

THANK GOD FOR FARMING!

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



What comes to mind when you think of farming?

In the many developing countries where we have trained people in Foundations for Farming we always ask this question, and the response is normally that farming is for poor or old retired people. Farming is seen as meaning that you are always dirty. People in these places normally aspire to a 'better' vocation than farming.

But, who was the first farmer? Genesis is pretty clear that God made the things needed for the first farm: water, light, air, soil vegetation and then labour. It is interesting to note that God commanded us to work the land and to look after it. So, as we farm, soils should be getting better and better. Farming is the first job that was given to us, and it is a very important one. Without it, we simply won't have food!

For us, the last few months have been dominated by stories from developing countries under enormous pressure from Covid-19. This disease is yet another pressure in addition to the many pressures these people already face. Many loan programmes for businesses have faced massive struggles as markets dry up for goods and people have to use precious capital just to feed and care for their families.

Yet, among the sad stories, we are also hearing stories of real hope from partners practising Foundations for Farming. Some are seeing increased yields and improved soil conditions as a direct result of these farming methods. It has made such a difference to people, and enabled them to feed families, neighbours and vulnerable people.

Doris at Patience Orphans Zambia took the opportunity to use the young orphan children she mentors to come and work in a field she set aside for them. They had a bumper harvest and were absolutely delighted as they harvested the maize. Doris said to us "People might be dying of Covid-19 but we will not let them die hungry".

Fountain of Hope in Zimbabwe has "turned the desert green" by installing a dam and training people to farm. So many people are being fed through their own hard work.

Ukusenaminwa Child Foundation has started a training course to teach farming to locals. Partners Roy and Sarah look after over 40 deaf and vulnerable children in their three-bedroom home, and feed them mostly through farming land and producing crops.

Chaba Christian Care Group train farmers to grow maize, rice and cassava. Over the past 12 years they have impacted more than 400 families, increasing yields by 700%.

We thank God for farming!

Jerry Field
Zambia Partnership Facilitator

It's been a challenging year so far for our team, with the inability to travel to visit any of our partners. This may seem like a relatively small thing – and it certainly is compared to what our partners are going through – but it really does impact us.

As a very relational group of people, we are used to visiting and encouraging our partners face to face. Many of them tell us that we are their only source of encouragement and support. It is hard, then, to try and do this over a patchy internet connection or via Whatsapp.

Thankfully our partners are resilient and focused and continue to do what they do without us visiting (of course!). But this only raises the importance of us praying for them and asking God to strengthen them. Please join with us in prioritising this.

In the meantime, we have a little space to develop initiatives like our podcast – have you listened to it yet?

On October 13 we will be launching our 6th episode on the '5 Worst Ways to Address Poverty'. It's a good one, and might just stimulate a bit of discussion!

Get episodes from bri^{ght}hopeworld.com/media-podcast.asp or your podcast provider.



Sinorie is 19 years old. Her mother was 15 when she was born and Sinorie herself was a child bride at 14 years of age. When she got married, her husband involved her in witchcraft. Sinorie suffered from demon possession and had many visions of demons in her head, causing her to see poorly, as they blurred her vision. Sometimes they struck her down and she would be thrown to the ground. She was very fearful and anxious and always had to have someone with her.

One day the OM (Operation Mobilisation) team visited her village and a lady shared her testimony. This was the first time Sinorie had heard about God. She wanted to know more and became a Christian. Her life changed completely and she no longer had any bad dreams tormenting her. Her husband was very angry that she had become a Christian and returned her to her parents.

In December 2018, Sinorie received a gift of US\$60 so she could start farming. She bought five baby female goats and now has a flock of goats, 15 in total. She has also received small loans from OM which enabled her to start a business so she can contribute to the financial needs of her family.

Her life has changed, and people respect her and listen to her advice. She is now a youth leader in the villages and has initiated child bride prevention in the communities. She dreams of seeing her culture redeemed and changed, to see child bride traditions stopped and all children able to attend school.

In her words: *“My eyes are opened, I have got hope for my future because of Jesus who let me enter into His Kingdom. I know who I am and it gives me motivation in what I do. I believe that God will raise up a new generation who know Him and obey Him amongst our people.”*

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=438>.

1. Thank God for the positive impacts of Foundations for Farming and the resilience and sustainability it offers stressed communities. Thank God for a bright light of hope in amongst so many stories of struggle. Pray that God will continue to bless harvests.
2. Pray for Sinorie and the other youth leaders in Madagascar who are being assisted to support themselves financially as they seek to impact their communities.
3. Pray for all our partners as they continue to be significantly affected by COVID-19 and the associated lockdown.
4. Pray for our team as they strive to encourage and support our partners remotely. Pray that safe travel would be available to us soon.
5. Pray for God’s wisdom and guidance at our annual BHW Board meeting on 16th October.