

A TIME TO LAMENT

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



I would love to be writing this article about the wonderful things we are seeing around the world. There are, to be sure, some encouraging things happening around the world as God moves even in - and sometimes especially in - difficult times. Yet, it seems like now is the time to lament.

I read an article recently that described lament as a uniquely Christian idea, in that it is "a divinely-given invitation to pour out our fears, frustrations, and sorrows for the purpose of helping us to renew our confidence in God." To lament is to take our pain and our fears to God, and then choose to trust in his goodness.

Here at Bright Hope World, we are lamenting.

We are seeing COVID-19 take hold in new places and increase in intensity in the places where it has already struck. We are seeing people suffer. We are receiving stories daily of people who cannot afford healthcare, or who are in places where the healthcare is fundamentally non-existent. We are seeing great self-sustaining ministries crumble.

Yesterday an explosion killed scores of people in Lebanon. Our partners there were already experiencing a shattering economic downturn and political unrest, and this just feels like a slap in the face. Two days ago, we received news from a partner in Peru. People there are using veterinary medicines to treat COVID, as that is all they can access. A week ago, we received a report from a partner in the Congo that explained that the crops that a group of poor loan recipients had grown and put on a truck to sell were blown up by rebels, along with their truck. The loan programme was completely wiped out.

And so, we are praying. A lot. We are feeling isolated from partners we cannot visit, and we are concerned that we may not be able to do so for some time. We are feeling somewhat heavy hearted at the very real suffering of people we love dearly. We are concerned that what we are seeing is but the tip of a frighteningly large iceberg. And so, we lament.

But we do not despair. We see His hand everywhere, and we see lives being stripped back to nothing; a void into which faithful people step to provide comfort and hope. As has always been the case, where there is suffering, He works through His people.

And let us not forget that we know with certainty that one day..."He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Until then, from time to time and especially today, we lament.

Fraser Scott
Executive Director

One of the great challenges that we at Bright Hope World face is how to 'get the message out' to a wide and diverse group of people who are interested in helping the poor.

We love to try new ways to communicate what we and our partners do, and in the last week, we've launched something completely new!

"It Ain't That Simple Mate!" is our brand-new podcast. If you're not familiar with the term, a podcast is like a radio show that is pre-recorded so you can listen to it whenever you like.

In ours, we are releasing episodes every two weeks that look at subjects like:

- What is poverty?
- Who are the poor?
- What is it like to be poor?
- How do you partner with the poor?
- What are the five worst ways to address poverty?
- What are the five best ways to address poverty?

In about 45 minutes, we discuss these issues and share our views on them, as well as telling some of the stories about our exceptional partners that have shaped our thinking.

Get episodes from brighthopeworld.com/media-podcast.asp or your podcast provider.



Despite being significantly affected by both floods and COVID-19, with people suffering physically, emotionally and economically, God is at work in Kenya. The number of house churches associated with Harvest Partnership has doubled in size in the past months. In the wake of these tragedies, hundreds have turned to the ultimate healer, Jesus Christ. Below are a few stories from our partner there:

Yala: *"During my visit I trained and encouraged seven new leaders in the next village. They were excited, went and began Daily Bible Reading (DBR) fellowships and invited their neighbours. The next day six families gave their hearts to Christ. And in the next home, five families received the Lord."*

Budalagi: *"I shared the word and 25 people gave their hearts to the Lord. I divided them in their families and we established five DBR fellowships."*

Bumala: *"Pastor William and his leaders began seven house churches last year – now they have increased to 32! The Lord is using them to turn their village upside down for Christ."*

Siaya: *"During my last visit they had begun five DBR groups and now they have planted 15 more! I shared the gospel and six families were saved and joined the house churches. I also helped them establish two new DBR home fellowships."*

"Thank God for Odiyo, one of the leaders who was deeply involved in brewing illicit liquor known as "keroro". He used to drink and brew and was involved in criminal activities. Today he is a follower of Christ. After sometime the Lord led him to start a DBR group in the market place. Many of his friends attended and got saved. He has become an influence in the village and established two DBR groups. We thank God for transforming his life. He has a passion to serve the Lord and is determined to do the uttermost in making disciples for the Lord."

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=204>.

1. Pray that God would be working mightily around the world even in dire circumstances. Pray that we would have the funds available to us to help restore great works that are struggling. Pray that the impacts of the virus would come to an end, and that God would strengthen and provide for those who are suffering.
2. Pray particularly for the people of Lebanon, and our partners there. Pray that their economy would improve and the political unrest that has dogged Lebanon would ease.
3. Pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo that are facing an Ebola outbreak alongside COVID-19, as well as deep economic troubles and increasing militia activity.
4. Praise God for the work happening in Kenya through our partner Harvest Partnership. Pray that God would continue to stimulate growth in the movement happening there, and praise Him for the lives that are being transformed.