

The Importance of the Resurrection



With Easter recently behind us, it is fantastic to be reminded once again of the linchpin of our faith - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. After having just returned from visiting some of our partners in India, I was struck again by the futility of all we do if the resurrection did not really occur.

This concept is so well summed up by popular minister and writer Tim Keller, in his book *The Reason for God*. Keller writes:

“Each year at Easter I get to preach on the resurrection. In my sermon I always say to my sceptical, secular friends that, even if they can’t believe in the resurrection, they should want it to be true. Most of them care deeply about justice for the poor, alleviating hunger and disease, and caring for the environment. Yet many of them believe that the material world was caused by accident and that the world and everything in it will eventually simply burn up in the death of the sun. They find it discouraging that so few people care about justice without realising that their own worldview undermines any motivation to make the world a better place. Why sacrifice for the needs of others if in the end nothing we do will make any difference? If the resurrection of Jesus happened, however, that means there’s infinite hope and reason to pour out for the needs of the world.”

Standing with one of our Indian partners, T Raja (IND04), and watching him open a new children’s home at the Home of Hope, I was able to witness first hand a man who cares passionately for the needs of desperate, diseased and dying people. He and his wife Devi have devoted their lives to these people and given more of themselves than most of us ever will. But T Raja has also told me that without the hope that Jesus brings, it all counts for nothing.

That’s why Bright Hope World emphasises not just people’s physical needs, but their spiritual needs as well. To meet one without the other is incomplete.

To me the resurrection proves that God cares about the least, the last and the lost. That He is not satisfied to just let this world finish - that justice will be served, sickness will end, death will be destroyed. That there is indeed hope.

James and Nicky Rees-Thomas
India and Nepal Partnership Facilitators

Bright Hope News

As with any other organisation working in the not-for-profit sector Bright Hope World faces many compliance requirements, and these are only increasing over time. In some ways this is a good thing, because it enables us to demonstrate how effectively we operate and how efficiently our partners use funds to make such a far-reaching difference in the lives of the poor.

We are currently being audited under new legislation that aims to fight money laundering and the funding of terrorism. Of course this is not something we are directly concerned about in terms of what our partners do, but almost all of our partners are in the highest risk countries in the world for these activities!

The new and increasing levels of compliance in our sector provide a real administrative challenge for the team, and supporting people in the areas of the world where we operate is likely to come under increasing scrutiny. This comes as many Christians in the West believe we should focus on needs at home, rather than in the poorest areas of the world.

The upshot is: what we do is not getting any easier for us or our partners. With that in mind, please continue to pray for us and those we support.

Life Change Story – Charles Chibale Chola



Charles Chibale Chola is the founder of Kaishe Orphans Association (ZAM14c) based in a remote community about 100 km away from Samfya. Charles has faced many challenges in the community where he has been serving for the past decade, but he perseveres and as a result, God has worked through him to change many people's lives in Kaishe. He recently shared some of his story:

"You know that Kaishe is not my home village. I come from far away and in our culture this can be a reason that people suspect me sometimes. There are times when the challenges I've faced have been so much that I've just prayed and told the Lord that I'm leaving. For example, there was a time when people came to accuse me of different things and told me they were going to burn down my house while my family was sleeping. I couldn't sleep at night because I was so afraid. I went to the chief to ask if he could find a way to protect me because it wasn't just my family but also the organisation that I had started in Kaishe that would be affected. Although the chief was sympathetic, there was nothing he would do. That night I had a vision of a bright world. I prayed and asked the Lord what it could mean. The next day, the same people who were threatening me came and said that they were sorry for what they were planning to do and I shouldn't worry anymore. This is just to say that when I face challenges that cannot be solved by anyone on earth, the Lord can solve them. In this way He reminds me that I am not in Kaishe because of any reason except that He put me there and He will take care of me and will have His work done."

What a wonderful reminder to us to thank the Lord for challenges, and more specifically for His solutions to the problems we face and the amazing ways that He allows us to play a role in His plan for His kingdom.

End of Financial Year Tax Rebate Receipts

Following the end of the 2014/15 financial year on 31 March 2014, we will be sending out tax rebate receipts to all our New Zealand donors during the month of April. If you have changed your postal address in the last year we would appreciate you letting us know either by phone (03 341 0933) or email admin@brighthopeworld.com. If you have not received your receipt by the end of April please contact us.



Prayer and Praise

1. For Charles, his family and the ministry they are part of in Kaishe.
2. For protection, safety and wisdom for Kevin Honore, Carl Daniel and Tim Wells who will be travelling to South America to visit partners in May.
3. Praise for protection and safety for all our team members who were travelling in February and March. The trips undertaken with partners in Thailand/ Laos/ Myanmar, Uganda, Zambia and India were extremely beneficial and encouraging.
4. Please pray for God's protection over the mission of Bright Hope World.