January 16, 2017

Dear Partners in Ministry

It is my privilege to bring this Annual Report to you, our valued supporters. With gratitude to God for both the revenue and expenditure sides of our Ministry, we are aware that it is through people that He accomplishes His purposes. After all, He did give us the promise that His “word will not return to Him without accomplishing that for which it was sent”.

To God be the Glory for the things He has done: (the chart and table show that Hope Builders was able to ensure that (at least) 90% of all your contributions are spent on Program activities)

- 12 Prisons are now served (6,000 people have come to faith)
- 17, 800 Bibles were distributed through the Disciple Maker Program
- 880 Pastoral Students graduated from their 3-year Diploma course
- 900 new students have been enrolled in the Pastoral Program
- The total number of students in training remains at around 6,700
- 4 Dignity project Orphan Programs are serving some 560 Orphans regularly
- 23,500 Picture Book Bibles were deployed in schools (Youth Disciples) in 5 countries
- The tractor and implements purchased has expanded the Dignity Project
- 40 subsistence farmers are in the Dignity project agricultural program
- Security wall and Well projects at Zambia Head Office completed
- Supplied 3 Motor cycles and 6 bicycles to itinerant Leaders in Africa
- In India we have two growth areas:
  o Andhra Pradesh - 1 Area leader, 42 District Leaders, 2000 pastors and 500 evangelists participating in HBM Disciple Making and leadership training representing 60,000 Christians
  o Telangana - 1 area leader, 26 District Leaders, 1000 pastors and 300 evangelists participating in HBM Disciple Making and leadership training representing 30,000 Christians

Devastating “images of doom” from all over the globe influenced many people to evaluate their own financial positions, resulting in a downturn in giving to Charitable organizations across the board. HBM was also hit by this downturn (unlike previous years where we were able to come very close to meeting our budgets).

Through practicing the Biblical Stewardship principles we teach, we were able to manage the process of balancing revenue with expenditure. HBM fortunately noticed the downward trend early enough to respond without getting into any crises. It was extremely encouraging to see all our leaders step up, acknowledging that God had called each of us into Ministry and that as such we had to find

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ways of “absorbing the shortfalls without curtailing the programs.” (The motivation is that we pray that the downward trend is short lived).

Despite the restrictions imposed by the difficulties we experienced Blaine and Anna, new colleagues facilitating the growth of our training in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were led to join our team. We welcomed them in August together with Allan Ilunga and family who will head the work up in DRC. Blaine will work at getting the resources raised for the project, while Allan will deploy the Pastoral and Disciple Maker Programs (DMP) in country. Political unrest has restricted travel and access to areas where we have been invited to start the DMP. Our prayers are focused on a peaceful environment so that we can serve the rural communities in DRC, as per our calling.

We draw your attention (also for prayer) to two sensitive areas in our Ministry a) The Prison Ministry (we are not allowed to publish any pictures taken in the prisons) is exciting as the depth of the Gospel impact is seen in the enthusiasm of released inmates who start Disciple Making training in their villages upon their return; b) In a country that is “closing to the Gospel” we setting mechanisms in place so our leaders can continue ministering and surviving when/if persecution should again become a reality.

Staff based in the US have reached out to donor churches/care groups with the DMP strategy, presenting our curriculum, to build missions awareness. Personal growth to maturity in Christ, just like in the mission field, has been observed in each case. Praise God for His faithfulness! We extend an open invitation to you to participate in this ministry outreach here at home – contact us for arrangements.

Sincerely

Johan Gous
President