

MY FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



What is important?

Frequently these days we are asked “how are you coping with Covid”? Psalm 31:13 comes to mind. David says, “I am surrounded by terror but I am trusting you O Lord saying you are my God, my future is in your hands”. So, what is our response here at Bright Hope World?

It is temperate prudence; measured, not panicking, but heeding our Lord’s encouraging warning to “not be anxious about your life” instead of panicking and stockpiling so many face masks that there aren’t enough for our healthcare workers or so much bread and toilet paper that others can’t find any.

Every Christian has the responsibility to find and rely on accurate sources of information that have nothing to do with either sensationalists or scoffers. Above all, we are called to pray and do our best to support good journalism, research, and medical care. For Christians, truth is distinctly important. Defending our personal rights is not paramount.

Bright Hope World’s focus is unchanged. We are helping those in desperate need in the developing world. Regrettably, the needs have dramatically increased over the past two years of Covid-19. Hundreds of millions are newly living in complete poverty. Many of them have never heard the Good News of the gospel.

In our newsletter four months ago, we reported on “Difficult Places” in the world. One of them was Afghanistan and some of the outcomes of Taliban rule. Our hearts are still very much focused on Afghanistan. Please do pray for our partners in the Village of Hope.

Recently, they opened a home for widows and orphans as a safe place in a violent environment, in which the pandemic has left many families without income. We are helping the Village of Hope to distribute food to 600 of these families.

Another great development is a new factory which is making “Plumpy Nut” or Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to feed malnourished children. It is a mixture of full fat milk powder, sugar, peanut butter, vegetable oils, vitamins and minerals and we have seen it produce outstanding results in Africa. It can be produced sustainably and provides local employment.

The chicken farm we have supported has had many setbacks, but we are impressed by the Afghani entrepreneurs and their workers. This year they have a growth forecast of 20%.

For security reasons, we are not able to share much about this partnership, and we are very conscious of the fact that our partners face the death penalty if found guilty of converting M’s.

As we reflect upon another challenging year, we also greatly appreciate your prayer and support, and wish you and your families a wonder-filled Christmas as you celebrate our Saviour’s birth.

Rob Purdue

Executive Chairman

A few weeks ago (on a Tuesday I think) the New Zealand government announced that MIQ was being scrapped, opening the doors once again to international travel.

Quite a few of our team members were excited at the prospect of once again connecting with our partners and supporters around the world. Plans were being made!

By that Saturday – just four days later – the announcement of a new variant – the now familiar Omicron – quickly put paid to any such plans! We have been a little disappointed by this, but continue to be optimistic that we will soon be able to reconnect with our friends around the world.

Our optimism continues to rise as we hear stories of countries that are emerging from the darkness that seems to have prevailed for two years. Just yesterday we heard from a partner in Pakistan that Covid cases are now ‘quite rare’ in their city, that schools are open, and that life is returning to normal.

This is very much our hope for 2022: that people in the ‘difficult places’ would start to see some light and relief. That rebuilding could start. That there would be some let-up.

This is our prayer.



Sarita Salami is a 15-year-old girl. She has suffered health problems since she was 13 years old and was initially taken to witch doctors in the village for help. She experienced pain throughout her whole body and sometimes had issues with her brain that caused her to slip into unconsciousness. Her family sacrificed chickens and lambs to various gods and goddesses, but nothing helped. Her problem was growing worse every day and she was losing weight and had become very thin. Sarita's parents also took her to medical doctors who did tests and suggested various medicines to take, but nothing worked for her. This whole family was worried for Sarita and no longer had any hope that anything or anyone could help her.

Sister Gauri Khamcha is a SOWERS evangelist in Sarita's village. She went to visit her and shared the Good News about Jesus Christ. With the family's permission, she then prayed for her four times during the following week, after which Sarita was healed and started to eat and walk by herself. As a result, all her family decided to accept Christ and joined the church seven months ago during lockdown. She and her mother were baptised last month once restrictions had been eased. Her father is in India for work to earn money. He has also accepted Christ and will likely be baptised when he returns home.

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=274>.

BRIGHT HOPE WORLD OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES

The Bright Hope World office will be closed from Friday 24th December and will reopen in a limited capacity on Monday 10th January with normal opening hours resuming on Monday 17th January.

The last La Mai coffee orders for 2021 need to be in by lunchtime on Monday 20th December in order to be sent before Christmas. Normal coffee ordering will resume on the 10th January, 2022. Any standing orders that are due during this period will be sent out prior to Christmas.

1. Please pray for Afghanistan. Pray for the new widows' and orphans' home and for the Plumpy Nut factory. Praise God for the work of the entrepreneurs and pray for the protection of the workers and the people of Afghanistan.
2. Pray for Sarita and the rest of her family as they grow in their relationship with God, and for the safe return of her father from India.
3. Pray for Sister Gauri Khamcha and the other SOWERS workers serving God in Nepal. Pray for fruit from their labour.
4. Pray for all our partners over the upcoming weeks as the Christmas period can often add a lot of extra stress and pressure to already difficult situations.
5. Pray for wisdom for our team as we reflect over a challenging 2021 and plan for a still relatively uncertain 2022 at our team gathering in late January in Nelson.



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