

## “WHAT DO YOU THINK OF US?”

## BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



### “What do you think of us”?

This is the question we were asked by a group of single teenage mums we recently visited in Rwanda. As young girls they had gotten pregnant and have been rejected from their families and communities. Their friends say of them “are you stupid? Don’t you know about family planning?”.

The families in most cases have ejected them from their homes, so they live in very basic shacks while trying to look after themselves and their babies. There is, predictably, much shame and stigma attached to their situation.

Sadly, the only way they can survive is by having men come to their houses so they can earn meagre funds to provide for rent, food, and clothes. In some cases, the girls end up with even more babies.

The situation for so many girls in these areas is dire.

Youth Renewed, the local Bright Hope World partner in Rwanda has been working to help these young girls. In association with another ministry - Young Lives – Youth Renewed hosts outreach programmes to discuss God’s love and introduce them to the Christian faith. The team includes a group of leaders involved in the ‘contact’ programme where they visit and encourage the young women.

The Youth Renewed team then come alongside the women with skills training programmes in hair braiding and sewing. These courses last between six and twelve months. It was encouraging to see these people not just using words, but practically giving real hope to the girls to improve their situation. They act as Jesus’ hands and feet to these young women.

The next phase is to assist these girls to set up a business with the skills they have acquired.

Some have managed to set up businesses and are now able to break out of the poverty cycle they are in and start to provide for themselves and their precious families. It is easy to see the difference in them, as they now have some hope for the future and a supportive community around them.

“What do you think of us?”, they ask. How would you answer that question?

Jerry Field

*BHW Partnership Facilitator for Zambia*

We are very excited to see Bright Hope World USA form as a new 501c3 (tax exempt) entity based in Texas!

With support from a fantastic team of businessmen in San Antonio, this board operates to tell the stories of Bright Hope World’s partners and helps us to connect with new donors and raise funds locally. The board has also taken a strong interest in Foundations for Farming (FFF) and has helped us immeasurably to expand the reach of FFF into new areas including, later this year, our first real foray into teaching sustainable agriculture in India.

While Kevin Honore and Jerry Field are in Uganda visiting with partners, Fraser Scott is shortly leaving to visit our board in the USA as well as connecting with supporters and churches around the country.

He is also connecting with Bright Hope for Tomorrow in Canada, which connects with donors and churches in Canada on behalf of Bright Hope World partners to raise funds.

We are extremely blessed to have these supporting organisations in North America. We also have a similar partner – Shared Hope – in the UK with whom we have a strong relationship.



On the night of May 30, 2021, armed men from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked Tchabi, a village in the Ituri region that was home to an Emmanuel Church mission station. The ADF, considered the deadliest of the 122 armed groups active in eastern Congo, killed around 50 people that night. The remaining villagers were forced to flee to surrounding areas, with some seeking refuge in Bunia, about 100 km away.

Among the victims was the family of a young boy named Bisau. On that night, Bisau, one of twelve siblings, had his parents and seven siblings killed. His father, the headmaster of the village’s secondary school, was likely targeted by the ADF as an influential community leader. Traumatized, Bisau had to flee from the village. Fortunately, the Emmanuel Church headquarters in Bunia sent a truck to collect those who wished to relocate though the church lacked the resources to provide for the displaced. Most found shelter in Pastor Samoli’s church and school, but many had to find hosting families in Bunia.

Bisau, however, had nowhere to go. He ended up living on the streets until his displaced cousin, also struggling, provided him with basic shelter. In late 2023, Bisau came to Pastor Samoli in tears, expressing his desire to continue his education and complete his final year of secondary school, which would train him as a primary school teacher.

Recognising Bisau’s determination, Pastor Samoli requested support from Rehema Ministries, which was already assisting other children in primary and secondary schools in the area. Bisau enrolled with Rehema’s support and successfully completed his training, passing the state exam to become a qualified primary school teacher.

Rehema Ministries is overjoyed to see how the Lord has transformed Bisau’s life. He can now be employed as a teacher in a church-run primary school in Bunia and will be able to care for himself and support some of his surviving siblings.

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=162>.

1. Pray for the young women in Rwanda as they cope with the shame and isolation that comes with being unmarried mothers. Pray for their vocational training and for the success of new businesses started to support families. Pray that the women find strong community and support around them.
2. Pray for Bisau and all the other children involved in Rehema Ministry who have experienced such horrific trauma but are now receiving an education and have hope for a better life in the future.
3. Pray for Jerry Field and Kevin Honore who are currently visiting partners in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda and for Fraser Scott who heads to the USA and Canada on 22 August to meet with key donors and supporters.