

A Reminder



It's been an exciting year here at Bright Hope World. We have new partners in a number of new countries. Many widows, orphans, deaf and blind people and many thousands of people living in poverty have been helped towards physical and spiritual self-sustainability.

Earlier in the year I was in Kenya visiting partners. My plan was then to visit a relatively new partnership in Burundi. Burundi is a small land-locked country bordered by Tanzania, Rwanda and the Congo, and it is in turmoil. Poverty and corruption are rife and Burundi is now the second poorest country in the world. The average income is US\$267 per year!

Our partner in Burundi, Eodie Nindmutsa, has a ministry empowering vulnerable women and youth to overcome poverty so that they can self-sufficiently meet their basic needs. Eodie advised it was too dangerous for me to visit but recently Kevin and Helen have been there and were very encouraged by the impact of this partnership.

In the neighbourhood where Eodie lives – and where Kevin and Helen stayed – violence, murder and kidnappings were taking place around them. Yet Eodie does not budge. She stays where she is – even though she could get out if she wanted to – because she is so focused on helping the poor in her community. Reflecting on this it serves as a stark reminder to me that our philosophy is all about supporting and encouraging our partners in the ministries to which God has called them.

So often these days we hear “what’s in it for me” or “how can I be personally and meaningfully involved” or “how do we directly access the people on the front lines”. These are all reasonable questions at one level but, friends, we need to be reminded that God’s heart throughout the bible is focused on mission and the poor. When we – little by little – allow our own needs and aspirations to edge out those of the poorest of the poor in missions, we lose something of the heart of missions. It’s such a cliché, but it really is not all about us. It’s about those that need God and need a hand-up to get out of the cycles of poverty.

It’s not about what makes me feel good. It’s not about what might keep my home-group or congregation engaged. It’s not about finding my place in the world or even seeing how God might use me. It’s simply about what they need, and how we can die to ourselves and serve them in God’s name. That’s why we believe partnership with indigenous leaders is so effective. They are there, they are great influencers in their communities and they can speak on behalf of the voiceless. In 2015 it has been a joy, yet again, for us to partner with exceptional people all around the world.

We trust you will have a wonder-filled Christmas as you celebrate Christ’s birth.

Rob Purdue
Executive Chairman

Bright Hope News

It’s hard to believe yet another year has come to an end.

It’s been wonderful to see so many of our partnerships grow and flourish this year, but we also have seen others face great hardship and persecution (see Rob’s story on this page).

Thanks for journeying with us – we look forward to what God will do in 2016.

Bright Hope Summit

The biennial Bright Hope World summit is happening in Christchurch on April 8 and 9, 2016. Mark your calendars!

Details to follow.

Bright Hope World Office Christmas Closure Dates

The Bright Hope World office will be closed from midday on the 24th December, 2015 and will reopen Tuesday the 5th of January, 2016.

The last La Mai coffee orders for 2015 will need to be in by Monday the 21st December. Normal coffee ordering will resume on the 5th January, 2016.

The team at Bright Hope World greatly appreciate your support in giving hope to the poorest of the poor throughout 2015. We wish you a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Life Change Story – Sarah Muzaki



Sarah is a single woman who has five children - one of her own, two from her sister who died and two from a cousin who died. She also has an elderly mother who is dependent on her. Her mother is a widow who lives out in the village.

Sarah gains income through several means:

- She travels to a market early to buy second hand clothes and then sells these near her home and in a market close to her home. Alongside the second hand clothes she at times pays somebody to sew for her and sells these at her home and at the market also. This business fluctuates at different times of the year.
- At harvest time Sarah travels up into the mountains where she buys grains such as maize and beans. Although she has agents in the mountains that sell to her it is a dangerous journey. The roads and tracks are very slippery particularly after rain. She pays for a truck to bring the produce back down to Mbale and then holds it for one to two months before selling it locally at a profit. There is a good market for selling the produce particularly to such places as local schools.
- Sarah also lives on land where she is able to grow vegetables and has hired some land next to hers where she has planted maize with soya beans. With growing she is able to feed her family and also sell some of what she grows.

Sarah's most recent loan was 1.2m Ugandan shillings (US\$370). She used 400,000 of this (US\$120) to hire the land next door for two seasons. She also used some of this money to pay for help with the digging. She bought seeds and fertiliser and also restocked her clothes business.

Before receiving micro-loans Sarah reports her life was very difficult. Her own health was poor and she worried a lot about providing for herself, her children and her mother. Participating in the micro-loan programme has meant that the family's income has increased and she has been able to increase the size of her businesses. She is able to send her children to school and to fund the books and equipment that are needed as well as the small fees she pays. Sarah is also able to feed her children better and she herself has had a significantly improved level of health.

Read more about the Jehovah Jireh micro-loan programme, Mbale, Uganda (UGA05) at:

<http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=157>

Prayer and Praise

We really appreciate your prayer support – for us and for our partners around the world.

1. Pray for the people of Burundi and especially for our partner Eodie Nindmutsa.
2. Pray for Sarah Muzaki and the other ladies whose lives are being transformed by the Jehovah Jireh micro-loan programme in Uganda.
3. Praise God for Kevin & Helen Honore's safe return from their travels and for the beneficial time they had with many current partners and potential new partners.
4. Pray for all our partners over the upcoming Christmas period which often can add a lot of extra stress and pressure to already difficult situations.
5. Pray for wisdom for our team as we reflect over the last year and plan for the next.
6. Pray for our team gathering in January in Nelson.



Bright Hope World, PO Box 8928, Christchurch 8440, New Zealand

Phone: (03) 341 0933 Fax: (03) 341 3363

www.brighthopeworld.com