



Issue 3 / 2011

NEWSLETTER

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Free at last. A happier life lies ahead for Razita.

It's all gone, Razita

Darren's appeal letter with this newsletter is about Claude in Cameroon, expelled from school for becoming blind. Children with disabilities have such heartaches, but your support turns grief into joy. Just look at Razita, growing up not far from Claude's village.

From birth Razita's childhood has been ruined by

a huge growth on her leg – growing to the size of a melon. The tumour has sapped her strength and caused her immense pain, frustration and shame. *"It hurt very much,"* Razita whispers. Like Claude she was unable to go to school. Razita's parents worked so hard but could never afford hospital treatment. Then they heard about a miracle – a hospital in Banso supported by **cbm**. A free operation for their little girl? Could it be true?

Yes! After Razita woke from her delicate operation, her mother Eileen was able to whisper softly, *"It's all gone, my dear."*

Off to college

The College of St. John The Evangelist - Aotearoa New Zealand



Like many families at the start of the university year we have mixed emotions of sadness and pride in seeing our Nathan leave to study at St Johns Theological College. Nathan had been with **cbm** for 10 years. At the same time we're thrilled to welcome Elena to the **cbm** team here in Albany. Elena will be responsible for business support functions.



cbm team member - Elena.

FREE website seminar by Zeald

We are really excited to let you know about a highly educational seminar series, brought to you by our website sponsors Zeald. If you're looking for a new website or want to improve results from an existing one, this seminar is the perfect opportunity to get started.

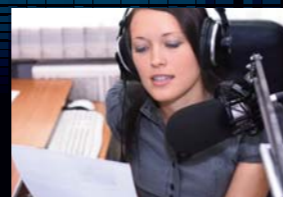
The best part is that it's completely free and there are no strings attached. Please help us spread the word and pass this info onto to anyone else you know that might be involved with websites.

Find out more and register for the free seminar at www.zeald.com/cbm or call 0508 932 748



Sounds good

COMING SOON
cbm Christian audio library for New Zealand

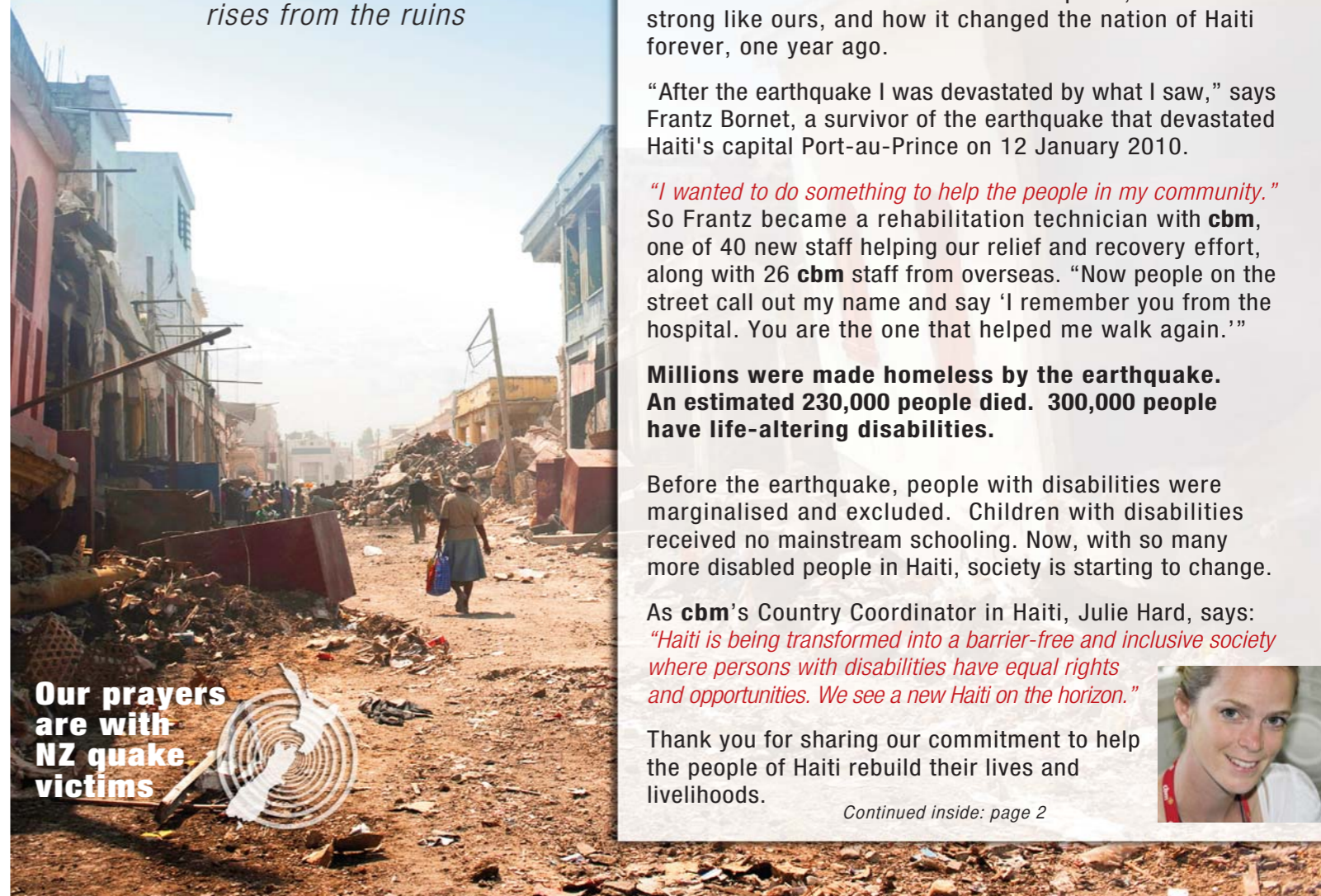


As an extension of the service already operated by CBM Australia, New Zealand will soon become the latest **cbm** country to offer Christian talking books and music for our own sight impaired community. That includes people with visual impairment, those who cannot hold books or turn pages or who struggle to read or comprehend words in print.

This new free audio library service will include bibles, studies and theology; uplifting Christian non-fiction and novels; regular devotionals; and a wide range of Christian magazines from around the world – as well as classical music, hymns and modern Christian music.

Haiti one year on from the earthquake

A new society more equal and inclusive rises from the ruins



Our prayers are with NZ quake victims

As New Zealand reels from the earthquake tragedy in Christchurch, our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Canterbury and all our supporters who live there. At this time we remember another earthquake, shallow and strong like ours, and how it changed the nation of Haiti forever, one year ago.

"After the earthquake I was devastated by what I saw," says Frantz Bornet, a survivor of the earthquake that devastated Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince on 12 January 2010.

"I wanted to do something to help the people in my community." So Frantz became a rehabilitation technician with **cbm**, one of 40 new staff helping our relief and recovery effort, along with 26 **cbm** staff from overseas. "Now people on the street call out my name and say 'I remember you from the hospital. You are the one that helped me walk again.'"

Millions were made homeless by the earthquake. An estimated 230,000 people died. 300,000 people have life-altering disabilities.

Before the earthquake, people with disabilities were marginalised and excluded. Children with disabilities received no mainstream schooling. Now, with so many more disabled people in Haiti, society is starting to change.

As **cbm**'s Country Coordinator in Haiti, Julie Hard, says: *"Haiti is being transformed into a barrier-free and inclusive society where persons with disabilities have equal rights and opportunities. We see a new Haiti on the horizon."*

Thank you for sharing our commitment to help the people of Haiti rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

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"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10



...from Darren's

Desk

Haiti and here Contrasts and connections

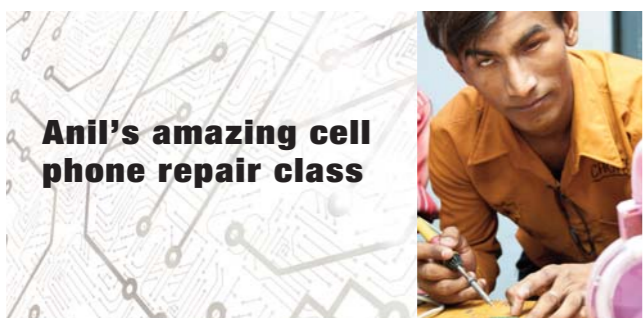
Welcome to the latest **cbm** newsletter, in which we revisit Haiti a year after their devastating earthquake.

When it comes to natural disasters, has there ever been a greater contrast than the impact of Haiti's earthquake and our own in Canterbury? Both earthquakes were of similar magnitude and very damaging, yet the human toll in Haiti was horrifying: nearly a quarter of a million deaths ... imagine virtually everyone in Christchurch being seriously disabled. That is the scale of new disabilities in Haiti.

cbm has been helping in Haiti for 35 years. Now there are so many more who need us. I am so mindful and appreciative of the extraordinary generosity our supporters have shown towards Haiti over the past year. Thank you.

At the same time, we know there are significant needs here in New Zealand. That is why I am so inspired by our **Luke 14** campaign, to encourage New Zealand Christians to make a place for people with disabilities front and centre in their churches – just as Jesus always made them central to his ministry.

Just like Jesus, our supporters want to include everybody, no matter what their disability may be. That kind of love and acceptance changes whole societies – just as your support is helping to rebuild a whole new Haiti out of the ruins.



Anil's amazing cell phone repair class

Anil at work

Continued from page 1:

Helping Haiti

cbm supporters around the world rallied to help Haiti:



- **9 million** dollars raised.
- **73,000** survivors helped.
- **126,000** medical treatments.
- **10,000** pairs of glasses.
- **2,000** assistive devices such as canes, crutches, walkers and wheelchairs.
- **900** cataract surgeries.
- **40** glaucoma surgeries.
- **300** tarpaulins.
- **260** mattresses.
- **50** tents.

Soldering on - Anil's amazing cell phone repair class

Many poor communities think it is not worthwhile to educate children with disabilities. They should meet Anil, who is completely blind. You would be amazed to see what he does for a living. He trains other blind young people to dismantle, repair and rebuild cell phones. The courses are run by BPA (Blind People Association) which is supported by **cbm**.

In India now, even the poorest village has a communal cell phone for checking market prices. It means there is huge demand for anyone who can keep cell phones running. Anil's students spend two years learning about diodes and soldering. They can then earn a good living with a trade they enjoy.

*"Because of the kind work of **cbm** here, I have confidence, I have a future," says Anil. "This course gave me meaning. It is very important for blind people. It shows them and others that we are all capable of anything."*

A response like no other

The emergency response in Haiti was unlike any other. All the foundations of society were destroyed or severely damaged: hospitals, ports, roads, communication systems ... and every single government building. 40% of government personnel were killed.

Normally the United Nations coordinates all the aid organisations like **cbm** but the UN headquarters were destroyed and 100 of their people died. For **cbm** there was tragedy too, with deaths among our staff, co-workers and the people with disabilities we care for, both adults and children.

It meant that our progress was slow, but step by step we used supporters' donations very carefully to make a huge difference:

Child day care centres were established to give children with disabilities a safe place to gather, play, learn and overcome their traumatic experience.

Therapists – physio and occupational were placed in 12 hospitals around the capital.

Special needs education facilities were set up, because Haiti provides no mainstream schooling for children with disabilities (we are fighting to change this).

Rehabilitation technicians like Frantz were hired and trained to provide care for injured earthquake survivors, and prepare them for community life with their disabilities.

Vision care was accelerated to cope with the spike in avoidable blindness and sight loss that came with the earthquake, such as cataract operations, glaucoma surgery and Vitamin A distribution.

Disability care for conditions such as clubfoot, strokes, hand disabilities and spinal cord injury were expanded. For example, before the earthquake it was a death sentence to have a spinal cord injury in Haiti – no treatment was available and most people died within two to three years.

However, more capacity for rehabilitation in hospital and livelihood training now means a long and full life for people with injured spines.

Nine CBR "antennas" were set up in tent cities. Because most hospitals were damaged or destroyed, there was really no choice but to help people right where they live: hence CBR – Community Based Rehabilitation. In total the antennas helped 9,000 people, with 43,000 rehabilitation appointments, 2,728 wound care treatments and 23,000 sessions to help people with the psychological and social toll of their new disabilities.

*"On behalf of the **cbm** Haiti team," says Julie Hard, "I wish to thank you for your ongoing support, prayers and commitment. It's a blessing to see the impact of **cbm** in the communities we serve. Together we can do more, or as we say in Haitian Creole, ansamn nou ka fe plis."*

