

Building HOPE Report to Presbytery April 25, 2017

The Building HOPE campaign began over three years ago when we felt God calling us to step out in faith to expand our four ongoing ministries. Today, we are celebrating the ministry that Building HOPE has already initiated and giving thanks for the \$1,807,234 we received in pledges and gifts so far. This is ministry that we would not have been able to do without everyone's faithful support.

Money shall be raised over five years for the four ministries and used to: add much needed medical services and ongoing educational support to our mission in Malawi; to add university scholarships and other financial support for seminary students in Guatemala, as well as other educational initiatives; to upgrade programs, equipment and facilities at Camp Grier; and to provide leadership training, church development, and technological support for the congregations within the Presbytery.

The active solicitation phase of the campaign is now finished.

As of April 1, 2017, the total amount received in pledges and contributions totals \$1,807,234 and we believe there is more to come. We still have two foundation grant applications pending and continue to hear from individual donors and churches. We are in the process of receiving donations from one estate and encourage people to consider including Building HOPE in their estate planning.

Exciting things are already happening because Building HOPE funds are currently being used:

Guatemala Partnership

- Six young adults from our partnership are receiving university scholarships, giving them an opportunity most of their peers could not have dreamed.
- Seminarians and the seminaries are receiving support, thus providing future leadership for the church in Guatemala.
- Currently, libraries and "Reading Corners" are being established in four congregations in Suchi. These churches will soon be taking books into their communities and local parks, giving children the opportunity to read. Additional libraries and books will also be given to schools in the future.
- Teacher education and development is being planned for Sur Occidente.

Malawi Education and Hospital Support

- Presently at Nkhoma Hospital, a new mobile health unit is up and running between rural villages, improving preventive health by providing vaccinations, prenatal care and well-baby care.
- Money has been sent to procure additional medications -which are always in short supply.
- The May Malawi team will be updating two rural clinics, with the goal of providing electricity, running water, adequate staff housing, and effective hospital facilities.
- We are in conversation with the Ebenezer School about funding ways to strengthen the school of over 300 students in pre-kindergarten through 7th grade.

Camp Grier

- A second lodge will be completely renovated in time for summer campers, including refurbished rooms, larger bathrooms, porches, and deck.
- The trail making equipment is being utilized to add miles of trails for mountain bikes and horses.
- Equipment, such as white water canoes, continue to support the growing adventure program.
- Campers from PWNC receive a \$100 discount because of the contributions from Building HOPE.
- Building HOPE has already given \$110,000 to help the camp thrive and grow towards its vision for the future.

Vital Churches

- A Task Force will soon be working on plans for church development, 1001 worshipping communities, support for church growth, congregational transformation, and assisting congregations as they reach out to their neighbors in new ways.
- A second Task force will soon be proposing a plan to provide comprehensive education and on-going support for pastors and church leaders.

We are excited that we will be able to provide these new opportunities.

The Building HOPE active solicitation is complete. Now the Building HOPE Finance Committee will be meeting to talk with each of the four missions and to allocate the undesignated funds. A full report will be made available to the Presbytery.

Each ministry has its own application process. The leadership teams for Malawi, Guatemala and Camp Grier know the process. A leadership team is being established for the Vital Churches ministry to formulate a review process for proposed projects. Information outlining these organizational steps and the individuals involved is available on the Presbytery's website. All requests will ultimately need to be reviewed for approval by the Building HOPE Finance Committee.

Other than the money, what else has been accomplished by Building HOPE?

When the campaign was first envisioned, we wanted all churches to have an opportunity to participate and know that, by being part of the Presbytery, they are part of our mission and the Building HOPE ministry. We continue to affirm that we can do more together than separately. From its inception, we held to the principle that no congregation's operating or capital budget should be negatively affected by the efforts of the fund-raising campaign. As far as we can tell, that goal has been realized. Of additional importance, there was a goal to strengthen the ties among the congregations of the Presbytery, as well as between the churches and the Presbytery itself. Though difficult to measure, it is our impression that this has been accomplished, and these relationships continue to grow. Continued interaction and collaboration can foster exhilarating growth of mission and ministry in our Presbytery.

What should we expect from now on? Over the next five years, you will receive periodic updates by mail or email regarding the status of the campaign, the status of collections, and the ways in which the funds are being utilized. Every future Presbytery meeting will include a report

reviewing the campaign's progress to date. If, at any point, you would like more information, the Presbytery staff will be happy to provide the information or direct you to someone who can.

This campaign has always been about what we can do together. Thanks to all of you, and for your incredible support and generosity. We are now in the phase when the real "doing" begins - and we're doing that together! Thanks be to God.