

## PICKING FAVOURITES



I am frequently asked which of Bright Hope World's 200-plus partnerships is my favourite.

This is an impossibly difficult question, and while it would seem patronising to suggest this is like choosing which of my children is my favourite, it seems just as challenging and uncomfortable to make such a selection. Having said that, one of my kids is quite certain they are the favourite...

So, I instead tend to answer this question by talking about the partnership that I am most excited about *right now*. And for me this is a partnership we have in a country in Asia that I can't even mention. Nor can I really tell you the name of the partnership. But I can certainly talk about what they do.

This Ministry – which I'll call the Group – works among Muslim people. Their objective is simply to share the grace of God with people who live under a faith that does not offer forgiveness or security. They do this as a Disciple Making Movement (DMM). This means that a small group of believers come together and learn about God together. They then go out and share their faith in their communities and, as people respond to the message, they form new small groups. They then teach them what they know, and so on and so on. Each new group forms a new 'generation' of believers. There are already about 20 generations in place. And that is far from the most exciting statistic.

They – as of late last year – had 1,000,965 mainly Muslim-background believers in discipleship groups. This is a 200,000 person increase in a year. Outside of these groups, there are between 300,000 and 350,000 other new believers. In total there are 179,674 small groups.

And they are far from done. They are seeing about 12,000 new believers each month, of which about 90% were Muslim. The movement has also spread to other places, with groups of 1,000 or more in 8 other countries and smaller movements in 15 other countries. Their goal – by the end of 2028 is to see 6,000,000 people saved in total. They are firmly on track for this.

You may have questions when you see such big numbers! Are these statistics reliable? Yes. We have worked through their records with the Group leadership, which has a talent for particularly good record-keeping. If anything, the numbers are conservative. How do they do it? These people are very dedicated and focused, and have good materials and solid understanding, but ultimately, they don't focus on filling up with unused knowledge. They learn then apply, then learn then apply. Whereas some of us are like people who read dozens of cookbooks and never get round to making anything, they are focused on *actually cooking*.

It is easy to see why the Group excites us. What they are doing looks so...biblical, both in method and in outcome. I take great encouragement from the fact that God is working so powerfully.

Fraser Scott

Executive Director

## BRIGHT HOPE NEWS

January is when Bright Hope World holds its annual 'Gathering' in Nelson.

It is the only time when people from our team are not travelling and so we all come together and hang out for a few days to share stories, discuss issues and drink coffee.

This year we welcomed Jason and Amy McGrigor onto our team. This wonderful young couple are taking over Uganda from Matt O'Byrne. They have a long history with Bright Hope World, and we feel particularly blessed that they are willing to join us on our mission to develop partnerships and see the poorest of the poor become physically and spiritually self-sustaining. Check them out on our team page at: <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/who-team.asp> along with a new picture of (most of) our team.

Of course, as soon as the Gathering ends, then our team is hard at work making travel plans, trying to sort out leave from work, and grapple with securing visas to unusual places! The thing you may not know is that our team – none of whom are paid – also pay their own travel costs to go to places that are often very expensive to travel to. This is part of our commitment to ensuring that the money our donors give goes to where it is needed most – to our wonderful partners!



Kisumu village sits in the west of Kenya on the shores of Lake Victoria. Our partner there, Pastor Bob, has a passion for supporting vulnerable women and children in the village. He runs training courses in tailoring and small business development for vulnerable women. Once trained, the women establish and run their own small tailoring businesses which provides them with an income to financially support themselves and their families.

Training in both sewing and embroidery is offered to vulnerable women in the slums who are struggling to provide for their families and young women who have dropped out of school. The course typically takes several months and, once they have completed their training, the women are given a sewing machine to start their own business in their local markets.

One of these women, Auma, lives in the slums of the village. Her husband died, leaving her with three children and no money or income. When Pastor Bob found her, she lived in a very tiny shack and they were all starving. They had lost all hope for the future. Pastor Bob took her to his church and the congregation prayed for her. He then helped her start a small business selling cereals and vegetables. Once she had the hang of it, they trained her in tailoring. She had a natural talent for this and quickly started to expand her business.

Auma would go to where second-hand clothes were sold and sort through them to find the best quality clothes for her village. She would then on-sell them and offer a service to alter them for people. She also started sourcing material and making her own dresses to sell, as well as school uniforms for families in the village. She would make things like school socks and sell them at the time of school enrolments.

Auma was able to save enough to open a tin kiosk in the markets where she could have a little shop and she is now able to provide for her family. Her children are doing well and attending school and can help their mum in the store.

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=376>.



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1. Praise God for the amazing results our partner – the Group – is seeing in Asia among Muslims. Pray for their safety and security in a sensitive environment and pray also for continuing and growing fruit from their ministry.
2. Pray for Auma, and all the other vulnerable women who have had their lives transformed by the tailoring and small business development courses being run in Kisumu.
3. Pray for our new team members, Jason and Aimee McGregor, who are taking over facilitating our partners in Uganda.
4. Pray for our team as travel for 2026 gets underway next month with Fraser, Jerry and Hayley, and Gordon travelling to Egypt and Indonesia. Then at the end of March, Kevin and Helen head off to Pakistan, Armenia and Uganda.



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