

Expanding the Kingdom of Heaven



Recently I have been challenged reading the Gospel of Mark and reflecting on the life of Jesus. The more I read about his life the more I realise that he was a revolutionary person. He was counter-cultural and was not concerned about what others thought of him when he walked this earth. The social norms and systems of the day meant nothing to him - his concern was primarily for the needy and the sick, and those that were not accepted in the society of the time.

I have just had the honour of spending time with a number of Bright Hope World partners in South America. Many of them are inspiring in the way they model the life of Jesus and how they are living revolutionary lives.

Godofredo and Teresa Rubio are key partners of ours in Cajamarca, Peru (PER01 - <http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=65>). Godofredo is an educated man who ran a very successful tourism business in Peru in his 20s. He can talk for hours about the history of Peru and all the interesting details of the Spanish conquest of the Incas in the 16th Century. When he and his wife heard and understood for the first time what Jesus' death on the cross meant, they decided together to accept Jesus and follow him. When he tells the story of first understanding the love of Jesus, tears come to his eyes still; he is that grateful for a God that loves him so much he would give his own Son to die in his place. Godo is 56 and Tere is 55.

Within a year of choosing to follow Jesus they felt called to sell their business and spend all their time telling others about Jesus and planting churches. While everyone around them thought they were crazy, Godo tells us that he is still convinced that nothing else is worth spending their lives on.

Over the past 25 years they have grown their local church in Cajamarca to a thriving community that has planted 14 other churches around the surrounding area. They are now focusing on training and equipping leaders and others to go out into rural areas and share the gospel.

They have completely dedicated their lives to expanding the kingdom of heaven in their nation. They have faced a fair amount of difficulty and criticism, even from within the church, yet they still remain dedicated to sharing about Jesus, and discipling and training others. They shared with us that even if it means sacrificing their lives at some point, they are willing to do this.

I don't know about you, but this is an inspiration to me. It is an honour to know this wonderful family and share in a small way in the work that is being done in Peru to extend the kingdom of heaven in their area of influence.

Tim Wells
South America Partnership Facilitator

Bright Hope News

Every four years the International Brethren Conference on Missions is held somewhere in the world.

Representatives from Bright Hope World have attended the last couple of conferences and a number of current Bright Hope World partners have come from connections made at these events.

Very shortly Bright Hope World's Executive Director, Field Director and Executive Chairman (Fraser, Kevin and Rob) will be meeting up at the 2015 conference in Italy.

When Rob and Kevin have been to previous conferences the day starts out with a prayer that God would make 'divine appointments' and bring people he is using across our paths so that we might partner with them.

This is our hope for this year's conference as well – that God would direct us towards exceptional people that have a compelling and Godly vision for their communities. The talks and sessions at these conferences are great, but we go primarily to meet those that are taking a bold step forward to reach the poor and the lost in the developing world.

Please pray for us if you think of it – we are excited to meet the next group of people God wants us to work with!

Life Change Story – Fountain of Hope Foundation



Susan's parents passed away while she was still very small, so small she only has a vague idea of what they looked like.

After the death of her parents she was moved from one home to another as there was no one who really wanted to take care of her. Finally she was taken in by one of her aunts who was very abusive to her.

Susan only went up to Grade 7 at school, at which stage the aunt told her that she had to drop out of school and work at home to earn a living. For two years she didn't attend school even though she really wanted to go because the aunt didn't want her to proceed with education.

One day she decided to run away from the aunt with the help of a 'Good Samaritan' who later turned this girl into his sex slave. He took her far away from the aunt's place and started to abuse her sexually for many days. Fountain of Hope was told about her disappearance and immediately began to hunt for her, which led to them finding her.

The girl was rescued from both of her abusers and a family from Mthombothemba agreed to foster her. They are very grateful to Bright Hope World and through our support this girl now goes to school, has food on her table and also a foster family was provided for her. Her dream of becoming a teacher was rekindled again, and her future brightened; a fact for which they are very grateful.

Read more about Fountain of Hope Foundation in Zimbabwe at:

<http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=236>

Prayer and Praise

1. Pray for Godofredo, Teresa and BHW's other partners in Peru
2. Pray for Susan and the other children being helped by Fountain of Hope
3. Continue to pray for the Christians who are rebuilding their lives in Nepal
4. Praise for protection and safety for Kevin Honore, Carl & Margaret Daniel, and Tim Wells who were travelling through South America in May
5. Pray for protection, safety and wisdom for Kevin Honore who is travelling in USA, Canada, Italy and Egypt in June and South Africa, Mozambique and Madagascar in July. John Vlaming will be in Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and South Africa from 20 June to 20 July. Jerry Field will be in Zambia and Mozambique from 20 June to 10 July. Matt & Judy O'Byrne will be in Uganda in late June. Rob Purdue will be in the UK and Italy in June.



Bright Hope World, PO Box 8928, Christchurch 8440, New Zealand

Phone: (03) 341 0933 Fax: (03) 341 3363

www.brighthopeworld.com