

ChildWorld

Hope and gratitude

Summer 2011

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from Sri Lanka

*"I am incredibly humbled
and honoured to be a
ChildFund Ambassador."*

Danielle Cormack – Page 7.

ChildFund
New Zealand

Kiwis come through!

You have to admire Kiwis. And I don't just mean the All Blacks!

If there was a World Cup for generosity – especially against the odds - I think we'd be winners every time.

You'll see that when you start exploring the exciting stories inside this Christmas edition of *ChildWorld*. From two Kiwi-built pre-schools in Zambia, to 26 tonnes of life-saving Unimix porridge in Kenya, to a former sponsored child in India who is now a church minister in Dunedin, you'll see the impact you make on people's lives.



What amazes me is your generosity comes even as our own country faces such challenging times in the wake of the Christchurch earthquake.

This hasn't stopped Kiwis giving more than \$569,000 in response to the horror of the famine in East Africa - the largest response we've had in ChildFund's history! What I really appreciate is people recognising that care may be needed for months yet, and have become ChildFund *Famine Fighters*. Welcome, and thank you for your vision and commitment.

There are many ways friends like you help children and families through ChildFund.

Here in *ChildWorld* you have proof your help works. Just listen to Gill and Glyn from Hamilton who met their sponsored child Ngan in Vietnam. Or child sponsor and journalist Jehan who visited Sri Lanka.

This is your success. Enjoy it. Just like the All Blacks, and our Local Heroes on pages 10 and 11, you show what Kiwis working together can do.

Thank you!

Paul Brown
Chief Executive Officer

Planting the seeds of hope

A tree has been planted in Emali, Kenya in honour of Craig and Amanda Buckley, a Kiwi couple who sponsor children through ChildFund. Like so many others they recently decided to leave a bequest in their Wills to ChildFund New Zealand.

When Amanda and Craig first talked about updating their Wills, they wanted to be sure that their children would be looked after. It was then that they started thinking about their sponsored children as well. *"I couldn't imagine what it would be like for them if they were unable to remain in the sponsorship programme and no longer had our family writing to them, sending them cards and photos."* Amanda said.

When the Buckley's wanted to include their sponsored children in their Wills, their lawyer wasn't sure of the best way to proceed. So together they contacted ChildFund. *"They were great and answered all my questions and concerns regarding the ongoing care of our sponsored children and talked to me about the benefit of a general bequest"* Amanda explained.

You too can continue to bring hope to children in need after you are gone. Once you have taken care of your family in your Will you can choose to leave a bequest to ChildFund New Zealand. The amount can be big or small. You can pledge part of your estate or whatever you have left over. In the end it will all make an incredible difference to the lives of children in poverty.

By leaving a bequest to ChildFund you can ensure that children in need continue to be cared for.

Your bequest to ChildFund can build schools and train teachers so that these children can get the best education possible. It will also give families the life skills they need and create infrastructure to make these communities self-sufficient and end the poverty cycle.

When you leave a gift to ChildFund in your Will you will be welcomed into the Hope Society.

In recognition of your compassion for others, you will receive a certificate and a lapel pin that you



Craig and Amanda Buckley with their 3 daughters.

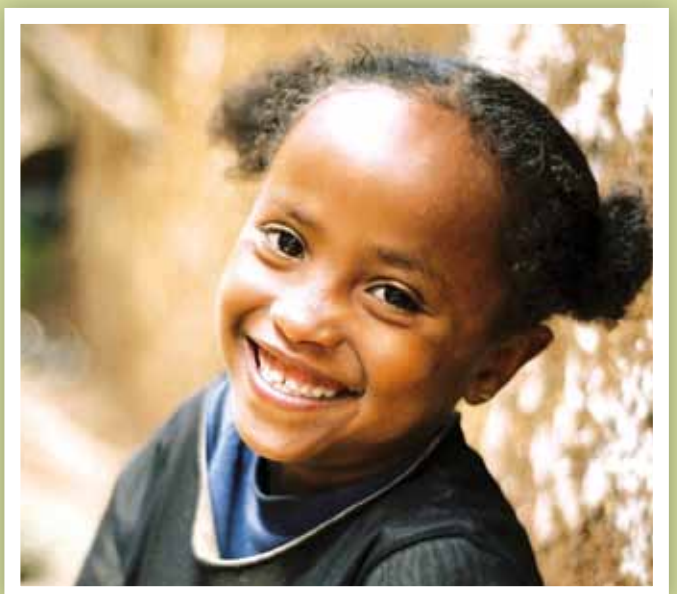
can wear with pride. A tree will be also be planted in your honour at the ChildFund project in Emali, Kenya. There it will stand to symbolize the growth and life that your legacy has ensured.

As Amanda recalled on hearing a tree would be planted in her honour: *"This really was a surprise. It was just something we felt we had to do and we thank ChildFund for giving us all the information and help we needed."*

Your gift can make a profound and enduring difference to the lives of many vulnerable and disadvantaged children around the world.

Join over one hundred other New Zealanders from all over the country as honoured members of the Hope Society.

Call 0800 223 850 to confidentially discuss your options or request more information.



When you leave a gift to ChildFund in your Will a tree will be planted in your honour.

Your Action Update

What does a life cost?

Here in Kenya, where tens of thousands of children are at risk from hunger, the answer is 65 cents. That's the cost of a cup of life-saving Unimix porridge – maize, vegetable oil and a little sugar.

Imagine then the impact that the \$569,000 Kiwis have donated through ChildFund makes! Along with the \$250,000 worth of aid the New Zealand Government has asked ChildFund to deliver. For children like little Mary who I met when she barely had strength to stand, you can see this is a life-saver.

The danger here isn't over though, and our ChildFund team is working very hard to get help to the families most at risk. Peter Lochurch, our Area Manager in Turkana, one of the worst-affected areas, told me he's working 65 hours per week.

"This is the worst emergency I have ever seen. It hurts to see Turkana people suffering so badly, especially seeing farmers forced to move off their traditional grazing land. People have to do anything they can to make money to survive."

Thankfully your help is getting through and, with rains starting to come, there's hope of a permanent break in the drought.

I asked a local grandfather, Epaka Narimon, about the impact of our New Zealand help. He told me



how the community had come together, sharing what little they had left, but that they were running out of options until our help arrived:

"We are incredibly grateful to ChildFund and New Zealanders. We are so pleased you came here to meet with us. We are indebted to you. You give us so much hope."

I pass on Epaka's thanks to you, because I know you understand that the question is not what a life costs, but what a life is worth. And the answer? Everything. Thank you!

Your help is still urgently needed, so I give special thanks to Famine Fighters whose monthly gifts will help protect children's lives until food security is restored. If you'd like to do this too (\$20 a month), simply call our friendly team on 0800 223 111 or go to www.childfund.org.nz

Thank you.



When 1-17 September
Author Paul Brown
Situation Hunger crisis in Kenya

ChildFund CEO Paul Brown helping to feed children in Kenya

Update: Pre-schools for Chikondwelelo, Zambia

You might not realise, but when ChildFund asks your help for a project to care for children, we ask the children's local community to help too.

That's why, when you go to Chikondwelelo in Zambia, you'll see dozens of people pushing barrows of sand, carrying buckets of water, and bending their backs shaping bricks to dry in the sun.

By bringing together the community's hundreds of hours of labour with the \$122,587 Kiwis donated, the first desperately needed pre-school is about to open. In fact, within five weeks of you reading this, 40 children will attend pre-school for the first time! They'll receive the basics in maths, language (English), play, and social skills, so that when they go to primary school they'll be ready to achieve all their potential.

Kiwi support for the two pre-schools being built here is an investment in children that will repay benefits for generations to come. On behalf of the children of Chikondwelelo – thank you!



Surviving Christmas

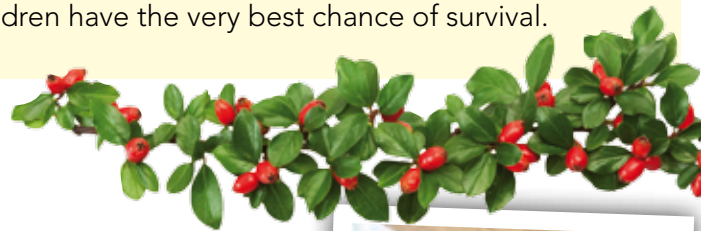
This time last year, Kiwis like you donated \$72,182 to help children in Kenya survive the Christmas season.

All up over 1,300 Christmas Survival Kits were funded for poverty stricken families.

These included water treatment kits, that allowed children and parents to drink without fear of becoming ill from cholera and dysentery and insecticide treated nets to keep malaria-carrying mosquitoes at bay.

Your donations ensured that 2,300 kilos of maize seed was planted and that families could receive life-saving training in health and hygiene.

In the wake of one of the worst droughts ever, hunger and disease continues to pose a huge risk, but thanks to Christmas gifts like yours these children have the very best chance of survival.



To the rescue

Thousands of young lives in drought-ravaged areas are being saved thanks to the generosity of ChildFund's Africa Orphan Rescue programme.

ChildFund is determined to get little ones like five-year-old Amelia through the current drought crisis.

Amelia never got the chance to know her parents. Her dad died when she was two and her Mum passed away a year later. Amelia now lives with her grandparents. Joyce, her grand mother, makes a small amount selling vegetables at a local stall.

Amelia has an older brother, seven-year-old Ben and a four-year-old sister, Janine. These siblings dream of one day being doctors, pilots and teachers. But ask any of these children what they want most and the answer is always the same. Food.

ChildFund CEO Paul Brown met Amelia's family during his time in Africa. "It was great to meet this family. Grandparents Joyce and Alfonse expressed hope and gratitude. They realise the drought means tough times but they are grateful to ChildFund New Zealand and its supporters," Paul said. "Life here is certainly challenging, nothing is growing well in

the veggie garden but they are determined to make the most of the little they have."

Already 2,430 children are fed each day thanks to the generosity of Africa Orphan Rescue Supporters. Their health is also being monitored with regular growth checks at pre schools. Nine tanks have been installed, giving these children access to clean water.



Amelia, 5 years old

Over the next six months ChildFund is aiming to take this life saving mission even further. To identify health issues and reduce malnutrition, orphaned and vulnerable children will be monitored. While a borehole will be sunk to provide an entire community with clean water.

More than 1500 generous New Zealanders make a monthly commitment to help children through African Orphan Rescue. Thank you.

Time stood still

Armed with anti-malaria tablets, tropical strength insect repellent and a suitcase full of gifts, Michele Sunckell flew off to Timor-Leste.

For our meeting to take place I needed to travel to the war scarred Suai region. The main route through to the southern regions had fallen victim to washouts and the potholes reflected the lack of repairs.

swept up in a knot and wearing pretty red earrings. Since 2005 I had received annual photographs of Frezentina but she looked even more beautiful in person.

She approached me carrying a gift of a tais (woven scarf). When her parents were introduced to me the warmth in their eyes and handshakes was overwhelming and heartwarming.



We finally reached our accommodation in Suai, eight and a half hours after our departure from Dili. We met ChildFund representatives who briefed us on the planned programme for the following day.

I awoke filled with excitement and at 8am we traveled to ChildFund's office in Suai. I was ushered to the gate and asked to stand there alone in readiness for the welcoming ceremony.

There are few moments in one's life when a dream becomes a reality and you experience a strange feeling of time standing still. It felt like this for me when the music started and six young girls dressed in their traditional woven green garments danced toward me. And there she was; walking directly behind them, neatly dressed in jeans and pink top with hair

We drove to Frezentina's parent's house to open the gifts. There were smiles and laughter all round as Frezentina tried on a T-shirt, bracelets and showed us her skills with the skipping rope. I was granted a visit to her school to pass over the stationery I had brought from New Zealand for her teacher and classmates.

All too soon it was time to say farewell.

I will continue to believe, I'm sure along with the other thousands of people currently sponsoring children in this needy country, that our small contributions can be collectively utilised to make a big difference in the lives of these young children we care about.

A world away

We chose our sponsored child, Ngan, knowing little more than she was a seven-year-old living in a remote rural community in Cao Bang province in North Vietnam. As her sweet little face looked at us daily from her photo on our fridge, it left many questions unanswered. There was only one way to find out and that was to visit her.



We arrived in Hanoi in late May 2011. The morning after we arrived, we were picked up by our driver, and along with our interpreter and a ChildFund representative, we headed north through flat, fertile rice producing plains and into the rugged hill country.

We stopped for the first night at the town of Cao Bang where we met with two local ChildFund representatives who briefed us. It was onward the next morning. A windy road through steep mountains with little communities plowing rice paddies with water buffaloes in pocket sized valleys.

Without warning we turned off onto a metal track taking us to the community where Ngan lives. We had arrived!

We stopped at a small administration building to be welcomed by officials before being taken into a large room. There was seated our little Ngan with four of her friends, her parents and teacher. They knew our ages and seemed surprised that we weren't bald, bent and toothless. One comment was "We know you are old, but you are very strong!" Then there was a lovely song from the children and a special one from Ngan. Next we presented a parcel to Ngan, which included clothes and schoolbooks. In return they gave us a gift of their precious rice.

Over the following days we reflected on what this trip meant to us. For ChildFund, we came to understand their work is greatly appreciated and they run a very professional organisation with dedicated and kind staff. For Ngan, she is no longer just a photo on our fridge but a little, undernourished child living the most basic life who needs our care and help which we will gladly continue to give.

Danielle joins the ChildFund Team



You might know Danielle Cormack from her work on TV and in movies.

After all, she won the Best Actress Award at the 2010 NZ Film and TV Awards for her work in 'The Cult'. Then there's the ABC series 'Rake', the feature film 'Separation City', and the TV3 series 'Underbelly Razor'.

Akullu, a young girl in Uganda, knows Danielle a different way - from her six years of support as a ChildFund child sponsor. It's a relationship Danielle treasures:

"When I receive news from Akullu about how much difference the contribution from ChildFund has made to her life, it continually underscores for me that what we might take for granted can be so appreciated and needed in other people's lives."

Now Danielle has accepted a new challenge - and you'll get to know her in a new role - as a ChildFund Ambassador.

Already it's led her to craft and record a chapter of 'Mary's Christmas Yarn', ChildFund's new book telling the story of a little Kiwi girl who finds out how the gift of sheep to a child in Africa can make a difference.

Danielle has worked professionally in the entertainment industry for over 20 years. She is proud mother of two boys, and divides her time between Australia and New Zealand. We're very proud to have her join the ChildFund team, and so is she: *"I am incredibly humbled and honoured to be a ChildFund Ambassador."*

Spotlight on Sri Lanka

Jehan Casinader is a Wellington-based journalist and two-time Qantas Media Awards finalist for feature writing. Jehan has spent five years contributing to newspapers and magazines in New Zealand and abroad and now reports for TV ONE's Close Up. Many assignments take him overseas, from covering child abuse in Fiji to tsunami relief in the Solomons. Today he shares his experiences as a ChildFund sponsor.

In New Zealand, there are plenty of ways to support charities. Donation envelopes arrive in the mail. Street collectors try to catch our eye. Newspapers are full of ads for fundraising campaigns. But when we open our wallets, many of us have lingering doubts. Does our money reach the people who need it? Is it well spent? Does it make a difference?

Having been a ChildFund sponsor for four years, I was thrilled to visit Sri Lanka earlier this year, to see ChildFund's project sites, and report on the work that is being done there. I sponsor two boys in Sri Lanka's tea plantation district. But I also have a personal connection with the country; it is where my family hails from.

Sri Lanka is a country of lush tropical beauty but it has been hammered by civil war, a tsunami and, more recently, devastating floods. ChildFund is working with local communities to increase family income, strengthen infrastructure, provide water and sanitation, create education programmes, and build housing. Across the island, we saw how small villages have been transformed by this holistic approach.

My own sponsor children were as delighted to meet me as I was to meet them.



I was welcomed by their families with a sense of gratitude. Life is still not easy, but they know that ChildFund has provided their children with opportunities, and a connection with a country on the other side of the world. A folder at the ChildFund office contained every letter I had sent to my sponsor children, and every reply they had posted back.

In Batticaloa, one of the regions we visited, it is only New Zealand money which is making the difference. The ChildFund project there is dedicated to New Zealand. Hundreds of Batticaloa kids are waiting to be sponsored by Kiwis, and if we don't sponsor them, no one will. Having spent time with them, the faces of these children are hard to forget.

Many of the ChildFund sponsor children are optimistic about their futures. Those who once wanted to be factory workers now want to be factory managers. Those who once were destined to pluck tea are now keen to run the tea estates. Their aspirations are growing, and they have the potential to improve the fortunes of Sri Lanka in the years to come. They deserve our support.

To sponsor a child in Sri Lanka visit www.childfund.org.nz or call 0800 808 822.



Jehan meets one of his sponsored children and their family in Sri Lanka



A gift that keeps giving

In India a young boy faced an uncertain future.

It was 1966 and the boy's father had just lost his job. His mother did not earn enough money as a teacher to feed the family or to keep her son at school. With no formal education this young boy would have been destined for a life of poverty.

Thankfully ChildFund (then known as the Christian Children's Fund) stepped in and arranged for the youngster to be sponsored. Today that little boy from Bangalore is Reverend John Daniel, a Presbyterian Minister.

John still remembers the relief he and his family felt when they learned of the sponsorship. *"It was a Godsend. It came at a time when my family needed a hand-up."* John said *"The family who sponsored me made a significant difference in my life."*

For John, sponsorship meant food on the table and the chance to resume his education. A few years later John and his family moved to New

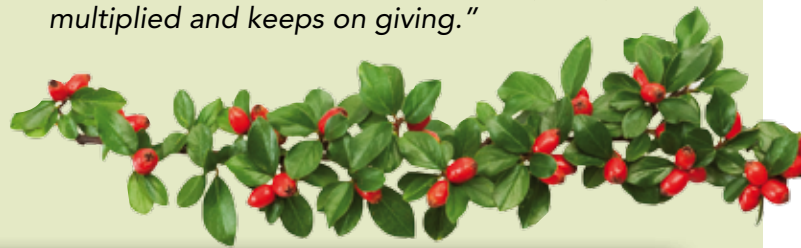
Zealand. He went on to study Theology at Auckland University before moving to Dunedin to train as a Presbyterian Minister.

Today John is proud to have a sponsored child of his own in India.

"As soon as we could, my family and I felt it was our privilege, responsibility and delight to include another child in our family and become a part of theirs through sponsorship," John explained.

"It is great to be able to exchange letters and to have that connection with Gokul and his family," John added.

"The wonderful thing is, with a little help, we came through that difficult time; and now we have the opportunity to help many more children and families," John surmised. *"So the original gift is multiplied and keeps on giving."*



John Daniel with ChildFund CEO Paul Brown

Local Heroes

See how friends like you are changing lives through ChildFund!

Reaching for dreams!

"People might think when they see the East Africa famine and other emergencies on the news that the problems are too big to fix but I saw with my own eyes that the little we give means so much to these people, and can actually save lives." Robyn Cowan, from Hamilton, sponsors two children in Kenya and, with the support of her church, visited them in September. Conditions in the Nairobi slums are tough, and Robyn said at times it was heartbreaking. Yet she came away inspired with a dream to do even more. She has some advice for them, and for all child sponsors: "Keep writing to your sponsored child and family. You give them enormous support and hope for the future to continue to reach for their dreams."



Thanks Robyn!

A jewel that's priceless

"I saw photos of the starving children and also on TV, and I wanted to do something about it." Nine year old Courtney Bovill turned her feelings into action. "I started making bracelets and necklaces at home, and sold them to people at church." Courtney raised more than \$500! "It made me feel so happy to see how much money people were giving to help the starving children in Africa." Courtney's already planning another fundraising venture – a sausage sizzle.



Thank you Courtney!



How far would you go to help children?

For Emily Burgess and her partner, Phil Taylor, the answer was 42 kilometres! They joined other ChildFund staff members in the first-ever North Shore Marathon... but Emily and Phil took it one step further. They ran the marathon in bright ChildFund-green full-body suits, covering even their faces.

The great news is \$11,236 was raised to help children hurt by the East Africa famine.

The \$7,904 chocolate cake!

When King's School Chaplain, John Goodwin, was looking for a way to inspire the school to raise money for children in East Africa, he thought of his wife's mouth-watering chocolate cakes! The 5 – 13 year olds must like chocolate cake because in just one week they raised \$7,904. John says simply, "We were thrilled with the response." So were we.

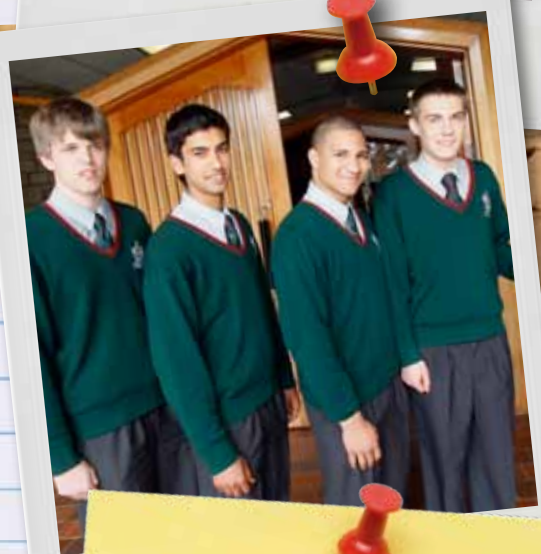
Thank you.



At(las) the movies

When Dilworth School in Auckland wanted to raise money for ChildFund's Project Atlas, they decided on a movie night. Atlas stands for Active Teaching and Learning Approach in Schools, and is a ChildFund project to improve the quality of teaching and learning in Zambian schools. The movie night at the Lido Theatre in Epsom was a sell-out! The School Aid Student Trustees also ran six raffles in the lead up to the event. The total raised for Project Atlas was more than \$2000

Thanks Dilworth School!



What about you?

We'd love to feature your fundraising ideas and events in 'Local Heroes'. It's a great way to help inspire other Kiwis. If you would like to help but just don't know how to get started, simply get in touch with Cassandra at ChildFund – Cassandra@childfund.org.nz or call 09 366 2273.

Snap. Happy!

What do you get when you give your ten year old sponsored child your camera to play with? The answer – an art exhibition! This was the last thing Aucklanders Louise Simpson and Paloma Barreiro were thinking when they visited their sponsored children Bruno and Carlos Douglas in Brazil. But when the boys grabbed Louise's camera and started taking pictures, the idea of an exhibition was born. They held a successful auction to raise money and sold all the photos that Bruno took.

Thank you Louise, Paloma and Bruno!



Happily ever after



In true Christmas spirit, ChildFund New Zealand and Penguin Publishing have come together to produce a beautiful book for children and adults alike. From cover to cover, this woolly yarn has been lovingly knitted together by famous Kiwi actors and news people, with each contributing a chapter.

Children love a tale with a happy ending and Mary's Christmas Yarn is just that. The story begins when Mary and her pet lamb Rosemary set out on a journey. They want to discover why youngsters overseas, who have so little, would want to receive a sheep for Christmas. It is a truly wonderful yarn that the youngsters of today will want to share with their children in years to come.

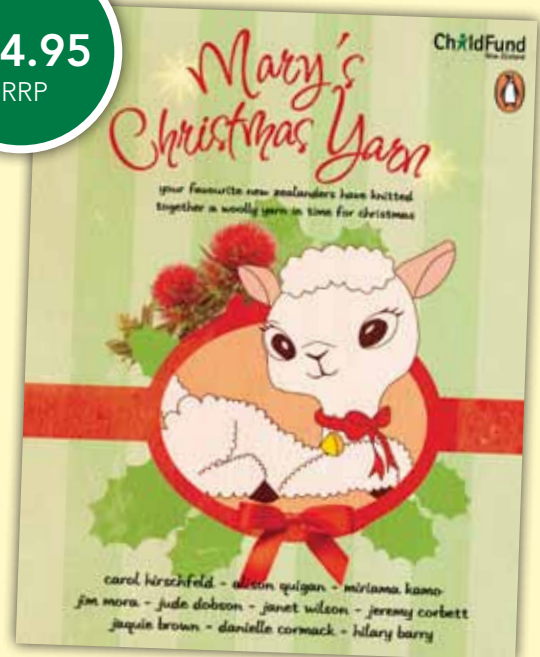
Not only does this hardback make a great gift idea but all the royalties will be going to the Africa Famine Crisis Appeal. By giving this book to your loved ones, children caught up in this drought crisis will receive food, water and health care. All the necessities they need to survive and thrive.

In creating this stunning keepsake, ChildFund New Zealand is grateful for the generous input of so many gifted artists - Carol

Hirschfeld, Alison Quigan, Miriama Kamo, Jim Mora, Jude Dobson, Janet Wilson, Jeremy Corbett, Jacquie Brown, Danielle Cormack and Hilary Barry.

Call 0800 808 822 to order your copy or visit childfund.org.nz. It is also on sale at all good bookstores.

\$24.95
RRP



Thank you and Happy Christmas



ChildFund New Zealand thanks you for all you have done this year. Through your support young lives have been saved, suffering has been eased and the future is so much brighter. On behalf of so many youngsters, their families and communities, best wishes to you and your loved ones this Christmas.



ChildFund
New Zealand

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