



COMBINED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO THE POOR

ISAIAH 58

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

Update Report – April - June 2009

A few words . . .

The second quarter of 2009 has been the busiest I can remember! It has included the culmination of some activities and the fruition of some of our efforts. People have come and gone leaving blessings behind, new partnerships have been formed, our methods of intervention in the lives of children and households at risk are reaching a level of maturity and the Ministry has begun to “pace” itself for the long run.

I wouldn't say this year so far has been a year of growth as far as the number of people and children reached by those working together within CCMP, but the increase of the value of our efforts to assist those who need it most have been clearly evident. The number of people who identify with our way of doing things and who have made themselves a part of it all has increased dramatically though!

I just become aware again and again how we, in this city, in this country and in this world, are all in it together and, even if we try and deny it, when some of us suffer, we all do. In thinking about how those of us with more “developed” lives, personal lifeskills, better educations, etc can really help those who are not as fortunate, I have had the concept of a cycle race developing in my mind. People line the streets to cheer the riders on, lend moral support and maybe give out some energy supplements. All this is good but what would really make the difference for those struggling in the race is if someone got on the back of their bike (pretend it's a tandem!) and just peddled. Not trying to take over, sit in the front and steer or anything like that – just helped peddle for a while!



Big campaigns, mass outreaches and the like have their benefits but what affects real change is when real people meet real people and walk with each other. Again – the example left us by Jesus!

Blessings

- Mark



Highlights

1. We have had no less than 15 international volunteers involved in our work for different periods of time during this quarter. The “lowlight” however, is saying goodbye when they leave! The value their presence and participation has brought has been immeasurable (great peddle power!) and the financial gifts some have been able to give have helped greatly.



2. A visit by Don and Judy Bixler (founders and original directors and consistent supporters of the ministry) was, as always, significant.

3. The final fruition of a partnership between Be-More (a Dutch volunteer placement agency) and CCMP. The first three volunteers worked with us during June and we are looking forward to the eleven others who have booked to work with us for between four and twelve weeks all the way through to March 2010!

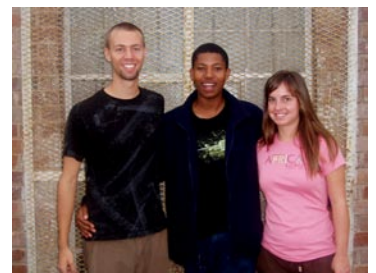
4. A few new small to medium sized funding grants have resulted from our fundraising efforts thus far this year. These have been allocated to a few material needs and to help cover running costs specifically over the next twelve months which is a tremendous help! We are still a long way from raising our target budget though and will keep working on fundraising.



5. The generosity of so many people, organisations and businesses (locally and abroad) who have helped us meet many of the schooling needs of 288 orphaned or vulnerable children so far this year. Thank you all!

Looking Forward

1. Fundraising.
2. Completing the CCMP Blogger 'site' to make information about CCMP easily accessible and to keep supporters, donors, past, future and potential volunteers, etc up to date more frequently.
3. Preparing for and accommodating our Be-More volunteers and a Canadian couple from one of our supporting churches who are coming to work with us for six months.
4. Re-establishing working relationships with some of the community based project supported by CCMP in the past with a view to supporting them again. Part of this will include finding new sources of food support.



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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 – April - June 2009

Highlights

1. The first events of note were actually the closing youth events for the first quarter school term. The first event was a practical (hands on) educational workshop on local snakes by Mark Marshall for junior and high school children who attend our programs regularly. This was a huge hit and very educational. Secondly we were able to take out toddler Educare group and a few junior scholars out for a fun day at Windsor Kids Playground. This was a first experience for many and greatly enjoyed!
2. Two more beneficiaries from the Food Garden have become fulltime Community Volunteers helping to identify and care for vulnerable attending programs at the Centre. This kind of growth is such an encouragement to us.
3. Thanks to the Stichten van Gelvendale (Holland) and Ivor Smith Electrical, the teenagers' Resource Library has begun a minor facelift to make more room for desk space and computers (now we only need the extra computers!!)



4. Our volunteer in charge of the Educare group is doing very well in her studies and will be graduating from her first year course in Early Childhood Development & Foundation Phase Education in July. We are so proud of her and are amazed at the impact of her studies on the children in her care! And to think she was a project beneficiary only a few years ago!!



5. We finally received the 305 uniforms granted through the Starfish Greathearts Foundation and were able to distribute 167 of them in one day at the Centre. Almost all of them have since been distributed and along with other school supply donations received (stationery, shoes, bags, etc) we have been able to make many children excited to go to school again.

6. The Starfish / Barnabas Trust twelve month Mentoring and Training Program came to a successful end in May. We are thankful for the knowledge and skills gained during this time.

7. Our volunteers also completed a six month Spiritual Support program sponsored by Ithemba (now Engage) and also facilitated by the Barnabas Trust. The training and material received have already been put to good use!

8. The generous donation, from one of our leaving volunteers, of an almost new computer to be used for administration purposes at the Centre.

Reality Check

1. Three mothers of children in our Educare group and one mother of children participating in other Centre programs have died already this year. All AIDS related deaths. There has also been the death from meningitis of a 9 month baby whose family receives support from the Centre. These deaths have again starkly highlighted the vulnerable position the people of our community live in.



Sampled Stories

Centre was kicked out of her uncle's home, where she has been living, but was taken into the home of one of our volunteers for three weeks until we were able to mediate an agreement for her to return. This is definitely not an ideal situation but sometimes there just aren't other options!

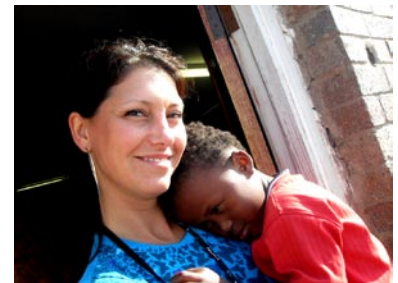
4. One of the toddlers in our Educare was diagnosed with TB and it was discovered that her parents had the disease too. We have managed to get them all onto treatment and will monitor the situation closely.

5. A 10 year old orphaned girl, fostered by one of our volunteers, is the only surviving member of her family all of whom have succumbed to AIDS over the years. Amazingly, she is completely free of HIV! Work is being done to help transfer her belated father's house into a trust of which she will be the beneficiary when she reaches adulthood. She is such a star of a child and it is great to be able to help lay a foundation for her future this way.

1. It was discovered that one of the 10 year old boys attending our programs was being regularly raped by his own father. The father was also abusive towards the boy's mother who came to us for help. Through our network with the local police station, the matter was investigated and the father arrested and charged. We have arranged counselling for the mother and her son. He is still regularly attending programs at the Centre – he says it feels like his real home.

2. In late May, the mother of a 2 year old girl in our Educare group suffered a large stroke that has left her bed ridden. The Centre is providing a regular food parcel and neighbours are helping to look after the little girl and her older siblings for now.

3. A sixteen year old orphaned girl supported by the



Impact Statistics Summary - (June '09 only)

541 orphaned and vulnerable children were serviced in various ways in March alone. This included 2644 meals to 503 of them!

36 children were provided with basic needs (clothing, regular food parcels, etc).

18 children were assisted with their schooling needs including supplies and tutoring.

39 children received Early Childhood Development care – Educare.

472 children received after school care by attending one of our programs.

220 children attended life skills programs.

220 children attended spiritual support and development programs.

92 home support visits were done.