

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



Pondering the state of my own heart in the current situation I was reminded of the story in Matthew 14:22-33 where Jesus, but also Peter, walked on water. Such a well-known story and still full of important messages.

For now, let us reflect a little on the interaction between the Lord's will and ours as we walk with Him. Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go. That was His initiative. Then, as Jesus approached the boat while a storm was raging, Peter asks Jesus to tell him to come to Him. This was Peter's initiative. But Peter still waited for the Lord's okay before he acted. He must have trusted that Jesus is indeed Lord of all creation. What faith and courage!

Sometimes we focus on Peter's doubt creeping in a little later, but he was the only one leaving the boat. I don't think it is a stretch to say that most of our Bright Hope World partners are out of the boat. The beauty of the way our organisation operates is that the work continues, no matter what. Our partners trust and work. When doubt creeps in as it tends to do in storms, and they start sinking, they reach out to grab the Lord's hand. They so often need to totally trust on the Lord's help.

Now back to my own heart's condition. As we have not been able to travel over the last couple of years, I got more involved in other things, some of them on my initiative (not the Lord's). Other issues tended to take more of my focus and the Bright Hope World ministry got a little less attention than it did before. Hebrews 10:24-25 says: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." The lesson for me is to act on the Lord's initiatives for my life and not act on my own initiatives until He gives the okay. The Foundations for Farming principles apply here as well:

- **On Time.** That is true for our crops and for the Kingdom. May we know when to plant, water and harvest.
- **At Standard.** May we do it with His help and to the best of our ability.
- **No Waste.** May we not waste our time and all the more as we see the Day drawing near.
- **With Joy.** May we know whom we serve and joyfully follow Him. In everything hold on to the joy of a harvest awaiting us.

Is there anything the Lord has told you to be doing? Is there anything you would like to be doing but you are not sure if He wants you to?

Praise to our Lord and God. Let us ask Him to guide us in what we are to be doing.

John Vlaming

Agricultural Director

It would be fair to say that the spirit of optimism within the Bright Hope World team has become stronger in the last few months!

The team is very excited to be earnestly planning trips to see partners in Egypt, Uganda, Zambia and quite a few other places. How wonderful it will be to see our friends once again!

As we have reported before, we have been so encouraged by the fact that the work has continued in our absence. As John says in his article, "our partners trust and work". They have not stopped to wait for permission from us because they own and lead their work. They have adapted and changed and been extremely creative so that they can keep helping their people.

We are very much looking forward to travelling again not only to see our existing partners, but also to continue to develop new partnerships – of which there are many – and to continue to develop new partnership facilitators within our own team. Both of these processes have been on hold for two years and are now spinning into action again.

We look forward to introducing you to both new team members and new partnerships in the coming months!



Harvest Partnership has a number of key people working in the Great Lakes area of Africa to plant churches, encourage and train people to share their lives and the Good News in their homes, and bring people together in simple small groups.

The church leaders in Miwani, Kenya have established eight Daily Bible Reading (DBR) groups in the last year and now have 28 DBR groups which are active. Pamela and Alima are women who have become believers and begun DBR groups in their homes:

“My name is *Pamela*. I love the Lord. After I received Christ in my heart I went and began a DBR in my house. My husband, who was a Muslim, joined together with my four children, and two family neighbours also came and accepted Christ. My husband’s life didn’t seem to change much since he was also addicted to Changaa drinking (illicit local brew).”

“We kept on daily Bible readings and praying as well. Amazingly he got touched by God’s word and gave his heart to the Lord. He gave up his religion and he is a Christ follower as he understands that the only unending, unending source of satisfaction is in Jesus. The word of God changed his entire life. We are now serving the Lord together in our house church.”

“My name is *Alima*. I am a girl of 16 years and was born and raised as a Muslim. My parents are alcoholics and brew Changaa. We had no peace at home, every day there was a fight. At high school I had a Christian friend Elizabeth who used to share the Gospel with me, but I hated it so much. It happened several times and one day she gave me a piece of reading card and a New Testament Bible to keep reading to know more of God.”

“One night after reading a verse I asked myself “what does it mean?” I thought seriously about my life and wanted to change. But how? The next day I went to her and she led me to the Lord. I gave Jesus my heart. I have introduced my faith to our family and they told me to continue. It is my prayer that they will follow suit. Just keep praying with us. I have joined our daily Bible Reading Fellowship and I am happy with my Jesus Christ”.

1. Pray that we would be wise in doing what God has asked us to do and in discerning His will. Pray that we would follow His initiatives, not simply our ‘unendorsed’ initiatives.
2. Pray for Harvest Partnership, for Pamela and for Alima. Pray for the church planters, their families and the DBR groups.
3. Pray for God’s protection over our team this year as we potentially venture back out into the world.
4. Pray for Kevin Honore as he works to identify new partnerships that Bright Hope World can invest in, and for wisdom among our Executive Team to know which partnerships we should engage in.
5. Pray for our team as we take on new partnership facilitators. Pray that God would bring us the right people, with the right heart and skills.