

CHRISTADELPHIAN  
**MEAL  
A DAY  
FUND**

*Asia-Pacific*

**Biennial  
Report  
2012**

Presented at the 48th Australian  
Christadelphian Conference - 9th April



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Projects Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
India	5
Malaysia	9
Myanmar	10
Nepal	11
Thailand	13
Timor Leste	14
Philippines	15
Support in other areas	16
<b>How far can your dollars go?</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Financial report</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Fund-raising and publicity report</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Upcoming events and ideas</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Local and global collaboration</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Looking ahead, working together</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Asia-Pacific management team</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Why we do what we do</b>	<b>26</b>



# Introduction

**M**uch has happened in the world and our communities since our first biennial report, presented in Brisbane, 2010. Cast your minds over some of the eclectic events that hit the headlines: Some were natural, many triggered by human factors; some felt by a few, others witnessed by billions the world over - remember some of these?

- Just a week after the Brisbane conference, an earthquake of magnitude 7.1 rocked Qinghai in China, around 2,000 people died
- Torrential rain across southern China led to 3,000 fatalities and 10 million displaced people; meanwhile a Picasso piece sold for \$106m
- The heaviest rains in decades caused wide-spread flooding in Pakistan, leaving 20 million without homes and a subsequent polio epidemic
- Over 200,000 were affected by the most wide-spread flooding in Queensland history over a land-area similar to France and Germany
- The city of Christchurch, New Zealand was struck by a 6.3 magnitude earthquake, destroying thousands of buildings and 185 people died
- An earthquake magnitude 9.1 and tsunami hit Japan, killing around 16,000 people and creating a nuclear disaster in the Fukushima plant
- 2 billion people witnessed the much-anticipated wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton at Westminster Abbey in London
- Severe flooding impacted Thailand, affecting 12.8 million people across 58 of the country's 77 provinces, estimated damages were \$45billion
- The EU reached an agreement to tackle the European debt crisis rippling world-wide, increasing the bailout fund to €1,000,000,000,000...and the list goes on.



Such are “headlines”. Yet every day there are countless events and circumstances that may never make the headlines, they could pass by unnoticed, become the norm, accepted as the ‘way things are’ - regardless of how great or small, how brilliant or basic, and [tragically at times], no matter how dire. The statistics around the millions in poverty can be particularly mind-numbing. However rather than considering all the figures, let us simply reflect on one: In Australia and New Zealand, we hold 5 of the Top-10 most liveable cities in the world<sup>1</sup>, whilst next door some of our neighbours - Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Pakistan - are suffering the most appalling living conditions known in the world. Is there something we can possibly share with our neighbours, for good?

The Psalmist<sup>2</sup> puts it this way: “Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed, rescue the weak and needy...deliver them”

Inspired by the enduring example of our Lord Jesus Christ and the legacy of many generations since, the Christadelphian Meal-a-Day Fund is one possible way we try and reach our neighbouring communities, those who may never make the “headlines” yet suffer invisibly every day. Working closely with Christadelphians here and overseas and our network of in-country partners, we support practical locally-run projects across Asia-Pacific. These projects are helping communities produce nutrition-rich food, clean water supply, treatment of debilitating illnesses such as tuberculosis, provide vocational training and build essential infrastructure. It is wonderful to witness a positive change in these communities, to see some relief from poverty, and a sense of hope in a better eternal future. Since establishing our newly-elected management team in Melbourne in 2010, we have been able to increase our portfolio of projects to 11 across Asia-Pacific including 4 in new locations - Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and East Timor. We are also finding there are many opportunities to complement the work of others such as jointly supporting the Christchurch earth-quake disaster relief appeal with ACBM. As part of our 2012+ planning, we are keen to pursue further partnership opportunities with groups such as this across our Christadelphian community and beyond - for the benefit of all in His service.

On behalf of our team, I extend special thanks to our generous donors (including through difficult economic times) and all those involved in our projects, our partner organisations and supporters across Australia and New Zealand - your tireless dedication and resourcefulness are greatly appreciated. With such support, we can continue to maintain very low overheads (3%) and so can direct 97% of funds to benefit local communities. This is made all the more possible through the guidance and care of our God and the prayers of so many, thank you.

In the following pages, I trust you will discover something new about our projects across Asia-Pacific, learn about our activities in your local area and our plans for the future. You'll see there are many opportunities to be involved as we actively await our Lord's return - please do get in touch, we look forward to working with you.

**Martin Catchlove** Chairman, Asia-Pacific Meal-a-Day Fund

<sup>1</sup> The Economist Intelligence Unit, Global Liveability Report July 2011 <sup>2</sup>Psalm 82v2-4

# Projects Summary

Since our last Biennial Report in 2010, Meal-a-Day has been blessed with continued support from our ecclesial community in Australia and New Zealand, despite the difficult global financial times. During this period, the Asia-Pacific Fund has been able to diversify and grow from supporting 8 projects across 4 countries (in 2010) to now 11 projects across 7 countries in 2012. Some projects concluded during this period, and six of the current projects are new to our portfolio; to-date all these projects are proving to be well-run and demonstrating real benefits for the local communities.

For those who are less familiar with the work of Meal-a-Day, here is a brief summary for you: We aim to fund practical, locally-run projects which are helping to overcome the devastating problems of hunger, disease, illiteracy, disability and homelessness, particularly in the developing world. Our projects include clean water supply, food and nutrition support, schooling and vocational training, health-care and medical aid and essential accommodation for orphans and refugees.

Our primary focus is on providing funding and practical resources to specific projects in-country - this is where the core activity happens on the ground through the local grass-roots community groups we support. We run a partnership model that involves a detailed project appraisal and approval process, followed by establishment of funding, resources and communication protocols, then ongoing reporting, feedback and monitoring (including site visits where practical) to gain assurance that the desired outcomes are being achieved.

Given the scale of need across the Asia-Pacific region, we receive numerous applications for funding however given the sheer magnitude, unfortunately we are not able to support everyone. As part of our project appraisal process, we put particular emphasis on projects that have been recommended to us from across our established community network, and all projects are tested against our standard funding and partnership principles. Our current portfolio is comprised as follows: 4 projects are based on well-proven partnerships with the Meal-a-Day UK over many years, 1 has been highly recommended to us by the Meal-a-Day Americas, 3 are Christadelphian-run (including a new project in Myanmar with the Christadelphian Bethazer Fund), and the remaining 3 have been recommended by Christadelphians, ACBM<sup>1</sup> representatives or colleagues with local experience in the field. The following pages outline these projects in more detail.

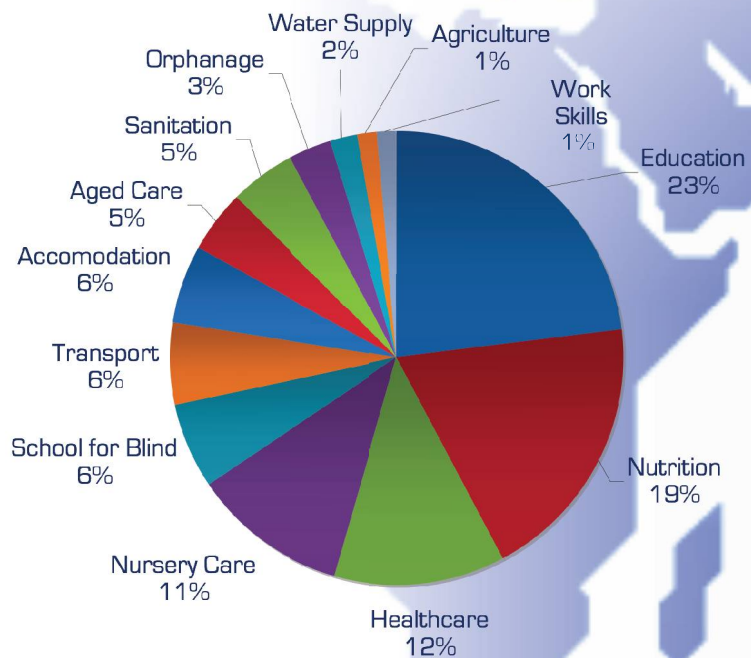
Looking to the future, God willing, we hope to build the support-base for this portfolio further and also broaden the Fund's scope to cover more clean water supply, sanitation and healthcare development projects that are sustained by communities themselves in the long-term. We thank you for your support and praise God that our abundance can supply the need of many in the Asia-Pacific region.

Keen to learn more? Please visit our website or contact our Project Coordinators, Jon & Sarah Fry at [projects@meal-a-day.asia](mailto:projects@meal-a-day.asia)

## Summary of our Asia-Pacific Portfolio since 2010

### Funding Distribution by Project Type

(based on combined spend over the 2009/10 to 2010/11 period)



"Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow."  
Isaiah 1v17

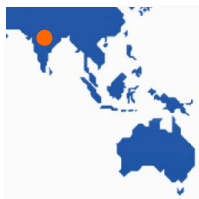
# INDIA - Training for visually impaired men and women

In Bangalore, Meal-a-Day supports the work of the Christadelphian-run Bartimeaus Centre for the Visually Impaired. This centre provides educational facilities for blind and partially-sighted young men and women. Disabled people are often rejected and may be perceived as of little value in India. However the training provided at Bartimaeus helps the students become independent and self-sufficient members of society with confidence and character.

Bartimaeus Resource Centre looks after the welfare of 14 blind students at a time. During a given year at Bartimaeus, students receive training in four basic areas:

- Reading and writing Braille
- Mobility training
- Computer training
- Spoken English

<b>Project type:</b>	Education
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Men and women
<b>Duration:</b>	2008 to-date
<b>Location:</b>	Bangalore, India
<b>Budget:</b>	A\$5,000 (2012)



Meal-a-Day funding goes towards the 7 full-time staff salaries and facilities costs for the teaching block and student home. These facilities have enabled 56 students to complete training at the centre since Meal-a-Day funding began in 2008.





# Health-care and nutrition for patients and families

The Ayries Society clinic is situated around an old port town in the district of Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu. Cuddalore (meaning 'sea town' in Tamil) is renowned for its impressive beaches and mangrove forest; yet, in recent times, industrial growth has tarnished this image with pollution and poor health conditions impacting the community. Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS are two critical conditions suffered by the local population<sup>1</sup>. Working with the Ayries Society (and building on a longer-term partnership from the UK Meal-a-Day), we do what we can to help.



NOTE 1: In October 2011 the Times of India reported that one in four deaths among people with HIV/AIDS was due to TB.

One focus in Cuddalore is to provide nutritional and medical support for TB patients and their families who are physically unable to help. The clinic has had notable success in treating hundreds of patients with TB through a program known as Directly Observed Short Course chemotherapy. The food services include adult nutrition programs and cooked meals and dates for children.

Much of our funding support with Ayries Society goes towards the People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) project. The project provides essential support to affected families. In order to receive antiretroviral treatment for HIV an individual must, after their initial treatment, be able to be released to the care of a trained guardian supported by Ayries. Under the PLHA nutrition program, the Society provides food ingredients and advice to those beginning anti-retroviral treatment.

<b>Project type:</b>	Health-care, nutrition
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	TB & HIV/AIDS patients & families
<b>Duration:</b>	2007 to-date
<b>Location:</b>	Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India
<b>Budget:</b>	A\$12,000 (2012)

Over the past 5 years, 235 people have successfully completed the Short Course Chemotherapy treatment for TB. This treatment is saving lives. Last year there were 46 people cured of TB as a result of this treatment and nutrition supplement. Around 50 families are helped each year through the PLHA nutrition program.

# INDIA - Family garden development and training

The Ranga Reddy District surrounds the metro cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, which together have a population of more than 6.83 million people. Through the effects of globalization, the “concretization of the suburbs” and a real-estate boom, communities have been forced to leave behind agricultural livelihoods and become wage earners in an urban life.

The growth of the cities have further degraded the fragile land and reduced the green cover, while a severe loss of ground water has created loss of livelihoods, farmlands and livestock.



Working in partnership with MV Foundation (recommended by India-based brother Tim Galbraith), Meal-a-Day Fund is supporting farmers and landowners through:

- Technical training on how to prepare nurseries and transplant vegetables, organic cultivation and pest management
- Educational visits to food festivals and research institutions, where they are taught on how best to get fresh, nutritious vegetables, and the process of carbon sequestration
- Provision of seeds and vegetables for planting and harvesting.

<b>Project type:</b>	Education, nutrition
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Farmers, small landowners & families
<b>Duration:</b>	2011 to-date
<b>Location:</b>	Ranga Reddy, Andhra Pradesh, India
<b>Budget:</b>	A\$2,000 (2012)

In 2011 alone, the support of Meal-a-Day enabled the distribution of 70 kilograms of seed to 750 households in 15 villages. Staff of MV Foundation and two farmers attended the food festival and then later the research institute. This knowledge was then used to teach farmers in a number of villages about nutrition, carbon sequestration and methods of cooking to preserve nutrition. Sixty women were also trained on how to create a vegetable rooftop garden.

Farmers have responded positively to the program, learning the skills to create kitchen gardens has improved their own nutritious meals, and saving between 400-500 rupees a month. Many have shared the benefits of a kitchen garden with their neighbours and relatives.



# Clean water supply through refurbished wells

Meal-a-Day provides support for the redevelopment of several existing wells and trained staff involved in water harvesting. The wider project run by local partner, Wells for India (recommended by UK Meal-a-Day), covers seven villages in the remote region of southern Rajasthan. In a recent report, there were 1,121 households with a population of 5,651 - however over 70% of families live in conditions below the poverty line.

Safe, accessible drinking water for people and livestock is being provided through well replenishment and construction, rainwater harvesting and education about sanitation and hygiene. Improved farming practices are being encouraged through the establishment of sustainable irrigation systems, the promotion of water saving devices and educating people about ways to increase farm productivity by working in harmony with the land.

<b>Project type:</b>	Water supply, sanitation, education
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Families
<b>Duration:</b>	2011 to-date
<b>Location:</b>	Aravali Hills, Rajasthan, India
<b>Budget:</b>	A\$4,000 (2011-12)

In the overall project, 12 wells have been repaired so far out of a planned 65. 3000 people in 500 families have increased access to a safe and reliable drinking water source as a result. Meal-a-Day has specifically supported the re-development of 4 existing wells and a community organiser for water harvesting. Each reconditioned well provides water to 5 to 8 families.



Reconditioning a well in Kutamariya village for example, has allowed five families to irrigate six hectares of land for the first time and also harvest a crop of winter wheat and a vegetable crop (rather than just one unreliable summer maize harvest). Unlike other years, they did not have to migrate to the city for work.

# MALAYSIA - Education and health-care for young girls

Justine Morais established the Home of Peace in 1992 to provide shelter and education for girls from squatter families in and around Malaysia's capital city, Kuala Lumpur. This project was recommended by Glenn and Paquita Kennett while they were living in Kuala Lumpur and also visited by Asia-Pacific Chairman Martin Catchlove in 2011 with very positive reports.

The main objectives of the home are to tend to the physical and emotional needs of abused, neglected and orphaned children, to ensure these children receive formal education and to equip them to help their families who are still living in squatter areas.

The Home has been a haven of safety, health and care for seventeen girls over the past 19 years, with the eldest now working and living independently. A larger home was purchased in 2007 as the original small home had been outgrown. This is testament to the dedication of Justine and her team, given she started the home with just two girls in her care.

**Project type:** Education, nutrition, health-care

Accommodation

**Beneficiaries:** Young girls

**Duration:** 2011 to-date

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Budget:** A\$3,000 (2012)



Meal-a-Day funding has supported the yearly tuition costs of two teachers, medical care as well as two educational field trips to the Cameron Highlands Tea Factory and the Bukit Merah where baby orangutans are rehabilitated.

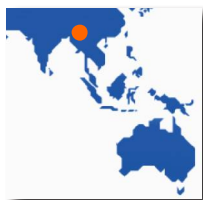


# MYANMAR - Nutrition for migrant children

Yangon, the former capital of Myanmar, is home to a growing number of manufacturing workers who arrive from poor countryside areas. Both work and living conditions for these 'migrant workers' are sub-standard. With the typical wage only US\$1 a day, workers are unable to provide nutritious food for their children. Together with the low amount being spent on health, this poor nutrition contributes to high death rates from diarrhoea, malaria and malnutrition.

Meal-a-Day in partnership with the Christadelphian Bethzer Fund, seeks to improve the nutrition of the children, increasing their intake of essential vitamins and minerals. A nutritional supplement (egg and milk-based) is provided 3 days a week, 44 weeks a year to school-aged children of manufacturing workers, orphans and children with HIV/AIDS. The project is managed on the ground by a local volunteer organisation which also provides tutoring and childcare for migrant workers.

<b>Project type:</b>	Nutrition
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Children and orphans
<b>Duration:</b>	1 year pilot started mid-2011
<b>Location:</b>	Yangon, Myanmar
<b>Budget:</b>	A\$6,000 (2011-12)



The project has seen 350 children receive an egg and portion of milk on an ongoing basis. It is reported that 235 of these children attend the before- and after-school centres run by the voluntary organization, while 115 orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS make up the remaining numbers. This project is in pilot phase and we look forward to evaluating its effectiveness in 2012.

"He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker,  
but whoever is kind to the needy honours God." **Proverbs 14v31**





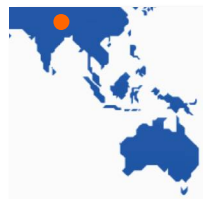
# NEPAL - Education for children and orphans

The town of Bhujel sits 6,500 metres above sea-level, in a rough mountainous area about 26 km from the capital Kathmandu. The remote farming community of about 80 people typically rely on maize, millet and potatoes for sustenance. The town's economy is based solely on agriculture, and as a result parents often have their children working on the land rather than attending school.

Most of the population have little or no access to schooling; they live in mud and thatch homes with very basic sanitation and open-pit latrines. Daily living requires hard manual labour, and often poor health conditions such as asthma and hepatitis take their toll, leaving orphans to be supported by siblings or extended family.

Working with brother Peter Fry (UK) and local Nepalese community leaders, Meal-a-Day has been providing support for children from Bhujel to continue to attend school. There are also currently considerations for the possible funding of infrastructure including protective perimeter fencing and sanitation services for the town's orphanage.

<b>Project type:</b>	Education
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Boys and girls
<b>Duration:</b>	2010 to-date
<b>Location:</b>	Bhujel, near Kathmandu, Nepal
<b>Budget:</b>	A\$2,500 (2012)



Meal-a-Day to-date has been able to support the education of 8 children in this small remote community. The funding is designed to promote learning rather than only manual labour as an option for these Nepalese children. School reports show students to be performing well, even under these difficult circumstances.



"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore...be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy." **Deuteronomy 15v11**

# Tibetan refugee community development

Nepal is a place of refuge to more than 20,000 Tibetans who have been leaving their homeland since the conflict with the Chinese government escalated in 1959. They have been 'settled' for more than 50 years in basic camps set up by the UN refugee agency however the majority have no defined legal status. Global Press Institute reports that those who arrived before 1990 still have not received refugee cards; such uncertainty affects the ability to find employment.

Meal-a-Day helps fund a number of refugee development projects in a partnership originally set-up with UK Meal-a-Day and Trek-Aid, we are pleased to continue the work from here.

Meal-a-Day is helping provide a cleaner and more sustainable environment in Paljorling, assisting workers to organize the collection of waste, sort the recyclables and dispose of waste ecologically. Sanitation is improved through the provision of toilet cleaning products.



In Paljorling and Jampaling, many of the refugee women seek daily work including agricultural labour or weaving. This is important to supplement limited incomes. Meal-a-Day helps support the provision of a nursery teacher in the camp, to allow women to seek daily work.

There is only a primary school and primary teachers within the Paljorling refugee camp. Meal-a-Day also helps cover the extra tuition for Tibetan senior school students in years 5 to 10 receive assistance on subjects like Maths, Science, English or Accounting.

Medical grants are also provided to refugees from a cluster of five refugee communities in and near to Pokhara, west Nepal. These grants help refugee patients pay for tests, medicines and hospital treatments that would otherwise be unaffordable.

<b>Project type:</b>	Education, sanitation, nursery care Health-care and medical aid
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Men, women and children
<b>Duration:</b>	2009 to-date
<b>Location:</b>	Paljorling, Jampaling, Pokhara
<b>Budget:</b>	A\$10,000 (2012)

The medical grants assisted 74 patients in the last funding cycle. Patients ranged from 18 to 88 years old and had a wide range of illnesses including gastroenteritis, dysentery, cataract eye operations and osteoarthritis. The education assistance helps 35 students each year prepare for and improve performance in their exams.

# THAILAND - Education and nutrition for children

Getting to school can be a challenge for Karen children who live in poor conditions in the remote mountainous region of northern Thailand. Most villages have a primary school within 10 kms of the village, secondary schools can be 50 kms away and High Schools even further. Official statistics in 2007 show that only 25% of Karen children reach secondary school through lack of funds or accessible facilities. Dormitories are often situated in the school grounds or nearby, but they are poorly constructed, overcrowded and under-resourced.

Working in partnership with The Karen Hill-tribes Trust (initiated with the UK Meal-a-Day some years ago), we support the provision of school bus transport, improved dormitory facilities and food (rice-based) for children of families who cannot otherwise afford it.

<b>Project type:</b>	Education, nutrition, transport
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Children
<b>Duration:</b>	2007 to-date
<b>Location:</b>	Northern Thailand
<b>Budget:</b>	A\$10,000 (2012)



This year 315 students from 7 poor villages in the hills have been provided with lunch each day. This not only provides essential nutrition, but helps the students learn better, enhancing their future prospects. Meal-a-Day also funds one of the twenty school buses to enable the children to access education.





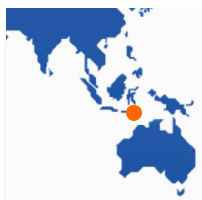
# TIMOR LESTE - Family garden development

One of the world's 'newest' nations, Timor Leste is also one of the world's poorest - with basic income, health and literary levels comparable to those in sub-Saharan Africa. For instance, this year approximately 54% of children under 5 years-old are malnourished. Infrastructure in urban and rural areas requires significant development, whilst unemployment and underemployment combined are estimated to be as high as 70%.

Appreciating the current socio-economic conditions, many parents lack the skills, support and finances to establish a productive garden themselves. The Family Gardens program helps ensures food security for families and also give them the possibility of a cash income from surplus produce.

Working in partnership with HIAM Health, staff provide practical support and finance for extended families to design, construct and plant kitchen gardens. This includes the provision of tools, seeds and seedlings plus cement and bricks for water tanks. Ongoing assistance will also be provided to ensure that produce is harvested correctly and marketed as effectively as possible.

**Project type:** Education & nutrition  
**Beneficiaries:** Children, women  
**Duration:** Start 2012  
**Location:** Dili, Timor Leste  
**Budget:** A\$2,000 (2012)



This program is our newest to Meal-a-Day Asia-Pacific and is currently in planning stage; it is expected to be underway in mid-2012. Gardens have the potential to help up to 70 people per family through both fruitful produce, food security and source of income.

# PHILIPPINES - Agricultural training centre

The Philippines has lost 30% of its forests over the last century, and although the rate of deforestation has dramatically declined there were a number of contributing factors including excessive logging, natural disasters, changing land use, urbanization, fires and poor reforestation. Furthermore, around 26% of the population live below the poverty line (totally around 24 million people).

The Americas Meal-a-Day has worked extensively in partnership with an organisation called Green Empowerment in South America. Green Empowerment and its local partner in the Philippines, SIBAT, are currently conducting sustainable agriculture training for rural communities.

One of our newest projects, Meal-a-Day is supporting the construction of a new dormitory and multi-purpose instruction hall that will enable approximately 40 people to be accommodated. This will increase the total number of people six-fold that can benefit from sustainable agriculture training, thereby helping to improve the health, nutrition, environment, and overall well-being of farmers and their local communities.

<b>Project type:</b>	Education, infrastructure
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Men and women
<b>Duration:</b>	2011 to-date
<b>Location:</b>	Capas, Tarlac Province
<b>Budget:</b>	A\$2,000 (2012)



This project is in its initial year of funding and construction is underway to build the 'Sustainable Agriculture Training Center for Healthy Farmers, Better Food & Healthy Environment'. This is being constructed with local materials and local manufacturing resources. We look forward to receiving progress reports through 2012, and will be in regular contact with them as part of our project monitoring process.

# Support in other areas

We provide support for projects which are time-bound, with the aim of helping communities build capabilities (skills, resources, income-generation and the like) to support themselves and improve their own quality of life for the future. Whilst our primary focus is on sustainable development projects, we may also respond to urgent calls for help in the wake of natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Here are 4 examples of short-term development or relief activities we have also supported in the last 2-3 years:

## **Future Cambodia Fund**

In 2009 Meal-a-Day provided funding to the Future Cambodia Fund, a charity established by Victorian Young Australian of the Year 2009, 23-year-old Leigh Matthews. This organisation aimed to help almost 8000 Cambodians in Andong, with essential services such as clean water, sanitation, health programmes, educational opportunities, emergency accommodation and counselling for child victims of abuse and violence. Sadly in April 2010, due to effects of the global economic downturn the Future Cambodia Fund was wound down. We continue to explore opportunities to support our neighbouring communities in Cambodia.



Agricultural training, Thailand

## **Rural Welfare Organisation – India**

In 2008–2009 Meal-a-Day funded the short-term accommodation of 7 orphans whose parents had died from HIV/AIDS in Andhra Pradesh. The support of the children also covered the costs of uniforms, school fees, nutrition supplements and medical requirements.



Kausalya, Gautham and Sindhuja, RWO

## **Joe Homan Charity – Thailand**

In 2009–2010 Meal-a-Day provided funding towards a residential home for 60 boys in North-eastern Thailand. The boys come from poor backgrounds. Some are orphans, others from difficult homes. The boys are taught to be self-sufficient and supported to attend school every day. 6 of the boys were recently able to complete school exams to attend technical college or university.

## **Christchurch Earthquake Relief via ACBM**

As part of a joint response, funds received by Meal-a-Day for the New Zealand earthquake disaster were sent to support the relief effort coordinated by ACBM. A special Relief Fund was established under the Christchurch North Christadelphian Ecclesia (CNCE), a registered charitable trust.



Christchurch earthquake, New Zealand

“Look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” **Philippians 2v4**



# How far can your dollars go?



**\$50**

Buys daily meals for 250 children



**\$90**

Buys one annual school bus ticket

**\$45**

Runs the school bus for one week

**\$12**

Mobility training costs for one month



Bartimaeus Resource Centre  
for the Visually Impaired  
BANGALORE, INDIA

"Your abundance may be a supply for their need..." 2 Corinthians 8v14

**\$55**

1 month's  
wages for  
two TB  
nurses

**\$15**

Food for a  
TB patient &  
family for 1  
month

**\$5**

Month's  
supply of  
dates for 1  
child

AYRIES SOCIETY  
Veerareddikuppam  
10th Year Extension  
Nutrition  
Programme for  
PL HA / TB

Ayries Society  
TAMIL NADU, INDIA



# Financial Report

Since our last report, despite economic uncertainty domestically and abroad, the Meal-a-Day Fund has been able to maintain a steady rate of income over the last 2 years which has **helped us meet all our planned project commitments across Asia-Pacific.**

The corresponding charts summarise our income<sup>1</sup> sources as well as key categories of spend. We have continued to keep our overheads at very low levels, such that **97¢ of each dollar go straight to communities in need.**

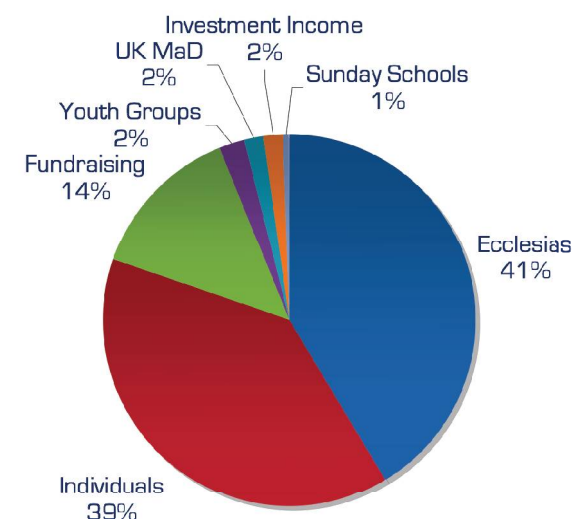
Over the last two years (2009/10 and 2010/11) around 80% of income was donated almost equally by ecclesias and individuals, with evidence of more regular EFT donations being established. During this period, targeted fundraising activity has increased (see pages 21-22) and now accounts for around 14% of total funding. This has also been driven through wider awareness of Meal-a-Day via presentations for ecclesias and youth groups, as well as other on-line media and informal channels. There has also been a welcome growth in support from Sunday Schools and Youth Groups, which we will continue to encourage. Other relatively small sources of funds were inter-regional transfers (such as from UK Meal-a-Day) and bank interest on term deposits.

It is particularly pleasing to report that approximately 97% of funds were sent directly to the projects, compared to many charities where administrative costs can be in the order of 20% (versus our 3%). Our low costs are possible due to the voluntary efforts of our management team and wider network of supporters across Australasia, who give freely of their time and expertise and for which we are very thankful. Where administrative costs are incurred, the majority relate to publicity expenses (e.g. printing, postage, facilities). Almost all the projects are administered overseas, so the remaining 0.8% banking costs are incurred when transferring funds internationally.

As part of our financial quality management practices, the accounts are maintained by a qualified book-keeper using MYOB software and structured processes; the accounts are audited independently per our approved Constitution.

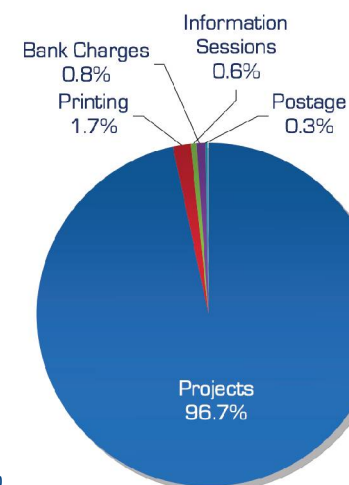
## Income Sources

(combined over the 2009/10 to 2010/11 period)



## Fund Expenditure

(combined over the 2009/10 to 2010/11 period)



NOTE 1: Average income of \$42k p.a. over the 2-year period. Outgoings averaged \$51k p.a. over same period, drawing on savings to support project commitments during economic uncertainties and initiated additional fund-raising efforts to manage income growth.



# How to donate



"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture,  
'You shall love your neighbour as yourself,'  
you are doing well." James 2v8

There are a range of ways you can donate to the Meal-a-Day Fund to help support our work with communities across Asia-Pacific

## 1 Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

**Bank:** Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
**BSB #:** 063 637  
**Account #:** 10103138  
**Account Name:** Christadelphian Meal a Day Fund

We would encourage donors to set up a regular **Direct Deposit** which is free and can be administered on-line, over the phone or at your local bank branch. If possible, please include your name in the comments field.

## 2 Cheque

**Recipient:** Christadelphian Meal-a-Day Fund  
**Mail to:** PO Box 15, Canterbury, Victoria, Australia, 3126

## 3 On-line Credit Card

We are currently exploring options to enable credit card donations on-line [e.g. PayPal] via our website [www.meal-a-day.asia](http://www.meal-a-day.asia) - watch this space!

**PLEASE NOTE:** In an effort to minimise administrative costs and bank fees, we have decided not to offer a Direct Debit facility via credit card at this stage. The **Direct Deposit** method described above is a widely-used low-cost alternative that we hope you will find effective instead

# Fund-raising and publicity report

As the profile of Meal-a-Day in Asia-Pacific expands across our community, we are seeing a real boost in interest and support from both individuals and groups - from whole ecclesial donations, to special youth group activities, from dedicated weekend fund-raising events to simply a visible presence at combined ecclesial forums. Currently many of the larger events are facilitated by our Melbourne-based management team, whilst others are more organic, initiated by individuals or groups across our community who want to do something extra or give something more to help those beyond our shores. Here's just a handful of the many highlights across the country:

## Jewellery



## Gift Cards



## Art & Craft Fair



## Annual Appeals



## Fun run

## One Meal-a-day youth camps


We always welcome the opportunity to present to ecclesias, youth circles and other groups, such as the ACBM, to help enrich understanding of how and where we each contribute across Asia-Pacific, and importantly, identify further opportunities to work together.

To help streamline our publicity and communication channels, we are also designing a **new Asia-Pacific Meal-a-Day website** - [www.meal-a-day.asia](http://www.meal-a-day.asia) - please do take a look around and let us know what you think!

# Upcoming events and ideas

Firstly we would like to acknowledge the generosity of a growing number of individuals and ecclesias who regularly contribute to and organise events for the Meal-a-Day Fund; their constant support is greatly appreciated. Given that Meal-a-Day is still relatively new in this region, our **main aims for 2012 and beyond** are to spread the word across our ecclesial community and explore different avenues for raising money to support the various projects in which we are involved. To help achieve this, we are keen to enlist a network of key contact points for Meal-a-Day in each state or major city, who can actively promote fundraising within their own local and surrounding ecclesial areas. We will explore this further at our Biennial General Meeting on 9th April 2012 in Adelaide, God willing.

We also recognise that there are a number of groups within the Christadelphian community who are fundraising too: For example our Aged Care homes, Bible Mission, Heritage College and Care Groups, to name just a few. We feel that it would be beneficial if all groups could come together to an event to showcase what it is they are each doing and how their funds are being used for good in their various ways. We envisage an open invitation be extended to all ecclesias to come along with friends and family, maybe share a meal, while learning more about the various fund-raising options and how they each may complement another. Early plans are in progress to contact the various groups in Melbourne and gauge their interest in getting something like this underway; it is envisioned that it will also be a fund-raising event in itself, with some creativity in how the groups may choose to raise funds.



Looking forward, we hope to hold another fund-raising meal and Fair in September, God willing. This was held for the first time in Melbourne 2011 and was a great success: There was a real buzz in the air, each ecclesia in Melbourne was well-represented and all food and hand-made crafts were successfully sold, around \$3000 was raised for Meal-a-Day in one evening. We are also continuing to promote the sale of practical gift cards (see pages 17 to 18 for how a small gift can make a big difference), perhaps for birthdays or other special occasions. Trash-and-treasure events can be a viable source for raising funds; we ran a car-boot sale in Canterbury last year with some success, although on this occasion it was relatively small so there are changes we would make when running such events in the future (e.g. location choice, mode of advertising).

We would like to encourage groups in capital cities or regional areas to maybe get together and hold small functions where the focus is to socialise and have fun, and at the same time raise awareness and funds for those in need. Perhaps start a class with friends, where a small fee is charged to learn a new craft, or maybe host a meal where you donate what may have been spent at a restaurant? These are just a few of the many things possible in our local towns and neighbourhoods - we welcome your ideas and opportunity to get involved! **Visit our website for latest news and calendar of events - [www.meal-a-day.asia](http://www.meal-a-day.asia)**

Got ideas? Keen to help? Please contact our Fundraising Coordinators, Andrew & Merry King at [fundraising@meal-a-day.asia](mailto:fundraising@meal-a-day.asia)



# Local and global collaboration

The Christadelphian Meal-a-Day Fund is a global organisation, where beyond Asia-Pacific the other 2 regions include:

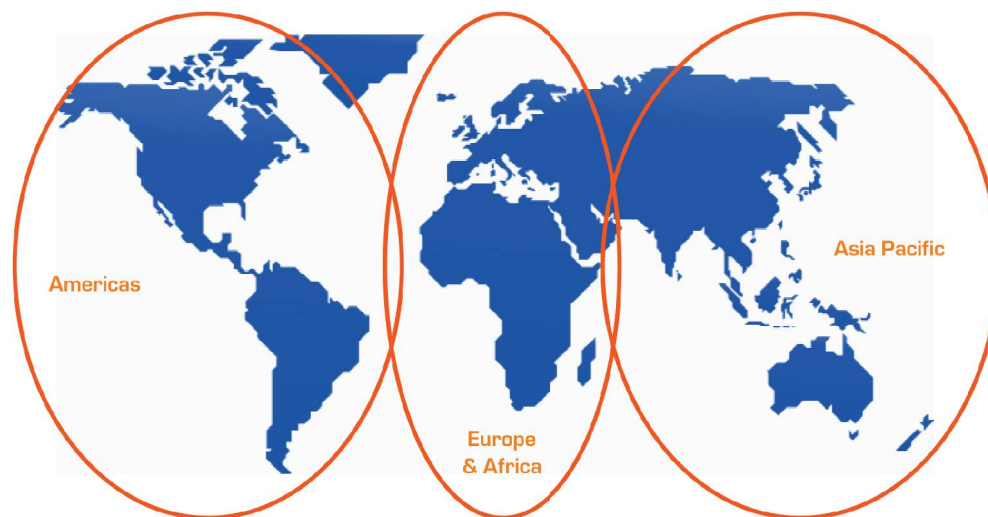
- Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA), and
- North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.

We liaise with each other regularly (typically via on-line media) to ensure consistency in operating principles, to seek insights and advice as well as share ideas and resources.

On occasion we also have the privilege of meeting in person. For instance in mid-2011, Martin Catchlove, the Asia-Pacific Chairman, visited the UK for a family visit and also had opportunity to meet with Gordon Dawes, the EMEA chairman. Later in October 2011, as part of a larger itinerary Bruce and Joanie Parker (Americas Chairman and Secretary), were able to visit 3 of our projects in India on behalf of Meal-a-Day (including Ayries Society, MV Foundation and Bartimaeus, incidentally providing very good commendations) and then were able to meet with our Asia-Pacific team in Melbourne. Each of these opportunities have been invaluable in strengthening the connections between the teams, generating valuable insights and sharing experiences for the greater good in His service.

Closer to home, we welcome the opportunity to engage with other groups within the ecclesial community and abroad, such as the Australasian Christadelphian Bible Mission (ACBM) where we can learn and share complementary ideas and resources too. In November 2011, we were pleased to receive an invitation to present at the ACBM Mission Conference in Melbourne. This provided an excellent opportunity to share a number of perspectives and conversations on how and where we operate across the region, and potential avenues to work together: Be it in identifying potential practical needs or community development projects where ACBM has an active presence and/or in responding to the spiritual enquiries that may emerge from those we meet in our Meal-a-Day projects.

We look forward to continuing to work together and helping to serve the needs of our neighbours in the spirit of our risen Lord.



“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

James 1:27

# Looking ahead and working together

We trust this journey through the work of Meal-a-Day has been of interest and whet your appetite to discover more and be involved.

We have seen amidst the bustle of life, colour and beauty, that the world has some very troubled places where people, though gifted with life just like you and me, find themselves in entirely different, appalling conditions. So it is with the support and energy of volunteers across our community, we see change afoot, a real positive difference in the lives of our neighbours. Let's recap just a few headlines:

- In Tamil Nadu, 235 people have successfully completed treatment for tuberculosis, and just last year 46 patients were cured!
- 17 Malaysian girls from troubled families have been able to enjoy the solace of a safe home, regular tuition and medical care
- Over 50 young Indian adults with visual impairments are now trained in Braille, computing skills and are finding sustainable work
- 315 children in the remote Karen hilltribes of Thailand are receiving nutritious school lunches and accessing regular schooling
- 4 newly refurbished wells now provide clean water, so over 30 families in India can harvest their own wheat and vegetables.

Not to mention renewed hope for Nepalese orphans, Tibetan refugees, Filipino farmers, Myanmarese migrants and Timorese families!

For 2012+ we have 5 key priorities to help build the Fund and thereby reach many more men, women and children across Asia-Pacific:

- Appoint key contact points in states and/or cities to help support local fund-raising activities across Australia and New Zealand
- Progress our application as a registered charity with the Australian government and seek tax-deductable status
- Develop our new website to include more regular project updates, on-line donation capability and provision of publicity materials
- Consolidate our existing project relationships, increase their level of community involvement and sustainable outcomes
- Identify opportunities to work in partnership with other groups across our community [e.g. joint events, volunteer program].

## How can you help?

The wider economic issues continue to destabilise markets, driving up food and fuel prices, and putting more people in strife. The need is unlikely to diminish. Not yet at least. As we look forward to God's brilliant renewal of the earth, through the work of Meal-a-Day we continue to reach out to those in need - from our neighbourhoods, across Australia, New Zealand and into the Asia-Pacific communities.

We invite you to join us in all these efforts - take a moment to find a project or person's plight that has caught your attention - and consider what you can do to make a difference. We each have 24 hours in the day, and resources at our finger-tips: Some resources are tangible - solid practical things, food, money, clean water, books - others maybe less tangible - knowledge and experience, a creative mind, the ability to muster support, or administer well.

**Whatever your skill, whatever you can give - we look forward to working with you - please do get in touch soon**

*Take care*

# Meet our Asia-Pacific management team in Melbourne

Please contact us anytime, we look forward to meeting you:



**Martin Catchlove**  
Chairman & Secretary  
Appointed 2010  
chairman@meal-a-day.asia



**Jon Fry**  
Project Coordinator  
Appointed 2010  
projects@meal-a-day.asia



**Sarah Fry**  
Project Coordinator  
Appointed 2010  
projects@meal-a-day.asia



**Meagan Irwin**  
Treasurer  
Appointed 2010  
treasurer@meal-a-day.asia



**Andrew King**  
Fund-raising Coordinator  
Appointed 2010  
fundraising@meal-a-day.asia



**Meredith King**  
Fund-raising Coordinator  
Appointed 2010  
fundraising@meal-a-day.asia

**Note:** Publicity coordination responsibilities are currently shared across the management team

We also offer a special thanks to Ian Hyndman who retired in 2010 after over a decade of service to the work of Meal-a-Day. Brother Ian was instrumental in working with the UK Committee in establishing the first Asia-Pacific team in 2007 with Martin and Meagan, prior to which he was the representative for Australasia and helped build support for community projects in Nepal, Thailand, India, Bougainville and Zambia.



# A few words on why we do what we do



## Origins of 'meal-a-day'

In 1976, a small group of Christadelphians from Tamworth, UK assembled with the aim of addressing the needs of others, especially in the developing world. Around that time, the US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, made a speech concerning the need to try to provide at least "one meal a day" to every person on earth.

This struck a chord with the founding group and the **Meal-a-Day Fund** was born.

## ...the situation now and in the future

Unfortunately we continue to witness all kinds of suffering and imbalance in the world. The Christadelphian Meal-a-Day Fund aims to reflect something of Jesus' spirit of tireless dedication to people's needs:

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...  
I was naked and you clothed me...as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren,  
you did it to me." **Jesus of Nazareth**

Thankfully the world will not always continue this way. There is a profound message of hope in God's word, centred on His Son: Jesus of Nazareth, a man who changed the world like no-one before. We keenly await his return when the process of perfect change will be completed.

"The Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the blind, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour..."

**Jesus Christ**

[Gospel of Luke 4 and prophet Isaiah 61]

For more information please visit [www.meal-a-day.asia](http://www.meal-a-day.asia)

