions and also getting involved in other activities at the Centre.
2. A relatively new community volunteer has taken on the responsibility of managing the Resource Library at the Centre and he will also coordinate our School Assistance program next year.
3. A Japanese university student doing peace & reconciliation studies spent a week with us. This was a great cross cultural experience for her and ourselves as she was able to teach us a lot about her country, culture, lifestyle and language all of which is very different to ours.
4. We hosted and attended along with two other community based organisations, the second four day phase of an OVC workshop facilitated by the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW). These workshops are incredibly valuable in equipping our volunteers with the skills needed to assist orphaned and vulnerable children in our community.
5. Our food garden has enjoyed a good harvest and has already been prepared and replanted with seedlings.
6. The number of children fed through our soup kitchen remains high and we have been fortunate enough to be able to sustain them even during this time when donations of food have declined.



### Challenges

1. Attendance of the Educare program has been very erratic. The children attend this program by invitation after having been identified as OVC's living in high risk homes and in need of special attention. Their erratic attendance is indicative of their living conditions where their needs are often not made a priority and they are often neglected by their care givers! This is a constant struggle that our volunteers are regularly addressing. The differences in the physical and emotional conditions of those children who do attend the program and those for whom we simply do not have room demonstrates the value this program has for these young children.
2. Supply of donated food remains low.
3. A program planned by the Teen Youth for the school holidays didn't work out for them and was cancelled at the last minute. They are very disappointed with themselves but have learned a few lessons and will hopefully do better next time.



### Sampled Personal Stories

1. A regular user of the Centre's Resource Library was recently awarded 100% for a school project that she worked on in the library.
2. A child headed home was identified where a 19 year old girl is taking care of her younger brothers aged 7, 8 & 9. They were abandoned years ago by their mother to live with their grandmother who died in May. Their closest relative is an aunt who lives in another community but tries to help them as much as possible. Our main concern at the moment is that the girl is feeling traumatised and overwhelmed by the death of her care-giver and the responsibilities she now carries. Our volunteers are giving the home as much social support as possible including a weekly food parcel and they attend programs at the Centre regularly. We are just glad that they have continued attending school and hope to be able to support them in their education next year. We have also referred their case to social services to arrange for the brothers' child support grants to be transferred into the name of their sister.



#### Orphaned & Vulnerable Children

646 OVC's received / accessed services 8168 times.

1471 OVC's have accessed / received services to date.

OVC services include: Basic Needs Support, Special Needs, School Support, Early Childhood Development, After School Care, Life Skills Education, Spiritual Development & Support, Home Visits & Access to Multi-Purpose Community Centre. (10)

#### Adults

39 adults received / accessed services 1014 times.

116 adults have accessed / received services to date.

Adult Services include: Basic Needs Support, Special Needs, Participatory Development, Spiritual Development & Support, Life Skills Education, World View Enrichment & Home Visits. (7)

#### Volunteers

21 volunteers worked 319 days.



Stats

### Banking Details

Bank: **First National Bank**

Account Name: **Ubomi Obutsha Centre** Branch Name: **Newton Park**

Account Number: **62129245355** Branch Code: **261050**