

# “Lift up your voice with strength”

Isaiah 40:9b

The voices of the poorest people, the young child, the disabled young person and the fearful refugee are often lost. Quietly getting on with life, they make do with what is leftover. People give what they can so some have food and shelter, but many more miss out.

In other languages and part of other communities, their voices are easy to ignore and their stories forgotten. At Christmas we are busy with our own celebrations.

But before Christmas is Advent. Episode by episode, we remember what makes this season a time of waiting. If we hurry too fast, we will miss the voice of John the Baptist in the wilderness, or the hopeful words of Isaiah. And in the quiet we may fail to hear the voices of people who have taken on poverty and won.

At Christmas hope is the story we need to find afresh. We can share hope with a young Syrian refugee who can focus on a maths problem rather than the troubles at home thanks to the work of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees. We can find hope in the new trees and root crops, planted by Filipinos determined to more than recover what they lost in Typhoon Haiyan. In training

communities how to respond in case of disaster, we discover the hope of people looking after each other and knowing what to do.

This and more is the work of the Christmas Appeal. People who are hungry will get food for today and the means to grow a good garden. Children who have fled war and conflict, will be able to go to school and have time to play. Communities vulnerable to climate change will learn the skills they need to survive floods and replace lost livelihoods. Your gift will make you part of their story, their hope.

At the end of 2017, the world is looking a little more unstable. Your donation to the Christmas Appeal will make the hopes and prayers of people facing violence, poverty and injustice come true. Years of experience and strong local networks give CWS partners the local advantage. They help now and set people up for the future.

Your gift and prayers will help many more families. Please give generously to the 2017 Christmas Appeal. Let's make hope our story!

Find out more by visiting [www.christmasappeal.org.nz](http://www.christmasappeal.org.nz)



## MAKE HOPE MY STORY



**DONATE TODAY**



PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140  
0800 74 73 72  
[cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz)  
[www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

**MAKE HOPE MY STORY**

**[christmasappeal.org.nz](http://christmasappeal.org.nz)**