



COMBINED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO THE POOR

ISAIAH 58

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

Update Report – November / December 2008

A few words . . .



The last two months of every year always seem to pass by in a crazy flurry of activity and this year has been no exception! There was training that needed completion, year-end events to manage, moments of crisis, planning for 2009, etc - all while normal activities need to continue!

We may often think that impacting the life of the poor is a simple, straight-forward thing to do (feed some hungry people, give them some old clothes and maybe a few school supplies – “How difficult can it be?!”) but unless there is some order and coordination to it, specific objectives set and a way to make sure that what should be happening is in fact happening with a long-term outcome in mind, giving charity to the poor becomes incidental and the impact doesn't last far beyond the moment of giving.

In our work we strive for more than this and we are beginning to witness the profound impact of our work from three and four years ago only now, and we are certain to see the impact of our work this past year, and even these past two months, in time to come. We

take this lesson from Christ who did not call us to make converts, but disciples! And making disciples takes daily participation with ongoing assistance and teaching. Not a quick touch and go!

We would like to thank all our supporters for underpinning our work over this past year and our joy for those of you who have yourselves reached out and touched the lives of many poor children and their care-givers, as part of the work of a combined Christian ministry to the poor, building on the work of others and bringing the life and love of God with you.

- Mark



Highlights



1. The many contributions received towards our year-end programs at the Centre. As usual, many of these donations came through at the last moment resulting in a LOT of last minute organising and rushing around. It was all worth it though and much appreciated!
2. After struggling for many months with diminished supplies of donated foods, we have been blessed with a regular monthly donation of groceries from the SPAR Regional Distribution Centre towards our community development project. This will meet 70-80% of the project's needs and allow us to possibly begin supporting other organisations in the new-year again.
3. Our second successful and favourable audit of our financial records.

Crisis

Our bakkie along with two volunteers were caught in rock-throwing violence during the recent transport industry strike. One volunteer sustained a head injury requiring stitches while virtually all the windows of the bakkie were broken! We have been frustrated by this senseless violence and the huge disruptions it causes. Fortunately both volunteers are fine and the bakkie's windows were replaced the following day.



Needs



1. **A new vehicle: 1 ton bakkie.** So much of our work depends on our bakkie which is getting old and starting to cost a few hundred rand every other month on minor repairs. We need a new one.
2. **Additional staff.** If we are to make good on our progress so far and continue to expand and deepen the impact of our work, we need at least two more full-time staff members to manage different aspects of the ministry. This basically requires more funding to employ these people.

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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**

International donations can be made via MoneyGram – visit www.moneygram.com for details

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

www.ccmp.org.za



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 – November / December 2008

Highlights



1. We were awarded school support (uniforms & stationery) from the Starfish Greathearts Foundation for 304 of the OVC's we support! This is a great start for the school support program we are planning for 2009.
2. **Educare Parents Day:** The care-givers of the toddlers who come to our daily Educare program were invited to the Centre to see what their children have been doing during the year and receive encouragement to care for their children better. They also enjoyed a few small items from their kids. It was a very moving and encouraging time.
3. **Adults Christmas Party:** Those adult beneficiaries and care-givers who participated most actively during the year were treated to a special meal (with desert!) and they all gave thanks for what God has been doing in their lives through the Centre.
4. **Youth Christmas Party:** Initially there was a LOT of disappointment as the weather turned bad on the day of the party and we were not able to take the kids on the outing we had planned. We managed to turn the mood around though and held the party at the Centre where we played some games and gave out party sweet packs, presents and a few awards.
5. **Volunteer Lunch:** Our European volunteers served our community volunteers a typical Dutch lunch with preserves & desert which was enjoyed by all. We then spent the afternoon on the beach and we were able to bless our community volunteers with a small financial gift. It was a wonderful treat for these volunteers who selflessly give so much.
6. **Holiday Club:** Our European volunteers organised a very successful holiday club accommodating all age groups with a surprise pair of shoes for everyone who attended!
7. **Teen Incentive Reward:** We were able to bless 10 of the most outstanding teens for 2008 with an outing to the movies, a meal at the Spur (steak house) and R200 each to buy new clothing for themselves. These are things that these teens almost never get to do so it was a great encouragement and reward for their effort this past year.



Sampled Stories



1. While gathering information for the school support program, we discovered that one of our teenage OVC's was planning to go to a school some distance from her home and we struggled to get a clear reason as to why she wanted to go there and challenged her to consider carefully whether she was making the right decision. Two days later she came to us, with tears in her eyes, saying how sorry she was. She was being pressured by some girls that she knew to join them at their school but they were a group that frequented shebeens, used drugs, slept around and didn't care much for school. She had been thinking about all she had learnt at the Centre's youth club and all that we had done for her and realised that she was making a big mistake. If she joined these "friends" she would most likely adopt their lifestyle and destroy her chances at a better life. We are happy to say that she has chosen to attend a nearby school with which we have a good relationship and we will be better able to monitor her progress. We wonder how many of the other youth, who attend our programs, have made similar choices because of the guidance and support they receive from the Ubomi Obutsha (New Life) Centre – and been saved from destructive turns in their lives! We are always encouraged by the regular reports we receive from teachers that the pupils who attend our programs are a blessing to teach!
2. We gave a donated wheelchair to an old woman who's leg had been amputated (diabetes complications) and who provides for her 3 orphaned grandchildren by making vet-cakes. She just wept and praised God when we put her in her new chair and has since come to thank us because she is able to do so much more now to meet the needs of her grandchildren!

Needs

1. **Program Leaders:** We would like to invite anyone who is interested to help run one of our youth (Sunday School, Junior Youth Club & Teen Youth Club) or adult (Bible Study, programs (average 10 per quarter).
2. **School Shoes:** Although we have received generous support to provide school uniforms for 304 OVC's, the grant is unfortunately not enough to provide school shoes for them. We are looking for donations of either shoes or money to buy them.

During 2008 the lives of 1752 orphaned or vulnerable children were touched in many ways through the Ubomi Obutsha Centre. They were fed, clothed, guided, educated, medicated, visited, and loved.

And it shows!

