

Building the Kingdom



It's hard not to marvel at the incredible vision and beauty of some of the medieval cathedrals of Europe such as Notre Dame in Paris. They are truly breath-taking. We love visiting them.

What seems more amazing is that this cathedral, first started in 1160 AD and largely completed by 1345 was started and constructed by people, known now only to God, who designed and constructed it knowing that they themselves would never live to see the work completed.

The work we do in the Kingdom is often like that.

When we go to Uganda, and assist in things like Foundations for Farming training, we encounter truly remarkable, humble and godly people. People like Reuben and Justus in Rukungiri, South Western Uganda (see <http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=225>). People of great influence, who spend their lives working and helping their churches and communities.

Like those who built Notre Dame we are all doing our bit to build the kingdom. Some parts seem smaller or greater than others but all have tremendous value. All over the world, partnering in the work of God and his transformation of communities can be the work of many years and we often don't see the end result. We may work alongside our partners who are building livelihoods and creating work, teaching farming techniques, seeing land cared for, children educated, widows and orphans cared for, and community development work undertaken. And at the core of all this is God and our relationship with Him and with each other.

Like the builders of a great cathedral we take heart when we reflect on those people who have gone before us, who have taken a long-term view and often one which extends beyond their own lifetimes. What may seem to us just a drop in a bucket, or a small thing, is of importance to God and makes a real difference.

Centuries ago the citizens of Jerusalem responded to Nehemiah's leadership in a time when the city was facing great obstacles and was in ruins. Their response: "Let us start rebuilding". (Nehemiah 2:18) Let us also continue building and take a long view. For what needs to be achieved may take more than our lifetime.

Matt and Judy O'Byrne
Uganda Partnership Facilitators

Bright Hope News

We recently released our 2015/2016 Annual Report, which you can view by visiting...

<http://www.brighthopeworld.com/who-annual.asp>

...or give us a call and we'll send you a copy.

This is a great time to reflect on another year of seeing God work around the world through our partners.

We are so grateful that you – our supporters – continue to stay committed to our partners. We know not every missions group is doing well at the moment, and so we pray that the vision God has given us to partner with extraordinary people will continue to resonate with our donors.

We also want to take the opportunity to say a big thanks to our travel agent partner, Holland Clarke and Beatson.

We go to some pretty strange places around the world, and often face cancelled flights, unexpected events and unpredictable weather. HCB is always there for us and also gives us a rebate on the travel we or our supporters book through them.

So if you're going somewhere, contact HCB and mention us.



<http://www.hcbtravel.co.nz>

Life Change Story – Vanadzor Poverty Intervention



The city of Vanadzor was a large chemical production city in the Soviet era. In 1988 there was a huge earthquake in the area that killed tens of thousands of people. The area has not recovered and people are living in extreme conditions. There are many living in ramshackle containers, there are many disturbed and uneducated children and families struggling to survive.

Armenia Christian Mission (ACM) has been assisting these families by helping children to go to school, improving and repairing the containers / houses that they live in, medical expenses for some of the sick, distributing essential food parcels to families that are vulnerable, purchasing seeds for some of the farmers, helping families become self-sustaining by giving them pregnant pigs, and providing funds for winter heating to some of the needy families.

Marine was married at 16. Her husband left her and moved to Russia never to come back. She lives in a container with her three children and her mother. The container is rusted badly and it leaks. Her mother washes beds to have some income. The government supports her with \$79 per month.

ACM helps her by giving her family support of \$80 per month and she also received \$100 for winter heat.

Ruzanna has had a lot of grief in her life. Her husband has spina bifida and cannot work. She has breast cancer. Her eldest son committed suicide 13 years ago when he was just 12 years old. Her next son was in the army. When he left he got a good job and bought a taxi. He was doing well and the family benefitted from his income. About a year ago he had an accident in the taxi and was killed. That has deeply affected them. The third son is healthy although a surly man with a negative attitude and the fourth son is quite seriously disturbed. He was born with psychotic problems and needs constant medication and supervision. All-in-all this was a pitiful situation.

When ACM first visited Ruzanna she was very depressed. She was disturbed with the loss of her son and had no peace. She had many questions about life. ACM was able to show her Christ's love and help her from the scriptures. Because practical support was available at the same time her life started to change to the better. Now she loves attending church and always has peace in Christ.

Read more about Vanadzor Poverty Intervention (ARM01) at: <http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=279>

Prayer and Praise

1. Praise for the encouraging trips a number of our team have had and for their safe return home. Continue to pray for Kevin Honore and James Rees-Thomas who are travelling in different parts of India until 10th August.
2. Pray for Reuben and Justus in Rukungiri, Uganda who spend their lives helping their churches and communities.
3. Pray for the families in Vanadzor living in desperately difficult situations and for ACM as they seek to minister to these people.
4. Praise for the very encouraging 2015/16 Annual Report and for all that God is doing through our partners.



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