

HOW IS YOUR MATHS?

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



In the sand-blown desert in the far south of Madagascar, the only things growing are cacti and a girl is sold for less than the price of a cow. In this area Tsihombaia, a 21-year-old Christian, enlists a young 14-year-old boy in his village to care for the eight goats they have been given. These goats are for the benefit of their remote village, and they will look after this small herd for the next two years until the goats have reproduced, and they can return two to the goat project that Tsihombaia helps oversee.

The goat project has been instrumental in building relationships between the local Believers and the community. It is also a practical illustration of the spiritual multiplication that is also at play. Tsihombaia not only oversees this project, but also runs several weekly cell groups for new Christians. Several people who started in his group have already gone to other villages to share their faith and now run their own cell groups. There are now over 100 cell groups in the area, and this number doubles every year. These remote villages are being reached through multiplication and the movement is moving faster than wildfire! These villages are being transformed, and hundreds of people who were previously entrenched in darkness and hopelessness are finding the light of God.

A thousand kilometres away, in the seaside town of Angoche in Mozambique, 60 Muslim converts travel up to 150 km once a week to meet to pray and plan for the following week. These leaders each run several daily education groups in their villages, teaching children their local language using the only textbook written in the language – the New Testament! Through this, families are coming to know 'Isa' (Jesus) and are becoming believers in the Living God.

Talsamo invited his Muslim neighbours for a weekly meal, where he shared his faith. Over time they came to faith, were baptised, and are now leaders in the local church. Some have shifted to other areas and are now replicating the same weekly meal where they share their faith. As a result of the efforts of these Christians, 150 people were baptised in this last year. Once again, this movement is multiplying and extending across the Nampula Province in Mozambique.

This is 'multiplication' on steroids! The new believers are so passionate in sharing their faith and hope that within a few weeks they are being disciplined, running their own cell groups, and disciplining others.

It has been said that if one Christian brings just one person to Christ and discipled them, and that person in turn discipled another and so on, the entire world's population could be reached with the Gospel in 34 years! Imagine that. Or what if just the 500 million people in the world who claim to follow Jesus obeyed this commandment to make disciples – how many more millions of people could be reached? Observing these African Christians was a personal challenge to me. It is simple mathematics; multiplication highlights the importance of each of us sharing our faith and making disciples. How's your multiplication going?

Grace Downs

BHW Supporter and 'Partnership Facilitator in Training'

We have in-person Global Impact Updates coming very soon! Our team is undertaking sessions in Christchurch, Auckland, Tauranga and Nelson over August and September. For dates/locations and to register, please visit <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/events.asp>. We will be talking about changes in the world of missions.

In other news...a couple of the Bright Hope World team recently attended the International Brethren Conference on Missions in Kuala Lumpur. The wonderful thing about this conference is the amazing opportunity it presents to connect with BHW partners from India, Burundi, the Philippines, Uganda, and Ethiopia. We also get to spend time with a number of key donors as well as other ministries. It only happens every four years but is such an encouraging experience.

Finally, please take the time to read our story over the page about the flooding in the DRC. You can read more about the floods in the DRC at <https://tinyurl.com/kelehe>. There is a desperate need to undertake a water project in this area and we want to help. While we do help fund water projects in the DRC, the scale of the need where the project is required is beyond our resources. If you would like to help, please let us know.



The area above, in which our partner Paulin of ACLUP stands, used to be where the small towns of Bushushu and Nyamukubi in the Kelehe area in the Democratic Republic of Congo stood. In May of this year, unusually heavy rain hit the area.

After just a few hours, Paulin explains, the “rivers overflowed and carried large stones from the mountain tops with muddy waters that buried all the houses and carried people with them into the lake...More than 1500 died unfortunately who have not been identified by the state and more than 3000 are missing until today. The corpses were buried in sand and mud...”

“In Kalehe, several international organizations got involved, but the results on the ground seemed mixed...The media have reported many embezzlements, and this has accentuated the misery of this population who suffer from the lack of housing, drinking water, schools, and who live in generalized economic misery.”

Bright Hope World assisted ACLUP with funds for bedding, food and roofing iron to help rebuild homes, as well as support to help re-establish businesses for a number of survivors. Now the villagers have been relocated about 10km away and are in dire need of a water supply. ACLUP has priced this out and it will take about US\$45,000 to form the tanks, pipes, and other works to provide water for the 9,000 households in the area. We want to help.

“This population lives in extreme poverty. Some are in host families, do not have hygienic infrastructures, etc. In this environment, there are no toilets, water, etc. Water used is that drawn from the river or directly fetching water from Lake Kivu. And yet, today, Kalehe is hit by the Cholera epidemic following the consumption of dirty water.”

If you would like to contribute funds towards the water project, please email us at admin@brighthopeworld.com or visit <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/contribute.asp>.

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=426>.

1. Pray for the goat project in Madagascar and the efforts to reach local people with the Gospel. Pray for Tsihombaia that God will be preparing the way as he and his team blaze new trails!
2. Pray for the spiritual multiplication work in Mozambique. Pray for Talsamo and the weekly meals helping to build relationships with Muslim neighbours.
3. Please pray for Paulin and the team at ACLUP as they seek to help the poor and the vulnerable in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
4. Pray for the people in the Kelehe area who have been terribly affected by the floods and have lost loved ones. Pray that they would settle into a new area and be able to rebuild their homes and their lives.
5. Pray for God’s provision to enable us to be able to provide the substantial funds that are required to fund the water project required in Kelehe.