

A Christian World Service Newsletter Autumn 2005

InFocus

Christian World Service is a Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia



Tsunami survivors say

thanks

Contents

From the General Secretary	2
Thanks	2
Announcing Partners4Peace	3
'We'll continue to support you'	3
Beyond the cameras in Darfur and Sudan	4
The barefoot doctor	4
Pray for peace in Palestine	5
Australian church solidarity with the Pacific is critical	5
Churches working together in Sri Lanka	6
AusAID and Christmas Bowl Tsunami Support	7
Sri Lankan Tamils repaying Indian hospitality	7
Refugee and Migrant Sunday	8
Giving Hope and Courage to Children at Risk in Cambodia	8
Taking a step to break the cycle of African debt	9
Stop the traffic	9
From the States	10
Social Justice Sunday	11
Deferred gifts are wonderful!	12
Christmas Bowl 2004-5	12



Front cover: Please accept the smiling face of this young man in Sri Lanka, helping to build shelter for tsunami survivors, as thanks for your gifts for the South Asia Tsunami Appeal.
Credit Daniel Fekete, HIA/ACT International

From the General Secretary

In Focus is the name of this newsletter. It is a suggestive name asking us to concentrate on the work of CWS and the partners who share in the programs. The news items in this issue all help readers to do that. We are reminded about the ongoing work in the Pacific. We are shocked by the story from the Sudan. And the impact of the tsunami is still being felt. **In Focus** provides us with reading material that helps us concentrate on these issues.

But there is a deeper meaning to the word "focus" than just suggesting that we concentrate our attention. The word has a latin origin which means fire-place, stove, family hearth. It is the place where families and guests gather in conversation and joy and concern, in much the same way as today we might sit around the kitchen table in relaxed

and honest conversation, sharing news and feelings.

It is in that sense that I suggest you might read this issue of **In Focus**.

We are children of the one God, sisters and brothers in Christ, and in that relationship share each other's burdens and joys. This newsletter is a means to that end – the sharing of joys and sorrows.

And the next time you bite into a piece of foccacia bread, you might like to remember that it also has its origin in the same word.

The Reverend John Henderson
National Council of Churches in
Australia/Christian World Service
(NCCA/CWS)

thanks

The assistance that you have provided by your generosity provides immediate relief, and long term reconstruction and rehabilitation. That rehabilitation includes all the dimensions of life – physical, spiritual, emotional. May our sense of enjoyment of culture and of togetherness through diverse action for the affected areas translate into a sense of appreciation of culture and humanity everywhere.

Please continue to give generously to our South Asia Tsunami Appeal (tax deductible) for the support of long-term programs of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

For more news see pages 6 and 7.

Announcing Partners4Peace

"I am delighted to commend to you

Partners4Peace, a brand new opportunity for Christmas Bowl supporters to become partners in our work, by

regular giving to monthly projects" says the Reverend Gregor Henderson, Chair of the CWS Commission.

Gregor added, "This promises much greater involvement for us in the lives and struggles of people who are helped



partners 4 peace
working for a world at peace

through our partner churches. The idea of getting monthly aerograms, directly from them is something to really look forward to."

"For instance, it is with **Partners4Peace** in mind that I promised continuing support

to Sudanese refugees (see below). We will have a different project each month, but all will focus on real needs where together we can make a difference", Gregor said, with even more than his normal enthusiasm.

The enclosed flyer gives brief details. If you would like more information or wish to become a Partner4Peace, please fill in the tear-off slip on page 11, or e-mail partners4peace@ncca.org.au

'We'll continue to support you'

"We will continue to support you," Gregor Henderson, recently told a rally of Sudanese refugees living in Adelaide.

The rally was to celebrate the peace agreement signed between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

The agreement brought the 21 year old war between North Sudan and South Sudan to an end.

Gregor said the WCC, the NCCA and the Roman Catholic Church worldwide, had journeyed with the suffering people of southern Sudan for many years.

"We have advocated for and supported refugees settling here in Australia," he said.

"We have provided assistance to victims of the war in Sudan and to those forced to flee to neighbouring countries.

"We have advocated long and hard alongside Christian leaders from the south and the north for an end to the war."

Gregor spent 24 hours in the huge Kakuma refugee camp up near the Sudanese border last year, hearing story



Photo: Nick Kerr

after story from victims of the war, stories of killings and woundings, of hardship and suffering, of starvation and sickness, of grief and heartache".

"We witnessed firsthand the terrible poverty facing Sudanese refugees. We learnt that 80% of the population of southern Sudan has been displaced – and, despite all the horrors and hardships, we saw also the marvellous capacity of the Sudanese to still live in hope, to still rejoice in life.

"I'll never forget the way in which half-starved young Sudanese danced and

shouted and rejoiced in welcome to us and in celebration of the gift of life."

"Building the peace will require much support from us, the rest of the world.

"We in the churches believe that our Australian Government needs to give much more attention and assistance to the needs of southern Sudan. Australia can and must play a role in helping to rebuild southern Sudan, perhaps especially with support for education and health care.

"The churches, the NCCA and the WCC know that the needs are great. We will continue to support you, providing fresh moral and material support over these next years."

The amazing generosity of CWS supporters and their friends has gladdened the hearts of people in Kakuma – one of those gifts from the Black Stump Festival, \$ 30 062.10, their largest offering ever, has been received for extra food, children's supplements and medicines.

Nick Kerr, CWS

Beyond the cameras in Darfur and Sudan

Beyond the peripheral vision of the camera lenses trained on Darfur, is the rest of the Sudan with the challenging perspective of solidifying the Peace Agreement signed on 9 January 2005. To move successfully through the implementation process in the six-year interim period, to reintegrate some four million internally displaced people and refugees, to rehabilitate a demolished infrastructure, and to cultivate a democratic culture, are huge tasks.

The journey for each family, for each village committee and for the national leaders will be treacherous. The cumulative picture of a population on the move to building their nation deserves our attention.

There is a compelling rationale to look beyond the narrow sight of the negative news and to tell the story of people suffering, enduring, indeed living, and taking, considerable risks – a situation

unimaginable for most of us.

The challenge for those engaged in helping the most vulnerable, the people trapped in the perpetual stage of displacement, living the horror of a war seeming without end, is to look beyond the confined situation of Darfur.

The churches and others in Sudan are facing the impossible task to respond to human disaster in a situation much larger and more complex than we can know. What is the long-term perspective of the South, already in dire condition, as thousands are returning from Darfur or other areas? How will the freedom fighters and leaders of the liberation movement transform their skills and visions into accountable and democratic leadership of a functioning government structure? How will the funds available for reintegration and reconstruction be managed equitably, so individual farmers, women's group leaders, school teachers



Photo: Nick Kerr

and pastors can see the funds flowing to prioritized areas of need and can hold recipients publicly accountable?

Edited from ACT Communications

Thank you to all who have contributed over \$250 000 to our emergency appeals for the people of Darfur and Sudan – please continue to pray for and support the people of Sudan.

The barefoot doctor

The Reverend Li Enlin grew up in a Christian family in Anhui Province, China. Her father was a pastor and her mother a doctor and their home always welcomed those seeking healing and prayers. Her family's dream was of running a clinic – however such was unheard of in those days. She was a Christmas Bowl visitor in Queensland and Tasmania late last year.

Becoming a "barefoot doctor" in the countryside during the Cultural Revolution was the closest Li came to emulating her mother. After the Cultural Revolution, even though her primary desire was to study as a doctor, she gave in to her father's wishes and attended Nanjing Seminary.

When invited to join Amity, Li felt that her chance of doing something her parents had originally only dreamed about was to become a reality.



Photo: St Michael's Collegiate School

Li Enlin with students from St Michael's Collegiate Middle School Vocal Ensemble at the Hobart launch of the Christmas Bowl.

In 1988 she was asked to begin Amity's Medical Division. A decision was made that training should be provided for grassroots health workers. In 1989, while visiting six provinces in western China, Li noticed the desperate lack of

qualified doctors. She proposed the training of 600 village health workers.

Amity began with a three-year training program but after the first year, the number trained was too small to meet the needs so the period was reduced to two years and 1 800 were trained. The village doctors are now better equipped to deal with common illnesses, offer pre-natal care, assist with births and engage in preventive health work.

The Christmas Bowl and AusAID gave \$88 000 to improve levels of health care in remote rural areas of China last year.

Your continuing support of the Christmas Bowl enables Amity to pursue its work in improving the health of village people in China. Thank you.

Pray for peace in Palestine

Palestinians want change and change means finding channels to confront Israeli occupation other than by localized and sometimes haphazard use of arms by militant Palestinians. They think that Abu Mazen is a pragmatic politician – this pragmatism has attracted many voters to him.

Abu Mazen and the Palestinians face difficult challenges; highest among them is the institutionalization of the state so that all Palestinians will be treated according to the Law and not according to factional or local preferences. Abu Mazen is aware of the need to achieve “a dignified life for Palestinians”, as he put it in his victory speech. Now the challenge for Palestinians is to create the institutions or to rejuvenate those already there, to serve the purpose of bringing dignity to Palestinian life.

Certainly an economic package that will steer the devastated Palestinian economy back to health and eventual stabilization demands the full attention of



Mary and Bernard Sabella

Abu Mazen and his team.

The greatest and most formidable challenge to Abu Mazen, however, remains that of initiating and concluding successful negotiations with Israel. Being accepted by all important parties – Palestinians, Israel and the United States – is a definite plus that will give Abu Mazen the leverage needed to initiate and conduct negotiations.

Success in negotiating peace with Israel does not depend on the Palestinians alone. Israel has the

responsibility to end its occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, in order to make for lasting peace with the Palestinians.

Pragmatism appears to be the order of the day on the Palestinian side. An era of pragmatism needs Israel, the United States, Australia and other countries, to adopt a balanced position and take on the role of honest brokers.

The risk is that without the serious and committed involvement of the US, the pragmatism shown by the Palestinians could lead them once more to the vicious cycle of violence and confrontation.

*Edited from an article written by
Dr Bernard Sabella, Executive Director,
Department of Service
to Palestinian Refugees,
Middle East Council of Churches*

**As we celebrate the Easter season,
may we continue to pray fervently
for peace, with justice, for our
partners in the Middle East.**

Australian church solidarity with the Pacific is critical

At the World Council of Churches' Central Committee meeting in Geneva recently, Pacific member churches pleaded for solidarity on the major issues of climate change, HIV/AIDS, and nuclear testing fallout, which are affecting their culture and way of life.

Selai Cati of Kiribati described the Pacific region as “the liquid continent”. “For us it is a matter of life and death”, she said. Selai called on Australia to sign on to the Kyoto Protocol (which is now international law) and the church to “act in solidarity with us to reduce the causes of human-induced climate change”.

The Reverend Gregor Henderson, CWS Chair, reported that Australian member churches had decided to continue in solidarity with those affected. He “felt humbled” by the fact that Australia was one



Pacific Conference of Churches General Secretary, the Reverend Valamotu Palu

of the industrialised countries contributing to the tragedy of climate change.

John Doom of Tahiti detailed the sad history of nuclear testing in the region, with 332 tests between 1946 and 1996. He appealed to the churches to continue to make the test victims' voices heard and to help them obtain compensation.

Pacific Conference of Churches General Secretary, the Reverend Valamotu Palu, closed the session saying, “We have taken you to the Pacific and presented you with the hopes and dreams of our people. We need action, and more importantly, we need solidarity from our Christian brothers and sisters”.

CWS is a significant partner of the Pacific Conference of Churches and affirms the position of our neighbours. This gathering once again reiterates the need for Australian churches to work together on issues such as climate change. Just talking is not enough. We must determine specific outcomes that we will commit to for the coming years. Working together we act with strength to engage our churches, community and government.

Mark Hobson, CWS

The Christmas Bowl

Churches working together in Sri Lanka

When we first heard about the South Asia tsunami the reported deaths were in the thousands. As the numbers climbed during the first two weeks of massive media coverage it became harder and harder for me and for all of us, to understand and to take it in.

Somehow the large numbers became a defence against the impact of the event. I find it harder to deal with individual stories of loss at the family level.

Sri Lanka has particular relevance for me as I was there two years ago. We visited one of the areas which has been hardest hit by the tsunami – Trincomalee. We were hosted by the Reverend Terrence Sylvester, a senior Methodist minister. We saw about a dozen projects which he and his church were involved with. He was putting in extraordinary hours. He made a deliberate effort to care for and bring together the Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim communities, which are in about equal numbers in the area.

Twenty four members of his community lost their lives, most of them children. Several hundred are homeless. Terrence is coordinating the relief work of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) in an area where half a dozen villages were completely washed away.

The tsunami has left people completely traumatised. Here is a glimpse – of a man dealing with the grief of watching his wife and five children who were seeking refuge on the roof of a house, get carried away by the second wave; of a 17 year old girl who has been unable to speak since the tsunami. She lost four brothers and two sisters. Terrence is caring for her.

The supplies for his relief efforts come from the NCCSL. Funds come from Action by Churches Together International (ACT), the global alliance of churches and related agencies, working to save lives and support communities in emergencies, of which CWS is a member.



Photo: Daniel Fekete, HIA/ACT International

New houses are being constructed by villagers, helping provide shelter to families whose houses were destroyed.

One of the NCCSL's greatest concerns is for the human and spiritual wellbeing of the people. Their sense of loss is preventing many from even returning to their homes. In Kaddaively on the north coast, Mary Sriyoyogaveni isn't ready to go home. She is still recovering from severe lacerations on her legs. One daughter and two grandchildren were killed, another daughter is in hospital with both legs broken, and her home has been destroyed. Mary's other three daughters are also homeless. Even if Mary had a home to go to, she no longer trusts the sea. Such levels of trauma will need years for recovery.

Those who lived near the coast have lost everything – homes, families and livelihoods. In the recovery effort, Muslims, Christians, Sinhalese and Tamils are helping each other – churches are open to all people who need shelter.

The various faith communities are aware of the need for caring for people spiritually. They are already warning the government that some of their plans for rehousing people are culturally unsuitable and will add to the trauma. As people are recovering they need help from counsellors who understand the religious symbols that mean most to them.

Jeff Wild, CWS

Our South Asia Tsunami Appeal is still receiving gifts to be used by our international partner, Action by Churches Together, in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand – supporting long-term programs for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Thank you to all who have responded generously – please keep praying for our colleagues as they work with courage and hope.

AusAID and Christmas Bowl Tsunami Support

“We are greatly heartened by the positive response of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and the deep concern and commitment of Christian World Service/National Council of Churches in Australia (CWS/NCCA)”, said Mr S C Chandrachud, Chair of the Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation (OfERR).

“The commitment of A\$ 100 000 from AusAID for Tsunami relief in Sri Lanka, through CWS to OfERR, is good news and has greatly encouraged us.”

A further A\$ 30 000 from the Christmas Bowl program has also been made available to OfERR.

The funds will be used to provide first



Photo: Paul Jeffrey, ACT International

aid and health awareness for 10 000 families; to provide temporary shelters for 2 500 families and to assist in rehabilitation of houses, wells and toilets. It will provide relief for 500 families who have not had assistance from government or other non-government organisations.

Miss Sooriyakumary, Secretary of

OfERR in Sri Lanka, and volunteers working with her, particularly in the Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts, have expressed their appreciation for this financial support which will benefit all the communities, including Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils.

Immediately after the tsunami, Sooriya, who had been a Christmas Bowl visitor in Australia late last

year said, “Our situation is pretty bad. We are very concerned for the children who are homeless and orphaned. We have sent a team of people to Trincomalee, one of the worst affected areas, to talk with people and to assess the situation for initial recovery. Many are so shocked and it will be very difficult for them to overcome their awful memories.

Sri Lankan Tamils repaying Indian hospitality

OfERR India's timely and caring response has been very warmly received by people caught up in the tsunami. “For us the Tsunami struck only once and we have lost almost everything but you Tamil refugees have suffered so much”, said one of the village leaders.

“First you had the war and had to leave home and run without anything to live on. Many of you have lost your families in the tsunami in Sri Lanka. Yet you have come to console us and to give support. You have a great strength to give. We feel so much privileged to be helped by you.”

The Tamil volunteers from OfERR are determined to repay their debts to the people of Tamil Nadu by their actions following the tsunami.

Charlie Ocampo, CWS's Manager of International Programs, was in India

recently to meet with OfERR staff and to visit people beginning the long and painful recovery from the tsunami.

“I felt people were holding their grief in themselves”, he said. “But the women from OfERR who have daily contact with the people, and who are offering counselling to them, are building trust and helping people to talk about the loss of family, friends, homes and livelihoods.”

“My visit to the southeastern coast of Tamil Nadu was at OfERR's invitation. A team from OfERR took me to Pudukkuppam, a fishing village, in the Cuddalore district.

“Relief goods were pouring in and were piling up – the families rendered homeless were still in a state of shock, feeling disoriented and dejected. People are afraid of the sea. Many feel hate from watching relatives and friends

being swallowed up by the big waves.

“Young fishermen, mostly family breadwinners, just kept gaping at the sky and did nothing for a long while – now their boats are slowly being repaired and they may go back to fishing again.

“Cuddalore is an example of good coordination between local government and non-government organisations, providing social services after an emergency. The devastation is being cleared and reconstruction is underway. The rebuilding of lives and the recovery from the trauma will take many years”, said Charlie.

OfERR is an organisation of Sri Lankan Tamil people who sought refuge in Tamil Nadu after the outbreak of conflict between the Sinhalese people and Tamil plantation workers in the 1980s. It has been assisting families in 103 refugee camps in Tamil Nadu.

Refugee and Migrant Sunday – 28 August 2005

What is Refugee and Migrant Sunday?

Refugee and Migrant Sunday (RMS) aims to encourage churches to help brave people build new lives by celebrating the contribution refugees and migrants have made to Australia. A special focus is on refugees, asylum seekers and other people who have been forcibly displaced. RMS is held every year in thousands of churches around Australia on the last Sunday in August.

Free Education Kits!

To help celebrate and raise awareness, the NCCA produces free Parish and School Education Kits with a poster to promote the day, refugee stories, education sheets, suggested activities and actions and worship resources.

Contact your state ecumenical office for a free hard copy or download from www.ncca.org.au/cws/refugees. State contact details also are on page 12.



Poster: Zara McKenzie, Our Lady of Mercy College, Melbourne

Media Competition – Get your School Involved!

Each year, we also run a Media Competition. This year, the theme is "Refugees: part of our family too!".

Winners in each of the three categories – from graphics, paintings and drawings to

power point presentations, poetry and film – receive \$250 and the entries go up on our online gallery. The winning entry will be used to promote the day around Australia in 2006.

How can you help?

- Celebrate RMS in your church on or around 28 August 2005 with the worship resources provided in the Education kit.
- Help brave people build new lives in your community by organising an event with friends, family and refugees and asylum seekers.
- Reflect on the stories in the kit, pray for uprooted people and take action where you can.
- Contact your local state ecumenical body for ideas on how to volunteer or give financial and other support.
- Support CWS financially to assist refugees who have effectively been "warehoused" in camps overseas for years on end with few rights or means to an income.

Giving Hope and Courage to Children at Risk in Cambodia

Following the tragic death of a dedicated senior staff person last October, our partner, Church World Service Cambodia (CWSC), set up the Mey Meakea Peace Fund. Mey Meakea had been the Community Development Programs Manager for CWSC for the past two years. Before that she had worked for many years promoting the rights of children. This work included direct support for children at risk as well as advocacy and education.

The circumstances of her death reflect the violence that surrounds the lives of children and their families. Late on a rainy Monday night in Phnom Penh, Mrs Meakea and her husband were returning home on a motorbike taxi. They were both conscientious mature aged students at a local university. Two men rode up next to them and one of them



Photo: Bron Lin

shot and killed Mrs Meakea. Police investigations have not led to any answers. Certainly no answers for her young distraught son. Her colleagues at

CWSC are convinced that her killing was linked to her previous work giving courage and hope to children, women and communities.

Staff and supporters of CWS NCCA are now taking the opportunity to support this work with children by contributing to the Mey Meakea Peace Fund. These children need help to get adequate shelter and other basic rights. They need protection from the violence of their surroundings. The skills and confidence they gain will give them more hope and courage and maybe peace.

If you wish to make a gift for peace to the Mey Meakea Peace Fund please complete the tear-off slip on page 11 or use our secure site at www.ncca.org.au/give/christian_world_service/MeyMeakeaPeaceFund

Jonathan Lin, CWS

Taking a step to break the cycle of African debt

Ever tried taking a bite of a chocolate mud cake shaped like Africa? Well this was one of the delights at the "African Experience", a night organised by Jubilee Australia. The evening gathered together African and non-African people for a time of cross-cultural learning, delicious African food, and entertainment. Fifteen African nationalities came, including Ghana, which is the largest community in Sydney, as well as Sydney's smallest community from Cape Verde, with one resident.

By the time the revellers had left the evening new friends had been made,

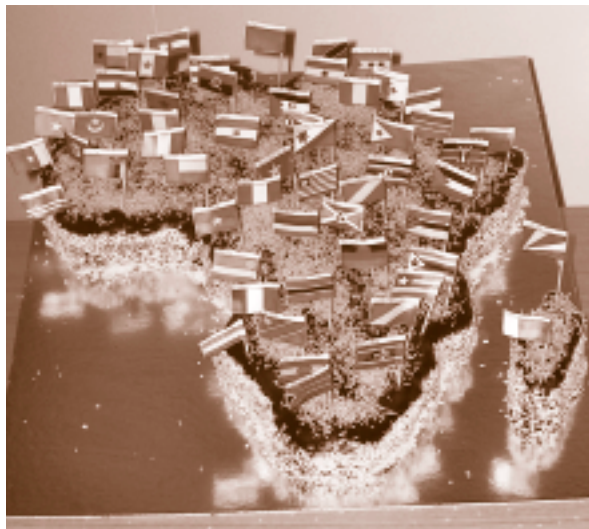


Photo: Angela Yoo

and stories of life in Africa shared. No topic was left unturned – culture, fashion, conflict, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, corruption and debt.

Vincent Chakulya, a former economist for the Zambian government, spoke at the evening of the impact of debt on African countries. Mr Chakulya said debt payments swallow up to a quarter of the national budget and that 40% of new aid money is being redirected to the repayment of multilateral loans, specially loans from the World Bank

Each week sub-Saharan Africa loses \$US245 million in debt repayments.

and International Monetary Fund, instead of poverty eradication.

Stewart Mills, Coordinator of Jubilee Australia supported Vincent's claim. "Whilst we in rich countries like Australia give to essential projects supported by overseas aid organisations, these amounts are just a fraction of what is being lost in debt repayments. Each

week sub-Saharan Africa loses \$US245 million in debt repayments.

Progress is being made to change this. Since 2000 as a result of the international Jubilee campaign and the World Bank's Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative 15 countries have had significant parts of their debts cancelled.

There is much to be done. This year the G8 (the group of eight richest nations, eg, USA, Japan, UK) will debate the international call to cancel debts owed by poor countries to the World Bank and IMF, so-called "multilateral debt". Australians have a part to play in helping this situation by keeping their Members of Parliament aware of the issue.

For further details on Jubilee Australia please phone 02 9299 2215, email jubilee@ncca.org.au or visit www.jubileeaustralia.org.

Stop the traffic



Trafficking refers to the illegal transport of people by means of threat or other forms of coercion with the intent of exploiting their labour. Trafficking of women and children is one of the ugliest parts of our global economy.

People who feel they have very few options for supporting their families are vulnerable to exploitation by the rich. Over a million children worldwide are "traded" each year. These children are sold to become sex workers, domestic slaves and factory workers, and 90% are girls.

forceten's Simply Sharing Week focus for 2005 is the Trafficking of Women and Children in Asia – supporting projects in Thailand and Nepal, which will bring hope to people who have been trafficked and provide options for those considered "at risk".

For more information, or to order our education kit, visit our website www.forceten.org.au, phone us on 02 9299 2215 or email forceten@ncca.org.au

From the States

Hot Collections in South Australia

The Adelaide sun shone on our efforts for Christmas Bowl "badge day" so well that by lunchtime the temperature had risen above the comfort zone in Rundle Mall. Our cycling collectors exchanged full collection tins with bottles of water for our valiant volunteers. The musical instruments became almost too hot to hold. The sound system "melted" as the Plain Jane group entertained the passing shoppers who scurried from shop to shop instead of standing to listen. Not a good day we predicted – yet the giving was up on the previous year – when it had rained! Next year...



Photo: Vikki Waller

Our Refugee Support Program remains a high priority given the steady stream of new arrivals mainly from Africa. Congregations and Sunday Schools are growing and responding to the beat of a different drum in education and worship as they meet face to face with recipients of our Christmas Bowl programs. Suddenly the call to give courage, give hope, give peace becomes meaningful and immediate.

Vikki Waller

Christmas Bowl in Victoria

Rowville Uniting Church members gave over \$10 000 to the Christmas Bowl – three times the previous giving.

How did they do it? Everyone knew the target was at least double than before; three people who had been to visit CB projects shared their experiences at an evening presentation;

Kris Kringle in Queensland

Michele Knight, CWS Queensland Churches Together (on right) clearly had great delight in presenting Jason Grimsey and Pauline Smith, from the Uniting Church of Australia's Brisbane office with their prize wooden bowl. The bowl was carved in Tami Island, Papua New Guinea and was awarded in a competition for the happiest Kris Kringle Party Snaps. Thank you to the UCA staff for Kris Kringle for the Christmas Bowl and for sharing your joy with others.

Why don't you be part of this fun next Christmas and register your party with CWS as a Kris Kringle Party? Sharing through the Christmas Bowl adds so much to Christmas celebrations.

Michele Knight



Photo: Andrew Demack



Photo: Kim Cain

the Christmas Bowl was blessed and launched at a special service; every Sunday pewsheets had news of what the Christmas Bowl money was used for, and envelopes were on the pews; people were challenged to give the same as they spent on their Christmas Day meal or on family gifts; and everyone decided that all of the Christmas Day offerings would be gifts for the Christmas Bowl.

Well done and many thanks

Kaylea Fearn

Tsunami gifts from Tasmania

• Norma Barwick, from Pilgrim Uniting Church and a Christmas Bowl volunteer at

the Riverside Shopping Centre, gave her Launceston Examiner's \$ 500 Summer Fun winnings to the Tsunami Appeal

• Jocelyn Cooper had an exhibition of wood cut prints and gave the entire takings to the Tsunami Appeal

• Sue and Ted Domeney gave 10% of takings from their Cherry Farm and their staff gave 10% of their salaries on the National Day of Mourning to the Tsunami Appeal

• Dot and Ken Rowe from Huon Valley Flower Farm gave flowers for "Come Together to Care" event at Parliament House, Hobart.

Thank you all.

Jenny Roddam



Photo: Courtesy of the Launceston Examiner. Photographer Will Swan

Social Justice Sunday

The NCCA's Social Justice Network and CWS are collaboratively producing a Social Justice Sunday resource for 2005. Social Justice Sunday is usually at the end of September – the resource, for congregations and church groups, will be designed for use then or at another suitable time.

It will look at some of the long-term issues facing people who have been affected by the South Asia tsunami. The devastation caused by the tsunami has increased the vulnerability of people who were already suffering from poverty, injustice and violence.

In the telling of some very particular stories, the resource will point to larger issues of justice and peace. It will be educational in its approach and intent and so will be an invitation to people to think carefully and theologically about the broader issues of justice that Social Justice Sunday raises and what they mean to how we live as Australian Christians.

Issues covered include:

- aid, the United Nations and Australia's response
- peacemaking and an emphasis on the increased vulnerability of women to violence and abuse
- debt and how debt relief can be the best kind of aid
- the needs of displaced people
- trafficking and the increased vulnerability of people, especially women and children

Liturgical resources and theological reflections will be included.

The leaders of member churches of the NCCA at their March meeting expressed their support and encouragement for the resource, which will be available from Christian World Service or you can download at www.ncca.org.au, or via email socialjusticesunday@ncca.org.au (pdf format).

Order your resources now – email christianworldservice@ncca.org.au or complete the tear-off slip or phone freecall 1800 025 101.

Publication

Editor – Colleen Hodge, Education and Communications

Layout and design – Project X Graphics

Email: prox@optusnet.com.au

NCCA – Member Australasian Religious Press Association

Printer – Lindwall and Ward

Email: lindwallandward@hillscoft.com.au



NCCA CWS is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct.

YES, I WANT TO BE A PARTNER4PEACE



NCCA ID (see mailing label if applicable) _____

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Rev _____

First name(s) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Suburb _____

Postcode _____ State _____

Telephone (____) _____

Email _____

Denomination _____

Home Parish _____

RESOURCES

I would like

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simply Sharing Week Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Give As You Earn Leaflet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee and Migrant Sunday Education Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice Sunday Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living Trusts Brochure | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Bowl 2005 Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Focus by email (pdf) | <input type="checkbox"/> In Focus by mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partners4Peace brochure | |

Here is my gift for

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Bowl | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian World Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Asia Tsunami Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> Mey Mekea Peace Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ | |

Payment method:

- ☐ Cheque/money order enclosed
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Name on card _____

Card no _ _ _ _ _

Expiry date __/__/__ Signature _____

- ☐ This is a *non-tax deductible* gift
- ☐ This is a *tax deductible* gift

The NCCA has a privacy policy which complies with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988, to be read in conjunction with the National Privacy Principles (NPPs) set out in Schedule 3 to the Act. To read our privacy policy please go to www.ncca.org.au, or contact our office.



Deferred gifts are wonderful!

Sometimes there comes a time when what used to be a pleasure and a delight in giving to the Christmas Bowl, becomes, well, frankly a hardship.

Those of us on fixed incomes, maybe in retirement or maybe through employment difficulties find that the costs of living show no respite. Whether it's fares, rates, the telephone, food or energy bills, each one has risen just that little bit from the last time. That did not worry us so much in the past, but now....it just all adds up.

Rather than not feel good about our inability to respond to

requests for gifts, please consider the opportunity to include a gift for the Christmas Bowl in your will.

We call this making a Living Trust and if you feel this is of interest to you, please tick the box on the tear-off form and send it back. We'll send you a brochure with absolutely no obligation, explaining the idea of Living Trusts. Think of it as a gift, but a deferred one.

If that helps you, great! Your Living Trust will certainly help support the work of the Christmas Bowl.



CHRISTMAS BOWL 2004-5

Thank you all for your gifts to the Christmas Bowl – it is already clear that we have had a very successful program. We couldn't have done it without the hundreds of volunteers who arranged events in churches, communities and schools.

If you have a Christmas Bowl success story, like Rowville Uniting Church (see page 10), or ideas you would like to share with us, we would love to hear from you – christmasbowl@ncca.org.au.

Together we are giving courage, hope and peace to thousands of people around the world.



CONTACT US! www.ncca.org.au

National Office

379 Kent Street, Sydney Locked Bag 199, Sydney 1230
Tel: (02) 9299 2215 Email: info@ncca.org.au
ABN 64 493 941 795

State Ecumenical Offices

If you need to order material, or require a speaker on ecumenical issues or the work of Christian World Service please contact your state ecumenical office:

New South Wales Ecumenical Council – Sydney

Locked Bag 199, Sydney 1230
Tel: (02) 9299 2215 Email: nswecc@ncca.org.au

Canberra

GPO Box 1526, Canberra 2601
Tel: (02) 6273 8805 Email: rocorrigan@csu.edu.au

Northern Territory Council of Churches

PO Box 143, Sanderson 0813
Tel: (08) 8945 3371 Email: lloydkent@optusnet.com.au

Queensland Churches Together

PO Box 2045, Milton BC 4064
Tel: (07) 3369 6792 Email: qctcws@tpg.com.au

South Australian Council of Churches

GPO Box 2106, Adelaide 5001
Tel: (08) 8221 6633 Email: sacc@picknowl.com.au

Tasmanian Council of Churches

163 Macquarie Street, Hobart 7000
Tel: (03) 6234 2543 Email: tcc@trump.net.au

Victorian Council of Churches

Level 4, Causeway House, 306 Little Collins Street, Melbourne 3000
Tel: (03) 9650 4511 Email: vcc@vcc.org.au

NCCA – Christian World Service, Victoria

Level 4, Causeway House, 306 Little Collins Street, Melbourne 3000
Tel: (03) 9650 6811 Email: cwsvic@ncca.org.au

Council of Churches of Western Australia

PO Box 831, Scarborough 6922
Tel: (08) 9385 5477 Email: cragwestaust@ozemail.com.au

National Council of Churches in Australia

Commissions

The National Council of Churches in Australia has four Commissions that take responsibility for the various programs: Commission for Christian World Service

- International Programs
- Refugees and Displaced People
- Strathfield Home
- forceten
- Education and Communications

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission
Commission on Faith and Unity
Gender Commission

Networks

The National Council of Churches in Australia has also established a number of networks to help the wider church explore issues together of particular interest:

- Youth Network
- Social Justice Network