



COMBINED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO THE POOR

ISAIAH 58

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

Update Report – July - September 2009

A few words . . .



It has been incredible to see things grow this year. CCMP has in many ways been shifting through the gears and picked up a lot of momentum as an organisation – but it is certainly not time to kick back & enjoy the feeling of a “job well done”!

We are keenly aware of the great need in the lives of so many out there & will continue to work towards meeting those needs through the coordinated distribution of donated goods to credible community based projects & building bridges of opportunity, hope & restoration between those who are able to give of their time & resources, & organisations where this giving adds value to the work being done.



As with most people, we are feeling the effects of the current financial “hard times” but we realise that it is a time to maybe work a little harder because God’s purpose to restore this fallen world, & His call to us to work with Him to this end, has not changed!

To those of you who in some way make yourselves a part of the work of CCMP & on behalf of the many people (particularly the children) whose lives we have been able to touch, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your participation, support & contributions.

Blessings

- Mark

Highlights



1. Our international volunteer program, in partnership with Be More (Holland) has settled into a steady flow of people who are giving up 4-12 weeks of their time to come & work with us. Their presence & additional funding donations have made a great impact. Although many feel a little concerned with trying to match their own expectations with what they are actually able to do, all have left very glad to have worked with us.

2. At the end of September a young married couple from Waterbrook Community Church (a supporting church in Calgary, Canada) arrived for a 6 month stay. They will be helping with the running of a few programs at the Ubomi Obutsha Centre & some of the practical needs there.



3. We received a favourable visit from the Nussbaum foundation, a current donor.

4. Our website is up & running & being accessed by people interested in our work from around the world.

Looking Forward



1. As the year draws to a close, we are looking for sponsors towards year-end activities at the Ubomi Obutsha Centre – Children’s Christmas Party, Youth Awards, Caregivers’ Incentives, etc.

2. Establish closer working relationships with schools in the community surrounding the Ubomi Obutsha Centre.

3. Identify 5 additional community based projects for future support & 1 project with which we can partner more closely as we have done with the Ubomi Obutsha Centre.



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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

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Highlights

1. Noluthando, the community volunteer who oversees the Educare program, graduated her first year Foundation Phase Education course near the top of her class! We are also pleased to have finally found a competent assistant for her who is making a great impact on the daily Educare program.

2. Our Food Garden continues to provide good harvests which provide ingredients for meals, vegetable parcels for beneficiaries, & the sale of a third of each harvest helps cover the cost of seeds, fertiliser, etc. Not to mention the feeling of pride shared among the garden volunteers and the impact that makes on their lives, & the lives of their children, back home.



3. As you can see from our statistics summary below, our community volunteers have put a lot of focus on home visits, seeing that the needs of the high risk orphaned or vulnerable children they have identified are being met & that they are attending school daily.

4. Attendance at our regular community youth programs has been picking up steadily.

5. We hosted a special Heritage Day event on the 24th September in which many people from the surrounding community participated.

6. A successful holiday club was run during the spring school holidays which included fun & games, movies & lifeskills lessons.



7. Our Dutch volunteers have made significant contributions towards toys and equipment for the Educare program & some much needed basic painting around the Centre. Their participation in many of our programs has had a large impact on their own perspectives of the situations many of the poorest of the poor living in our townships have to contend with, often realising that there is no fast solution, but that continued support & interventions from a project such as ours can bring about the long term change needed.

Sampled Stories



1. We have been so pleased to hear great reports from the teachers of Thabo & Thabang who left our Educare program at the end of last year for "big school". They were two of the many OVC's we have been able to help with school this year.

2. During lunch one Monday, a four year old girl in Educare told a volunteer how her mother was put in a box (coffin) a long time ago & never came back. She then told how, over that past weekend, her grandmother was also put in a box & she doesn't think she is coming back either! She would like us to keep the Centre open all the time so that she can sleep there because we look after her so well.

3. Anele, one of the teenagers, who attends our programs & received a uniform from us earlier this

year, came to us to ask if we could help a friend of his. One of his classmates noticed that he had a new uniform & asked if he could have Anele's old one. Fortunately we had an extra new uniform for that school that we could give him. We also discovered that this boy lives on the outskirts of the community we serve & lost both his parents to HIV/AIDS & now lives with his grandmother who struggles to meet his needs. It is encouraging to see the teens who we help through our programs reach out in turn to help those they can!



4. Nosisi is 5 years old & comes from a home with a sad, sad history that puts her in a very vulnerable position. Early one morning she was found walking on her own to the Centre. She had been left at home alone the previous night where she cared for herself & put herself to bed. She had been left at home alone the previous night where she cared for herself & put herself to bed. She woke early & because she was hungry & there was still no one else at home, she got herself ready for Educare where she would get something to eat! Situations of neglect like this are not uncommon & very frustrating to our volunteers but we are so glad that we are able to give little children like Nosisi hope for a better life.

Impact Statistics Summary - (September '09 only)



664 orphaned and vulnerable children were serviced in various ways in September alone. This included **3145** meals to **559** of them.

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

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

41 children received Early Childhood Development care – Educare.

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

274 children attended life skills & spiritual support & development programs.

242 home support visits were done.

The project reached **172** new orphaned or vulnerable children (OVC's) this month.

108 OVC caregivers were given direct assistance this month.

This was all accomplished through the contributions of **32** volunteers.