



LIVES RESTORED

Summer 2019

INSIDE: SEE YOUR LOVE IN ACTION RESTORING LIVES AROUND THE WORLD



YOUR LOVE IN ACTION

JANE EDGE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

▲ Jane with a young mother and her two-year-old son, who is being treated for Clubfoot at a CBM-sponsored medical clinic in Ethiopia.

There's something exciting about this time of year. The weather's warm here in Australia, people are relaxed and there's a strong sense of hope for the season ahead.

As I reflect on the previous year, I'd love to take a moment to say a big THANK YOU for your incredible generosity.

In supporting CBM, you have been God's hands and feet – transforming lives forever as you have given to the world's most vulnerable people.

I witnessed this firsthand on a recent trip to Ethiopia, where I met a young mother and her two-year-old son, Kumal, in a medical clinic waiting room.

The mother shared how delighted she was at the dramatic improvement in Kumal's feet as a result of CBM-sponsored treatment for Clubfoot. Fitted with casts just before his first birthday,

Kumal's limbs are now growing straight and his future is filled with possibility.

Thanks to amazing supporters like you, CBM has been working tirelessly for over 110 years to help people like Kumal who are living with disabilities in the poorest places on earth.

In partnership with local medical teams, we reach isolated and impoverished communities, providing medical assistance to millions of people each year in desperate need.

I'm so thankful, and I hope that as you read this magazine you'll be inspired to continue this wonderful work in 2019. Thanks again, and I pray that you have a truly happy new year.

Jane Edge
Chief Executive Officer, CBM Australia

◀ Front cover: Xuan from Vietnam. See page 4 for her story.

MADIYA'S STORY

RESTORED LIVES OVER THE PAST YEAR

Not so long ago, Madiya's legs were twisted so badly that she couldn't even stand, let alone attend school or play with friends.

But as I chatted with this happy 15-year-old in her home on a recent visit to Ethiopia, it struck me again how incredible things can happen when we all work together.

Madiya was born with Bowlegs and received no effective treatment until CBM-sponsored workers first came across her when she was 12 years old.

She was fitted with leg braces and had multiple surgeries to correct the bones in her legs.

Now Madiya is able to walk, albeit with some difficulty, and her quality of life has improved dramatically. She was finally able to attend school and is doing well in her studies.

"School is so good! It is much better than when I could only stay at home," she smiles.

"I like studying English and want to be a doctor."





XUAN'S STORY

“...THE FIRST THING I CAN SEE...”

Despite her cataracts and failing sight, Xuan cycled for two hours through the mountains of Vietnam to reach the medical centre. She'd do it again in a heartbeat if it meant recovering her eyesight.

Xuan was wracked with guilt because low vision meant she could no longer work or help care for her family.

“I feel guilty because I could not contribute to earning income [for] the family and also I have worry in my mind whether I can get my vision back,” Xuan said.

“What happen? I am still healthy and I am not too old... why I cannot see clearly like so many?”

But what happened next was remarkable. After hearing that a CBM partner medical centre was

operating nearby in a remote mountainous region, Xuan climbed on her bike and set off on the arduous journey.

She reached the centre tired but filled with hope that the doctors could help. Xuan was assessed and quickly booked in for surgery to replace the cloudy lenses in her eyes with new artificial lenses to last a lifetime.

The next day her patches were removed and, for the first time, she saw the face of her surgeon.

“I see very clearly, so I am very, very happy!”
Xuan beamed as she looked around.

“Once I return to home, the first thing I can see is my grandchildren clearly and I can enjoy watch them when they are playing with each other.”



CBM



MIRACLES DAY

STORIES FROM LIGHTFM

Award-winning duo Lucy and Kel from Melbourne's LightFM joined Christian radio presenters from around the nation on a life-changing trip to Vietnam for Miracles Day. We asked them what inspired them about Miracles Day.

Lucy: You know, there's a great quote by Saint Augustine that says, "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." That sums it up for me. There is nothing greater in life than love. And Miracles Day is love in action.

Kel: If it is in your power to help others, then that's what you must do. It's an absolute honour and privilege to travel overseas with CBM and give sight to the blind. Every year, no matter where they want to send us, we are in. There's no better feeling than helping those in desperate need.

Lucy: I remember on one trip to Nepal sitting opposite an 80-year-old man who had been blind for years and

received his cataract surgery a day earlier. They took the patches off his eyes and I was the first thing he saw. We stared at each other, and whilst I burst into tears, he grinned and clapped. We held hands, and although we couldn't speak the same language, we both knew how emotional and incredible the moment was. That memory, his smile, is burnt into my mind. I've never seen such joy.

Kel: Everyone we meet who has their sight restored is so unbelievably grateful. They beg us to thank the people who made it happen. People just like you.

Lucy: On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of people who were blind and can now see... thank you. You have given them their lives back. You have given them hope.

She was also excited to get back to work, farming bamboo and vegetables, to help support her family.

"Now I can have my vision back I am really happy, I have no concern... I feel really free like nothing to worry anymore."

Xuan's gratitude is overwhelming, and she enthusiastically shakes hands in the medical centre.

"I want to say thank you very much for all the support I have received. I don't [know] how to say thank you but just thank you!"



YASIN'S STORY

IN BANGLADESH

From the Field

Inside a sweltering camp for 600,000 Rohingya refugees, CBM's David Brown discovered that, for so many of these people, their trauma did not end at the border.

On a recent trip to one of the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh, David explained how the impoverished Rohingya people had been forced to flee persecution from authorities in their homeland of Myanmar.

Sadly their arrival at the crowded camp brought new problems, with many struggling to overcome physical and psychological issues as a result of the horrors they experienced.

Adding to the sense of fear for parents are recent reports that child traffickers are working in the refugee camps.

However, David says thanks to the generosity of supporters, CBM has established child friendly spaces inside the camp where children can learn and socialise without fear.

CBM has also set up health centres providing counselling, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. Optometrists are on hand to test eyes and fit glasses, which may have been lost when people fled their homes.

"This is the beauty of this particular service that you have supported," David says. "It has actually got all the services in one spot which is quite unusual in this incredibly large camp."

After enduring so much turmoil in his young life, 10-year-old Yasin's future is looking brighter thanks to the generosity of CBM supporters.

Yasin, who lost his hearing to failed ear surgery at the age of three, was recently fitted with a hearing aid at the Rohingya refugee camp he now calls home in Bangladesh.

The young boy and his family fled there from neighbouring Myanmar when their home was burnt down and Yasin's grandparents were killed in front of him.

"For seven days we hid in the forest without any food," his mother, Anwara, said.

Their escape from Myanmar was treacherous, with soldiers and thieves lying in wait along the route. To make matters worse, Yasin was traumatised and could only communicate with hand gestures.

But when a CBM partner inclusive Child Friendly Space opened adjacent to the medical centre, Yasin slowly started to find peace again.

"He has made friends," his mother beams. "He doesn't wander and comes home on time."

Y





YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT **CHANGED**

From beggar to barber, Abdul is living proof of how a helping hand can change someone's life and community forever.

Standing inside his small barber shop, Abdul explained that he was sent to work in the fields as a young boy after his father died.

Abdul earned just enough for the family to survive – that is, until both his legs were crushed one day by a panicked cow.

Unable to access proper medical assistance in remote Bangladesh, his legs never healed correctly. Abdul lost his job and was forced to beg on the street at the age of 10.

He hated begging. People spat on him, and even his married sister called Abdul useless and forced him to live in a goat stable.

So when a friendly neighbour offered to support him in starting his own business, Abdul jumped

at the chance. He borrowed a small amount of money and bought a pair of scissors and a mirror.

“I just went to the street, offering my services. Nobody taught me how to do it – [I was] learning by doing,” Abdul says with a smile.

In the beginning, he didn't charge a fixed price for a haircut. Each customer decided what they were willing to pay.

“I didn't dare to ask for money. I thought, well, I am still learning,” he said.

Soon Abdul had earned enough money to leave the goat stable and move into his own hut. He got married and now has three young children.

But living with disabilities in Bangladesh is not easy, and several times he has been almost caught in rising waters during monsoon season. It was after one of these close calls that CBM



ABDUL'S LIFE FOREVER

disaster risk reduction staff approached Abdul about taking on a leadership role in his community.

After being trained, he founded a self-help group for people with disabilities and now helps coordinate evacuation proceedings during monsoons.

On top of this, CBM supported his business with a \$400 loan to buy his first barber shop. He also bought two chairs and electric clippers, allowing him to attract more customers.


Abdul and his wife now own a small piece of land and a cow, chickens and ducks. And his friends from the self-help group work on the farm.

What a remarkable turn-around, from a struggling beggar to a respected businessman with a heart to help others in the community. Thank you.


Top-selling Meaningful Gifts


Thank you to all those who gave a Meaningful Gift in 2018. You've given a gift of a lifetime!


Here is a list of our top-selling gifts of 2018.

1  **Glasses for children**
This gift provides 10 children with a pair of glasses each, allowing them to see clearly at school.

2  **Sight for Life pack**
This amazing bundle provides sight-saving surgery for someone living needlessly blind as well as 10 pairs of glasses for people living in poverty with a disability.

3  **Crutches**
This gift will get someone back on their feet and enjoying the freedom of moving around on their own.

4  **Sight for an Adult**
In just 12 minutes this gift will change a life forever! That's how long it takes a surgeon to replace a cloudy lenses with a clear, new plastic lenses to last a lifetime.

5  **Goat**
This gift helps someone with a disability buy a goat, providing them with a regular source of milk and manure to grow more nutritious food.



Tayitu, a recipient of sight-saving Trachoma surgery, sits with her family in Ethiopia.

TRACHOMA IN ETHIOPIA

Trachoma is the leading cause of infectious blindness in the world, with more than 3.2 million people requiring eye surgery to stop this excruciating disease.

Millions more are at risk of the bacterial infection. One of the worst hit areas is the Amhara region in Ethiopia, where two in every three young children are infected with Trachoma.

These children urgently require antibiotics and possibly surgery on painful in-turned eyelids to prevent the disease permanently robbing them of their sight. For those in poor communities, blindness means they are unable to work, pushing them deeper into poverty.

Poor hygiene is a major factor in the spread of the disease, particularly between an infected

mother and her children. Crowded houses and inadequate sanitation has also allowed Trachoma to spread rapidly in impoverished areas.

CBM is working in the Amhara region to provide access to surgery and distribute antibiotics that have been generously donated by a pharmaceutical company.

We are also helping to educate children on hygiene practices that will protect them from the disease as well as providing inclusive water schemes and accessible toilets for people with disabilities.



SAFE Strategy

Trachoma flourishes in places where clean water is in short supply and personal hygiene is compromised.

CBM's most effective weapons in stopping the spread of this terrible disease are to improve access to fresh water and teach hygiene to children, in particular regular hand and face washing.

Ethiopia is a Trachoma hotspot right now, with over 60% of the population afflicted by the disease. CBM is setting up anti-Trachoma clubs in schools, promoting hygiene and the SAFE strategy (surgery, antibiotics, facial cleanliness and environmental improvement).

The SAFE strategy is already paying off, with Ethiopian teachers reporting a dramatic reduction in the number of children attending school with dirty faces. It is a simple strategy that we believe will help bring an end to Trachoma.

Working with the Global Trachoma Initiative since 2010, CBM has helped:

Construct **>250**
water schemes, benefitting
>80,000 people.

Screen
>12,000
patients for Trachoma.

Distribute antibiotics to
7,500 people at risk
of Trachoma.

Provide sight-saving
3,200 surgery to
people with
Trachoma.

Together, we can end this terrible disease and give children a bright future.



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 change the lives of those
living with disability in poverty, for generations to come.

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

**If this is something you would like to prayerfully consider,
you can find out more by calling our friendly staff
on 1800 678 069.**



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.



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CBM Australia
PO Box 348 Box Hill VIC 3128
1800 678 069 cbm.org.au