

ARE WE THERE YET?

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



The bus was finally across the border and I was busy lamenting that we were definitely not 'there yet'. I'd already navigated the dusty track between passport controls, peered through tiny slots in darkened windows to find the right person, filled in forms in duplicate, handed over money and documents, been sent to another window and waited in the sticky heat for my name to be called. Eventually, passport and visa in hand, I'd been allowed back on the bus – to wait some more.

I don't know about you, but I don't much like waiting. The world I inhabit typically moves fast and I like to get things done. But on that bus the minutes crawled. I just wanted to get there. But my impatience wasn't the usual pressure to get something done, it was my desire to be with our partners, people I carry in my heart and prayers all year. It is an honour to share in a small part of their journey, to talk and pray, laugh and cry together and to believe with them for all they hope God will do. Like all our partners, they are deeply committed to seeing lives and communities transformed by the power of the gospel.

But transformation of this kind doesn't happen quickly. It is a long and costly journey, a labour of love. It happens gradually and often painfully, amid fierce opposition and disappointments. On this last trip I saw the beginning of a new generation rising equipped with skills and confidence, free from the grip of poverty and fear, prepared to step out and risk sharing their faith in a hostile context.

This is the fruit of many years' work and it is also the beginning of a new chapter in a story that will unfold over many years to come. That's why, when we form a partnership, we are in it for the long haul. We are realistic about timeframes and risks and we look beyond quick fixes to stand with people who hold a God-given vision to bring genuine and lasting change.

To be able to participate in this kind of partnership we have to be on a bit of a journey in New Zealand as well. As someone who supports and prays along with us, I want to thank you for being prepared to go the distance too. I know it's not always easy. As individuals and churches there are many demands on our time and resources. There is pressure to engage where we can guarantee fast results. There is the ever-present expectation that those who provide the money, call the shots. We have to keep asking ourselves what it really looks like to be partners in the gospel, and to co-labour for God's purposes rather than our own. Because, at Bright Hope World, we believe that this is the kind of partnership God calls us to develop and we have to help each other stick the journey out.

What do you think? Are we there yet?

Emma Stokes

Southeast Asia Partnership Facilitator

Bright Hope World's Executive Director Fraser Scott recently returned from several weeks in the United States visiting Bright Hope World supporters.

We have recently formed a US Advisory Board based in San Antonio that ran several wonderful events to introduce the ministry to new businesspeople and churches. It is hugely encouraging that a small ministry based in New Zealand would garner such support, but is really testament to the quality of our partners and the integrity of our approach.

US donors are often quite taken aback that our team all chooses to serve without remuneration. This is far from the norm there!

As we have the opportunity to share stories from Africa, the Middle East and Asia, the response is strong and positive.

It has been the same across the country as we have shared in our Global Impact Updates this year. People have recognised what God does through our partners and have been inspired by this wonderful work.

Our very last Global Impact Update for the year will be held in Christchurch on November 8. If you're in the area, we'd love to see you.

See our website for more information.



Elizabeth is a grandmother of four young girls who have been on the Chingola Orphanage and Aged Centre (CORAC) programme. They live in a small one room shack in the urban settlement of Chingola near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Life here is tough. The parents of the girls passed away in 2014.

Elizabeth helps to support her grandchildren by buying vegetables and other products and selling them at her stand in the local market. Her son Lloyd (in blue above), who is an uncle to the girls, works in the stall as well. The day we visited they had only managed to sell three onions. Like every aspect of life in this part of the world, nothing ever seems to come easily.

Unfortunately, two of the girls have recently gotten pregnant. This is a recurring problem in this area where there seems to be little hope for a better life. The other two girls, Betha (grade 3) and Natasha (grade 4), are still receiving an education through the CORAC programme.

In 2018, this family was also helped by the family empowerment programme and given 300 ZMK (US\$23) to help grow the business instead of simply paying for school fees for the girls. This strategy builds income generation capability over time.

With the funds, they purchased Paraffin, vegetables, groundnuts and cara (floor polish) for resale. The girls still went to school that year, as Elizabeth managed to fund the 380 ZMK required to pay for school fees for each of the two girls from the increased profits due to the capital injection.

Little by little, Elizabeth and Lloyd are building a business that has the potential to sustain their family.

For more information see <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=137>.

1. Pray for our partners and the long journey they are on seeking to transform their communities.
2. Pray for Elizabeth and the other families being assisted by CORAC. Pray that sustainable and profitable businesses will flourish in Zambia.
3. Pray for the Global Impact Update being held in Christchurch on the 8th of November. Pray that our supporters will be challenged and inspired by what God is doing around the world.
4. Pray for Kevin and Helen Honore who have been travelling since the end of August. They have had the last five weeks in India and are spending time in Nepal, Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey before returning to New Zealand at the end of October. Please pray for continued energy, wisdom and good health as they near the end of a long and tiring trip.

