

Annual Report 2008

**Relief and
Development Unit**
(formerly Uniting
Church Overseas Aid)



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life








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Message from our Chairperson



“Transformed communities where peace and justice reign and poverty is alleviated, reflecting our hope and life in Jesus Christ.”

Our vision statement is ambitious but week by week people in communities in Asia, Africa and the Pacific are benefiting from the programs we undertake in partnership with overseas churches, church-related organisations and funding bodies such as the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (AusAid). Across a year, the beneficiaries can be numbered in the 1000's.

A key factor is the connections that are made between the overseas and the Australian Church communities. We work to assist congregations, schools and individuals to undertake projects or make connections that can be transformative for them. It has been wonderful to see this expressed by a growing number of Uniting Church Schools and Congregations. The partnership between the Knox Grammar School in NSW with the Milne Bay project in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and NewLife Uniting Church in Queensland with our work in the Solomon Islands, are two growing partnerships that give expression to our future direction.

We are indebted to the wonderful work of the Lent Event team from the West Epping Uniting Church, a suburban Sydney congregation. Participation has grown significantly through NSW and Queensland. Lent Event continues to be a major source of donation income.

In 1998, Jeff Kite, a water resources engineer, undertook a one month assignment with UnitingWorld to advise the United Church in Papua New Guinea (PNG) on village water supply needs. In 1999 he took seven months leave from his employment to follow up his initial assignment. Subsequently

he became a full-time Water Resources Engineer co-worker and later a Project Officer for UnitingWorld responsible for the PNG village water projects. By the time he retired in 2008, he had been instrumental in the design and construction of drought proof water systems in dozens of villages in PNG.

In 2008 seven years of hard work by Joy Balazo culminated in the signing of peace agreements between 32 warring tribes in the Southern Highlands of PNG. The National Committee was pleased to agree to the incorporation of Joy's work through Young Ambassadors for Peace into UnitingWorld during 2008. Achieving peace and reconciliation can be critical to achieving development outcomes.

Jeff and Joy are two of the many people who have contributed in many different ways to the work in the past year. They are part of a team of people dedicated to an alternative vision for our world centred around the message lived and proclaimed by Jesus himself.

Malcolm Gledhill

Message from our Director



“We renew our commitment to initiate purposeful and effective partnerships between churches and communities here and overseas.”

In Fiji recently I saw first hand the cumulative impact of crises on people who are poor.

Villagers of the Sigatoka valley told me of a series of crises that had affected their lives. In their area increased food prices in 2007 were followed by a drop in tourism brought on by the global economic crisis, then came the floods in January 2009 that destroyed homes and crops and finally increased political instability further reduced income and services. Parents could no longer afford education for their children and many families had barely enough food to eat.

In the middle of the village the Methodist Church is giving support, spirit and hope. We at UnitingWorld are privileged to work alongside such partners in Asia, the Pacific and Africa, providing relief and development.

This is just one example of the global food crisis, global economic crisis, climate change and political instability driving people further into poverty.

At present the United Nations reports that nearly 10 million children under the age of five die each year. This number is set to rise as a result of the global economic crisis with Bob Zoellick, the World Bank President, saying that between 200 000 and 400 000 extra children will die annually.

In response to this we are determined to position ourselves to be as effective as possible. In 2008 consultations across the country provided consistent feedback indicating that people in the Uniting Church wanted to engage partners

overseas with UnitingWorld. This feedback was heartening and the challenge galvanising.

By the end of last year, the Assembly Standing Committee had given us a new name, UnitingWorld, to reflect the call to connect communities for life and build purposeful and effective relationships between churches and communities both here and overseas.

I am grateful for the commitment and professionalism of our staff in 2008. Laurie Fitzgerald, Joy Balazo, Rob Floyd, Russell Groves, Hannah Hoskin, Jeff Kite and Sharyn Robinson were all key to our work. In 2008 we farewelled Hannah and Jeff, and in 2009 welcomed Elie Shepherd and Bryan Cussen.

We are grateful for the many people and communities who work with us, including our Relief and Development National Committee, to see local communities transformed, and peace and justice reign, reflecting the hope and life offered by Jesus Christ.

Kerry Enright



MISSION

Connecting church communities and people worldwide to partner in God's mission through relief and development

VISION

We see: Transformed communities where peace and justice reign and poverty is alleviated, reflecting our hope and life in Jesus Christ

Partners see: Trusted friends for the long run who are committed to understanding and serving them. Australian church communities with global radars, educated and rejuvenated through meaningful and reciprocal engagement

Values

Partnership: working through partnerships that embody mutual respect, responsiveness and interdependence between people overseas and in Australia.

Sustainability: seeking ongoing benefits for the communities partnered, promoting their ownership and building their capacity to manage their own development.

Non-Discrimination: ensuring no discrimination due to age, culture, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or social or political affiliation.

Effectiveness: fostering ongoing evaluation and learning to ensure high standards of effectiveness.

Justice, Peace and Care for Creation: upholding justice, peace and care of the environment.

Gender Equity: actively promoting gender equity in all programs.

Integrity: applying ethical, transparent and professional work practices.

Respect: respecting spiritual and cultural values.

A copy of the 2008 Annual Report for the Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld can be downloaded from our website at www.unitingworld.org.au

Review of our Development Programs in 2008



As part of the global campaign, we are increasing our program focus on achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For more information on the MDGs see www.un.org/millenniumgoals

The harsh reality is that while there has been progress on the goals, there are still one billion people living on less than US\$1 per day. Our programs and local advocacy as a member of the Micah Challenge express our commitment to practical action to contribute to the global momentum to see the MDG's met by 2015.



1. Water and Sanitation

Without easy access to clean water many people become trapped in prolonged poverty.

PROJECT IN FOCUS: Nachipo, Sudan – Borehole and Preschool / Sudan Council of Churches

Clean water is an essential component in the fight to reduce poverty, yet throughout the world more than a billion people live without access to clean water. Drought, water borne disease, salinisation and a lack of sanitation facilities often force communities where we work to rely on unsafe and distant water supplies. Without easy access to clean water many people in these areas have become trapped in prolonged poverty.

For the people of Nachipo water shortage has become a feature of everyday life. The majority of the adult population are illiterate and no village children are currently enrolled in school. This project facilitates drilling bore wells to bring clean water closer to the

villages. Four bores have already been drilled and a further six are planned for 2009. To combat illiteracy, a pre-school has also been established, enrolling 150 children. This provides a foundation for learning for the children of the village.

Shona* is around 10 years old and lives in one of Nachipo's many villages in Sudan. Shona, her mother and four siblings survive in extremely harsh and basic living conditions. Their situation is made worse by the year round hot weather and the chronic lack of clean water burdening the village. From a young age Shona spent much of her time assisting her mother with everyday tasks to survive. Prior to the initiation of the UnitingWorld project Shona was forced to walk 6 km to a nearby town to collect water. For Shona it was a very long and arduous task.

In 2008 in partnership with the community and the Sudan Council of Churches, UnitingWorld made it possible for a water bore to be drilled near to her village. Now Shona and her entire community live in close vicinity to safe, clean water. This has empowered the community to focus on employment, education and the day to day life of their community.

*A pseudonym has been used to protect Shona's identity

Other Water and Sanitation Projects:

- Muzarabani, Zimbabwe – Water Harvesting / Methodist Church of Zimbabwe
- Ponnai, Vellore, India – Village Water / Church of South India
- Milne Bay & Central Provinces, Papua New Guinea – Rural Village Water / United Church in PNG



2. Education and Vocational Training

Without educational programs that provide skills for life for those who are marginalised, the poverty cycle remains entrenched and the unemployed have few options for providing income for their families.

PROJECT IN FOCUS: Gudalur-Nilgris Hills, India – Integrated Tribal Development / Church of South India

In 2008 with our local partner, the Church of South India, UnitingWorld aimed to run 11 preschools with 100% enrolment of all children of preschool age. We are pleased to report that this target has been achieved.

12 preschools are now operating in 12 different remote villages of the Nilgris Hills region in South India. The preschools offer the children an opportunity to step out of the cycle of poverty in this region. As part of the project, healthcare, uniforms, and three meals per day are provided along with education. Health education is extended to the community with topics such as child health, HIV AIDS, nutrition and herbal medicine training introduced.

Youth clubs have also been formed in all 12 villages as a space for young people to learn about good health, hygiene and nutrition.

Vocational training is being conducted in five villages for those who have graduated from the junior school. Currently, 20 girls are participating in this and upon completion they will be eligible to go onto further education. It is encouraging to note that some of the participants are hoping to become teachers so that they can assist the project in the future. Six students have already graduated to employment and the parents of these girls are fully supportive of their daughters.

This project continues to expand through additional community development activity including self help, small business and leadership training.

Other Education and Vocational Training Projects

- Dichpalli, India – Skills Training for Rural Youth / Church of South India
- Nandyal, India – Vocational Skills / Church of South India
- Bangalore, India – Children in Crisis / Church of South India
- Vocational and Skills training for Tsunami Affected Girls / Church of South India
- Amristar, India – Education for Disadvantaged Children / Church of North India
- Sarenga Community Development Project / Church of North India
- Mwandi, Zambia – Orphans and Vulnerable Children / United Church of Zambia
- Jordan Community School / Zambia Open Community Schools and United Church of Zambia

3. Economic Empowerment and Livelihood

The micro credit program continues to transform the lives of people who would not otherwise qualify for any type of loan and so builds a vital bridge to a new future for those who are poor.



PROJECT IN FOCUS: Betun, West Timor (Indonesia) – Micro Finance / Tanaoba Lais Manekat Foundation (Evangelical Christian Church in Timor)

In 2008 in excess of 1000 business loans were provided with an average loan amount of \$133.00 AUD. Most clients have gone on to take a second, larger loan to expand their small and thriving businesses.

Bernadeta Mako is 30 years old and resides in the Betun region of West Timor with her 2 children. A chronic lack of employment lead her husband to leave the area in search of work. He has not since returned, leaving Bernadeta to single-handedly care for her young family. Under the economic empowerment project she has received two loans to enable her to set up a small business producing and selling noodles and rice.

In the near future Bernadeta hopes to expand her business to increase her income and to improve life for her family. She has plans to start selling cakes and as Bernadeta lives 100 metres from a primary school she believes she has a ready market.

Like Bernadeta the majority of loan recipients are women. Businesses are predominately agriculture based; growing food and raising and breeding livestock. Kiosks offering basic essentials and food stalls are also successful business types and are supported by these small loans.

Education and training comes hand in hand with the micro credit loans. Field officers provide loan recipients with knowledge of basic business skills to maximize the success of their small businesses.

Other Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Projects

- Betun, West Timor (Indonesia) – Cow Fattening / Tanaoba Lais Manekat Foundation (Evangelical Christian Church in Timor)
- Timor Leste – Livelihood Development / Fundasau Sosial Naroman – FUSONA (Protestant Church in Timor Leste)
- Vaalparai, India – Tribal Development / Church of South India

4. Basic Health and Nutrition



Development initiatives in health are crucial to enable those who are poor to have wider choices and participate in new ways in community life and the economy.

PROJECT IN FOCUS: Vanuatu – Eye Care / Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu

In 2008, 18 medical workers from Australia, including a local coordinator and two Vanuatu eye care nurses, conducted eye care clinics in 43 different remote locations in Vanuatu. To raise eye health awareness in the community, a seminar for trainee teachers was also held in Vila.

An Australian doctor and optometrist generously extended their time to make a special visit to the island of Vanua Lava. Here they visited a young boy who was given life changing eye surgery. A new pair of special prescription glasses were subsequently made for

him in Australia. The boy is now in wonderful health and it is tremendous to see the transformation of this child and many others as a result of this project.

In 2008 the clinics were a huge success and have seen more than 2300 patients, the largest number ever covered thus far by the program. More than 1000 people received a pair of glasses.

Other Basic Health and Nutrition Projects:

- Los Palos, Timor Leste – Health Care / Fundasaun Sosial Naroman – FUSONA (Protestant Church in Timor Leste)
- Los Palos, Timor Leste – Financial support for Clinic Immanuel Los Palos

/ Fundasaun Sosial Naroman – FUSONA (Protestant Church in Timor Leste)

- Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea – Mobile Health Clinics / United Church in PNG
- Solomon Islands – Health Care and Capacity Building / United Church in Solomon Islands
- Solomon Islands – Helena Goldie Hospital / United Church in Solomon Islands
- Fiji – Eye Care / Methodist Church in Fiji
- Vanuatu – HIV/AIDS Awareness / Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu
- Melghat, India – Mother and Child Care / Church of North India

5. Partner Capacity Building



The Church Partnership Program gives a new practical expression to that key dimension of the founding of the Uniting Church: the unity of the church.



PROJECT IN FOCUS: Papua New Guinea – Church Partnership Program

Ecumenical cooperation is gathering a new momentum in PNG. In 2008 seven PNG churches and their seven Australian Church partners strengthened their work together to provide basic services to the community

As a result of the cooperation, UnitingWorld and the United Church in Papua New Guinea have seen what began as a one person development operation with a few unrelated activities evolve into a thriving unit of 25 people. With the benefit of the ecumenical network, local and UnitingWorld project officers, the program now provides HIV/

AIDS awareness education, counseling and testing, safe drinking water, peace-building initiatives, better basic health care and education.

The aim of the partnership is to boost the contribution of the local church to development and social stability. This has certainly happened and many different development initiatives have been realised.

Exciting progress has continued and the development capacity of the United Church in Papua New Guinea has strengthened greatly.

Other Partner Capacity Building Projects

- Vanuatu – Church Partnership Program / Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

6. Emergency Relief

Without ongoing development initiatives in the aftermath of disaster – vulnerability to conflict increases and poverty is exacerbated.



PROJECT IN FOCUS: Nagapattinam, India – Integrated Child and Family Development / Church of South India

The project supports 400 children from 4 villages in Nagapattinam, one of the worst Tsunami affected areas along the Indian coast.

UnitingWorld, through our partner, provides educational materials, tutoring and counselling support for children and parents affected by the crisis and its aftermath. A key focus has been to improve the overall health of the children by providing regular health checks, supplementary nutrition and sports.

Another element of the project has been the establishment of the CSI Technical and Vocational Training College with the Coimbatore Diocese of the Church of South India. The key aim of the college has been to impart skills training to young women aged 17-25 years who

have lost either one or both of their parents. They are invited to Coimbatore for a 2-year vocational and technical training program. As part of their college experience they receive counselling and guidance to recover from the trauma of the tsunami.

In 2006 the first group of 24 girls successfully completed the course. All of them have returned to their families and found suitable employment. A second group of 20 girls are now in the process of completing their two-year course and are eager to begin work so they can enable their families to move out of the poverty cycle.

Other Emergency Relief Projects

- Cuddalore & Pondicherry, India – Building a New Life for Tsunami Victims, Stage 3 / Church of South India
- Solomon Islands – Tsunami Response / United Church in Solomon Islands

7. Peacemaking

“If people are given the place and are willing to take up the opportunity to understand and learn to respect people’s cultural, religious and political differences...then I believe peace is always possible.” Joy Balazo

PROJECT IN FOCUS: Tari, Papua New Guinea / Young Ambassadors for Peace

The peacemaking activities of Young Ambassadors for Peace reached a significant point in 2008 with the signing of a long anticipated peace treaty.

After seven years of negotiations 32 warring tribes in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea came together to sign a peace treaty. The agreement stipulated a laying down of weapons and compensation for property damage and deaths arising from the conflict.

In an encouraging mark of unity, hundreds of tribesmen marched shoulder to shoulder through the village of Tari to the signing. Hundreds of community members witnessed the signing as each tribe celebrated the new-found peace and advocated for a joint approach to develop the village, school and farms.

The treaty signing was a testament to the peace workshops and mediations which helped the communities find their own ways of resolving the conflict.

Now that peace has been established in the region, Government and Non-profit organizations are restoring hospital and medical services to the community and

more sustainable development work can follow.

Other Peacemaking Projects

Young Ambassadors for Peace:

- Ambon, Indonesia
- Mindanao, Philippines
- MaeSot, Burma
- North East India
- Sri Lanka
- Bougainville, Papua New Guinea
- Honiara, Solomon Islands



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

Our Relief and Development work at a glance



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR WORK AROUND THE GLOBE

AMBON

Young Ambassadors for Peace

BURMA

Young Ambassadors for Peace / MaeSot

FIJI | Methodist Church in Fiji

Eye Care

NORTH INDIA | Church of North India

Mother and Child Care / Melghat
Sarenga Community Development Project

NORTH-EAST INDIA

Young Ambassadors for Peace

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | United Church in PNG

Rural Village Water / Milne Bay & Central Province
Mobile Health Clinics / Milne Bay
Church Partnership Program (Capacity building)
Young Ambassadors for Peace / Tari
Young Ambassadors for Peace / Bougainville

PHILIPPINES

Young Ambassadors for Peace / Mindanao

SOLOMON ISLANDS | United Church in Solomon Islands

Tsunami Response
Health Care and Capacity Building
Helena Goldie Hospital
Young Ambassadors for Peace / Honiara

SOUTH INDIA | Church of South India

Tribal Development / Vaalparai
Skills Training for Rural Youth / Dichpalli
Vocational Skills / Nandyal
Children in Crisis / Bangalore
Integrated Tribal Development / Gudalur-Nilgris Hills
Building a New Life for



BURMA
INDIA
SRI LANKA

PHILIPPINES

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

AMBON

SOLOMON ISLANDS

TIMOR LESTE

WEST TIMOR

VANUATU

FIJI

TONGA

AUSTRALIA

tsunami Victims, Stage 3
/ Cuddalore & Pondicherry
Integrated Child and Family
Development / Nagapattinam
Sri Lankan Refugee Program
/ Mandapam Camp
Vocational and Skills Training
for Tsunami Affected Girls

SRI LANKA

Young Ambassadors for Peace

SUDAN | Sudan Council of Churches

Borehole and Preschool / Nachipo

**TIMOR LESTE | Protestant Church
in Timor Leste**

Livelihood Development and Health
Care / Los Palos & beyond
Financial Support for Clinic
Immanuel Los Palos
/ Los Palos

**TONGA | Free Wesleyan Church
of Tonga**

Australian & Tongan Village
Cooperation Project

**VANUATU | Presbyterian Church
in Vanuatu**

Eye Care
HIV/AIDS Awareness

**WEST TIMOR | Evangelical Christian
Church in Timor**

Micro Finance / Betun
Cow Fattening / Betun

ZAMBIA | United Church of Zambia
Orphans and Vulnerable Children / Mwandji
Jordan Community High School

**ZIMBABWE | Methodist Church
of Zimbabwe**
Water Harvesting / Muzarabani

Looking to the future: Strategic Plan 2009-2011

In 2008 we were part of a wider organisational review that led to our new identity within UnitingWorld as the Relief and Development Unit. It also led to the development of a new strategic plan which is centred around 4 key signposts.

DIRECTIONS

2009-2011

We will be:

- Partnering overseas churches and agencies in transforming their local communities
- Empowering Australian church communities to be effective global partners
- Recognised and trusted as a leading relief and development agency
- Resourced and positioned to realise our vision





National Committee Members

Members of the National Committee are people who have experience, commitment and enthusiasm for relief and development issues. We thank them for their voluntary time, skills and the advice offered to UnitingWorld.

The committee continues reflection and monitoring for the strategic plans, best practice, reviews of policies and assessment of other accountabilities.



Rev. Anthony (Tony) Balleine BEc BD ThM
Governance and Compliance Committee

Key area of expertise and experience: Anthony is a Chartered Accountant and former treasurer of MLC School and a retired Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA).



Rev. Rob Brown BA BTh DipEd DipPS MSocSc
International Program Committee

Key area of expertise and experience: Rob is a Minister of the Word of the UCA and currently General Secretary of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. He has first hand partnership experience with the Churches of South and North India.



Rev. Terence Corkin BA, BTh and BlegS

Key area of expertise and experience: Terence is a Minister of the Word and current General Secretary of the UCA. He has had wide exposure to Uniting Church overseas partner churches and the challenges they face.



Mrs. Michelle Erofeeff BEc (Soc Sci)

Key area of expertise and experience: Michelle is a member of West Epping Uniting Church. She has been an active community advocate for many years, and also served as a Volunteer in Samoa for 2 years.



Mr. Malcolm Gledhill BA LLB
Chairperson / Governance and Compliance Committee

Key area of expertise and experience: Malcolm has been legal adviser to several overseas aid organisations and served in Papua New Guinea with Methodist Overseas Missions. Over a 16 year period he was a member of a range of Uniting Church Assembly mission organisations that undertook overseas aid and development projects.



Mrs. Margaret Reeson MA
Chair of the International Program Committee

Key area of expertise and experience: Margaret has been a mission co-worker in PNG Highlands for 17 years with educational and literacy experience and qualifications. She has also had opportunity to visit many of our partner churches and projects and has served as the Moderator of the NSW Synod of the UCA.



Rev. John Mavor
AM MLitt BEd BD DipRE GradDip EdStu Loc His
International Program Committee

Key area of expertise and experience: John has 9 years educational and leadership experience in PNG and the Pacific, non-profit leadership roles, including Acting Director of Uniting Church Overseas Aid in 2006. He has served as President of the Uniting Church in Australia and the Australian Council for International Development.



Mr. Jim Mein FCA FCPA FAIM FLGAA
Honorary Treasurer / Governance and Compliance Committee

Key area of expertise and experience: Jim is a specialist in auditing, small business, management, consulting for non-profits and financial planning. He has held many positions within the Church such as the Moderator of the NSW Synod of the UCA where at present he is the Director of the Schools Ministry.



Rev. Valamotu Palu BD DipTh

Key area of expertise and experience: Valamotu is an Ordained Minister of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga and former General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches based in Suva.



Rev. Dr Arthur G Pearce BA BD Grad DipRE DMin

Key area of expertise and experience: Arthur is an Educationalist and Minister of the Word in country and presbytery contexts with first-hand experience of the Church of South India.



Rev. John Ruhle BAgEc BTh
International Program Committee

Key area of expertise and experience: John is a former rural bank manager and lay education and discipleship facilitator with volunteer experience in central India and exposure visits to projects in Asia.



Mr. Ted Woodley
BSc, BE(Hons1), DipCD, FAIM, FAICD,
FIEAust, CPEng

Governance and Compliance Committee

Key area of expertise and experience: Ted has experience as a CEO and Director in business, government and community service organisations and he has undertaken corporate governance and strategic planning projects in Australia and the Pacific.

Relief and Development Unit Staff – 2008



Rev. Laurie Fitzgerald
Associate Director

I have often been asked, 'What does the Relief and Development program of UnitingWorld do and why have you kept at it for so many years?' In answering this question I say we can't meet every need, but one step at a time, as we demonstrate God's love, we make a difference in the lives of individuals and even whole communities. But we need to journey with communities over time.

Gudalur is a small town in the south of India in the Nilgiris Hills area of the state of Tamil Nadu. One of the great thrills for me over the past 12 months in this area was to meet a group of 25 teenage girls whose lives have been given new windows of opportunity.

As part of our Education and Vocational Training program and in partnership with the community, 10 years ago we started pre-schools in tribal villages who knew extreme poverty. Over the years this expanded and for the first time tribal children, especially girls, began the journey towards education. The years passed, they completed primary school and then wanted to go to high school instead of into an arranged marriage or low-paid employment. We determined to establish a hostel and now each Monday 25 teenage girls come to the hostel so they can attend High School.

With such an education behind them these young women represent the future for their families and will contribute in new ways to the capacity of their communities to escape the cycle of poverty. As we work with communities over the long-term we see significant transformation and it is this that I find most satisfying.



Mr. Rob Floyd
Associate Director

One of the privileges of the role I fulfill is seeing the incremental impact year by year of our particular programs. In 2008 I had the pleasure of visiting West Timor to see the culmination of 3 years of funding.

Having once lived in West Timor I was very much aware of how remote locations are often the most in need. To see funding help establish a new branch in the very remote Betun in the Belu District was a real highlight. There is now an office with 8 trained and highly motivated staff who serve the community with microfinance loans, primarily for women. We also funded a cattle post that allows our partner to provide cattle to poor farmers to fatten and then sell at a profit. This one office now serves around 600 microfinance clients and 200 cattle clients.

I continue to be moved when I meet people who benefit from our programs and this was especially the case in West Timor. I met several women who now have thriving small businesses. With the regular income they are earning they have been able to expand their businesses, provide for their families' needs and educate their children. The cattle fattening clients have been able to repair or rebuild their houses, provide for their families and send children to school.

These people had little opportunity to fight their way out of our poverty but with our partnership they have experienced genuine change.



Ms. Joy Balazo
Associate Director (Peacemaking Programs)

On July 1st, 2008 I was delighted to see Young Ambassadors for Peace (YAP) become part of the Relief and Development unit of UnitingWorld. Peacemaking in the areas of our work is not an end in itself but a crucial part of seeing communities experience positive change and transformation.

More specifically the peace treaty that was signed in October 2008 in the Tari district of the highlands of PNG was very satisfying. To see the genuine reconciliation of tribal leaders who were just a short time ago standing in tribal combat, I will never forget. To watch as they stood hand in hand marching for peace and then signing the peace treaties was extremely encouraging.

Peace cannot be sustained without development that addresses issues affecting communities such as poverty, education and HIV/AIDS. For this reason I am looking forward to taking YAP to a new level as part of the Relief and Development unit of UnitingWorld.



Mrs. Sharyn Robinson
Schools and Community Liaison

In July 2008 I had the joy of visiting the small village of Leleludi in the Milne Bay Province of Papua New Guinea with 10 students and four members of staff from Knox Grammar School. We stayed in the village for five days enjoying the hospitality of the villagers and learning about village life. We also learned about the importance of our Village Water Project to the people of the Milne Bay region.

The Village Water Project not only brings fresh water closer to the people, it provides the villagers with the resources to build toilets and education on the importance of good hygiene and the safe use of water. The lives of the villagers are transformed, especially those of the women. They no longer have to walk long distances to fetch water but now enjoy being able to simply go to a tap to collect water as they need it throughout the day. They have more time to care for their vegetable gardens and attend to the needs of their families.

The people in the villages of the Milne Bay Province of PNG have so very little; however, those that we came to know at Leleludi received satisfaction and joy from sharing what they do have with us. I thank God for the work that our project is doing to bring new life, for supportive individuals and Uniting Church communities such as the Knox school who make the work possible and for the local people who despite the hardship they encounter continue to give and dream for a better future.

Other Staff who served throughout 2008

- Rev. Dr. Kerry Enright / Director (see p.7)
- Mr. Russell Groves / Project Assistant
- Ms. Hannah Hoskin / Communications Officer
- Mr. Jeff Kite / Project Officer

Honorary Treasurers Report

This year saw a major commitment to improving administration and governance. Strategic planning was undertaken resulting in greater efficiencies and a clearer identity.

We are deeply grateful to our donors for continuing to support the Relief and Development programs of UnitingWorld. Their commitment to this work allows us to expand our projects areas and to look to help still others where need is greatest. Often what appear to be small projects can assist large numbers of people in poor countries.

The following financial statistics show -

- our donor base is being maintained;
- our operating and fundraising costs have been further reduced as a proportion of total costs;

- aid funds disbursed increased by 43 per cent because AusAID funding increased substantially, final Asia Tsunami funds were disbursed and Young Ambassadors for Peace was incorporated;

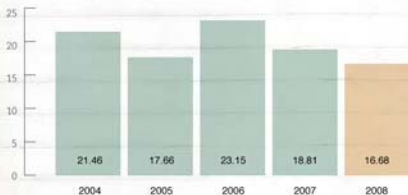
- grants received increased by 25 per cent.



Jim Mein

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Donations & legacies received	\$1,120,000	\$3,875,000	\$1,548,000	\$1,943,000	\$1,924,000
Grants received	\$234,000	\$333,000	\$227,000	\$1,018,000	\$1,275,000
Aid funds disbursed	\$849,000	\$3,016,000	\$1,295,000	\$2,068,000	\$2,962,000
Total costs	\$1,081,000	\$3,664,000	\$1,685,000	\$2,546,000	\$3,555,000
Unexpended funds	\$1,234,000	\$1,745,000	\$1,932,000	\$2,279,000	\$2,228,000
Fundraising, administration & other operating overheads as % of total expenditure	21.46%	17.66%	23.15%	18.81%	16.68%

Costs as a % of total expenditure



(2005 donations and legacies received were substantially higher because of the Asian Tsunami)

* 2006 year's costs included a once only AusAID costs of accreditation

Financial Report

This condensed financial information has been extracted from statutory financial statements. It is consistent in substance with these statements not withstanding the technical language and content. The statutory financial statements have been audited and are available upon request for inspection from:

Relief and Development
UnitingWorld
(formerly Uniting Church Overseas Aid)
PO Box A2266
Sydney South NSW 1235

10/222 Pitt Street,
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

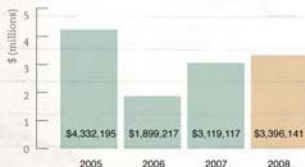
W www.unitingworld.org.au
T 02 8267 4267
F 02 9262 7936
E dev.info@unitingworld.org.au

Relief and Development, UnitingWorld (formerly Uniting Church Overseas Aid)

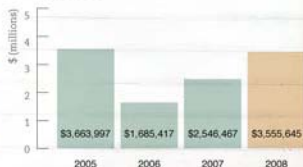
INCOME STATEMENT for the year ended 31st December 2008

REVENUE	2008	2007
Donations and gifts	\$1,885,109	\$1,932,018
Legacies and bequests	\$38,569	\$11,500
Grants		
AusAID	\$1,275,080	\$1,018,311
Other Australian	-	-
Other overseas	-	-
Investment Income	\$196,932	\$155,858
Other Income	\$451	\$1,430
Total revenue	\$3,396,141	\$3,119,117
EXPENSES		
Overseas project		
Funds to overseas projects	\$2,817,713	\$1,789,350
Other project costs	\$144,683	\$278,874
Domestic projects	-	-
Community education	\$28,403	\$69,167
Fundraising costs		
Public	\$312,661	\$295,036
Government and multilaterals	\$16,455	\$15,528
Administration	\$235,730	\$98,512
Total expenses	\$3,555,645	\$2,546,467
Excess of revenue over expenses from continuing operations	(\$159,504)	\$572,650

Revenue



Expenses



Financial Report Continued

Relief and Development, UnitingWorld (formerly Uniting Church Overseas Aid)

BALANCE SHEET for the year ended 31st December 2008

	2008	2007
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,330,054	\$2,652,180
Receivables	\$9,748	\$5,862
Other	\$7,507	\$4,192
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,347,309	\$2,662,234
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Other financial assets	\$493,625	\$152,400
Property, plant and equipment	\$16,421	\$22,627
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$510,046	\$175,027
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,857,354	\$2,837,261
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade & other payables	\$70,401	\$110,534
Provisions	\$10,638	\$20,080
Other	\$19,378	\$14,167
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$100,417	\$144,781
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	\$1,914	\$3,294
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$1,914	\$3,294
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$102,331	\$148,075
NET ASSETS	\$2,755,024	\$2,689,186
EQUITY		
Funds available for future use		
Specific fund	\$2,228,470	\$2,279,014
Designated fund	\$94,550	\$27,550
General fund	\$432,004	\$380,222
Financial Asset Reserve	-	\$2,400
TOTAL EQUITY	\$2,755,024	\$2,689,186

Financial Report Continued

Relief and Development, UnitingWorld (formerly Uniting Church Overseas Aid)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY for the year ended 31st December 2008

	General Fund	Specific Fund	Designated Fund	Financial Assets Reserve	TOTAL
Balance at 1 January 2007	\$126,157	\$1,932,165	\$92,550	-	\$2,150,872
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$174,461	\$398,189	-		\$572,650
Transfers from(to) Funds & Reserves					
Designated Fund	\$79,604	(\$14,604)			\$65,000
Other Agencies		(\$36,735)			(\$36,735)
General Fund			(\$65,000)		(\$65,000)
Revaluation Increment				\$ 2,400	\$2,400
Balance at 31 December 2007	\$380,222	\$2,279,015	\$27,550	\$2,400	\$2,689,187
Balance at 1 January 2008	\$380,222	\$2,279,015	\$27,550	\$2,400	\$2,689,187
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$148,782	(\$308,286)	-		(\$159,504)
Transfers from(to) Funds & Reserves					
Designated Fund	(\$67,000)				(\$67,000)
Other Agencies		\$227,741			\$227,741
Specific Fund	(\$30,000)				(\$30,000)
General Fund		\$30,000	\$67,000		\$97,000
Impairment losses – investments				(\$2,400)	(\$2,400)
Balance at 31 December 2008	\$432,004	\$2,228,470	\$94,550	-	\$2,755,024

Relief and Development, UnitingWorld (formerly Uniting Church Overseas Aid)

TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES for the year ended 31st December 2008

Name of Program	Cash available at beginning of year	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available at end of year	Comments
Tsunami Appeal	\$196,409	\$10,614	\$204,746	\$2,276	
AusAid ANCP*	\$218,695	\$391,992	\$460,945	\$149,742	Note 1
AusAid PNG CPP**	\$275,655	\$692,169	\$664,165	\$303,659	Note 1
Lent Event 2008	-	\$392,284	\$150,411	\$241,873	Note 1
Other Programs	\$1,961,421	\$1,905,196	\$2,234,113	\$1,632,505	
TOTAL	\$2,652,180	\$3,392,257	\$3,714,361	\$2,330,055	

Note 1 These were the programs with funds raised in the current year for a designated purpose that were 10% or more of the total revenue for the year.

* ANCP = AusAID NGO Cooperation Program **CPP = Church Partnership Program

**UNITING CHURCH OVERSEAS AID
INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO**

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Scope

We have audited the summarised financial report of Uniting Church Overseas Aid for the financial year ended 31 December 2008, which includes Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity and Table of cash movements for designated purposes in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the information reported in the summarised financial report is consistent with the annual statutory financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed an unqualified audit opinion in our report to the members of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia dated 27 March 2009. For a better understanding of the scope of audit this report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the annual statutory financial report.

Hall Chadwick
Level 29, 31 Market Street
Sydney, NSW 2000



DREW TOWNSEND
Partner

Date: 27 March 2009

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Level 29
31 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 3555
Sydney NSW 2001
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DE 1431 Sydney

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Graham Walsh
Lyle Wallace
Bill Penrose
Darrell Rose

National Association
Hall Chadwick

Other Independent firms in:
Brisbane
Adelaide
Gold Coast
Perth



**Chartered
Accountants**

www.hallchadwick.com.au

A Member of AIA International Ltd, a worldwide association of separate and independent accounting and consulting firms.

Thank you for your interest and support of the Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld (formerly Uniting Church Overseas Aid)

The Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. We are required to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

Australian Council for International Development
Private Bag 3 Deakin ACT 2600

T +61 2 6285 1816
F +61 2 6285 1720
E code@acfid.asn.au

More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct can be obtained from www.acfid.asn.au



The Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld (formerly Uniting Church Overseas Aid) is committed to ethical practice, transparency, sustainability and accountability.

We are accredited by the Australian Government (AusAID) and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

An agency of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.

UnitingWorld
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UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life



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