



Rapidly Winning Communities for Christ through Indigenous Disciple Makers

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Over the last three months the lines from Fiddler on the Roof echoed through my mind as Hope Builders Ministries experienced “swings” in mood in the Mission Fields. **“On the one hand”** we are so blessed—**“on the other hand”** we are frustrated by the complete opposites between real needs of people and the difficult circumstances in which to perform our calling.

On the one hand, for which we are humbled and very grateful to God:

- not a single case of Covid-19 infection has been reported in either our team or our student bodies in any of the countries;
- Our Disciple Maker Program, (1 Disciple-Maker mentoring 3 disciples) involved only four people gathering (at distances of course) and was able to continue because the limits for groups meetings was 10 people;
- The hunger for learning more from God’s Word is so strong that neither trainers nor students hesitated for a moment to carry on. The Disciple Makers Equip (Bible training), Empower (practical outreach modelled by trainers) and Engage (sent out to reproduce what they have been taught) by serving their local community churches;
- The project of providing basic food for widows and orphans in the famine in southern Zambia/north Zimbabwe and getting good seed during the planting season has been successful. We provided 2 wells in vulnerable communities to enhance opportunities in these areas. Although no record harvests were reported, since the drought persisted for a long time, Churches were able to serve their most vulnerable members;



- Two container loads of Bibles were successfully delivered: one to the Makua Project in Mozambique (Portuguese) and in French to the Disciple Maker Program in DRC. Miraculously smooth operations.
- Funds to secure the Musenga Development Center in the Copperbelt area of Zambia came in and the down payment has been done. The follow-up annual payments due in the next 3 years are more manageable and hopefully will not coincide with another pandemic. Thank you to each and every donor who shouldered this burden and helped carry it over the finish line. We will revisit the annual payments again later;
- The Fellowship of Hope initiative launched in Illinois. This Disciple-Maker Program is drawing much attention and participants are loving it.
- Many prayers of our partners, team members and donors were answered during this quarter allowing us to do an incredible amount of field work despite the restrictive measures declared world-wide.

Join us in praising God for His glorious grace and mercy over Hope Builders’ partners!

PO Box 317, Greenwood, VA 22943 Tel: 434 964 1032 Cell. 434 825 7661

Website: www.hbmin.org

E-mail: johan@hbmin.org



On the other hand: We acknowledge that we live in a broken world with an enemy that is actively resisting God:

- The lockdown due to the declared Pandemic has affected the spread of the Gospel world-wide
 - suspension of all missionary trips, domestic and international, means that the itinerant portion of our “further training and oversight” cannot proceed as planned. We are keeping our eyes open for when the restrictions may be lifted and training seminars can again be presented;
 - food shortages are occurring and many in Africa and Asia, who exist on a hand to mouth basis, often do not have enough to feed their families. In one such instance a father (a longtime trainer and beloved pastor in Zambia) went fishing on his boat (a hollowed out tree trunk) to supplement their meagre food supply. We do not have any idea of what happened but his body was found and pronounced dead from drowning. This picture is of his funeral;



- Getting funds transferred to countries where the Bank system on both sides of the ocean are on “skeleton staff” has also proven to be problematic. In 1 case it took 3 submissions to get it done. This meant that during the lockdown our key trainers could not receive their funds to conduct the training groups on time and it caused much disruption because travel is very expensive. Gas, because it is imported and paid for in foreign currency, can cost up to \$8 per gallon.

- In Asia the survival situation is as dire, if not more so, since they do not grow as much of their staple foods on their properties. Churches were overwhelmed with requests for help (mostly in rural areas where HBM works) as the situation of famine worsened. Our leaders shared their own supplies and those they could garner from city churches they have contact with. Bringing the Gospel message of HOPE opens ministry opportunities—even as the government in India is increasingly moving the country towards a Hindu State, which means that Christian leaders are facing more resistance/persecution. (In an earlier newsletter we detailed some vicious attacks on Christians).

- Our US experiences are compelling in their own right:

- Our Prayer Letter is growing in two directions, people wanting to be on the Prayer team and others who are asking for prayers in their crises. We regularly intercede for our partners in Ministry—join us in this privilege!

- A number of our faithful donors who have lost their incomes have had to stop their support for workers in the field. We are in prayer for each of you and thank God for your faithful support in the past. We also beseech God for your income restoration and a settled life going forward.

- Our fund raisers have also not been able to set up or go on speaking trips to represent the field work being done. That, in turn, means that the growth in ministry costs cause increased pressure. **We need your help urgently!**

Here is a portion of a report from 1 of our leaders who could be prosecuted if his identity becomes known. He side-stepped the lockdown in answer to a call from a “Chief” for help: *“There are many Christians from various churches who migrated to the rural areas and are showing great interest in being properly disciplined. I guess the reality of the gospel of Christ is now dawning on their minds. I am looking forward to establishing family Disciple-making classes so that many may be turned into effective disciples of Jesus Christ.”*

This really humbles us because these leaders do such heroic deeds from personal conviction and resources. They are “warriors” in God’s army, going forward.

May the Lord bless and keep each Ministry partner in His favor, mercy and grace.

Johan, Lida & the HBM Team.

PO Box 317, Greenwood, VA 22943 Tel: 434 964 1032 Cell. 434 825 7661

Website: www.hbmin.org

E-mail: johan@hbmin.org



Commitment to
Transparency
Recognized by
Intelligent
Philanthropy

