



When you invest in the education of a child you place in their hands a gift that cannot be taken away and you provide them with an opportunity to live as empowered adults in their world.



Akash is 11 years of age and lives in a poor community near Lahore in Pakistan. He attends a local school run by the Christian Fellowship of Pakistan and is in First Grade.



Harish Kumar is five years of age and lives in a rock quarry village on the outskirts of Bangalore, India. He attends Sinclair School and enjoys rhymes and running.



Avanya is five years old and lives in a rock quarry village on the outskirts of Bangalore, India. Avanya attends Sinclair School and her favourite subject is English.



Akishwa is 10 years of age and lives in a village near Lahore in Pakistan. She attends the local school run by Christian Fellowship of Pakistan and is in First Grade.



Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia Incorporated is an Australian based Christian aid and development agency committed to providing a simple, direct and effective means for Australians to contribute to the sustainable alleviation of poverty.

We work in partnership with established development agencies in developing countries and as a partner agency of World Relief Australia to provide vital education and development programs that address the causes of poverty and offer the prospect of a better life.

Newsletter

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From little things big things grow!



*"Goodness is stronger than evil,
love is stronger than hate,
light is stronger than darkness
and life is stronger than death!"*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The power of small acts of kindness was remarkably evident during the recent visit to Adelaide by Jonathan Paul, Executive Director of the Bangalore City Mission (BCM) and no more so than in a radio interview with Jayne Lochert from Adelaide's Life FM. BCM and Bright Futures work together to provide education and development opportunities for thousands of children and adults in villages and poor communities in the city of Bangalore in India and beyond. The following are some edited highlights from the interview.

Jayne: I want to start with your father's story because you've taken on what he started in educating the poor in Bangalore.

Jonathan: My dad was from a very poor background in a remote village in India. He had the opportunity of an education because of a missionary couple (as a small boy) he was out there in the fields grazing his father's sheep and there was this lovely missionary couple from Canada, who were walking past his village ... they saw him reading a book, trying to read a book in fact, probably looking at the pictures ... they went up to him and asked him if he wanted to study and he was excited about it. They went straight to his father's house and asked if they could give him an education Through that education he went on to found Bangalore City Mission which in turn educates hundreds of children in fact he named the school Sinclairs after the Canadian couple.

Jayne: (When) your father passed away and then all of a sudden you had the opportunity to take on from your dad, what did that feel like?

Jonathan: Oh, it was scary at the start I would say ... because it was quite an unexpected death ... he passed away, it was so sudden and shocking.



Jonathan Paul at Life FM studios with presenter Jayne Lochert.

Jayne: So what does that task involve now?

Jonathan: Well it involves caring for the 16 children my dad and mum had adopted, it involves taking care of a school of 600 underprivileged kids ... community development work, involving health care, adult literacy, vocational training, clean drinking water, self-help groups, and renewable energy projects in different villages and it also involves a lot of church activities.

Jayne: We all know how important it is to have work, to have a job so we can provide for our families ... is that part of what drives you to keep doing it ... that you see how these kids are being nurtured, not only physically but also in their education and also spiritually?

Jonathan: ... absolutely, because I believe there are two ends to poverty, one is the physical part of it and the other is the spiritual poverty, and I think spiritual poverty is worse than physical poverty, because physical poverty can be corrected, can be helped, and unless God intervenes in the life of a person, his life is really empty.

Go to www.brightfutures.com.au and follow the links to hear the interview in full.

Great ways to discover more about Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia Inc.



www.youtube.com/user/BRIGHTFUTURESAus



www.facebook.com

BRIGHT FUTURES SPONSORSHIP – APPLY HERE

YES, I would love to help a child in need.

India Pakistan (Please indicate)

One Child (Boy / Girl / Either)

___ Children (Boys / Girls / Either/ Both)

\$30
per month

Name: _____

Address: _____

P/C _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return the completed sponsorship application:
Bright Futures Overseas Aid Fund,
1 Collingrove Ave, Broadview SA 5083

ABN 94 377 547 867

Donations for child sponsorship and projects are tax deductible.

Payment Options:

Please debit my: Bankcard Visa Mastercard

I hereby authorise Bright Futures to debit my credit card **\$30 per month** for each sponsor child as indicated until I revoke this authority in writing

No: _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry: _____ / _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

Other Payment Options: (Please indicate)

Please find enclosed my cheque for _____ months sponsorship.

Please send me the relevant forms for payment by direct debit from account.

I would like to make a donation of \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to Bright Futures Overseas Aid Fund

Volunteers share talents

The support of volunteers is essential to Bright Futures and there are many different ways volunteers contribute their talents to supporting our work. Some are involved on the Bright Futures Board while others help out in a variety of ways both near and afar. Here we profile two dedicated volunteers who use their gifts to make the lives of children brighter.

Michael - Development Project Support



Pictured: Michael meeting Jonathan Paul from Bangalore City Mission

Michael volunteers at the Bright Futures office once a week and assists with project management of our overseas projects. After completing a double degree in Economics and International Development he wanted to gain work experience and came across Bright Futures. Michael works with Development Program Manager, Sarah Spiker, in preparing reports, conducting research and planning development projects in conjunction with our partners in India, Pakistan and Uganda. This work is important in ensuring that the standards of our auspice body, World Relief Australia, are met and accountability is provided for supporters.

Les – Website Development

Thanks to wonderful generosity and graphic talents of Les Colston from Zeal Art (www.zealart.com.au) Bright Futures now has a terrific new website. Les and his wife Helen have long been Bright Futures supporters and when Les volunteered to build us a new website as a gift we couldn't wait to accept his kind offer. Check it out at www.brightfutures.com.au – we think it is fabulous and while you are there feel free to make an on-line donation to our projects in India, Pakistan and Uganda.



Uganda: Partnership Covenant

Bright Futures works in partnership with reputable local organisations in developing countries to sustainably alleviate poverty. Long and trusted partnerships with Bangalore City Mission in India and Christian Fellowship of Pakistan already exist and this year we have been delighted to formalise, through the signing of a partnership covenant, our partnership with Bishop Onono-Onweng Foundation (locally known as BOOF) in Northern Uganda. The Covenant expresses our shared inspiration in the love of God and our commitment to providing education, health, agricultural and economic development activities which build community capacity, enrich family life and enable those assisted, particularly children, to experience a full life. The fruits of this partnership are already evident with the partners working together to establish a small grain mill and provide oxen to assist in increasing agricultural production. A sanitation project is also underway to provide toilets thereby reducing disease.

Pakistan: Flood relief effort draws to close

Since devastating floods inundated Pakistan nearly a year ago millions have been displaced and the death toll from disease may never be known. Immediately following the floods, Bright Futures overseas development partner the Christian Fellowship of Pakistan, was on the ground delivering assistance thanks to the financial support of Bright Futures and World Relief Australia donors. Initially food relief packages, tents and blankets were distributed and then a mobile medical team was mobilised. The mobile medical team has continued to deliver clinics throughout the affected parts of the country with influenza, malaria, cholera and infections being the most commonly treated illnesses. In the coming month this work will be wound down as our partners return to focus on their education and community development projects.



FLOOD RELIEF FACTS

To all who supported the Pakistan Flood Appeal we offer our most sincere thanks. Here is what you helped achieve.

- 28** mobile medical clinics in flood areas
- 230** tents distributed to displaced families
- 1,000** relief packages distributed immediately following the floods.
- 20,000** flood victims received treatment, advice or medicine from mobile clinics.
- \$60,000** was donated by supporters of Bright Futures and our partner World Relief Australia.

India: A new beginning for Basilica

Maria Basilica (pictured) was 12 years old when the Bright Futures sponsorship program provided the means for her to attend Sinclairs School, an arm of development partner, Bangalore City Mission. Basilica is the eldest of six children. Her father is diabetic and works as a bike mechanic. His daily wage earnings were insufficient to educate his children. Bright Futures sponsorship enabled Basilica and many other needy children from her community to receive quality schooling. Today Basilica works at Dell, an international company, as a Customer Service Representative. Her income has provided a way out of poverty not just for her, but for her whole family. Basilica is just one of a growing number of children whose future has been transformed through education enabled by Bright Futures.



Barefoot Challenge

On a cool but sunny day in May a group of Bright Futures supporters gathered on the beach in Adelaide and took their shoes off for the inaugural Bright Futures Barefoot Challenge. People were sponsored to walk (or run) 5 or 10kms without shoes to raise money for education in India, Pakistan and Uganda.



A group of walkers reach the end of their barefoot trek while some young supporters (below) decorate the finish line.



In countries around the world, many children walk long distances on poor roads or tracks to attend school. Some lack money to buy sandals or shoes and make the trek to school often finding it hard to pay school fees or buy books when they arrive. Bright Futures works towards helping them reach school safely and to support them to be able to pay their school fees and get a good education. Thanks to everyone who got involved, and we hope many more of you can join us next year as we take on the Barefoot Challenge.

Special acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the generous assistance of the following:



Integrated Community Solutions