

## When the Lights Come On



“Poverty is sticky” was the theme of our last newsletter. Indeed it is, and it underlines the need for Bright Hope World to be engaged with our partners for the long haul and continue to look for sustainable solutions to poverty, in all its forms.

A key strategic emphasis for us lately has been capitalising on the great results we have seen from the adapted Foundations for Farming (FFF) programme used in Zambia by our Zambia Facilitators, Jerry and Hayley Field. In fact it has been so successful that Bright Hope World is increasingly rolling it out into other countries. For this reason I went to Kenya to spend time with Francis Ogembo and Jesse Kilel, who Bright Hope World supported to be trained in FFF techniques in Zimbabwe. We have seen Francis and Jesse using the methods for several years, and they are now partnering with us to do FFF training in areas of Kenya and South Sudan. This is exactly the kind of “entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others” model we desire.

On this trip we started with taking the training into a prison in Nairobi. It was so good to see how effective Francis and Jesse have become in such a short time. From there we travelled to Western Kenya and saw more and more evidence that the training of trainers model really does work.

For me the next stop was Uganda where the aim was to do some more training and again be on the look-out for people that had the potential to become trainers themselves. My trip was combined with that of our Uganda Facilitators Matt and Judy O’Byrne. Again, the response to the training was enthusiastic. The emphasis our adapted model places on heart and mind-set change makes the training about so much more than just a farming technique.

What is often especially appreciated by those being trained is how we start with the biblical mandate of Gen 1:28 and Gen 2:15 and place emphasis on stewardship of the land, plants and animals and use of our talents (Matt 25:14-30). We also discuss poverty, its root causes, and what a Christian response should look like. The discussion always ends up with teaching on “mind-sets” and the need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom 12:2).

It is so encouraging to see the lights come on when people start to see how all this relates to the way they treat the land and grow their crops. Just teaching different growing techniques hardly ever results in real change if the underlying attitudes to the land do not change. Changing a poverty mind-set (looking at what they do not have) to one that appreciates the blessings God has given (looking at what they do have) and faithfully using it is a key issue. It is all about much more than just growing a good crop.

*John Vlaming*  
Agricultural Director

### Bright Hope News

Welcome to the second edition of our ‘new’ newsletter. We’d love to hear any thoughts or comments you have as to what you think and how we can improve.

The last month here at Bright Hope World has been somewhat dominated by the tragic and unfolding events in the Middle East.

You would have received a couple of emails from us as we explained the needs in Jordan, which is being overwhelmed with refugees from a number of countries, but in particular Syria and Iraq.

We were so excited at the response from our donor partners to this situation and we were able to meet our target for generating funds to help supply food, water and medicine to these refugees.

Reflecting on the news from not just Syria and Iraq but also Israel and the Gaza Strip, it serves as a reminder of how volatile these areas are. Even when these regions disappear from the news, as they eventually will, we must remember to keep praying!

Finally, we have a number of new partnerships which we are pretty excited about. You can always view our latest partnerships by going to <http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?cid=8>

Thanks for your support!

## Life Change Story – Pangani School in Uganda



Pangani is an extremely undeveloped area with few schools. Female genital mutilation is prevalent in the area with many other cultural issues that especially impact girls and women. Girls are married off at an early age (as early as 13), men still beat up their wives and there is a high divorce rate.

There are few other agencies seeking to promote development or education in the area as it is too hard for many agencies to operate in. There is no electricity or other utilities. The roads are appalling and the place is cut off for many months during the rains. Few, if any, people from this area have ever graduated from higher education.

A local church has been established and is growing strongly with more than 100 people baptised in the last two years. The community asked for a school so the leadership of CFC-CCM (another BHW partner) decided to develop one, despite having few resources.

BHW commenced financial support of this school in November 2013 and on a recent visit by our Field Director it was exciting to see the changes in this community. People are starting to return to the area after many years of people leaving and the school is one of the key reasons they are coming back. The people are, after many years, becoming a more stable community and the raiding by the Karamajong tribal people wanting cattle is settling down.

The school is doing very well compared to the other schools in the district, both government and private. The results are strong and the number of children has grown from 150 to over 300. Many are leaving other schools to attend. There are now thirteen teachers who are very thankful for the opportunity to teach.

The school also has a lot of land and the plan is to develop gardens. Two of the teachers went for training in Foundations for Farming last month. They are excited about this new way of gardening and have already started with good initial results. They are getting the students to help them and teaching them the new gardening methods.

The partnership between the church and the community here is quite unique and a testimony to the calibre of the church planter in the area. The parents are getting right behind the school and are doing very well. They are providing the funds for the buildings and the food for the daily meals. The local education officials are amazed that they are so supportive as it is unusual to see this.

For more information on the Pangani School see <http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=235>

### Prayer and Praise

1. Please continue to pray for our partners in Jordan and the volatile situation in the Middle East.
2. Pray for our partners teaching Foundations for Farming – that it would be well received and help to transform communities.
3. Pray for Kevin and Helen Honore as they reach the end of their current trip – which has been a long one!
4. Pray for the Pangani School – the kids and their families, and the impact they are having on the community.



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