



# LIVES RESTORED

Winter 2018

INSIDE: See YOUR love in action restoring lives around the world



# HOW YOUR LOVE IN ACTION

## RESTORED LIVES OVER THE PAST YEAR

>1 million

people living in some of the world's poorest countries received vital life-changing **MEDICAL SERVICES**.



>10 million

people were provided with **PREVENTATIVE MEDICATIONS** for impairing diseases like River Blindness and Trachoma.



68,096

**LIFE-CHANGING SURGERIES** were performed for people living in some of the poorest countries in the world.



29,240

**ASSISTIVE DEVICES** including wheelchairs, mobility aids and glasses were given to those who needed them most.



347,943

children like Ramsaran (front cover) were able to access **HEALTH CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, EDUCATION** and opportunities to be included in their communities.



CBM Australia is part of the **INTERNATIONAL CBM family**, which has **10 member associations** around the world. CBM Australia has programs and advocacy partners in **26 countries**; with an extensive global network of partners, we are changing lives for the better.

< Cover: Ramsaran is back on his feet after treatment to correct bilateral clubfoot. Finally able to walk, this little boy is excited to go to school. © CBM



## YOUR LOVE IN ACTION

### JANE EDGE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

▲ Jane with women in an Ethiopian village who experienced firsthand clean, fresh water sources provided by CBM supporters.

**As I sit at my desk cradling a hot cup of tea in my hands, it reminds me of the warmth I feel whenever I see lives transformed in the field.**

It was wonderful on a recent trip to Ethiopia to see firsthand how communities are thriving thanks to your support.

I visited villages where previously the lack of clean water had been a serious problem, contributing to the spread of diseases that lead to permanent blindness. But now, I was able to watch as small children scooped up fresh, clean water to drink without fear.

The wells and watering systems that your support provided were bringing streams of nourishment and life.

To every supporter, every field partner and every volunteer... I'm so thankful.

I hope that as you read this magazine, you'll see how you have played a significant part, helping to put **love in action**.

Thank you again, and my prayer is for your heart to be warmed by knowing your actions matter.

You have changed lives. Forever.

Jane Edge  
Chief Executive Officer, CBM Australia





>4,000 LIFE-CHANGING SURGERIES provided for children in some of the poorest countries in the world.

It is with great joy that I can bring you some heart-warming news. You may remember five-year-old Ramsaran, who was born with Clubfoot – a painful condition that twisted his feet inwards, making each step unbearable. He hardly left his home. His parents were very poor and could not afford the treatment he needed.

But thanks to CBM supporters, we were able to send a fieldworker to his remote village who brought him back to our hospital to receive free treatment!

Ramsaran was scheduled for an eight-week non-invasive treatment called the “Ponseti method”, where his feet were put in a series of plaster casts and adjusted at weekly intervals. This process gradually straightened his feet.

And it doesn’t end there. Ramsaran attended the in-house school – right here at the hospital. Every day, he spent hours chatting, playing and learning to read and write the Nepali alphabet.



At the end of his treatment, Ramsaran was given special shoes that would help him walk for the next few months.

I’m pleased that Ramsaran is making great progress and has also enrolled in first grade at a public school. He will be continuing his in-home physiotherapy exercises and our fieldworkers will go and visit him to check his progress regularly.

Thank you for helping this little boy!

## YOUR GIFTS

### PUT RAMSARAN BACK ON HIS FEET

^ Ramsaran could barely step outside his home before receiving treatment for bilateral clubfoot.

Remember Ramsaran, the young boy with clubfoot? Dr Bibek from a CBM partner hospital in Nepal shares an exciting update on Ramsaran’s treatment.

## Behind the Scenes



^ Fieldworkers go to remote villages to find children like Ramsaran. These children are examined at a CBM-partner hospital and receive free treatment.



^ Once their feet are straight, most children usually require a small surgery to release the heel cord, so their feet can be totally flat on the ground.



^ Physiotherapy and crutches are also encouraged as the children slowly learn to walk again.



^ The children’s feet are put in a series of plaster casts for six to eight weeks to gradually correct their feet.



^ For those children that have surgery, special shoes are measured for their feet. These shoes ensure that the correction is maintained even as the children grow.



^ “Thank you for transforming my son’s life. I’ll always be grateful to this hospital and everyone who has supported Ramsaran in this journey. It’s like a miracle,” says Ramsaran’s father.



> Thanks to Miracles Day, Chinh is back at work after sight-saving surgery



# VIETNAM IS READY FOR YOUR MIRACLES

**Love in Action isn't a good-hearted philosophy or catchy slogan to the people of Vietnam... it's a genuine, life-changing Miracle! And that's why this year we're taking your support back to Vietnam for Miracles Day 2018.**

Two years ago we travelled there with a group of Australian Christian radio hosts, visiting rural Vietnam where children and adults living in the most extreme cases of poverty were waiting for their Miracle gift of sight.

Your response to their plight was overwhelming and the subsequent results for the Vietnamese people were so amazing that we just had to go back to do more.

Just imagine the beautiful faces of little children lighting up as they realise that this time it's *their*

*turn* to receive a Miracle. Their turn to be able to see at school, learn to read and play with other children.

For the mothers and fathers who have longed to see their children's faces and provide for their needs, this is truly an incomparable gift. Single mothers like Chinh, whom we met in Vietnam two years ago, whose life was turned around by Miracles Day.

Chinh lost her sight while caring for her son, who has a mental illness, meaning that she could no longer provide for him. They were already barely surviving on just two small meals a day.

"I really want to go for surgery, because I want to see clearly so I can take care of my son," Chinh said back then.



>1 million people benefitted from EYE-HEALTH SERVICES last year.

Thanks to Australians who gave so generously during Miracles Day, Chinh's cataract surgery was successful and she can now see clearly again.

She has started a stall selling vegetables at a local market and is once again able to provide for her son.

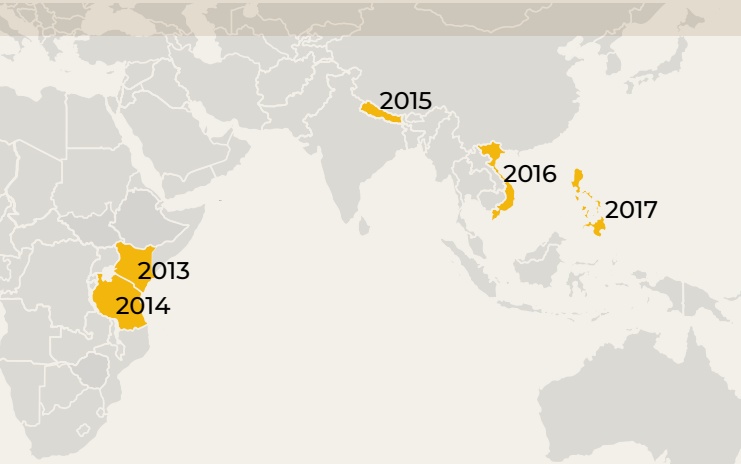
"I can see clearly. I want to thank the hospital doctors and also the people who support us so we can have this surgery," Chinh says happily.

We can't wait to go back to Vietnam and hope you'll be part of the miracles too.

This year, **MIRACLES DAY IS ON THURSDAY 16 AUGUST**. Tune in to your local Christian radio station as we join forces to give 35,000 more Miracle gifts of sight-saving surgery.

# Miracles Day

Miracles Day is now in its sixth year. Together, we've been able to provide over 110,000 Miracles around the globe.



MIRACLE GIFTS OF SIGHT EACH YEAR

2017 33,785  
The Philippines

2016 27,680  
Vietnam

2015 25,142  
Nepal

2014 18,516  
Tanzania

2013 8,595  
Kenya



# YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT

## CHANGED SHAKULU'S LIFE

**Shakulu was waiting for a Christmas miracle. His mother and father united in their faith, presented their requests to God.**

"My prayer to God is to make my son see so that he recognises people," his father shared. And his mother added, "I pray that he is operated on, gets an education and lives a long life."

Full of faith, she told us, "God gave me this child. He alone has a plan for him."

Today we can confidently report back to you, our supporters, that you have played a part in God's plan for this child.

Through the collective effort of each person's generosity, you all played a significant part. Some matched donations, others gave whatever amount was impressed on their heart. And oh, how it multiplied!

With every gift of sight that was given, *twice* as many children like Shakulu had their sight restored!

It's hard to even put into words how significant this is.

Shakulu was blinded by huge cataracts in both eyes. He was bruised and battered from constantly bumping into things.

He had never seen the loving face of his mother. He wouldn't know the fear in her eyes when she pondered his future or the protective, stern looks she gave to the children who teased him for his disability.

His mother worried about his future everyday.

But thanks to the generosity of Australian supporters who gave to double their impact last

>60,561 people  
received sight-saving surgery.

▲ Shakulu's life is back on track after sight-saving surgery

Christmas, Shakulu and almost 20,000 other people can now see again!

After receiving the sight-saving surgery, Shakulu's mother describes his new life,

"Shakulu now goes to school. He is seeing everything for the first time. I can even leave him at home alone and go to the garden. He can find his way to the garden."

His day-to-day life is transformed.

Isn't that the perfect example of love in action? A child, living in the harshest of conditions, has his life turned around by someone on the other side of the world.

Shakulu's thankful father says it so beautifully: "I have nothing to give you, but God should give you blessings, many blessings."

## You Too Can Pray With Us

**A heart-warming message we received from a prayerful supporter:**

Dear Jane,

I just felt like sharing these thoughts with you and all the team at CBM.

Praying each day from the Prayer Diary has made me feel so much a part of this great and well-organised mission. Missions have always been close to our family because my mum was like a missionary to the poor when we lived in India and I have no doubt that God has blessed us abundantly because of her life and her love to give, care, provide food and share her blessing until her death.

I'm so thankful that receiving your Prayer Diary from a friend about four years ago prompted me to support the organisation. I'm so glad now to be a little part of it.

May God continue to bless, guide and direct the Executive staff and all involved at CBM. Blessings for the new year and in all your planning.

Sally

**If you would like to sign up to receive CBM's daily prayers, head to [cbm.org.au/pray](http://cbm.org.au/pray)**





> Vincent is no longer fearful that his children will lose their sight to River Blindness.



# YOU HELPED A FATHER PROTECT HIS CHILDREN FROM RIVER BLINDNESS

Vincent was working outside near a river when he was bitten by a black fly. He just brushed it off, eager to finish work and return home to his family in time for dinner.

Little did he know that the fly carried a parasite which sent hundreds of thousands of larvae through Vincent's body until they eventually reached his eyes.

Before long, the loving father of six from the Democratic Republic of Congo was in agony, struck down by River Blindness which robbed him of sight in his left eye.

Vincent feared what would happen to his family if he lost his right eye as well and couldn't work. He was also terrified that his children would suffer the same fate.

Not a moment too soon, CBM's partners reached Vincent's village to distribute the sight-saving antibiotics that kill the parasite.

"The doctor said the eyesight of my left eye could not be restored. But they hoped to save my right eye with the medicine," Vincent recalled.

It worked! Thanks to CBM supporters, today Vincent can see!

Vincent shudders to think what would have happened without the antibiotics.

"If I imagine to be blind this would be terrible because you could do nothing: you cannot work, you cannot walk around on your own. To be blind would mean that you'll not survive, you'll die," he said.

But Vincent doesn't have to worry about River Blindness anymore.

"Ever since that time I have taken the pills every year... and I don't have fear for my children anymore that they could experience the same fate as me.

>10 million people were provided PREVENTATIVE MEDICATIONS for eye impairing diseases such as River Blindness and Trachoma last year.

"I want to thank those who help that we get the medicine each year. It heals us. Without it, I would be a burden on my family. I wouldn't be able to work.

"The Bible tells stories about blind people being healed. The Lord can heal us. I am so grateful."

Many families such as Vincent's are now safe and secure because of your generosity. Thank you for being God's hands and feet on earth today.



## What causes River Blindness?

It's hard to imagine something worse than having parasitic worms crawling under your skin. But in countries across Africa, these nightmare worms are destroying people's eyes from the inside out. Here's how...

1. A black fly infected with the parasite Onchocerca volvulus bites someone.
2. The worms mature and form nodules under the skin.
3. They reproduce rapidly, sending tiny worm larvae throughout the body – eventually into the eye.
4. As the parasites die, they give off a toxin that destroys the optic tissue, leaving the person blind.
5. The itching is so intense people make special knives to scratch through the skin... then a black fly bites an infected human, starting the cycle over.

Last year CBM reached over 10 million people with sight-saving medication – Ivermectin. But many villages like Vincent's are urgently waiting for help.

Please help STOP River Blindness and your gift will be matched with FREE medication to reach seven times as many families like Vincent's.



Yes, I'll help STOP River Blindness today!

### 1 HERE'S MY GIFT X 7

- ☐ \$36 = \$252 worth of medication to save 50 children from River Blindness
- ☐ \$72 = \$504 worth of medication to save 100 children from River Blindness
- ☐ \$108 = \$756 worth of medication to save 150 children from River Blindness
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to save seven times as many people's sight

### OR MY MONTHLY GIFT

- ☐ \$15/month (50¢ a day)
- ☐ \$30/month (\$1 a day)
- ☐ \$60/month (\$2 a day)
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ / month

First monthly payment date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2018

☐ Please send me information on how I can leave a gift in my Will to CBM Australia.



### 2 MY DETAILS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ P/code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

### 3 PLEASE DEBIT

☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|

Expiry \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_



CBM Australia ABN 23 005 326 849  
PO Box 348 Box Hill VIC 3128  
1800 678 069 [cbm.org.au](http://cbm.org.au)

Gifts of \$2 or more to CBM Australia Overseas Development Fund are tax-deductible. Every dollar from every donation made to CBM Australia will go towards fulfilling our vision for an inclusive world for persons with disabilities. Your gifts will be invested prudently in what you've given to, or where it's needed most. CBMA is committed to protecting your personal information. To find out how we store, secure and use your information read our Privacy Policy at [cbm.org.au](http://cbm.org.au) or call us on 1800 678 069. If you would like to change the frequency you receive updates about CBM Australia's work please contact us at [cbm@cbm.org.au](mailto:cbm@cbm.org.au) or call us on 1800 678 069.





© CBM

## Thank You!

Your gifts and prayers support the life-changing work of CBM and make a lasting difference in the lives of the world's poorest people with disability.

Thanks to your love in action, you're helping break the cycle of poverty and disability, and giving children and families new hope for a brighter future.

“Love one another  
as I have loved you.”

– JOHN 15:12

## LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE

**Including CBM in your Will is a powerful legacy  
with life-changing and eternal impact.**

Through your support you will help end poverty for the world's hardest to reach, invisible and often forgotten people.

Your gift, no matter how big or small, is a generous act of love that can change a life forever.

**For more information on how to leave a lasting gift in your Will,  
please call 1800 678 069  
to speak with our friendly Gift in Will team.**



1800 678 069  
cbm.org.au

### OUR VISION

An inclusive world in which all people with disability enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

### OUR MISSION

CBM is an international Christian development organisation committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disability in the poorest countries of the world.



CBM Australia is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct and a trusted recipient of funding from the Australian Government.



Printed on environmentally accredited, acid free and elemental chlorine-free paper.

© 2018 CBM Australia

Donations to CBM Australia Overseas Development Fund of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



**Australian Government**  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Supported by the Australian Government, DFAT

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

We welcome any feedback on this magazine by email to [feedback@cbm.org.au](mailto:feedback@cbm.org.au). All material in this magazine is subject to copyright; however, articles and photographs may be reproduced with permission from CBM Australia.

CBM Australia  
PO Box 348 Box Hill VIC 3128  
1800 678 069 [cbm.org.au](http://cbm.org.au)

ABN 23 005 326 849