

[Music]

0:00:28 I'm here in Rwanda to witness firsthand

0:00:31 the incredible work of CBM and on a

0:00:35 personal level it has particular meaning

0:00:37 for me as I'll be sharing this very

0:00:40 personal journey with my grandson

0:00:42 Preston.

0:00:48 It takes three and a half hours to reach

0:00:51 the village where we finally get to meet

0:00:53 a very special boy; ten year-old Etienne.

0:00:56 Seraphine it's such a pleasure and an

0:01:00 honour to meet you and to meet Etienne... and

0:01:07 this is Preston. It's very nice

0:01:13 to meet you. Have you ever been able to

0:01:15 see? What does that seem like to

0:01:21 you Preston? Pretty hard. Can I ask you Etienne,

0:01:25 do you go to school? No. What is it like not to be able to see anything?

0:01:39 My eyes are very painful in the morning

0:01:43 When we are going to church

0:01:45 we have to lead him by the hand -

0:01:47 because he loves going to church.

0:01:54 Did you know ever that there was treatment for your child to get his sight?

0:01:58 After realising he had an eye problem,

0:02:01 I brought him to an outreach clinic.

0:02:05 Because I couldn't afford it,

0:02:08 I didn't dare take him to a hospital.

0:02:10 Because you know, life is not easy...It's very hard, isn't it?

0:02:23 Etienne's mom is so amazing. She's had to

0:02:28 watch 10 years of her child basically

0:02:31 suffering due to an eye condition that

0:02:35 could easily be put right. I think

0:02:38 there's a little bit inside me that's a

0:02:39 bit angry actually. That in the 21st

0:02:42 century there are still places on this

0:02:44 incredibly rich earth where people don't

0:02:48 even have the basics; the basics of sight.

0:02:56 [Music]

0:03:04 This hospital in Kabgayi was founded by

0:03:07 CBM and Rwandan partners in 1993.

0:03:10 Since then 25 people every day receive

0:03:15 sight-saving operations that are

0:03:17 literally life-changing. For the first

0:03:21 time in his life

0:03:22 Etienne spent last night away from his

0:03:24 village and away from his mum, so I'm

0:03:27 super-keen to find out how he's doing.

0:03:30 Etienne Senior; Daddy, this is the big day

0:03:34 now. This is a day that could change

0:03:36 Etienne's and your family's life. How

0:03:39 are you both? We are feeling very happy, I am full of joy, because

0:03:45 since yesterday, they are taking good care of us.

0:03:48 Etienne, how are you feeling today? I am feeling well...

0:03:56 Are you happy?...Yes. I'm very happy. Well we're really excited for

0:04:03 you as well, really hopeful that today

0:04:05 would make a big difference.

0:04:08 [Music]

0:04:37 [Applause]

0:04:38 [Music]

0:04:42 Everywhere I look today all I could see

0:04:44 were people who looked as if they have

0:04:49 severe eye conditions but because of the

0:04:53 location, because we're here, because

0:04:55 people live in poverty, because they have

0:04:57 so little, what to us is a sort of

0:05:01 minor medical condition is a major,

0:05:06 life-threatening condition here. This

0:05:09 cannot go on; we cannot have this in the

0:05:11 21st century. At the moment I just felt

0:05:14 such love for that little boy

0:05:21 I can't I couldn't actually bear it... I'm

0:05:24 dreading tomorrow in a sense because I

0:05:26 can't bear the thought he's going to

0:05:27 take those bandages off his eyes and

0:05:29 still not be able to see and I can't

0:05:32 imagine how his family must be feeling,

0:05:35 especially as having to wait ten years

0:05:38 significantly reduces the possibility of

0:05:41 a successful outcome.

0:05:43 [Music]

0:05:54 Hello. So this is the moment. It's here...

0:05:59 [Music]

0:06:06 Open your eyes.

0:06:09 Can you see? Open your eyes.

0:06:19 Can you see this pen? Take it from my hand.

0:06:23 Oh my days, that's a miracle.

0:06:29 [Music]

0:06:32 Papa this is a miracle how are you

0:06:35 feeling?

0:06:37

[Music]

0:06:39 I am so happy, I'm full of joy. Because he is able to see again.

0:06:43 Etienne, what does it feel like to be able to see?

0:06:50 I'm very happy. You're very happy? I'm very happy too.

0:06:57 Having this time in Rwanda with my

0:07:00 grandson Preston has been so precious.

0:07:02 Without doubt it's an experience that

0:07:05 will stay with both of us for the rest

0:07:07 of our lives. Before we return to the UK

0:07:12 we're on our way to say goodbye to our

0:07:14 new friends and as one mum to another I

0:07:17 ask Seraphine how it feels to have her

0:07:20 boy safely home. You look so happy! I'm very happy

0:08:19 When he arrived home, I felt happy and positive... I thank the doctors and God

0:08:22 It's a real miracle. It is indeed a miracle... I'm thankful. I have hope for my son's future. I'm praying to God that he becomes a doctor so that he will treat others. Come here, where's my hug?

0:08:24 It's crazy 'cause he pretty much couldn't even see a day ago and now you can draw. It would be

0:08:27 nice seeing Etienne, I don't know...

0:08:29 after five years time to see where he's at.

0:08:30 I really happy for him as well.

0:08:32 [Music]

0:08:38 I don't know if I've actually the words

0:08:42 to describe how joyful I feel right now

0:08:47 actually over something that is

0:08:51 relatively simple to put right and

0:08:54 thanks so much to the people who support

0:08:57 this really good charity, that little boy

0:09:01 that precious little Etienne; yesterday he

0:09:05 couldn't see today, his sight is returned

0:09:08 and his future is so bright I really

0:09:11 hope that people who watch this story,

0:09:15 watched this journey I really hope that

0:09:17 it moves them as much as it's moved me,

0:09:19 to help even more

0:09:22 little Etienne's. There are many of them

0:09:24 and they really deserve the gift of

0:09:27 sight.

0:09:31 [Music]

0:09:40 please give what you can today because

0:09:43 right now your gift can help twice as

0:09:46 many people like Etienne to see the way

0:09:48 to a brighter future until the 12th of

0:09:51 May 20 2020 every single pound you give will

0:09:55 be doubled by the UK government. Join me

0:09:58 in supporting this vital work today give

0:10:01 now at seetheway.org. because no child

0:10:05 should be needlessly blind.