



COMBINED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO THE POOR

ISAIAH 58

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

Update Report – October - December 2009

A few words . . .

A real highlight this quarter has been the Dutch & Canadian volunteers who have taken time out from their lives to live & work with us. Each is unique, offering of themselves in different ways but I would like to make an example of one. I hope she won't mind. I could in fact make the same example with any one of them, their stories are different, but the example is the same . . .

Linda is a physiotherapist from Holland who came to spend 8 weeks with us helping at the Ubomi Obutsha Centre – mainly in the Educare and teen lifeskills programs. Like most of us who are not acquainted with life in a poor community, she was apprehensive & uncomfortable at first & it took her a little while to settle in. A few weeks into her stay she heard about a mother of two OVC's we work with, Nokwanda, who had a stroke earlier this year & has been bed ridden ever since. With the support of the Centre, neighbours have been helping Nokwanda get through each day & supported her children to finish the school year.



Linda took the opportunity to apply her physiotherapy skills & within a short time Nokwanda was walking again! Just a little at first . . . to the gate & back. But soon, & to the amazement of the community, she was walking up to the main road & back home again! She thought her life was as good as over, but along came someone who was determined to make a difference & so she did!

Linda is a lot like most of us & like her we need to get passed just praying about doing something. We need to get passed thinking about doing something. We need to get passed talking about doing something.

We need to get passed wandering about doing something. We especially need to get passed having an opinion about what other people should be doing. We, as individuals, need to step up & step out & do something! Big or small, when you put it all together, a whole community can be changed!



I planned to include a list of businesses, churches, organisations & individuals who have contributed of their time or resources (big or small) together under the banner of CCMP & who have together



brought hope, ability & restoration into the lives of literally thousands of orphaned, abandoned & vulnerable children & their care-givers here in Port Elizabeth! The list proved to be too long for this report though. The intention was not to draw attention to these names, but rather to encourage us all to allow ourselves to be used, through our simple actions, by God as His hand in this world. Because I am sure you would have recognized yourself in these names in that these are all ordinary people (like you & me) & God acts when ordinary people do something! Maybe something big, maybe something small, but all significant! And I hope that, looking back over the past year, we all realize what a massive impact just a little bit of giving & action can have in the lives of those who can't do it for themselves.

Here is a summary of that list though: Businesses – 13, Churches – 9, Organisations & Donors – 10, Individuals – 133 - although I am sure a missed a few & this did not include individuals in the businesses, churches & organisations who make the connection work!

Thank you everyone for all that you have contributed!

I hope we have all enjoyed a blessed Christmas & are looking forward to a positively significant 2010!



Blessings

- Mark



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 – October - December 2009

The End of Another Year

In November we began planning our year end events & put out an appeal for donations & support. We have been so overwhelmed by the generosity of those who gave & at how quickly everything came together! These events are very significant in that they serve as rewards in recognition of personal development & commitment for those who receive them & they go a long way in inspiring the beneficiaries of our project to keep working hard at pulling their lives, & the community they live in, together.



Thank you all so very much!

1. Adults Christmas Party: We took 17 OVC caregivers who work in the Food Garden out for morning on the beach and enjoyed a much appreciated KFC meal.

2. OVC Christmas Party: We were able to take 74 toddler & junior children to a local kids' play park for an awesome day of fun & games. Then it was back to the Centre for something to eat & a prize-giving which included Christmas presents, sweet packs & achievement certificates.

3. Teen Incentive Reward: We have noticed so much growth this past year in so many of the teenagers we work with that we faced a real dilemma as to who we could afford to give this award to. We managed to change some of our original plans & were able to take 18 teenagers out for a day at a shopping mall, a meal at a restaurant & to watch a movie! All rare (if ever) treats for them. In addition, they each received achievement certificates & some money (instead of a present) to spend on clothing for themselves while at the shopping mall. What surprised & impressed us though was that most of them decided to keep the money for things needed in their homes & maybe some for themselves for Christmas! It's not often you find teenagers with this kind of attitude!



4. Community Volunteers Christmas Party: Our volunteers all enjoyed a wonderful morning at a local game park where many of us were able to see certain animals for the first time & it was also a much appreciated break from the conditions in the township. Afterwards they also enjoyed a full restaurant meal before returning to the Centre where they were presented with service certificates, monetary gifts & generous food hampers in recognition of the incredible work they do!

Since July this year, the Ubomi Obutsha Centre as been able to build into & provide assistance to over 1700 orphaned or vulnerable children! We are thankful for the call of God in our lives to reach out & care for these children &, although it may be difficult & frustrating at times, we are thankful for the strength He continues to give us to carry on & are appreciative of all the support & assistance we receive from those outside our community who make themselves a part of what we do.



Although the majority of the regular programs close over the holiday season, the Ubomi Obutsha Centre does not close completely but we are grateful to be able to enjoy a bit of a "go-slow"! We will "open" officially again on Monday the 11th January 2010 eager to get kids into school & to carry on finding the most vulnerable children in our community & helping them to overcome their circumstances!

God bless you all.

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