

THE LORD DIRECTS OUR STEPS

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



Proverbs 16, verse 9 says “We plan our way but the Lord directs our steps.” Oh, how true 2020 has shown this to be. 2020 has been a very different year for us in Bright Hope World. New Zealand has, of course, had minimal COVID-19 disruption compared to the rest of the world, so we have much to be thankful for. But our level of isolation and good fortune is a double-edged sword.

Our observation is that many have focussed almost entirely on their “bubble” and forgotten there is a whole world out there suffering: some from COVID-19 and many from starvation, economic ruin, conflict and persecution.

We hear stories of believers in so many parts of the world being killed for their faith, perhaps – in part – because the attention of the world is elsewhere. In just the past few days the news tells of killings of Christians in the DRC, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria and Uganda. The numbers are shocking, but pale in comparison to the numbers who have lost businesses and lives to the effects of COVID lockdowns.

We at Bright Hope World praise God for our prayer supporters and donors who have generously responded to the COVID-19 appeal we sent out in April. The response has enabled us to meet each week to prayerfully consider and prioritise the needs of our partners and their ministries and carefully allocate funds to assist.

Although for the first time in 28 years we have been unable to visit any of our partners, we have been very encouraged to hear amazing reports from around the world. So many of our partners are in difficult circumstances, but are tireless in helping their communities.

We have been particularly buoyed this year by the report of a partner in India who made thousands of facemasks to support their local community, despite the hostility and persecution that came from that community. The green shoots of reconciliation and community impact are something of a tonic to our weary souls!

It is hard for us here in New Zealand to understand the dire situations most people in the developing world are facing, especially in urban areas with people unable to work and therefore to provide for their families. For most, today’s wage buys tonight’s food.

So please pray with us as we consider how to best assist our partners transition from COVID-19 survival mode back to microenterprise and ministry. As we celebrate an indulgent Christmas in the West, I would encourage us all to pray and give to our partners - especially those who are poor and starving.

Thank you for standing with us.

Rob Purdue
Executive Chairman

You know what has been really encouraging this year? Our donors.

Our expectation, when lockdowns were imposed in pretty much all the places we generate funds for our partners, was that we would see a significant downturn in donations. As people fear for their jobs and belts are tightened around the globe, this would not be surprising, and perhaps quite understandable.

But that’s not what we’ve seen. Instead we have seen real sustained generosity from our donors, which has enabled us to support our partners in extraordinary ways.

We’ve provided a great deal of relief funding to help people get through the worst of the health and economic effects of the pandemic, but in the New Year we are hoping our focus can change.

We are hoping that as – God willing – a successful vaccine works its way around the world and life for our partners can return to something near normal, we can move into a rebuilding phase. We can restart loan programmes, get businesses back up and running and see new crops (and churches) planted.

We look forward to sharing the exciting stories of recovery with you!



Gerald never got to know his father and was raised by his grandmother until he reached grade seven. His grandmother did not have her own home and they lived with people they knew. However, when Gerald was in grade seven the owner of the home where they lived told his grandmother that Gerald could not continue to live with her as well. This young man was left with nowhere to go but, thank God, he was referred to Peniel Centre where he was provided with a home, family, hope and a future. Gerald had dropped out of school, but was re-enrolled when he arrived at the Centre. The staff at Peniel Centre also discovered that Gerald had a great interest in agriculture, and Fountain of Hope's agriculturalist starting training him on a daily basis to practice Foundations for Farming.

We are excited to report that this young man who was kicked out of home and had no hope for the future, but who was taught farming at Peniel Centre, is now a manager at a farm in Harare! He has taught people at the farm to practice Foundations for Farming and they have fed so many people with what they are producing from this farm. He is not only a farm manager but also leads a church in one of the rural areas of Harare. Certainly, his life has been transformed!"

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=216>.

BRIGHT HOPE WORLD OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES

Our office will be closed from Thursday 24th December and will reopen in a limited capacity on Tuesday 5th January but be back to normal hours on Monday 18th January.

The last La Mai coffee orders for 2020 need to be in by lunchtime on Monday 21st December in order for them to be sent before Christmas. Normal coffee ordering will resume on the 11th January, 2021. Any standing orders that are due during this time period will be sent out prior to Christmas.



1. Thank God for the support and generosity of our donors, and pray for wisdom as we work with our partners in the New Year and help them move towards recovery.
2. Pray for Gerald and all the children whose lives are being transformed by living at Peniel Children's Home. Pray for Gideon, Jennifer and the rest of the Fountain of Hope team.
3. Pray for all our partners over the upcoming Christmas period. 2020 has been an incredibly difficult year and the Christmas period can often add a lot of extra stress and pressure to already difficult situations.
4. Pray for wisdom for our team as we reflect over a very challenging 2020 and plan for an uncertain 2021 at our team gathering in late January in Nelson.

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