

## Cause for Celebration



I love it when a plan comes together.

A few weeks ago, most of our leadership team were in Dallas, Texas. The reason we were there was to celebrate the completion of a major project in Ethiopia. Worku, our partner from Ethiopia, was there too and it was wonderful to hear the stories being told.

We have been working together with Worku and Chase Oaks Church for ten years. The partnership revolved around the construction of a large school, which could charge local families modest fees for a quality education and generate revenue to fund ministry to the poorest of the poor.

It has taken ten years to get the school into a position where it can now financially support the other ministries that are part of this partnership. From now on, the proceeds from the fee-charging school will support the ministry to widows and blind children that are part of the programme. It will support the many people out in rural Ethiopia who are bringing about change in the communities in which they live.

It has taken ten years of hard work, frustration, combatting corruption and staying focused on the goal. Worku is a great example of all that makes an ideal partner. He is tenacious and resilient and the school he has built is a wonderful testament to his character. Many of us – perhaps most of us – would have given up a dozen times faced with what Worku has had to overcome during the development process.

We were at the school just a month or two ago and it is amazing to see the 1,750 children running through the buildings. The noise and chatter makes the buildings come alive. It is hard to believe that just a few years ago, we stood on the side of a barren hill as Worku explained what would happen. Now the whole area has been transformed.

This partnership is pretty much a perfect scenario for us. A generous, patient donor that listens really well to those in the field, and a man of integrity with a compelling vision for his people. Over more than 20 visits to Ethiopia we have never been disappointed.

Now there are hundreds of churches all over Ethiopia, hundreds of people being fed and supported in the Gondar region, blind children accessing education and more than 120 people being employed. It is inspiring.

And it has only just begun really. The real story is about to unfold, and it is hard to imagine exactly what amazing things God will be doing in another ten years.

Kevin Honore  
*New Partnerships Facilitator*

## Bright Hope News

Last week the Bright Hope World board met for most of a day. Once or twice a year this group meets to review our strategic direction, financial situation and any issues that concern Bright Hope World at a governance level.

For many of our supporters the board may be a bit of an unknown, because they don't have a public role, but their role behind closed doors is very important!

The Bright Hope World board are the guardians of our vision, mission and values (which you can read about at [www.brighthopeworld.com/who-unique.asp](http://www.brighthopeworld.com/who-unique.asp))

In our meetings we look at the 'big decisions' we are making as a ministry and ensure that everything we do advances our ultimate goals and is honouring our foundational values.

This role is so important because it is very easy to do things which might help us grow or win donors, but which ultimately will not be in the best interests of our partners and the poorest of the poor.

As a values-driven, God-centred organisation, we simply cannot afford to make these kinds of decisions, and the godly people on our board are very bold in asking the hard questions about our plans!

Please pray for the Bright Hope World board!

## Life Change Story – Delhi, India



Twenty-one year old Sneha (name changed) was sexually abused by her father from the age of three and had decided to end her life. It was on one of her lowest days that she was approached by the Delhi Bible Institute (DBI) team to join a Sewing Centre and gain a skill.

The Sewing Centre became her refuge as it meant she could stay away from her father for longer hours. While she spent the day in the centre, she stayed awake all night so she was not abused by her father. Sneha started confiding with the pastor and his wife. She was counselled and they spent time praying for the need. Sneha's mother did not want to go to the police as her daughter could be tarnished in the society and her husband would land up in jail and they would have no income for the family. The pastoral team confronted and counselled the father.

Today Sneha testifies that it was none but Jesus who changed her father. He no longer abuses her and his attitude to her has changed. Sneha says, "Today I enjoy sitting with daddy and have dinner together". Sneha's mother surrendered her life to Jesus because she saw how her husband's life was transformed. Today, the entire family worships in the church. Sneha is a passionate believer and she brings 2 to 3 new people to church every Sunday.

Read more about Delhi Bible Institute Sewing Centres (IND13) at: <http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=130>.

### Prayer and Praise

1. Praise for the fantastic outcome of our partnership in Ethiopia and for the huge number of people being impacted both by the school and the funds it generates to support other ministries.
2. Pray for Worku as he continues to oversee both the school and many other outreach programmes.
3. Pray for DBI and all the women having lives changed through their sewing centres.
4. Pray for wisdom for our team as we reflect over the last year and plan for the next at our team gathering in late January in Nelson.

## Bright Hope World Office Christmas Closure Dates

The Bright Hope World office will be closed from 12.30pm on Friday 21 December and reopen in a reduced capacity on Monday 7 January with normal office hours resuming on Monday 14 January.

The last La Mai coffee orders for 2018 need to be in by lunchtime on Monday 17 December in order for them to be sent before Christmas. Normal coffee ordering will resume on 7 January 2019. Any standing orders that are due during this time will be sent out prior to Christmas.

**The team at Bright Hope World greatly appreciate your support as we have sought to give hope to the poorest of the poor throughout 2018. We wish you a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.**



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