



CWS

@world

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

Autumn 2012



**Back
"Home"
with CWS**

Plus

New Office • New Editor
Earthquake Remembrance
We want your ideas

Christian World Service is a member of

actalliance

Action by Churches Together

We're back "home"



We're back home. At least that's how it feels after over a year of earthquakes, lost offices, and constant reinvention.

Miraculously we have never been away in terms of serving our overseas partners.

But we have gone through big changes as an organisation, as a city and as individuals.

To get a modern office big enough to hold all head office staff is a big step forward. It has been a year of dislocation and constant change.

Our new home costs half of our former rent. We have a spare "minimalist" look as most of our furniture is still out of reach in the red zone.

In the office photo above the posters are recycled and the desk and chairs donated. Still it looks great, and the building rates very high for earthquake resistance.

I thought it timely with this @world to extend our new ways of working to this publication.

If we have learnt any major lesson it has been that life ultimately comes down to people and relationships.

We're trying now to strike a good balance between story telling while also trying to have more of a conversation than we have had recently.

As part of this change I'd like to lay out for you some of the gains we have made as an organisation.

We've had four offices.

They were the original Manchester Street headquarters now still behind the inner city cordon, then part of the Trade Aid headquarters, then the Christchurch North Methodist Church complex, and now a compact but modern "new" inner city office at Halkett Street.

Until now no temporary office space had room for everybody so we adapted

to making the most of new technology to function.

Board convenor, Graeme Nicholas got the CWS nickname of "Saint Graeme" by putting in many voluntary hours to upgrade our computer systems to cloud computing using a shared Portal system as a virtual office.

In plain English this meant we moved from a traditional office system using some computers to become a computer hosted organisation.

From adversity we have emerged with a modern, portable system that will make us much harder to disrupt than in the past.

We have also tightened our fundraising focus with added impetus caused by the financial "earthquakes" resulting from Government funding changes.

This meant we had to make the major decision last year to move toward becoming a self funding organisation able to stand on its own feet while not rejecting Government funding totally.

I'm delighted to report that I was recently able to tell a Government Minister inquiring whether we were part of a trend in declining public support that we were not.

In fact the special appeal we ran last year bought a response rate three times the norm for such appeals.

That's loyalty that deserves a big "thank you" from us and from our partner groups overseas.

The same special appeal bought in 77 per cent of the required additional income required to keep funding our full complement of partners.

Late or fresh donations are, of course, welcomed.

Our traditional key fundraiser, The Christmas Appeal is shaping up to be

about even with the past year, while the Gifted program is performing at 20 per cent above budget projections.

In other words the things we can control and shape are doing very well thanks to your generosity and understanding.

While these are great figures to flourish we still have some way to go to meeting our new goals as a self funding organisation.

The good news is that the bottom line is pointing in the right direction.

But we are not there yet.

This year we will be asking regular donors to look hard at raising their level of giving; using state of the art methodology to find new donors; and offering better direct giving ideas like Direct Partners.

Our challenges this year are to increase revenue, sharpen our partner project base and reach out to the general public while also keeping our unique character intact.

In this @world we will look at some of the faces behind CWS. We will tell you some of our earthquake stories, some examples of what we and partners are doing overseas, plus try and deepen our sense of mutual conversation.

I hope you enjoy our renewed sense of purpose and end this read also feeling like "We're back home."

Pauline McKay

**Pauline McKay
National Director**



COVERPHOTO

Garden flowers for Steiner School pupils to place in the river near their school on Christchurch's first Memorial Day for the February earthquake.

Credit: Sharon Murphy

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Garden City shone through

Photo donated by Christchurch based freelance photographer Gudrun Gisela. Gudrun says she started shooting quake photos on 4 September 2010, "and basically have not stopped since." These flowers on a red zone barrier fence remember lives lost in the February quake.

Christchurch's first annual quake Memorial Day turned out to be a triumphant salute to the Garden City spirit.

While official events caught the headlines the real story lay literally at street level.

There street cones, fences, places of loss and the rivers all ended the day covered in flowers and petals from a people-powered reclamation of the city.

The message even amongst the ruins was simple – we may be battered but at heart we are still the Garden City.

Driving into and out of town it was wonderful to see burly road workers reverently moving the flower covered cones as gently as florists.

The road cones concept went global with salutes to Christchurch filmed and put up on photo web sites from places as far away as Antarctica.

At Christian World Service like many other workplaces the rites of remembrance were left to the individual staff members.

Some went to the official event in Hagley Park, some to the barrier fences near the still off limits Manchester Street offices, others to school services complete with tree planting and petal

strewing in the river.

For some like Zimbabwe born office co-ordinator, Mandla Akhe Dube the day reinforced his connection to his new home town when he saw two fellow Zimbabweans on the cover of The Press newspaper as heroes of the February quake.

"It was awesome

"It immediately bought it home to me that we are all one family, all Cantabrians on the day who banded together in our diversity regardless of where we once came from," he said.

"That response to that event just reflected the best of humanity, it says something commendable about humanity itself that in a crisis so many of us go beyond our usual limits to reach out and help."

For ex staffer, Nick Clarke, now working in London there was no getting away from his heroic role in the February earthquake story. On February 22nd Nick had applied his crisis training straight away, pulling rubble off casualties over the road from the former CWS offices.

He then went on to anchor aid and relief efforts from New Zealand aid and development groups in Christchurch under the umbrella of the National

Disaster Relief Forum (NDRF).

Nick was filmed and features in the early stages of the Christchurch earthquake movie "When A City Falls" which was co-developed by CWS media and PR co-ordinator, Greg Jackson.

Ironically in London where the film featured as the centre of the Christchurch quake fundraising event organised by ex-Christchurch resident, Trevor Sutton the event was so popular Nick could not get a ticket.

However he did brief Trevor on the reality of the quake and its aftermath and the role played by CWS and other New Zealand aid and development groups all normally used to working in disaster relief overseas.

In his briefing to the London organisers Nick explained that the demanding role required him to liaise with the Ministry of Social Development where "aid agencies were able to assist their strategy in response to the quake."

"I also liaised with Church denominational groups who played a terrific role in communities –assisting with food and social support" Nick wrote.

Even in late winter London the Garden City spirit of Christchurch shone through. ■

Editor with a past

By Greg Jackson

Like any old journalist I love a good attention catching headline like the one above.

The "past" is just a catchy way of pointing out that I've been round the block a few times before arriving at CWS.

I've been a Qantas award winning reporter for political reporting, a business and local politics reporter, a political speechwriter and campaign manager, political adviser, advertising copywriter and public relations adviser.

I like CWS because I believe it trail blazed better ways of helping lift people out of poverty and powerlessness and still does.

I like most of @world as is and just want to tweak the way we talk together so it becomes a bit more intimate and immediate.

It's our shop window on the world we share at CWS and I want you to feel you have the power to help shape what goes on show.

I also do wonder if maybe we should look at moving from "@world" to "CWS World" as a title. What do you think?

After this edition I'd love to hear constructive suggestions about what we could do better, what you'd like to see and hear more about, and even what you'd like to see less.

You'll find some options for helping shape how, and what we communicate in the Satisfaction Survey insert.

Please, take part we want to hear your voice.

You can reach me at CWS on 03 366 9274 extension 711, or by email as Greg.Jackson@cws.org.nz.

I look forward to hearing from you. ■



CWS stalwart a strong supporter...

CWS lost a strong committed supporter with the passing of Cynthia Guyan in early December.

CWS Board convenor, Graeme Nicholas said her contribution as a volunteer over the years had been "outstanding". ■



"River of Life" back for Knox Church

What the Christchurch quakes destroyed sometimes aroha and creativity can restore.

That's the heartening message at Christchurch's Knox Church where one major broken stained glass window has been reborn, and grown.

The rebirth of the "River of Life" window comes from Wellington fourth year architecture student, Renee Nankivell.

Renee contacted Knox in July last year asking if she could make the church the subject of her design project for her Master's Degree in Architecture.

All 4th year Victoria University Architectural Masters students did a project for the Christchurch rebuild last year.

In Renee's case the project broadened to take in the "River of Life" project which she has then gifted on to Knox. The design and River of Life window won her the Stephenson & Turner award for integrated design from Victoria University.

The Knox congregation flew Renee down in early March to take part in the service where the enhanced replica was presented to the congregation in the Knox Centre hall they now use for services.

"With the help of Gap Filler I was able to give Knox back a very precious gift that they had lost and dearly missed," said Renee.

"It gave me very great pleasure to visit Christchurch and see the faces of the congregation light up at the sight of the window. This was my way of offering the little that I can offer to the community of Christchurch and Knox Church," she said.

Knox Minister, Geoff King said that they had been happy from the first approach to give Renee the information she sought and explain the "nature and aims of our congregation and its place in the wider community."

"We were moved when Renee chose to make the "River of Life" by local artist Graham Stewart a central thematic element of her project, producing a full size replica through digital images and adding a panel entitled 'strength through community' at the base," said Geoff King.

The replica window was installed in the Knox Centre in time to be the centre piece for a service to celebrate strength and community in early March. It was planned for it to then stay there until at least Easter.

The replica was hung in the centre in time for the visit of Palestinian expert, Claudette Habesch, to speak at Knox.

Although she spoke in another room the news of the replica filtered through the audience afterward and moved many visitors with the story.

For Christchurch people Renee Nankivell's gift was another reminder that the city has continuing meaningful support from throughout New Zealand. ■



Claudette Habesch
in Christchurch at
the Knox centre.



They took her bike and home but she can still forgive...

For 7 year old Claudette Habesch the founding of Israel meant that strangers took her Jerusalem home, bed and bike.

Even worse was the fact that her normally all powerful father could not ever explain to her how such a huge wrong could be done to them.

It was a time of loss and the start of exile in her own land that continues to this day.

Claudette spoke in Christchurch at a public meeting co-organised by Christian World Service and Caritas. Although in New Zealand as a keynote speaker for Caritas she is also linked to CWS's oldest partner group, DSPR (Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees).

A self-described "Palestinian Christian Arab from Jerusalem" Claudette is passionate, compelling and hugely informed on the complexities of living in Jerusalem under Israeli control.

Although she has long forgiven the people who took her childhood home she says that 65 years later the reality is that she is still a refugee in her own city.

"I lost my home, I lost my toys and really felt it hard when my father was unable to explain to me who was entitled to sleep in my bed," she said.

She had forgiven but not forgotten her own years of subsequent suffering. She recognises the right of the State of Israel to exist in 78 per cent of its

territory but does not recognise their right to expel Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem.

She has lived her life under illegal occupation.

The political awakening that rewrote the Middle East starting a year ago has bought Palestinians a mixed result of hope and fear that "chaos and widespread conflict" would spread.

"The Syrian situation is very worrying," she said.

The Middle East upheavals and the sectarian subtext to them had created another layer of complexity and unpredictability to an already volatile region.

She still hoped on a personal level that there might eventually be reconciliation between Israel and Palestinians.

This hope was kept alive through the church based NGO's like Caritas and CWS who along with aid carried the precious hope of a better tomorrow.

She spoke of the brutal realities that underpin the word "occupation."

A few years ago she had argued with an Israeli reporter about what was the difference between the occupation and apartheid when both had featured two sets of rules for different ethnic groups.

At the time Israel was the only recognised democracy in the Middle East but the rules for Israelis and Palestinians were different. She said to

...one of their favourite punishments for Palestinians was to cut down the olive trees which in some cases were centuries old.

the reporter it was as if they believed they were above the law.

His answer was "Yes we are above the law."

In Jerusalem itself Christian Palestinians such as her were in the ironic situation of watching pilgrims from around the world visit holy sites they themselves could not always get to.

The Israeli "settlers" were a law unto themselves but one of their favourite punishments for Palestinians was to cut down the olive trees which in some cases were centuries old.

Despite this she was one of a resolute group who did not believe violence was the answer.

"It will instead just bring more violence," said Claudette.

The highlight of her New Zealand trip will be a pilgrimage to Hiruharama-Jerusalem on the Whanganui River. This will be a spiritual journey linking concerns for health, healing and wholeness in both lands. ■

Urgent Appeal update!

To go \$45,500

\$200,000

\$154,500

At the end of last year, CWS sent out an Urgent Appeal letter as part of our strategy to become a self-funding, stronger donor based organisation. An abridged version appears here.

If you are one of our many supporters who have helped us reach the \$154,500 mark, then thank you again. Not only for your financial generosity, but also for the numerous accompanying messages sent in support of the vital work of CWS.

If you still have your Urgent Appeal reply form tucked away in your 'to do' pile, please consider retrieving it and posting it in. It's not too late.

And if this Urgent Appeal letter is news to you, please read on. Of the additional \$200,000 needed this financial year, to support our complement of 30 partners working overseas, we still need to raise \$45,500.

How to donate to the Urgent Appeal:

1

Retrieve your original Urgent Appeal reply form and post it to CWS, **or**

2

Fill in either response slip; one enclosed with this @world or the one on the back page.

Dear Reader



This is an important letter we write to you.

Christian World Service is facing a financial crisis which is forcing me and my team to make decisions... that will impact the lives of thousands of people living in poverty, worldwide.

Without your help, the cuts we will be forced to make will need to be even more drastic than they are already. Thank you for your commitment and support in the past. But we need your help right now.

By making your most generous gift ever, you can help us to keep essential CWS programmes alive. You have been there for CWS before, and we would like to thank you again. But this time we need to ask for an extra, one-off special gift of \$35, \$65 or \$150 plus.

We need to raise an additional \$200,000 this financial year. My experience shows that it can be met by you, and people like you, making a special one-off donation.

We are dedicated to doing everything within our power to raise this money, but we need your help now.

We had been receiving major Government funding, due to our proven reputation for effective development programmes. This funding has now effectively dried up because of Government policy changes.

We're good at problem solving, with your support. And now we are "stepping up to the challenge" again. It is our moral duty to our partners and to you our supporters.

By partnering with and empowering communities, we have impacted millions of lives for the better. Lives like the little Ugandan girl, Hope.

Hope was 8 when our Ugandan partner found her starving in a shed with her Aids ravaged mother. Her family had thrown them out without food or water.

We didn't lock them out. CWS, through the Church of Uganda, got them the food, medicine and the feeling that somebody cared about them. Our work is this literal difference between life and death.

Since our beginnings in 1945, we have reached millions of children, like Hope, and their families. But a big part of our growth was made possible by the generosity of many people in New Zealand. These sources of funding have been hit hard already by the global financial crisis, and now, again by the Government's new aid funding priorities.

We don't want CWS to have to drastically reduce support and turn away partners who trust in our help.

We are sure that you, as someone who has already shown how much you care about helping these families and communities, don't want CWS to be turning them away either.

Please help us to keep our programmes up and running right now with a donation of \$35, \$65 \$150 or more, before the end of May 2012.

In response to cuts in Government funding, we are finalising plans to ensure a stream of income less vulnerable to world events and Government changes.

We are growing our funding sources – we took part in a new and exciting youth market education and fundraising campaign called Live Below the Line; we have launched our new Direct Partner funding programme and we have cut our overheads to the bone.

This also means we need to put more effort into additional fundraising, including our regular monthly giving and bequests programmes. And this is why we need your help right now.

We must make decisions that will directly affect our ability to help children and their families in the 30 partner programmes we support.

Are you able to make an extra special donation right now? Thank you.

We promise to make your donations count, and commit to updating you on how we do.

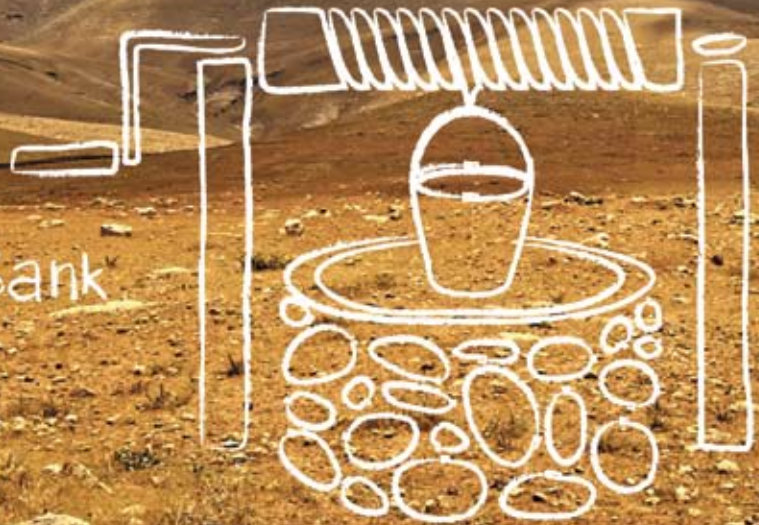
Thank you for reading this letter. Please, help CWS to continue helping people out of poverty so that they can lead their lives with dignity and hope.

Yours sincerely

Pauline McKay
National Director
Christian World Service

PS. With your help the outcome can be much rosier for the thousands of children and their families depending on us. Please help me to keep these programmes up and running right now by grabbing a pen, filling in the enclosed form and posting it along with a donation of \$35, \$65, or even an extra special gift of \$150 or more, by the end of May.

Water for West Bank



Direct Partners Coming to Parishes soon

Can't Wait? Then contact Michael Earle
Church and Donor Relations Co-ordinator
03 366 9274 ext 706 or
Michael.Earle@cws.org.nz

Yes, I would like to support the work of CWS

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postcode _____

Telephone () _____ Email _____

I enclose: \$35 \$65 \$125 Other \$..... Urgent Appeal

Donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible.

Please debit my Visa Diners Amex Mastercard

Card number

Amount \$ _____ Expiry date /

Signature _____ Please sign me up as a CWS Regular Giver.

Or direct deposit to: 06 0817 0318646 00, ref Spring 11. Email your postal details to cws@cws.org.nz if you would like a tax receipt.

Autumn 2012

Christian World Service has been doing a world of good since 1945. Established by the New Zealand churches to help in war torn Europe, we now assist groups around the world – helping communities survive disaster, overcome poverty and build dignity and self-reliance. We stand up for the powerless and campaign for social and environmental justice. CWS provides help where it is needed – regardless of race, region or religion.

Christian World Service

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"We believe the provision and enjoyment of the basic necessities of life is the will of God for all humankind."