

A message from the Union of Welsh Independents' President 2007-08

*Dear Friends,*

When we think of South Africa, we immediately remember the dramatic pictures of Nelson Mandela's release and of the long queues at the polling booths in 1994.

The situation has improved much since then. But there are painful wounds still: the hurt caused by apartheid, unemployment, HIV and AIDS, widespread poverty:

- more than 20 million live on less than £1 a day
- one million children have been orphaned by AIDS.

It will be our privilege during the year of the appeal to support Christian Aid's partners, remembering that they have strong links with the churches, and that they are doing so much to alleviate suffering.

The appeal is an opportunity for us to learn about the hardships, as well as the successes in overcoming difficulties, among the South African people, many of them our partners in the Council for World Mission (CWM).

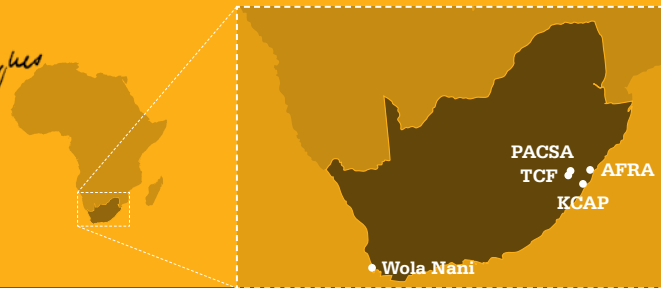
Please use the resources provided to publicise the appeal. I hope you will succeed in reaching the financial target, so that we can help effectively, where the need is so great.

The Lord be with you in this important work.

Grace and peace

*Dewi M Hughes*

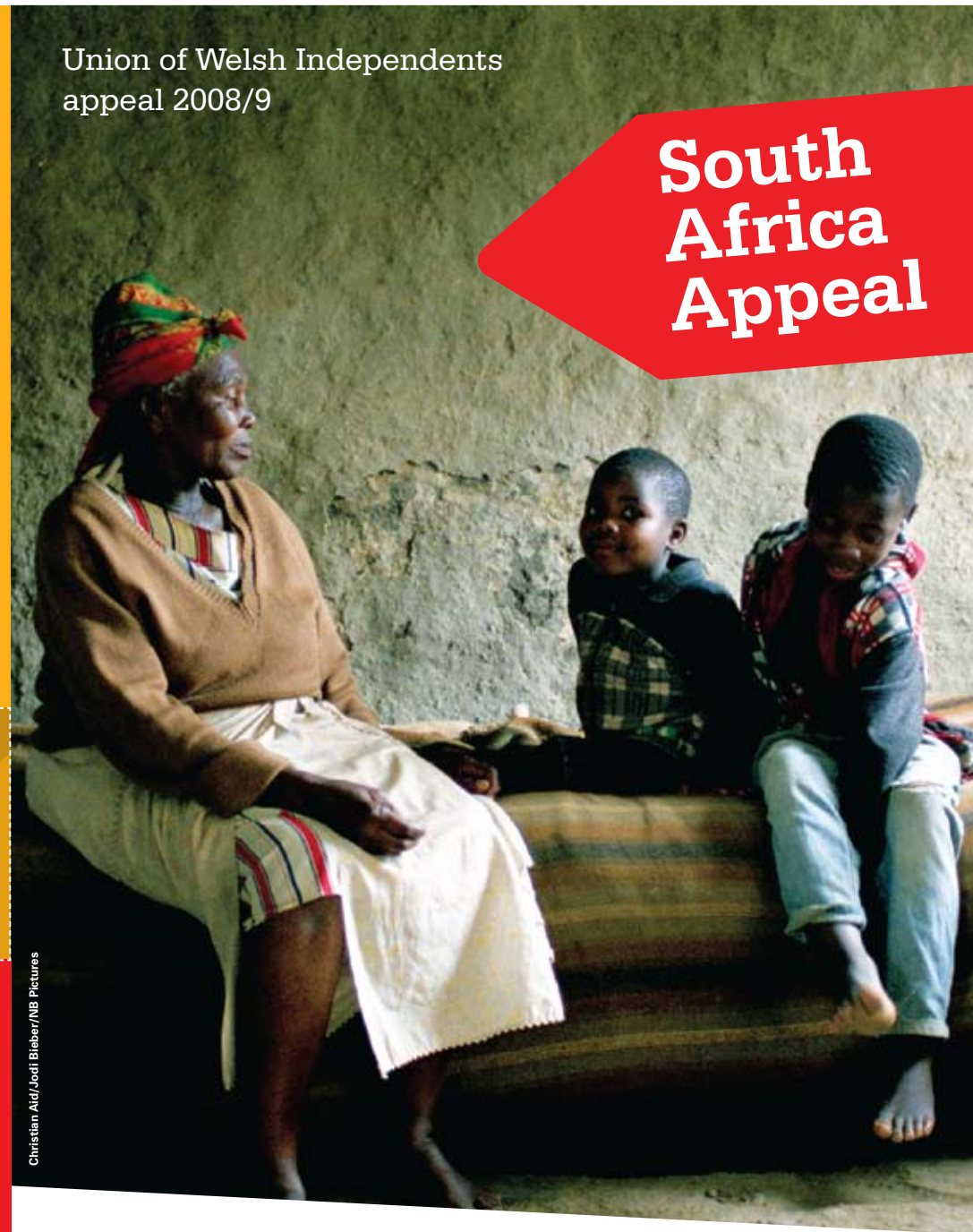
Dewi M Hughes



Max Khanna

Union of Welsh Independents  
appeal 2008/9

**South  
Africa  
Appeal**



Christian Aid/Jodi Bieber/NB Pictures

**Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA)** – works in Kwa Zulu Natal, supporting landless rural people and farm dwellers, who are threatened by eviction.

**Kwa Mashu Community Advancement Project (KCAP)** – works with disadvantaged young people just outside Durban, giving them the chance to learn skills such as drama, dance, music and photography.

**Pietermaritzburg Association for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA)** – works to mobilise and involve Christians to promote human rights and sustainable development through research, education, spiritual reflection and action.

**Thandanani Children's Foundation (TCF)** – supports orphans and other vulnerable children in the Pietermaritzburg area so that they have food, shelter, education and emotional support.

**Wola Nani** – works in Cape Town and the nearby townships, especially supporting women who are HIV-positive and their children, through counselling and care.

Although apartheid ended in 1994 and even though South Africa is now a popular tourist destination, it still faces big problems. More than five million people (out of 47 million) are HIV-positive and 20 million people live on less than £1 a day.

Our appeal, working with Christian Aid, is supporting local partner organisations in South Africa. We have chosen to focus on five of these and we hope you are inspired by the stories of the people in this leaflet and in your church pack. Please give generously – thank you!

**We've set ourselves the challenge of raising £1 per member per month for the year of the appeal – can your church meet that challenge?**

## How can I help?

- Give** generously! Plus – could you organise a small fundraising event with friends? Your church pack includes lots of ideas.
- Learn** use the appeal pack to find out more about life in South Africa. Think how you could share this with your church and beyond.
- Pray** for the people of South Africa and for the organisations that are helping them, which we are supporting through our appeal.

## Five things to remember...

- The two big issues are HIV and economic justice.
- 20 million South Africans live on less than £1 a day.
- Almost half the population is under 20; a third is under 15.
- There are more HIV-positive people in South Africa than any other country in the world.
- And your gifts will make a difference!

Here are five people who our appeal partners have already helped. With your support, our partners can help many more people like them.



Wiseman Shabalala (far right) and other young men from the Acting Against Crime group, run by our partner **Kwa Mashu Community Advancement Programme (KCAP)**, in their local neighbourhood. KwaMashu township has an unemployment rate of 80 per cent and high crime. The group acts out plays with an anti-crime message to other young people, based on the group members' real-life experiences of prison.



Our partner organisation **Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA)** first started supporting **Emmanuel Mbele (63)** and his neighbours in the 1980s, resisting plans to relocate them to a 'black area'. After the end of apartheid, AFRA helped the community to make a successful claim for land. Now they have unrestricted access to water, firewood and grass for thatching, and their cattle can graze freely without being impounded by local landowners.



This lady, who did not wish to give her name or allow her face to be seen, is HIV-positive. **Wola Nani** has trained her in how to make these *papier maché* bowls from used paper. The bowls sell well, both in South Africa and abroad, giving women like her an income. Many of our churches are using these bowls as the focus for their giving this year. (These can be ordered from Tÿ John Penri.) Wola Nani is also fighting against the fear and terrible stigma that HIV still carries.



**Nomfundo Majola (18)** nursed her father, mother and baby sister as they died of HIV-related illnesses. Now she's looking after four younger brothers and sisters. Our partner **Thandanani** is providing clothes and food for the family, but it will also focus on helping Nomfundo to cope emotionally, making sure she has the time and space to grieve.



In 1988 **Ida Hadebe (60s)** was attending a night vigil at a neighbour's home when armed police stormed the house and gunned down everyone inside. Twelve people were killed. Ida was shot five times, and spent six months in hospital. It was a time of brutal political violence and deep mistrust between members of the local community. Now our partner **The Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA)** is helping to build a memorial chapel at the site of the massacre.