

Christian World Service Annual Report 2004



Christian World Service / National Council of Churches in Australia

Christian World Service (a Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia) exists to encourage and assist the member churches, State ecumenical bodies and the wider Australian community to work together through networking and programs of common action.

In particular, Christian World Service will:

- assist in raising awareness of the Australian community regarding poverty, injustice, and ecological damage, acknowledging the shared responsibility of church and society;
- nurture relationships with ecumenical partners overseas, Australian State ecumenical bodies and other appropriate organisations, supporting their work in areas of emergency relief, development, work with refugees and displaced people, human rights, advocacy and the environment;
- consult with, and support the work of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- resource local ecumenical action in Australia and encourage active participation in Christian World Service partnerships and activities, providing encouragement for action;
- drawing on advice from overseas partners and member churches regarding human rights issues, refugee and displaced persons issues and international affairs, develop policies, undertake and facilitate advocacy within the Australian community;
- make public statements, in accordance with Clause 17 of the Constitution of the National Council of Churches in Australia, as interpreted by the Executive Committee of the National Council of Churches in Australia;
- actively cooperate with other church and community groups in matters of shared concern;
- promote and raise funds for the work of Christian World Service, primarily through the member churches and also in the wider community.

Front cover: Sudanese people look to the future, optimistic; cautious about the chances for peace... Photo: Nick Kerr

"... just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

One of the great things about CWS is its connections with local people, on the ground, in the places where your money is being spent. CWS doesn't send in foreign staff to "solve" problems, but listens carefully to local needs and works closely with ecumenical partner organisations that are close to the grass roots.

This is the genius of CWS, and while it doesn't have the glamour of some other approaches, we believe it makes a real difference in places where that can mean the difference between life and death, between hope and hopelessness.

We are proud to be your partners in this work. As supporters of CWS, you are our "on the ground" partners in Australia, and we rely on your goodwill to share the news of CWS and the ecumenical vision of Christians working together, across boundaries, for justice and peace.

Being Acting Director, until the arrival of our new Director, has been an enriching experience, and a humbling one. As I see what you do, and as I learn what happens "in the field", I can only continue to give thanks to God.

*John Henderson
Acting Director, CWS*



State ecumenical staff with Paul Ryan (NCCA Business Manager), Graeme Mundine (Executive Secretary, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission) and (far right) John Henderson (General Secretary).

Photo: Eira Clapton

Report from Chair of the CWS Commission

It's very moving to see firsthand the great work done by our overseas partners. During 2004, I visited the huge Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya, up in the desert near the Sudanese border. Home to over 75 000 Sudanese refugees, it's a grim place, with minimal provisions of food, shelter, sanitation, and medical care.

Here is where our partner, the New Sudan Council of Churches, provides excellent service in education and training, community development, conflict resolution, and supplementing food and medical supplies. The spirit of the people is astonishing – despite their long suffering they retain purpose and hope. They look to the future, optimistic but cautious about the chances for peace at last.

They use our Australian dollars well, these people, and our dollars can go a long way in Africa. Through Christmas Bowl and other CWS appeals, thousands of refugees and other struggling people across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific are given new hope. Their gratitude humbles me, and their optimism inspires me.

I'm pleased to report that 80% of CWS expenditure in 2004 went directly on projects – 70% to overseas projects and 10% to projects in Australia for Indigenous communities, refugees and asylum seekers, and community education.

One of the hardest decisions of 2004 was the agreement to close *forceten* from December 2005, a program we have

shared with Caritas Australia for over 40 years. For years, *forceten* has been struggling to maintain income and cope with rising costs. We are very conscious of the tremendous commitment of regular *forceten* supporters, and for its part, CWS will honour and build that commitment through a new regular giving program of monthly projects called Partners4Peace – see page 8.

Important decisions on a new governance structure for CWS were taken in 2004. These will come into being in mid-2005 and will ensure a simpler governing structure for CWS and clearer lines of accountability. CWS clearly remains a unit within the National Council of Churches in Australia.

I want to honour Caesar D'Mello, CWS Director from 2001 to 2004. For over 20 years Caesar has given unwavering commitment to the ecumenical movement in Australia, working first with the Australian Council of Churches and then the NCCA. On behalf of the Commission, I thank Caesar for his unstinting service, for his significant contribution over many years, his leadership as Director since 2001, his personal integrity and his fine example of living simply so that others may simply live.

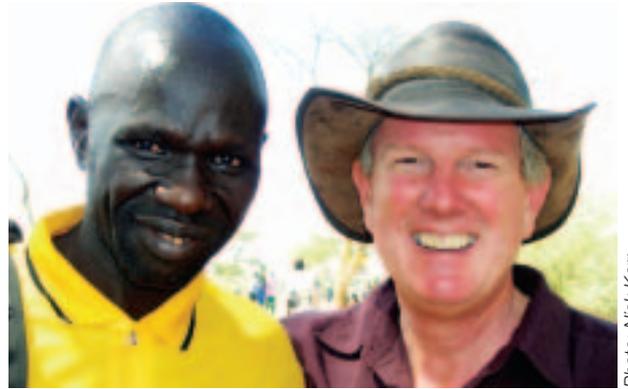


Photo: Nick Kerr

Pastor Severino Loful, Chairman of the United Refugee Churches in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Gregor Henderson

I also record the Commission's thanks to all staff and volunteers around Australia, in the NCCA and State and Territory Councils. Their work is invaluable as we constantly seek to maximise our resources for the sake of people in need overseas. They are a superb team of dedicated people.

The Bible records the first international aid appeal ever known, when the apostle Paul arranged collections throughout Macedonia and Greece for the famine-stricken people of Judea. Two thousand years later we still depend on people's generosity to provide aid for millions of people across the world. The tsunami tragedy of Boxing Day 2004 brings home to us again the fragility of human life and reminds us there is but one human family. Thank you to all our supporters for enabling CWS to be an effective agency in the vital work of international aid and development.

Gregor Henderson

International Programs

Asia

Pu Lincoln's home is a monument to a state of mind. "They call me a displaced person living in a temporary shelter. Therefore I will live in a displaced temporary kind of house," says the 84-year old school teacher, who lives in Tham Hin refugee camp situated about 12 kilometres from the Thailand/Burma border and west of Bangkok.



Photo: Gwen Willis

Lincoln, glinting with sharp charm, does things in his own time; no wonder, since his life has been a crazy series of accommodation between hopes and war and flight. The second son of a school inspector

he studied at Bible School and an Indian agricultural college before returning home to Burma to farm in a war zone.

At the age of 53 he threw up everything to become an unlikely recruit in the Karen army fighting against the Burmese army. He returned to education work in a mission school, until, at the age of 76, he was running from Burmese troops and into the challenging year of living under plastic sheets in Thailand that sparked the state of mind, he hints, that created his house. He continues to teach in the

school within the camp and tutor students in English as they visit him in his home.

Tham Hin camp was established in 1997 and today has a population of approximately 9 000 people, living in very simple homes erected on an area of approximately 44 acres. Many of the children living in the camp know no other life. The camp residents live with the hope of returning to Burma, but no one knows just when that day will be.

Pu Lincoln is one of over 160 000 Burmese refugees living in refugee camps along the Thai/Burma border being serviced by the Thailand Burma Border Consortium through the Christmas Bowl and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) of the Australian Government.

Lincoln's story is a story of people's displacement facing CWS partners in Asia.

Support for internally displaced people, literacy and training of development workers were the focus of the work of the churches in Burma. Whilst some Tamil refugees in South India have started returning to Sri Lanka, the provision of health care, medical services and vocational training in refugee camps, continues for those who still wait in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu.

Building communities of peace, interfaith dialogue, and conflict resolution have been undertaken by national church councils in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Burma. This is in response to the growing threats to

peace in the region, as countries dealt with ethnic and political conflicts in the wake of counter-terrorism measures after September 11, 2003. Village-level programs providing health care and education, self-help groups, and primary school education for children in slum areas have been undertaken in China, East Timor, Cambodia, and Thailand.

Africa

Water is a very precious commodity in many countries around the world. The Quara region of north-west Ethiopia, one of the remotest regions in the North Gondar zone, is an example of this. Travelling to the area from Gondar town, seven rivers, two of which are absolutely impassable during a rainy season, have to be crossed. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter Church Aid Commission, with the assistance of the Christmas Bowl, has been implementing water programs in the area since 2002. Women and children had to gather water



Photo: Jo Lin

from the Gelegu river which was the closest, but it was a long way to walk to the river and then wait to take turns to fill water pots before returning home – consuming so much time and energy each day. What has the program meant to those living in one of the villages in the region?

Wezérō Bosenā Akililu is head of a six-member family from Shimeleger village. She has been a beneficiary of the water program where hand dug wells were constructed. She says, "Before this water scheme was introduced, we drank river water which made us sick with water-borne diseases such as amoeba, dysentery etc. We had to get water four times a day by digging down in the sand on the banks of the river. Today we are healthy and happy with clean drinking water.

"Each trip to get water would take us an hour, we had no time for other chores or relaxing with our families. Now it takes us only 10 minutes twice a day using larger containers. We save our time and energy. Today we are able to wash twice a week and clean our houses every day."

As water is life, it is vital to every aspect of Christmas Bowl partners working with communities in the African continent.

Christmas Bowl partners in Africa face many issues: peace, or lack thereof; the situation of refugees; the training of local staff and communities in management, decision making, income generation; health care – treatment for malaria,

HIV/AIDS, measles and water borne diseases and agricultural techniques.



Photo: Gwen Willis

The signing of the Peace Accord for Sudan in January has been a momentous event with the majority of Sudanese refugees now looking forward to returning to their homeland. However, the ongoing situation in Darfur (western Sudan) could threaten the Peace Accord.

The Pacific

2004 was a significant year for the challenges and dreams of our Pacific neighbours. Archbishop Adrian Smith from the Solomon Islands, Tom Anabayere from Papua New Guinea and Fe'iloakitau Kaho, Koila Costello-Olsson and the Reverend Valamotu Palu from Fiji spoke about peace, climate change, trade agreements, national stability, and the prophetic voice of the churches in the region at CWS forums in Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide..



Photo: Kaylea Fearn

"One of the main issues identified by the churches was the desperate need for the region to hear the voice of the churches. This voice, which was heard and respected in the past, has lost its sharpness and vigour. In many cases, the churches in the Pacific need to take a stand to defend the rights of the poor and the excluded and to denounce oppressive government policies that are not based on Christian principles of justice and love.

"In many cases, the actions of the churches have not been adequately promoted and hence have suffered the criticism of the media and other actors in society as being incapable of addressing such issues. Here, there is a need to seek ways of sharing how the churches work in society and how they become prophetic in their action." (Fe'i Kaho)

Our partner, the Solomon Islands Christian Association, focussed on health and education areas and family issues.

In Fiji, the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy

Program Summary

pursued the goal of empowering community and church groups for participation in local and national decision making processes which affect the lives of all people.

Christmas Bowl funds were provided to the Pacific Theological College to support the "Inspirational Stories (storytelling) Project". This enabled the collection and publication of stories from people and groups in the Pacific which could be translated to local languages to inspire and challenge readers to act and make a difference in their society.

Emergencies

Christmas Bowl supporters gave generously to many humanitarian crises this year. The new year began with Iran and the aftermath of the Bam earthquake (26 December 2003). Support was then given to refugees in Rafah in the Occupied



Palestinian Territories. People affected by flooding after Typhoon Igme/Mindulle in the Philippines were assisted. A response was made after widespread flooding in Bangladesh. For much of the year Australians also supported people fleeing violence in Malakal, Upper Nile Region and in Western

Sudan (Greater Darfur) through a joint Action by Churches Together International-Caritas International initiative. Exactly a year later the devastating South Asia tsunami occurred and another generous response has been received.

International

Ecumenical programs of the Christian Conference of Asia, the World Council of Churches, including the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and Action by Churches Together, and the World Student Christian Federation, Frontier Interns in Mission, Partnership Exchange and Development continued to be supported.

Charlie Ocampo, Mark Hobson, Jo Lin, Gwen Willis

Africa

All Africa Council of Churches	50,000
Pacific monitoring.....	14,135
Africa Regional Emergency	29,710
Ethiopian Orthodox Church.....	50,000
Ogaden Welfare Development	65,605
National Council of Churches of Kenya	30,000
Christian Council of Mozambique	60,000
CABIN Namibia.....	40,000
Sudan Council of Churches.....	40,000
New Sudan Council of Churches.....	40,000
Christian Council of Zambia	108,494
Tikondane	9,815
Zimbabwe Council of Churches.....	118,386
	656,145

Asia

Christian Conference of Asia.....	75,000
World Student Christian Federation Asia/Pacific	20,000
Pacific monitoring.....	1,428
Asia Regional Emergencies	10,000
Christian Commission for Development Bangladesh.....	140,650
Myanmar Council of Churches	40,000
Amity Foundation China	85,213
Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation India.....	79,050
Christian NGO's Network in Indonesia	30,000
YASONA Foundation East Timor	40,000
Bali Income Generation Project.....	17,300
LAKAS Philippines.....	20,000
National Council of Churches Philippines	24,070
National Council of Churches Sri Lanka	40,030
Burmese Border Consortium, Thailand.....	1,758,446
Church of Christ in Thailand	17,000
Church World Service Cambodia.....	102,615
	2,500,802

Europe

Regional Emergencies.....	520
	520

Middle East

Department of Services to Palestinian Refugees MECC	81,326
Middle East Regional Emergency	35,000
Program monitoring	4,404
Middle East Council of Churches	65,300
Coptic Orthodox Church BLESS Egypt.....	92,569
Managed Funds Antiochian Orthodox	6,000
Managed Funds COPTS Egypt	249,682
Managed Funds Israel Nazareth Hospital	9,560
	543,841

Pacific

Pacific Council of Churches	27,787
Pacific monitoring.....	3,690
Pacific Theological College, Fiji.....	16,086
Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy.....	50,000
Pacific Concerns Resource Centre.....	15,000
Papua New Guinea Council of Churches	3,884
Solomon Islands Christian Association	41,249
	157,696

International

World Student Christian Federation Inter-regional office.....	32,886
Frontier Interns in Mission	10,000
Partnership in Exchange & Development Program	20,957
	63,843

World Council of Churches

Regional Relationships	15,000
Lay Ecumenical Centres.....	35,000
ACT Co-ordination	10,000
Ecumenical Advocacy	10,000
	70,000

Total

3,992,847

Program on Refugees and Displaced People

The work of the Program on Refugees and Displaced People (RDP) focused on creative grass roots education in each state and territory, and advocacy on behalf of uprooted people in Australia and overseas.

Staff encouraged and helped individual volunteers, parishes, church and advocacy agencies to support asylum seekers and refugee resettlement, and also to advocate for government policy change regarding problems faced by individuals.

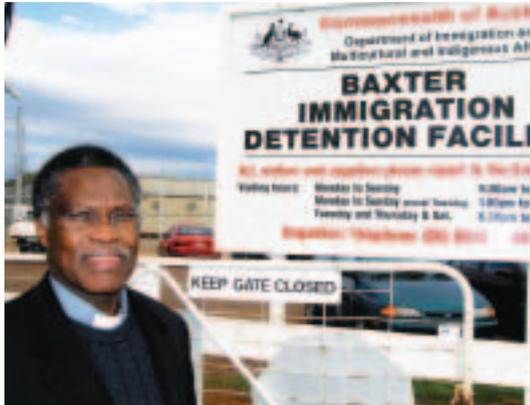


Photo: Nick Kerr

Refugee communities supported included Southern Sudanese, Sri Lankan, Iraqi, Burmese, Kosovar, Afghani, Iranian and East Timorese.

Highlights were

- media, advocacy and education work linked to the visit of the World Council of Churches' General Secretary, the Reverend Dr Sam Kobia, to the Baxter Immigration Detention Centre,
- the promotion of "The Better Way" document as an alternative model to

long-term mandatory, indefinite detention,

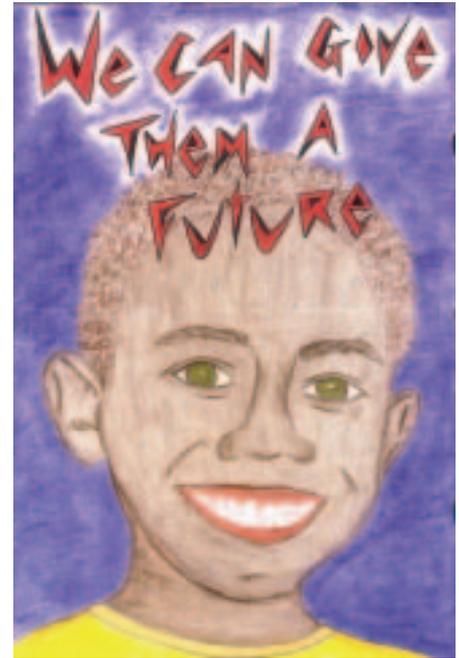
- the release of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission (HREOC) Report, "A Last Resort? National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention", and
- joint campaigns on Permanent Protection for Refugees on Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) and a Complementary Protection model.

This model was developed by the NCCA, the Refugee Council and Amnesty International, to help stateless people and those who fear generalised violence, civil war and serious human rights abuses, but who do not qualify as "political" refugees. It was supported and promoted by many organisations.

Refugee and Migrant Sunday celebrations were again held around the country. Two kits were produced, one for schools and the other for parishes and the wider community. RDP ran a schools' media competition.

In an effort to improve church educational resources and strengthen its advocacy, RDP continued its brainstorming process, refining ideas for posters and pamphlets.

RDP contributed to the NCCA's Federal Election and Social Justice Sunday kits and presented three talks on ABC Radio National's "Perspective" series.



First Prize Poster, Zara McKenzie

RDP staff participated in a range of meetings, including with the Immigration Minister, Federal Parliamentary members of all political parties, the Department of Immigration, Multiculturalism and Multicultural Affairs (DIMIA) and the visiting United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mr Ruud Lubbers.

James Thomson, RDP's National Education and Advocacy Officer, made a strong contribution through research, presentation of papers, networking and media work at the WCC's Global Ecumenical Network and UNHCR-related meetings in Geneva.

John Ball

The Joy of Giving

Christian World Service has the exciting commission from the National Council of Churches in Australia to be NCCA's aid and development agency. That's exciting as it means that CWS delivers real help to develop a better future for people suffering from injustice or poverty. The help is mostly delivered through overseas ecumenical church partners, who share our passion of love and care for people, whatever their race, colour or religion.

Exciting stuff, but nothing happens without support and how pleasing it is to report that gifts to the Christmas Bowl, which put the fine words into action, have again exceeded the previous year.

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Christmas Bowl – as individual supporters, parishes, community groups, schools and youth groups – all who really got behind the simple concept of sharing joy at Christmas with people whose daily life isn't as full as God intends. Thank you, thank you!



Some outstanding examples from partners overseas of joy received are included on pages 4-6. Some outstanding examples of experiencing the joy of giving are on page 9-12.

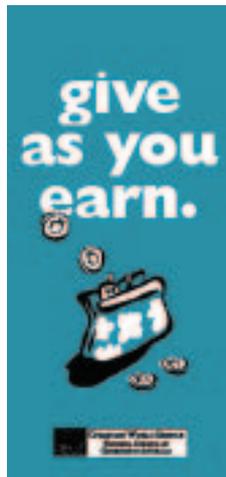
In 2004, CWS learnt from survey and feedback that giving opportunities should be widened enabling you, our cherished supporters, to feel more part of the work.

So we have some new opportunities:

- The newest is *Partners4Peace*, monthly giving to specific projects, selected to really make a difference. A brochure accompanies this report. Please fill in the form and become a Partner today!



- *Give As You Earn* is for people who would like to take advantage of instant tax deductions and give directly through their pay. Many organisations have arrangements with payroll deduction groups and often frequently match



their staff's gifts. CWS is now listed with those groups.

- *Living Trusts* provide the promise of a gift to the Christmas Bowl through people's Wills. This is particularly attractive to

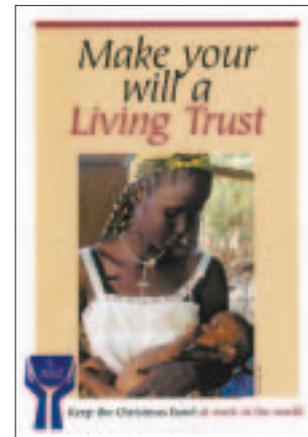
supporters who would like to know that work they have always supported, will go on in strength in the future.

- *Kris Kringle*: A bowl on the table at parties (hardly new, the Reverend Frank Byatt first did that with his family in 1949!). What's new is instead of mutual small gifts at parties, give to the world through the bowl, your party's Christmas Bowl.

CWS is all about supporting people, in the name of Australian Christians. We want to relate more to you, our supporters, to listen more, and respond with things that help you share the joy of giving and the excitement of this great work.

Please be in touch with Colleen Hodge or Howard Graham on phone 1800 025 101 freecall or e-mail: christmasbowl@ncca.org.au.

We'd love to hear from you!



New South Wales Ecumenical Council

Through the graphic stories told by this year's overseas visitor, Christmas Bowl supporters were able to hear first hand about projects in Tamil Nadu in southern India, where our partner agency, the Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation (OfERR), works with the refugees from the ongoing war in Sri Lanka.



Photo: Kaylea Fearn

Sooriya Kumary directs programs in health and nutrition, family and community counselling, and basic education, serving over 65 000 displaced Tamils, most of whom live in the government-run refugee camps.

During her visit Sooriya spoke at gatherings of supporters of the Christmas Bowl in Sydney, Canberra and Tamworth. While in Tamworth, she addressed members of the NSW Synod of the Uniting Church, speaking emotionally of her

commitment to justice for her people. She was able to report on significant successes for many of the young people who have spent their whole lives in refugee camps. Some have now graduated from Indian universities and have returned to work in the refugee camps, where they grew up, as doctors and social workers. She thanked members of the churches for their valuable support for the refugees with whom she works.

A highlight of 2004 for a group from the NSW Ecumenical Council was a visit to our partner agency in Egypt. As part of a study tour the group saw several projects of BLESS, the Coptic Orthodox Church's social service agency. In two villages in the Lower Nile, near Cairo, valuable programs in rural development, health, and education give better opportunities to the residents in these rural areas. Program coordinators spoke of the changes in the lives of the people as a



Photo: Kathy Moroney

result of the new skills they have developed from the programs supported by the Christmas Bowl.

The generous hospitality of these villagers to their Australian visitors was quite overwhelming. Since returning home members of the study group have been able to share their experiences with local congregations in the promotion of the Christmas Bowl.

Member churches of the NSW Ecumenical Council have been giving generously to the continuing work with asylum seekers and refugees who have been released into the community on temporary protection visas. The House of Welcome shopfront at Carramar, in south-western Sydney, offers skills training and advice to those in need, and emergency accommodation is available in several houses provided by community support groups.

Growing interest in these programs for refugees, both here and overseas, is evident as more members of the wider community become aware of the work the churches are doing through projects such as the House of Welcome. The education work in parishes and schools, offered by CWS-funded refugee program staff, is able to increase community understanding and support for the projects.

Doug Hewitt

Northern Territory Council of Churches

The response to the Christmas Bowl program was on a par with the previous year, with giving per capita about equal to the Australian average. This was achieved partly through the wonderful efforts of the independent Darwin Christmas Bowl Task Force which raised \$11 400 again.

We are persevering with efforts to form an effective Support Group which might engage in education and promotion. The Council also plans to arrange visits to churches where we hope there will be emphasis on CWS and the Christmas Bowl.

A small RDP Support Group functioned during the year, a significant effort being an ecumenical celebration on the Monday following Refugee and Migrant Sunday when a carefully crafted program was well received by a congregation that filled the Nightcliff Uniting Church in Darwin.

Our day of small things and scattered congregations remains a challenge to NTCC, all of whose participants (with the exception of chaplaincies), function on a voluntary basis.

Lloyd Kent

Queensland Churches Together

Our Christmas Bowl visitor for 2004, the Reverend Li Enlin was very impressed with the welcome she received from all she met in Townsville and Cairns where

the Christmas Bowl was launched this year. She spoke of the importance of Christmas Bowl and the contributions of CWS in the work of the Amity Foundation. Amity is a Christian Welfare agency based in Nanjing, China. Enlin particularly underlined the significance of the project which has been funded by CWS for the last 10 years – supporting training for Rural Health Clinic Workers.

In early May we were privileged to host two visitors from East Timor, Constantino Pinto and Inge Lemmp. They spoke passionately of the current situation in East Timor, of how the people were struggling to rebuild their lives after the devastation of the conflicts in 1999 and 2000, and about the circumstances surrounding the East Timor Gap Oil situation.

Another highlight was the “Pacific in Focus” forum held at the City Hall, Brisbane in early July. Our guests were Tom Anayabere, Fe’iloakitau Kaho Tevi, Koila Costello-Olsson and Sean Dorney,



Photo: Michele Knight

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Foreign Correspondent journalist.

The panel was superbly hosted by Bishop Ron Williams. Governor Quentin Bryce, special guest, was particularly interested and supportive of the event.

At the end of the school year I had the pleasure of presenting two year 9 students at Mt Alverina College Kedron with certificates and cheques for \$250 as first prize winners in the Refugee and Displaced People School Media Competition – Poetry. There were also 12 “Distinguished Entry” certificates awarded to girls at Mt Alvernia for their contributions to the competition.

The Emmaus Refugee Network is being seen as a key way of promoting awareness of, and involvement in the work of supporting refugees and asylum seekers within Queensland Churches Together and has attracted many parishes and congregations to become involved in this ministry.

With the firm conviction that it is vital for CWS to operate further afield than the south east corner of Queensland, I visited nine regional centres in October. As the result of a contact made in Chinchilla I was asked to organise for 4-5 refugees to come to the Chinchilla area to be employed for around two months picking melons. This was achieved and both groups (farmers and refugees) were very satisfied with the results.

Michele Knight

South Australian Council of Churches

Building community with our overseas partners has been the focus in South Australia during 2004. Staff visited Sri Lanka, Thailand and Kenya to bring back personal stories of our Christmas Bowl giving in action to tell to church groups. The welcome and hospitality offered so graciously and generously by people who have so little is both a humbling and an energising experience. To be able to “show and tell” of the basic conditions of living in the villages brings home the wealth we have in Australia.

We celebrated the peace treaty in Sudan with a party in the Parklands in January but the treaty has raised a new set of challenges for the people. It was good to sit with the refugees both in Adelaide and in the Kakuma Camp last August and hear their concerns – they say there is nothing to “return” to, it will mean starting from scratch again and this is a fearful



Anna Kima, Field Officer, New Sudan Council of Churches and Vikki Waller in Kenya

thing. Help from Australia remains vital to build houses, schools, hospitals and to provide the materials to make them operable. But most of all education for the young people is needed to form a sound infrastructure for services.

Our *forceten* thankyou function took the form of a second birthday celebration for East Timor. Guests were treated to a birthday cake in the form and colour of the country's flag and heard of the work experiences of Andy Allcock and Crystelle Halliday in East Timor.

In 2005 a group will undertake an exposure tour of Fiji to build community with our partners there.

Vikki Waller

Tasmanian Council of Churches

Tasmania continued its tradition of Christmas Bowl collection points in shopping centres in December, with over 300 volunteers collecting in 11 centres around the state. All our volunteers are “ambassadors” and the message of Christmas Bowl is therefore spread widely through the community of Tasmania.

The visit of the Reverend Li Enlin to all regions of the state in November provided a wonderful opportunity to hear about the Christmas Bowl at work in China through the Amity Foundation. Her presence at public launches in Launceston and Hobart was a highlight. Enlin's visit to Tasmania was particularly appropriate, following Val



Photo: St Michael's Collegiate School

Graydon's visit to China earlier in 2004 and her subsequent promotional workshops throughout Tasmania relating to Christmas Bowl support for Amity's Village Doctor program.

It was good to welcome Aletia Dundas to Tasmania in October – she spoke with school and church groups about the work of *forceten*.

Promotion of the Refugee and Migrant Sunday 2004 Schools' Media Competition through state and independent schools resulted in a number of awards in the state.

Jenny Roddam

CWS Victoria

This year CWS Victoria has endeavoured, through its events, presentations and networking, to bring the message of its range of programs to new people and groups. Some highlights:

Pacific churches need Australian churches to engage with them and with the issues confronting them. This was the strong message of the four speakers from the Pacific who presented a two-hour forum,

Pacific at the Crossroads, at Trinity College in July. This was followed up by another very successful forum in November.

We were blessed in October by the visit of Sooriya Kumary from OfERR. The climax of her visit was the Christmas Bowl launch at Methodist Ladies' College on 13 October. Sooriya made a deep impression due to her glowing spirit and pleasant manner.

In October, our RDP Field Officer, Visier Sanyu, with the help of a number of volunteers, organised a very successful *Journey on the Wind* program involving 24 people, both volunteers and refugees, to Port Fairy. Many friendships were



Photo: Kaylea Fearm

formed and the project has been endorsed for this coming year.

Several congregations, including Uniting Churches at East Kew and Rowville, set themselves targets for their Christmas Bowl giving. This resulted in creative thinking and action to reach those targets. In both cases the targets were exceeded.

Jeff Wild

Council of Churches in Western Australia

In 2004 Western Australians gave the sum of \$195 539.93, to the Christmas Bowl.

Thanks to our 30 volunteers who did a stunning job, shaking tins in Perth, on 3 December 2004, we raised a little over \$1 500 which was a great first effort. A special concert was held before Christmas, which raised \$680 for Christmas Bowl.

A CWS Dinner was held at Tompkins on Swan, the guest speaker was the Reverend John Henderson, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia. John spoke about future directions in ecumenism. The dinner was the first mid-year event organised by CWS.

Sponsored by Christian World Service, the Reverend Eira Clapton visited partners in Namibia in August 2004. One of the great projects supported with Christmas Bowl

funds is English language programs for the poorest of the people through the great work of the Capacity Building Initiative in Namibia (CABIN).

In cooperation with the Social Justice bodies of the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches, we conducted a series of Pre-Election Social Justice forums prior to the Federal Election, in which we were able to focus on overseas aid and development, among other topics. Our Christmas Bowl display was erected at



Photo: Eira Clapton

each forum, and we handed out material from Christian World Service in "Election Packs" to participants in each forum.

Visits have been most productive as these churches have not had a visit concerning Christmas Bowl for some time.

Eira Clapton

Australia's closest neighbour, East Timor, was the focus of forceten's Project of the Year for 2004. forceten supporters raised over \$200 000 for food security projects in East Timor which will enable communities to have reliable, high quality food to eat, produced in environmentally friendly ways. A fundraising dinner, with Jose Ramos Horta (Foreign Minister for East Timor) as the keynote speaker, who spoke of the issues faced by the world's newest nation, raised \$17 000.



Photo: Kirsty Robertson

Many groups raised money through activities ranging from a "Pig on the stick" to raise money for pigs, to rice days to raise money for food, and birthday parties to Celebrate East Timor's second birthday.

In 2004, forceten supporters learnt about a number of development projects internationally, including support for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, rehabilitation for child soldiers in Uganda, literacy programs in the Solomon Islands and hope for AIDS victims in Cambodia. Each month forceten is a small force for change within one of these communities.

forceten is an education and fundraising agency, which supports the overseas aid and development work of Christian World Service and Caritas Australia each month through a regular giving program. From 2006 Caritas and Christian World Service will fully run their own regular giving programs. If you would like to get involved in forceten's Project of the Year for 2005, "Trafficking of Women and Children in Asia", please contact Aletia on adundas@ncca.org.au

Aletia Dundas

In 2004 Jubilee Australia held its first conference, "The \$500 billion question: the impact of debt on the poor within Asia and beyond". Speakers included, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) senior representative for Indonesia, David Nellor, the head of Indonesia's leading development NGO, International Forum for Indonesian Development, Binny Buchori, and Peter Garrett, formerly lead singer of the Midnight Oil band, President of the Australian Conservation Foundation and now Federal Member of Parliament for Kingsford Smith (New South Wales). One of the main lessons from the conference was the lack of poor country debt research in Australia.

Petitions, letters, postcards and personal visits have helped to continue pressure on Federal Treasury and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to reform the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative, a program of the World Bank, attempting to solve the international debt situation. The Australian Government continues to put its trust in this program, despite many poor countries still spending more than a fifth of their revenue on debt repayments to rich nations.

Jubilee Australia's website, www.jubileeaustralia.org, continued to provide innovative ways of learning about Australia's politicians. The Member of Parliament/Senator profile section provides details of the position of Members of Parliament on poor country debt.

The year ended with a wonderful African Experience. African people came to share with non-Africans stories, music and food. A former Zambian economist, Vincent Chakulya, spoke of the detrimental impact debt repayments have on Zambia. A Kenyan woman, Cynthia Ojiambo, spoke about the connection between debt, poverty and impact on women.

Jubilee's main challenge is to encourage Australian aid agencies to provide funds to employ a full-time staff person to research poor country debt.

Stewart Mills, Coordinator

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Performance for the financial year ended 31 December 2004

	Notes	2004	2003
REVENUE		\$	\$
Donations and Gifts		3,276,978	3,263,152
Legacies and Bequests		–	1,541
Grants AusAID		2,461,908	1,730,871
Investment Income		42,430	54,992
Other Income	4	289,206	402,213
Total Revenue	6	6,070,522	5,452,769
DISBURSEMENTS			
Overseas Projects			
Funds to overseas projects	5	3,992,847	3,556,289
Other project costs		206,378	270,696
		4,199,225	3,826,985
Fundraising Costs			
Public		641,325	507,374
Govt. and Multilaterals		14,586	13,831
		655,911	521,205
Domestic Projects		404,474	336,644
Community Education		216,952	244,834
Administration		644,257	616,801
Total Disbursements	6	6,120,819	5,546,469
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		(50,297)	(93,700)
Funds available for future use at 1 January		1,427,098	1,520,798
Funds available for future use at 31 December		1,376,801	1,427,098

The Statement of Financial Performance should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and Forming the Accounts.

Statement of Financial Position for the financial year ended 31 December 2004

	Notes	2004	2003
ASSETS		\$	\$
Cash		80,978	108,145
Investments	2	2,534,953	2,654,361
Property, plant and equipment		1,620,329	1,565,329
Debtors		4,933	6,688
Total Assets		4,241,193	4,334,523
LIABILITIES			
Creditors and borrowings		15,327	68,457
Employee Entitlements	3	80,134	85,346
Total Liabilities		95,461	153,803
Net Assets		4,145,732	4,180,720
EQUITY			
Building Equity 379 Kent St		955,381	954,355
Melbourne Property		685,000	630,000
Transfers from reserves of other CWS activities		–	37,500
CWS RDP Reserves		1,128,550	1,131,767
Funds available for future use	6	1,376,801	1,427,098
Total Equity		4,145,732	4,180,720

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and Forming the Accounts.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

1. Statement of Accounting Policies Financial Reporting Framework

This financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared for use by the Council's Executive and the member churches. The Executive have determined that the National Council of Churches Christian World Service is not a reporting entity and hence this report has been prepared in accordance with the following applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

AASB1001: Accounting Policies

AASB1004: Revenue

AASB1025: Application of the Reporting Entity Concept and other Amendments

No other applicable Accounting Standards or other mandatory professional reporting requirements have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis (except as provided for in the statement below on income) in accordance with the historical cost convention. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial report is prepared in a format which satisfies the requirements of the NCCA Constitution and the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Significant Accounting Policies

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.



NCCA Christian World Service is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct can be obtained from NCCA Christian World Service and from ACFID at:
Website: www.acfid.asn.au • Email: acfid@acfid.asn.au
Tel: (02) 6285 1816 • Fax: (02) 6285 1720

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report:

(a) Recognition of Income

The timing of the recognition of donations, grants, fundraising, legacies and bequests depends when control of these monies is obtained, usually receipt of the monies.

(b) Investment Income

Investment interest is recognised in the statement of financial performance when received.

(c) Donations and Fundraising

In common with many charitable organisations, it is not practicable for the NCCA to establish accounting controls over all sources of donations and fundraising income prior to it being recorded in the accounting records.

(d) Value of Volunteers

The value of services provided by volunteers is not included in revenue or expenses because of the practical difficulties involved.

In relation to volunteers used directly for the support of international projects this amounted to \$nil in 2004 (2003:\$nil).

(e) Accounts Payable

Accruals and other creditors are recognised when the Council becomes obliged to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods and services.

(f) Acquisition of Assets

Assets acquired are recorded at the cost of acquisition, being the purchase consideration determined as at the date of acquisition plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

(g) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

(h) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST). The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of the statement of financial position.

(i) Recoverable amount of non-current assets

Non-current assets are written down to recoverable amount where the carrying value of any non-current asset exceeds recoverable amount.

(j) Revaluation of non-current assets

Equity in the Melbourne property is measured on the fair value basis. Fair value is determined on the basis of an independent valuation prepared by external valuation experts based on capitalisation of net income.

	2004	2003
2. Investments with NCCA	\$	\$
Project funds	1,020,603	1,120,126
Legacies and bequests	385,800	402,468
RDP reserves	1,128,550	1,131,767
	<u>2,534,953</u>	<u>2,654,361</u>

3. Employee Entitlements

Provision for Annual Leave	46,509	52,519
Provision for Long Service Leave	33,625	32,827
	<u>80,134</u>	<u>85,346</u>

4. Other Income

Managed Funds and accounts	270,085	368,135
General Funds raised in Victoria for CWS	19,121	34,078
	<u>289,206</u>	<u>402,213</u>

5. Funds to Overseas Projects by Region

Africa	656,145	645,542
Asia	2,500,802	1,711,630
Europe	520	-
Middle East	543,841	704,384
Pacific	157,696	325,860
International Projects	63,843	96,208
World Council of Churches Programs	70,000	72,665
	<u>3,992,847</u>	<u>3,556,289</u>

6. Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes

	Cash available	Cash raised	Cash disbursed	Cash available
	1 Jan	during year	during year	31 Dec
Thailand - BBC	13,080	1,840,878	(1,758,396)	95,562
Zimbabwe - Water Harvest	45,973	75,548	(118,385)	3,136
Zambia - CCZ	16,617	120,318	(108,494)	28,441
Solomon Is - SICA	18,092	23,157	(41,249)	-
M/East Reg Emergency	48,802	64,561	(35,000)	78,363
AusAid ANCP Program	199,947	591,818	(393,560)	398,205
Managed Funds	172,491	267,215	(265,242)	174,464
Bequests	298,096	4,714	(17,195)	285,615
Other purposes incl Christmas Bowl	614,000	3,082,313	(3,383,298)	313,015
Total	<u>1,427,098</u>	<u>6,070,522</u>	<u>(6,120,819)</u>	<u>1,376,801</u>

NCCA Audited Annual Financial Statements are available upon request

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBER CHURCHES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA
Scope

We have audited the attached special purpose financial report of the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service for the financial year ended 31st December, 2004 comprising the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and notes to and forming part of the Accounts. The Executive of the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used, and

described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the Financial Report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service and are appropriate to meet the needs of the Member Churches. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the Member Churches of the National Council of Churches in Australia. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the Member Churches.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to Member Churches for the purpose of fulfilling the Executive's financial reporting requirements. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the Member Churches, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts (including AUSAID contract amounts) and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

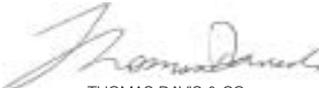
The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

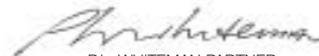
Qualification

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations, subscriptions and other fund raising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to fund raising was limited to amounts recorded. In our opinion, monies recorded as receipts from donations, subscriptions and other fund raising activities have been properly accounted for by the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required had the limitation on our audit procedures referred to in the qualification paragraph not existed, the Financial Report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the Financial Statements the financial position of the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service as at 31st December, 2004 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.


THOMAS DAVIS & CO.


P.L. WHITEMAN PARTNER

Chartered Accountants SYDNEY, 28th April, 2005
"Liability limited by the Accountant's Scheme approved under the Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW)"

Members of the Commission for Christian World Service are appointed by the National Council of Churches in Australia during its Forum (held once every three years, the last one being in July 2004). The 2004 Commission Members were:

The Reverend Gregor Henderson (Uniting Church in Australia, ACT) BA, BD, Minister, Wesley Uniting Church, Canberra, Uniting Church President-elect, member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

Archbishop Aghan Baliozian OAM

(Armenian Apostolic Church, NSW), MA. Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand, 2001-Present Vice President of NSW Ecumenical Council.

Bishop David Cremin (Catholic, NSW), DD.

Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, for 12 years the Archbishop's Vicar for Immigration and Refugees.

Father Michael Delaney (Catholic, TAS), Parish Priest, Naval Reserve Chaplain, member of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, member of National Board of Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission.

Mr Caesar D'Mello (Catholic, NSW), BA, L.Ph, MA, Director of Christian World Service, November 2001-November 2004.

The Reverend John Gilmore (Churches of Christ, VIC), BTh, MTh, DipMin, Director of Mission and Ministry, Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania, Chair CWS International Programs Committee.

The Reverend John Henderson ex-officio, General Secretary National Council of Churches in Australia.

Bishop Philip Huggins (Anglican, VIC), Chair of Anglicare Australia, Chair of Anglican General Synod Ecumenical Relations Commission, Australian Bishop on the Council of Churches of East Asia, Bishop of the Northern Region, Melbourne.

Father James Minchin (Anglican, VIC), BA(Hons), MA(Hons), ThL(Hons). Vicar, Christ Church St Kilda, Chair, CWS Education and Communications Programs, and CWS Victoria.

The Reverend Elenie Poulos (Uniting Church in Australia, NSW), Chair, CWS Refugees and Displaced People Program, Member NCCA Social Justice Network, Member WCC Global Ecumenical Network on Uprooted and Displaced People, National Director, UnitingJustice Australia.

Ms Kirsten Preece (Uniting Church in Australia, ACT), BA, BB. Member of the UC Theology and Discipleship Program 1998-present, Policy and Project Officer for Deafness Forum of Australia.

Mr Peter Schirmer (Lutheran, NSW), BA(Hons), MDS. Executive Secretary Australian Lutheran World Service since 2001.

Mr Aaron Tang (Catholic, NSW), BA/LLB, currently studying MA Theology. Youth liaison for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations.

Ms Athena Tzigeras (Greek Orthodox, NSW), BBus (Computing and Information Management) GradDip Marketing. Marketing Coordinator – National Council of Churches in Australia 2000-2001.

Dr Harold Wilkinson PhD (Religious Society of Friends, ACT), National Treasurer of United Nations Association of Australia.

Lieutenant Colonel Ray Wilson (The Salvation Army, NSW and QLD), Territorial Property Consultant, Suicide Prevention Australia Board Member. CWS Standing Committee. Member NCCA Finance Committee.

National Director Caesar D'Mello
Administrator Eleanor Acabado
Education and Communications Programs Colleen Hodge, Howard Graham, Hayley Hopkins

International Programs Charlie Ocampo, Mark Hobson, Jo Lin, Gwen Willis

Refugees and Displaced People Programs John Ball, James Thomson

forceten Kirsty Robertson, Aletia Dundas, Elizabeth Chung

Jubilee Stewart Mills

CWS Victoria Jeff Wild, Kaylea Fearn, Visier Sanyu

Associate Partners

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission Graeme Mundine, Jon Inkpin, Jennifer O'Hanlon

NSW Ecumenical Council Ray Williamson, Rod Corrigan, Doug Hewitt, Francis Mansour, Kathy Moroney

Northern Territory Council of Churches Lloyd Kent

Queensland Churches Together Glenine Hamlyn, Sean Cleary, Joan Hendriks, Michele Knight, Cynthia Randell

South Australian Council of Churches Vikki Waller, Daina Poicus, Denis Voight, Julie Wright

Tasmanian Council of Churches Val Graydon, Jenny Roddam

Council of Churches of Western Australia Eira Clapton, Geraldine Chevel, Nathalie Van Dijk
For further information contact

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CWS Annual Report

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