

“ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”. Acts 20:35 ”



2018 has already proved to be a very eventful year for Rope with staff team members visiting many of our partners. This has included visiting, as part of our Brighter Futures review, all nine children's homes in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mozambique and Kenya.

Those visiting have been incredibly blessed by their encounters with children and young people whose lives have been transformed by the investment our partners have made. This issue features two young people from our homes in Nepal and we hope you are inspired by how God has moved powerfully in their young lives even though their prospects were initially poor.

Eventful too, in that there have been changes in leadership with our CEO Jay leaving us in mid-June to take up other activities. To ensure the continuation of the positive growth of Rope, the Trustees have appointed Andy Jong as Interim CEO and will be looking to make a more permanent appointment in the near future. Andy is well known to Rope, both as a supporter and as a former CEO. We give glory to God that since our late founder, Michael Wood, retired, God has

in this issue....

p. 3

Prayer



p. 5

Brighter Futures



p. 7

Fundraising News



Rope vision

God has a plan for every person living in poverty. They are not to be pitied but loved and resourced.

We partner with visionaries across the world to equip them to release God's plans for His people.

We pledge that 100% of the donations given to Rope go directly to fund the work of our international partners. The costs of our UK operation are met by donations to our Friends of Rope fund.

We thank County Financial who continue to support Rope by paying the costs of printing and sending our newsletter.



▶▶ continued to bring us different CEOs who have each moved us forward to address the demands of a changing and challenging world where the practical needs of the suffering still abound. We take this opportunity to thank Jay for his tremendous and unstinting efforts and wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

At Rope we see our role as investing in our partners, many of whom are local visionaries, called by God to transform lives. Rope founder Michael Wood was filled with God's passion to invest in people as he believed that they recognised the solutions to the difficulties they faced and just needed resourcing to make the difference. We are delighted to share that we currently work with 24 partners across 17 countries. This issue of NEWS from Rope is full of testimonies of people whose lives have and are being transformed through that continuing investment from Rope.

These investments might be small - but the difference is great, as people's dignity is restored.

We thank you for taking the time to read and enjoy this issue and we hope that you join us in praising God for being so faithful in His provision for His people.



Message from Andy

What a great pleasure it is to be writing this message to you, having been invited by the Rope Trustee Board to undertake the role of Interim CEO following Jay's recent departure. He has been a positive instigator of change for Rope's work in the past 3 years and we are thankful to God for the passion and energy he brought to the CEO role.

Also during the past 3 years, Rope has been able to resource our partners to a much higher level than just the annual amount raised from supporters. This is thanks to the maturing of investments from a generous £0.5m legacy received by the charity a few years ago. The additional funds have enabled new partners to be taken on as well, which is always faith-building for us all.

Recently Rope has received large legacy funds arising from the estates of our founder Michael Wood and his wife Jacqueline. The Trustees wish to honour them by continuing to invest in building our relationships with existing and new Change Makers. They feel strongly that the funds should be used pro-actively over the next 10 year period to build the sustainability of our partners and of the charity itself. As well as continuing to disperse more funds than the annual income raised, a number of special funds are being created e.g. one for capital works to which our partners can apply.

In this newsletter you will hear about two young people whom some of you have supported

through our Brighter Futures scheme. I have met Jomma on several occasions whilst on visits to Nepal and have seen her grow and mature through the loving and wise upbringing she has received at the Dolpa Hope Home. I remember she sang beautifully at a church service I attended. For some time we have been concerned about the important transition she, Sunita (whose story is also featured) and others like them have to make from being in a children's home, to living independent lives. Another special fund to be established will provide for this transition and our young people will be able to seek specific grants for education, skills training etc. as they reach an age where they will no longer receive direct care living in the home.

More details of these evolving plans will feature in future Newsletters and if you have any interesting ideas I invite you to share them with me.

As for me, it's great to be back at such an exciting time for Rope.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy".

**If you enjoy our newsletter, follow us on
Twitter and Facebook and share our news!**



Let us Pray

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men. 2 Timothy 2:1”



We are so thankful that many supporters have faithfully prayed for our international partners and are signed up to receive our daily or monthly prayer updates.

Many of our partners live in very isolating environments and speak movingly about the difference this prayer support means to them as they respond to God's call. Below we share some of our partners' current prayer needs and ask if you would commit them to prayer.

We pray for Simao, from Mamoli Mission in Mozambique. Three months ago Simao was bitten by a poisonous spider and developed septicaemia. After many weeks in hospital he started to recover, but has now returned to hospital and remains in a serious condition. We pray for complete healing and that the rest of the team – Nic, Clare and Maria – can continue to care for the children in his absence.

Let's petition God for Mirabelle, Samuel and their team as they mentor and support widows in Bamenda and Ndu, northwest Cameroon. There is an ongoing conflict between English speaking insurgents wishing to create a separate state and government forces. Mirabelle reports that the 124km drive between Bamenda and Ndu is becoming increasingly dangerous and asks for prayers of protection as they travel. She also asks for protection over the widows as they seek to develop income-generating businesses which are being hampered due to the conflict.



Pray to the Lord for Samuel and the team at Youth Action Uganda as they support 281 farmers through their new pilot scheme, Tithes to Thrive. Floods in May affected 11% of the crops that had already been planted. The team redistributed seed to farmers who lost crops, so they could replant in July. Please join us in praying for good weather conditions so these crops can flourish.



Please pray for Andrea and Andy Baker, our partners in Bolivia, who are enjoying a 6-month sabbatical from their 17 year ministry. We pray that God will continue to speak powerfully to them during this time. Ask the Lord to bless Doris who is overseeing the project in Andrea's absence.

Prayer Afternoons

As well as sharing partners' news through daily or monthly updates we also host prayer afternoons where we Skype our partners across the world, giving supporters the chance to hear directly from them. Often these Skype calls enable our partners to share more confidential information which we cannot share in printed form. Recently Becky from Dreamland Hospital in Kenya was able to share about their eye clinic. We are thankful for all who attended and prayed for her.

If you would like to join other UK supporters in this prayer ministry and sign up for our monthly prayer letter or attend a prayer afternoon, please email Wendy at office@rope.org.uk



“Grace Home has shaped my life physically and spiritually”

For the last 9 years Rope has been supporting Grace Home in Kathmandu, Nepal. The home cares for children who have faced neglect or abandonment from an early age.

Sunita was one of the first children supported by Rope at the home. Now aged 20, she is entering the final year of a degree in Business Studies.

Sunita came to Grace Home aged 4, having faced a dreadful accident at home. When playing too close to the fire she fell in and sustained significant burns which led to the amputation of a number of her fingers and many skin grafts. Sunita's family came from a village 100km from Kathmandu and didn't seek treatment immediately. Eventually her uncle stepped in, bringing her to a local church in Kathmandu. It was through this church that Sunita gained medical treatment and subsequently a place at Grace Home.

Though Sunita seeks to stay in touch with her family, travelling the 7 hour bus journey home 3 times a year, she speaks fondly of her childhood at Grace Home and is particularly grateful to House Parent Maya, who helped her come to know Jesus. She says: "Grace Home has shaped my life both physically and spiritually. The daily devotionals really helped me remain strong in my faith and I feel I have stuck to God like a magnet! I have been blessed in so many ways and am so positive going forward and learning more about the grace of God".

Sunita continues to attend church each week and is leading youth meetings, sharing her testimony with all the children she encounters. She believes that God is calling her to be a



worship leader at the church and she is currently learning the piano.

From childhood, she has dreamt of being a fashion designer and hopes her business degree will give her the foundation to start a fashion design business. She says "Nepalis like fashion and will pay for well-designed, bespoke clothing".

Sunita met with Adrian, our Partners Relationship Manager, when he visited Nepal recently. He describes her as "an inspiring young lady very connected with God and deep in her faith. For one who has had a very difficult start in life, she exudes positivity and spirituality."

Sunita is clear on where she places her gratitude: "It is down to my upbringing at Grace Home."

“They became my family, playing and studying all together”

Jomma is one of many children from the Dolpa region who have come to live with Amos and Doma at Dolpa Hope Home in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Dolpa region is a very remote area where daily life is exceptionally challenging. Jomma's family faced further disadvantage when her mother died, leaving her father to bring up 6 young children.



As a result, Jomma came to live at the Dolpa Home when she was 8 years old. She was one of the first children supported by Rope, and now, aged 21, she has just completed two years at college. She hopes to train to be a teacher, but in the meantime is employed or engaged as an intern at a secondary school, working with 10 year olds. This work experience has been demanding, but Jomma sees how God is using her to encourage the children as they learn.

Jomma is currently living with her brother and sister in Kathmandu, but speaks fondly of her time at Dolpa Home, particularly the fun and friendship she enjoyed while growing up with the other

children. 'They became my family, playing and studying all together.' In fact, she still loves playing football, a passion she picked up from the boys at the home. And her favourite team Manchester United, of course! Jomma loved living with Amos and Doma who she regards as strong role models, providing regular counselling and guidance and ultimately leading her to faith. She now finds herself using some of these same skills as she nurtures the children she is helping to teach.

Jomma attends King's Church, Kathmandu, which Amos leads, and is active in helping in Sunday school. She is currently preparing for baptism and hopes to get baptised before the end of the year. The Bible verse that Jomma felt encouraged and comforted by is Hebrews 11:6 - *'And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.'*

Sunita and Jomma were supported at Grace and Dolpa Homes through our Brighter Futures group scheme.



There are currently 7 children living at Grace Home and 12 at Dolpa Hope Home.

It costs £23 a month to support children at these homes. We need 79 supporters to make a regular commitment towards these homes.

If you wish to support any of our Brighter Future schemes so that children like Sunita and Jomma may enjoy a loving, caring family home, then please fill in the form.



Dreamland Mission Hos



Over the last 8 years, Rope has partnered with Dreamland Mission Hospital to reach vulnerable people through their very successful eye clinic and corrective surgery service. In that time, 28,041 adults and children have been treated, with 3,400 receiving life-changing surgery.

Rope could never have made such a long term commitment to Dreamland without the certainty that so many regular givers provide us with. For this we are very grateful and we praise God for how he has transformed this exceptionally rural and impoverished community physically, emotionally and spiritually through this hospital.

The hospital is operated by our partners, Interchristian Fellowship Evangelical Mission (IcFEM), an indigenous Kenyan organisation based in Kimilili, Bungoma County, Western Kenya, near Mount Elgon. Dreamland was originally established as a medical care centre in 1999 and became a Mission Hospital in 2012. It is staffed by over 30 paid Kenyan clinical/support staff and 3 UK volunteers.

Dreamland has a reputation for providing excellent healthcare services to a community which would struggle to gain treatment elsewhere. If Dreamland didn't offer the eye clinic provision, people would be faced with car journeys of up to 10 hours and medical costs starting at £600.

In 2010, when Rope began its support, Dreamland had not established a clinic, but was offering eye camps twice a year and using the services of an external eye team to carry out surgeries. Eight years later, the progress is amazing - 27,702 people have been screened and 3,061 have received surgery.

The eye clinic, open Monday-Friday and offering a 24-hour emergency service, treats between 25-50 people daily. The

nursing staff, Beatrice and Phanice, screen all patients before referring them to Dr Clement Kiprop for a consultation. A third of patients require reading glasses and these are provided at a very low cost. The rest are either suffering with "red eye" due to a foreign body getting in or have sight issues due to another condition—allergies, diabetes or HIV—which are treated by another department in Dreamland.

Once a week Clement and the team carry out surgeries on 10-15 people, the majority of whom are elderly and have cataracts. With no state support and no pension to look forward to, people in Kenya can't retire - they need to work, so the loss of sight has a significant impact as they are unable to farm land, provide food for the family or care for grandchildren. If their sight is particularly poor, the children are expected to become their carer and stop going to school. Therefore, without treatment they face a life of disability and marginalisation. Restoring their sight not only restores their independence and dignity but also their family's economic status.



hospital - Eye Clinic, Kenya

“I thank God for this miracle”

At the heart of all Dreamland's services is a desire to evangelise to all who seek treatment. Their Chaplaincy team, Bernard and Dickson, meet with all patients, offering prayer and individual counselling. They testify to how so many of the elderly people arrive at the hospital disillusioned with life, having experienced neglect and abandonment from their family and community and yet the restoration of their sight often leads to reconciliation followed by healing in other areas of their life.

In August 2017, Pauline's sight began to deteriorate, leading to her needing a white cane to walk and support from her grandchildren. Sometimes she would go the whole day with no food or water if no one was there to help her. She stopped farming her land and lost crops. She became increasingly ostracised within her own community, as people rarely visited her and she struggled to recognise them when they did visit. Surgery has restored Pauline's eyesight and she is overjoyed with the difference it has made to her life and her independence. She has thrown her white cane away and is able to farm her land once again.



Julias, 76, is a father to 8 children and a grandfather to many. Having lived alone for many years he developed sight problems, which led to total blindness 6 years ago. After surgery on both eyes, his sight was restored and he is now totally self-sufficient - farming his land, offering shoe repairs, making chairs from sticks he has gathered. He is described as a man of God, who is now able to read his Bible regularly. Julias says, "I thank God for this miracle. Imagine how I would be without His help. Bless Dr Kiprop and everyone at the hospital!"

Next steps

Rope is delighted to continue its partnership with Dreamland and has committed to funding the eye clinic for the next 3-5 years. This comes at a crucial time for the hospital as it seeks to become increasingly self-sufficient through accessing government funding. In 2017 Dreamland gained registration to carry out surgeries under the government's National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). With funding from Rope, Dreamland has now employed a full-time Liaison Officer, who is helping patients to gain registration with NHIF and then providing necessary paperwork so that NHIF pays the cost of eye surgeries. If the hospital can gain funding for 70% of all surgical cases, it will achieve self-sufficiency. Their aim is to achieve this target by 2022.

We are excited to be partnering with Dreamland and pray for the team as they work to make this vision a reality. In the meantime we continue to support the eye clinic to ensure that no patient is denied this sight-saving surgery.



It costs £35 to provide a person with cataract surgery.

Our annual Women Walking 4 Women event is just around the corner with little more than a month to go before the big day! We have trialled the route and already have women signed up and stretching in anticipation! Our chosen project this year supports widows in Cameroon. Our partners are so very grateful that women will be gathering in September in support of them. Do take a look at our new video, on our website, which gives more details about the walk and our partners' work. Though places are limited we are still looking for more women to join us - so please go to rope.org.uk and sign up!

**women
walking
4 women**



Happy Birthday Kathleen



It is always such a blessing when a supporter encourages their friends and family to give to Rope rather than buy a gift for their significant birthday or other celebration. Recently Kathleen Snoxell contacted us as she had decided to celebrate her 90th birthday by asking loved ones to donate to our Hope on Wheels project in Lebanon. Hope on Wheels provides activities for Syrian refugee children who have no access to education. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Kathleen and all those who gave!

Are you celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary? Why not ask your friends to support a Rope project as Kathleen did.

Harvest Appeal 2018 - Gathering in the Harvest

This year our Harvest Appeal is supporting two churches in Abelines and Tinteral, El Salvador.

Their weekly Sunday school feeds 556 impoverished and malnourished children from these rural communities.

With Rope's support each child enjoys a high-calorie meal of rice, milk and sugar whilst attending the Sunday school where they learn more about Jesus - the great Provider.

Over 18 years, these churches have fed children and seen many grow in their faith and become strong leaders within their communities.

Would your church consider providing a harvest offering to ensure the churches of Abelines and Tinteral can provide physical and spiritual food to children in El Salvador?



£200 will provide 30 children with a weekly meal for a whole year.

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