



compelled
by love



ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-2017

COMPELLED BY LOVE, ABN 59 601 767 293

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Welcome to the 2016-2017 Annual Report for Compelled By Love (CbL)! It has been another wonderful year of partnership and growth. In this report, we celebrate not only our organisational partners, but also the partnership we have with you, our supporters. One of our key values is collaboration, and it is your support through finances, advocacy and prayer that enables CbL to continue to operate and to grow.

One of the things that has continued to move me and motivate me personally this last year is the incredible worth and value of each individual human life on this planet. People matter – regardless of their age, their race, their experiences, their mistakes – each one of us has inherent value. As I reflect on the year that’s been, what stands out to me are individual faces and their stories.

I think of Sylvestre, who after ten years of sponsorship all through high school and university has now graduated with a Bachelor Degree and stands ready and equipped to gain employment and change his future, his family, and the life of the family he will one day lead. Such a long term, specific investment in one person’s life – but one that has been so effective and will impact future generations as well.

I think of Faustin who survived the genocide in Rwanda but lost two of his children. He was beaten so badly during the genocide that still today he has a broken back and walks bent over; his feet are still swollen having never recovered fully from being beaten with iron bars. His experiences left him angry and bitter, unable to sleep and mistreating his wife though she cares for him. I think of him going through the *Empower* program and regaining sleep. I think of him coming home and asking his wife for forgiveness, of him going out and buying a drink to share together with her, something he had never done before. I think of Wellars, who beat Faustin and who’s brother had killed his son – how on the fourth day of *Empower*, Wellars found Faustin trying to get home and helped him walk there – the first time in 23 years they had walked together. I think of Wellars coming to Faustin’s home to weed and work his banana plantation in an act of reconciliation. I see Faustin’s face, now changed as he is released from bitterness and anger and free to live the rest of his life fully.

I think of Sharon in India, who after learning English and studying hard completed high school and commenced a Bachelor Degree in commerce. I think of her laughing and smiling as she receives love and care and opportunities that would never have been possible in the small village she comes from. I think of Om who was failing school, but after receiving medical treatment to address a hearing issue and tutoring, has now this year gone to grades of 55% and 60%!

I think of a student learning to live with autism who was able to complete *No Limits* – the first group process of any kind he has completed – and of the group of students who did the process with him and fully accepted him as part of the group. I think of Pat, the principal of Keysborough Secondary College, expressing his continued support for *No Limits* as he sees the outcomes in the lives of the students, especially the group at Banksia who would have ‘fallen through the gaps’ otherwise, as the school could not meet all their needs.

I also think of you reading this report. I see the faces of Simon and Laura, of Michael and Wade, giving their time to mentor students every week as part of *No Limits*. I see tears on the faces of a special group of people who travelled to India, as they shared how much the kids had impacted them and that they recognised again how blessed they are and that a little can make such a big difference. I see the happy smiles of so many people who attended our Dinner Dance fundraiser, as they tasted delicious food, danced the night away, purchased something great from the auction, won a prize in the raffle, and just enjoyed being there and contributing to make a difference.

I see Jackie who ran 10km to raise funds in the 2016 Melbourne Marathon. I see the faces of Anna and John and Renzil who have sat across from me to give their time and expertise to ensure CbL runs smoothly and efficiently. I see the many faces in churches and schools who have given me the opportunity to share and who have donated to this work. I see the faces of our Members who have donated, fundraised and prayed. I see our Board as we have wrestled with the challenges and worked hard to ensure we give the best and put people first.

There are so many faces that I would never try to name each one here. But you know who you are – and let me remind you once again that your personal contribution to CbL – whatever that looks like – has made a tangible, real and transformational difference in the lives of individual people. This report will detail and quantify the numbers and it's important to know and understand that. But I love that those who support CbL are as much about people as we are – you believe in the value and worth of each person, and so you choose to give to people whose names you may never know, who you may never have the privilege of meeting – because you care, because you can and because you value humanity.

CbL's mission is about releasing potential, restoring dignity and reconciling relationships. For a young person in Australia, or a student in India, or a suffering person in Rwanda – when you give to come alongside them, to impact them – even though you don't know them – that very act in and of itself is transformational for people, bringing dignity and value.

So from my heart, thank you, for all you have done to personally respond and be a partner with CbL in our mission. I'm so grateful for you, as is each person who is touched and impacted by CbL's work. The need is always great, so let me also encourage you to continue to partner with us, and not to draw back but to look at how you might stand together with us even more in the year ahead.

Thank you to our NGO partners – you are organisations, yes, but also individuals – we appreciate you, we appreciate relationship, and we love what we get to be a part of together. Thank you for joining in collaboration as we truly know each other, journey together and really work together utilising each other's strengths to bring the best to those we come alongside.

The CbL Board – you're an amazing group of people – your commitment, your wisdom, your prayer, your experience and knowledge is priceless. Our diversity and difference brings strength and our unity brings blessing. Thanks for doing what you do, giving not just your time, money, skills, experience – but giving your hearts, and all for others – you're the best!

I cannot end this introduction to what is a great report of growth and change without acknowledging God. I recognise that not every person reading this report shares our Christian faith – but I love that you share our passion to see things made right where poverty and brokenness exist. It's our faith that has given us this passion – it comes out of our own experience of God taking our lives and bringing change. Now we get to partner with God as He does that in the lives of others around the world. It truly is God's work, not ours. Only He can change hearts – we cannot claim the inner work. God has provided, God has protected and God has brought healing to people. Forgiveness, justice, reconciliation, hope – these are the essence of our faith, these are the message of Jesus – and so we acknowledge and give God the credit for every opportunity and every 'face' that is connected to CbL.

Thank you for continuing to share the journey,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'KV', is centered on the page.

Karen Visser, CEO

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OBJECTIVES

VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Our Mission

We are compelled by love to see things made right where poverty and brokenness exist.

We work collaboratively to build capacity in local organisations, in order to release potential, restore dignity and reconcile relationships.

Our Vision

We see



thriving **communities** that support, connect, empower and inspire

individuals taking steps towards wholeness, full potential and restored dignity, facilitated by

effective, local **organisations** who are affirmed, encouraged and increased in capacity through collaboration with

Compelled By Love living out our calling and unique shape for the service of others, enabled by

supporters who advocate and give to see lives transformed.

Our Values

We have six core values – love, people, excellence, collaboration, integrity, prayer.

Our Organisation

Compelled By Love Limited is an Australian not-for-profit organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

ABN 59 601 767 393

Our Model

Collaboration is central to CbL. As an organisation, we have a lot to offer – skills, experience, resources, knowledge – and it is our collective desire to use what we have to fulfill our mission of seeing things made right, releasing potential, restoring dignity and reconciling relationships. But we recognise the need to combine what we have to give, with local knowledge, understanding and expertise. Therefore, CbL works in partnership – we partner with local NGOs here in Australia, and in India and Rwanda – NGOs who have the same heart and passion as we do, and who are experts in their field, whether that be trauma counselling, youth work, or education. We come alongside these partners to strengthen them so that more people can be impacted and the work be sustainable for the long term. Partnership is the first key aspect of our model.

The second key is participation and empowerment – we and our partners don't do things *for* people, but we work *with* people to provide opportunities for them to enact transformation in their own lives. We recognise that poverty is complex, multi-faceted and requires intervention and solutions on different levels. Our mission is not for us to *make* things right, but to see things made right – because we see our role as being to help empower individuals, organisations, communities and leaders to make things right in their own lives, whatever that looks like for them.

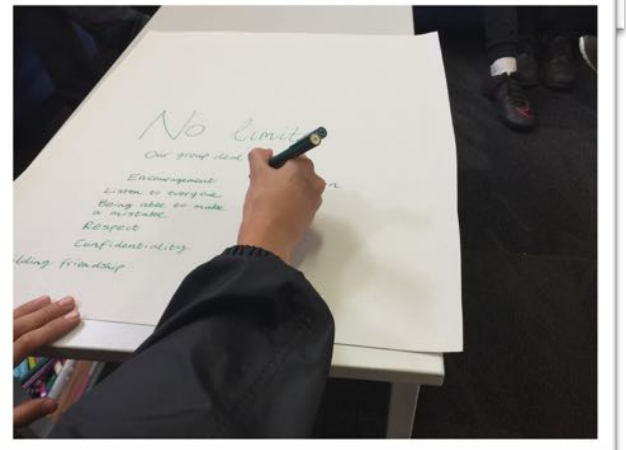
We are committed to sustainable development, with measured impact, that respects the dignity of people, recognises their assets, and in which we maintain our role as partners, collaborators and capacity-builders.

CbL's work in Australia is focused on young people – working to develop the leaders of the next generation, and helping youth at risk of homelessness and facing various issues to see their own potential and be empowered to make positive choices for themselves. We do this in partnership with YaFT-Xplore – Youth and Family Therapy, who have been working with youth in Australia for over 25 years and have an incredible amount of love, experience and dedication. CbL primarily support YaFT-Xplore as they deliver the *No Limits (NL)* process in high schools, as well as *Sailing On (SO)* bush adventure therapy and counselling to individuals, couples and families.

Objectives

Our objectives in the last 12 months were to

- Support Phase 1 and 2 of *No Limits* at Keysborough Secondary College – Acacia Campus
- Support Phase 1 and 2 of *No Limits* at Keysborough Secondary College – Banksia Campus
- Support Phase 1 and 2 of *No Limits* at Bayswater Secondary College
- Provide volunteers to participate in *No Limits* as mentors
- Support the YaFT team in the development and expansion of their work



It's been a great year working together again with YaFT-Xplore, seeing young people take incredible steps forward in their lives. Our world continues to change at such a fast pace and young people face a myriad of challenges both from outside and within as they try to figure out life. *No Limits* helps to ground young people in truth - to build a foundation in them which is about realising they have value, they have worth, they have skills, they have potential, they have something to contribute and they matter. So many young people have influences in their lives that tell them the opposite of these things - discovering they have worth, that they are loved and that people care about them enables young people to make positive choices for themselves. *No Limits* teaches these truths through active-based learning, in which the young people actually experience these things rather than just hearing them or being told.

In the second half of 2016, we were able to support two Phase 2 process of *No Limits* at Keysborough Secondary College - one at Acacia Campus and one at Banksia Campus, with two volunteers, Simon and Laura. In addition to the feedback noted in the introduction, one mother commented that over the course of *No Limits* she has clearly observed her daughter 'come out of herself' and 'grow in confidence'. She was so pleased and thankful. We can't underestimate the importance of the impact on young people in these crucial years of their lives when they decide who they are and what they are about. 30 young people completed Phase 2 in 2016 which was just fantastic!



No Limits has had such a positive impact in students' lives over many years at Keysborough Secondary College that 2017 is the biggest year yet with five Phase 1 processes taking place in the first half of the year. There were two groups at the Acacia Campus and three groups at the Banksia Campus, supported by Michael and Wade who volunteered as mentors. This is their experience:

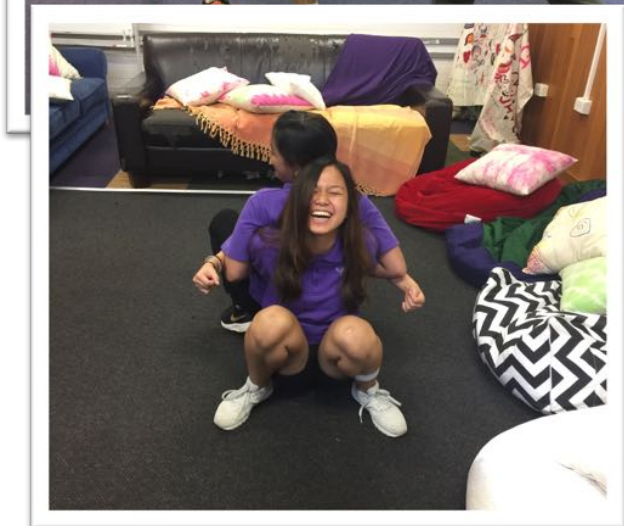
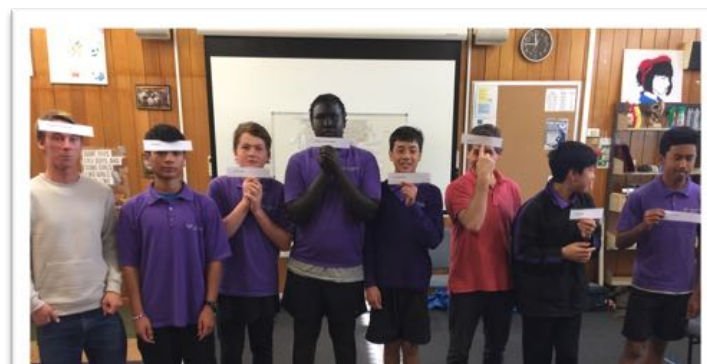
I recently began volunteer work at Keysborough Secondary College as part of the No Limits program supported by 3fold Resources (my employer). The program aims to assist year 9 students in realising their potential in life. From the start of the program, it was emphasised that everyone taking part was on the same level as others. There were no leaders, teachers, or 'Sir / Miss' instructing the 'kids' in what they can or can't do. We are all on a first name basis. Each period usually starts with a welcome game or challenge which differs each week. One week, the students were blind-folded and lead into the room and had to negotiate obstacles with the aid of a guide who they trusted to assist them through the course.

We also have a Group Deal which was formed in the first week with input from all participants. This deal is discussed each week and includes things like trust, respect, encouragement and teamwork.

Even in the first couple of weeks, we can already see some of the quieter students becoming more involved. But the challenge is not only to get the 'quieter' ones 'out of their shell', but to also get the 'louder' ones to be more responsible for their actions. Hence, the weekly reference to the Group Deal. My biggest challenge was not being that 'adult' or 'teacher' who tells the students what they can or can't do - it was about inviting them to take part in activities, not telling them to.

One of the weeks the focus was on trust. Various trust activities were undertaken including the trust rock, trust lift, trust run and trust fall. There was a lot of trepidation at the start, from the students and myself, as to whether we could complete the tasks set up. But we all had a go and although they may not have succeeded on their first attempt, they were keen to have a second try. Now for those who don't know me, I'm a big bloke! You should have seen the looks on both the girls' and the boys' faces when it was my turn to be lifted off the ground in the trust lift! They were first given the option of attempting it and despite a little hesitation they decided they would try it. And both groups succeeded! I think if this took place in the first week then they would have just walked away! It is pleasing to see the difference in some of the students even after only a few weeks and I hope they continue to develop into the future.

Michael Abbott, No Limits Volunteer 2017



I've really been enjoying connecting with the students and getting to know them. They come from a range of backgrounds and getting to know them has been fun. What I've found challenging is how some students, when you encourage them, you can tell they don't want to accept it and will try to make a joke out of what they've done well. It made me think of how sad it is that these students probably don't get encouraged much and can't accept it. I aim to make them feel comfortable with being encouraged!

One particular thing I've seen change in the students with the No Limits process is how the 'uncool' students are now associating with the 'cool' students. The first session, there wasn't much talking between these two groups, but as the process has gone on, they are now both opening up to each other and becoming friends, helping and guiding each other through the different challenges / games we explore. Seeing them realise that they're all equal and didn't have a choice in the family they're born in, or the way they were brought up, has impacted me. This has helped me realise that what seems like basic values and morals to me, these kids have no idea about, as they haven't been exposed to it. The cool thing is, through this process I get to help them realise what values and morals are, which will help them in life to come.

Wade Dekker, No Limits Volunteer, 2017



Phase 2 is currently underway for 2017 and so we look forward to sharing more feedback on their journeys in the next report. Unfortunately, *No Limits* at Bayswater Secondary College was not able to go ahead in the last year but we hope there may be opportunity for this in the future.

To date, CbL has worked together with YaFT-Xplore to support over 200 young people to go through the *No Limits* process and has facilitated the engagement of 12 different volunteers. The decisions we make in life are ultimately based on how we view ourselves, the world around us, and our place in it. For many young people, all the messages they receive are negative. We love having the opportunity to turn that around so that young people can realise and reach their potential!

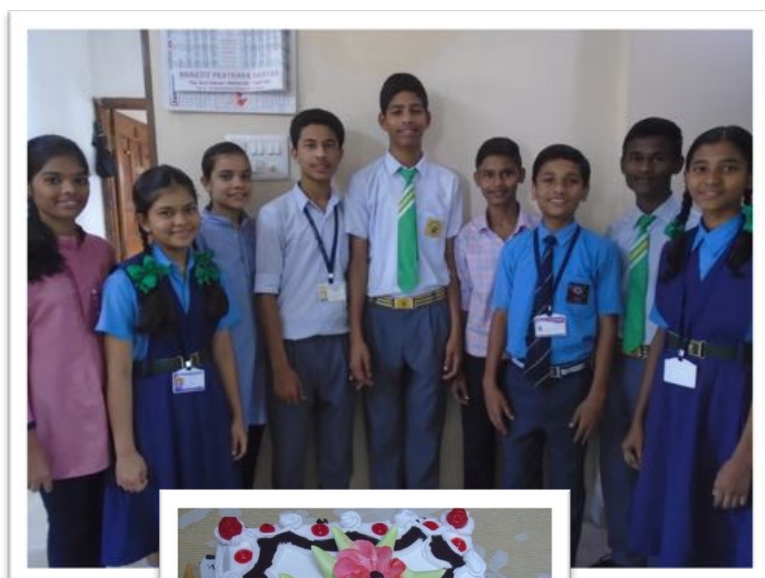
In India, CbL work together with local partner Aasara, to achieve three main goals. Firstly, to provide opportunities for those from poor, vulnerable and marginalised backgrounds to receive quality education. Secondly, to provide accommodation in a loving, caring, family environment for students who are unable to undertake education opportunities at home. And finally, to support the families of these students through visits, encouragement, advocacy and medical assistance, particularly as the majority of families have been impacted by HIV / AIDS.

The previous report detailed the establishment of this project, and so the last year has focused on supporting the students to improve their health and their grades at school so they can continue to progress. For our partner, Aasara, this has involved one-on-one investment in each student and their family to get to know them better and really understand their needs and struggles, as well as their skills and abilities and the things they are interested in and passionate about.

Objectives

Our objectives in the last 12 months were to

- Support the maintenance and development of accommodation for students who cannot access quality education from home
- Support the students in their studies through enrolment at quality schools and by providing tutoring
- Support improved health through quality food, health checks and following up identified issues
- Identify emotional needs and provide support in these areas
- Provide help and support to the families of the students



These students are growing up so fast! It's exciting and fulfilling to see them healthy and thriving and having opportunities to reach their potential. The accommodation for the students is in a rented apartment that has really been made a home. There are currently nine students who stay in this accommodation during school terms. In the last year, CbL has been able to continue to fund the purchase of various items for the home so that the students have everything they need, as well as cover all the expenses including rent, food, electricity, maintenance, gas and so on. Home life is so important to a person's wellbeing – these students have a place where they are safe and secure, where they are loved and nurtured, and this provides a great foundation for them. CbL is also supporting a student who does not stay at the home, but lives with his mother and grandparents and is able to attend school where he is. We hope to do more of this in the future, supporting families to provide education to their children and maintaining the home for those who can't remain with their family for study.

All of the students are enrolled in quality schools and have been receiving daily tutoring during school terms, as well as special additional tutoring during the holidays. This, along with addressing health issues, has seen great improvement in their marks.

Our partners, Joel and Nancy, do an incredible job with these students. They love and care for them as though they were their own children and they also love and care for the families of the students. They visit the families and give help and support for any family issues. In the last year, some of the mothers have required hospitalisation for health issues and through our support Aasara have been able to facilitate this.

In January, we had a group visit this project and they were really able to witness firsthand some of the strengths of this project. The home itself has been set up very nicely and professionally, without being extravagant. It is kept very neatly and the students take pride in looking after their things. Each of the students contribute with rosters for cleaning and helping with cooking and washing. The students are shy, which is to be expected of course, but they had a lot of fun being able to engage with the team through board games and soccer and food! The thing that stands out the most is the love and friendship between the students and the love and respect they have for Joel and Nancy – it's incredible and you can see that they are really developing as people in this secure, stable and loving environment. The students were such a blessing to the group who were able to see and learn and be challenged by a different perspective. Likewise, the group was able to bless the students by donating funds to Aasara for birthday gifts throughout the year for them as well as funds for some much-needed items Aasara had not yet been able to purchase. It's been a highlight throughout this year to see photos of the special birthday celebrations each student has had. In addition, since returning to Australia, the group have facilitated fundraising and advocacy opportunities which has been fantastic and made a huge difference.



To describe it in its most simple terms, this project is essentially about education sponsorship. But in reality, it is so much more than that. It's fairly straightforward to pay for a student to go to school. But for CbL, education is not only about receiving a high school certificate - it's about learning to think for yourself, about developing as a person mentally, socially and emotionally, it's about values and understanding and being empowered to make decisions and become a contributing citizen. It's about being in a position at the end of the sponsorship to go on to employment, independence and self-sustainability. To achieve those outcomes, a high level of commitment and a holistic approach is required. The students need to attend good quality schools where they will be taught well and really have the opportunity to learn. They may require tutoring depending on the previous education they have had access to. They need nutritious food and healthcare so that they are in a position to study. They need to feel valued and loved and be inspired with hope for the future so that they begin to develop goals and aspirations and the drive they will need to succeed. They also need to know that their families are ok and doing well, as problems in the family create stress for the students. Aasara facilitate all of this and more and it is such a great joy to work together for these students.



One of the younger students has been struggling with his family situation – his mother passed away and his father has remarried but he does not have a close relationship with his step-mother. He is very quiet and often sad as he misses his mother. But in the last year, Joel and Nancy have been working with this family and encouraging this young man to open his heart to his step-mother and to talk with her and engage with her more. She has since visited which she had not done previously, with only his father coming to see him before. This is helping him so much and it is a real joy to see him enjoying life more even though he still finds it difficult.

The eldest student, Sharon, has now completed high school and commenced a Bachelor of Commerce, which is so exciting! She would never have had the opportunity to finish high school, let alone attend university, back in the village where she comes from. It was a great process as Joel and Nancy spent a lot of time with both Sharon and her mother, listening as well as giving advice, working together to help Sharon consider all her options and plan for her future. CbL is continuing to support Sharon with Aasara, as she now undertakes further study to increase her employment options.

We are super proud of brother and sister, Om and Yamini, who have improved their grades dramatically this year. In the preceding year, their overall marks were less than 40% for Om and less than 50% for Yamini. This year, they both achieved 60%. These two are a great example of how more than simply funds for education are needed – an approach which considers multiple factors and provides support in lots of different ways is helping both of these students reach their potential! Om has even won a certificate – he participated in an essay-writing competition and was awarded the best essay!

There has been so much growth in the students in the last year, in all ways – physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. This project is growing and we love seeing the students develop, not only in their studies but also in their skills, interests and passions, and in having hopes for the future. It's great to see them building dreams knowing that through our support, they will have the opportunities to pursue them!



CbL work with a number of local partners in Rwanda, within four goal areas – *Empower* (trauma rehabilitation and reconciliation), leadership development, education sponsorship and socio-economic enterprise.

Trauma rehabilitation and reconciliation work through use of the *Empower* program is the central aspect – the 1994 genocide has left millions of people traumatised, and unable to move forward, and communities completely shattered with victims and perpetrators living together, but in suspicion and fear, and plotting revenge and suicide. We have found that people are unable to improve their physical lives and circumstances, until they first receive some healing from their experiences. Once people have journeyed through *Empower*, our partners are then able to offer complimentary interventions of education sponsorship and socio-economic enterprise to help them continue their healing and come up out of material poverty.

Leadership development is focused on our partners and seeking to invest in them so that their organisations are strengthened, enabling the work to continue long term into the future, providing sustainability.

Objectives

Our objectives in the last 12 months were to

- Support our partners to run an *Empower* program, Eighth Day for facilitators and Follow Up program every month
- Provide leadership development opportunities for our partners
- Ensure students in the education sponsorship program are enrolled in good quality schools, improving their grades and that the program is targeting students who are most needy and who will most benefit from education opportunities
- Support *Turiumwe* and *Baho Neza* co-operatives



Our capacity as a Board and in terms of finances was somewhat limited in the last year, so we had a deliberate focus on continuing to engage in our key activities with our partners really well, and not look to expand or develop beyond that for 12 months. Rob van der Zaag visited Rwanda on behalf of CbL in July 2016 and this trip was very focused on spending time with our partners. It has been so exciting and encouraging to continue to receive their feedback on the *Empower* program and how it is impacting and transforming lives. Particularly in the rural areas, many direct perpetrators and victims of the genocide are living in the same communities. Without it being the intent, many times direct victims and perpetrators have attended the same *Empower* program and this has actually facilitated acknowledgement, truth, forgiveness and reconciliation – which has brought incredible freedom to people’s everyday lives. Often, victims and perpetrators haven’t spoken in the 23 years since the genocide – they avoid circumstances in which they might meet, which can be very isolating. So to be together, in the same room for *Empower*, is huge in and of itself. The journey of healing is done step by step – it is not instant or all-encompassing in a moment – but amazing things are happening through *Empower*.

As the seven days progress, victims and perpetrators take steps forward such as greeting each other for the first time in 23 years. Often testimonies from perpetrators are that they had previously confessed their crimes during the genocide, but they hadn’t been completely truthful and it hadn’t been a heartfelt confession, but that the confession they have now given through *Empower* is real and genuine and they take responsibility for their crimes. Many victims take the incredible step of extending forgiveness to their perpetrators. Small acts of reconciliation happen like perpetrators helping victims get home (many victims have disabilities as a result of things they suffered in the genocide and can struggle to walk home); victims forgiving debts and helping the children of perpetrators with school fees; perpetrators helping victims to cultivate their land and victims and perpetrators sharing meals together and being welcomed into each other’s homes. I find I am at a loss for words to describe the magnitude of these acts within the context – it is nothing short of miraculous.



Over the last year, we were privileged to support 13 *Empower* programs with a total of 488 participants. The additional *Empower* was run in partnership with the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS), a Rwandan university. The university has a program of Peace and Conflict studies, and this department has been working with a women's unity group called *Umucyo Nyanza* (the light of Nyanza), which is made up of genocide survivors and the wives of imprisoned genocide perpetrators. The women began working together in 2014. 20 women participated in *Empower* in March 2017, which was not long before the beginning of the genocide memorial period. Some of the survivors testified that they usually experience headaches during the memorial period, but they did not have those symptoms this year, and another survivor was able to courageously share her testimony for the first time in one of the village-level meetings. In general, the women shared that they felt more empowered and united than before. Even though the women have been working together for several years, *Empower* helped them to open up more and share their past experiences – they realised that keeping these things inside is like having poison in your body. This helped the women to know each other even more and have better understanding of each other's struggles. In the coming year, we will be facilitating a follow up program with these women, and from there exploring opportunities to work together with PIASS in further researching *Empower* in Rwanda.

One of the other *Empower* programs was actually a 'double' program, with 72 participants instead of the usual 36. Our partner CARSA started working in a new area last year and when they spoke with local leaders about potential participants for *Empower*, they were overwhelmed by the need and so trialled a program with additional participants and facilitators in order to try and enable people to go through the program as soon as possible.

Each *Empower* also included an Eighth Day (the program is seven days) for facilitators, to enable them to debrief, share testimonies and challenges, to care for their own mental health and to continue to refresh and learn.

We also supported nine *Empower* Follow Up programs which 423 past participants were able to attend. There wasn't a Follow Up every month because not all participants were available.



As already noted, the outcomes witnessed through *Empower* are just amazing. Over the last year, along with overcoming personal trauma, many participants learnt skills for resolving family conflicts and how to manage thoughts, anger and issues that arise in daily life. Many participants were able to forgive their offenders and ask for forgiveness where they had wronged others. Participants reported being able to sleep better than previously, regaining their sleep using the sleeping techniques. There was a renewed sense of security and hope for the future, as well as a willingness to go and try to make a living and provide for their families.

There were many participants attending *Empower* who shared their traumatic stories for the very first time. One of the participants in the October *Empower* was a genocide survivor who cried and grieved for the first time in the 22 years since the genocide. She also slept through the whole night for the first time in 22 years – previously she would have sporadic sleep lasting only 30 minutes at a time.

The group discussions within *Empower* have generated a sense of belonging, as participants hear each other's similar experiences. This has been particularly healing for those participants who have come from experiences of rejection. During the November *Empower*, participants would come early in the morning to share notes with each other so that they didn't miss anything from the sessions. Also during the November *Empower*, many of the participants in this particular group had conflicts in their families in addition to conflicts arising from the genocide – there was a great release from hatred, shame and anger. Many offered forgiveness to each other and spoke about finally understanding the importance of forgiveness. During the July *Empower*, a married couple were able to restore their relationship.

Throughout the programs, changed disposition was observed in the participants – from frowning, angry faces to being bright and hugging each other.



During the January *Empower*, the participants were broken up in such a way that there were two small groups of only men, and one small group comprising only women. Having the group of women on their own was really fruitful, they were very open to share with each other, even things that were deep secrets for them. They enjoyed being without the men because some of them had been raped during the genocide and others were experiencing conflict in their marriages. They said that it was good to be together as women, having time to listen to each other. The men also found their groups helpful. For many of the men, it was their first time to attend any kind of trauma counselling workshop. Hearing from others was important for them because many of them were experiencing family conflicts as well as genocide issues, so the sharing contributed to their daily lives. Many participants were released from shame, anger, hatred and the burden of unforgiveness. Many people were able to stand in front of others and ask for forgiveness. Survivors were also ready to truly forgive.

During the February *Empower*, the participants were so thankful and joyful about all they had received through *Empower*, they prepared gifts for each other, even those who were very poor. One of the small groups have created a WhatsApp group together in order to keep in contact and continue encouraging each other and being in relationship together.



Many participants in the May *Empower* suffered sleeping difficulties but regained sleep after learning the sleeping techniques - three women who were taking sleeping pills no longer needed to use them. Many of the participants were living in fear, and were released from that fear, especially perpetrators. Many perpetrators asked for forgiveness from their direct victims.

The June *Empower* saw lives literally saved as six of the participants (five of the women and one of the men) had plans to commit suicide because of the trauma they were living with, but they turned away from these plans after going through *Empower*. One participant experienced relief from chronic pain that they had from being hit in the head during the genocide.

Every month, there is one amazing testimony after another through *Empower*. People's stories are truly horrific and horrendous - there is such an intense brokenness that it is difficult to take in. To see these precious people receiving healing and hope is a very great and special privilege - such an awesome thing to be a part of!

Our support for leadership development was not as extensive as previous years, but we were able to support our partners to attend the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit in Kigali, and this was a fantastic experience and helped to re-energise and inspire our partners.



We had 25 students in the Education Sponsorship Program over the last year. Two new sponsors were engaged in the program which was really exciting – the long-term commitment of sponsors makes a huge difference. Two students completed primary school and two started vocational training and English classes, having completed high school. As already noted, it was really wonderful to see one of the students, Sylvestre, graduate from university! Sylvestre was blessed to have two sponsors during his time in the program – one group who supported him all through high school, and then a family who took over to support his Bachelor degree. Sylvestre reflected that the thing he enjoyed most about his studies at university was visiting industries as part of his course, to see things in action. The hardest things for him was the challenge of the language and doing studies in English – but he did really well and achieved good marks – another super proud moment for us!

Through visits, the CbL Board has been able to personally meet and spend time with these students – hearing directly from them how much the program helps them has been amazing. Many of them asked, *Why do you help us in this way?* Again, the small investment brings so much dignity and value as well as providing the opportunity for these students to reach their potential.

We were able to send updates to sponsors that included photos, letters from their students and even video messages – it is so personal and meaningful, we just love this program! And we love the sponsors who are so dedicated and faithful, every month contributing to these young lives. One student's family has had a particularly difficult year, having no home of their own and being evicted from the place they were renting as they could not pay the rent. As soon as the sponsors knew of this need, they began fundraising to help this family purchase a plot of land they could begin to cultivate (approximately \$1,200). We hope to work together with our partner to build a house for this family as their sponsor continues to fundraise towards this next goal (approximately \$10,000).

Parents of students in the program shared the following reflections with us –

The program has eased life at home and enabled consistent attendance at school. It encourages the child and helps them to like school because they are not chased out. It also helps the family to support the other siblings.

Mama Grace

When we see our kids going to good schools we praise God. Life is much easier at home.

Mama Blessing

The blessings are twofold – there is a blessing to the child and a blessing to the parents. Many times, children are sent away from school or don't get their school report because of lack of fees. It is then hard to tell the child to go back to school the next term. It makes it easy to follow up as a parent with the school because you know you have done your part in paying the fees. The parent is more peaceful in their heart and mind. They are not worried and can think properly. Otherwise you spend sleepless nights worrying about school fees. Even though it is child sponsorship, I see it as parent sponsorship!

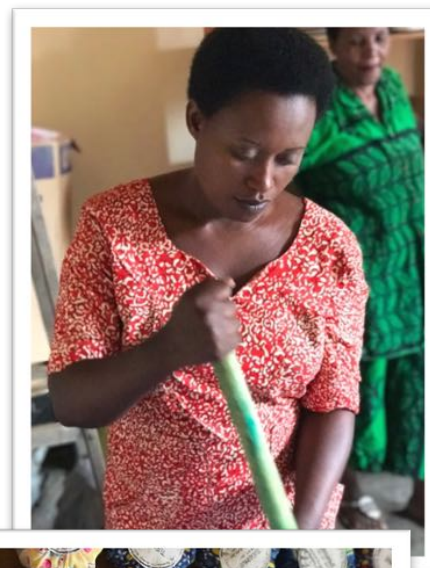
Pappa Enock

School fees have not been easy, especially since Angelique's father died. Angelique would not be able to go to school since I became a widow if there was not this help. Money now supports the family needs and other children going to school. We are grateful to get the fees in time so that the children can attend school with their bank slip.

Mama Angelique



We have continued our support of two unity co-operatives who produce soap to earn income and work together to further their healing journey. We have been able to sell soap from *Turiumwe* (we are one) and *Baho Neza* (live well) in Australia, sharing their story and generating funding. We've also been able to visit them, see their progress and encourage them.

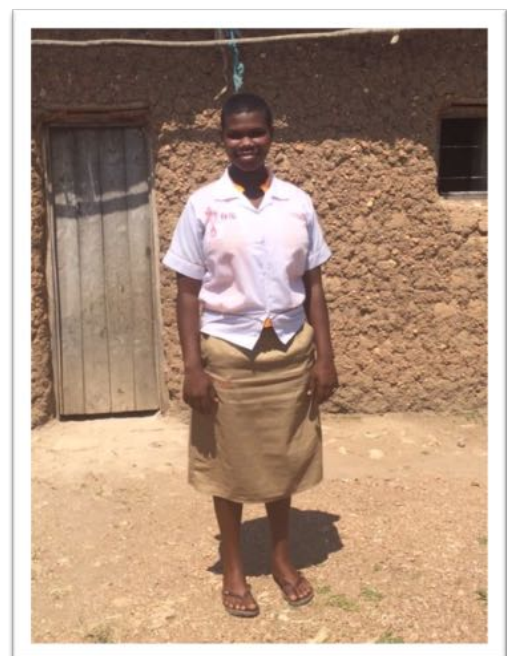


The previous Annual Report mentioned several Special Projects in which we were providing medical assistance to a number of families. We were able to meet with Shane again, who had suffered terrible third-degree burns, and it is just fantastic to see his progress. He would not have survived without the medical treatment he was able to receive through CbL support, and now he is running around like any normal kid!

Prosper, who suffered an accident at work over 18 months ago which left him with a broken back and suffering paralysis is slowly recovering. We are continuing our support for Prosper and his family. In this last year, he has finally received the massive surgery he needed to realign and repair his back. He is now in a rehabilitation facility where he receives daily physiotherapy. His prognosis is unclear at this point. CbL are also providing support to help the family pursue the negligence involved on behalf of Prosper's employer, so that they can seek the compensation Prosper will need for the ongoing medical costs he will have into the undetermined future.

We are also currently raising funds to construct a house for one of the families in the Education Sponsorship Program. This family has their own land, but their house is falling apart. There are six children in the family, so we are really excited to see this project go ahead and provide them with a safe place to live.

As well as the practical activities of this project, we are focused on strengthening and building the relationships we have with our partners, so that we can work together even more effectively. For every person impacted by our work in Rwanda, there are hundreds more that need help and support. As we look back, it propels us and inspires us to keep looking forward!



06

MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

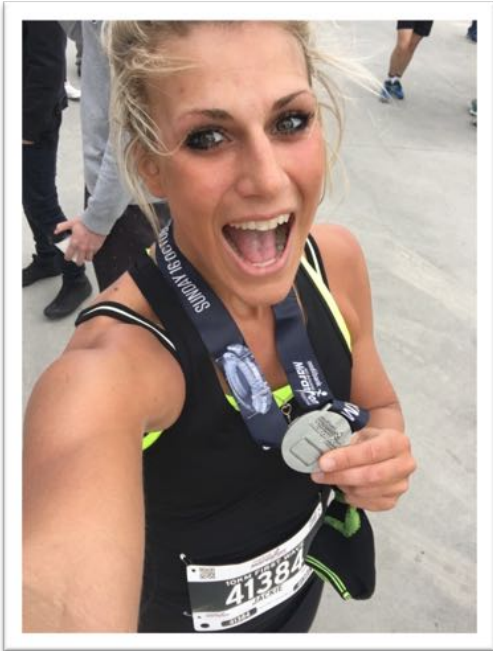
The achievements that mean the most to us are the individual stories we hear of how people and families have been able to see amazing change in their lives through our support and empowerment - that's what it's all about! But it's also important for us to keep moving forward as an organisation so that we can become more effective in our work and so that we can be sustainable for many years to come.

A huge milestone for CbL in the last year has been recognition by the Australian Government as a Public Benevolent Institution and receiving Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. This means that we are now able to issue our own tax-deductible receipts to our donors. Previously, we were partnering with Global Development Group to offer tax deductibility, and that has been a great partnership over the last number of years. We have now closed that partnership, moving forward with our own registrations which will enable us to get more funds to our projects.



We've had some amazing fundraising efforts thanks to you - our wonderful supporters! Whether you organised, participated, attended, or donated - THANK YOU for supporting the work of CbL - we couldn't do it without you!

Jackie is a personal trainer and after working hard all week - working out and training others - she got out there on the weekend as well to run 10km in the 2016 Melbourne Marathon. Jackie has made this an annual event in her calendar to raise funds for CbL - we love you Jackie! There are so many generous people who got behind her once again this last year, so thank you for all those who gave.



We also held the Dinner Dance in March and had a great turnout and so much generosity on the night as people participated in the raffle, silent auction and auction. We had so many fabulous prizes as people really supported the event by donating goods which made the night a lot of fun. The catering and live music was on point, the most important features of the evening! This event really is a lot of work and there are just so many special people who donated their time to organise tables of people to attend, to collect prizes, to set up, to pack up, to organise decorations and make up hampers and so on! Every ticket sold, every ribbon tied, every table centre displayed, every note played and sung - all of this makes a difference so thank you once again to every person who was a part of this in some way.

2016-2017

FINANCIAL YEAR

Profit and Loss Statement

Compelled By Love

1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Income

Bank Interest	\$49.47
Donations	\$148,343.41
Total	\$148,392.88

Expenditure

Projects	\$115,890.67
Event Expenses	\$7,741.30*
Total	\$123,631.97

Surplus

\$24,760.91

*Outlay cost of catering, hall hire, sound / lighting for Dinner Dance fundraiser – approximately \$10,000 raised

Balance Sheet

Compelled By Love

As at 30 June 2017

Assets

Bank	
Compelled By Love	\$59,442.76
Total Bank	\$59,442.76
Total Assets	\$59,442.76

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	
GST	\$164.34
Total Current Liabilities	\$164.34
Total Liabilities	\$164.34

Net Assets	\$59,607.10
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Equity

Current Year Earnings	\$24,760.91
Retained Earnings	\$34,846.19
Total Equity	\$59,607.10

Each year presents new challenges as well as new opportunities! We hope to have your support again in the year ahead as we continue working in Australia, India and Rwanda.

Australia

CbL will be supporting Phase 2 of *No Limits* for the 2017 groups at Keysborough Secondary College, as well as a new round of Phase 1 processes in the first half of 2018. The school has seen such amazing impact for their students through *No Limits* that they would love to expand next year and are looking at the possibilities for eight Phase 1 processes and potentially a second *No Limits* facilitator. It's amazing how YaFT-Xplore is growing and CbL is excited to keep partnering together to see their important work continue in the lives of young people.

India

In India, we plan to expand our focus more to the families of the students, as well as the local community, in order to have a deeper and broader impact beyond the students we sponsor. We are also looking at potential options for a more permanent set up for the student's home, as we are currently in a rented facility.

Rwanda

There is so much opportunity for growth and expansion of the work in Rwanda. Marten and Karen Visser will be making an extended visit in early 2018 for about six weeks, and this will be a time of developing even deeper relationships with our partners and gaining greater understanding of their work so that we can keep growing our partnerships. We would love to help more organisations have access to *Empower*. One of our existing *Empower* partners will be running the program for another one of our partners who is focused on education, because many of the families they work with need trauma rehabilitation - so we are looking forward to that taking place and to seeing how that can be built on. We would also like to dedicate more time and resources to further researching *Empower* in the Rwandan context, and hope that engaging with PIASS may open doors for this in the next year. We have a number of students who will be entering their final year of high school in 2018, so we will be tracking their progress closely and working together with them and their families to plan their next steps.

Advocacy and Fundraising

We always need to be mindful of engaging new supporters and new avenues for funding, so that we aren't dependent on a single donor, in order to build sustainability for the organisation. For the 2017-2018 financial year, we have groups participating in the Melbourne Marathon and Around the Bay fundraising events. We are also exploring opportunities for speaking engagements at a number of schools and churches we have connections with.

The surplus shown in the financial reports in part represents funding that was donated for the 2017 calendar year, and thus has been allocated for projects in July through to December 2017. The balance represents fundraising efforts, support from new regular donors and primarily an unexpected large donation that was made. For the 2017-2018 financial year, CbL has received a substantial commitment from local business, 3fold Resources, which will give us the capacity to meet the current commitments to our projects in the year ahead, which is just fantastic. Year to year we rely on new and renewed commitments to continue to fund our work, with no guaranteed funding, as donor circumstances are continually changing. We are constantly looking to build a base of funding so that every year we can meet our essential commitments to the *Empower* program, the *No Limits* program and the students we support. From there, we would love to grow and do more! A mix of sources including philanthropic funding, regular donors and fundraising events is needed - if you aren't already involved in one of these areas, we'd love for you to consider supporting CbL in some form in the coming year.

Once again this year, I thank you for reaching this point and reading through this report! It is produced for you – so that you can know some of the names and see some of the faces of the lives you have touched. If you have had the privilege of travelling overseas, you will have realised that Australia is really far away from most of the rest of the world! That reality can sometimes make it hard for us to really connect with both the need in our world and with the difference our small contribution can make.

This report aims to help be a bit of a window through which you can get a glimpse of the other side – whether that's the other side of the world in India and Rwanda, or the other side of the fence here in Australia.

We aim to be a personal organisation on a number of different levels. We aim to get personal with our partners – knowing not only what they do, but who they are as people and organisations, so we can work together out of true relationship and support them as well as their work.

We aim to get personal with the people we are empowering – giving the time, the energy and the effort to meet them, to listen to them, to hear their stories, to learn their names, to encourage them, to care for them.

We aim to get personal with you – helping you to see the individuals behind the number and sharing testimonies that help you see your gifts not as mere financial transactions, but as life-changing investments.

For those of you who have made general donations in support of your friends who have gotten involved running or riding, or who have attended a CbL event, we appreciate you! But if you've taken time to read this report, let me encourage you to get personal with CbL – jump on our website and read about the need behind each project – peer through the window a little more and really grasp why your contribution is so important. Choose to support a particular project or aspect of our work – connect yourself more deeply and you'll receive so much more from it. Pick up the phone or meet us for coffee if that's more your style – we'd love to talk to you!

Let us finish where we started – every person has a story. Every person matters, including you. Whatever your story is, however you came to be reading this report, thank you. We appreciate you, we value you and we thank you for your investment of time and support in various ways.

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again.

***So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.
2 Corinthians 5:14-16***





Thank you to all our donors and supporters who make this possible, your engagement matters and has great meaning and significance in the lives of each person connected to CbL. No matter how big or small you feel your contribution is, it's important.

We hope to receive your partnership again in the year ahead.

Thank you.

COMPELLED BY LOVE

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