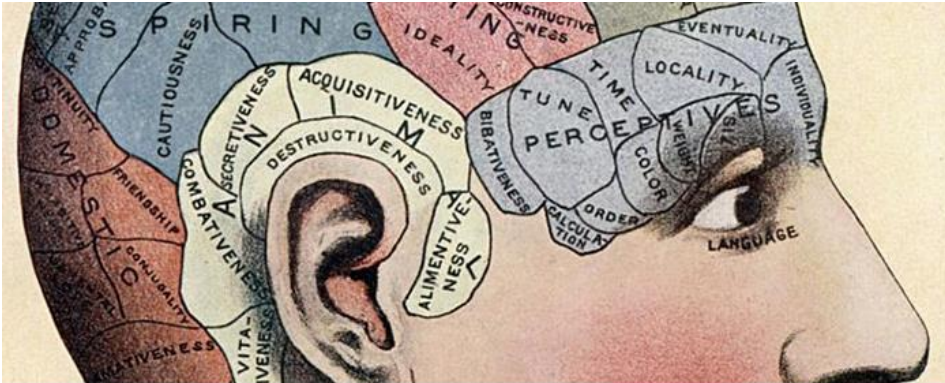


## A POWERFUL MEMORY

## BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



Memories are powerful. They hold the ability to alter not only our present reality but also our future. By remembering, we allow things to occupy real estate on the horizon of our lives. I remember flying down to the South Island of New Zealand many years ago to go hiking in Fiordland for ten days. As my plane landed, I remembered I'd left my hiking boots at home. That memory has shaped the way I prepare for every wilderness adventure since!

Remember is defined two ways in the dictionary: 'have in or be able to bring to mind an awareness of (someone or something from the past). "remember when I forgot my hiking boots"', and 'do something that one has undertaken to do or that is necessary or advisable "remember to post the letters, or bring your hiking boots!"'

To remember is not just a passive, past tense thing, it's an active verb. It requires not just our recall, but our intentional commitment to call to mind, to keep at the forefront of our vision. It requires us to re-order the things we give our attention to, to adjust our priorities to include a particular person or item. In Galatians 2:9-10 we read:

"James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me [Paul] and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. All they asked was that we should continue to *remember the poor*, the very thing I had been eager to do all along."

Of all the important things they could remind Paul of before he went out, why is this the thing they mention? "Remember the poor." And Paul was eager to do it! He didn't see it as a burden or an obligation, but a joy and a blessing. His forgiven heart had produced a compassionate heart in him. Remembering the poor is a critical and natural outworking of the gospel in us. Jesus lived this out; we have the privilege to eagerly follow His example.

Often in my world, the things that get my attention do not necessarily reflect the priorities of my heart. The immediate, the urgent, the necessary, the most vocal, all vie for their place. I need to reclaim the intentionality in my remembering, and order my priorities so that the things in the forefront, that I am calling to mind, reflect the values of Christ.

Our Bright Hope World partners that we are personally involved with in India and Nepal do this exceptionally. They are an incredible example to me. Their priorities, the way they spend their time, their level of investment in their communities, the very way they live, is ordered in such a way that the poor are remembered. I'm not sure they need this reminder, they live it out every day. But I know I do. Sometimes we all need to be reminded – like Paul was – to remember the poor.

Nicky Rees-Thomas  
India and Nepal Partnership Facilitator

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June Bright Hope World's Executive Director Fraser Scott and Zambia Partnership Facilitators Jerry and Hayley Field travel to Rome to attend the International Brethren Conference on Mission (IBCM).

The conference runs every four years and is a large gathering with about 1,000 people from more than 120 countries. Many of our donors and supporters attend, as well as quite a few of our partners. We have also met quite a few new partners there. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others involved in missions.

At this IBCM we are presenting on 'Human Dignity in Social Development'. This allows us to share what we have learned about preserving the dignity of the people we are trying to help in the Majority World. We do this by:

- Understanding power imbalances.
- Coming with humility as partners and equals.
- Engaging without stealing the initiative.
- Recognising the strengths of the communities we serve.
- Engaging in a sustainable way that avoids dependency.

We look forward to connecting with wonderful people focused on serving the poor.



For the past ten years John and Nok have been spearheading a church planting movement in Thailand. They have an incredible passion and vision for the people of Thailand and have seen many signs and wonders, and new churches around Thailand.

They believe that one day very soon they will see Thailand belong to Jesus and believe social media platforms are a key strategy in this happening. They have begun to share short video clips of the great testimonies happening every day through Facebook and Youtube and, in just one month, 50,000 Buddhist people watched the videos and 5,000 people prayed the salvation prayer. They now have 15 volunteers from Pathumthani church following up these people through phone calls and chat messages.

In April, many Buddhist monks, sick, deaf and poverty-stricken people contacted them to learn more about Jesus. One monk left a comment saying “Jesus is the real God. As I studied your VDO clips I realized he is higher and more holy than any other God”. One of their most impacting videos is one helping people pray to be set free from the karma resulting from abortion. From 10–30 January 2019 there were 58,658 views, 9,354 “likes” or comments, and 243 people shared the videos with others.

They have found that social media is a powerful tool to reach Thai Buddhists who have no churches in their towns or villages as it reaches them right where they are.

A woman who has been totally deaf from birth read their teaching and after seven days began to hear and is now believing God for complete healing. Another woman was being tormented by evil spirits. After she prayed the salvation prayer, she immediately found peace and release from bondage. Currently they are believing to see 3,000 - 5,000 register for water baptism - what a great celebration that will be!

For more information see <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=177>.

1. Pray that we would continue to remember the poor – that life would not become so busy that we forget the most needy.
2. Pray for John and Nok, that God will give them wisdom as they develop this new aspect of their ministry and seek to follow-up new believers (and for the logistical arrangements to baptize that many people!)
3. For wisdom and safety for Kevin and Helen Honore who are currently travelling in Egypt, Rwanda and DR Congo.
4. For Fraser, Jerry and Hayley who are representing Bright Hope World at the IBCM Conference in Rome.
5. Pray for our new Bright Hope World Global Updates – especially that we would engage and encourage our supporters around the country.

