

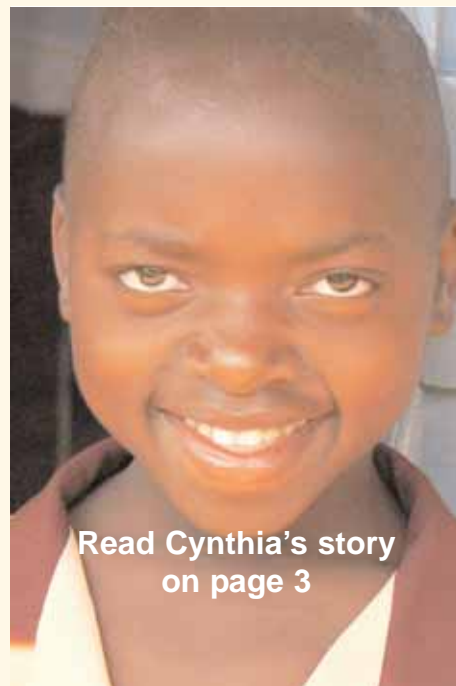
CHRISTADELPHIAN MEAL-A-DAY FUND

Welcome ...

.... to our Spring 2009 newsletter. Thanks to your continued support, CMaD has had its best year in terms both of donations and projects supported. Thank you !

The world at large is struggling to deal with the 'credit crunch'. The consequences – for jobs, income and any savings – are severe. Many charities are worried about lower donations. So CMaD is particularly grateful for the support received during 2008 (see finance report on page 4). It has created a short term cushion that will ensure our support for key projects through the 'perfect storm' of problems ahead of us. Clean water, basic sanitation, sustainable food production, basic education and healthcare are ALWAYS needed, but project costs have risen dramatically - food prices in Africa are up 70-150%, construction materials are up 60%. On top of this, our UK donations now buy less in every country we work in, because of lower exchange rates and increased banking charges.

This newsletter brings you up to date on a number of our projects and will show you that your donations are being used well and responsibly to help where there is real need – with children and with vulnerable communities.



Read Cynthia's story on page 3

Projects in South Africa



The children eating at Ubhle

Ubhle Bezwe orphanage

Ubhle Bezwe Orphanage is in Tembisa Township, north east of Johannesburg, and is a new project to CMaD. It looks after 30 abandoned infants and babies. Many lost parents with HIV/AIDS and some have inherited this, and have no other family to look after them.

The orphanage is in a small house in a rough area and the children

sleep about 10 - 12 per bedroom. It receives no state funding. The Kempton Park church has been supporting Ubhle Bezwe with food, clothing and medicines during the last year and CMaD has agreed to fund a regular supply of maize for the children.

Recently the church has been helping to improve the accommodation. This has had a marked effect on the children. Previously church members were not welcome in the township but now they are both accepted and able to start witnessing and hold seminars there. Currently 20 of the orphanage children attend the Sunday School.

CMaD is delighted to support what is both a humanitarian need and an excellent witness to the gospel of grace and compassion.

- Neil Brighthouse

Modimo Oteng crèche

Modimo Oteng crèche is another new project in Tembisa township, being run with the support of Kempton Park church. The crèche cares for 15 children, allowing their parents to find work to support their family. The venue is also used for a Sunday School and a Sunday morning Bible Class. CMaD is funding maize to feed the children and some items for children's activities.



The Tembisa crèche



Old nursery classroom



The nursery class

Freetown School

A new classroom block has been paid for in part by CMA^D – it's not yet complete but already in use! The photo above shows the basement where they used to sit !!!

Kroo ('Crow') Bay, Freetown

Kroo Bay is a desperate slum of 13000 inhabitants – many of them



Kroo Bay township

abandoned women and children - living in what was once probably a pretty seaside cove. There are only four functioning water points for the 13000 people to use. The 'health centre' has almost no equipment, no clean water supply and few drugs even for the most straightforward illnesses.

CMA^D is paying to extend the water system to provide ten water points for the community and health centre, which will now have wash basins in the three treatment rooms, plus beds and some other equipment. - Gordon Dawes

Wanjamma village

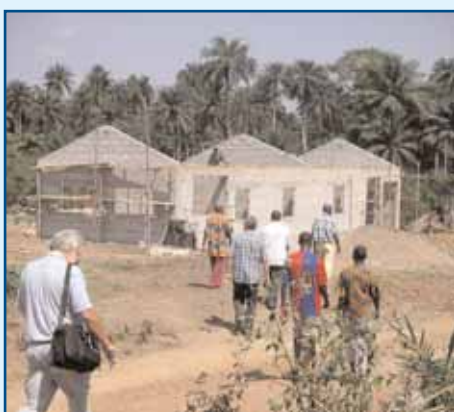
Wanjamma is in a very poor area but has an active and growing church. CMA^D has paid for three toilet blocks to be built in the village. This has greatly improved the survival of babies and young children and the general health of the villagers.

We also pay for an adult literacy class, held each week in the church hall. The village chief and the Imam of the local mosque attend, and they get to know more about Christadelphians. Most of the Wanjamma project costs have been raised by London (Ealing) church - see article on page 3.



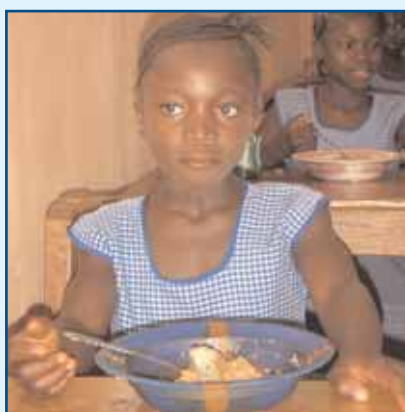
Toilets decant straight onto the beach!

Talia Makaya school



The new health clinic takes shape

This school, which CMA^D now funds, looks after 150 local orphans from the civil war. We have paid for a new kitchen and dining hall, and are sponsoring an adult literacy class, which teaches basic reading and writing and essential healthcare messages.



The first meal being served

CMA^D is also building a health clinic for the community. The equipment for this was donated by the UK National Health Service; a 40 foot container was packed by a church team in Birmingham UK and the shipping was paid for by CMA^D.

Our UK Addresses

Christadelphian Meal a Day Fund

PO Box 1178
BRISTOL
BS39 4WT
UK

All donations to:

Paul Collier
Colvase House
Widegates
LOOE Cornwall
PL13 1QA
UK

www.meal-a-day.org

Information and quarterly email updates available from:

info@meal-a-day.org

London (Ealing) church's support for CMaD



New toilets at Wanjamma



The adult literacy project

From 2002 we have encouraged our Sunday School to raise some funds for children who were not so fortunate. We started with modest sums of £100, but soon found we could aim higher. Some were absolutely wonderful fundraisers - selling home made biscuits, cards, crafts etc. One made a musical donation box at school, some did sponsored walks and one charged car parking fees on the drive during Wimbledon fortnight! Then we started doing meals, which drew in the rest of the church.

Now CMaD is an ongoing church project, where everyone helps raise funds. Last year the younger members laid on a 'Posh Meal' at the hall for London's young church members, raising a terrific total.

Our Summer Fete (an annual witnessing event) also

raises money for our latest CMaD project, with tea, cakes, face painting, bric a brac and tombola stalls, a bouncy castle, beat the goalie competition and our Bible puppet show.

Ealing has sponsored food for street children in Colombia, bedding for a school in Kenya, sewing machines for Liberia and help with setting up carpentry training in DR Congo.

The local community uses our church hall and follows progress on our latest project via a fundraising thermometer!

Having contributed to Wanjamma (see left) we are now starting on our most ambitious CMaD project yet supporting a health network and nursery school in Western Kenya!

- Rachel DeWilde (Ealing)

Christadelphian School for the Blind and Disabled at Mbengwi, Cameroon



Cynthia is 11 and she loves life. Like many at the school she suffered with the crippling effects of rickets, which is caused by mineral deficiencies as a young child. Life in Africa is a challenge anyway, but to be lame with a deformity like rickets would have given Cynthia few opportunities as an adult.

The Christadelphian School for the Blind and Disabled, at Mbengwi in Cameroon offers vulnerable young people a future; it changes their lives. It must take some courage though - a team of Dutch surgeons perform major surgery and then the children remain in plaster casts for up to 3 months, to give the bones and muscles time to reset and strengthen. After this they are measured for callipers, which are metal and leather supports to their legs from the waist down. Slowly and painfully they learn to be upright and to walk. Many of the children's legs are far worse than Cynthia's: they learn to stand and walk for the very first time.

The joy is clear to see though, when progress is being made and they recognise that the struggle of the past is behind them. Cynthia is fun and has one volume, incredibly loud, and when she laughs everyone knows

about it! She wants to do well and is top of her class at the local primary school - she is integrating into society and quite simply will leave walking freely and without disability. For her it is no longer a school for the disabled but one that changed her life. A word the Cameroonians use is 'ashia'. They say it to anyone who is hurt or in trouble or someone who is working hard and trying to achieve. It means to 'take courage'. Cynthia has shown incredible courage to go through the life-changing surgery to start life again and to stand tall.

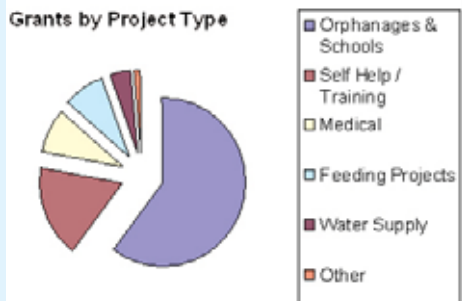


Martyn and Tracey East are pleased to give presentations at ecclesias and youth groups on the work of CMaD and the School for the Blind and Disabled, at Mbengwi in Cameroon.

- Martyn East (Crewe)

Financial position 2008

Our 2008 position was transformed by some generous legacies and one particularly large international donation. We received £933,840 in income, against £476,227 in 2007 - a much needed increase. Gift aided and church donations were up significantly - we need this continuous income to maintain ongoing project commitments all around Africa.



Our grants to projects was also at a new high - £506,856. As the chart shows, just over half is on our orphanages and on schools, including feeding the children in their care. Skills and capability training (usually in agriculture), medical and healthcare, other food and water supply projects made up the rest of our spend.

Each project is reviewed annually via written reports and photographs from the managing organisation. Larger projects are visited by CMA D or CBM representatives to confirm good governance and effective use of funds.

If anyone would like a more detailed statement of the financial position, please write to me at the address given on page 2.

- Paul Collier

CMA D Academy, Monrovia, Liberia

This school for 480 children, in the church compound, has achieved high standards but is in overcrowded and unsuitable rented accommodation. Four large classes use the dining hall, separated by sight screens only. The noise level is significant despite amazing class discipline !



All the children get lunch !

We have now found a new site for the school. A large bungalow and outbuildings will be adapted for school use, and there is room for more classrooms and a play area. The site will cost us \$40,000 (£29k) and the development another \$60-70k (£48-55k) for classrooms and a dining hall. The church will also transfer, using the dining hall as a meeting place.

This is a major but essential new project for CMA D and a big financial commitment, but essential to secure the schools future.

- Gordon Dawes

CMA D Governance

CMA D Trustees undertook a strategic review of governance last year, taking account of the Fund's increasing activity and the number of significant projects which benefit from your donations.

While all is done in faith and trust in our Heavenly Father, it is both right and necessary to be aware of the risks the Charity and Trustees may be exposed to in an increasingly litigious world. As a result we have agreed to convert CMA D from its current unincorporated trust status to a Company limited by guarantee, with appropriate constitutional and insurance arrangements put in place.

- Paul Lucas

Sponsor your own project

CMA D can work with individuals, churches, Sunday Schools and youth groups who would like suitable projects which they sponsor themselves. They become responsible for part or full funding over one year or longer as they choose, working through CMA D.

It's a great chance to become directly and personally involved in CMA D's work, and through feedback and photographs see the difference you are making. Projects are available to suit all ranges of donation.

For information and a confidential discussion please contact bro Gordon Dawes at gordon.dawes@meal-a-day.org or phone +44(0)1920 467268.

CHRISTADELPHIAN MEAL-A-DAY FUND Bankers Order

Please cut the form at this line and send to the UK Treasurer

Please pay Christadelphian Meal-A-Day (Account No. 60688576 at Barclays Bank plc (20.33.83) 18 Southgate Street Gloucester GL1 2DJ)

The sum of: £ _____ Words _____ Annually/monthly (please delete period not applicable), commencing on _____ (Date of first payment)
 Until further notice or until _____ (date of final payment) Your full name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
 Your address: _____ Post Code: _____
 Title of Bank/Building Society: _____ Account No: _____ Sort Code: _____
 Bank Address: _____ Post code: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

CHRISTADELPHIAN MEAL-A-DAY FUND Gift Aid Declaration

Charity Registration No. 326265

Full Name of Donor: _____ Address of Donor: _____

All donations I make from the date of this Declaration, until I notify you otherwise, are to be treated as Gift Aid Donations. Please note you must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax equal to the amount MAD will reclaim on your donation.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

