



From the Director's Desk

"Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands."

Isaiah 49:15-16 (NLT)

Just like a mother cannot forget her child, God cannot forget you. God Knows. As we have ministered to some very broken children and young people who have felt that they have been abandoned in life, it is so assuring to give them the answers and hope they are so desperately seeking. They have been rejected by those who they were supposed to trust the most. They sometimes think because of those painful experiences, that God has forgotten them. But that's impossible! We were made to be loved by God.

"God will never abandon or reject you"

We constantly take our children back to God's Word of love and hope. Do you know God has a tattoo of your name engraved on the palms of his hands (Isaiah 49:16)? Where did he get the tattoo? On the cross. With nail-pierced hands and outstretched arms, he showed you just how much He loves you. He loves you so much it hurts!

When we don't understand what's going on in our lives, we need to remember this: We won't always have the answers. But we do have God's presence and His love in our lives. I am so thankful for the incredible way God turns a mess to a message of hope to others. God has takes our broken pieces and makes us new.

Ephesians 2:10 tells us "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he has planned for us long ago."

Please pray with CBM as we continue to encourage the Church and their families to reach these precious lives, through our children's camps, through our training of leaders and through our development of life changing resources. Let me share some really encouraging recent news that's been happening through CBM both here in NZ as well as overseas.

Mike Buckley

CBM Director



IN THIS ISSUE

CAMP RAGLAN

SURVIVAL

KIDS CONNECT

STAFFING

INTERNATIONAL
NEWS

NZ TRAINING

2024 DATES

Camp Raglan

January camps were once again bursting at the seams. It was very encouraging to see children open their lives to Jesus and respond to challenges from the life of Joshua.

With covid restrictions lifted, we once again welcomed a group of Korean children, fresh off the plane to spend time in N.Z. improving their English skills.

They were so happy to share a Korean lunch with Todd and Donna Funk after camp, even singing a camp song in the restaurant!



Survival (11 - 15 year olds)

Today's young people are being bombarded by constant news that undermines everything they believe about God. They hung onto every word as we taught from the life of Stephen Lungu of Zimbabwe - from his experiences of being abandoned, his gang life, his desire to kill as many Christians as he could, to his eventually coming face to face with Jesus. How inspiring for the young people to see that God used him to bring transformation to lives around the world.

"I Know" was our theme for the week, pointing out that whatever troubles they face, God says, "I Know! I've got you in my hand to help you, no matter what!"

In our workshops, Pat Buckley spoke on Choices, especially relating to drugs, alcohol, and vaping. Todd Funk's workshop was on not staying a victim. Donna Funk, Mike Buckley and Mellissa Gallichan led a practical workshop, "He Knows", helping the young people to discover their true identity. The weather was atrocious, but we made the most of it and survived! The mud on the campers was something to see!



A huge shout out to Burger Burger who over many years have kindly sponsored the prizes for our Survival Camps. Thank you so much guys! Please support these amazing people by visiting their stores.

Testimonial

"During Camp I looked at my life and realised I am not making the best choices. I was a thief and a nicotine addict."

I really connected with Stephen Lungu's story and reconnected with Jesus.

I now attend two youth groups and am applying what I learnt to my life.

I am also helping out with a prayer club at my school."

Staff Happenings



We welcome 3 volunteers Fabian Kun, Marissa Casties and Katharina Weigmann. They have come from Germany to experience NZ culture and work with us at Camp Raglan.



Debbie Hughes, whom we have known for decades, has finished her role helping in the kitchen but she will still be part of the holiday camps.

Thanks for your faithfulness, Debbie!

Kids Connect



Kids Connect this year was a one-day event, held at the Elevate facilities in Onehunga. Many of our activities were centred on our theme, "Diggin' it". For part of the day, the children became junior archaeologists, exploring the grounds of Elevate for hidden treasure, making fossils and having fun creating their own creatures from discovered 'bones'.



The highlight of the camp was seeing all the creative costumes that followed the camp theme. We had many archaeologists; some gardeners and one girl even wore her self-designed t-shirt of a dog "diggin' it"! Biblical teaching was woven into the day, encouraging the children to dig into God's Word and discover the treasures found there.

International

India - Hyderabad

It has been a highlight seeing my daughter Joy's continual help teaching at the girl's hostel.

I was able to provide Baptist Church teachers training to 50 dedicated teachers, who later reached out to approximately 700 children for Vacation Bible School (VBS). It was a joy to witness the impact these teachers had on the children.

Traveling to some rural places in Andhra for camps was challenging due to the terrorism risk and heat but God has been faithful in His protection.

I also conducted online training sessions for 3 different branch churches, allowing me to reach a wider audience.



Veronica Ravuri

India - Mumbai

We at CBM love summer! It gives us the opportunity to have fun with many children and tell them about Jesus. We have ministered in 6 camps reaching 522 children. A testimony from one camp:

"I was carrying some baggage in my life and they were taking away joy from my life. During the Holy night I experienced freedom like never before, I am free."

We also ran two teacher's training courses, equipping 42 workers in 4 states. The 2 men in the photo travelled 40km (both ways) on their bicycle every day for this training! First time attendees had their eyes opened as to why they struggled in a few areas of ministry and how to overcome the problems.



Rodney Dedvas

North - East India

This year we are more involved in training children's workers than doing children's programmes. We've conducted 9 major trainings with 600 teachers.

In one training, thirty teachers attended with four coming from the remote villages of Meghalaya. Following training, two teachers started Sunday schools for children from non-Christian homes in remote villages. Life Changers curriculum plays a vital role in these programmes. Two teachers raised money to buy the curriculum despite the poor conditions of the village and church.

Darpan Gurung, who trained with CBM in 2018, partners with us to run a camp in Mungpoo. Phebi was in our first children's camp in 2019 and this year she came as a volunteer. It was at camp where she gave her life to God and is very grateful to each of us for investing our time with the children of Mungpoo. She has grown into a beautiful girl who despite chaotic situations at home, is living a life of forgiveness and humility.

Binu Pradhan & David Tamang



Philippines - Hebron Children's Camp



We prayed for 100 children to join the camp, but God is good and He sent 125 children from churches who had outreaches in slum areas.

Our theme "Never give up" included the life of Joseph and after hearing about how Joseph forgave his brothers,

62 children gave their lives to Jesus.

That night the children also experienced God's forgiveness through Jesus. Thank you Jesus! Although the weather was very hot, the children were very happy, especially in the pool.

We heard many great testimonies about their experiences and what they learned.

In August, we held an alumni home coming at Hebron. It was wonderful to meet with many past students from our Bible College. The testimonies of what they are doing since Bible college were so inspiring. We heard how one came as a 17-year-old new Christian and how God is now using them greatly in Mindanao.

One is ministering in Mindanao in a 100 percent Muslim region and seeing many young Muslims come to Christ. Knowing what God has done for her, she wants to see the Bible College rise again. Everyone was impressed with the new look of Hebron.

Philippines - Bible College



Philippines - Hebron Disability Services



After a long time of not meeting together, we were so happy to be able to hold a Camp for people with disabilities.

By God's grace, even a super typhoon and heavy rain did not stop the camp from happening! Eleven campers received Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and twelve of them renewed their faith in Christ. As our theme says, "No one is left behind." Jesus came to seek & save the lost.

Africa - Online

From NZ we are continuing to train a large group of Sunday school teachers in **Nigeria using online technology**. The church is very committed to having all of their Sunday school teachers trained by CBM. Some feedback from the Nigerian leaders:

"There was so much vital content that my notepad is full of jottings and we trust God to help us to implement all our learnings. I am overwhelmed by the incredible content that your team shared with us today."



NZ Training

We are very encouraged to see our training courses in 2023 well attended. After the disruptions of Covid restrictions, many churches have been keen to make the most of an opportunity for a fresh start. It is so good to see whole children's teams come to be equipped and refreshed in their ministry.

This year we have held all six training days at HQ and they have been very popular. Here are a few snippets from participant's feedback. It's so good to know we are hitting the mark for so many participants!



"The session on prayer was actually encouraging to myself as an adult to build my confidence in prayer. I'm excited to use the things I learnt today in class and with my daughter at home."

"Sometimes I struggle with how to manage kids. The techniques I learned are very helpful."

"I have absolutely loved my sessions today. It has helped me a lot and has given me a better understanding of areas I need to work on to effectively teach the kids."

YWAM



In August, Ian and Todd gave three days of training in children's ministry to the students and staff at the YWAM base in Matamata. Mike then taught about practical and spiritual principles of ministering to youth.

2024 International Training

The 16 week International Training Course is back! We already have a good number of international applicants who plan to join us for 16 weeks at the start of 2024.

We are praying for them to have the necessary finances, a smooth visa process and the necessary accommodation here in Auckland. We look forward to seeing all God is going to do through this course.

**SAVE
THE DATE!**



Training 2024 Dates

- **24TH FEB: First Things First**
- **11TH MAY: Ministry to Young Children**
- **8TH JUNE: How to**
- **27TH JULY: Tool time**
- **14TH SEPT: Master Storytelling**
- **TBC: Special to God**