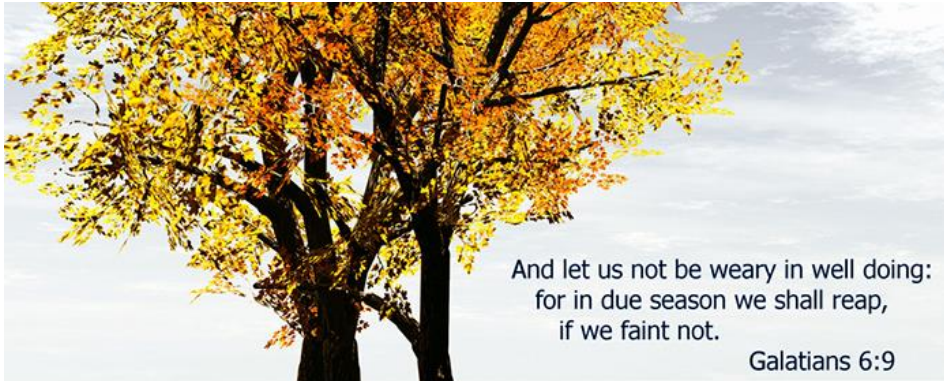


LET US NOT GROW WEARY

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



I had a conversation with a friend the other day who was disillusioned with aid and ministry. Some years ago, they had a vision, gathered a crew, and raised a whole lot of money here in New Zealand to build a school in one of Kenya's slums. About a year after the successful completion of their vision, the school burned down. All of that hard work and hope for a better future for its children amounted to nothing.

As they were talking, I thought about the fires that our own partners' schools have had in Kenya, the floods that have destroyed crops and chicken projects, the corruption, the theft, the locust outbreaks, and the COVID lockdowns that cause the poor to spiral to ever greater depths of poverty. I got what my friend was saying. It is 'roll up your sleeves messy' out there.

I believe a greater sadness than the pain and suffering people are facing is the idea that we might give up the fight to help them. God never called us to solve it all; to completely eradicate poverty and suffering. In fact, he said the poor will always be with us (Mark 14:7).

We are, however, called to be an expression of God's love to those in need with a continued hope that God will look after the rest in His time. When we are working with human lives in complex environments it is always going to be challenging and disheartening at times. But let us not grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9) for in all the disappointments and the suffering there are many lives that are impacted and changed by the love of another.

We are inspired every day by the resilience of our partners who see the worst of it, who experience the worst of it, yet continue to fight for change.

We recently had a Zoom call with a partner who runs a medical clinic about an hour and half outside of Nairobi, Kenya. He explained the difficulties of running a rural medical practice in a COVID-stricken world; the need to establish isolation rooms and new equipment, deal with patients that cannot afford to pay their fees, the ever-increasing price for personal protective equipment and the unreasonable and abrupt requirements of the government.

Yet, despite these challenges, he overflowed with joy and compassion as he gave us a tour of the medical centre and introduced us to his patients. Time and time again when tragedies and challenges come at our partners, they pick themselves up and they keep going, keep hoping, and keep fighting.

Our world is complex, the need can feel overwhelming, and generally it can feel easier to just take a nap! But let us not let our souls grow weary and keep fighting the good fight.

Becky Kemps
Kenya Partnership Facilitator

This time last year, we were all starting to come to grips with the size and scale of COVID. Some of us had come out of lockdown, some were just beginning long lockdowns and a fortunate few had been spared.

We were, in Bright Hope World, holding our breath and waiting to see the impact COVID might have in the places we work. We watched as Asia and the Middle East were hit quite badly, and were inspired by the response of our partners, particularly in India.

It is with a heavy heart that we find ourselves looking to an India battling with COVID once again. This time, we fear, it is much, much worse. We have seen images on our televisions - although these have now largely disappeared - but the impact that COVID is having there is staggering. One partner in India has estimated that over 450 million people in India have lost their jobs, 260 million people have been pushed into poverty and another 40 million are in extreme poverty!

And so, we are doing our best to supply ventilators, oxygen concentrators, protective equipment and food to those most affected.

If you want to join us in helping, see the link on the following page.



Sangita and her family are Adivasi (one of the most oppressed people groups in the world).

Her father passed away when she was four years old and her mother was unable to take care of her. At that time a pastor came to their village and shared the Gospel with them, as well as telling her mother about the Bright Hope English School. Sangita heard about Christ for the first time then. The pastor was the same pastor whose congregation meets at the Bright Hope English School.

After a couple of years of struggling to take care for Sangita, her mother dropped her off at the school hostel when she was six years old. Sangita came to Christ in the hostel shortly after.

When asked what she would be doing if she didn't have the school, she replied that she would be a Hindu and not be able to get a decent job. She is now fifteen, and a believer and carries so much joy!

Before COVID Sangita wanted to be a flight attendant but now has a number of opportunities available to her because of her English and the schooling that the Bright Hope English School and hostel has provided.

Sangita's brother stayed with her mother as there is no hostel or place for him like this. He stopped going to school at the age of nine and now drinks and does day labouring when he can.

Sangita's most urgent prayer is for her mother and brother to know the love of Christ, as they are currently still Hindu. The school has given her hope for a future to impact her community and lead others to Christ.

1. Please pray for us and for yourself and for all of us in the church that we would not grow weary in doing good. Pray that, despite the challenges and discouragement that often comes with helping those in need, we would all keep going, and that our partners would also.
2. Pray for Sangita and all the other children being given hope for the future at the Bright Hope English School and hostel.
3. Continue to pray for our partners in tough places who are facing extreme circumstances even on top of COVID - Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Myanmar and Mozambique, which are experiencing increasing violence and political instability.
4. Pray for the people of India and the truly devastating situation there currently as a result of COVID.

Bright Hope World COVID-19 Appeal:
Help us to help the most vulnerable

<https://www.brighthopeworld.com/covid-19.asp>



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