



IMPACT REPORT 2024

cbm New Zealand



Cover and Above: 7-year-old Kajal is so happy to have received life-changing surgery for severe bow legs at a **cbm**-funded hospital in Nepal. She continues to receive rehabilitation and physiotherapy to ensure her legs are strong and she can walk freely.

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cbm aspires to follow the teachings
and example of Jesus as stated in
Luke 10:27 in His command:

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your strength and with all
your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself.”**

A MESSAGE FROM CBM'S BOARD CHAIR

The **cbm** Board is inspired by the achievements in the field, and New Zealanders across the land have responded with open hearts to the stories of success that we tell. We are grateful for you all.

We have sustained the higher revenue of recent years from both generous private supporters and the New Zealand Government. This means we once again sent a high level of funding to international programmes.

Our programmes range from inclusive education in Papua New Guinea and rehabilitation of children with orthopaedic needs in Nepal, through to eye surgeries and sight and hearing loss prevention across the world.

I'd like to express my thanks to you, our faithful supporters, our Board and staff, our volunteers, and our many partners. The Board and senior staff worked together to develop a new strategy this year to respond to the core opportunities and challenges we can identify in this fast changing world.

At the end of the year, we welcomed two new Board members. We also farewelled Ray Coster from the Board, who is much loved after 10 years of service, including 2 years as Chair and many more representing us on the global stage. Ray's dedication, good-heartedness and wisdom will be missed.

Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to serve people with disabilities most in need across the globe.

- Hanré Becker



A MESSAGE FROM CBM'S CEO

Welcome to the **cbm** New Zealand Impact Report for 2024.

We give thanks to God once again for a year of hard work from a great team to achieve our mission aims in tandem with our overseas partners and our wonderful supporters in New Zealand who give sacrificially. What big hearts!

We were successful with funding bids through the Aotearoa New Zealand Cooperation programme, managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), for Papua New Guinea (including for earthquake and flood responses) and the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. We have continued projects made possible by legacy and 'living legacy' gifts. Our funds sent to field partners remain high.

Our engagement with New Zealand churches has grown, bringing awareness of disability, and we successfully promoted use of New Zealand Sign Language in Christian conferences.

We've continued being responsive to our supporters' giving preferences. We added a focus day for blessing people with disabilities in less developed countries through **cbm** – our 'giving day'. This was very successful and is a testament to the generosity of Kiwi supporters as they spread God's love and concern for people with disabilities across the world.

We supported capacity of our Pacific partners and organisations of people with disabilities. In particular, we strengthened systems and appointed staff in our country office in Papua New Guinea, to increase localisation, delivery, monitoring, and partnership development.

This year we finalised a new strategy to action from 2025 and I'm thankful for our talented Board and staff teams, as well as incredible partners internationally. I always feel warmth and gratitude for my senior leadership team.

Thanks for joining with us. We are all partners with God working with people with disabilities, so that all can thrive, have more choices, and be more empowered.

- Dr Murray Sheard



Murray Sheard farewells Ray Coster after 10-plus years of service on the **cbm** NZ Board. Ray's dedication, good-heartedness and wisdom will be missed.

"The justice of your cause
will shine like the noonday sun."

– Psalm 37:6



Without life-changing surgery, Gum's future was bleak. But thanks to the regular gifts from generous **cbm** Child Sponsors, Gum's legs are now straight, helping him keep up with his peers and attend school!

HOW THE CBM NZ FAMILY WITH CBM GLOBAL CHANGED THE WORLD IN 2024

As a valued supporter, your generosity has helped many people. Below are the number of people impacted by the projects to which **cbm** New Zealand contributed:

2,550,642 people
helped to break the cycle of
poverty and disability including:

REACHING
2,465,808 people
to prevent disabilities

SUPPORTING
56,886 people with medical screenings
19,441 people with health services

EMPOWERING
5,340 people
through development programmes

ASSISTING
16,820 people and their families
in emergency situations

YOUR SUPPORT HAS FUNDED
17 projects in **13** countries
working with **16** local partners

WHERE CBM NEW ZEALAND WORKED





OUR WORK

DISABILITY PREVENTION

2,465,808 people reached to help prevent Neglected Tropical Diseases

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) affect communities in Nigeria in multiple ways. Diseases like Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis) and Onchocerciasis (River Blindness), lead to long-term suffering, pain, and disability. When affected people can't work or go to school, it reduces income and limits opportunities for families and communities. The diseases lead to long term suffering, pain and disability, reinforcing widespread poverty.

cbm has supported Nigeria's government to control the spread of NTDs, particularly those that can lead to visual and mobility impairments. **cbm's** long term programme has contributed to the elimination of Onchocerciasis (River Blindness) and Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis) in some countries. Efforts in mass drug administration, better sanitation, and education campaigns for improved hygiene practices have resulted in reduced transmission.

In 2024, the project also provided support to people who have already been infected by NTDs with surgical interventions and rehabilitation to improve dignity, mobility and quality of life. People living with more advanced stages of Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis) have received treatment through delivery of limb care management and psychosocial support.

The project has also ensured that local partners have been able to strengthen the government health system. Local capacity has been developed for disease control strategies, drug management and distribution, early identification of disease conditions and treatment registration and reporting.

Over three phases, this project has significantly reduced the burden of these debilitating NTDs on individuals and communities.

Good health and clean water go hand in hand. So having access to clean water from well-maintained boreholes in Nigeria, helps free children and adults from contracting Neglected Tropical Diseases like River Blindness.

"Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham..." – Genesis 26:18

Women and children spend many hours walking to the river to gather muddied and contaminated water, but thanks to generous people like you, they now have access to clean fresh water from well-maintained boreholes.



WATER , SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH) IN NIGERIA

Around the world, there are millions of people who do not have access to fresh clean water. **cbm's** Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project (WASH) focuses on delivering clean water and good sanitation practices to communities to prevent Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) from taking hold again.

Having access to clean water from well-maintained boreholes helps free communities from contracting NTDs. It also means children and adults no longer need to spend many hours walking to the river to gather muddied and contaminated water.

Fresh clean water helps keep people healthy. And healthy people are more productive, able to access education and employment, and have a far greater chance of breaking the cycle of poverty and disability.

Clean water from boreholes is vital to a community, but many existing boreholes have stopped functioning for various reasons. They are often broken and in need of urgent repair due to their age.

One very important aspect of **cbm's** WASH programme is training local people to repair broken wells. As a result of this practical training, people in remote communities, including people with disabilities, now have access to fresh clean water from their newly refurbished boreholes.

Thanks to generous people like you, new or refurbished boreholes are available to people in remote areas, providing an easy-to-reach source of fresh clean water. And adding wheelchair ramps helps make gathering water safer and more accessible for people with disabilities. Thank you for your support.

OUR WORK

HEALTH SERVICES

56,886 people accessed health services, comprising:

- 33,715** people screened for eye disease
- 14,651** people screened for ear and hearing care
- 8,520** people screened for physical, mental health and other medical conditions

19,441 people received medical treatment, comprising:

- 13,003** people treated for blinding diseases
- 5,661** people received cataract operations
- 6,216** people treated for ear and hearing care and other medical conditions

In addition to the figures above, 13,961 people were supported to access mainstream medical services through improved referral pathways, and 3,938 life-changing assistive devices were fitted across different **cbm** programmes.

With your generous support, **cbm**-funded programmes helped ensure that people with disabilities were included and had access to life-changing surgeries for eye health, ear and hearing care, obstetric fistula, and orthopaedic conditions such as clubfoot, unset fractures and bone infections, as well as providing rehabilitation services and psychosocial support as required.

MEDICAL TRAINING - UPSKILLING OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

In 2024, **cbm** supported training of 6,862 health workers. In Papua New Guinea our **cbm** Senior Ophthalmologist, with over 30 years of experience working in low and middle income countries, trained a local eye nurse who will be working in a new eye service in a neighbouring province with high rates of avoidable blindness. After bringing eight ex-patriate eye doctors to work in Papua New Guinea over the years, we are pleased to report that our **cbm** partner has recruited a full-time locally trained ophthalmologist.



In Papua New Guinea, local ophthalmologist Dr Wahamu is passionate about restoring sight through the miracle of cataract surgery.



Stellar, from rural Zimbabwe, was astonished to hear that she would receive sight-saving cataract surgery at a **cbm**-funded hospital, thanks to generous people like you.

SIGHT-SAVING CATARACT SURGERY IN ZIMBABWE

Stellar is in her eighties, and even in her advancing years, she loves to be productive – toiling on rough ground in remote eastern Zimbabwe, growing maize for her family to provide a little income. Hard, endless work, but Stellar loves being useful and productive.

Being useful and productive hasn't always been possible for Stellar due to her eyes misting over with blinding cataracts – until she could no longer even see the food on her plate.

Cataracts sometimes grow slowly. But not for Stellar. The veil over her eyes fell quickly, until even by peering closely, she could no longer work. "It was hard to tell the weeds from the maize plant," she lamented.

Her independence faded quickly, just like her sight. She could no longer grow her own food or earn an income. Her blindness even made it too dangerous to walk alone. If she fell, there was no medical care to help with broken bones or wounds that could bring life-threatening infection.

Stellar had no choice but to move in with her relatives. They fed her, bathed her, guided her to walk, and even helped her to use the bathroom. It saddened Stellar that she needed more care than even the youngest child.

The family didn't mind though. They love Stellar, and wanted to help her, but her need for constant care took them away from their own economic needs, cutting into their working hours. This is how disabilities, like blindness from cataracts, make poverty even worse for families in the world's poorest places.

"I cannot do anything for myself," she grieved. "I used to fetch water. I used to sell my garden produce. I can't do it anymore. I miss it. I spend the day just sitting."

But thanks to generous people like you, a **cbm**-funded field worker found Stellar in her remote village and shared the good news that in just 12 minutes of surgery, provided free of charge by faithful and kind-hearted people, her days of darkness would end.

Stellar was beside herself with astonishment. "I will be able to see again! I am overjoyed! I did not know or think that my condition could be cured!"

After Stellar's sight-saving surgery, when her bandages were removed, she cried out in happiness, "Everything looks so clear!"

The surgeon asked, "How many fingers am I raising?"

"Four!" Stellar happily replied. "Thank you God!"

OBSTETRIC FISTULA SURGERY IN NIGERIA

Few people in New Zealand know how debilitating living with obstetric fistula is: how a mother can go for years, decades, even a lifetime – constantly cleaning and wrapping herself, separating herself from society, because she cannot stop her body from leaking its waste.

Thanks to wonderful support like yours, mothers like Jamila are receiving a gift greater than they could ask or imagine. Jamila received the skillful surgical support and loving aftercare that gave her freedom from obstetric fistula!

Obstetric fistula only really affects mothers' lives in places of extreme poverty, where there are virtually no resources for maternal healthcare. Nigeria is one of the ten most dangerous places for a mother to give birth. Of the more than one hundred thousand cases of obstetric fistula every year, forty thousand will occur in Nigeria.

Jamila did at least have a hospital to go to for the birth of her second baby. However, when she experienced a third-degree tear in childbirth, she only received basic surface stitches. No-one realised how deeply the tear had wounded her.

Bodily waste from an obstetric fistula started leaking through her birth canal. She was deeply shocked and utterly mortified.

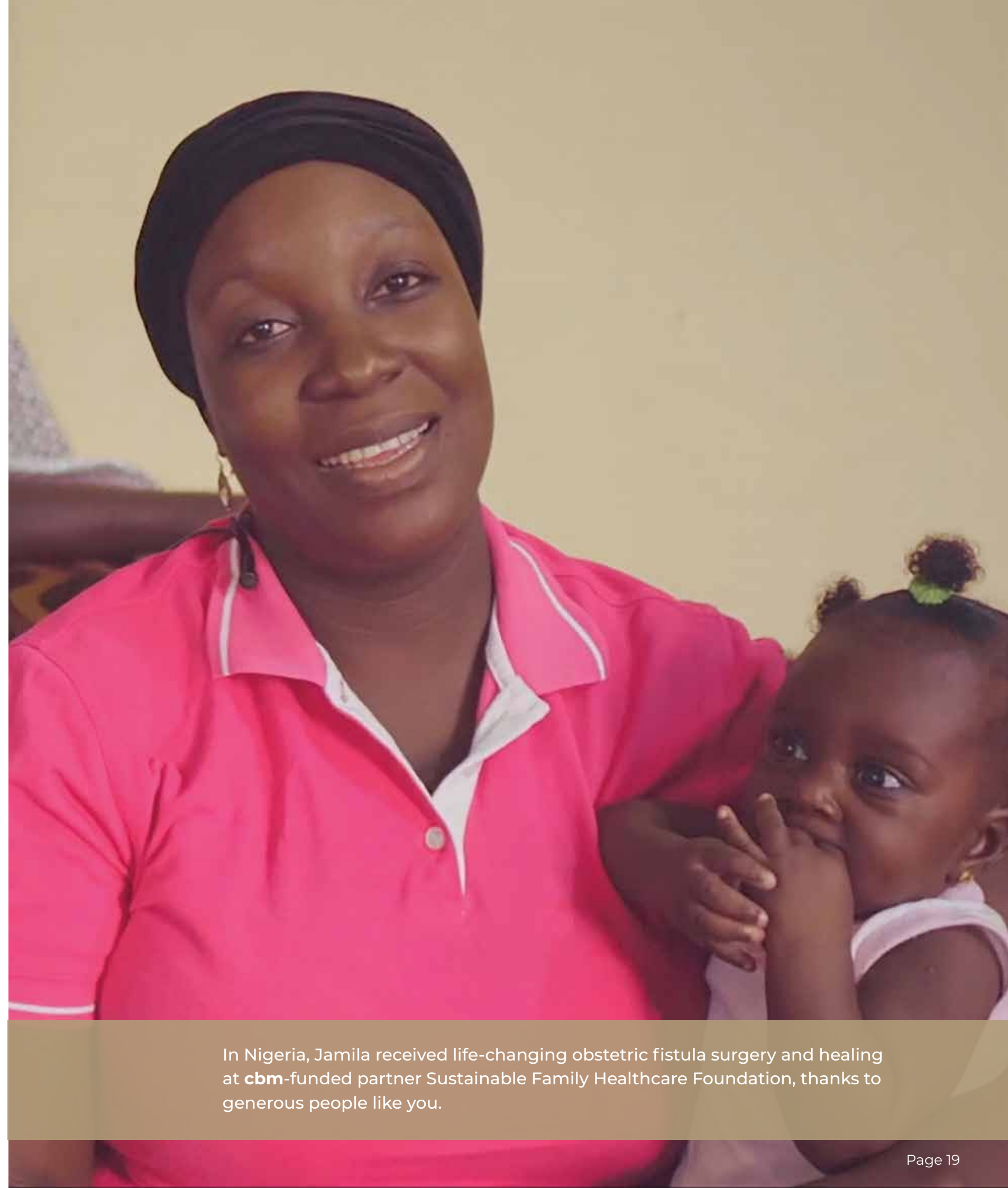
Imagine Jamila's future without the support of generous people like you. She would live trapped in her room, unable to go to work, to the market or to church, because it would be impossible to hide her overpowering smell. Without surgery the leaking would never stop.

The **cbm**-funded partner Sustainable Family Healthcare Foundation is the ministry that cared for Jamila. "They were such a blessing and the surgery was successfully done," she says, beaming with a smile so broad and joyful. "I'm out of that terrible experience!"

Likewise, her husband's eyes light up as he too delights in the great gift you have given to his precious wife. Her husband says, "I was touched by what was happening there. We are grateful and we pray that Almighty God will keep on strengthening this organisation to do more and more, so that the lives of others will be touched."

We are grateful to God too – especially for people like you. Without you, there can be no **cbm**, no expert help for mothers suffering this humiliating disability. It is a rare person who even knows about obstetric fistula in our time.

Thank you for being willing to bring hope and joy back to the hearts of mothers, like Jamila.



In Nigeria, Jamila received life-changing obstetric fistula surgery and healing at **cbm**-funded partner Sustainable Family Healthcare Foundation, thanks to generous people like you.



Kajal and Omkar's father has known a lifetime of pain, prejudice and poverty, but thanks to generous people like you, the children received life-changing surgery for their severe bow legs and ongoing rehabilitation at a **cbm**-funded hospital in Nepal.

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION IN NEPAL

Just like any 7-year-old girl, Kajal comes up with an exciting new dream just about every day! Sometimes she wants to become a doctor and some days she wants to join the police.

But as her father Babulal knows only too well – without life-changing surgery – her severe bow legs will limit her dreams.

And unfortunately, Kajal is not the only one in her family who knows first-hand the pain and prejudice of living with severe bow legs.

Her father Babulal was born with the same condition. And Kajal's 5-year-old brother, Omkar, too. In fact, this hereditary condition has affected this family for generations.

As Babulal says, "My father and I have the same condition as my children. But because of poverty and our poor economic condition we couldn't have treatment and it is too late."

Babulal shares how he felt when he found out both his children had bow legs too... "I was heartbroken because I have already faced the same issue. The pain, the stigma that's attached and will follow... I suffer a lot by seeing their struggle."

You can imagine how heart wrenching it must be for Babulal to watch his precious children growing up with this debilitating condition, knowing full well what their future holds.

Living in a remote region of Nepal where treatment for conditions like bow legs isn't readily available, the family couldn't afford the surgery themselves.

Despite his own pain, Babulal works hard selling crops, doing everything he can just to put food on the table for his family.

As you can imagine, there is simply no extra money to pay for specialist medical treatment like the surgery Kajal and Omkar need.

In cases like this, it's important children are able to access life-changing surgery, before it's too late.

But thanks to generous people like you, Kajal and Omkar received the life-changing surgery, rehabilitation and physiotherapy they needed for their severe bow legs. Their lives are completely transformed.

"Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Gum was born with severe knock knees, in the heart of a poor community in Uganda's bustling capital city Kampala. He is a much-loved younger son to his mother Aciro.

His mother first noticed his legs were bending inwards when he was just a baby. She felt helpless as she didn't know where to turn for help, and hoped that it would go away as he grew, but it never did.

Gum's condition limited his interactions with other children, and he was unable to attend school with his peers. He often watched the other children as they left for school, wishing he could join them. But his knock-knees made it difficult for him to walk long distances, let alone attend school.

It broke his mother's heart to see him struggle each day, and she wished she could afford the surgery so that he could then attend school.

Thanks to generous people like you, there was hope for Gum.

At the hospital called CoRSU – for Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services for People with Disability in Uganda – the lives of thousands of children like Gum are changed. It is an amazing oasis of healing... warm welcome... and world-class care.

The generous gifts regularly given, make this wonderful work possible.

Gum spent two weeks at CoRSU. The surgical team focused intently on a fascinating procedure. Small metal plates were fixed onto Gum's leg bones, to slowly bring his knees into alignment over time. The operation was a great success.

Aciro's joy was overwhelming! She is so grateful to people like you. "I know this came from God," she said, adding: "I want to thank those people for what they have done. The mockery and laughing will stop. We shall live in peace."

Gum has returned to CoRSU several times, for rehabilitation to strengthen leg muscles; release tightness; and improve his gait.

Mum says, "Before ... the other children didn't want to play with him. Now it's 'come and play football.'"

Best of all, Gum can now go to school. Mum said, "I can hardly believe it. He's a different boy. His head is high and he is very tall."

Thank you for helping make impossible dreams come true.

Generous **cbm** Child Sponsors help children with disabilities receive the vital support they need through regular gifts, making impossible dreams come true. 5-year-old Gum received life-changing surgery at a **cbm**-funded hospital in Uganda.





Simon is so grateful to generous **cbm** supporters for providing Ready-to-Clip glasses. He can see clearly for the first time in years, and he cherishes being able to drive again.

BRINGING VISION WITHIN REACH: A PARTNERSHIP CHANGING LIVES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In Papua New Guinea, long- and short-sightedness are among the leading causes of avoidable blindness. Without something as simple as a pair of glasses, daily life can become a struggle: children fall behind in school, roads become more dangerous, livelihoods disappear, and independence slips away.

To address this, **cbm** has partnered with the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation to expand access to quality vision care. Through this collaboration, local nursing staff are being trained to deliver eye screenings and refraction services, bringing long-term capability into the country's health system.

One of the first to benefit is 72-year-old Simon, from a remote village in the Eastern Highlands.

For 25 years, Simon worked as a truck driver. It wasn't just a job – it was his way of providing for his family and earning respect in his community. But in his mid-fifties, his vision began to fail. Driving became unsafe. Eventually, he had to give up his work. The loss of income, daily purpose, and human connection left him increasingly isolated.

Simon's journey to care was far from easy.

In a place where terrain is harsh and roads are limited, accessing an eye clinic meant arranging a two-way journey by 4WD vehicle – a trip few in his position could manage.

But at a new community eye clinic supported by **cbm**, and strengthened through OneSight Foundation's technical assistance, Simon finally found help. His eyesight was assessed, and he was prescribed glasses with different strengths in each eye, something that standard reading glasses couldn't address.

Thanks to the Ready-to-Clip glasses, Simon was able to receive a customised solution on the spot. For the first time in years, he could see clearly again.

His face lit up. "I will drive again," he said, with pure happiness.

Through this partnership, thousands more Papua New Guineans, especially in remote areas, will be able to access glasses that can restore not just sight, but dignity, livelihood, and connection.

cbm acknowledges the support of the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme for its contribution to **cbm's** work in Papua New Guinea.

OUR WORK EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT

5,340 people empowered through development programmes, comprising:

1,663 people supported to access education services

1,923 people participated in peer support / self-help groups including 1,121 people with disabilities

1,227 people supported in economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods

527 teachers received education-related training

Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) is a ministry that ensures people with disabilities are respected and included in their communities on an equal basis in all areas of life. This approach is people centred, community driven and human rights based.

INCLUSIVE LIVELIHOODS

For people with disabilities, earning an income is empowering, bringing the respect of others, including the respect of their families, and it also enables other opportunities. In 2024, **cbm** worked in Laos and the Solomon Islands assisting people with disabilities to gain access to vocational training and employment.

Empowering people with disabilities through economic opportunities in these programmes, enables more participation in community life and steps towards economic independence. Through these programmes, people with disabilities and vulnerable groups build sustainable livelihood opportunities and are empowered to access their human rights for health care, rehabilitation, clean water, sanitation and hygiene. The local **cbm**-funded partners aim to create accessible and inclusive environments that support small home-based businesses, with training and skills development, and links to markets. For individuals with disabilities, this is especially important to ensure they have equal access to opportunities and resources as any other member of the community. The programmes foster positive attitudes towards people with disabilities and create opportunities for social interaction within the communities. By having a sustainable livelihood, people living in remote or rural communities have experienced improved health, greater access to education, and an overall sense of well-being.

Georgine has been attending school at one of the nine **cbm**-funded Competence Centres in Madagascar, to learn braille and access the standard curriculum thanks to the support of generous people like you.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Generous support like yours, to the **cbm**-funded KoloHay Inclusive Education Programme, continues to provide children with visual or hearing impairment with quality education in 7 regions of Madagascar. In 2024, this project supported 9 Competence Centres (4 schools for the blind and 5 schools for the deaf). Every staff member is fluent in sign language or can transcribe braille, so that they can provide more in-depth support to the learners.

All students who are supported by the **cbm**-funded programme receive all services free of charge: including school fees, school supplies, boarding, and food costs, access to medical screening and further treatment as required.

Additionally, the Competence Centres have a close relationship with mainstream schools, also supporting them to deliver inclusive education for students with visual or hearing impairment – through the training of teachers, provision of educational materials which serve as learning aid tools, and accessibility refurbishments. In 2024 the programme worked with 78 mainstream schools which enrolled 536 students with visual or hearing impairment.



Because of people like you, Thongphet now looks forward to the future with hope - for himself, his family, and his community. Thank you for making this possible!

INCLUSIVE LIVELIHOODS IN LAOS

Thongphet has a physical disability that impacts his ability to walk and has faced many challenges in providing for his family. Through **cbm**-funded projects in rural communities of Luang Prabang, he is one of 4,076 people that have directly benefited from this project which is funded by **cbm** supporters and our Government's Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme.

Thongphet received three goats and helps care for his sister's goats as well – creating a sustainable source of income. With nine goat kids born and five sold, the money has been used for food, healthcare, and his children's education. He proudly shares that his children are thriving in school!

To support people with disabilities to participate in livelihoods, a health and rehabilitation needs assessment was conducted with each person across 20 villages. Based on this assessment, 65 people like Thongphet were supported to access health services including assistive devices, ear and eye treatment, and ongoing support. Now, 121 households have had accessible toilets constructed and 474 households were reached with hygiene and sanitation awareness.

Kindness from people like you ensures that Thongphet's goats receive regular care from a district agricultural officer. It also enables him to receive training in animal husbandry, financial management, and disability rights – empowering him to actively participate in village meetings and community life. Because of this vital support, Thongphet now looks forward to the future with hope – for himself, his family, and his community.

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My loving eye on you.” – Psalms 32:8

OUR WORK

HUMANITARIAN ACTION

16,820 people assisted in emergencies with humanitarian support including 3,513 people with disabilities

INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT IN THE PACIFIC

cbm has been supporting disability inclusive humanitarian action in the Pacific through a partnership with Pacific Disability Forum that focuses on three Pacific countries; Tonga, Samoa, and Cook Islands. Across these countries, **cbm** supports eight different Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). Disaster resource teams are now established within the OPDs, so that inclusive strategies are supported in plans of the national emergency response teams. This is so that any emergency response, whether in preparation for natural disasters, providing immediate assistance, or recovery efforts later, can be inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities.

RESPONSE TO TROPICAL CYCLONE TRAMI (KRISTINE) IN THE PHILIPPINES

Severe tropical storm Trami (or local name; Kristine) moved through parts of the West Philippines in October 2024. Over 160 cities and municipalities were declared under a State of Emergency, with widespread flooding, power outages, and water supply interruptions. There were over 178 fatalities.

In November 2024, **cbm** joined efforts for an inclusive humanitarian response plan for people with disabilities and other vulnerable sectors in the hardest hit municipalities in the provinces of Albay, Catanduanes and Camarines Sur in Bicol region.

Humanitarian response activities include the provision of multi-purpose cash grants, provision of assistive devices and rehabilitation services, as well as mental health and psychosocial training, along with support services in affected communities. This project continues into 2025, aiming to meet the priority needs of about 1,700 typhoon-affected households (approximately 8,500 individuals) experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

– Hebrews 13:16



Children in Madagascar are curious and cheerful despite food shortages due to climate change, tropical storms and common drought.

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE IN SOUTH MADAGASCAR

Madagascar ranks 172nd in the 2024 Human Development Report, with 76% of the population living below the poverty line. Communities face recurrent humanitarian crises caused by climate change, with tropical storms, seasonal flooding and drought sadly common. From an agricultural perspective, soil fertility is deteriorating and rainfall variability is increasingly disrupting agricultural calendars.

This **cbm** humanitarian response project supports the training of individuals, families and households, on risk and disaster management. Six Farmer Field Schools were operationalised in 2024 to support individuals and households to not only maintain sufficient produce for self-consumption, but also ensure the ability to sustain a livelihood via selling at the local market.

This project also enables advocacy, awareness and support for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) so that they have a voice at the national level to ensure long-term humanitarian recovery for people with disabilities.

RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE AND FLOODING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Near the beginning of 2024, torrential rains combined with strong winds triggered widespread flooding and landslides in the provinces of East Sepik and Chimbu in Papua New Guinea. A 6.9 magnitude earthquake further exacerbated the impacts. Redeploying a number of personnel and services that **cbm** already supported in the region, **cbm** was able to provide life-saving essentials following these natural disasters by extending health and disabilities services to impacted regions, including the provision of funds to help build back livelihoods. Over 1,000 people were supported to access health services to screen for eye and ear diseases, and given medical clinical treatment, with over 250 people referred to local health and rehabilitation services for further support. Additionally, nearly 200 hygiene kits were provided to impacted families. In 2024, over 8,500 people had already been provided with essential assistance, and by the conclusion of this project in April 2025, over 17,500 vulnerable people will have been provided with essential assistance.



cbm seconded Ear Nose Throat (ENT) specialist Dr Mary Ponifasio, coordinated a team of local health professionals to conduct medical outreach camps to remote locations affected by the earthquakes and mudslides in Chimbu and East Sepik, PNG.

PROVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH

In 2017, over one million Rohingya fled Myanmar, settling and finding refuge in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar. Initially there were no services for refugees with pre-existing disabilities, those who acquired traumatic injuries prior to, and during, their journey to Bangladesh, and those who developed medical conditions or disabilities since arriving in the refugee camps. Seeing this need, **cbm** has been supporting disability inclusion services in the camps since 2018. In 2024, **cbm** support focused on the provision of rehabilitation services across a number of camps; provision of assistive devices and referrals for health services, and informing communities about the needs of people with disabilities to increase awareness and participation of people with disabilities – both within the camps and the local communities living alongside the camps. In 2024, rehabilitation services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Language Therapy were provided to 2,239 people. 768 people received vision and hearing screening services, while 523 assistive/ therapeutic devices (such as crutches, wheelchairs, glasses and hearing aids) were provided to 494 people.

In Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazar District, people with disabilities continued to be excluded from social, economic, and educational opportunities. They lacked awareness of their rights, and had limited access to support services. Opportunities to voice their opinions in social forums and spaces were also rare, where they often endured negative perceptions from the community.

To help address this, the **cbm**-funded Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) engaged with people with disabilities to support the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The aim was to help people with disabilities to unite, claim their rights, allow access to resources, and drive positive change. Several people with disabilities in the Ratnapalang Ward reached out to CDD, expressing their willingness to form SHGs. CDD organised a meeting and brought together people with disabilities, community members, and local leaders. A management committee was also formed to ensure the effective leadership and smooth operation of the groups. Meeting monthly, the SHGs served as regular gatherings to discuss personal and collective issues, as well as awareness sessions aimed at increasing the understanding of rights, advocacy, accessibility, and inclusion. Additionally, skill development training has been offered to these groups.

The establishment of these SHGs has significantly transformed the community's approach to disability inclusion. Key achievements include empowerment and participation, with members discussing challenges, and learning how to ensure inclusion in community discussions, such as preparing for a disaster. Advocacy success has also been evident, as the groups work to promote disability rights and collaborate with local government around developing policies for inclusion. Moreover, members actively assist in obtaining Citizen Cards and Disability Allowance Cards for people with disabilities, improving access to essential services. Finally, the groups' efforts have fostered greater community acceptance and reduced stigma surrounding people with disabilities.



Abdu is so grateful to generous supporters like you for the physiotherapeutic assessment and rehabilitation he receives.

LIFE-CHANGING SUPPORT FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Seven years ago, Abdu arrived in the camps with his wife and six children. He was also accompanied by his mother and a brother, with many family members being left behind (but who have since arrived over the last 4 years). Abdu has also fathered another child since being in the camp.

When he lived in Myanmar he led an active life of playing sports and spending time outdoors with his children.

This changed when he was held in detention by authorities in Myanmar. Injuries from this period have resulted in muscle and neurological damage, as well as ongoing back and leg pain.

Abdu's injuries led to challenges with being able to grip or hold anything, as well as issues with walking and balance, and toileting himself.

It was only after hearing about the services of **cbm** and the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) that he was able to make his way to the clinic to be assessed for long overdue treatment and support. This assessment of therapeutic support was delivered by mobile health providers at the Primary Health Care Centre and hospital of the International Federation of the Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)/ Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS).

There he has received physiotherapy for pain, and has also learnt some self-care therapy that he can do at home. His pain has reduced, and his mobility has increased, and he is able to take care of himself including washing, which means he needs less support from his family.

He has a renewed sense of independence, and is able to walk with his children to the learning centres, as well as teach them things when out in the community.

“God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.” – Psalm 46:1

WHO IS CBM?

CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION



OUR VISION

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



OUR MISSION

Fighting to end the cycle of poverty and disability.



OUR VALUES

We Champion Inclusion: We believe everyone is equal before God. We are passionate about working with people with disabilities to build a world in which all people are included, valued and respected.

We Strive for Justice: We work for positive change, inspired by a vision of a just and equitable world. We model justice and faithful love as Jesus did, serving those in greatest need, regardless of race, gender, age or religious belief.

We Pursue Excellence: We are committed to

achieving the greatest possible impact from the resources entrusted to us, attaining high quality in all our work. We challenge ourselves to constantly learn, innovate and improve.

We Embrace Partnership: We achieve more when we work with others. We commit to partnership, listening and learning together. We collaborate creatively with partners, supporters, governments and colleagues to achieve lasting change.

We Live with Integrity: We show God’s character by seeking to live by our values and fulfill our commitments. We hold ourselves accountable to our supporters and those we serve, seeking to live authentically, responsibly and honestly.



In celebration of Volunteer Week and Christmas, **cbm** staff lovingly prepare a morning tea with home-baked goods to thank our wonderful volunteers for their dedication and commitment to **cbm**.

LIVING OUR VALUES

Having a values-based culture is our highest people priority. Our values – inclusion, justice, excellence, partnership, and integrity – underpin the way we work, our behaviours and our interactions both internally and externally. It is a blessing to be able to live out our faith in the workplace.

Staff members also come together to live out our values through staff gatherings and in weekly devotional reflections. Part of these reflections and prayers come from the **cbm** Prayer Diary. Staff spend time in prayer for the ministry of **cbm** and all who are involved.

We are blessed with a small but dedicated team of volunteers who help with administrative tasks. We love hearing from them and seeing them regularly. They are a valued part of our **cbm** family.

“The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of His hands.”

– Psalm 19:1

OUR BOARD

cbm is grateful to its Board members who generously volunteer time and expertise and act in a non-executive capacity. Featured on this page are Board members active in 2024.

At the end of 2024, Ray Coster retired from the Board, having served 10 years. Ray made big-hearted contributions to **cbm**, leading the international programmes committee, the personnel committee and as Board Chair from 2016 to 2017. He also served on the Board and Assembly of CBM Global. He is much loved and we wish him well.

Our Board undertakes reviews to monitor its governance practices and to ensure a balanced mix of skills, with diverse experience and leadership qualities. The relationship of our Board and Senior Leadership Team is one of cooperation and a shared commitment to the mission.

HANRÉ BECKER (CHAIR)

Hanré joined the Board in 2022. He is a Chartered Accountant and a Chartered member of the Institute of Directors. Hanré has held the position of Chief Financial Officer in several medium to large organisations, as well as Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director. Currently Hanré is an Investor and Professional Director. Hanré is grateful to be able to spend more time in serving not for profit organisations and his local community and continues to make a difference with his involvement in **cbm** and all our exceptional projects.

ANDREW SMITH

Andrew joined the Board in 2019, having recently retired from a career in surgery, counselling and tertiary education. His previous involvement in mission, particularly in South East Asia, made **cbm** an ideal organisation in which to invest post-retirement time and energy. Andrew retired from his position as Board Chair at the end of 2023 , and remains active on the Board.

RAY COSTER

Ray joined the Board in 2015 because of his conviction that the heart of God is to care for the poor and needy. Ray was previously a Presbyterian minister. He served as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church from 2012 to 2014 and continues ministry at the national level as a member of a number of Church Committees. Ray is our board member who sits on the CBM Global board. Ray is the New Zealand representative on the World Council of Churches Central Committee.

VERONIA HOUGHTON

Veronia is a Chartered Accountant and Chartered member of the Institute of Directors. She is a self-employed business woman, a Company Director and Financial Officer for several private property development and investment companies and serves on local community not for profit boards. Veronia has also served in the NZ Police both as a front-line officer and forensic accountant.

GERALDINE CRUDGE

Geraldine joined the Board in 2020. Geraldine is a solicitor, and currently works in employment law. She has a Masters degree in International Development from the London School of Economics, and a passion for the poor and marginalised in the world. She has volunteered in New Zealand and London with various charities, and spent time volunteering in Thailand, India and Myanmar.

EVAN CLULEE

Evan joined the Board in 2022. He has worked across the disability sector in various roles over 30 years, including being CEO of an intentional Christian community supporting people with intellectual disabilities. Evan holds a degree in Applied Theology from Carey Baptist College. Evan has first-hand experience of mission, and development alongside disabled people in the Philippines, South East Asia, and the Pacific region. These experiences grew a desire to serve and support disabled people across the world.

NEIL MURRAY

Neil joined the Board in 2022. He is a retired eye surgeon who was active, often together with his wife Tania and children, in inclusive eye work for nearly 30 years. During this time he has known **cbm** from both the inside – in the field in West Africa working for **cbm** for several years – and from the outside, not only as a supporter but also as an observer of **cbm** activities while involved with other aid organisations. He has a deep understanding and appreciation of the impact of **cbm's** work.

IAN HORNE

Ian joined the Board in 2022. He holds a Masters in Business Administration (Dist) and is a member of the Institute of Directors. Recently retired from a career in banking and the public sector, Ian now seeks to utilise his skills in governance, finance and organisational management, in the not for profit sector. He has a passion to serve the poorest of the poor.

MIKE POTTER

Mike joined the Board at the end of 2024, having previously worked in marketing at **cbm**. His faith, personal and family experience of disability, and strong understanding of disability frameworks see him advocate for an inclusive world for people with disabilities and their families. Mike is CEO of Disability Connect Inc.

RON LAL

Ron joined the Board at the end of 2024. He is the CEO of a business consultancy and brings extensive experience across the entrepreneurship, NGO, government, and corporate sectors. With a deep commitment to community-led impact, Ron is passionate about supporting **cbm's** mission and contributing to its vision of inclusion and empowerment. He hopes to use his skills in strategy and innovation to make a meaningful difference in **cbm's** areas of service.

ENGAGING WITH OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS

PRAYER BREAKFAST

The 9th Auckland Prayer Breakfast at Eden Park brought together 680 Christians, including **cbm** New Zealand, for a powerful morning of prayer, worship, and community. With **cbm's** video presentation, attendees were introduced to **cbm's** heart and mission: transforming the lives of adults and children with disabilities in the world's poorest places.

Thanks to generous **cbm** supporters for helping to sponsor New Zealand Sign Language interpreters, giving people with hearing disabilities the opportunity to fully participate.

It was heart-warming to see Christians with disabilities being included, and able to participate in leading the prayer breakfast.



BEQUESTS - JIM

Without the compassion of faithful supporters like Jim, who include **cbm** in their Wills, many of the poorest of the poor would miss out on sight-saving operations, on life-saving and life-changing health care, and on access to education and livelihood programmes that can lift them out of poverty.

"I have included a bequest for **cbm** in my Will because of their invaluable work restoring sight for so many people without access to that care. The generosity of those who restore sight needs my commitment, too." – Jim, supporter since 1993, bequestor since 2023.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for considering a gift in your Will to **cbm** to help transform the lives of future generations.



GIVING DAY

Our first ever 24-hour Giving Day raised over \$180,000!

Thank you for your overwhelming kindness.

Your generous gifts, along with our Government's Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme multiplier x5, raised over \$180,000 to transform the lives of people with avoidable blindness in Papua New Guinea.

The need was great, and we responded to the call, as in Isaiah 54:2:

To 'enlarge the place of our tent' - we widened our hearts; To 'stretch our tent curtains wide' - we saw and grew God's vision of hope for a brighter future; And to 'lengthen our cords, and strengthen our stakes' - we grew as we believed in, and acted on, the promises of God.

Thank you for your generosity.



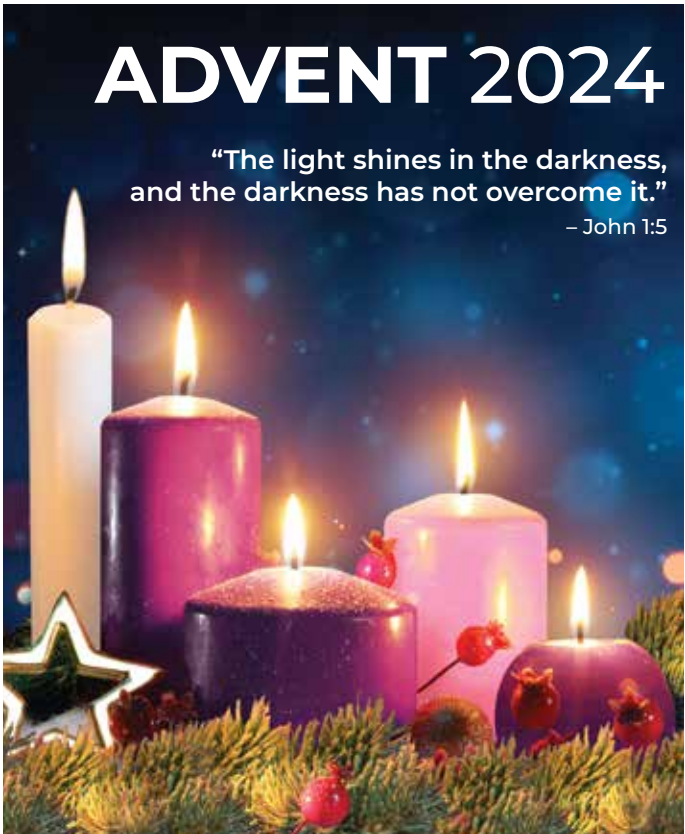
ADVENT

Advent sees us coming together to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. For each week of Advent, our **cbm** Advent series, was sent out with prayers and reflection, impact stories and videos about **cbm's** mission to bring **Hope, Peace, Joy** and **Love** to people with disabilities in the world's poorest places.

Alongside the church programmes, church congregations and **cbm** supporters were invited to continue Advent reflections at home by creating special Advent moments with loved ones, including prayers and reflections during the week, Advent colouring in, a 'how to' guide to make your own Advent wreath, and opportunities to give meaningful gifts at Christmas.

This year, please join **cbm** in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas with loved ones, friends, colleagues, neighbours, and people in your community.

To find out more, please visit www.advent.org.nz



EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACCREDITATIONS

cbm is a Member Association of CBM Global Disability Inclusion. Together, we work alongside people with disabilities in the world’s poorest places to transform lives and build inclusive communities where everyone can enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

cbm is a registered charity with the New Zealand Government (CC26154). All Board members act in a voluntary, non-executive capacity and participate in an annual process to review **cbm** policy compliance and Board performance.

cbm is accredited by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), which is responsible for managing the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme. To maintain accreditation, **cbm** systems, policies and processes are rigorously reviewed by the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme.

cbm is a signatory to the New Zealand Council for International Development (CID) Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory, we are committed and fully adhere to the CID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. **cbm** also adheres to the CID Fundraising Charter.



Comfort was deeply touched by the kindness of people like you, when she received life-changing obstetric fistula surgery and wrap around care at the **cbm**-funded partner Sustainable Family Healthcare Foundation in Nigeria.

Because of kind-hearted people like you, children like Monica from Papua New Guinea, will have brighter futures and the opportunity to attend disability-inclusive schools where teachers are taught to understand how difficulty seeing affects education.



“Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



cbm New Zealand

4B/331 Rosedale Road, Albany, Auckland 0632
PO Box 303477, North Harbour 0751

Phone: 0800 77 22 64 or 09 414 9405

Email: enquiries@cbmnz.org.nz

www.cbmnz.org.nz