

# Thomas needs help now



Healing and hope begin with your gift.

Thomas has passed the first hurdle of a huge challenge. After six weeks in plaster casts, he was fitted with splints that will need replacing as he grows. He'll have to wear them for at least two years to prevent the deformity recurring. The good news is that once beyond this course of therapy, Thomas should be able to walk 'normally' and without pain. He will be able to walk to school, just as his mother hoped.

Thinking back, it's a good thing that Thomas' mother left things in the Lord's hands. God worked through you and other supporters of CBM to bring healing, as Jesus did to so many blind and disabled people that He met. Today, more children and adults await healing and rehabilitation for clubfoot that has never been treated. **Thank you for your gift today, giving people with disabilities a fuller and independent life, just as Jesus did when he said 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'** (John 10:10).

## Aid for those neglected

More than a billion people – one seventh of the world's population – are affected by one or more Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), and another 2 billion people are at risk. CBM currently relies on your

continued help to treat several of these disabling conditions including Trachoma and Onchocerciasis, two major causes of preventable blindness.

Another three major NTDs, all traceable to parasites, include Elephantiasis, soil-transmitted Helminths, and Schistosomiasis. All are treatable with good outcomes if caught in time - and the average cost of treatment is only 35 pence per person per year - because most drugs are donated by the companies who make them. **Read more about what your gift can achieve on our website at [cbmuk.org.uk/NTDs](http://cbmuk.org.uk/NTDs)**



A staggering number of people are at risk of disability due to neglected tropical diseases.

## Comings and goings



David Stevens says farewell

**David Stevens**, our much loved and long-serving Country Manager for England, left CBM at the end of March. Speaking to all the CBM volunteers who have faithfully served

during his 10 year tenure, David wrote, "I am excited for you because you are helping CBM to grow, and you will be part of a new initiative as our volunteers' efforts in England develop and become better organised."

David's shoes will be filled by **Lee Searle**, who is taking a newly created position as our England Volunteers Manager. Just two months into his new role, Lee says, "My primary focus will be to increase CBM's exposure among Christian circles in the UK and thus expand the number of active volunteers."

**Be sure to get in touch with Lee at his new address on this page.**

**My primary focus will be to increase CBM's exposure among Christian circles in the UK and thus expand the number of active volunteers.**



Lee Searle joins CBM

### Get help writing a will:

David Rootham  
Tel: 01223 484 700  
davidr@cbmuk.org.uk

### For presentations to your church or group or to find out about volunteering:

**England**  
Lee Searle  
England Volunteers Manager  
Tel: 01223 484 700  
lees@cbmuk.org.uk

**Northern Ireland**  
Eric Clarke  
Tel: 02890 436674  
ericc@cbmuk.org.uk

**Scotland**  
Karen Garrott  
Tel: 01312 006018  
kareng@cbmuk.org.uk

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Web: [www.cbmuk.org.uk](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk)  
**Registered charity no:**  
1058162 (England & Wales)  
SC041101 (Scotland)

# disability

# matters

Issue 24 May 2012

latest news on how your support changes lives

## Disabled from birth, Thomas needs help now



Thomas, aged 2, has Clubfoot. It prevents him from ever walking. Unless he gets simple and inexpensive treatment in time.

**Thomas' mother in Tanzania remembers the day her son was born with clubfoot. "I was afraid to see my child like that. Afraid, because I didn't know how I was going to look after him, how he would ever walk or go to school." Not knowing where to turn, she says she left the situation in God's hands.**

Always bubbly and smiling, Thomas learned to walk on the outside edges of his feet, but as he grew it became ever more difficult for him to get around. Then his mother heard on the radio that CBM could treat children with clubfoot under the age of five at no cost to the family.



**I was trying to save up to take Thomas to a good doctor, but it was taking a long time.**

"Thomas is two years old now, so when I heard they treated children under five for free, I brought him straight away. It is hard to save money from growing cassava and maize. I was trying to save up to take Thomas to a good doctor, but it was taking a long time." Imagine if she hadn't ever saved enough or never discovered there was hope for her son.

When doctors made it clear to Thomas' mother that he could be treated, she was frightened to think of her child undergoing an operation. Once invited into the ward at our hospital for people with disabilities, her outlook changed at a glance. "I saw other children looking happy, wearing proper shoes and walking well. The mothers told me that their children had been like Thomas before treatment and that I should not worry."

*Story continues inside*

## Focus on Clubfoot and River Blindness

We invite you to help fight two major causes of disability around the world today. Both are treatable, and River Blindness is preventable.

Support like yours is helping CBM free over 11 million people a year from the black fly that can steal a person's sight. **See story page 2**

## Bethlehem appeal brings hope to Holy Lands



Your Christmas gift to Nijmeh - physical therapy - has allowed her to walk for the first time.

CBM's Christmas appeal asked supporters to help provide rehabilitation and physical therapy to children living near Bethlehem, the town of Christ's birth. CBM has provided life-changing support to children like five year old Nijmeh Ghazal. Before receiving focused physical and cognitive therapy, Nijmeh was unable to stand or walk and depended on help to move around

or get in and out of bed. Today, after months of therapy, she is standing and walking with a walker, even for long distances. Her social interactions and mental functioning have also noticeably improved. **One picture says it all!**

## I'll give the gift of sight, help and hope

**Yes, I'd like to help CBM provide treatment and rehabilitation for people facing a lifetime of disability. Use my gift to change lives and, where possible, to prevent disabling conditions from devastating people's families and communities.**

- £26 gives enough Mectizan to stop 40 families getting River Blindness for a year
  - £30 repairs one child's Clubfoot using a non-surgical therapy
  - £63 can treat on average 180 cases of a Neglected Tropical Disease
  - £90 covers the cost of a delicate cataract surgery for a child
- £ \_\_\_\_\_ to use wherever the need is greatest

- Please send me more information about giving by Direct Debit.
- Please send me a legacy brochure.
- Please send me a legacy DVD.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**To make a donation online please visit**

[www.cbmuk.org.uk/donate](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk/donate)

**or by phone, please call 01223 484700**

**Please complete this form and return it to us in the envelope enclosed to your area office.**

**Registered Charity no:**  
1058162 (England & Wales);  
SC041101 (Scotland)

## Faith in action means taking risks

We'd be foolish to ignore the dangers faced by CBM staff who are called to work in parts of the world where disease, warfare and even wild animals can be life threatening. But 'danger' is also a relative term. I once took a European team up the Mataram River in Kalimantan, Borneo, in the boat of our local cataract surgeon. "Won't it be dangerous?" one asked nervously. I replied, "There are greater hazards at your town's railway station!"

As you'll read in the update below about recent bombings in Nigeria, there are risks involved with working overseas for CBM, but we use common sense and follow CBM's safety and security guidelines. Nobody needs a dead hero. Our local partner organisation staff are special. They just get on with the job, stop work when the situation warrants, and get back to work after the crisis has passed. It's great to see them practising faith in action.

**But they can't even start their work without your generosity and kindness. Thank you so much for your continued support of CBM.**



Mike Davies OBE,  
Head of Programme  
Development

## A war of inches to eliminate River Blindness



What does Binafwa Mfumba's height have to do with preventing blindness?

To make sure each person gets the proper dose, health workers measure their height. In the case of Binafwa Mfumba (pictured) one tablet will do for now, preventing River Blindness for up to a year and reversing any early symptoms.

River Blindness (also called Onchocerciasis), is a painful result of infection by tiny worms that are transmitted by flies that breed near fast-flowing rivers. Under the skin, the worms cause terrible itching, severe rashes, lesions and loss of pigment. When they migrate to the eye, they can cause irreversible blindness. Belgian colonisers found Onchocerciasis in this area of Kanaga, Democratic Republic of Congo as far back as 1928. But with the help of supporters like you, CBM is working to eliminate this leading cause of disability. CBM staff are convinced that with enough financial support and consistent treatment, River Blindness can be eliminated.

**CBM staff and partners are struggling to meet their targets of reaching and rehabilitating people with disabilities because of grave security risks.** On 20th January CBM's Country Co-ordinator Sergio Mainetti reported 40 to 50 bombs exploding in a single evening in Kano, home to a CBM supported eye hospital. CBM Programme Officer Angela Uyah said it was rumoured that armed groups were waiting outside the city to shoot people who fled.

## Great results of your support

In 2011, National Director Bill McAllister asked a small group of donors to help provide orthopaedic and ophthalmic surgeries, education, therapy, training and livelihoods for people at the Elim Christian Vocational Training Centre and Community Based Rehabilitation Programme for People with Disabilities in Igede, Nigeria.

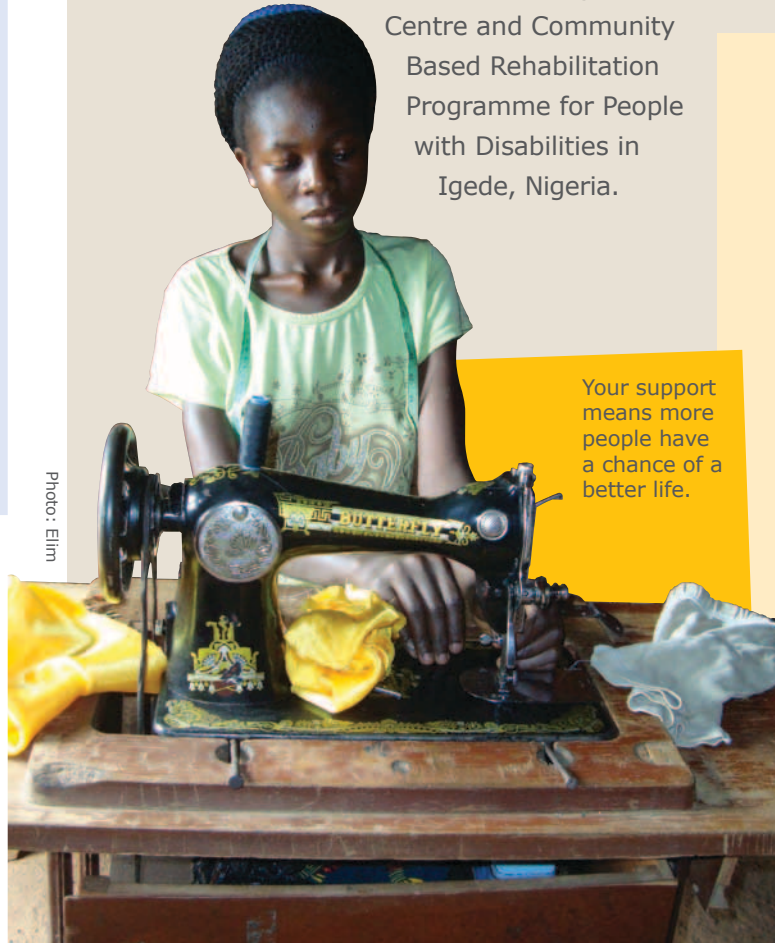


Photo: Elim

Your support means more people have a chance of a better life.



### We are pleased to report that:

The eyes of over 3,000 pupils have been screened in 21 local schools, with 44 sight-saving eye operations completed.

**Doctors have successfully treated 48 children for Clubfoot, and 18 local schools are now ensuring inclusive education for children with disabilities.**

Hundreds of adults have taken part in life skills training and over 90 people with disabilities have received micro credit or vocational training to start a business in sewing, hairdressing, shoemaking, livestock farming, computer work or market trading.

**Thank you for your generous response!**

**Thank you so much for your response to our 'Gifts in Kind' appeal which has so far raised over £140,000 towards transporting medical goods to where they are most needed.**

So far there have been no injuries to staff or damage to infrastructure, but eye camps (held in remote areas to assess people) have had to be postponed. Doctors, nurses and patients are reluctant to travel and staff say it is already unlikely that they will meet targets as people are staying at home and the hospital is not as busy as usual. Sergio Mainetti wrote

**"We pray that the situation will calm and for the protection of projects and staff."**



## Your support for home grown surgeons

**For the first time in history, Kenya celebrates the graduation of two orthopaedic surgeons entirely trained locally at Africa Inland Church (AIC), Kijabe Mission Hospital and Moi University Teaching and Referral Hospital.**



Dr Francis Mbugua and Dr Henry Ndasi are the first orthopaedic surgeons to be trained in Kenya with support from CBM, thanks to generous friends like you.

In a country where there are only 50 other orthopaedic surgeons, all of whom have received their training outside Kenya, this breakthrough will ensure quality care for more children with disabilities across the country.

CBM relies on gifts from supporters like you and also takes every opportunity to partner with other organisations who want to help. Your gifts and a donation from the AO Foundation began this groundbreaking

programme five years ago, so that Dr Francis Mbugua and Dr Henry Ndasi could complete the training. AIC aims to train 14 more doctors by 2018. Other universities have since established orthopaedic training programmes.

AIC Executive Director Jack Muthuli expressed appreciation for the help of CBM supporters like you. "Let me take this early opportunity to thank you for partnering with us to enable provision of quality care to the disabled child in Kenya."

## Give online giving a go



It's by far the quickest and most secure way to help CBM continue our vital work. Give an online gift to help us treat, prevent and reverse blindness and offer life-changing help and rehabilitation to people with disabilities around the world. Visit [www.cbmuk.org.uk/donate](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk/donate) and find out how easy it is.

## CBM Radio 4 appeal

Tell your friends and family to listen to CBM's BBC Radio 4 charity appeal on Sunday 10th June at 7:55am and 9:26pm and Thursday 14th June at 3.27pm! You can hear the appeal all that week on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/charityappeals> and click on BBC Radio 4 Appeal.



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## giftaid it

**Tick here to make your gift go even further**

### Please complete the declaration below.

Please treat all donations I have made in the last 4 years and all future donations, until notified otherwise, as donations under Gift Aid. I will pay an amount of UK Income or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that CBM reclaims on my donation, in any tax year. Unfortunately we cannot claim Gift Aid on group donations.

**Please note: The TAX PAYER should sign the cheque**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 Please debit the amount overleaf from my Visa/MasterCard/Maestro/CAF Card

**Card number** Maestro only

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   /

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Please provide your email address and/or telephone number if you are happy for us to contact you in this way:

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## 'Pray for peace' urge partners in Nigeria