

## THE UNTOUCHABLES

## BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



Some years ago, we were making a flyer for the coffee our partners grow in the mountains of Thailand (La Mai Coffee). It explained the truth about the conditions the families suffered. Sadly, some people here in the West said, "when we drink coffee we don't want to think about poverty and slavery we want to think about pleasant things!" However, we are often confronted with very unpleasant realities. Let me share what is on my heart with you.

When I look into the eyes of small children, what do I expect to find? Laughter, joy, smiles, innocence, and peace. They want to be hugged and loved. But in much of the Majority World those things are replaced with hunger, fear, anxiety, and hopelessness. What is the future for these children who are so loved by God?

God's word has a special place for children and in Bright Hope World we believe God expects us to take special care of orphans and poor and disadvantaged children. Mark 10.16 says "and He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them and blessed them".

In India, you see a lot of children begging on the streets for one or two small coins. Mothers carrying little babies ask for money to feed their children. In countries like India 90 million children go hungry every day. There are 12 million orphans in India alone. 135 million children between the ages 7 and 8 have never been to school. There are 160 million child labourers in India, the largest number of working children in the world. They start their work as early as at the age of 5 and 6, from morning till night, making two dollars a day. In carpet making factories and brick making factories they are literally slaves to the affluent factory owners and landlords.

Who are these children? These are the children of the 'Untouchables', the Dalits. In India nearly 300 million people out of the 1.2 billion population are Dalits. Dalits are subjected to rape, harassment, violence, murder, and abuse. Yet, according to the Human Rights Education Movement of India, only 1% of those who commit crimes against Dalits are ever convicted.

An estimated one million Dalits are manual scavengers who clean public latrines and dispose of dead animals. Dalit children do not get through even primary education in many villages. They are denied education or made to sit in the back of the classroom. As a result, the literacy rates in some Dalit communities is as low as 10%.

To protect our partners in India we are unable to put any details in our newsletters or other publications about the work being done among them but PLEASE, as you celebrate Christmas with friends and family, remember to pray for our partnerships in India working and loving the poor and disadvantaged children.

Thank you for standing with us this year as we partner with amazing people around the world bringing the love of Jesus to hundreds of thousands resulting in new purpose, dignity, and joy. We trust you have a wonder filled Christmas as you celebrate Christ's birth and amazing life.

Rob Purdue

*Executive Chairman*

I (Fraser) have recently returned from a visit to UK donors. The trip was excellent and very encouraging, but my return trip home involved me visiting several countries that were not on the itinerary and arriving 36 hours late! This is the new norm for travel. Our poor travel insurers have had quite a time with us – three claims for the first two trips we did!

As our team has been travelling and connecting with partners, we have started to build up more of a picture as to what our partners have been grappling with. One of the growing issues is food security, and we have seen (and written about) Foundations for Farming (FFF) and the blessing this is to so many of our partners.

We have recently put together a strategy to help increase our training efforts with FFF and this has been generously supported by our US Advisory Board. Having a boost in funds here will enable us to train and support many more people with sustainable agriculture. We are very excited about this!

Finally, we are doing a lot of work in plotting out our future strategy. We are looking at how we can teach others about effective missions, how we can help our partners with business skills and how we can better tell our partners' stories.

We are also – just quietly – getting ready to record Season 3 of our podcast!



Malika is 39 years old, and lives in the area of Swalala in her two-room house with three young children. She has been on antiretroviral treatment for HIV for many years. She is committed to her treatment and because of this she is strong and healthy. But, because she has three children Malika is not able to work. Her identity documents have long since been lost. The family is struggling and, because she has lost her papers and the children therefore do not have birth certificates, they cannot register to receive child social grants.

eMasoyi Home-Based Care took the matter to the social workers who took the matter to the Department of Home Affairs to try and help get her an identity document so her children could register for birth certificates. However, the Department of Home Affairs says that she doesn't exist and in fact, she has died! So, she and her family are stuck.

The matter is still ongoing in the hands of the social workers and the Department of Home Affairs who say they will work to try and help her, but no one knows how long that might take. eMasoyi Home Based Care has promised to stay involved until the matter is resolved. Malika receives some food parcels to help her and her children to have food on the table. She says that she is happy to receive the food parcels and the help from the care workers who assisted her by referring her matter to social workers.

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=278>.

**BRIGHT HOPE WORLD OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES**

The Bright Hope World office will be closed from Friday 23rd December and will reopen on Monday 9th January. The last La Mai coffee orders for 2022 need to be in by lunchtime on Monday 19th December in order to be sent before Christmas. Normal coffee ordering will resume on the 9th of January, 2023. Any standing orders that are due during this period will be sent out prior to Christmas.



1. Please pray for the Dalit people of India, and particularly for Dalit children who face such intense persecution and marginalisation. Pray that they would find comfort in a relationship with Jesus, and that their status in India would improve.
2. Pray for Malika and all the other families being assisted by eMasoyi.
3. Praise for the safe return of all our team who were travelling in October and November, and for the encouraging time they spent with various partners and donors.
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 grapple with some new strategic initiatives, and particularly for the increased deployment of Foundations for Farming.

