

## SO, HOW ARE WE DOING?

## BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



Like all middle-aged folk should, I try to get to the doctor every year or so to have tests run, answer questions and generally get a sense of how my health is doing. Sometimes something comes up and I need a course correction; a bit of a change to get things back on the right track.

I wonder if we need to do the same thing when it comes to mission and outreach? I wonder if we need to pause every so often and ask ourselves some tough questions, just to make sure we haven't let things slide a bit.

Because the world is becoming quite a frightening place for believers. Our view of the world is routinely ridiculed. The pressure on us to conform with the mainstream and give in on beliefs we have collectively held since the church was established are increasingly strong. We feel – perhaps quite rightly – that we are under assault and unwelcome outside of our communities of faith.

It is tempting to focus on what we can control. To make our Sunday morning services a bit better. To develop non-threatening community events and hope people will come. To do what we can without venturing too far out into the world, because we see it as hostile and threatening.

If we allow ourselves to become too passive and shrink back from mission and outreach because it is hard, we miss seeing what God can do when we step out in faith! We cannot allow a deep concern and love for the lost and the marginalised to slip from our consciousness. We cannot allow our Christian walks to be simply about us and God, as if the consumerism and individualism of our culture has a place in our relationships with God.

If you wander through the partnerships and reports on the Bright Hope World website you will see story after story of people who step out into often openly hostile and aggressive cultures to ensure the Gospel is placed into the hands of those who have not heard it. Their risks are not just to reputation or comfort, but to life and limb. Yet they are compelled by gratitude to God and love for others to walk out their doors and take the truth to those who need to hear it.

So, how are we doing? If we subject ourselves to a spiritual check-up with a particular focus on missions and outreach, how do we rate? Have we slipped in this area a bit? Have we allowed our fear of others or our desire for comfort to dominate our thinking?

Perhaps we need to get out of our seats, walk out the door and get a little 'Gospel exercise'.

Fraser Scott  
*Executive Director*

Quite a few members of our team have been travelling recently - to very different places!

Fraser Scott and Jerry & Hayley Field attended the IBCM Conference in Rome in late June. This conference was a fantastic opportunity to connect with many partners, donors and allied organisations. The trio were also blessed to hear teaching from John Lennox, who really is in a league of his own in terms of apologetics.

Seeing so many missions-focused people from so many places in the world is such an encouragement. Seeing one of our partners address the attendees so capably was also a real highpoint.

Kevin Honore was, at the same time, in a much more challenging location: the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Kevin was deeply moved and saddened by the impact of poverty and war there, and blown away by the work our partners are doing.

So confronting is the need in the DRC that we have already agreed to take on a significant number of new projects with our partners there. These will soon appear on our website.

Please do remember the DRC in your prayers.



Mrs Munyarari’s husband died 14 years ago leaving her in the care of her two children.

Life was going well for this family as the two sons were able to support their mother and their children. One of the sons was a driver while the other was doing temporary work. However, life changed drastically and for the worse when both the sons died, leaving behind their children and wives.

The two wives took their four children and abandoned them at the home of this elderly woman. The two ladies then disappeared. Mrs Munyarari did not know how she would look after these children as she had no source of income and struggled greatly even to provide for herself. She thought she would have to beg, but begging is very difficult in the community as many people were also struggling to make ends meet.

She did not want to see her grandchildren dying of starvation so she prayed for an intervention from God. Shortly thereafter God came through in the form of Fountain of Hope, who came into the community and helped to drill a borehole and establish a garden.

Her prayers were answered when she was chosen to be one of the garden beneficiaries. She worked very hard on the portion of land that she was given and, as time went by, the garden began to change her life and the lives of her four grandchildren. The garden is able to provide green vegetables for them to eat as well as supplying them extra cash. She uses the cash to take maize to be ground at the grinding mill and uses some of it to buy other supplies. All this cash comes from what she produces in the garden.

Her face is now always smiling because she has enough food for her family and she thanks God for Fountain of Hope’s love and care for the people of this community.

For more information see <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=320>.

1. Pray that we would be refreshed and recharged in our desire to see people come to faith, and would pursue sharing the Gospel with greater boldness.
2. Pray for Mrs Munyarari, her grandchildren, and the rest of the struggling people of Makamure whose lives are being transformed. Pray also for Fountain of Hope and their amazing ministry reaching out to many very poor villages in Zimbabwe.
3. Praise for safety for Kevin and Helen Honore on their recent travels, particularly in DR Congo.
4. Pray for our new Global Impact Updates that are currently happening in various centres around the country.
5. Pray for Matt & Judy O’Byrne and Mike Kemps (BHW team members) who will be travelling in Africa shortly.

