

IS INVESTMENT, BUSINESS, AND GROWTH BIBLICAL?

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



Genesis 1:28 says “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it”. In the gospels Jesus used multiplication of the bread and fish that was available to feed many people.

It was a privilege to return to Zambia in April to visit many of the Bright Hope World partners who have been working away for many years trying to alleviate poverty and spread the gospel of Christ to communities. It seems for them that both things go hand in hand. As one of our partners once said to me, “If you are hungry to the point of starvation you will believe anything someone tells you if it means getting something to eat”.

One of our partners, Norman Tonga in the eastern province of Zambia called Chipata, has been using the principles of business, multiplication, and growth to make some stunning changes in the community around him.

His business is the growing of soya beans. The partnership has managed to put together a co-operative of local people who have a solid contract with an organisation called “Share Africa Zambia” which sells seed, buys produce, and creates soya bean products such as milk, animal feed, and other protein-based products.

In the first year of the programme 65 farmers and families were assisted with a loan for seed, training, and follow up visits to ensure correct methods had been used. Upon harvest, each grower repaid the loan by giving the first 100kg of soya beans to the cooperative. This is then stored. Half of this produce is later sold to provide funds for the ministry aspects of the partnership, such as funding orphans into school, welfare for the old, and higher education. The remaining half is stored and later given out as seed for the next season. The following season 150 growers were helped, and next year the number will be 300.

Norman’s heart is also for evangelism, and over the past 23 years he has been involved with planting 26 churches in the area. Last year he appealed to us as many of these churches did not even have one bible available in their local language. Funds were given to buy 200 bibles. Instead of just handing out the bibles to people, Norman and his team decided they would first run a weeklong evangelism course for intended recipients. Once the course finished, people were given a bible, but they were tasked with sharing the gospel with at least one other person. Now three more churches have been planted.

I don’t know how you might view the question of whether investment, business, and growth are biblical. We certainly don’t want to encourage individualistic greed and consumerism. But, here, it seems to me that when people are faithful for a long time (even when things are difficult) and what they are doing is outward focussed by being a blessing to others, God will see that his kingdom is multiplied here on earth as it is in heaven.

Jerry Field

Zambia Partnership Facilitator

The BHW team is well and truly travelling again, and we are all very excited to be connecting with our dear partners around the world.

New Partnerships Facilitator Kevin Honore is visiting southern Africa with new potential team members. Agricultural Director John Vlaming and Executive Director Fraser Scott are visiting supporters in the US and Canada, then continuing on to connect with Partnership Facilitators Mike and Carolyn Hanson at the IBCM mission conference in Malaysia, before visiting a key partner in Indonesia with some supporters. Whew! Sounds exhausting!

We are also excited to advise that – after quite a long hiatus – the Bright Hope World podcast ‘It Ain’t That Simple Mate’ is back for Season 3. If you are on our mailing list, you should have received a link already, but otherwise you can find the podcast on Spotify or on our website at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/media-podcast.asp>.

We are working through our approach to different types of partnerships this season, including relief, microloans, orphans, and church planting. We will be releasing each of the six episodes of the season on the first of the month between June and November. We hope you enjoy them!



Abraham was receiving financial support from this programme until he finished Grade 12 in 2011. His father had passed away, so he was living with his uncle throughout his schooling.

Abraham always had a passion to become a teacher but neither he nor his family had funds to send him to college, so he started farming and doing various jobs. Finally, in 2016, he managed to save enough funds to go to teachers' training college. He completed the first two years but then ran out of money, so he had to pause his training for a year and continue farming to raise more funds.

Abraham finished his training in 2020, but while he was waiting to be deployed by the government, he continued to farm. His first crop was tomatoes, from which he secured 8,000ZMK (US\$430) profit. He reinvested this into maize and soya bean crops. After harvest, he ended up with a profit of 22,000ZMK (US\$1,200) which he then used to purchase his own motorbike.

Finally, in 2022 Abraham was deployed as a teacher and started teaching at a secondary school.

This year, when the big floods in Malawi happened, the storm also came across the Chipata area, although it was mainly wind and less rain. The wind destroyed the iron roof of the CMML Brethren church in the village, causing significant damage. Everyone was astounded when Abraham came to the church and donated 19,500ZMK (US\$1,000) to buy all the materials needed to fix the roof. No one had ever seen a church member be so generous! The members provided the labour and now the roof is fixed.

Abraham told the church that God had been so faithful to him with his schooling requirements and the farming, that he needed to be faithful with his resources when he saw a need in His kingdom.

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=105>.

1. Pray for Norman, the vulnerable in his community, the farmers he is empowering, and the new churches that have been planted. Pray for good crops and God's guidance on building the business. Pray that God would bless people through the provision of bibles.
2. Pray for Abraham and all the other children who have been given hope for the future as part of the support given to them through the Chifundo Orphan Care Programme.
3. Pray for our partners in the DRC and Manipur in India. Terrible floods have hit the DRC and fighting has broken out in Manipur. Pray for God's protection for both.
4. Pray for our team as they travel to meet partners and donors, for wisdom in their conversations, and that they might be an encouragement and support to the people they meet.