

For .....

**SPRING 2010**

**CHRISTADELPHIAN**

# MEAL A DAY

**Post and Donations:**

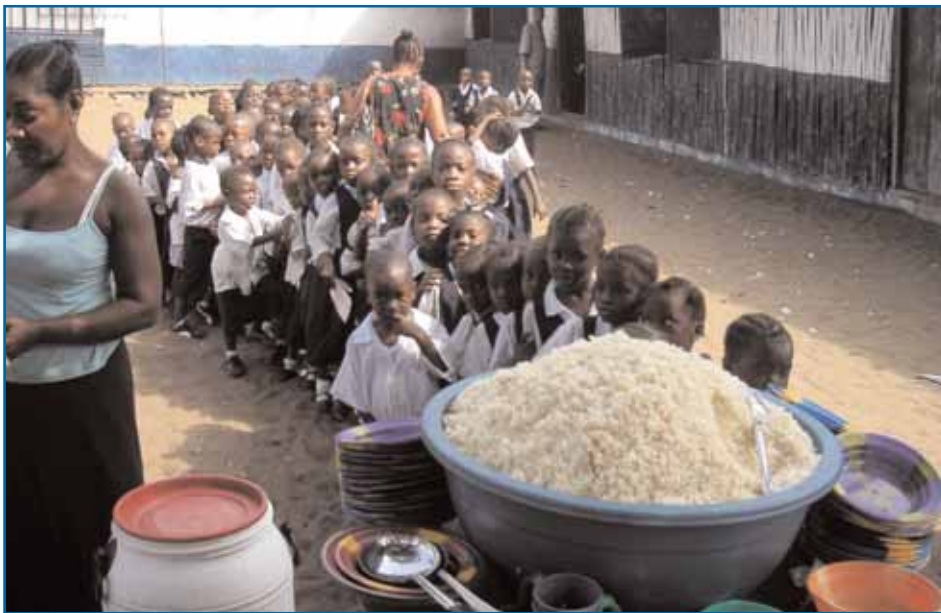
**Christadelphian Meal a Day Fund**  
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BRISTOL  
BS39 4WT

**Information and quarterly email updates available from:**  
info@meal-a-day.org

**Website**  
www.meal-a-day.org

## Welcome...

*... to our Spring 2010 newsletter. We are pleased to be able to report on a year of considerable achievement through 2009, as we worked to make prayerful and practical use of the significant additional funding received in 2008, and your further generous support amounting to nearly £600,000 in 2009.*



**Children queuing up for lunch at CMaD Academy Monrovia (see page 4)**

Reports on some projects in Kenya, DR Congo and Burundi are included in this newsletter, and an article on a big challenge facing us in Liberia. During 2009, at the request of the Christadelphian Bible Mission (CBM), CMaD took over responsibility and lead funding for seven (mainly nursery) schools associated with ecclesias in Burundi, Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Guinea and for the Christadelphian Blind and Handicapped School at Mbengwi in Cameroon. We also witnessed the formal opening of the new Lela Home for orphans in Kamukuywa, Western Kenya.

Following exceptionally generous contributions in 2008, and the further £600,000 donated in 2009, CMaD was able to make grants to projects totalling over £840,000 in the year, including some reserves for key projects in 2010. A fuller financial summary is given on page 3. The schools transferred from CBM, coupled with a further year of considerable increases in the cost of basic foodstuffs (and thus minimum wages), construction and maintenance costs means that the Fund's ONGOING responsibilities have increased to £310,000 a year - over half of the 2009 total income. All our current reserves are actively spoken for, so we must find at least this sum this year to maintain our direct projects through 2011. We continue to plan and operate in faith, and are grateful to every one of you who donate to the Fund and otherwise support its work. Thank you.

As always, we recognise that only through the return of Christ will mankind's many problems be resolved. Until then we will continue to support some of the poorest in this world, bringing them clean water, better agriculture practices, shelter, primary healthcare and basic education, and an example of Christ's compassion to those He saw in need.

Gordon Dawes



Visit our web site: [www.meal-a-day.org](http://www.meal-a-day.org)

Registered Charity no. 06959615

## Trustees

Paul and Pauline Collier (St Austell) stepped down from the role of Treasurer of the Fund after nine years of exemplary and constant service. In that time the Fund's income (and consequently its outgoings) have increased from about £120,000 a year to last year's £968,000. Pauline chose to step down as a trustee on 31 December 2009; Paul continues for a further 12 months, particularly to share his expertise with the new Finance trustees.

Marian Dawes (Ware) and Stuart Barrett (Horley) have joined the committee from 1 January 2010 - Stuart taking on the role of Treasurer. He will be assisted in this by Cheryl Gentle (Mendip), who will handle all donations.

## New website !!

CMA's brand new website was launched in November 2009. The site reports on almost every project currently being supported by the Fund. These can be searched for either by country, or by project type. The site is regularly updated with new reports, feedback and photographs.

Keep an eye on what CMA is doing to help change people's lives ! You can use the site to sign up for regular email updates and even to donate to the Fund. And you can contact us at the website, to offer feedback or ask any question you have.

[www.meal-a-day.org](http://www.meal-a-day.org)

## Formation of new Company

We stated our intention to change to a Company limited by Guarantee in the last newsletter. This has now been achieved and all activities of the Fund since 1st January 2010 have been undertaken by the new company. It is registered with Companies House (06959615) and with the Charity Commission (1133337). Our primary reasons for doing this are to limit trustees' liability and to update and clarify our governance arrangements, given CMA's scale of activities sponsoring projects across Africa and Eastern Europe.

Associated changes have been made to our banking arrangements and regular donors have been requested to change their payment arrangements. If you have not done this yet please do so as soon as possible, so the funds reach the right accounts.

Paul Lucas

## Project Reports

### KENYA - VISIT TO TIMBONI TIVA CHILDREN'S HOME

Paul Lucas, Paul Collier and Neil Brighthouse visited our projects in Kenya in September/October 2009. Here is an extract from their report of the visit, which shows how we keep a watch on our projects and how we seek to build a witness to our faith into CMA's activities.

**Saturday 26** Landed Nairobi 5.45am, Kenya time, collected vehicle and stocked up on water and basic provisions: travelled to Hunters Lodge near Makindu - much improved roads compared to last year. We were amazed how dry everywhere was, with bare earth to be seen for miles.

**Sunday 27** Travelled on to Ikutha (two hours over rough roads) to the new, almost finished ecclesial hall. Around 150 members and visitors had arrived for a full day of activities, many having slept at the hall the previous night. Paul Collier provided the exhortation and Paul Lucas led a Bible study. We had lunch with a number of elders and senior sisters. All are very positive about the improvements at the Children's Home and local school. This has helped raise the reputation of Christadelphians in the community.

We left Ikutha at 4pm and drove to Timboni via the riverbed crossing with two CBM members, Harrison (regional elder) and Jackson (Chairman of the Timboni Home management board). Here we were welcomed by the children, staff and governors for the official opening of the new building. They were all very excited - the building had been decorated with balloons and streamers.



**The new building at Timboni Tiva Children's Home**

The new building fits into the site very well and responds to Kenya registration requirements, replacing the dilapidated original building with accommodation for a health clinic, rest room, children's library, store and offices plus staff rooms upstairs for duty managers. We held a welcome session with the children, Paul Lucas talking about 'The Keys to Life'. After supper Neil led a session with the children with a new song and Pictionary game. In discussion with Harrison and Jackson, it was clear they are very happy with developments and impressed by Zabibu's (Project Director) care and commitment. They feel able to give a spiritual tone to the home.

**Monday 28** We were woken at 5.30 am by children with their morning prayers and chores. We held a series of meetings/activities including a visit to the farm, well, pump and borehole, meetings with the executive committee, and entertainment from the children before lunch. We also met the Governing body and talked to Harrison about Bible study arrangements. We held football matches with the new footballs at 4.30 then, after supper, Neil led a session with the children with a chaotic Noah's ark game and the new song. Paul L attempted to teach the children a dance.

**Tuesday 29** We went to Timboni Primary School to review progress of the refurbishment project and new classrooms. This was nearing completion with painting work in hand. The classrooms have been transformed and the new building was awaiting roof construction. We returned to the Home for lunch and a final review of issues raised before departure. Overall we were very impressed with the progress in the last 12 months. The children were happy and well behaved. The staff also seemed much more content. It was a great privilege to stay at the home and really get the feel of the place.

Paul Collier, Paul Lucas, Neil Brighthouse

## BURUNDI - Bujumbura school

CMaD funds the rental for this school. 175 children attend aged 5-15. The building is also the ecclesial hall, so it is well used throughout the week. The children all have two sessions a week when they are taught the Bible. CMaD funding of the school enables the Christadelphians to be licensed as a church in Burundi, as it shows we are giving some practical help to the country. This, of course, means that CBM can witness there. It's another good example of CBM and CMaD working together.

Melanie Ford



Kinshasa feeding programme

## D.R. CONGO - Kinshasa feeding programme

The ecclesia in Kinshasa runs a feeding programme for local poor kids. This is funded by CMaD, but it also receives regular funding from individual brethren and sisters in the UK. Our latest report was received in January. Thirty children attend twice a week. They not only are given a nutritious meal but also have Sunday school activities and sing and play games.

Melanie Ford

## SOUTH AFRICA - Candu borehole

The village of Candu, where there is a small but vibrant Christadelphian church and a CMaD funded crèche, is in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. During the latter part of 2009 the area was in the grip of the worst drought in living memory. The dam that CMaD enlarged in 2007 was empty. The only source of any water was an old borehole three miles away, that was constantly breaking down, or a polluted stream four miles away. The buckets of water carried back had to be boiled but even then the taste was poor. The crèche was in danger of closing as it could not continue to



Group collecting water



Cows in drought

run without water and good hygiene practice was already suffering because of the shortage. Once fertile arable land was parched and semi desert. Cattle were dying.

In a remarkable set of circumstances the local church members were able to persuade a drilling company which was passing through the area to provide a borehole at a competitive rate and almost immediately, whereas other companies contacted could not drill for months. CMaD quickly agreed to fund the provision of a 140m deep borehole, water tank and pipe work to provide clean water to the village. The water is now flowing freely into the main water tank at the crèche and it is reported that "all the village and the children are overjoyed".

Neil Brighthouse

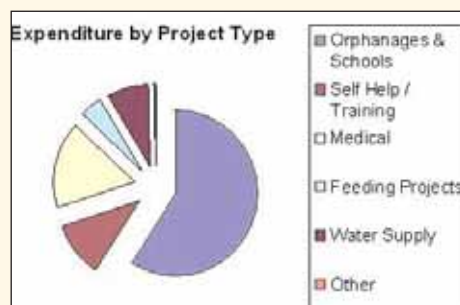
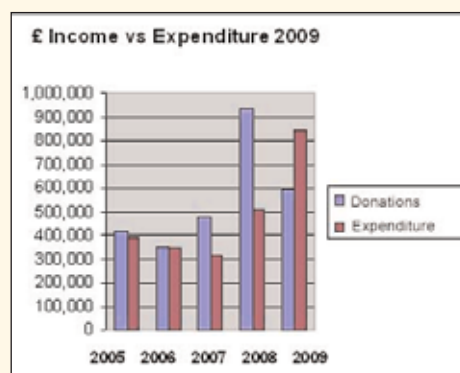
## CMaD Annual Report 2009

As noted in the introduction, CMaD received donations, legacies and other incomes totalling £598,000 in 2009. Although a sharp reduction on the exceptional year of 2008, the trend year on year (see fig 1) is upwards at a sufficient rate - just - to support the escalating costs of our long term projects.

Fig 2 below shows how the £840,000 spent or projected for spend in 2009 has been used. The proportion for orphanages and schools has increased due to the additional schools taken over from CBM. Most of CMaD's schools include a daily feeding programme, ensuring that the children receive at least one good meal a day, the foundation purpose of the Fund.

The need to rebuild the school in Monrovia, Liberia (see separate story on page 4) means that CMaD reserved some funds from last year's surplus towards this major project. We pray for further funds to enable us to complete the new site reasonably quickly.

Expenses and costs of running the Fund amounted to just 3.5% of donations, largely due to the inevitable cost of establishing the Fund's new limited company status. There were, for several reasons, more visits necessary to projects, although much of this cost was reimbursed by trustees as personal donations. Copies of the full Accounts may be obtained from Stuart Barrett, the new Treasurer of CMaD. Email: [stuart@meal-a-day.org](mailto:stuart@meal-a-day.org) or write to him at 4 Barcombe Close, SEAFORD, East Sussex. BN25 4DP.





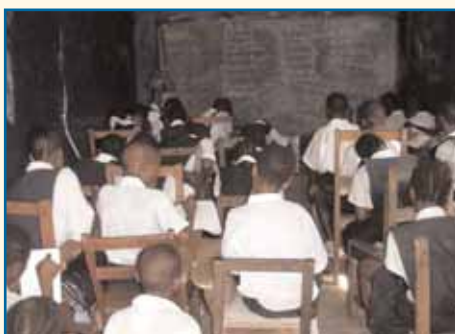
The current kitchen!



The old building - on sand!



The crowded classrooms



The rear classroom in 100 degrees!



The new site

CMaD has been supporting the Academy, a school for over 400 in the poorest sector of the Liberian capital, Monrovia for many years. Founded in the ecclesial hall, which itself is on rented land, the school has grown in numbers and has completely outrun its meagre facilities, yet has one of the best academic records in the city.

The site rental is being increased very significantly at each review, and the main building used by the school is poorly constructed (on sand!) and increasingly hard to maintain. The area around the site floods with the heavy rains in season.

CMaD, working with CBM, has now purchased a new freehold site nearby for a sum not very different to the latest rent request. We are now setting out to build our own facilities on this site and adapt what is already there, to provide for the school in the future.

The cost of building the new site may be in the order of £175000 at today's construction prices in Liberia, which inflate fast. Not bad for a school of 450 students, but a real stretch for CMaD and not a project we can undertake in one go, even though our need to move the school is urgent to improve the facilities and save on the high rents longer term.

We would very much welcome any special help from donors with this large but necessary project. The two storey classroom block alone will cost £80,000 for eight classrooms - if any donor would like to sponsor a classroom we would be especially grateful.

Gordon Dawes