



SowHope Newsletter

"WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, LET ME SOW HOPE."
FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SPRING - 2007

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

Mission Statement:

"To inspire women around the world by promoting wellness, education, and economic opportunities."

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We're on the Web!
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SowHope is a 501(c)3
Nonprofit Organization

Keeping Up With the President

March and April were busy times for SowHope's president, Mary Dailey Brown. Mary spent four weeks in Africa and Europe meeting with men and women who share SowHope's goal of building a better future for all by empowering women to succeed and excel in life.



In Ethiopia, where the AIDS epidemic has been decimating thousands, Mary learned of a woman named Cherry who has opened a center called "Women at Risk" to provide assistance to women trapped in prostitution. She offers a shelter and job training for those who want out of the soul destroying sex trade and hospice care for the prostitutes who have become AIDS victims. Of the 150 former prostitutes who have graduated from this woman's highly successful program, only three have returned to the streets.

While visiting Lagos, the former capital and port city of Nigeria, Mary learned of a physician who, upon discovering the incredibly high rate of mortality among women with malaria, opened a clinic where she provides treatment at no cost. Mary was also privileged to meet with high ranking government officials who share her vision of **working with local leaders addressing local problems using local solutions** for improving the lives of women, their communities, society, and the world.



Mary returned to Gwangwa, Ethiopia, where she has been twice in the past seven years. While visiting a nearby medical clinic she was asked to address a group of pastors from the Guji tribe. After sharing the importance of honoring and caring for women, Mary challenged these influential, community leaders to share their power and authority with women in their lives in order to alleviate suffering and improve their regions as a whole.

Mary's visit to Gwangwa included a reunion with students she had come to know while leading a youth rally at the local church the first time she traveled to the region. On that trip, Mary encouraged these young people to work hard at their studies, follow their dreams, and to be leaders. On her second trip to Gwangwa a few years later, Mary met with these young people again and in asking them how they were and what they were doing, she discovered that they were all continuing their education with plans to be doctors, attorneys, business professionals, and church and community leaders. When Mary asked about the unusually high percentage of young people in the area pursuing higher education, they replied, "Mary, you told us we were the hope for the future of Ethiopia and we believed you. That is why we are all studying."

Helping others succeed is sometimes as simple as speaking words of affirmation and encouragement; often, it requires self-sacrifice and hard work. Clearly, helping others succeed always involves caring enough to do something. SowHope invites you to partner with them as we "do something" to sow hope in the lives of women in developing nations around the world. SowHope partners with reliable leaders at the local level to empower women through wellness, education and economic opportunities.

Please visit our website at www.sowhope.org to learn more about SowHope and to find out how you can be involved in helping the world's most disadvantaged women thrive and succeed.

Reflections on Africa

Here is what SowHope's president, Mary Dailey Brown had to say recently about her trip:

My travel to Africa was so exciting! I was able to see SowHope's vision of partnering with others to help women in desperate need personified in some of the individuals that I met. SowHope exists to inspire women around the world but, once again it was me who was incredibly inspired by the local leaders whom I met on this trip. Their circumstances are difficult and their lives are disadvantaged yet, by the strength of their character, they live sacrificially and have powerful impact as they seek to help those even more disadvantaged than themselves. It is gratifying and humbling to know that this is the caliber of SowHope's partners around the world. I'd like to share with you the story of one such woman so that in some small way, you can peer into her life and capture the vision that drives SowHope.



Sarah Maigari lives in the city of Jos, Nigeria. She is from a family of 10 children and was always a sick child, becoming fatherless at the age of eight. Throughout her growing up, her family lived under great burden and much difficulty. In spite of these barriers, and a disability which has followed her into adulthood, Sarah worked, studied, and persevered, eventually obtaining *three* post-graduate degrees in agriculture, technology, and administration. Her efforts in the educational arena have paid off for underprivileged women in her community because Sarah has decided to give back. She holds a job with the government and uses her salary to fund a training center which she operates out of an addition on her home in a very poor neighborhood. Here she teaches literacy classes and offers women the opportunity to learn skills like knitting, sewing, cooking, and computer so that they can be

empowered to provide for themselves and their families. In seven years, she has had over 150 graduates of her programs.

Her life challenges me. It inspires me. It motivates me to do all that I can to make the vision of SowHope alive in places like Sarah's home, to come alongside her and offer funding and encouragement so that she is able to carry on and expand her impact and influence in the lives of more and more women.

I hope that you are inspired too. We need you. Together we can link arms with Sarah and others like her to bring real, dynamic hope to women in desperate need. Looking into Sarah's life and seeing what she has overcome, the disability that she continues to contend with, and the self-sacrifice she is willing to make on behalf of women, my efforts pale in comparison. I can give so that the Sarah's of the world can do more. I hope you will join me.

Kudos to SowHope

From Margaret Etanirerc, Jos, Africa, March 2007.

Margaret is part of a group called "More Than a Mile Deep." She operates a small fabric shop in which she employs other women and had this response after Mary talked to her group about the work of SowHope and how to submit a proposal to us for funding.

"I see SowHope as a passionate organization; with passion for the less privileged women of the world. SowHope desires to reach poor women worldwide. They cannot do that all alone, reaching out to the poor women of the whole world, so they have to reach out to us to reach out to the women. Thus they are satisfied, their hope fulfilled, their desire met, and their vision revealed. *SowHope reaches out of its comfort zone to reach those in discomfort.* We hope that they will reach those they want to reach and that SowHope's aid to us will not be in vain. We desire to not fail them and hope to do all they wish to help us to do. We hope that SowHope will bring hope to the battered women in our communities, that SowHope will not die, and that SowHope will live from generation to generation for 50 years, 100 years, and even more."



Speaking Availability

Mary Dailey Brown, president of SowHope, is available to speak at conferences, group meetings, and seminars on topics such as: "Sharing SowHope," "Slavery, Human Trafficking and Oppression of Women in the World," "Cross-cultural Sensitivity in Leadership," "Effective Leadership That Makes a Difference," "Global Impact; Leadership of Women in the World," and "Why Improving the Lives of Women Improves the World." Mary is also available to give a travelogue on her recent trip to Africa.

If you would like more information about Mary's availability, dates, and honorarium for speaking to your group or organization, please contact her by phone at 616-433-1575 or by email at mary@sowhope.org.