

RETURN TO ZAMBIA

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



After three years of COVID and communicating via rather slow internet it was refreshing to travel over July and August to visit our Zambian partners. There were two main things that stood out to us when finally seeing these wonderful people after such a long time.

Firstly, the model of missions to empower exceptional local people to achieve their own vision for the community they live in creates a sustainability that means we don't have to be there for things to continue to flourish. Seeing how the Bright Hope World partnerships continued to grow in their work was very encouraging.

Our partner Norman Tonga has trained more than 65 farmers from his community in growing soybeans, built up a relationship with a manufacturing company to provide these farmers with a secure market, and helped with a loan programme for seed that is repaid at harvest with soyabean produce. The produce is then sold to create funds for the local church to help support vulnerable people in the community.

Then there is Doris Nkausu who faithfully trains her community in Foundations for Farming methods. Throughout the COVID pandemic her cry was "people may be dying, but we will not let them die hungry". Not far away, Roy and Sarah continue to bring in extremely vulnerable abused and disabled children into their six-bedroom home. They now look after 53 children and are looking for ways to be more self-sustaining by developing a piggery and chicken run.

The second thing that stood out to us was the timeframes it can take to see communities develop. We have been privileged to be involved with Bright Hope World for 16 years now. We have seen that development takes time and can be a rocky journey. As we engage with people to develop the partnerships, there is a need to persevere and learn from each other.

An example of this is in Chaba, where 16 years ago we were funding an orphan sponsorship programme. Not a bad thing to do, but was it the best thing to do? It was costing US\$18,000 to send 180 children to school, but this just scratched the needs of the community. After much learning and discussion, it was decided the way forward was to empower the families to look after their own children and orphans in the community.

Fast forward 16 years, and with the help of Foundations for Farming training programmes, more than 350 families in the community have been trained in sustainable agriculture. They have seen an increase in crop yields from 1 tonne of grain per hectare to as many as 7 tonnes. This huge increase has empowered families to look after their own. The training costs just US \$1,400 per year and now over 2,500 children can eat well and be funded into school. Our partner Peter Chomba says, "The cry of the community was hunger, but now there is hunger no more".

I'm reminded of 2 Thessalonians 3:13 "But as for you brothers, do not grow weary in doing good".

Jerry Field

Zambia Partnership Facilitator

As many of us are travelling and connecting with partners, and as we – God willing – say goodbye to the COVID menace, we are reminded of some of the other things happening in the world that our partners are facing.

We have seen terrible floods in Pakistan. At least 1,700 have been killed and more than two million homes have been damaged or destroyed. We are working through our partners to provide some assistance here. Do let us know if this is something you would like to help with.

We see increasing challenges for our dear friends in Afghanistan as the Taliban government eases off its brief 'charm offensive' and we see their true colours. Bibles must be carefully hidden as officials search door to door for any sign of Christian faith.

In Uganda we are seeing an upsurge in Ebola to go along with the massive cost of living increases. Our partners there are incredibly resilient, but there is no doubt that life has become very difficult.

Yet, as Jerry's article shows, there are always beacons of hope and encouragement in these places, even when times are hard. It is such a privilege to be connected with people like this.



Brian is 19 years old and the second born in his family of three children. His mother has raised him by herself, and he has never met his father. He grew up in the sprawling Kibera slum in Nairobi, which is known as the biggest slum in east and central Africa. The slum is the home to many criminals, and Brian grew up seeing people commit crimes all around him.

At the age of 14 Brian's older brother got him involved in robbing people, mainly stealing their phones. He started neglecting the education he was receiving from a faith-based organisation in the slums as his focus turned to a life of crime.

On one attempted burglary Brian and his brother were caught, and his brother was stoned to death in front of him. Brian was traumatised after this experience and was never given the proper counselling he needed. He was sent to boarding school to escape the slum environment.

Through the discipleship training and the trauma healing programme he received at Moriah, he was able to share his story and give his life to Christ. He was baptised and is currently going through the healing process. He hopes to reach out to those in his community and especially to other young people, encouraging them to step away from lives of criminal activity.

This year there were 28 students at the Moriah School of Discipleship, most of whom came from similarly traumatic backgrounds.

Of the 28, 23 young people gave their lives to Christ and 24 were baptised!

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/report.asp?report=2152>.

1. Praise God for the wonderful things happening in Zambia. For the faithfulness and servant heart of our partners and for the amazing impacts of Foundations for Farming. Pray for Norman, Doris, Roy and Sarah, Peter and our other partners in Zambia.
2. Praise God for the young lives being significantly transformed by the Moriah School and pray for continued healing for Brian and the other students.
3. Pray for members of our team who will be visiting our partners in October. Kevin and Helen Honore are travelling to Egypt, Uganda, and Ethiopia. John Vlaming and Matt O'Byrne are heading to Uganda, and Fraser Scott and Jerry Field are off to the UK to visit donor partners. Pray for continued safety for them all as they travel.

