

Please copy and paste these notices into your weekly bulletin or newsletter as appropriate. The images for each week are downloadable from <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/our-featured-partners/> or <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/for-churches/> (Week by Week partners).

Church Notices (Shorter)

Throughout the last year your donations have been a lifeline to people who have fled their homes because of war. They have helped farmers recover livelihoods lost in disasters and helped communities stand up against violence. Christian World Service works in 22 countries with local partners who are with the people who need the most help. Please join the lifeline by supporting the Christmas Appeal so no one is left behind. You can use the envelope provided or donate on line at: <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/donate/>. With your help refugees will have medical care and education, farmers have new seeds and better irrigation, and communities can be made safe.

**Be the Lifeline to people who need food, water and dignity.**

Church Notices (Longer)

 The 2018 Christmas Appeal is for the people who need it most: families who are hungry, people who have no home or income after war or disaster, and desperate to escape violence and exploitation. For 73 years it has been a lifeline to people in need – please join us to keep the lifeline going – to feed the hungry are fed, the thirsty have water and the dignity of all people is respected.

This Appeal puts the spotlight on our responsibilities to each other and the planet our home. In 2015, the United Nations agreed to a new agenda for sustainable development made up of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. You can find out how our partners are contributing to global goals like zero hunger, often assisting hard to reach communities to make sure no one is left behind.

The Christmas Appeal supports local people who want a fair go in life. In 22 countries, it funds local partners to build resilient communities that look after each other. Donating to the Christmas Appeal will give them the resources they need to meet some of these goals.

You can find out more about the partner groups and the work they do at <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/> Donations can be placed in the envelope in the church offering, by internet banking or made on line. Please give generously to the 2018 Christmas Appeal.

Join the Lifeline so all people have food, water, dignity and lives free of violence. Leave no one behind.



Advent One 2 December

In February, Cyclone Gita caused widespread damage in parts of Tonga. Thanks to training through CWS partner Ama Takiloa, the women were better equipped to respond to the disaster. They looked after their communities long after the storm had passed. Using their skills, the have repaired rainwater harvesting systems, replanted community gardens and are setting up some of the more vulnerable families with livestock. Please give generously to the [2018 Christmas Appeal](http://christmasappeal.org.nz/donate/), so more people can prepare for disasters, adapt farming techniques, and protect their communities.

**Be the Lifeline to communities facing the worst effects of climate change. Support the Christmas Appeal.**

Advent two 9 December

In many areas of Palestine, refugees are finding life harder. Around half the people in Gaza are living in poverty. Large numbers of Syrian refugees are surviving on next to nothing. For 70 years the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees has offered education, healthcare and income earning opportunities. In all that time they have consistently stood with the people calling for a just peace. Refugees themselves, they know how important it is to build communities of support, encouraging them to use their knowledge and skills to make the best of what they have. That is why they have supported a collective of women in the West Bank to set up a herbal tea business.

**Be the Lifeline to communities standing for peace. Support the Christmas Appeal.**

Advent three 16 December

Over half the people in South Sudan regularly go without food. Their political leaders have been at war, and 1.8 million people displaced. Many have fled the country. The churches have kept alive the vision of peace at every level, as negotiations continue. The Maridi Service Agency runs a training programme for mothers with children who arrive in their community. Most have had very little schooling. They teach them business or gardening skills and give them start-up capital. With the right support, their business can grow and support their family.

**Be the Lifeline to families in need of food. Support the Christmas Appeal**

Advent four 23 December

In India girls and women face discrimination. Girls can miss out on schooling and be forced to work from a young age. The number of violent attacks on women are increasing. EKTA has been a lifeline to men and women wanting change. They do the research, educate men and women about gender, and run successful campaigns to stop discrimination based on gender. One way they are making the city of Madurai safer for women is by improving public facilities. They have lobbied local government to set up a desk at a major bus station to help children who are lost or in danger of being trafficked.

**Be the Lifeline to women and men seeking safety and fairness. Support the Christmas Appeal.**

Christmas – Christ Candle 25 December

In Haiti, the majority of people work very hard simply to survive. They rely on their own skills and knowledge to survive when hurricanes and earthquakes hit. Like many of the world’s 475 million small farmers, they know life could be easier. For now, they want their children to go to school. There is no government in their hills, so ICKL is the lifeline that supports the community to pay salaries and the running costs of their local schools. They are determined their children will have a fair go in life.

**Be the Lifeline to people who do not want to be left behind. Support the Christmas Appeal.**

