

A Stark Contrast



On Easter Sunday Christians around the world paused to remember the triumphant resurrection of Jesus. It is a day that represents overcoming death and evil. For the team at Bright Hope World, we were not just celebrating this special day, but also looking forward to coming together as a team and spending time with some of our supporters at the Bright Hope World Summit.

On the other side of the world, in Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park in Lahore, Pakistan Christians had streamed out of Sunday morning services and many had gathered to share picnic food, play on the swings and also enjoy spending time with other believers.

At about 6:30pm a suicide bomber exploded himself killing 75 people, including 29 children. The target was Christians (although the majority killed were actually Muslims). 340 people were injured.

Our partner in Lahore, Edward Qaser, lost a young cousin in the attack and has been coordinating food, medicine and other aid for the worst affected families.

At a time when the Christian world celebrated Christ overcoming death, it must have felt like a cruel joke as death made its presence so powerfully felt. At a time when we were anticipating spending time with other believers, Christians in Pakistan were paying a terrible price for doing that very thing.

It's sobering. In places we have been, and among people we know, the enemies of God and life and love have reached out to wreak havoc. In fact, it's happening more and more frequently, and in more and more places. So how should we respond?

Not with hatred. Not with ignorance or forgetfulness. Not even with a "whew, glad that's not me".

Can I suggest we remind ourselves that the believers facing persecution and death around the world are as close to us as family? They are our brothers and sisters, and when one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it.

Can I ask all those whose hearts are impacted by the reality of the freedom from persecution we have in our country, and the absence of this freedom for so many to pray? Pray for those whose lives have been torn apart by this bombing, and the many others like it that have become regular occurrences. Pray for those who, because of the faith in Christ they profess, wear a virtual target on their backs. Pray that God would protect his people.

We are truly blessed to live in this country. Let's be grateful to God for that blessing.

Fraser Scott
Executive Director

Bright Hope News

Just a couple of weeks ago we held our fourth Bright Hope World biennial summit in Christchurch.

We had a big group of people from around the country come and hear our team share on the subject of sustainability in mission. We even had a guest appearance from one of our partners from Mozambique.

We talked through the reasons we pursue sustainability, how we achieve sustainability in the field, how we achieve sustainability in our team and some of the challenges to sustainability we face.

The summit was such an encouraging time for us to connect as a team, as well as meeting some new supporters and catching up with those who have been on the journey with us for some time.

And, just quietly, the catering was also pretty incredible!

We have decided that, as it is a long way for many to travel, we are planning to host regional summits over the next few years, starting with Nelson in September. Stay tuned for more dates as we make these arrangements.

And, for those of you who weren't able to be with us in Christchurch, we have put all the presentation videos and PowerPoints online at:

<http://www.brighthopeworld.com/summit.asp>

Life Change Story – Living Water, Egypt



Some of the people our partners work with live in situations we can't even begin to comprehend but they are being given hope and lives are being changed. For security reasons, we are not able to use photos of people or their real names. OC is a diminutive woman with six children. Her eldest is 16 and OC is a widow as her husband committed suicide. She shifted to this community from a similar one to escape the shame. She is Hep C positive and has suffered a great deal, but she has recently been able to get help with drugs through the Living Water clinic.

One of her children is going to school through the ministry, the other boys are out finding rubbish. They scour the streets of Helwan city leaving at 4am on a donkey cart. They start this work at 8 or 9 years of age. They bring rubbish back and OC sorts it into piles in their back yard. The place is swarming with flies. Glass, plastic, food scraps and cardboard are all sorted. A few months ago the children who were out collecting trash had an accident and damaged a vehicle. The person became very upset and demanded 500 Egyptian Pounds (\$US55) from them. This was more than a whole month's family income and there was no way OC could pay. Their cart was also severely damaged so they had no means of income. OC came to Living Water who were able to help her. They tried to patch up the cart but it was not a success and remained very hard to pull; so hard that their best donkey died! On top of that, the week before one of the younger children fell off the bed and broke her leg so is now in plaster for 6 weeks. Our partner had to set the leg and he's a vet!

But recently OC was given some pigs which she feeds from the food scraps. She was also given a couple of goats and she has chickens and ducks. All these animals and her family live on a piece of land about 15m x 20m. Living Water has also helped build her better rooms to live in.

Read more about the Living Water (EGY02) at:

<http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=308>

Prayer and Praise

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

1. Pray for OC and the other families living in this 'rubbish town' in Egypt and for our partners working amongst them.
2. Pray for the victims of the Easter bombing attack in Lahore.
3. Praise for a very worthwhile and beneficial Summit held in Christchurch 8/9 April.
4. Pray for our partners Manara International in Jordan. Unprecedented numbers of refugees are streaming across the borders from Iraq and Syria.
5. Pray for our team members, a number of whom are travelling in the next two months.



Bright Hope World, PO Box 8928, Christchurch 8440, New Zealand
Phone: (03) 341 0933 Fax: (03) 341 3363
www.brighthopeworld.com