Dear Partners in Ministry,

Looking around the world we see strife and chaos in many places. We hear of increased persecution of Christians in many places. In fact reports are that more people are under persecution for their faith, right now, than at any other time. In India our associates face eviction from rented property and even physical threats to them and their families. Their replies remain steadfast, “No matter any pressure on us we are going forward with the call God laid on our hearts. The Disciple Maker training is empowering people to follow Christ—it cannot stop now.”

From 3 John vs 6 our calling, “You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. For they went out for the sake of the name accepting nothing from the gentiles”, refers to the support of itinerant teachers/pastors.

By Equipping, Empowering and Engaging local indigenous leaders to reach their own people, we are fulfilling our calling, together with you as partners.

**Regional Life Conferences:**

**Lida and Beverly** are preparing for the 8 week trip to Zambia to train lay leader’s wives with the focus on preparing them to be effective Evangelist/mentors to new believers as they serve with their husbands. Culturally boys, who remain part of their father’s clan, thus part of their support system, get preference to go to school. That is why so many women do not have much education.

**Lydia & Mulenga Nkole** and **Joseph Phiri** organize the annual Regional Life Conferences. They are responsible for the follow up at local congregation level, they assist to implement the Disciple Maker Program in local communities.

Over 600 leaders’ wives are expected to attend the 15 Regional Conferences this summer. Nkole’s and Joseph are all seminary trained. Sponsors for them are required urgently—$400 per month is needed.

**Nongo Farms:**

The rains came and planting of corn and sunflower seeds was done—the plants soon appeared—and then the rain stopped. Under the scorching sun the young corn plants dried out and died. There was some hope for a crop as some of the sunflower plants survived. But then the rains came with such persistence that the sunflower crop did not fully develop either. With crop failure, this is going to be a hard year for many subsistence farmers & their families—many will even have to eat the seed for next year. We need your help to supply seed for the next season. Carl immediately focused on expanding the vegetable garden which he could irrigate during the dry times and because they were planted on ridges they were not affected during the water logged times.

To accomplish the goals of developing capacities of subsistence farmers, we need & appreciate your help.
Pastoral Training, India:
We continue to hear of increased persecution in India but also the reports from the field that our two families and their co-workers are safe so far. Praise the Lord. Either way, both Prabhu and Stephen have clearly demonstrated that they are willing to go on for Christ no matter the hardship. Despite threats of eviction from their properties and on the lives of their families, just because they are Christians, their resolve is strong.

Let's continue to partner with them in prayers and support for making disciples in India.

New classes are starting continuously. Personal lives are impacted through the relationships built with and through local pastoral students.

Zambia:
Making disciples is the heartbeat of HBM Zambia. Everyday new reports come in about the effectiveness of intentional Disciple Making. By God's grace, your prayers and support continues to grow the church in Zambia spiritually and numerically. Tutor sponsorships are urgently needed, $60 per month. Rev. Sakala in class with 3 disciples.

Democratic Republic of Congo:
The solution (to bring a small number of Congolese leaders to the Musenga Bible Training Center in Zambia) is bearing much fruit. We were compelled to do so because of difficulties to deliver the training inside the Congo. In fact we needed to buy a vehicle to increase the effectiveness of the program. Although we bought it when one became available, we need your help to reimburse the $9,200 into our General Account.

A short report on God's blessing follows:
• Praise God for a quick, but fruitful trip to the US by Allan in February and the overwhelming response to the need for training indigenous leaders in DRC.
• The Ilungas are established at Musenga Bible Training Center, and have started regularly hosting local and DRC pastors for discipleship and biblical instruction.
• The Lord is producing great fruit through the Disciple Maker Program. The foundational truths are being taught by our 10 trained indigenous mentor/tutors to the leading men and women of their congregation who are teaching others also. We're blessed to be able to equip these growing disciples with their own Bibles in Swahili and French. Hundreds of disciples were so equipped this year.
• The Ilungas are so thankful for prayers for Allan's recovery from a torn Achillies tendon and for partnering with HBM to provide a much needed ministry van to make trips to/from DRC.

As awareness of the availability of the training at Musenga grows more local churches/pastors are applying to enroll. We are excited to be able to serve the local community leaders while fulfilling our calling to the Congo church also.

Please note: We are providing a monthly prayer email to anybody who wants to be informed of Prayer Requests. All that is required is for you to send Lida an email requesting to be put on the Prayer Letter address list to:

lida@hbmin.org
Senior Leadership Training:
With our Regional and District Leaders carrying the responsibility of overseeing the training programs aimed at Pastor/Tutors in the rural areas, they need to be kept ahead of those they are training. The adage is true, “you cannot lead anyone beyond the point you have reached yourself”. Steve’s calling in Hope Builders Ministries is to grow the Tutor effectiveness. Together with Pastors Matthew (below, left) and Joseph (right), Steve will be presenting regional seminars to senior leaders.

These two men have served with HBM for decades, each as the Coordinator of a Partner Ministry – Joseph focusses on the South and Eastern parts of Zambia while Matthew concentrates on the central, northern and western parts.

The accountability structure in Zambia is completed with the addition of a co-leader from outside the country. Jeff (left) works closely with Pastor Matthew to ensure that all management aspects in Zambia, and representation of the work in the US, are kept up to date. David (right) does the same working with Rev. Joseph.

All these men have decades of faithful service in the Mission Field. We salute them as they continue to serve the Lord.

It is our privilege to support them with finances to cope with their growing tasks.

Zimbabwe:
Our three associates in service of the Lord are making great strides to reach people under very trying circumstances. Yet their message to us is one of hope and victory.

With the new President in place (after Mr. Mugabe was removed) we are looking to see whether the future, for Christians, is going to improve. Although they did not experience direct persecution, pressure on Pastors who “control people” remains a concern.

The requirement that a structure be erected on the land acquired has been met—the floor and roof are visible in this picture. Both the men are reporting on the fruitfulness of the Disciple Maker Program. Each of them is reaching out into regions around their city.

Please continue praying for them as getting their support to them does have some risk for them.

The Youth DMP under the leadership of our lady Evangelist is proving to be very effective. The connection between young students at school, their Christian teachers and parents is growing. The children are using the Picture Bibles we delivered to her to Disciple to peers and family. We are very excited about this project—other leaders are now also getting interested (often children are seen as “of lower importance” in church context, by leaders).

Apologies for using an older picture — it is difficult to communicate with her as the electricity and internet are not available most of the time.

Please pray and help us to find the support to extend this project into more schools in a restricted country.
Dignity Project: Caring for Widows and Orphans.

Wherever the Dignity Project is deployed it is done through the local church and under the supervision of the local pastor.

At each of the church based Dignity Projects the needs are great and growing as the groups served grow. As an example: the number of “classrooms” used for basic pre-school education are “under construction”. Roof sheets are imported and therefore expensive, as is the steel for windows and doors.

The vegetable gardens are doing well at most locations dependent upon water being available for irrigation by hand watering cans. The Picture Bibles distributed to them are being used well also. Until now we have not supplied any funds for their buildings, that is their local congregation’s contribution. However, we need to help with the roof covering to protect them from the sun and rain.

Simon and Sharon (his wife) will be the first project to be considered for such help as their faithfulness, zeal and effectiveness towards reaching the next generation with the Gospel of Christ is exemplary.

Supplying these needs for 4 locations together with plastic chairs and Picture Bibles we need $5,200 (smaller donations welcome—needs are prioritized).

Follow-up short-term mission trips are on schedule for later in the summer. We will be concentrating on serving the new pastors installed in Mbesa and another near Livingstone. Training local church members in 1-on-1 Evangelism to grow their congregations is the goal—so that they can be discipled, to, in turn, make more disciples of Jesus.

As the Ministry expands we are keenly aware of the importance of your participation.

Sincere prayers of blessing are our greeting to each of our partners,

Johan, Lida and the HBM team

Please pray with and for us as the summer travels, training opportunities and supplies are deployed. Our prayer is for a great harvest of souls to come in. Thank you again for your faithful, continued support.

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TOOLS:
Something as simple as a bicycle ($250 ea) changes the life of a Pastor/Trainer, multiplying his capacity to effectively carry the Gospel training out to hungry believers, by 12 to 20 times.

We repeat this request for help for funds to buy motorcycles to be used by District Leaders.
Our District Leader in Chipata, Zambia received his at the Graduation Ceremony last summer. District and Regional Leaders teach and oversee the quality of our work to Equip, Empower and Encourage students and Trainers.
$2,300 per motorcycle, 4 needed + 8 bicycles.