It is my great pleasure to express deep gratitude to God and all our US donor partners who have made this report possible. The final numbers we bring to you at the end of a year do not always reflect all that happened on the Operational Field, but one sure takeaway this year is that it has been a tough but exciting year.

I would be in remiss of my duty if I did not express appreciation to every servant leader who sacrificed time and energy to Equip, Empower and Encourage the thousands of leaders in the bush who have not had the opportunity of being formally trained, but who do love Jesus with their entire heart, and desire to serve Him more effectively. Our calling to provide whatever these leaders need to make them effective in reaching their own people is taken very seriously. The answer to do so lies in activating Indigenous Leaders. The proof of success can really only be measured when CHANGED LIVES speak out for themselves. This unedited language quote (received in January 2018) from a student is precious to me, “My Name is Chison, Pastor in Katete Zambia. Before this Program, I did my Diploma with the Covenant College for Three years! But I want to admit that Hope Builders has changed my Spiritual Life and my understanding of the Word and Ministry. What I have learned from the Twelve Books, has helped me see myself and my error in handling Scriptures, which has caused my Church not grow Spiritually as well as numerically! I will hang on to this library as it has equip me. I have better understanding of the Bible than before, from seeing it as bunch of rules, now as Love story from God to Us! Which built my comfort and confidence in Jesus Christ! I thank God. I pray hard for the Supporting Partners, so that Hope Builders Program continues, here in Katete and Zambia at large. Pray for Us that the Lord will strengthen us. That we preach and reach many people with Word of Truth!”

Over the last 16 years Hope Builders has Equipped some 23,000 Pastoral students through the multiplying leadership mentoring action. Thank you for participating.
The intensified focus Hope Builders has put on disciple-making program (DMP) is bearing much fruit. Pastors trained by HBM are tasked to equip their congregational leaders so that they in turn can equip church members to become reproducing witnesses of what God has done in their lives. The DMP has grown exponentially as the majority of people in rural village communities have been ENGAGED in the Gospel of Jesus, by becoming witnesses of Jesus and mentoring family, peers and friends. The biggest need HBM has in this project is the means to print and supply the Bibles and literature. The pastoral training program will draw new students from the DMP graduates.

All the other projects flow out of our association with the congregational leader in the rural church and therefore our input in them go through the local church leadership.

**Youth DMP:** The pilot project to determine the impact of providing materials to youth leaders active in Christian activities in their schools has been more than successful. HBM facilitates the provision of a strategic plan to the school that joins the forces of Christian teachers, parents and youth leaders to the evangelism/disciple maker curriculum encouraging the youths to become witnesses for Christ on the campus and to inspire friends to participate in the mentored program. In this way leaders are produced who later on become the producers by mentoring their own disciples.

**Bibles for Disciples:** A Bible placed with Disciple Makers influence the lives of 20+ people on average. Investment in the Bible projects is an impactful way of fulfilling the Great Commission.

**Life Conferences:** Calls for the Conferences are coming in from every corner of the 4 of the 6 countries HBM works in. Empowering the wives of pastors (and pastors also) to play significant roles in equipping the women in the church has become such a high priority that indigenous leaders to head up the Conferences have been appointed. The majority of church members are women and for that reason alone the impact is huge.

**Dignity Project:** We are very happy to see that as the churches grow in knowledge of the Word, numbers and acceptance of their biblical role, the pressure of supporting widows is being taken up on an increasing level by the local churches themselves. This means that our ability to focus on supporting Orphans is increasing. Garden and chicken/egg projects attached to church orphanages provide most of the food needed for the orphans. HBM’s role is growing in the area of ensuring that the children have school supplies and uniforms. A good education can end the cycle of poverty.

At Nongo Farms training subsistence farmers to produce enough food to trade/sell is doing well. By training local small farmers to produce more food, raising their living standards, which allows churches to provide vulnerable people with food. Thereby opening hearts for the message of Christ. The community appreciates the various services brought to them.

As partners with you we thank you for your faithful support.

Johan Gous,  
President.  

PS. Enroll for the monthly email Prayer Letter at lida@hbmin.org.