

# annual report 2008



**act** for peace

reduce poverty  
prevent conflicts

protect refugees  
empower communities

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# about act for peace

**act for peace** (formerly Christian World Service) is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. We have helped people living in poverty and conflict for more than 60 years.

We achieve this through working in partnership in conflict-affected regions to help build four of the key foundations for real and lasting peace. **act for peace** strives to:

- **reduce poverty** through community food, health and education programs.
- **protect refugees** and displaced people by managing safe refugee camps.
- **prevent conflicts** through facilitating peace and reconciliation processes.
- **empower communities** by ensuring their involvement in all aspects of their own development.

**act for peace** builds these foundations ecumenically with people from many of the world's most conflict-affected areas, including Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Palestine, East Timor, West Papua, as well as in the Pacific and Australia.

The **act for peace** Mission Statement is: Responding to the teachings of Jesus Christ, the member churches of the NCCA, through their Commission for **act for peace**, come together to break down the structures which create poverty, oppression, injustice and division.

We are also a member of the global ACT (Action by Churches Together) alliance, which helps people living in poverty in more than 150 countries.

**act for peace** started in 1948 as 'The Churches International Relief and Rehabilitation Committee,' helping refugees from Europe, displaced during World War II. In 1949, we started our best known appeal, the 'Christmas Bowl,' which remains one of the largest community-driven international aid appeals in Australia. We extend our thanks to church and individual supporters for all of their support for people living in poverty and conflict over the past 60 years!

## From Christian World Service to act for peace

In 2008, a major re-branding strategy was undertaken by Christian World Service culminating with the name change to **act for peace**. This decision was the result of numerous consultations with domestic and international stakeholders, fundraising experts, focus group studies and feedback from the 2007 Christmas Bowl Survey. It was widely agreed that the name Christian World Service had gained little public recognition since its inception in 1994 and did not adequately describe the work we undertake with partners in conflict areas.

The name change to **act for peace** has been warmly received by individuals and congregations and has been one phase in further refining our work. This process has also involved ensuring that our programs are more focused with the goals of reducing extreme poverty and helping people affected by conflict at the heart of everything we do. In 2009, we will continue to ensure our projects are targeted towards those who need it most.



This report gives an overview of what we have accomplished in 2008 and plan for 2009 in the countries in which we work to help build four of the key foundations for peace:

We strive to *reduce poverty, protect refugees, prevent conflicts and empower communities.*

The number of conflicts that threaten the lives of innocent civilians, have more than doubled over the past twenty years. Our partners provide life-saving assistance for more than 500,000 refugees and displaced people, as well as for hundreds of thousands of others living in extreme poverty.

The people living in conflict-affected regions are the ones who are being hit the hardest by the food crisis. The cost of rice has doubled in the past year in Burma, and the food supply situation in Zimbabwe has reached a critical point. The people of these countries and many other conflict areas are also the ones who will be affected the worst by the financial crisis as the world economy slows. Hyperinflation has devastated the Zimbabwean economy. Our partners involved with food aid and establishing rainwater harvesting tanks will need dedicated support during such a trying time. We need your help now more than ever.

Thank you to all of our church and individual supporters around Australia for working with us to make 2008 so memorable. In 2008, thanks to your generosity and greater AusAID support of our work, we were able to spend more than \$5 million on projects building the foundations for peace. For example, we are working with partners in Sudan to:

- reduce poverty through running health clinics, schools and water programs
- protect 250,000 internally displaced people in Darfur camps
- prevent conflicts throughout southern Sudan through a series of peacemaking processes involving tens of thousands of people

which has led to a number of peace agreements, such as the Wunlit Peace Agreement

- empowering communities involved through training and education.

Compared to the previous year, in 2008 we spent:

- \$727,000 more on helping people living in poverty and conflict; and
- \$180,000 less on administration and fundraising.

We would like to give a special thanks to our amazing overseas partners, many of whom work in very dangerous and difficult situations. Their courage and endurance is exemplary and inspirational for all of us. There is nothing glamorous about digging up landmines, convincing reluctant warlords into peace talks or running health clinics in refugee camps. They provide for immediate needs, but work on identifying and then addressing the root causes of conflict and extreme poverty.

In 2009, we aim to not only increase our financial assistance to partners doing this work, but to significantly increase our technical assistance on civilian protection and conflict resolution. We will also continue to work with partners to suggest policy solutions to those in power where conflict appears intractable, such as in Burma, Palestine and Sri Lanka and we will continue to speak out and stand in solidarity with those most affected by these conflicts.

Please join with us in 2009 to **act for peace!**



**The Reverend John Gilmore**  
CWS Commission Chairperson



**Alistair Gee**  
Executive Director





The people of Sudan are desperate for peace. The genocide in Darfur has killed hundreds of thousands of people and has displaced millions more. The peace agreement in the civil war in South Sudan, the longest running war in Africa, is fragile. Earlier interventions that might have stopped conflicts have not lead to real and true reconciliation processes. The agreements may easily prove to be unsustainable, as experienced in some parts of Sudan. The pace of poverty reduction in the south is slow and is causing rising hostility and further frustration as the people feel marginalised.

During the entire period of the war, the church

was the only instrument that provided any meaningful support. This support continues and we have been working with our church partners in Sudan since 1991.

**act for peace** is assisting the Sudan Council of Churches to carry out people to people peace processes such as creating peace constituencies within areas of protracted conflict and through strengthening the role of women and youth in conflict management and monitoring. The program has to date involved tens of thousands of people and will soon also include an expanded disarmament program.

We are also assisting partners in Darfur who are running camps for 240,000 people displaced by the conflict. In 2009, **act for peace** will continue to assist internally displaced people and civilians affected by the conflict through six sectors of response including:

- Water and Sanitation and Protection
- Health and Nutrition
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Psychosocial, Peace Building and Protection
- Agriculture
- School Support

*"We see tribes and ethnic groups who were previously fighting with each other now living together harmoniously... Children forcibly taken by other families during the war have been reunited with their own families in the Bahr el Ghazal region."* – The Reverend Peter Tibi, General Secretary of the Sudan Council of Churches



Since 2000, more than 3 million Zimbabweans have reportedly fled their country. Zimbabwe suffers from an 80% unemployment rate and is experiencing a hyper-inflation rate of about 231,000,000%!

We have been working with our Zimbabwean partners since 1983. **act for peace** is helping our partners to:

- provide clinics, schools and households with community water tanks and improve the health of the communities to:
  - avoid dangers of water-borne diseases.
  - ensure environmental health and management.
  - assist the self-sufficiency of 1500 families in the Beitbridge, Mberengwa, Plumtree and Chivi areas.
- encourage locals to train people in their own communities.
- empower women by encouraging men to recognise and respect women's leadership and participation in decision-making on issues involving community development.
- encourage the communities to make use of their spare time for home gardening and tree planting.
- improve the socio-economic status of communities by enhancing food and nutrition security and building capacity to enable the communities to become self-sufficient.
- improve agricultural extension services and farming inputs and mainstreaming environmental and other cross cutting issues.
- increase yields in conservation farms (some farmers have doubled their yield compared to the previous year) and contribute more seedlings to the Community Seed Bank.
- provide humanitarian assistance for displaced Zimbabweans, including many who have fled to neighbouring countries.

We will also increase our peace and protection policy assistance to our partners to improve protection of Zimbabweans at risk of harm and to assist them in their work on healing and reconciliation throughout the country.

*"I could not have a tank built in my household, because funds were short, but I decided to join the training program in tank construction, maintenance, health and hygiene. Now, I am participating in the program as an instructor, teaching other men and women to build and maintain ferro-cement tanks."* – Sorofina Ncube, Rainwater Tank Program Participant



**M**uch of Ethiopia is currently suffering from chronic food and water shortage due to ongoing drought. In addition, high international fuel costs and rising food prices, displacement and sporadic ethnic conflict in the South are creating a humanitarian emergency in the country.

We have been working with our Ethiopian Church partners since 1986. We are currently involved in integrated rural development work in the state of Amhara. This work is focused on environmental rehabilitation, improved agriculture, clean water supplies, sanitation and health education. In the past year, our partners have trained people to dig wells and latrines and provided 8,000 people with access to clean water. They have also distributed almost one million seedlings.

This work empowers communities by:

- using public gatherings.
- community planning and implementation at all levels.
- establishing local community groups.
- encouraging the assisting faith networks to take responsibility for management.

*"We work to improve family health and nutrition through training for women in child feeding, sanitation, family nutrition, vegetable production and preparation for household consumption."*  
– Haftu Woldu, Ethiopian Orthodox Church's Development and Inter-church Aid Commission



# palestine

**act for peace** has provided assistance to Palestinian refugees since 1986.

Since the deterioration of the conflict over the past 18 months, movement of Palestinians in the Gaza strip has been severely restricted. These restrictions have caused an extreme deterioration of living conditions, including access to water, sanitation, food, shelter, health, education and work. The need for urgent humanitarian assistance is growing rapidly. Fifty percent of children under five in the Gaza Strip are anemic and poverty related diseases, such as malnutrition, are on the rise.

**act for peace** is working with our partner, the Department of Services to the Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Middle East Council of Churches, to assist Palestinian communities in the Gaza strip by providing essential health-care to more than 50,000 patients in need. In the last year, they were able to exceed their health targets, despite working in extraordinarily difficult circumstances. This includes more than 21,000 attendants working in baby clinics and hundreds of women's health sessions for 17,800 participants



In 2009, we will also:

- continue to advocate for the rights of refugees and displaced people and a just resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict at domestic, national and international levels. In 2008, we supported the development and promotion of the International Church Action on Palestine & Israel kit, a copy of which is available on the **act for peace** website.
- support the ecumenical accompaniment program for Palestine & Israel, by assisting the training of Australians to monitor check-points and areas of tension in the Palestinian territories. This is a very successful program, strongly encouraged by our partners and the local communities.

*"One example of our work with local communities was with a family of six. The mother was a widow and one of her daughters had heart disease whilst another was blind. We assisted this family with medicines for the suffering daughter and with purchasing food."* – DSPR Health Worker



# iraq

There are currently five million displaced Iraqis either still in Iraq or in neighbouring countries. Syria alone has an estimated 1.2 million Iraqi refugees. Many of these people are in desperate need of food, water, housing, medical care and education for their children.

In 2009, **act for peace's** partners working in Iraq plan to provide assistance to the most vulnerable people inside Iraq and to refugees in Syria. The people face enormous political and economic instability and assistance for various communities in Iraq through church-related networks will be a focal point of our work during 2009.

One of our partners in Iraq, the Middle Eastern Council of Churches (MECC), is poised to assist 500 refugee families in Syria with hygiene items, 300 people from different faith affiliations with vocational training skills and promote education for 400 women.

Our other partners also plan to assist communities with:

- Education
- Literacy and vocational programs
- Access to clean water
- Safe sanitation facilities
- Shelter
- Sufficient storage capacity
- Recreational activities

A greater focus will also be placed on combating the psychological effects of the conflict situation with plans to implement art and drama therapy for children, portable crafts making and cultural performances for family members.

*"Prior to 2003, only 4% of Iraq's population were Christian, but they now constitute 30% of Iraq's refugees." – World Council of Churches*



# sri lanka

Armed conflict and displacement in northern Sri Lanka continues to escalate.

Since 1987 we have been involved with humanitarian assistance in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu in India for 75,000 Sri Lankan refugees. Specifically, we are assisting partners to:

- increase preventative health care work, including awareness campaigns on child abuse, child disability, gynaecological care and averting camp epidemics.
- increase training for refugee health workers to address community health issues.
- direct services such as support to hospitalised patients, staff visits to camps and houses and securing increased attendance, especially by women, in HIV-AIDS and TB screening programs.

We have also been in partnership with the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) since 1988. We will continue to assist their peace, advocacy and humanitarian assistance programs. Our partner establishes meetings with leaders on all sides of the conflict and advocates for the protection of civilians and for peace efforts.

In 2009, continuing work of protecting human rights will include:

- producing materials in Sinhala, Tamil and English.
- intervention in arrests.
- advocating for witness protection.

In the past year our partner supported almost 10,000 people affected by conflict and disaster.





Once known as the Rice Bowl of Asia, the beautiful country of Burma is now one of the poorest in the world, ruled by a ruthless military dictatorship, plagued for decades by civil war, corruption, violence and discrimination. act for peace has been working with people displaced by the Burma conflict for the past 21 years.

We work with a range of partners to:

- help reduce poverty in Burma and protect the human rights of the poor
- provide emergency assistance to communities amongst the 503,000 internally displaced Burmese in Burma's most remote areas
- provide food, shelter and other assistance to around 139,000 Burmese refugees on the Thailand Burma border
- assist Burmese refugees resettling in Australia

We are one of 12 agencies from around the world supporting the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), which provides critical assistance to around 139,000 Burmese refugees on the Thailand Burma border. The TBBC provides food, shelter and some non-food items, while supporting projects to enhance the long-term self-reliance of the refugees.

The nine refugee camps we support through TBBC are the largest series of non-United Nations run camps in the world. By supporting act for peace, you can help provide food and shelter for a refugee for a year for less than \$300 AUD.

Last year, Australia resettled nearly 2,000 refugees from these camps. We are dedicated to providing continuing assistance to displaced Burmese people in need, whether they are in hiding in Burma, in camps on the border or have recently arrived in Australia.

*"When I was a child, my father was forced to work as a carrier for the Burmese soldiers. He was shot dead when he tried to flee. My mother got sick and died. I lived with my uncle and one day, Burmese soldiers came to punish us because we were growing rice outside the village. I escaped through the jungle and crossed the border with a group of other fleeing people. When I came to the camp, I went to the clinic for medical check up, and I received food and a blanket. Now here in the camp, I hope to teach in one of the schools."* – Burmese Refugee



Muslims and Indigenous peoples in Mindanao, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog continue to leave behind their ancestral lands due to ongoing armed conflict and harassment by the military and other government agencies, in order to take over their land and for development projects such as dams, mining and eco tourism.

People's organisations, NGOs and church programs carrying out peace and development work in communities are most often targeted by the military.

Over 50% of the population in the region lives below the national poverty line of 60 US cents per person per day. Approximately 30% of the children under five years of age are stunted, and the rate of children completing primary education is 33%, half the national average.<sup>1</sup>

act for peace is working with partners to:

- promote mutual understanding between and among Muslims, Christians and Indigenous peoples based on common aspirations for peace and justice.
- facilitate a strong campaign for the dialogue between faith-based communities and government and the resumption of peace negotiations amongst warring parties.
- extend solidarity support (financial, material and technical assistance) to victims of human rights violations and internal displacements to temporarily ease their conditions.
- ensure that resources are directly received by the victims.
- ensure that the rights of communities and victims are protected, and that they are empowered to build better communities out of the ruins of war through rehabilitation.
- encourage churches to host victims and refugees for temporary refuge for one week to give ample time to look for other venues to moved displaced people. Parallel to that is providing counselling and therapy with focus on women and children.
- bridge the gaps and break down religious barriers, through consultations which will mainly focus on genuine unity, peace and justice.
- launch DUYOG<sup>2</sup> Ramadhan as an interfaith solidarity event for Christians and Indigenous Peoples to join our Muslim sisters and brothers in their feast ending the Ramadhan.

In the past year, our partners have assisted 2,500 internally displaced Manobos indigenous people in Surigao with medicines and clothing.

*"I became the village leader and established community groups reaching out to churches and other groups for assistance. The groups formed literacy and numeracy programs, provided agricultural training, made simple farm tools and built a school for the Indigenous people living nearby. After this, other Indigenous groups came to me for assistance to develop similar groups and projects in their communities."* – Himpad, Indigenous Leader

**O**n 5 December 2006, Fiji experienced its fourth coup d'état when the military overthrew the democratically elected government. For Fiji, the "coup cycle" adds further strain to the many development issues plaguing the country. Fiji continues to be marked by a poor distribution of wealth and services and continued political unrest is fuelling the spiralling cycle of conflict and poverty.

In 2007-2008, **act for peace** partner, the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA), established the Peoples Community Network (PCN) organisation, to give a voice to the community in regard to education, settlement and other community-based issues. The PCN has also implemented a community savings scheme and has saved over F\$60,000 and is officially recognised by the government and other stakeholders. .

In 2009, ECREA will continue to work to empower vulnerable and marginalised communities to overcome structural and economic barriers and improve their quality of life through:

- increased participation in the formal decision making processes and development planning.
- working with target indigenous rural communities to improve community leadership that engages all sections of the community in development, including women and youth
- encouraging community savings schemes so that communities have financial resources to contribute to their own initiatives, as well as their children's education.
- advocating to the Government for an alternative housing option for informal settlements and working with the PCN to implement this solution.
- training PCN office bearers in organisational development to build PCN's organisational capacity.



# southern islands



**T**he Solomon Islands, once known as "The Happy Isles," is now struggling to build a future for its people. In 2002, ethnic fighting between Malaitans and Gualese caused widespread instability as the country's Government collapsed, economic systems failed and looting and violence became rife. Rebuilding from the ensuing years of tension and conflict and from natural disasters is a difficult process.

In 2009, **act for peace** will work with partners to:

- assist vulnerable villages of the Solomon Islands to be better prepared to cope with natural and man made disasters.
- provide assistance to the people in the areas of education and health.
- promote women and youth development.
- train the people in leadership and good governance.
- advocate for social justice and social welfare.
- run literacy programs.
- promote capacity building for the Solomon Islands Christian Association.

Over the past year, our partner's work has included a dedicated Literacy Training Program, which has involved the production of a training manual and the purchase of materials for newly formed literacy classes. Several 'Training of Trainers' workshops were held for 22 female teachers at Fulikaomae village in Central Kwara'ae region of the Malaita Province. These skills have been transferred at a village level as knowledge sharing forms the core principle of this project. This program has benefited 11 schools with a total of 3,287 students (boys and girls) and 159 members of the School Board and Committees.

**act for peace** has also supported a Community Health Education Program which has helped bring about transformation for the nation through the seamless combination of health education and community development. This program has taken a holistic approach which is specifically aimed at church bodies who wish to take part.



# east timor



In 1976, Indonesia annexed East Timor, which had formerly been occupied by the Portuguese for nearly 500 years. Twenty-four years of Indonesian rule saw widespread and severe human rights abuses, and it is estimated that over 200,000 East Timorese died as a direct result of the invasion and resistance that followed.

After enormous international pressure, Indonesia agreed to allow UN forces into East Timor, in order to oversee a plebiscite on independence. The vote was clearly in favour of independence, but pro-Indonesian militia caused havoc and bloodshed. An international peacekeeping force, led by Australia, began restoring order. Currently, there is widespread food insecurity due to low crop yields, lack of income, drought, underdeveloped markets and civil unrest.

Foundsaun Sosial Naroman (FUSONA), the social arm of the Protestant Church of East Timor, has been working with **act for peace** since 1999. FUSONA believes in people-centred development and tackling the root causes of poverty and works to empower poor and isolated communities, especially in the war-affected regions of East Timor.

**act for peace** is helping FUSONA to:

- reduce poverty by increasing community and family income through food production and animal husbandry.
- improve economic development through income generating activities such as providing small business loans.
- provide health services such as health posts, clinics and mobile clinics to decrease the levels of illness and mortality in remote areas, especially among mothers and babies. The program also aims to improve public health education about HIV/AIDS, cleanliness and hygiene.
- create new agricultural groups to improve efficiency.

*"Before I ran this kiosk I couldn't afford to feed my family."* – The Reverend Dominggus, a local church minister in East Timor, was selected for the kiosk program due to his family's difficult situation. The program helped him set up a kiosk to sell food and basic household items.

We have been working with partners in Australia on broad "healing" initiatives, run by State Ecumenical Councils, which link refugees to church communities to generate support for resettled refugees and destitute asylum seekers without work rights, income or access to Medicare. The work includes:

- community building events such as visits by refugees to regional centres.
- provision of travel loans to reunite families.
- support for programs providing literacy and other skills
- financial assistance.

Host families, volunteers and supporters develop networks of contacts and friendships with the newcomers, helping to create a healthy, multicultural society in Australia.

We have also supported Indigenous people through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (NATSIEC), who are faced with recovery from injustice, poverty and cultural damage due to dispossession. **act for peace** will continue to help advance the objectives of NATSIEC's work, notably its 'Make Indigenous Poverty History' advocacy and educational campaign.

**act for peace** provided Refugee and Migrant Sunday material for use by local churches and events. Examples include successful Refugee Festivals at Box Hill Town Hall, Melbourne in both August 2007 and 2008 and seminars organised by the New South Wales Ecumenical Council such as the 2008 forum on Iraq.

*When refugees told their stories at the ecumenical gathering, "Adults wept quietly, children sat silent and wide-eyed. The impact of life's cruelty cut deep into our comfortable lives."* – The Reverend Gail Pritchard, Victoria



# australia



**T**hank you for your support of our key advocacy initiatives over the past year.

With your support we:

- Set up a regional centre in Thailand for the Responsibility to Protect to help prevent genocide.
- Pushed for work rights for destitute asylum seekers, which the government is expected to introduce soon.
- Campaigned through Make Poverty History, Micah Challenge and Jubilee Australia for increased Australian overseas aid and debt reform to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (Australia's aid is now set to increase markedly!).
- Convinced the Australian Government to introduce our alternative 'complementary protection' model, which will help shorten detention and processing times and secure protection visas for those in need who do not easily fit into the narrow definition of a refugee.
- a concise and targeted approach to the negative effects posed by climate change.

# emergencies

**I**n May this year, **act for peace** launched two emergency appeals in response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis in Burma (Myanmar) and the widespread destruction caused by the earthquake in the Sichuan Province of China. Our supporters' responses have been very generous, with \$493,630 raised by the appeal for the people of Burma and \$70,247 raised for the people of the Sichuan Province.

Despite serious concerns by the international community about whether aid could get past the Burmese military rulers, our emergency response partners were able to provide help to more than a million people in rural communities affected by the cyclone. This assistance included the immediate provision of life saving supplies such as food, blankets, mosquito nets, temporary shelter, hygiene kits and water purification tablets. In the long term, **act for peace** has committed funds to rebuilding infrastructure in damaged communities and ensuring support continues during the monsoon season with replacement seed stock, fertilizer, power tillers and fuel for farmers. The Irrawaddy Delta is the rice-producing heart of Burma, where many rice farms were devastated. The long term effects of Cyclone Nargis will be seen in the ability of farm families to recover and produce food.

Our partner in China has assisted more than 120,000 people affected by the earthquake with emergency items and psychosocial care and has commenced rehabilitation work. **act for peace's** partner has focused its efforts in this stage on an entire village of more than 2,500 people. This support will involve the reconstruction of 935 homes.


Thank you to all of our generous supporters who acted selflessly in response to these emergency situations. The remarkable support and assistance has shown what can be achieved when people combine their efforts, mobilised by human compassion and urgency of need.






# where we work



 Where act for peace Works

 Our Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance\*

## Income Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2008

	Notes	12 months to 30 June 2008 \$	12 months to 31 Dec 2006 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donations and Gifts – monetary & non-monetary		3,828,566	3,498,195
Legacies and Bequests		26,625	-
Grants	AusAID	2,067,699	1,258,458
	Other Australian		-
	Other Overseas		-
Investment Income		86,472	82,558
Other Income	4	1,122,377	695,773
Total Revenue	6	7,131,739	5,534,984
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Overseas Projects			
Funds to overseas projects	5	4,316,824	3,785,111
Other project costs		367,853	246,940
		4,684,677	4,032,051
<b>Fundraising Costs</b>			
Public		504,998	565,128
Govt. and Multilaterals		20,146	20,191
		525,144	585,319
Domestic Projects		501,919	441,993
Community Education		279,945	288,941
Administration		454,778	574,670
Total Disbursements	6	6,446,463	5,922,974
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		685,276	(387,990)
Surplus / (deficit) 1 Jan 07 to 30 Jun 07		607,459	
Funds available for future use at 1 January		1,198,898	1,586,888
Funds available for future use at 31 December		2,491,633	1,198,898

*The Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and Forming the Accounts.*



## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008

	Notes	30 June 2008	31 Dec 2006
		\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets			
Cash	6	37,786	4,474
Investments	2, 6	2,965,448	2,029,290
Debtors		-	19,195
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment		2,524,043	1,620,329
Total Assets		<u>5,527,277</u>	<u>3,673,288</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other Payables		9,219	70,300
Provisions – employee entitlements	3	58,969	132,116
Non Current Liabilities			
Provisions – employee entitlements	3	11,476	8,688
Total Liabilities		<u>79,664</u>	<u>211,104</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>5,447,613</u>	<u>3,462,184</u>
Equity			
Building Equity 379 Kent St		1,574,043	935,329
Melbourne Property		950,000	685,000
CWS RDP Reserves		430,937	642,957
Funds available for future use		2,492,633	1,198,898
Total Equity		<u>5,447,613</u>	<u>3,462,184</u>

*The Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and Forming the Accounts.*

## Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ending 30 June 2008

	Ret. Earnings	Reserves	Total
Balance at 1 January 2007	1,198,898	2,263,286	4,084,728
Excess of revenue over expenses	607,459	-	607,459
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	-	(76,506)	(76,506)
Balance at 30 June 2007	<u>1,807,357</u>	<u>2,867,780</u>	<u>3,994,137</u>
Balance at 1 July 2007	1,807,357	2,867,780	3,994,137
Excess of revenue over expenses	685,276	-	685,276
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	-	768,200	768,300
Balance at 30 June 2008	<u>2,492,633</u>	<u>2,954,980</u>	<u>5,447,613</u>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

### 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 satisfy 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.

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 income statement 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 2008 (2006:\$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 balance sheet.

*(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.

*(k) Managed funds*

Funds channelled through Christian World Service on behalf of other Australian individuals or entities are classified as managed funds. These funds are earmarked for specific purposes and the value of these transactions is shown in note 6.

**2. Investments**

Investments with NCCA – project funds	2,534,511	1,386,333
Investments with NCCA – legacies and bequests	43,445	41,259
Investments with NCCA – RDP reserves	387,492	601,698
	<u>2,965,448</u>	<u>2,029,290</u>

**3. Employee Entitlements**

Provision for Annual Leave	48,600	84,865
Provision for Long Service Leave	21,845	55,939
	<u>70,445</u>	<u>140,804</u>

**4. Other Income**

Managed Funds and Accounts	917,466	426,389
Utilisation of Reserves	101,000	256,384
Other	103,911	13,000
	<u>1,122,377</u>	<u>695,773</u>

**5. Funds to Overseas Projects by Region**

Africa	815,882	647,425
Asia	2,018,496	2,464,458
Europe	25,039	-
Latin America	-	-
Middle East	850,602	463,775
Pacific	390,035	142,983
International Projects	64,096	39,000
World Council of Churches Programs	152,674	27,470
	<u>4,316,824</u>	<u>3,785,111</u>



## 6. Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes

Cash				37,786	4,474
Investments				2,965,448	2,029,290
				3,003,234	2,033,764
	<b>Cash available 1 January</b>	<b>Cash raised 1 Jan 07 to 30 June 07</b>	<b>Cash disbursed 1 Jan 07 to 30 June 07</b>	<b>Accrual accounting adjustments</b>	<b>Cash available 30 June 07</b>
Thailand – TBBC	47,816	50,000	93,224	-	4,592
Tsunami	184,390	4,060	178,162	-	10,288
Other purposes	1,801,558	2,769,539	2,677,837	617,229	2,510,489
	2,033,764	2,823,599	2,949,223	617,229	2,525,369
	<b>Cash available 30 June 07</b>	<b>Cash raised during the year</b>	<b>Cash disbursed during the year</b>	<b>Accrual accounting adjustments</b>	<b>Cash available 30 June 08</b>
Thailand – TBBC	4,592	758,530	668,053	95,069	
Tsunami	10,288	222,635	218,000	14,923	
Pacific – CIDRR	-	777,691	203,807	573,883	
Burma Cyclone	-	314,815	170,000	144,815	
Other purposes	2,510,489	5,058,068	5,216,603	177,411	2,174,543
	2,525,369	7,131,739	6,476,463	177,411	3,003,234

**M**embers of the CWS Commission, the governing body of **act for peace**, are appointed by the National Council of Churches in Australia during its Forum. The next Forum is scheduled for July 2010.

During 2007 – 2008, the CWS Commission met on three occasions. The 2008 act for peace Annual General Meeting was held on 27 November 2008.

## The 2007 – 2008 Commission Members were:

**The Reverend John Gilmore** CWSC Chair, (Churches of Christ, Victoria) BThL, MThL, DipMin, Executive Director the Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners, Chair of CWS Standing Committee and member of NCCA Finance Committee.

**The Reverend Elenie Poulos** CWSC Deputy Chair, (Uniting Church in Australia NSW), MA, BThL, CWS Standing Committee, Member NCCA Social Justice Network, Member Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (World Council of Churches), National Director UnitingJustice Australia.

**Jackie Perkins** CWS Standing Committee, (The Religious Society of Friends, NSW), Executive Administrator, Quaker Service Australia, NCCA Finance Committee.

**Lieutenant Colonel Ray Wilson** CWS Standing Committee, (The Salvation Army, NSW & Queensland), Territorial Property Secretary, member Queensland Churches Together Executive.

**Archbishop Aghan Baliozian** OAM (Armenian Apostolic Church NSW) MA, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand and Member of the Executive of the NSW Ecumenical Council.

**Father Michael Delaney** (Roman Catholic Church, Tasmania) Parish Priest, Naval Reserve Chaplain, member of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, member of the National Board of Converge International.

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

**Bishop Philip Huggins** (Anglican Church of Australia Victoria), Chair Brotherhood of St Laurence, Chair of Anglican General Synod Ecumenical Relations Commission, Bishop of the Northern and Western Region, Melbourne.

**Simon Michail** (Coptic Orthodox Church), Financial Manager of the Coptic Orthodox Church Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions, Member of the General Advisory Board COC, Secretary of the Finance Department COC, NCCA Finance Committee.

**Father James Minchin** (Anglican Church of Australia, Victoria) BA (Hons), MA Hons, ThL (Hons), Vicar, Christ Church St Kilda, CWS Standing Committee.

**Peter Schirmer** (Lutheran Church of Australia, NSW) BA (Hons), MDS, Executive Secretary, Australian Lutheran World Service.

**The Reverend John Henderson**, ex-officio, General Secretary of the NCCA.

**Alistair Gee**, BA, LLB, ex-officio, Executive Director of **act for peace**.

## State Ecumenical Councils

- Council of Churches of WA
- Northern Territory Council of Churches
- NSW Ecumenical Council
- Queensland Churches Together
- South Australian Council of Churches
- Victorian Council of Churches
- Tasmanian Council of Churches

**act for peace**

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1 [http://www.wfp.org/country\\_brief/indexcountry.asp?country=608](http://www.wfp.org/country_brief/indexcountry.asp?country=608)

2 'DUYOG' means 'in solidarity with' in Cebuano, a local Filipino language.