

Strong Foundations

Romans 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

God can and does work in many ways. Most commonly he works with and through his people, inviting them to tell and show others the good news of Jesus: the Gospel. This good news is powerful, bringing hope and new life, saving people from a 'dead' life. It is exciting that God trusts us to share his good news! Our firm foundation is GOD working with, in and through us, his people.

In Isaiah 61:1-4, we read that God's salvation sets people free spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Have a look at the verses for yourself and divide the actions into 3 types: spiritual, emotional and physical.

Notice that it is the Spirit of the Lord (v1) working together with those who have been set free (v3). God calls these people 'oaks of righteousness'. This is a beautiful picture of God working together with his people to bring freedom and healing. God's aim is to restore all things. Where sin has ravaged our world and our lives, he wants to make things new and whole again.

As God's people, we must decide if we want to live as 'oaks of righteousness' in our community, partnering with God. As we do so, others will also be set free and planted alongside us. Together we will become a display of God's splendour. If we apply that to our villages, it means they will become places of safety, freedom and flourishing.

This is our firm foundation. God invites us to be part of his work to save people through the power of the gospel! The good news of Jesus will bring healing, justice and hope to our community.

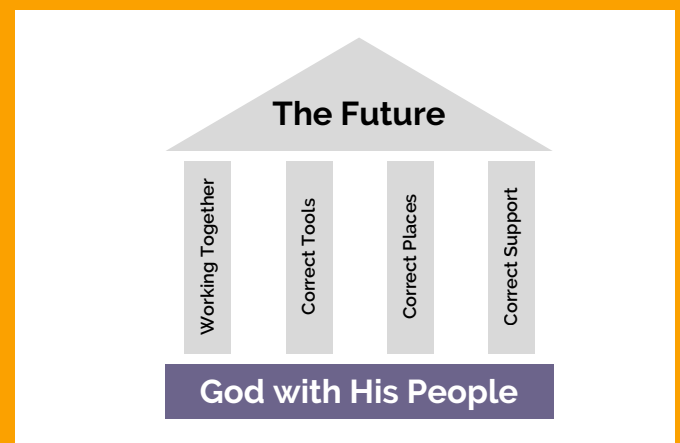
Yet God's intervention in our villages depends on our willingness to partner with him by sharing and showing the good news of Jesus to bring life to everyone.

Pray that:

- 1) God will show you his vision for your community.
- 2) Prayerfully read Isaiah 61:1-4 together. Invite God to highlight the line that is most important for your village right now. For example, he might highlight the broken-hearted, the poor, the prisoners or those who are mourning.
- 3) Ask him if there is a specific person or situation that he wants you to bring hope to.

Put it into Action:

Having heard God's voice, work together to partner with him. Thinking of the people group or person he has highlighted to you, find a way to reach out to them. Remember that God wants to set people free spiritually, emotionally, and physically.



"David* was a member of Kambali Life Group in his village, then he became sick. During this time of sickness his church never visited him, but his Life Group visited him and helped him until he died. People in this village thank God for having this Life Group which can show love and care for people even if they don't belong to one church. May the soul of our beloved brother David rest in peace."

- Testimony from Mpika, Zambia

Maybe you're asking:

Can God really work through anyone?

Read Isaiah 61:1-4 again and consider the kind of people that God says will become 'oaks of righteousness'.

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