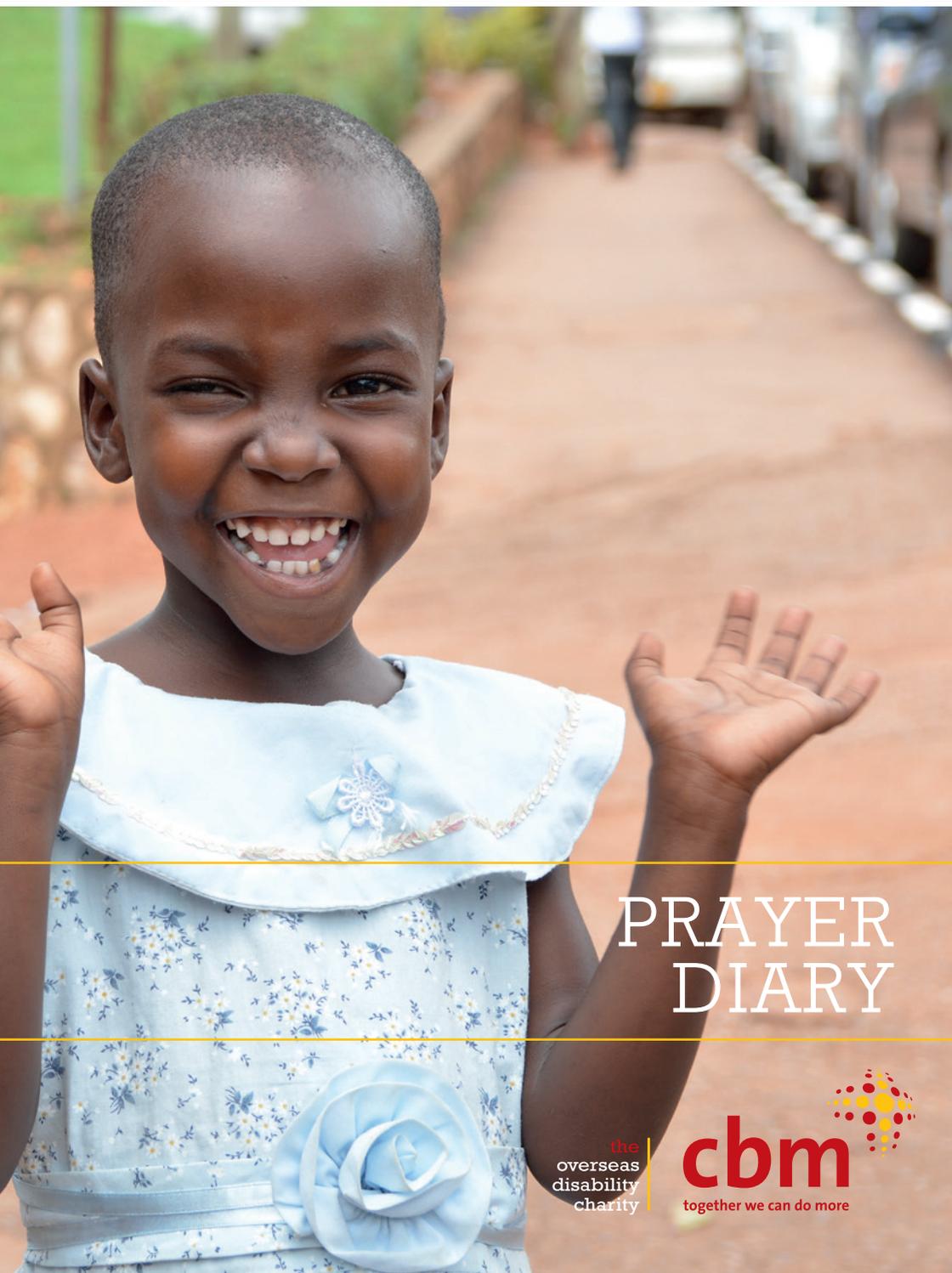


FEBRUARY - MAY 2018



PRAYER  
DIARY

the  
overseas  
disability  
charity

**cbm**   
together we can do more

## FEBRUARY

Reflecting on CBM  
UK's work in Zimbabwe



Dave Taylor,  
David Rootham  
(both far right)  
and ambassadors  
from CBM UK meet  
the CBM team in  
Zimbabwe.

*In November 2017 CBM team members and ambassadors visited our eye health projects in Zimbabwe, Southern Africa - a country in deep poverty, but where CBM is making a real difference.*

**Sun**  
4 Please pray for Maria, a remarkable woman we met in Zimbabwe, who was blinded by cataracts and unable to walk, yet was looking after her elderly mother and trying to earn a living by sewing.

**Mon**  
5 Maria was so excited after her cataract operation that she burst into song. Lord, teach us to give thanks like Maria for what we have, whatever circumstances we are facing.

Front cover: four year old Novellah stands outside Mengo Eye Hospital, Uganda, after an eye check-up.

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.  
**ISAIAH 53:4**

## FEBRUARY

Reflecting on CBM  
UK's work in Zimbabwe

**Tue**  
6 We pray for the fantastic staff at Sakubva eye hospital where Maria was treated. Let us pray for the ophthalmologists and ophthalmic nurses as they struggle to keep up with the demand.

**Wed**  
7 We pray for Deborah Tigere, our manager in Zimbabwe, and her team - for their hard work to ensure as many people as possible get the treatment they need.

**Thu**  
8 We pray for the many Zimbabwean people who struggle to afford glasses. We pray that our partner, the Zimbabwe Council for the Blind will be able to make glasses accessible to more people.

**Fri**  
9 Two CBM-supported hospitals provide transport, but this is inadequate to meet demand. We pray for those who can't afford the public transport to reach the help they need.

**Sat**  
10 There are over 60,000 people in Zimbabwe that still need a cataract operation. We pray for more resources to tackle avoidable blindness so that more people can see and enjoy a brighter future.

*Maria from Zimbabwe is overjoyed to see after her cataract operation.*



Prayers provided by David Rootham, CBM UK

## FEBRUARY

## Prayers for Lent



Students at Tartuarwa primary school in Ethiopia, East Africa receive a daily meal thanks to a CBM-funded school food and water distribution program.

**Sun**  
**11**

As we approach Lent prepare our hearts and minds to reflect upon the sacrifices that Jesus made for us, and the length he went to, to demonstrate his love.

**Mon**  
**12**

Lent is a time of sacrifice and reflection. Lord, give us strength to give up the things we like and help us find true appreciation for what really matters in life.

**Tue**  
**13**

Lord, this Shrove Tuesday we thank you with all our hearts for the food on our tables. Please protect those who are not as fortunate, in the poorest places of the world.

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" **MARK 1:15**

## FEBRUARY

## Prayers for Lent

**Wed**  
**14**

As we enter Lent this Ash Wednesday, allow us to reflect on our life. We pray for forgiveness of sins, and strength to be a better person.

**Thu**  
**15**

As we think of Jesus alone in the desert, we think too of those who live in the poorest places of the world. Bless those who live without enough food, or without clean water.

**Fri**  
**16**

Lord we pray that this Lent is a time of personal reflection; a time to look with compassion at the needs of the world.

**Sat**  
**17**

Dear Lord, we look forward to Christian Blind Mission Sunday on the 14th October and pray for its success. We pray for churches as they prepare to learn and raise funds for children who need sight restoring treatment.

*To join in Christian Blind Mission Sunday and request supporting resources please call Jacqueline on 01223 484700 or email [community@cbmuk.org.uk](mailto:community@cbmuk.org.uk)*

Prayers provided by Grace Harper, CBM UK



## FEBRUARY

*Advocating for the rights  
of people with disabilities*

*Rachel Aston joined CBM UK in September as Policy Manager, working with governments and mainstream aid agencies so that people with disabilities in the world's poorest places can access support.*



**Sun**  
**18**  
Thank you Lord, for your call to us to advocate for others; to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves or who are unheard.

**Mon**  
**19**  
Please forgive us when we neglect the rights and needs of others; when we exclude others, deliberately or through neglect.

**Tue**  
**20**  
Lord, on World Social Justice Day, give wisdom to governments to put in place laws to end discrimination against, and protect the rights of, people with disabilities.

**Wed**  
**21**  
We pray for the work of organisations such as the United Nations in furthering the rights of people with disabilities, and that their decisions will have a meaningful impact on individual lives.

**Thu**  
**22**  
Thank you for the individuals and organisations that work to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities. Bless the work of CBM and its partners that enable this.

Prayers provided by Rachel Aston,  
CBM UK

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. **PROVERBS 31:8**

## FEBRUARY

*Advocating for the rights  
of people with disabilities*

**Fri**  
**23**  
We pray for greater fairness and inclusion in all areas of life for people with disabilities; especially in education and work.

**Sat**  
**24**  
We pray for an end to conflict and crises in our world. Lord, do not forget those with disabilities in humanitarian situations but alleviate their suffering.

*The team at CBM UK after a game of blind football - a fun activity also helping us to understand some of the challenges faced by people living with blindness.*



# FEBRUARY

*Prayers from  
an eye-care expert*



*Dr Heiko Philipp examines Joyce who received the 10 millionth CBM-supported cataract surgery.*

*Dr Heiko Philipp has worked for CBM as a consultant ophthalmologist since 2006. A glaucoma specialist, based at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC), he also trains local junior doctors and researches new approaches to help people living with sight problems in the world's poorest places.*

**Sun** 25 Pray for peace and stability in Tanzania, East Africa. Pray for wisdom for all leaders in the country.

**Mon** 26 Pray for the staff at our partner hospital in Tanzania, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre. Bless the good work they do.

Prayers provided by Dr Heiko Philipp

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? **JOHN 3:17**

# FEBRUARY / MARCH

*Prayers from  
an eye-care expert*

**Tue** 27 Pray for our friends and colleagues who inspire us with their faith and diligence. Pray that we convey your blessings to those surrounding us.

**Wed** 28 Thank you Lord for the opportunity to train new ophthalmologists in Africa. Pray for those in training, as they face exams and pray for their future success.

**Thu** 1 Pray for the achievements made so far in fighting blindness from glaucoma. Pray for World Glaucoma Week coming up in March, that more people become aware of this illness and join the fight.

**Fri** 2 Pray for our rewarding work. Pray for all people living under challenging circumstances who benefit from CBM's work.

**Sat** 3 Pray for all those who have been prevented from becoming blind through CBM's work. Pray for continuous improvements in caring for our patients.



*Dr. Philipp examines the eyes of a little girl called Stella.*

## MARCH

Pray for women of the world

Sun

4

We pray for women who are blind or living with other forms of disability in the world's poorest communities, who often face double discrimination because of their gender and their disability.

Mon

5

Help us to build a world where all women and girls can access health care to prevent blindness and treat conditions that can lead to disability.

Tue

6

Thank you Lord for campaigners like Irene Ojiugo from our partner Disability Rights Action Centre (DRAC) in Nigeria, West Africa, who use the skills and talents you have given them to help build a fairer society.

Wed

7

We ask your blessing on our work with DRAC to tackle violence against women and girls with disability in Nigeria. Help us build a world where nobody is trapped in violent or abusive relationships.

Mama Millinga is Holistic Care Coordinator at CBM's partner, CCBRT based in Tanzania. She supports women recovering from fistula.

## MARCH

Pray for women of the world



*Regina is a low vision therapist at our partner hospital in Kenya, East Africa. She supports children with low vision and provides equipment like glasses so they can go to school.*

Thu  
8

This International Women's Day, we pray that women and girls everywhere - including those with disabilities - will be valued by their families and communities, just as you value every one of us.

Sat  
10

We give thanks for the amazing work done by women to build stronger, healthier communities, whether as health workers, mothers, teachers or in other roles.

Fri  
9

We pray for health workers like "Mama" Millinga, who provides life-changing support to women undergoing treatment for obstetric fistula at our partner hospital in Tanzania, East Africa.

Prayers provided by Rosi Jack, CBM UK

Blessed is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her. **LUKE 1:45**

## MARCH

*Mothers and fathers caring for children with disabilities*

Women in the Philippines wait for an eye screening for their premature babies.

Sun



On Mothering Sunday we pray for mothers and fathers who are caring for children with disabilities. We pray that through your love, they will find ways to live life to the full.



Mon



We pray for those with disabilities, particularly when they face discrimination or abuse. At times of distress we pray they will feel your strength as you hold them in your arms.

Tue



Lord God we pray for the parents of disabled children, especially when they feel weary or downhearted. May you offer them comfort and strength.

Prayers provided by Jacqueline Atkinson, CBM UK and Rebecca Striven of St. Andrew's Church in Cambridgeshire

We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:7**

## MARCH

*Mothers and fathers caring for children with disabilities*

Wed



Loving Father, thank you for understanding those that are misunderstood. We pray that people with disabilities will always be able to enjoy contributing within their communities.

Fri



Lord - some days we cannot see the best way forward. Thank you for showing us the next step; help us to trust you for our future.

Sat



Give praise to our God who comforts us; that we may know his love and heart so that we may encourage and comfort others.

Thu



Thank you Father for creating us with your grace. Help us to appreciate the enormous value and opportunities that people with disabilities bring to our communities.

Regina from Uganda, East Africa sits in hospital with her mum, after an operation to treat her bow legs. She can now walk pain free thanks to CBM supporters.



## MARCH

*Clean water to prevent disease*



*Wubetu Worku works on our anti-trachoma programme in Ethiopia, East Africa, helping to ensure people in the country are protected from this painful infection that causes blindness.*

**Sun**  
**18**  
Lord please draw the attention of leaders in developing countries to do more for people living with disability. Bless CBM and its partners for all their efforts.

**Wed**  
**21**  
Lord, we give thanks for the hard work of CBM supported outreach teams, who travel to remote areas distributing Mectizan, which prevents River Blindness.

**Mon**  
**19**  
Lord, please bless those who are affected by Neglected Tropical Diseases, like trachoma and River Blindness. Please guide people to get the medical help they need.

**Thu**  
**22**  
Terrible infections like trachoma are spread by dirty water. On World Water Day we pray more people in the world will have access to something so fundamental as clean, safe water.

**Tue**  
**20**  
We pray for better information and education about eye health in developing countries. We pray for more posters and radio broadcasts to inform people about symptoms of eye conditions and how to get help.

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. **MARK 10:52**

## MARCH

*Clean water to prevent disease*



*Villagers make use of a newly installed water point in their rural village in the region of Amhara, Ethiopia.*

**Fri**  
**23**  
Lord, bless everyone working on the Amhara Trachoma Control Programme in Ethiopia. Thank you to CBM's partners who work with passion to eliminate trachoma.

**Sat**  
**24**  
We give thanks for the washing stations that CBM have built in Ethiopia, East Africa. We pray that with these facilities and education, the next generation will be trachoma free.

Prayers provided by Wubetu Worku, Organisation for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA)

## MARCH

## Prayers for Holy Week

**Sun**  
**25**

On this Palm Sunday, we think of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem in triumph and people recognised him as the Messiah. May we recognise ourselves as children of God and follow Jesus Christ.

**Mon**  
**26**

We think of Jesus as he raised Lazarus from the dead. As we are mortal humans, we cannot restore life, but we can show Jesus's love to our fellow humans through acts of kindness.

**Tue**  
**27**

In Holy Week, let us reflect on the Last Supper, when Jesus broke bread with his disciples. We thank you Lord for making your son part of us, may we listen to Jesus in our hearts.

**Wed**  
**28**

Just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, may we treat each other with respect. Let us disregard social status, wealth, gender and disability, as we are all equal in the eyes of God.

## MARCH

## Prayers for Holy Week

*Bessie from Swaziland had bilateral cataracts which made her unable to care for her grandchildren. Now that she can see, she is very happy to be able to read her Bible again.*



**Thu**  
**29**

We think of Judas, who betrayed Jesus to the Roman soldiers. May we be inspired by Jesus to forgive those that do wrong to us, and empathise with their situation.

**Fri**  
**30**

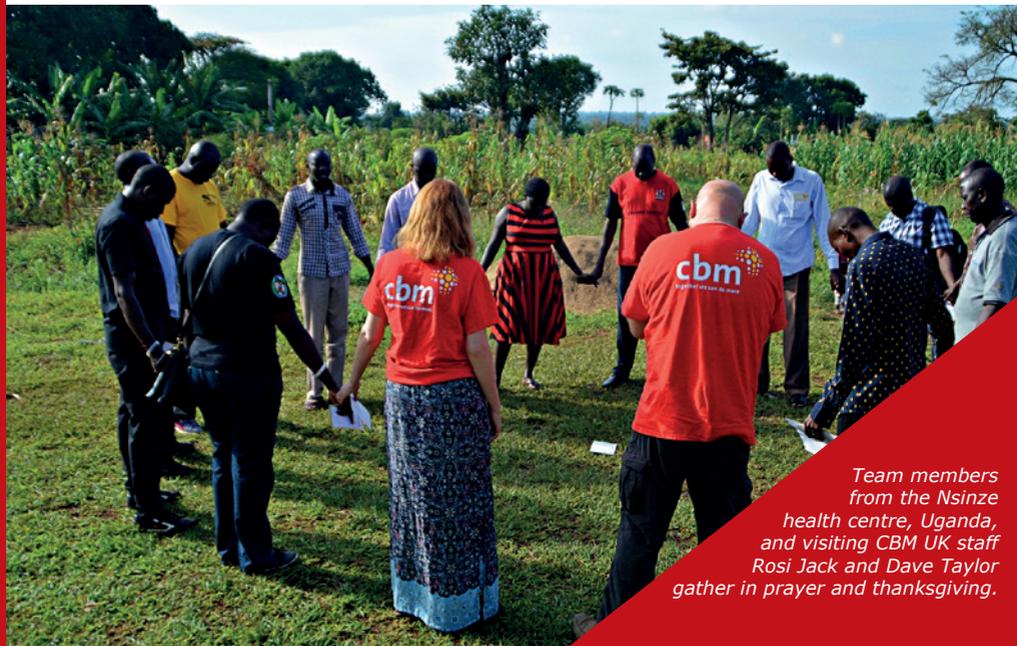
When Jesus hung on the cross, and the world went dark, he asked the Lord: "why have you forsaken me?" When the world seems dark to us, we ask that you are always near us.

**Sat**  
**31**

Holy Saturday is a day of sadness, but also a day of hope. When we are faced with troubling times, teach us not to give up; but to have faith and to wait for the light at the end of the tunnel.

Prayers provided by Grace Harper,  
CBM UK

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **JOHN 13:14**



Team members from the Nsinze health centre, Uganda, and visiting CBM UK staff Rosi Jack and Dave Taylor gather in prayer and thanksgiving.

# APRIL

Remembering God's love at Easter



*Sira, from Ethiopia, who is blind, received some chickens from CBM so she can earn a living.*

# APRIL

Remembering God's love at Easter



*Children from the orthopaedic unit at CoRSU, Uganda send their Easter wishes.*

**Sun**  
**1**  
On Easter Day we thank you Lord for giving us your only son. You sent him to live with us, and die for us, so that we might be redeemed. We cannot thank you enough for your sacrifice.

**Tue**  
**3**  
Easter is a time of second chances. We thank you Lord for the work of CBM, which through surgery and rehabilitation has given millions of people the chance of a brighter future.

**Mon**  
**2**  
Lord, we are all sometimes guilty of doubting your Grace, like Thomas and Peter, doubting Christ's resurrection. Teach us to trust in you.

**Wed**  
**4**  
At Easter we may also think of those we have lost. Teach us not to fear death, and that with faith, we will reach the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Thu**  
**5**  
At Easter time we think of all new life; plants, animals and children. We pray especially for babies born into challenging circumstances; whether they are sick, or their families are poor.

**Sat**  
**7**  
Dear Lord, as today is World Health Day, we pray for all those across the world who are ill; particularly those who do not have access to the treatment, medication and medical care they need.

**Fri**  
**6**  
Easter is a time of life, and new beginnings. We pray that you will refresh our hearts, our mind and our faith.

In his great mercy, he has given us new birth, into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **1 PETER 1:3**

Prayers provided by Grace Harper, CBM UK

# APRIL

*Improving health in the world's poorest places*

*Community outreach volunteers in the Democratic Republic of Congo manage the distribution of the drug Mectizan, which is used to prevent River Blindness.*



**Sun 8** We ask that you shine your light in us, so that we may demonstrate your love in the way we live. Give us strength to make difference in this world.

**Mon 9** We pray for the organisations we work alongside, such as the WHO and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, who do so much to improve medical healthcare in low-income countries.

**Tue 10** We pray for pharmaceutical companies, who donate like-changing drugs like Mectizan which prevents River Blindness, so that CBM can distribute them to people at risk of this debilitating disease.

**Wed 11** Pray for community workers, local and national partners promoting WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), which are vital to CBM's prevention and treatment of trachoma.

Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body.  
**PROVERBS 4:21-22**

# APRIL

*Improving health in the world's poorest places*

**Thu 12** Let us pray for scientists across the world who are working to develop new and improved treatments for eye conditions which help CBM eradicate preventable and treatable blindness.

**Fri 13** Lord, bless the work of Dr Heiko Philippin and his team in Tanzania, East Africa, who are trialling a pioneering laser treatment for people with Glaucoma.

**Sat 14** We give thanks for the dedication of all CBM-supported health care staff. We celebrate Dr. Rabino from the Philippines and Dr. Aslam Khan from Pakistan who were nominated as Eye Health Heroes by the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness.

*Dr Rabino is a senior ophthalmologist for CBM partner Cataract Foundation Philippines.*



## APRIL

## Prayers from a supporter



*Lilian has supported CBM's work for over 5 years. After being misdiagnosed with a mental illness in earlier life, she had a prompting from God to help those who live with disabilities.*

Sun  
15

Dear Lord, let us offer all our daily problems to you, that you may hear our need for guidance and give us the strength and support we seek.

Mon  
16

Help us to trust in you; as you are the almighty, the creator and Lord, who has the power to overcome all obstacles.

Tue  
17

Help us to leave things to your will, as you Lord, know the bigger picture to create. Often we don't give you enough time to fit all the jigsaw pieces together to make your complete planned picture.

Prayers provided by Lilian Campbell, CBM supporter

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer. **PSALM 4:1**

## APRIL

## Prayers from a supporter

Wed  
18

We may think that you are not listening or answering our prayers, but as we age and look back we often realise we should have trusted the Holy Spirit.

Thu  
19

Give us confidence to accept that you know why, when, how and what answer is best for us.

Fri  
20

May we, like Jesus in the agony of the garden, and Mary at the foot of the cross, learn to say, "Thy will be done," confidently.

Sat  
21

We pray for your blessings on our family, friends, loved ones and for the work of CBM, which helps people in great need.



## APRIL

## Prayers from a volunteer

**Sun**  
**22** Pray for the women who leave our partner hospital, CCBRT, in Tanzania, East Africa after successful Fistula surgery, that they would have the resources and confidence to empower others.

**Mon**  
**23** Today is Saint George's Day. Pray for CBM experts to follow St. George's example of Christian courage and boldness in the face of adversity.

**Tue**  
**24** Pray for volunteers and CBM supporters around the world - may God bless us with opportunities we do not expect!

**Wed**  
**25** We pray for all those who are caring for people affected by mental health problems. We ask that you give them wisdom and stamina.



*A patient sews at the Mabinti Centre, a CBM-supported community project for women who have undergone fistula surgery, in Tanzania.*

## APRIL

## Prayers from a volunteer

*"Ernst Christoffel, the founder of CBM is my 'unsung hero'. Despite many setbacks he never gave up! I value my role as a volunteer within the CBM family, raising awareness and money through organising events in Cambridgeshire."*  
Gill Godber



*Volunteer Gill (centre), at her fundraising art show in May 2017.*

**Thu**  
**26** Pray for those on the Advocacy team at CBM working for inclusion for people with disabilities in society.

**Fri**  
**27** Blessed are the peacemakers: let us pray for reconciliation in all families where there is disharmony and separation.

**Sat**  
**28** Let us pray for a deep spirit of thankfulness in our lives. Give thanks for the simple things, like a kind word or the scent of a flower in springtime.

Prayers provided by Gill Godber, CBM volunteer

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.  
**HEBREWS 12:1**

## APRIL / MAY

Prayers from a CBM expert

**Sun** We pray for our ophthalmologist training programme in Guinea, West Africa. We hope our candidates will do well in their studies to become qualified eye surgeons.



**Mon** We pray for our eye health project in the Ivory Coast. We pray for the success of this project which aims to improve capacity for eye surgery, to help thousands waiting for treatment.



**Wed** We pray for our partner in Nigeria, the Health and Development Support Programme (HANDS). Thank you for the hard work of our dedicated co-workers to eliminate avoidable blindness.



**Tue** Lord, we pray for all those in Nigeria, West Africa who are at risk of Neglected Tropical Diseases, such as River Blindness and trachoma. May you save them from constant threat.



**Thu** We pray for the success of our Eye Care programme in Freetown, Sierra Leone, particularly against the backdrop of the flooding they have experienced last year. May the country remain resilient.



Prayers provided by Dr. Irmela Erdmann

Now faith, hope, love, these three remain; but love is the greatest among them. **1 CORINTHIANS 13:13**

## APRIL / MAY

Prayers from a CBM expert

**Fri** We pray for continued peace and stability in Togo, the country in which I live, where many people live in extreme poverty.



**Sat** We pray for the success of our River Blindness outreach work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. May God bless those who are living with this debilitating disease.



*Originally from Germany, Dr. Irmela Erdmann is an ophthalmologist who has worked for CBM since 1998. She is an Eye Health Advisor for CBM, responsible for developing programmes helping people across West Africa*

*Dr Erdmann examines a patient who has cataracts.*



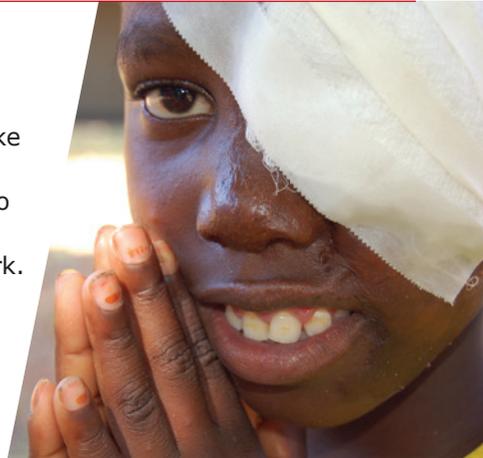
the  
overseas  
disability  
charity



## Christian Blind Mission Sunday, 14th October 2018

Christian Blind Mission Sunday for 2018 will take place on the 14th October. This is a fantastic opportunity to join together with your church to learn about sight loss in developing countries, pray together and fundraise to support our work. **Be inspired and inspire others!**

To register for updates and resources please call **01223 484700** or email **community@cbmuk.org.uk**



With gratitude to all the friends of CBM who have provided prayers for this diary including: David Rootham, Jacqueline Atkinson, Rosi Jack, Rachel Aston, Kirsty Smith, Heiko Philippin, Wubetu Worku, Irmela Erdmann, Gill Godber and Lillian Campbell.

Charity Registration No: England & Wales 1058162  
Scotland SC041101



**CBM reaches out to people who others leave behind, transforming the lives of people with blindness and other disabilities in the poorest places of the world.**

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