



Newsletter No 14

June 2011

Hello Everybody

How time flies, it doesn't since a minute since the December newsletter. What a wonderful warm and sunny start to the Spring, bringing a new breath of life and a feeling of optimism to those of us who are in good health and able to take advantage of it.

It is seven years now since registration of One Life and these years have just flown by, not without their moments of trauma but nothing bad enough to prevent the charity from continuing to help Nancy and the children in South Africa.

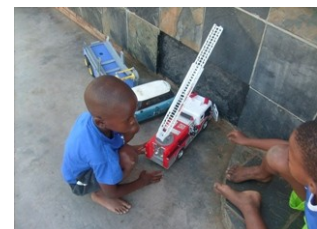
We are lucky, that in this economic climate, we are still able to put 225 children through school and provide their uniforms and stationary. Thandisiwe is in her last year at University and is working hard and doing very well. Unfortunately we are unable to give this opportunity to any other young person for the foreseeable future. The fees are just too much. All charity funding is needed for food, transport to hospitals, shack repair etc.



The parishioners of St Anne's parish Church, with the blessing of the vicar The Rev Jude Bullock, continue to support One Life. A number of parishioners lovingly knit warm hats, scarves and jumpers for our children and also collect underwear, much needed by our teenagers. Other supporters of the charity and personal friends of mine regularly knit scarves and jumpers and buy gifts of slippers and socks for the children. Penny and David

Rolfe organised another wonderful fund raising event in January and this raised an amazing £1,020 for the charity and my next door neighbour and fellow trustee Debbie Pipe with her friend Annette Cowell organised A New Year's Eve dance (held in St Anne's Church hall) and raised £380 for Africa. We are indeed blessed with all the help we receive.

Rosemary Faupel continues to send out monthly parcels to Nancy for the children. She sends dresses and T shirts, jerseys and cardigans, these being for adults as well as children and she also sends various toys for the children. One toy being a wonderful fire engine which the boys love. My thanks go to Rosemary and all the other people who send out gifts for the children or bring them to my house and a special thank you to one lady who gave me £300 purely for postage, this has been such an enormous help, without which, at times, it would have been very difficult to get the goods to the children.



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Approximately two weeks ago I spoke with Nancy and discovered that within a few weeks time she and the children would be out of food and I knew that One Life had very little funding left. I was so very concerned that I couldn't sleep that night, and when I did, I was dreaming of looking for things in my house to auction in order to raise money for Nancy. In the morning, I was trying to think what I could do when it came to me to put out an appeal for help. This I did immediately and in the two weeks since then an unbelievable £2,500 has been donated with a little more still to come at the end of the month. I am so grateful to all who could afford to respond to this appeal and most of that money has now gone out to Africa, the majority of it for food and transport and a small amount, £300, for repairs to the worst damaged shacks and mud huts.



Since January the area where Nancy and the children are has undergone the most damaging flooding, hence the collapse either totally or partly of the shacks and huts. I am saddened and concerned that I am still in a position to do so little to help mend the shacks. Many of our children, some unwell, and their carers are now living without electricity, without running water and now in homes that are falling down and to make matters worse winter has come early and they are all feeling very cold. It is at times like this that I feel so helpless. Anyway at least the money just sent will help repair the very worst hit shacks and mud huts. What I need is to somehow raise another £500 to £700 so that we could repair a good many homes, then at least our children could be dry. I cannot imagine what they have to endure right now.

So far this year we have sent out to Nancy approx £10,500 and since its onset, the charity has sent out £143,858.94p. Since the end of November £12,235.97 has come into the charity, part of this being the Gift Aid Return which is invaluable and I eagerly wait for it to arrive each year.

#### MONIES RECEIVED INTO THE CHARITY SINCE THE END OF NOVEMBER 2010

|             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| End Nov/Dec | £1614                              |
| January     | £2,977.50                          |
| February    | £4,739.47 includes Gift Aid Return |
| March       | £ 50                               |
| April       | £ 405                              |
| May         | £2,500 Approx - Appeal             |

#### FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Barbara and Paul Carter will be holding a cream tea in their home to raise funds. The date still to be arranged.

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The Annual Sponsored walk will be held in London on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>. We will meet, as usual, in Trafalgar Square at "The coffee shop" at 10-30ish and the walk will take place in St James Park. Please contact me for more details if you wish to join us. If you would like to sponsor me that would be wonderful, all funds raised from the walk will go to Nancy in Kwazulu for food and shack repair both urgently needed.

We eventually managed to get the computer fixed, and purchased, through One Life funding, a new scanner/printer and then, frustratingly, the whole area lost it's electricity supply and now six weeks later it has still not been reconnected. Khanya, money permitting, has been sending me, from an internet cafe or from the parish priest's house, some receipts and photos which I need but it is not an ideal situation as all contact has to be done by phone or text. If, however, you would like an up to date photo of your child and would be happy to wait a while to receive it, please do let me know.

If you wish to send cards, letters or small gifts to your child please contact me for the address you will need.

School fees are still to be paid by Nancy in October so please if you pay by cheque could you get this to me any time between now and the end of August, early September at the very latest. I would be most grateful. It is one of my most stressful times trying to get the money in on time. The same with Standing Orders, ideally the yearly ones should be paid into the bank by the end of August or early September at the very latest.

As I am preparing this newsletter, Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>, I have just received a text from Nancy and Khanya in South Africa. I am totally in shock as the text told me that Sr Emmanuel has sadly just passed away at 4-30pm today. I have no other information, just the short text. She has just had her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday and I spoke to her a couple of days after her birthday and she seemed much stronger and also more settled than of late as she has been very frail and in a wheelchair for the last few months. For those of you who have not heard of Sr Emmanuel I will briefly explain who she is. She and I have been close friends for over 40 years from when I lived there in the sixties. On my recent trips to Africa I stayed with her in a small community of nuns about half an hours drive away from the children we help. For many years she has supported Nancy and the children we sponsor and many other Africans in need, she was a remarkable human being and will be sadly missed. Now onto more Africa news.

## AFRICA NEWS

Life for Nancy and the children is still full of hardship and difficulties, I wish I could say it was different. Since January there has been constant flooding resulting in the collapse of

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mud huts and partial collapse of shacks. It seems to rain all the time there these days and also it is much colder than usual. I am and have been sending out jumpers and scarves for the children and another batch of knitted hats but we have sent hundreds of those so they are not needed as urgently as last year. What would really help would be enough funding to repair all the shacks not just the worst damaged ones but for this to happen, as I said earlier, I would need at least another five to seven hundred pounds. Many of our children and their carers are not well due to the AIDS Virus, TB and related illnesses. Some aged grandparents look after up to 13-16 children, they are unwell themselves and they see their grandchildren suffering some in and out of hospital because of AIDS and they are helpless to help. Many of the children's Anti Retro Viral drugs are being stolen and recently Khanya too was held at gunpoint after picking up a little boys medication at the hospital. The police say there is nothing they can do as it is happening all the time. This is a very worrying situation as the children need to take their drugs on a daily basis.



Nancy and the whole of the surrounding area have been without electricity for about six weeks, without any sign of it being reconnected. Because of this we lost all the food held in the freezer and the fridge and Nancy can now only provide cold food instead of a warming hot meal of rice and vegetables. I cannot envisage life without electricity, water on tap, a safe sturdy house and all the comforts which we so take for granted. All we can do

is our very best to make life a little more tolerable and pray for a miracle but it never seems enough. Many families still cook outdoors using one cooking pot, and this is in all weathers. Some families, when the weather has been abysmal, have cooked indoors in the huts and shacks with disastrous results and terrible accidents occurring including children receiving severe burns to their bodies. I just wish I could wave a magic wand and enable these families at least to have the basic essentials for living.



Khanya has managed to send a few photos through of children with some of the gifts we have sent out to them and is lovely to see these. I bought tiny fluffy Easter chicks from our local £1 shop and these gave the children such pleasure. A large batch of underwear



from Primark bought real excitement to all the children and the little ones wanted a photo taken wearing them. Khanya tries to take photos of all the children when these goods arrive. Many parcels of goods are sent out regularly. Urgent ones by air and not so urgent by land as postal charges for overseas is very expensive.



Nancy is still experiencing much pain in her legs and feet but otherwise is feeling better. A dear friend of mine who wishes to remain anonymous has donated to One Life enough money, with just a little help from the charity, to pay for Nancy's medication for the whole of this year and has pledged to do the same next year. I am just so grateful and so is Nancy, and I am very thankful too that you all care so much about Nancy, Khanya and the children and what is happening to them in South Africa.

Many of you sent donations to me at Christmas time and with this and with funding from One Life Nancy was able to give a small party for the children and she was also able to purchase small gifts for each of them. What moved me so much was that Nancy told me that when the party ended and the children were ready to go home, many of them tried to give the gifts back to Nancy, just not believing that they really could take them home, so thank you all for giving these children a day of fun and happiness and a gift which I know will have meant so much to them.

Please, as before, if possible, pass this newsletter around if receiving it by post. We need all the support we can get, the needs are never ending and now with the mud huts and shacks in such a bad state we need funding more than ever.

As always, my thanks go to all of you without who this charity would not be able to continue. I can only let you know what is happening but it is you who sponsor the children and support me in so many other ways. I am also touched and grateful for the written and verbal support I have received from many of you, especially in response to the appeal.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer.  
My Best Wishes to you all.

Elena



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