

A MATTER OF SUSTAINABILITY

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



This is one of our favourite times of year as our team gets together in January in sunny Nelson. Our Nelson-based friends never fail to tell those of us from other places that their weather is always great and, to be fair, we've done ten of our annual Gatherings in Nelson and it's always been pretty good!

Okay, strap in, we're going to talk about strategy for a moment.

I am one of those who think strategy is important when it is applied to things that are important, with a certain open-handedness. And I think the work of Bright Hope World and our partners is quite important indeed. At Bright Hope World, everything is under one umbrella strategy: 'sustainability at every level'. 'Every level' means our donors, our leadership, our team, and our partners. We want to see what we are doing thrive and grow and succeed; not just now, but as long as God wants us to keep partnering with exceptional people. We believe that could be for quite a long time yet.

So, we've worked hard to build a wonderfully committed and stable donor base. We have built a strong leadership team with more great people involved. We have worked closely with our partners on local income generation and a raft of other initiatives to ensure their work continues. That leaves our team, and it is now a big focus.

This is being expressed in two main ways. We are bringing on quite a few new people to help carry the load of looking after our partners. This is such a vital job and isn't easy. It involves a lot of time and sacrifice for our people, and some of them are managing a lot of relationships and endeavouring to support people in very difficult circumstances. Some of our partners face extreme hardship, war, famine, and/or persecution. Most are being looked to by their communities as the source of support and comfort and may receive very little themselves. Our people are so good at stepping into that gap and just listening, praying, and loving our partners. But it can beat you up sometimes!

And that's where our second emphasis comes in. Bright Hope World people tend to be resilient and self-motivated, but they do also carry a lot. So, we as a team are committing to doing more to support one another. We want to check in more, pray more, and connect more. We are extremely fortunate to have team members that go the distance with us, and we want that to continue. We want to honour the fact that our people give their time for free. They pay their travel costs. They bear the burdens – and sometimes the trauma – of our partners. The least we can do is make sure such fine folks are cared for.

This is where you might be able help us a little bit. If you are reading this, then you probably know some Bright Hope World team members. Maybe they are your friends or in your church. You probably hear some of the stories and – as our people are inclined to do – all the attention is directed to our partners. But know that our people work hard, sacrifice, listen to heartbreaking stories, and – as one of our partnership facilitators put it – 'drink bad coffee in dark rooms'. I'd be grateful if you'd encourage these people. Pray for them. Ask them how their trip – not holiday! – went. Let them know you see what they're doing. They won't want me to say any of this because they are very focused on the needs of others, but it needs to be said anyway.

Fraser Scott

Executive Director

We had a great time connecting, praying, and even considering our strengths as team members. We looked at processing trauma – including vicarious trauma (Google it) – and how we find our identity in God and God alone.

We also - for the first time – preceded our Gathering with an information day for people looking at joining our team, and boy, are we blessed with a substantial and amazing group of people willing to look at stepping up and engaging with our partners. This is really quite surprising considering the sales pitch is: 'we pay you nothing, ask a great deal of you, and sometimes send you to dangerous places!'.

And as always, at this time of year, our team begins first trips of the year. There's a group going to Zimbabwe shortly to look at Foundations for Farming work, and Kevin Honore is headed to Egypt, Ethiopia, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Please pray for our travellers!



Destiny has been with Ukusenaminwa since January 2023. He is a very bright and charming young man.

For four years he used to live with his grandmother, who was very old and could not look after him in any way. He was well known for stealing or “picking” in the area just to try and find food to sustain himself. He was deaf, most probably from malaria at a young age, and had never learnt any sign language or way to communicate.

One day he was so depressed with his life he decided to just walk away and started down the main road between Lusaka and Kabwe. He walked for many kilometres, until he could not walk any further as he had not eaten anything for several days.

Fortunately, someone who knew Sarah found him passed out on the side of the road. When they saw his situation, they contacted Sarah, and she started the process of finding out where he was from and contacted his relatives to gain permission to look after him.

He started to learn sign language with Sarah’s help, and the help of other older boys in the house. Now he fits in so well, and loves being at the house.

Currently there are 59 vulnerable children that are being helped through this partnership. Most of these live full time at Sarah’s home, with seven away at secondary boarding school and 11 at college. Six deaf children are now at college, learning to be teachers at the Kitwe College of Education.

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=277>.

1. Please pray for our team. Pray that they would be well supported and encouraged in their roles. Pray that God would bless them with spiritual intimacy and strength and a strong sense of His presence, particularly as they travel to difficult places.
2. Pray for Destiny and the 58 other vulnerable children being cared for by Sarah and her team at Ukusenaminwa Home.
3. Pray for the 20 boys living at the hostel, that they might come to faith, and for the team members ministering in this region of India.
4. Praise for a fantastic group of people who attended our first ever New Partnership Facilitator Summit and pray for them as they consider their potential future with BHW.
5. Praise for an encouraging and refreshing time with our team in Nelson at the end of January.

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