

ALL HAIL THE ENTREPRENEURS

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



An entrepreneur is typically defined as “a person who sets up a business, taking on financial risks in the hope of profit”. They are risktakers. But they are also visionaries of a sort. An entrepreneur is someone who is wired to see opportunities.

My wife is one of these people. She is always scanning ‘the market’ and sniffing out gaps that could be met with a new business venture. There is a sort of gut instinct and tolerance of risk to it that I greatly admire. I’m a little lower on the totem in this regard. I’m rather good at bringing the identified opportunities into reality but – alas – I tend to be a bit too pessimistic to always see the opportunities for what they are. That’s why we work as teams, right?!

Bright Hope World’s supporters tend to be entrepreneurs. They see in our approach something that is different. A ‘blue ocean’ strategy. Our team are also mostly quite entrepreneurial. Certainly, one needs to be comfortable with risk in venturing to some of the places we go!

But, perhaps above all, our partners are entrepreneurs. They think differently. They see gaps others don’t see. Often the risks they take are far beyond what we would consider reasonable.

A few weeks ago, I was visiting a ministry in Cambodia. In preparation, I did a deep dive into the history of the country. If you are unfamiliar with the tyrannical reign of the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot, is certainly makes for very grim reading. The Cambodian Genocide, at the hands of these Communist thugs, resulted in the deaths of about 2 million people, nearly a quarter of the country’s population, in the second half of the 1970s. Any intellectual or free thinker was killed. If you had glasses, you were killed. If you spoke multiple languages...well, you get the picture.

The people of Cambodia were brutally repressed and learned to stop thinking independently in order to stay alive. This is still very evident today. The people act en masse in pursuing business opportunities (like all planting mangoes at the same time) so that when they collectively enter the market, the market collapses under the weight of supply. This cycle repeats over and over again, but to move out from ‘the herd’ is to risk being picked off.

I’ve seen this before in some African countries and in Myanmar. It is heartbreaking. It is the product of fear and self-preservation and culture. It is also entirely understandable. If you are the one who zigs when everyone else zags and you fail, it is not merely a loss of funds that you face, but potentially utter ruin. As with so much of what we see in these places, it is very easy to be glib based on the resources we have, and the safety net that protects us.

So, what do we do about this? We pray for a breakthrough. We support the embryonic risktakers and are willing to step in and encourage those that don’t get it right. We take calculated risks in funding activities. We take a long view. But it is certainly tempting to think that poverty alleviation, at least at the material level, relies on the courage of entrepreneurs.

Fraser Scott
Executive Director

Every year in January – and only in January – the Bright Hope World team comes together to share about our partners and discuss issues we face in doing what we do. This takes place in the (usually) sunny Nelson and is a heck of a lot of fun.

One of the segments we did this year looked at travel safety and how, for instance, to respond to a hostage situation or an extortion attempt by foreign police. That’s the stuff we concern ourselves with!

For a couple of years, we have shared the increasing hostility our partners are facing. But this year we talked even more about how amazingly resilient, prayerful, faithful and courageous our partners are. They stay when we would likely go. They stand up when we would likely shrink back.

This is very evident in the DRC at the moment. Google “Goma DRC” and read the news articles. They will break your heart. We have partners reporting to us almost daily as to the horrors befalling that resource-rich and beautiful country.

We feel overwhelmed and ill-equipped to respond to the level of need we see, but we are praying and will do our best to be of service. Please join us in upholding this fragile nation in prayer.

If you want to support these people financially, please let us know.



Typically, this space is reserved for a positive life change story we are encouraged by. Sadly, in this newsletter we are burdened to share recent news received from one of our partners in DRC last week on a not so positive note.

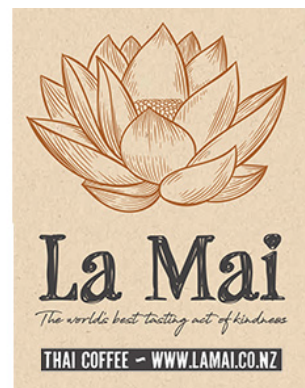
“I am very happy to announce to you by the grace of the Lord, that we are in good health despite the war situation our country is experiencing. Today (Friday 7th Feb), the Province of South Kivu is threatened by the rebels who have already captured [local villages and towns]. Since yesterday, these rebels have already recovered the villages of Nyamukubi and Bushushu (where we had carried out a water project after the natural disasters). Our members who were already victims of the natural disaster not long ago find themselves in a dramatic situation of displacement. The purest nightmare that this population is going through is that the Congolese military...are pillaging and forcibly taking the property of this population. Last Wednesday...when the population wanted to flee the fighting, they were sequestered by these soldiers. Livestock, food, money, telephones and other goods of this population were stolen. As we speak, we are overwhelmed, as everyone has become internally displaced persons heading towards Kabamba and Katana. The humanitarian situation, becoming more and more complicated, requires a significant contribution to meet the food needs of children and families. Let us implore the Lord to protect us all. Thank you for your prayer.”

One of our partners has estimated they need approximately US\$10,000 to feed and distribute basic necessities (food, mattresses, mosquito nets etc.) to people in their network who have been displaced. Another partner writes, “the crisis has reached unprecedented levels, with over 400,000 people displaced since the start of the year. Urgent needs include shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene supplies, food, and medical assistance.”

If you would like to assist us to provide financial support to our partners in DRC our bank account details are:

Bright Hope World, Account 02-0800-0733739-02, Ref: DRC relief.

1. Pray for the countries where brutal regimes and oppression have created an intergenerational lack of entrepreneurialism. Pray for God to help these people grow and heal and be willing to take risks.
2. Pray for the people of Goma in the DRC and for the whole country as it continues to face turmoil and ongoing war. Pray for peace and for protection of the people. Pray that Bright Hope World would be successful in raising funds to support emergency care for suffering local people through our partners.
3. Praise for an encouraging and refreshing time with our team in Nelson at the end of January.
4. Pray for wisdom for our team as they make travel plans for this year and for safety as they travel.



Bright Hope World, PO Box 8928, Christchurch 8440, New Zealand
Phone: (03) 341 0933 | Fax: (03) 341 3363

brighthopeworld.com | facebook.com/brighthopeworld | lamai.co.nz | facebook.com/lamaicoffeenz