



a member of

actalliance

FOR YOUR DIARY

15 December—**70th anniversary** of the launch of the first Christmas Appeal.

25 December—**Help Rebuild Lives**—support the **2015 Christmas Appeal**.

HELP FOR GREECE

APPEAL FOR FUNDS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

An appeal for funds for CORSO to assist Greece has been made by the National Council of Churches in New Zealand.

"When we meet together for rejoicing at this Christmas season, our families will be profoundly moved by thankfulness," says a statement signed by the Christchurch members of the executive of the organisation. "All of us will be thankful for the providence which has saved our nation from destruction.

"However, should any of us feel free to enjoy our Christmas reunions unless we are mindful of the millions in the east and the west who are hungry, cold, and homeless. We may feel helpless in face of such vast areas of suffering and wonder where the little we, as individual families, can do can be made effective. There is a definite project and a definite area which appeal for immediate help.

"We do not forget the needs of the Homeland, and we hope that more may be done in the way of sending food; but Greece has a special claim on New Zealand's assistance, because it was alongside the Greeks that New Zealand's men and women suffered, and because so many of our men had reason to bless the generosity and self-sacrifice of that people when they were in desperate need of help."

CORSO was sending four relief teams from New Zealand to Greece, continued the statement, and a considerable sum of money was needed to finance the project. Gifts of money should be sent to the Secretary, CORSO (Canterbury branch), care of the Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 217, and should be clearly marked "CORSO." They may also be sent direct to the headquarters in Wellington, P.O. Box 11, Government Buildings, Wellington.

CONTACT US

www.cws.org.nz

cws@cws.org.nz

PO Box 22652,

Christchurch 8140

Phone 03 366 9274

Christian World Service

is a member of the

ACT Alliance

(Action by Churches Together)

CWS Update

DECEMBER 2015

Help Rebuild Lives after War



Psychologist Budour helps five year old Tarek. Traumatized by last year's war in Gaza, he is improving thanks to the work of DSPR Gaza. Photo: ACT for Peace/ R Wainwright

Tarek is one of the people featured in this year's **Christmas Appeal**.

Thanks to the dedicated work of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees—CWS's oldest partner - he is getting the help he needs. When he first met Budour, he would only talk about his damaged home—otherwise he said nothing. Under her care he has learnt skills to overcome some of the trauma he carried. The **five stories** in this year's appeal show a glimpse of the work made possible by your donations to the Christmas Appeal. Your gift will make peace in a world where conflict and violence too often prevail. **Please support the 2015 Christmas Appeal: Help Rebuild Lives.**

Chris Nichol has kindly written an **overview** for the 70th anniversary. On **YouTube** watch material sent by partners and friends. From Wadalla Peter in war-torn South Sudan to Helen Clark from United Nations Development Programme in New York, they offer thanks and affirmation of the work we do together.

Christmas Greetings

The office will close at 5pm Wednesday 23 December and reopen at 9am on 5 January. We will monitor emails and respond in case of emergency – watch the website or **Facebook**. You have given generously to people in need of food, water, shelter and hope this year—thank you! We wish you a happy Christmas and the world a more peaceful new year!



Simply Giving

On the second day of Christmas, give a gift with the promise of new life—chickens, seeds, piglets and more. Give an e-card to make sure your present arrives on time—perfect for last minute giving: gift.org.nz/

Climate Talks Positive

ACT Alliance [welcomed](#) the new global agreement on the climate. Calling it a milestone in human history, Archbishop Thabo Makgabo, ACT's ambassador said it "gives us hope for a climate friendly, resilient and more equitable future." Richer countries have agreed to help developing countries adapt and grow, and for "loss and damage" to poor countries that cannot adapt to the severe damage climate change will cause.

Middle East: Refugees

CWS is grateful for a government grant of \$70,000 to match donations to the Syrian Refugee Appeal. Trish Murray recently visited DSPR at work in Jerusalem, Jordan and Lebanon. She was impressed by how they stretched resources to meet many needs and the way they worked with the refugees.

South India Floods

CWS launched an [appeal](#) after the heaviest recorded rainfall caused extensive flooding in Tamil Nadu. Our partners asked for funds to provide emergency food, shelter, blankets and clothing to some of the Dalit, Tribal and fisher communities with whom they work.



Supporters' Council and AGM

At last month's second Supporters' Council in Wellington, Pauline gave an overview of the past year and showed the [video](#) of Rod Oram. Supporters attending appreciated the speed of receipting and response to emergency appeals as well as the information CWS provided. More detail can be found in the [Annual Review](#).

Some Messages on 70 years

"CWS is working at the grassroots with vulnerable and marginalised people; and trusting communities to know what is needed and how to make it happen. CWS was a pioneer in this partner-led response," *Helen Clark, UNDP*.

"This community transformation work is done because of your tireless generous support. Convey our sincere gratitude to all New Zealanders for supporting this programme." *Charles Rwabambari, Centre for Community Solidarity, Southwest Uganda*.

"We appreciate the support of New Zealanders for CWS because it goes a long way—in our case to the other side of the world where we are working together with people who are looking for a better life," *Damaris Albuquerque, CEPAD, Nicaragua*.

"We value the partnership with CWS for the past 15 years and we respect their distinct model of relating to the community at the grassroots," *Subbu, SAND Trust, South India*.

"Congratulations to CWS. May you continue to be a blessing to others for another 70 years and beyond," *NCCP, Philippines*.

"We love you for your work and compassion. Thank you," *Bernard Sabella, DSPR, Palestine*.

About Update

Update provides news, information and stories. Reproduction of items is encouraged with attribution to CWS. Current and back issues are [available](#).