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PHOTO: PHILIP GIBBS SVD

◀ Climate Challenges - Nepal, Tonga, Africa

Rebuilding in Haiti, Chile, Samoa and Tonga



PHOTO: MATHILDE MAGNIER/CARITAS.



PHOTO: NICOLA EDMONDS

◀ Connected Communities at Home

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is a member of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 165 Catholic aid, development and social justice agencies active in over 200 countries and territories. 'Caritas Internationalis' literally means 'love between nations', and we are called to be a sign of the love of God for all humanity, a love that knows no bounds or boundaries.

Letter from the DIRECTOR

CARITAS RELIES ON THE SUPPORT OF MANY DONORS. We value all donations be they small or large. We have just completed our 2010 Lenten Appeal and I am delighted to report that we have raised over \$845,000 in donations. A great effort! Thank you to all our supporters who gave both time and money to make this a successful Appeal.



In this Winter Update newsletter, we have highlighted aspects of our international and New Zealand focused work. This year has so far been extremely busy for the Caritas team. It started with the devastating Haiti earthquake and the Caritas network swung into action to assist those affected. The donor response here was fantastic with over \$650,000 raised to date.

We have included some information on how the New Zealand Government's change in policy direction for overseas aid is affecting non-government development organisations. Although we have major concerns about the change in focus, we do value our long standing partnership with the New Zealand Government. We will continue to advocate for policies and programmes that are pro-poor and support integral human development.

Earlier in the year I visited some of our projects in Kenya and Tanzania and was struck by the challenges that so many people face in their daily lives. Challenges include the impacts of climate change, discrimination against some ethnic groups, and poor access to health and education services. I was impressed by the results that our programmes are achieving with some of the most vulnerable people in those countries. Donor support is vital for these programmes to continue.

Within New Zealand we have been very busy with our advocacy work. This Update provides an insight into some of this including our response to the 2010 budget and recent changes in social welfare policy.

One World Partners are a group of donors who give on a regular (usually monthly) basis. Thank you if you are already part of the One World Partnership scheme. We would love more people to join this scheme. If you are interested in more information, please see page 7 or visit our website www.caritas.org.nz for more details.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Michael Smith
Director



SYANGJA – GROWING FOR SUCCESS

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has supported for some time the Nepalese Syangja programme, which has been running for nine years. The programme draws to a close on 30 June 2010 with many successful outcomes, and the community can now manage their activities themselves. The community will still be able to access Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training and support through the Caritas Nepal IPM programme that we are funding with Caritas Australia.

The two Syangja cooperatives which have developed through the programme will be under community management, and will continue to run many community activities, such as women's groups, savings and micro-credit schemes. These and other cooperatives will also receive some 'weaning off' support as needed from a proposed new Caritas Nepal Cooperative Umbrella Support programme, which Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is looking to fund. We will also support for a short time the completion of the community forestry planting. Once that planting is completed, the community forestry work will be able to be supported by the cooperatives.

(Read more on Syangja on page 4.)

A NICARAGUAN PERSPECTIVE

The fact that economic development needs to take place within an awareness of wider issues within communities and society (see 'What is development?' opposite), is illustrated by a recent visit to Nicaragua by Caritas International Programmes Manager Tara D'Sousa. Of our partner the Association for the Development and Diversification of Community Agriculture (ADDAC), Tara says, 'For all ADDAC's work on improving livelihoods and integrating people into the cash economy, divisions between families did not change. The area had been heavily conflicted by the civil war of the 1980s so ADDAC realised they had to do something different. The focus has shifted from a primary concern for economic wellbeing to the overall wellbeing of the family.'

ADDAC field workers no longer ask 'How's your farm?'. Now, it's 'How's your family?'. Farm workers are assisted by their families on the farm and the same sense of community has entered the home, with traditional 'machismo' attitudes of men shifting – so they now do household chores as well. There is a better flow of concern for family members' health, workload, educational needs etc, and the social fabric of the communities has become enriched. Visiting some of these farms, Tara says, 'I was struck by the enabling environment in which ordinary people went about their work with a sense of celebration of their worth.'

Caritas has supported ADDAC since 2005, and recently approved a further \$150,000 for this year. ADDAC is helping rural communities move from traditional slash and burn agriculture to sustainable, organic methods. The group is also supporting a more diverse agriculture and helping with access to markets, aiming to ensure a steady supply of food, and improve incomes to its members.

Left: Ramone and his son (with cacao fruit) on their farm among cacao and coffee seedlings. Ramone's family is a member of the Rios de Aguas Vivas (Rivers of Living Water) cooperative, nurtured and supported by ADDAC.

‘UNDER DEVELOPMENT’ – new Government funding framework

At time of writing, Caritas was awaiting confirmed details of a new government framework for supplementary funding of New Zealand-based NGOs supporting overseas development and emergency relief work. The existing funds – the ‘KOHA’ fund for long-term community development work, and the Humanitarian Assistance Fund for relief work – were deemed to be ‘clearly out of step’ with the government’s new overseas aid priorities of economic development and the Pacific region, according to a 19 April letter from Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully to the umbrella body of development NGOs, the Council for International Development. Funding under these schemes is not continuing beyond the end of the financial year on 30 June.

A week later, Caritas and other KOHA-registered NGOs received a brief outline of a new scheme comprising a Sustainable Development Fund and a Humanitarian Response Fund – to be administered by government officials. The scheme’s shape and detail have not been matters for NGO consultation. It came as a shock to the sector which has enjoyed a 35-year history of partnership with the government (across all parties) in discussing, learning and supporting good change in the delivery of overseas aid.

Caritas made known its concerns to the government about the short notice of the changes to government support of NGOs, a paucity of information about the new schemes, and an apparent narrowing of criteria and geographical focus. Some of these concerns appear to have been taken on board – particularly over the shift to a new framework at such short notice.

‘The government have accepted the need for a transitional period, especially for addressing impact on long-term programmes,’ says Caritas director Mike Smith. ‘They’ve also granted provisional accreditation for the first year of the new schemes for organisations like ours that are active, registered members under the existing KOHA scheme. However, we’ll need to complete new accreditation requirements to remain eligible to receive funding beyond 30 June 2011.

‘We still have many as-yet unanswered questions. As it stands many of our programmes and projects will not qualify for transitional funding. And it seems likely that many of our partners’ community development projects may not meet the narrower economic development focus of the new framework. This puts many of our long standing programmes and projects in a precarious situation.’

WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT?

The government’s announcement on future supplementary funding of NGOs highlights again ‘what is development?’.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ current definition of ‘sustainable economic development’ is:

‘Sustainable growth of and improvements in a country’s economy reflecting increasing productivity and resulting in higher levels of material wellbeing.’

Caritas recognises the need and value of economic development to provide for material wellbeing. However, we know that economic

KOHA – WHAT WE ARE LOSING

The KOHA-PICD (which stands for Kaihono hei Oranga Hapori o te Ao/Partnerships for International Community Development) fund had a budget of almost \$26 million in 2009/10.

Grants under both the KOHA and Humanitarian Assistance Fund (HAF) schemes were considered and monitored by the Programme Management Committee (PMC). This comprised four NGO representatives elected on rotation by the 60+ NGOs registered with KOHA, a government aid representative and an independent chairperson recruited from outside the development sector. All independent reviews and audits of the KOHA fund and PMC have been favourable. The government aid agency had final approval of any funding allocations.

The Scheme recognised NGOs’ expertise in working at the grass roots, and their ability to work in places and ways that governments and donors cannot. The principles of the scheme have been compiled over many years of experience and sharing among NGOs and government officials in the sector. Late last year, in response to the government’s new direction, specific economic development criteria were also incorporated into KOHA guidelines.

Caritas is currently evaluating all our projects to assess those most likely to meet new economic development criteria, and is informing partners of the change in our government’s direction for NGO funding. It does not mean we will abandon projects that will not be funded through the new government schemes, but we recognise we can only support a limited amount of such projects from public donations alone.

Caritas, with funding assistance through KOHA has supported Trócaire East Africa’s work on advocacy, human rights education, and training for the marginalised Batwa

people. The programme has improved the people’s self-confidence, literacy and ability to develop themselves.



PHOTO: NICK BORTHWICK

growth without consideration for people’s overall well-being is insufficient for sustained integral human development. Caritas Director Mike Smith says, ‘It is imperative that programmes – government and non-government – address other poverty-related issues. For example, adequate health, education, human rights and environmental protection provide the “pre-conditions” for economic growth.’

‘We will continue to promote and advocate for development that enhances overall human development. “Integral human development”, as found in Catholic social teaching, promotes the good of every person and the whole person – in cultural, economic, political, social and spiritual spheres.’

Climate Change a Growing Concern Worldwide

NEPAL

Preparation of video and photographic resources for Lent next year (yes – for us at Caritas, Lent is an all-year experience), has highlighted the impact climate change is already having on some of our partner Caritas Nepal's community development projects. Asia Programmes Officer Tricia Thompson recently journeyed with a film crew to Syangja community in the western mountainous region of Nepal. (Carbon offset donations by Kiwi pilgrims to World Youth Day 2008 helped fund community forestry plantings in the area.) The community reports noticeable changes in the local climate.

An area that used to get regular snowfalls has not seen snow for three years. A local water source that used to run all through the year has been dry for the same period. And each of the last two years has seen unusually long, dry periods of 7-8 months. It is also affecting the survival rate of the forestry plantings.

Locals may not know the science, or link it to global issues, but they do know that their climate is changing, and they are doing what they can to adapt. For example, installing a watercourse to channel water from a small stream that continues to flow; or building cement tanks to collect rainwater from the roof.



PHOTO: PHILIP GIBBS SVD

Caritas Nepal continues to introduce local farmers to integrated pest management techniques, which rely on natural solutions to pest problems. It is leading to much higher yields for rice and vegetables enabling more people to feed themselves for longer in the year. But they are noticing changes with warmer weather and less rain, and are asking whether these improvements can be maintained in the face of climate change.

Water – a precious resource. Bhanu Bhakta gets water for animals before going to school.

TANZANIA

Climate issues are also being faced by our partners in northern Tanzania, where Community Research and Development Services (CORDS) helps protect land access and resources for the pastoral Maasai and enhance the development prospects for Maasai women. Our Africa Programmes Officer Nick Borthwick, who visited the area in February, says the communities supported by CORDS are reporting longer and more intense drought cycles. Last year, it meant that a targeted level of six women's groups were unable to set aside maize for seed. 'Harvests were minimal with many farmers experiencing total crop failure due to the lack of water,' says Nick.

TONGA

Closer to home, our Lent 2010 visitor Sr Senolita Vakata of Caritas Tonga highlighted how climate change and deteriorating environments are impacting on her people. Eroding shorelines are encroaching on houses, and the freshwater table is thinning in places as the sea level rises - especially in the central island group of Ha'apai.

Some of the community development work funded by Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is helping with adaptation – for example plantings around lagoons offer more protection against tidal surges and flooding; while concrete rainwater tanks provide an alternative freshwater source.



PHOTO: LEO DUJEE/CARITAS

Caritas Tonga – with support from Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand – also sent two representatives to a recent Suva workshop building stronger youth leadership for climate justice in the Pacific.

Installing a rainwater tank in Vava'u, Tonga.

GLOBAL AND LOCAL ACTION

Caritas Internationalis (CI) continues to work on climate justice at the international and regional level. Its climate justice group, including Caritas Oceania Regional Coordinator (and Caritas Board member) Tim Walsh met recently in Rome. It is preparing Caritas' key advocacy messages for the next major international meeting working on a global climate deal - in Cancun, Mexico at the end of November. CI's particular focus is on climate change and hunger, and how to provide security of food for the world's poorest people.

Caritas Internationalis remains committed to work for a global, binding agreement which commits developed countries collectively to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by more than 40% (based on 1990 levels) by 2020. It also wants wealthy nations to provide \$195 billion additional funding by 2020 to help developing countries harness green technologies and protect themselves from the worst impacts of climate change.

A recent conference on climate justice in Ethiopia, organised by the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat, highlighted the role of the community in building a climate for change. Caritas Ethiopia fosters a community-led approach: parishes, schools and community organisations taking responsibility for their own environmental programmes. Climate adaption must take into consideration the priorities, resources, needs, knowledge and capacities of the local communities.

Caritas recognises that the environmental crisis is not simply an economic or technological one. It's a spiritual one where faith communities have a particular insight and role to play in calling for change in lifestyle and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

EMERGENCY UPDATE

HAITI – THE CARITAS RESPONSE

Thanks to the immediate generosity of New Zealanders, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand gave an initial NZ\$300,000 to the Caritas Internationalis emergency appeal. Further funds are being remitted for rebuilding and rehabilitation work. It is not unusual for funds to be progressively transferred in this way, as the Caritas network needs to ensure programmes and systems are in place to use funds well and responsibly, and provide for longer-term rebuilding.

We are working directly with Caritas Haiti which, with another Caritas member Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in the first few months has:

- provided emergency food and drinking water to people in temporary camps
- provided tarpaulin sheets and tents for temporary shelters
- built latrines and hand washing facilities, distributed hygiene kits and provided hygiene information in various ways
- provided health supplies and medicine
- run cash-for-work schemes to clean-up around hospitals and build latrines.



PHOTO: MATHILDE MAGNIER/CARITAS

Caritas employed local graffiti artist Jerry Rosembert to spread the message about washing hands and other hygiene messages.

Both Caritas Haiti and CRS along with a few other Caritas members were working in Haiti before the quake hit. Fortunately, all staff survived and their buildings remained usable.

They and other NGOs in Haiti providing development assistance before January 12 were already organised into particular clusters. After the quake hit, they began relief action on those lines, such as in food distribution; water, sanitation, and hygiene; security; shelter and health.

Marking the transition from immediate response to recovery, Caritas Internationalis has set up a Haiti Coordination Unit to coordinate the work of various Caritas members in ongoing emergency needs, and oversee and implement the rehabilitation phase. Caritas expects to be involved over the next five years to help build a more self-sufficient Haiti.

The Haiti quake highlights our responsibility to address poverty and injustice wherever it is. In the words of Daniel Tillias of Pax Christi Port-au-Prince:

One way to honour the victims of this earthquake is to end all that causes similar suffering by other people in the world. To end war, reduce hunger, and reduce pollution is the best tribute the world can give to the Haitian people.

Remembering the forgotten ones

Six months after the quake, Caritas is working on both relief and rebuilding, often in areas passed over by other aid efforts. Sibert is an almost rural area in northern part of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince. Destruction wasn't bad enough for most of the initial aid to continue. But half the houses are uninhabitable and life is harder than ever. Caritas has been working in Sibert for some months and continues to do so.

Marelise Thomas and her family of four children lost their house, and had been living under mud and branches – previously home to their goat and chickens - before Caritas supplied a tent. Now people on a cash-for-work programme are helping rebuild a permanent house.

Elsewhere, around Léogâne and Petit Goave west of Port-au-Prince, Caritas is helping build 2,000 temporary houses made of pine wood and iron roofs. This is part of an international effort building 160,000 semi-permanent shelters to house earthquake victims relocated from emergency camps within Port-au-Prince that have become dangerous and unsanitary.

Setting up temporary shelters in Haute Lompré, a small community nearby Léogâne.



PHOTO: MATHILDE MAGNIER/CARITAS

PACIFIC TSUNAMI REBUILDING

A project to build 70 new fale (houses) in three villages most affected by last September's tsunami was nearing completion by the end of June. This was a cooperative effort with Habitat for Humanity New Zealand, and supported by Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Australia. Caritas Samoa were able to overcome initial problems such as difficulty sourcing suitable building materials, a shortage of volunteers and local skilled trades people, and delays due to seasonal rains.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is also working with Caritas Tonga on a housing project on Niuatoputapu – the northern part of Tonga badly affected by the tsunami.

CHILE

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has supported rebuilding work in Chile following the devastating 27 February earthquake that killed 512 people but affected 2 million. Caritas Chile and the Catholic church in Chile were immediate in their response, organising collection drives and distributing supplies such as rice, tuna, sugar and cooking oil, clothing and blankets. Caritas Chile even engaged comic artists and soccer stars to raise funds and provide community support.

Caritas' contribution of \$25,000 from New Zealand will help strengthen community organisations to contribute to reconstruction processes, especially for homes, people's livelihoods and community networks. Caritas in Chile has a commitment to work with the poorest and most marginalised survivors.

ADVOCACY MATTERS

OUTLOOK POOR FOR POVERTY POLICIES

Tax cuts which benefit the rich more than the poor do not contribute to the common good. This was the response of Caritas to the 2010 Budget, which seems to have returned to faith in 'trickle down' theories to deliver social wellbeing.

Caritas Director Michael Smith cited Pope Benedict who said last year in *Caritas in Veritate* that growing inequalities within countries, as well as between rich and poor countries, affect social cohesion and erode social capital. 'This is not a Budget which even attempts to address that concern. It rather perpetuates the idea that the rich are more deserving than the poor, and that growing inequalities do not matter.'

On other social matters, Caritas and the Society of St Vincent de Paul joined forces to ask the Social Services Select Committee not to extend work-testing to domestic purpose and sickness beneficiaries until 'suitable work' is clearly defined. Caritas sought an assurance from National before the 2008 election that sole parents would not be required to accept work outside school hours, nor Māori to move from their papakāinga to accept work. Despite a verbal assurance from then National spokesperson for social welfare Judith Collins that this would be the case, she did not confirm this in writing, and it does not form part of the current policy.

CREATING INCLUSIVE AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

In response to New Zealand's Catholic Bishops requesting Caritas to prepare resources to help parish councils reflect on the growing cultural mix of our Catholic community, Social Justice Week (12-18 September 2010) takes the theme 'Your people will be my people'. Resources are currently being prepared for parishes and schools, and will be distributed in late July.

Caritas prepared and distributed material for the *Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants*, that fell on World Refugee Day, June 20, highlighting the theme of family reunification. Caritas has also written to Minister of Immigration Jonathon Coleman asking for an update on progress made on recommendations from Wellington refugee agencies. They reported in 2009 that refugees faced increasing barriers to being reunited with family members separated by war and conflict.



PHOTO: NICOLA EDMONDS

WORKING TOGETHER WITH TE RŪNANGA O TE HĀHI KATORIKA

In many countries in which Caritas undertakes development work, indigenous people are disadvantaged. In many parts of the world, Caritas works with indigenous communities to address impoverishment caused by loss of land, language and culture. These issues are of course also important issues at home in Aotearoa New Zealand. However, they are often more difficult to see clearly because we are much closer to the debates and conflicts that surround them.

During the past two years, Caritas has worked hard to improve our connection with Te Rūnanga o Te Hāhi Katorika, the National Catholic Māori council which is the advisory body for the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference and its agencies.

Benefits of this relationship have included being able to give joint advice to the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference on the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People* in 2008, and the Foreshore and Seabed consultation earlier this year. Combining insights of Catholic social teaching with the lived experience of members of Māori Catholic communities has helped to increase our understanding of these complex issues. The cooperative work also led to the first joint submission between the Conference, Te Rūnanga and Caritas – on the foreshore and seabed issue in May.

Caritas has now formalised the relationship with Te Rūnanga through the adoption of a formal consultation policy in March, and has followed this up with a Review of our mandate to work in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Part of that process included a recent gathering of Caritas Board and staff members at Te Kāinga Catholic Marae in Wellington. A key image which emerged from the reflection was that rather than seeing the Treaty being signed on a table covered with a Union Jack (as historical pictures show us); for Caritas as a Catholic agency, the Treaty sits on an altar cloth, binding Māori and all other New Zealanders in a covenant before God.

Introducing – Stephen Dawson



Stephen Dawson joined us at the beginning of the year as Research and Advocacy Officer, assisting on domestic advocacy matters. Stephen is of Ngāpuhi descent and grew up in the Far North, but came to us from Hamilton after 18 years in Catholic primary school education, including 12 as principal. One of his memorable achievements was

to get then Prime Minister Helen Clark to give out children's reading books at tiny, 35-pupil Hato Hohepa (St Joseph's) school in Waitaruke.

So far on the Caritas agenda, he has assisted with advocacy research and lobbying on social welfare and criminal justice matters, and continues to work on building the relationship between Māori Catholics and the wider Catholic community. Stephen was instrumental in achieving the finishing touches to Caritas' recent consultation policy with Te Rūnanga o Te Hāhi Katorika.

FUNDRAISING

Introducing – Melanie Tan



Melanie Tan joins us as our new Fundraising Coordinator after two years working for Unicef, where she worked in marketing and administration roles. She has qualifications in sociology and journalism, and has written for publications overseas. One month into working for Caritas, she is enjoying getting to know the team, and some of our supporters.

‘I am inspired by what I have learned and experienced so far. One thing which strikes me is how much the work of Caritas is a joint effort. We have excellent Caritas staff and programmes in place around the world, but our donors are also a crucial partner in our work.’

LENT 2010

‘Working together in true communion’ was the theme for Lent this year. To date, we have raised \$845,000 for our Lent Appeal – thank you very much for your spirited support.

A big thank you also to our Catholic primary and secondary schools, Lent Appeal coordinators, counters and other volunteers. Coordinating this major Appeal each year, as you can imagine, is a huge combined effort and we are very fortunate to have a dedicated team who pitch in to help with this.

We would like to thank you too for your patience with getting your tax receipts. We are working on streamlining our receipting processes and look forward to improving these.

HAITI APPEAL

It has now been more than five months since Haiti was devastated by a powerful earthquake which affected three million people. Caritas members have been working to provide food, shelter, livelihood income, clean water, spaces for children, healthcare and trauma counselling. (Read more on page 5).

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has raised \$656,000 in support of Haiti relief efforts to date. You can still donate to this appeal online on www.caritas.org.nz, make an automatic \$20 donation on 0900 4 11 11, or phone our staff on 0800 22 10 22.

CREATIVE FUNDRAISING

A big thank you to various musical fundraisers for Haiti, including those organised by St Joseph’s parish of Upper Hutt, the Marist Brothers in Wellington, Ramiz Iskander on Auckland’s North Shore, and the Van Dam family of Waimauku (Auckland) who organised an impromptu outdoor family concert.

Thanks also to the wonderful team at Key Lime Pie Salon in New Plymouth who worked for a day without pay – raising \$4,200 for rebuilding after the tsunami in Samoa. This money has gone towards helping children in the eastern part of Samoa with school uniforms, fees and other support.



Fundraising can be a lot of fun, and is a great way to support Caritas! Please get creative and support us by holding your own fundraising event! For more information on how you can do this, email melanie@caritas.org.nz.

CHRISTMAS 2009

Your enthusiastic support of our Christmas direct mail appeal raised over \$86,000. Orders for Caritas Gift cards also generated over \$50,000 to help fund specific work in such areas as health, learning, care for the environment and emergency response. Thank you!

Caritas Gifts make wonderful gifts for other times throughout the year too (eg birthdays, weddings, graduations... just to name a few!) For more information, visit www.caritas.org.nz or phone 0800 22 10 22.

THE BEST WAY YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand currently partners with organisations supporting the poorest and most vulnerable communities in more than 20 countries. We work in areas of community development, emergency relief, advocacy and education.

We can’t do this alone. Our work is made possible with the valuable partnership of people like you.

If you haven’t already done so, I would like to encourage you to join our regular giving scheme and become a **One World Partner**.

By becoming a One World Partner, you can help:

- Support development work in poor communities
- Supply safe drinking water
- Develop small businesses
- Work with women and indigenous peoples regarding their rights.

Setting up an automatic payment is the most efficient and cost-effective way to support Caritas, while saving us on administration costs. You decide the regularity and amount you give – weekly, fortnightly, monthly, annually in increments of \$5, \$25, \$50 or \$100, or whatever amount you choose.

Caritas ensures that your donation is spent wisely and gets to those in need. You will receive newsletters through the year to keep you informed of development projects your donations support, as well as an annual statement acknowledging your donations for the financial year.

For more information, please phone 0800 22 10 22, email caritas@caritas.org.nz or visit www.caritas.org.nz

Because of your passion, generosity and unwavering support, we can make a difference in the world together. Thank you for choosing to partner with us. I look forward to contributing my best efforts to the work of Caritas and to working with you for change.

Arohanui,
Melanie

I WOULD LIKE TO:

Make a donation to CARITAS
(please find it enclosed)

Become a One World Partner
(please send me information)

Support CARITAS in my will
(please send your bequests brochure)

Find out more about CARITAS
(my details are below)

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

I enclose my cheque/cash: \$200 \$100 \$50 \$20 or \$ _____

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard Bankcard Amex

Number: Exp. Date:

SEND TO: CARITAS, P O BOX 12193, WELLINGTON 6144



Caritas UPDATE

The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace & Development

CARITASUpdate is the newsletter of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand. It is published three times each year and distributed widely throughout the Catholic community and beyond.

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CONTENTS

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SCHOOLS SPOTLIGHT

BUILDING AN 'ENERGY OF CONCERN' IN OUR SCHOOLS

The Caritas team has just completed our annual review of the Lent Appeal. We cover every aspect including the schools programme. It is heartening to read so many positive comments in your feedback on our resources, visits, and programme in general. There are always ideas or recommendations for the future and these are taken seriously. I would like personally reflect on two new Lent initiatives.

To be an authentic Catholic school we need to encourage qualities such as empathy, compassion and justice-oriented action. These three qualities were evident in the lyrics of a number of entries in our songwriting competition – Singout 4 Justice. For example, the chorus of the winning song *Society's Tale* finishes with the lines 'And I can't fight the present, can't fight the past, But the future's still unwritten, and we've got a pen...' If you want to hear the winning song go to: www.caritas.org.nz/singout4justice.



PHOTO: LISA BEECH/CARITAS

The songwriting competition was an initiative that produced creative ideas from all over the country. It was a challenging task but the entries provided clear evidence that this opportunity helps to build an energy of concern. We will run another songwriting competition next year and look forward to more high quality entries.

Singout 4 Justice winner Rahul George of St Bede's College, Christchurch.

A second Lenten initiative was to provide a contemporary interpretation of the Stations of the Cross suitable for school assembly or class liturgy. This was another activity to help build a collective and individual energy of concern. Many teachers have reported that the *Way of the Cross* on our CD 'Partnerships for change – Lent 2010' provided strong images for teachers and student leaders which encouraged reflective and creative responses.

Pope Benedict XVI notes that the commandment to love God and neighbour, is like 'a program that is hard-wired into every human person'. Our Catholic schools play a leading role in making visible this hard-wiring.

One tangible outcome of these experiences is fundraising. Once again many schools have been exceedingly generous in donating money to both our Lent Appeal and to our humanitarian appeals such as for relief and recovery in Haiti. Thank you everyone for your tremendous efforts in helping to nurture the qualities of empathy, compassion and action for social justice. Thank you for your personal energy of concern that overflows into your classrooms and communities.

Catherine Gibbs

National Education Coordinator