



Charity no. 1138863

Newsletter – No. 28



Chairman's letter

Excitement at the school!

Fundraising reports

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends

I am writing this letter on a dreary November day, having spent yesterday evening speaking to the Wesley Guild at Central Methodist Church, Letchworth Garden City of our Coast to Coast Walk in July. There is a report of our walk further on in this Newsletter. It seems a distant memory when England was awash with wall to wall sunshine and Mediterranean temperatures! Now we are setting our sights on Advent and the Christmas period as the Udobo School comes to the end of another successful year.

Rev. Ansie Liebenberg has sent us news from the school and I have highlighted their stories later in the Newsletter.

I want to take the opportunity again to thank you all for your continued support of the school, with prayer, finance and activity. It would be really beneficial to the finances of the school if you could do one or all of three things:

1. Keep praying for the school – the teachers, the helpers and the children who attend and for the South African Government to complete the administration of registration for the school.
2. Be inspired to think of ways to raise monies for the school with a sponsored event, however wacky. You may have seen some of the ways in which millions of pounds were raised for BBC Children in Need – some of the ideas can be used in a local context to raise dozens or hundreds of pounds – all will be used to good effect.
3. Think of a friend who doesn't support Action Udobo and talk to them, share this Newsletter and encourage them to find a little to offer on a regular basis to the School. Donation forms and Gift Aid declarations have been included in this Newsletter.

I close by wishing you early greetings for a very blessed Christmas, with all the joy that the coming of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, brings. Whether you are joining with family or having Christmas alone, know this, that GOD IS WITH US, Immanuel and he stays with us through thick and thin. As you digest the news from South Africa and think about your own giving, may you understand the presence of Christ in your life this Christmas and every day of the year.

David

David Letter

South Africa



News from Udobo School. Rev. Anne Snyders, Principal of Udobo School writes:

The grand opening of the 'Action Udobo Media Centre' took place on **Saturday, 27th July 2013** at 10am. It was the most beautiful sunny day so our guests were able to mingle in the courtyard as we waited in anticipation for 'the' moment. Our guests included members of Montclair Methodist Church who are so much a part of this ministry as well as members of Lions International, the manager

of our local library and those who have supported us in many other ways. Our Bishop Michael Vorster, our superintendent the Reverent Willie Liebenberg as well as the Reverent Ansie Liebenberg were our guests of honour.

As the principal of the school it was my privilege to welcome our guests and introduce the Rev Ansie to share how 'Action Udobo' had come to bless us with the wonderful gifts that enabled us to move into an administrative centre with a sick bay and staff room as well as to set up a computer centre and the magnificent Media Centre. Thereafter I explained to the visitors exactly what had been done including air conditioners for the two offices as well as the media centre, a ceiling and new laminate flooring, shelving and flat screen television and DVD player for the Media Centre. Smart shelving in the computer room where Wendon Academy had donated computers, we were also able to buy

extra chairs for the room. The teachers all received desks and chairs as well as lockers for the children's books and stationery, from 'Action Udobo'. The children received writing tables and chairs as well and this has resulted in the children being much more comfortable when they do their work. In the administrative offices, besides the air conditioners, my secretary and I both received wonderful desks (I am so thrilled that I don't have words!), two filing cupboards for the secretary's office and a chair for me – such great gifts! We look so professional!!

Having the administrative block has added quality to our school – here we thank the Leaders and Executive of Montclair Methodist for allowing us to use what was known as flat 4b to house our offices, staff room, sickbay, storeroom and a lounge area where parents can wait for attention. This is such a far cry from leaving our visitors and parents out in the elements – be it heat, wind or rain and I feel so

grateful when I see people waiting in a comfortable and in a dignified manner. Even here 'Action Udobo' was active and they paid for a refrigerator and a microwave for our staffroom.

Manning Road Methodist gave us a gift of R3000.00 for the purchase of books as someone who delights in reading and so wishes to pass that love on to my little ones – I was like a pig in mud, getting to choose all the books.

On the **18th of July** 'Madiba Day' groups of learners from our local High School, New Forest High came in to serve us at 67 minute intervals and they painted the outside of the school just in time for our opening. It was wonderful to see these young people working so graciously to beautify our school. After a prayer of thanksgiving the Reverent Willie handed over to Bishop Mike who read from the Bible and expounded about the fact of the morning being a mountain top experience, and it really was, there was

so much joy and positivity that morning. He then unveiled the plaque with the name of our centre, 'The Action Udobo Media Centre' and cut the ribbon. I think many of us were thinking of the marvellous blessings of your contribution and feeling very close to you in the UK, even though you could not physically be with us, the Spirit in which you gave this gift bound us together. Please be aware that we are truly overwhelmed by your goodness to us and thank God whenever we think of you. Bishop Mike prayed a blessing over the room and then the visitors were free to look around. Many of our guests brought gifts of books for the centre and we were greatly blessed by the excitement and unity that morning.

In true Methodist fashion we were treated to cake, muffins and tea as well as a batch of the Udobo puffs that everyone so enjoys – thank you, Zanele. My staff were so helpful in showing people around and serving them – thanks to all of you!

Most of all I thank our God, for inspiring others to give us something so beautiful for our community. This Centre will sow into the lives of our children for many years to come. Brian Deats was our project manager throughout the months of work; here we are enjoying the day!

Yours in Christ, Anne.

We have also received the following from Rev. Ansie Liebenberg:

On the **14th September** we had our Annual Trashion Show. The children dress up in clothes made from 'trash' and the show raises money for the school. Here are some pictures from the show to encourage people in the UK to do something similar for us!





And in **late October**, Ansie wrote again saying:

Trust that you are well in the UK as you are preparing for another winter! Here at Udobo we are getting ready for all our big yearend functions. We are having our Debutante Ball on Saturday with huge fanfare and preparation. Last year was a huge success and we are hoping that this year it will even be bigger!

We had yet another two and a half hour inspection from Social Development this week and obviously came through it with flying colours! We also had to go for a whole day of training

on how to complete a business plan and funding proposal (only the third year that we have submitted similar applications). At the training for business plans Udobo got affirmed a few times, however of all the schools present Udobo was the only one NOT receiving funding from our government. We continue to pray for the miracle!

After discussions with the governing body and the educators we have the following requests to consider:

The painting of the school classrooms on the inside – it is looking a bit tired and not in good shape

- especially now that the outsides have been painted.

We also had to buy a new washing machine for all our laundry. We have had third even fourth hand machines donated (only lasting a few washes and packing up)

Then all the school toys and equipment.

Let us know what is possible on our wish list. [*With funds available, the Trustees were able to fund all their wish list and this was the response we received.*]

Not many people have managed to get me speechless but Action Udobo has managed that a few times! This is a time like that! I am overwhelmed with your generosity. We have something in Africa called Rhona (Rh pronounced as a throaty sound in the back of your throat) it is a public thanks giving to God where you come forward in the church singing (of course)

and dancing, then you get to tell the church what you want to thank God, after that you go to the black African cook pot and put your money in the pot. So basically you give thanks with your money and you give testimony. Now tomorrow morning we are ending our Rhona month with final thanks giving for this year and I am giving thanks for everyone of you and all you have done for our school and children this year! I'll ask our photographer to capture the moment and send you the photo!

The Debutante ball has been such a wonderful event - our children looked so beautiful and the teachers, in particular Lizette our secretary and Ann the principal, worked themselves to a standstill! This event is certainly growing and becoming our flagship fundraiser event. Will send the photos from the photographer during the week. [*These are still awaited, so you will be able to see these in our next Newsletter*]

[As I have been preparing this Newsletter, God has worked wonders again and Ansie has just emailed the following.]

We give thanks to God for the rain that we had recently after a very loooooong period without any rain. The Jo-Jo drum is running full and we are excited about the prospects of that.

Our children at the school are busy preparing for their graduation ceremony which will be held on the **29 November** and then we will have to say goodbye to some of our students who are now going to be handed over to the public school system in South Africa – please help us to continue to pray for these students. We trust God that the foundation laid at Udobo would be strong enough to sustain them in public school.

We have been very busy with yearend functions, fundraisers and obviously getting the dreaded application for funding in to Social Development. I was waiting for the photos to come from our photographer but he seems to be very busy and we have to patiently wait our turn. Wanted to send a photo of our Rhona service with its African cooking pot! But it will still follow. [*See promise from before*]

We have bought the toys (most of it) and the rest of the items would be finalised this week! What a privilege it is for us to be blessed like this. I told the staff I am well over 50 but it's the first time I was able to spend so much money on things that would bring such joy! Nowhere in the world could one have a better job than this!

UK Fundraising Activities

A Musical Evening

By the time you read this Alrewas Methodist Church will have been delighting in the sounds of the Derbyshire Harp Ensemble on the 30th November as a means of raising money for Action Udobo.

Coast to Coast Walk report

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, Anita and David did complete their 100 mile walk along the first half of the Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk. The weather throughout the week in early July was some of the hottest of the summer, not ideal walking weather. However, the scenery was fantastic. We began our walk the day after Andy Murray had won Wimbledon, so with that British success spurring us on, we started in the sea at St. Bees, walked through the Lake District, taking in Ennerdale, Honister Pass, Grasmere and Patterdale, on into Shap and Kirkby Stephen and finishing in Keld (where we started the second half of the walk in 2007 that took us to Robin Hoods Bay). We have raised over £1,000 for Action Udobo.

MyDonate fundraising opportunities



Can we remind you of an easy way of collecting sponsorship monies if you are raising money for Action Udobo and want people far and wide to donate. BT's MyDonate website has an Action

Udobo page and your activity can be added to it. BT organise the collection of your sponsorship monies and forwarding it to our bank account and any gift aid associated with the donations are also paid to our account. If those sponsoring you are comfortable using the internet, then this is a very simple way of administering fund raising on our behalf.

You can use the website for your sponsored 'baked beans bath', a Trashion Show (mirroring the Udobo School activity highlighted in this Newsletter) or any fundraising idea such as those seen on BBC Children in Need that you would like to publicise through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, your Church Newsletter or any method you have of contacting friends and family in a wider audience!

If you would like to utilise this facility, please contact the Chair of Trustees via email andlatter@ntlworld.com or by phone 01462 637235.



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Gift Aid declaration

– for past, present & future donations

Name of charity or Community Amateur Sports Club

ACTION UDOBO Registered Charity No. 1138863

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made

today in the past 4 years in the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Donor's details

Title _____ First name(s) _____

Surname _____

Full home address _____

Postcode _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Please notify the charity or CASC if you:

- *Want to cancel this declaration*
- *Change your name or home address*
- *No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.*

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

April 2012

To: _____ Bank

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Postal Address: _____

	Bank	Branch Title (not address)			Sorting Code Number
Please pay	HSBC Bank Plc	Letchworth Garden City			40 - 28 - 14
	Beneficiary's Name			Account Number	Quoting Reference
for the credit of	Action Udobo - Charity Number 1138863			41694278	
	Amount	Amount in words			
the sum of	£				
	Date of first payment	and thereafter every	Due date and frequency	until further notice in writing or	Date of last payment
commencing					
					and debit my/our account accordingly
PLEASE CANCEL ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER/DIRECT DEBIT MANDATES IN FAVOUR OF		UNDER REFERENCE NUMBER		Account to be debited	Account Number

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Banks may decline to accept instructions to charge Standing Orders to certain types of account other than Current Accounts