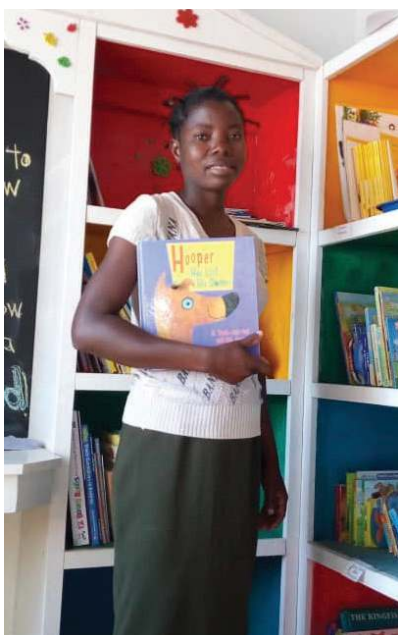


CULTIVATING COMMUNITY



ZAMBIA PROGRESS REPORT
2019

Dear Bright Hope Ally,

Thank you for your support and prayers for Zambia. Because of your gifts, and the Lord's mighty hand, 2,717 lives were impacted in 2018—this includes 21,060 meals that were served, 1,239 people who received access to clean water and 287 pastors who received training!

In partnership with 100 churches, many in the remotest of villages, you are equipping the poor with the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty!

I pray that this update will bring you great joy and satisfaction, knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people.

In partnership,



C.H. Dyer

C.H. Dyer
President, Bright Hope

P.S. Do you know a Christian friend or church member who might want to join you in supporting this good work? This is easy to do.

1. Pray, ask God about who to reach out to. You might just be surprised who comes to mind.
2. Email them. Forward this report with a statement about your involvement and ask them if they will help. Say you would like to introduce us.
3. Email me and your friend introducing us... short and simple.

Then I will follow up from there with an informative email about Bright Hope and an invitation to join us. Email me at CHDyer@BrightHope.org if you have questions or to give me heads-up on a potential new Ally.

SEEING MUTUAL TRANSFORMATION

To improve on the children's quality of life, we have partnered with several churches in Zambia. By doing so, we are seeing positive changes in these needy communities!

Here are some recent milestones:

HOPE FOR TODAY



21,060
MEALS
DISTRIBUTED

HOPE FOR TOMORROW



143
RECEIVED
AGRICULTURE TRAINING



A preschool education in Mbabala Island equips a child with basic literacy and early math skills.

ZAMBIAN EDUCATION

OVERVIEW

With over 50 percent of the Zambian population under the age of 18, Zambia faces a daunting task when it comes to educating this remarkably large and young population. Locals sometimes joke that on any given weekday, half the country should be in school.

To Zambia's credit, access to primary education is admirable, especially considering the rural population and the fact that most children have

to walk to school. Compared to other low-to medium-income countries, Zambia ranks in the 64th percentile for access to primary education.

Zambia, however, has deficits in the **quality** of the education provided. Compared to other low-to medium-income countries, Zambia ranks in the bottom 10% (in terms of quality of education). This poor learning performance can be attributed to a number of factors:

- **Low government spending on education:** On average, low-to-medium-income countries spend 14 percent of their gross domestic product per capita on education, while Zambia only spends five percent.
- **Inadequate school facilities:** Many schools in Zambia have insufficient classroom space to accommodate the number of enrolled students. As a result, student-teacher ratios are high, and many schools are forced to run two, or even three, shifts of students through the school each day.
- **Lack of literacy exposure in children six years of age and younger:** Zambia is not a reading culture; homes have very little in the way of reading materials, particularly in rural areas. And few children have access to a preschool or kindergarten education. **As a result, children come to school with almost no literacy basics.**

With children having little exposure to early learning either at home or in preschools, they enter school with almost no concept of literacy. The schools they enter are under-equipped with materials, teachers and classrooms. With poor teacher-student ratios and a reduced number of hours spent in school each day due to multiple shifts, children often fall



Peek inside the preschool at Katiti to see the colorful and fun learning environment that welcomes the island's youngest students.

behind. With little or no chance of special help, these children who fall behind rarely catch up and eventually they drop out.

COMPLEMENTING THE ZAMBIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Bright Hope's goal in Zambia is not to provide an alternative to the government educational system, as that would be far outside our mandate and capacity. **Instead, our aim is to mobilize local churches in communities and equip them to complement the government education structure that is already in place.**

If children can gain access to preschool education and learn the foundational mechanics of reading, writing and mathematics, then they will enter government schools in grade one with a far greater likelihood of succeeding.

On Mbabala Island, Bright Hope has partnered with the local churches to provide preschool education to all children. To achieve this, three new preschools are being built on the island, one of

which is already completed. The sites are equally spaced within the populated area of the island, with about two miles between each preschool location. Most of the children, however, will be walking less than 1.25 miles to school.

We have trained nine volunteer preschool teachers from local churches, and we have set up a number of church-run businesses to support the long-term running of the preschool network on Mbabala Island.

Each of the three preschool buildings will be unique. Though it would have been more practical to build three identical buildings, Bright Hope wanted to construct buildings that matched the uniqueness of their individual locations.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING

The preschools that Bright Hope is helping to construct on Mbabala Island are what the government calls “community schools.” This means that the community both builds them and staffs them. Once Bright Hope officially registers with the Ministry of Education, there is a possibility of getting some support from the government in the way of textbooks, furniture or even, at some point, a paid teacher. But for now, the responsibility of staffing the preschools on the island falls to the churches of Mbabala.

In February 2018, nine volunteer teachers were selected by the churches. Their training started when a visiting missions group came to Mbabala for two weeks in late February/early March. This first training focused mainly on literacy and storytelling.

In April a Bright Hope Ally, a retired teacher from the U.S., came to Mbabala as a consultant for two months to work intensively with the volunteer teachers. In addition to literacy teacher techniques, she taught the volunteer teachers how best to set up and use a classroom space.



Because of forward-thinking volunteer teachers like the one pictured here, Zambia’s youth look with Hope towards a promising future.

MEET MONICA, ONE OF THE ISLAND’S TOP VOLUNTEER PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Monica is one of the island’s volunteer preschool teachers. She is 33 years old and holds a high school diploma. After completing school, she returned to Mbabala Island, where she is raising her three children. Monica also cares for her two younger sisters and her mother. She provides for her children through farming and baking.

“It has not been easy giving up so much time towards the preschool work, but I thank God for His grace and I am managing well. My work at the preschool gives me a sense of unprecedented joy,” she said.



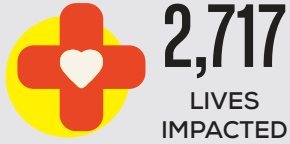
Monica is a volunteer teacher who believes her work with the preschool students will lend to a better future for those on Mbabala Island.

Monica feels that she is doing God’s work at the preschool, and her hope is that the students she teaches will grow up to be responsible men and women who contribute to a better future on Mbabala Island.

As she lives in the center of the island, Monica will likely be stationed at Kapoma Preschool, right in the center of the island, once all three schools are completed. Monica has hopes to further her training as a preschool teacher.

SEEING MUTUAL TRANSFORMATION

HOPE FOR TODAY



HOPE FOR TOMORROW



HOPE FOR ETERNITY



WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A CURE

According to Zambian culture, birth deformities are seen as a curse, and parents are sometimes reluctant to correct something that “the spirits brought about.”

But Ivor, a retired school teacher from the Samfya area, has a different idea. He travels around the district advising families about the services available for children with deformities, also counseling parents who are often suspicious and fearful of allowing their children to undergo surgery.

Ivor has overseen Bright Hope’s CURE program since 2011, when we started funding the facilitation and logistics to provide reconstructive surgeries for children born with birth defects in Zambia. Most of these surgeries are to mend club feet or to repair cleft lips and other limb deformities. The surgeries are performed by CURE Zambia



Ivor Mwansa has helped dozens of children get reconstructive surgery.

doctors, who specialize in these types of procedures.

Bright Hope initiates the process by identifying children in need and facilitating their transport back and forth over 430 miles between Samfya and Lusaka, where the hospital is located. In 2018, at least 10 children received treatment.

JOHN

John is a young boy from Mundubi Village, approximately 15 miles north of Samfya. While Ivor was visiting this village, an elderly woman found Ivor and pleaded with him to help her grandson who was born with two club feet.

Ivor learned that John’s mother, Lengwe, married young, and then the marriage fell apart after John’s birth. The father blamed Lengwe, his wife, for John’s disfigurement

and abandoned the family. With no one to look after her and John, Lengwe and her son moved back in with her mother.

One of their main concerns for John was his inability to walk to school. He has already missed a year of school, but by January 2019, once his surgeries and recovery are complete, John should be able to walk to school and rejoin the children in his class!



Since this photo, John has had a second surgery to correct his other foot.

SEEING MUTUAL TRANSFORMATION

HOPE FOR TODAY



1,239

RECEIVED
CLEAN WATER

HOPE FOR TOMORROW



40

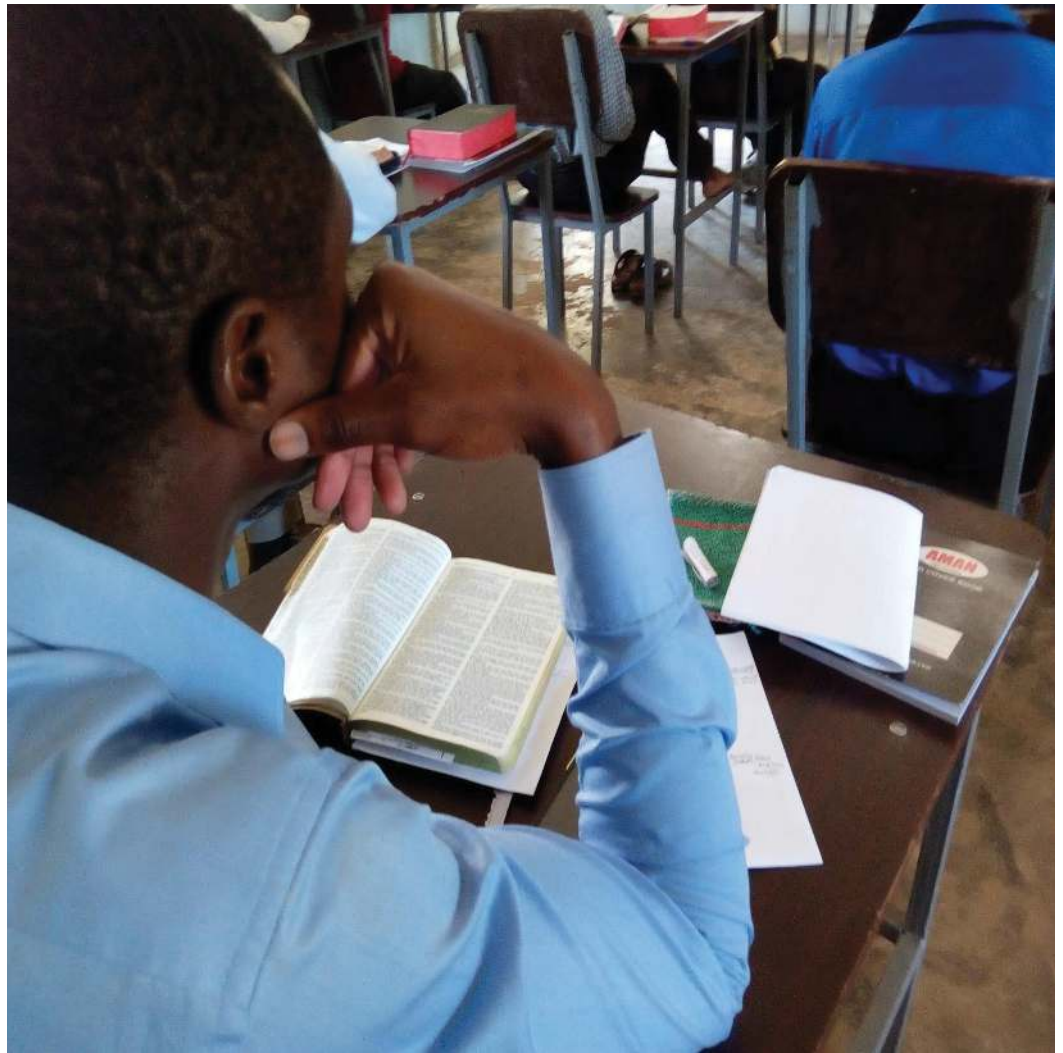
JOBS CREATED

HOPE FOR ETERNITY



287

PASTORS
TRAINED



Bible open before him, a student at Samfya Bible School leans in to absorb the teaching that will equip him for rural ministry in Zambia.

EQUIPPING MEN AND WOMEN FOR RURAL MINISTRY

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING AT SAMFYA BIBLE SCHOOL

- Samfya Bible School (SBS) is harvesting both vegetables and Christ followers! In 2017, 12 farmers underwent discipleship training. In 2018, a group of 11 students were trained in discipleship and vegetable production.
- The school bookstore now has over 200 Christian books in stock that are being used to train church leaders for rural ministry!
- SBS students in the GROW Program are being prepared for ministry in rural villages. The program's second term had equal participants as the prior year.
- Samfya Bible School recognizes that different churches face different needs. Our program offers flexibility that allows us to tailor the training to meet the specific needs of each participating church.

SAMFYA BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING IS CHANGING COMMUNITIES

It's exciting to see the curriculum that is being taught in the classroom make an impact outside of the school. We recognized this when we started to see the positive changes that were taking place in the home communities where SBS students returned to when their coursework was complete. Milenge village is one of those remote villages where SBS has trained and developed dynamic leaders.

Three years ago, some elders and church leaders from Milenge came to SBS to receive Youth Leaders Training. After the course, they went back to their hometown and started to engage with young people. This was a step that had never been taken before.

They started to host programs such as team sports and other activities that involved unchurched young people in the community. Now there is a new sense of joy and love in Milenge.

In late 2018, three more young people from Milenge came to train at Samfya Bible School. And in August, Milenge hosted its first youth camp, with plans being made to send SBS staff to teach there in the future.



After attending the Youth Leaders Training Course, these two church elders returned home to begin engaging with the youth in their local church and community.



YOUTH WORK BY THE NUMBERS

Samfya Bible School pays the school fees for students' children through the Child Care Support Program.

- 9 young people participated in the youth leadership program.
- 10 children (ages 1-7) attended at SBS while their parent(s) studied.
- Samfya Bible School students came from 11 different churches in remote villages throughout the region.