

**Church  
leader's  
guide**

**cbm**  
christian blind mission

# **Christian Blind Mission Sunday**

**14 October 2018**

# Welcome

We hope this booklet – and the further selection of resources it points to – will help you choose the best way for your church to celebrate **Christian Blind Mission Sunday**, whether you do so on **14 October** (closest to World Sight Day), or on another date.

Whether you devote a whole service to exploring this year's theme, set aside a few minutes to pray, hold a collection or organise a separate fundraising event, we're thrilled you're taking part. Find out how we can help your church:

- **learn together** (page 4)
- **pray together** (page 5)
- **give together** (page 6)
- **return your funds and feedback** (pages 7-8)

We have produced a range of inspiring free resources that you can choose from, to create your special Sunday service.



indicates a printed resource that can be ordered and sent in the post



indicates a digital resource that can be downloaded from [www.cbmuk.org.uk/sunday-resources](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk/sunday-resources)

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## About Christian Blind Mission

Christian Blind Mission is the overseas disability charity, transforming the lives of people with blindness and other disabilities in the poorest places of the world. Driven by Christian values, we treat and prevent conditions that lead to disability and work with disabled people to tackle stigma and change attitudes. Our vision is an inclusive world in which all people with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.



## Seeing the world through different eyes

After receiving cataract surgery that his family in Tanzania, East Africa, would never have been able to afford without CBM, three year old **Hemedi** is joyful at seeing his father's face clearly for the first time.

Some thousand miles north, in Uganda, ten-year-old **Mathias** is waiting in the dark because his family can't afford the operation to remove his cataracts and restore his sight.

Every year, up to half a million children in the world's poorest countries go blind, mostly caused by cataracts. 75% of all blindness is avoidable – Mathias' cataracts could be easily treated for as little as £95 per eye.



Your church's support will help save the sight of the world's poorest children. Find an expanded version of these stories in our  **worship resources pack.**

# Learn together

Christian Blind Mission Sunday provides lots of opportunities for your church to learn about children living with blindness or low vision.

You could:

- show our  **film** or  **presentation**
- inspire younger members with our  **children's activity sheet**
- display or distribute printed  **leaflets and posters** about CBM's work
- invite a **speaker** from CBM to your service or event (please do this as soon as you can).

Visit [www.cbmuk.org.uk/sunday-resources](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk/sunday-resources) to find **everything you need** or call 0800 567 7000 to book a speaker and order resources.

## Blindness around the world...

**89%**

of visually impaired people live in low or middle income countries.

**1.1 billion**

people are struggling to see simply because they can't access a pair of glasses to correct their vision; almost all of them live in the world's poorest places.

For children living in poverty, going blind too often means **losing the chance to go to school.**

**Not only is it harder for people with preventable blindness in poor communities to access treatment, their families struggle to provide for those who can't work.**

# Pray together

Our  **printed prayer bookmark** can be ordered for everyone in your congregation and we can provide a free set of  **worship resources** that can be adapted. You'll find lots to help all ages celebrate the wonderful gifts of light and sight; creative ideas and guidance to lead prayer for more transformation and generosity; and sermon notes too.

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## **A prayer for Christian Blind Mission Sunday**

**Loving God,  
let there be light –  
in the eyes and futures  
of those living in the darkness  
of preventable blindness and poverty.**

**Let there be light  
in our hearts and lives  
so we see the difference we can make  
when we share your good gifts freely  
to restore hope to those whom others overlook.**



# Give together

Holding a **collection** or **fundraising event** is a brilliant way for your church to get involved. Our  **fundraising guide** is packed with creative ideas. And you can order  **Gift Aid envelopes** to make your donations go even further.

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## How much difference could we make?

**£190**

can pay for surgery to remove cataracts from a child blind in both eyes, lighting up their world and giving them back the chance of a bright future.

**£310**

could cover the cost of essential optical equipment, which will be used in a hospital to diagnose thousands of people's eye conditions.

**£420**

can pay for diagnostic and refraction skills training for an ophthalmic nurse, so they can deliver high quality treatment for years to come.

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## What should you do with the money raised?

Please gather together all the money you raise through your collections and fundraising activities. If you have used Gift Aid envelopes, your Church Treasurer or another responsible person should open the envelopes, checking that the amount donated is filled in on each envelope and that each person has completed their full name and address legibly.

Please bank all cash enclosed and write a cheque for the total cash donated. Send this, along with any cheques and charity vouchers that individuals have written payable to CBM, and all the empty used Gift Aid envelopes, to CBM with the attached donation form completed. **Thank you!**



# Response and donation form

## Please detach and return

I enclose a cheque/cheques payable to CBM for £

This donation is a result of:

- a church collection       a gift from church funds  
 a fundraising event       other (please state in box below)

I would like a receipt       by post       by email  
(please tick as appropriate)

Title  First name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Email address

Phone number

Name of church

Position in church (e.g. minister, treasurer)

We'd love to keep you informed about our work and how your support is transforming lives. If you're happy to hear from CBM UK by phone or email, please let us know your details in the boxes above.

If you would rather not receive updates by post about the work you support, please email [leave@cbmuk.org.uk](mailto:leave@cbmuk.org.uk) or call 0800 567 7000.

*Please turn over*



We are in the early years of developing Christian Blind Mission Sunday so we would really welcome your feedback and suggestions in response to the following questions. This will help us to make future events even better for participating churches.

1. Which resources and information that we provided did you find particularly helpful?

2. Was there anything that could have been clearer? Or anything different you would have found useful?

3. Would your church consider taking part in Christian Blind Mission Sunday again?  Yes  No

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**Please return this form, with your cheque and any Gift Aid envelopes, to:**

**Freepost Plus RSKK-HXAX-CYGZ, CBM, Oakington Business Park, Dry Drayton Road, Oakington CB24 3DQ**

Thank you so much for your support. We will use your kind gifts to restore light and sight to many more people.

**England & Wales:** Oakington Business Park, Dry Drayton Road, Oakington, Cambridge CB24 3DQ

**Scotland:** 83 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2ER

**Northern Ireland:** The Mount Business Centre, 2 Woodstock Link, Belfast BT6 8DD

**[www.cbmun.org.uk](http://www.cbmun.org.uk)**  
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