



*The Bright Futures child sponsorship program operates in a “whole of community” development context aimed at alleviating poverty and improving quality of life in a sustainable way.*

*When you sponsor a child through Bright Futures you help build the capacity of an entire community.*



### Pakistan: When the only way is up...

Extending the hand of help often involves extending the buildings in which the help is given. For Bright Futures partner group in Pakistan, Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP), going up is the only option for accommodating the needs of the 200+ children at the school and adjacent supported housing. The link between education, particularly girls education, and empowerment is so critical and we stand in awe of the courage of our partners in Pakistan who work so hard to provide hope and opportunity amid many challenges.



Builder at work as a student (in the distance) looks on



Senior students at assembly



*Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia 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.*

*Bright Futures works in partnership with established development agencies in developing countries in providing vital education and development programs which address the causes of poverty and offer the prospect of a better life.*

# Newsletter

Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia  
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DECEMBER 2017

### Kenya: Learners Today & Leaders Tomorrow

The story of the tiny Westwood School starts with the story of Margaret Mukuria. Margaret was born in Muranga, 85 kms north of Nairobi in Kenya. When her husband abandoned her and their three children she was devastated and with no place to go.

In her darkest time Margaret met Jane Thuo, Director of Dorcas Creation which is Bright Futures partner group in Kenya. Jane and her team do an incredible job uplifting women living in the devastating poverty in the slums. Vocational & literacy training coupled with savings and self-mobilising groups are at the heart of their work. Many women go on to develop tiny businesses to help feed and educate their families. Margaret came to one of these groups.

Margaret started to focus her energy positively. She engaged with women in the Dorcas Creation projects, learned to read and started to read the Bible. She took to heart what she learnt and her natural leadership abilities emerged. She was placed in charge of a number of sewing and self-mobilising (self-help) groups.

Two years ago Margaret took 42 people on an exposure visit to an organisation outside the city where she met a man who was helping farmers stand up for their rights. She realised that social justice could be achieved by developing programs which motivate people and communities. Margaret decided to start a kindergarten for children in the Mathare slum. Enlisting her daughter Mercy, who was trained in early childhood education, she started the kindergarten in two basic iron sheds in a dusty slum street. Today there are 60 children and Bright Futures is proud to support this tiny school in which the learners of today are becoming the leaders of tomorrow.



*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.*

William Arthur Ward



Jane Thuo, Margaret & Mary Bryson



In the classroom



**Looking for last minute Christmas gifts?**

Why not check out the Bright Futures 'Gratitude' store in the heart of the city. There you will find a great range including:

**'Thankyou' Products**



**Beautiful 'Restore' Candles**



Plus handmade cards, jewellery, bags & more.

**ALL PROFITS FROM BRIGHT FUTURES 'GRATITUDE' STORE HELP FIGHT POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE & DEVELOPMENT.**

**Shop 27 DaCosta Arcade, Adelaide**



### My Christmas Gift

- I would like to make donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Please indicate: INDIA / PAKISTAN / UGANDA / KENYA / or please use where needed most.*
- I would like to make a regular monthly donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of:
- Please indicate*  Womens' Vocational Training – INDIA / KENYA
- Schooling for children - INDIA / KENYA / UGANDA / PAKISTAN
- Medical Care - UGANDA / INDIA / PAKISTAN
- I would like to sponsor a child (or \_\_\_ children) at \$42 per month per child.
- Please indicate: Girl / Boy*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

P/C \_\_\_\_\_

P: \_\_\_\_\_ E: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Payment Options:

Credit Card:  Visa  Mastercard

No: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque: Pay to Bright Futures Australia - Overseas Aid Fund

Direct Debit: Please email [office@brightfutures.com.au](mailto:office@brightfutures.com.au)

or phone office – 08 7225 7175 – to arrange.

Donate Online: Go to [www.brightfutures.com.au](http://www.brightfutures.com.au)

**DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE**



### BRIGHT FUTURES TWILIGHT FAMILY PICNIC

**When:** 5.00pm-7.00pm, Sunday, 11 March 2018

**Where:** Tusmore Park (*enter from Stirling Street*) and keep a lookout for the crowd

**What to bring:** BYO food and drink and enjoy a special picnic with others who share your passion to help people in poverty through Bright Futures.

## When ‘even a cup of water’ means so much more ...

On one occasion, Jesus said to his followers, “If you give even a cup of water to one of my little ones, you will surely be rewarded”.



Roger Bryson

At Bright Futures, we know that it is not the size of a donation that makes a difference, but the intention with which it is given and the surety that the kindness reaches the right people. Over recent years we have received a number of donations from a church group in Adelaide towards water projects that provide fresh water to schools, health centres and local communities. Their actions have provided countless cups of fresh, clean water to children and families. The name of that group is ‘Love in a Cup’!

As Bright Futures continues to support our four overseas partners in their critical help to children, women, families and communities, the analogy of the value of the ‘cup of water’ applies in the following ways.

In Lukodi in northern Uganda, funds assist in sinking a deep bore and providing header tanks and water pumps between the health centre and the primary school to provide fresh water to both those facilities.

In Bangalore in southern India, the ‘cup of water’ is the support of the school alongside a quarry area in which 200 are now participating. As well, seven village based vocational training centres are developing the skills of women. In the last year more than 5,000 people have benefitted from medical screening and health centres organised by our partner.

In Youngsan Abad, with provided funds from Bright Futures, the Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP) has developed an agriculture project providing wheat for more than 200 children who are educated at the CFP school. As well, children have received immunisation against diseases as part of the health program.

Finally, in Nairobi in Kenya, the numbers of women involved in self-help groups involved in small businesses has increased to over 360, while a further 108 women have undergone additional skill improvement programs in the last year. So successful has this program been, Dorcas Creation is now offering the same program to children, with 55 now participating. With young people dropping out of school, 10 girls have been assisted to return to school.

Without the support of the Bright Futures family in providing these ‘cups of water’, these exciting stories could not be told. As Jesus rightly said, we are ‘surely rewarded’ in different ways for our efforts.

*Roger Bryson*

**ROGER BRYSON**  
Chair

## India: Bright Futures Team Visit

An enthusiastic Bright Futures team of thirteen people spent a delightful ten days in Bangalore and Mysore in India, and while they were there helped out in a variety of ways with Bright Futures’ partner group, the Bangalore City Mission (BCM). Shelley, a librarian did a brilliant job helping in the library at BCM’s Sinclairs High School while Brian, a retired school principal, spent significant time with staff and teachers providing encouragement and insights around curriculum and developing education practice. Yet others engaged with women in the vocational training groups while many of the group got out the rollers (paint rollers not hair rollers!) and worked alongside a team of Indian painters led by the ever smiling Kumar (pictured below). While language was a barrier, smiles and the use of single words and hand signs meant communication flowed unhindered. While working away with paint brush in hand, it was a delight to see the children moving about the school, going from class to class, often with “high fives” or an enthusiastic “hello sir” and to hear their eager chatter as they participated in class. This huge painting job, covering five levels of school building, is continuing on to completion thanks to the generosity of some Bright Futures donors. More than 600 children, mostly from poor village and quarry communities attend the school with growing numbers graduating each year. Since its humble beginnings in the early 90’s, thousands of children from poor backgrounds have benefitted from the life transforming education the school provides. The work of BCM spreads far beyond the school and into villages and communities with healthcare, vocational training, womens’ empowerment programs and so much more.



The Bright Futures India-Australia Painting Team



While visiting the BCM project, a number of the team had an opportunity to meet with the children they have been sponsoring. Deb Mugford, writes of her experience: “It was a great privilege to meet Divya and to see the impact that child sponsorship has had on her life and her family. She is the first in the family to receive an education.”



Village Pre-school Visit

## Northern Uganda: Lukodi Health Centre

Since its opening in January 2016, the Lukodi Health Centre, supported by Bright Futures and operated by our partner group, the Bishop Onono-Onweng Foundation, has significantly grown the range and reach of services provided to the community. A birthing unit has been established with around a dozen babies delivered each month and this is significantly contributing to survival rates. Many children and adults are also being treated each month for life threatening sicknesses.



Thanks to the generosity of Love in a Cup and The Road To Gulu Project, funds have been donated to sink a deep bore-well to service the Centre and a new education facility being built by LDF, a local charity. Recently a drilling team (pictured left) has been on site testing flow rates and readying for installation.



Lukodi Health Centre Nurse treats a young boy

**thankyou.**



You may be wondering why the Bright Futures “Gratitude” micro-store in DaCosta Arcade is stocking and selling Thankyou products. Well, we believe there are three really great reasons to do so:

**1. Thankyou products are life-changing with 100% of profit helping to end global poverty. We admire what Thankyou does.**

And, when you buy Thankyou products from our Gratitude store:

**2. All the profit Bright Futures makes goes to help lift people out of poverty through education, healthcare and development in communities of need in India, Kenya, Uganda and Pakistan.**

And, when you buy Thankyou products as a gift for family or friends:

**3. You are contributing to fighting poverty and simultaneously blessing someone you know and others you don’t.**

And, it doesn’t get much better than that!

To place an order or find out more call Paul on 0411 740 549

or email [paul.madden@brightfutures.com.au](mailto:paul.madden@brightfutures.com.au)



## Bright Futures Board & Projects Team

### BF Board Directors

Roger Bryson, Chair  
Philip Good  
Lee Haakmeester  
Carl Ginger  
Dr Don Van Cooten  
Sarah Spiker  
Fred Chilton  
Dr Lynton Stacey

### BF Executive Officer

Paul Madden - M 0411 740549

### BF Finance & Admin & Officer

Deb Mugford

### Bank Details

Bright Futures Australia – Overseas  
Aid Fund  
Westpac: BSB: 035-002 Acc: 392116

### BF Projects Team

Mudie Howarth	Barbara Madden
Kym Lear	Andy Farmer
Deb Mugford	Kelly Bunyon
John Day	Eleanor Day
Phil Bunyon	Vikki Booth
Brian Harris	Thandeka M
Roger Bryson	Lynton Stacey
Lee Haakmeester	Paul Madden
Gary Martin	Judy Howie

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**Auditors:** BDO