

Planting Hope International

"Spreading the Gospel through improving agriculture, education, and health in developing countries"

Spring 2015

We ended 2014 strong, and we have sure hit the ground running in 2015! Our funding has remained steady over the past few years, and our overhead costs remain at 1-2% of our total budget. You can download our Annual Report from our website if you want more details on our 2014 activities. We continue to rely on volunteers to carry out God's work, and we continue to take on projects only if we have funds to complete them. We seem to get more requests for help each year, which means we spend more time making sure requests are legitimate, promote sustainability, and fit within our Mission Statement. Please see the projects below to see some of the neat things God is doing through this ministry!



Students we are funding in Tanzania.

Tanzania. Most of our recent work in Tanzania has been funding primary and secondary education for bright young kids. We have been funding kids through the Valenova Foundation in Ifakara, www.valenovafoundation.com, and we now maintain their website for them. We continue to require all students to provide a transcript of a prior semester so we can track their performance, and whenever possible we require their family to provide some funding. We also started funding students through a Swedish group, Help to Help (www.helptohelp.se). One advantage of working through this group is that they do all the legwork to check out students and transfer funds.

support Kirby Rogers' work in Laos. He works with a group of Laotians to establish agriculture-based businesses as missions to help local farmers and businessmen become self-sufficient, while spreading the Gospel. One exciting project we funded was the printing of Bibles that have English and Lao printed side by side. Lao and English speakers can then use this as they study God's Word together. We also picked up 2 feed extruders from Colorado that were donated by Freedom Equipment. These are valued at about \$40K each and will be an important part of the work in Laos as agricultural operations move

towards self-sufficiency. We also had a fun workday in February where we took down 5 grain bins in Abilene that will go to Laos, and maybe Zimbabwe. We will send a container to Laos later this year.



Extruders donated for Business as Mission work in Laos.



A student shows his carpentry skills!

Pakistan. We continue to pay rent for a sewing center that was started by Sam and Brittany Gill, who serve as missionaries in Pakistan. They use the sewing center to teach non-Christians that come there to learn a trade. They also preach and plant churches in this country where there are few Christians.

Kenya. We funded a training program in Kenya that taught ex-offenders trades such as mechanics, carpentry, and tailoring while incorporating Biblical principles. We received a very nice letter back from IcFEM, the group that ran the program. The program was very successful, and several people accepted Christ through this program. They are using the program to attempt to get the Kenyan government to fund a much larger program.

Zimbabwe. We continue to provide support to Eden Children's Village, and the broiler house we funded is almost completed! The last container we helped send arrived recently and we will likely help send another container this year. That container had bee-keeping equipment for ECV, and Marian and Bob Brandenburg are currently there setting it up. We are also excited that Rory and Jude Ervine from ECV will visit here in April, and your donations provided the funds for their airfare. They are Zimbabwean and he runs the farm while Jude is the nurse that runs the clinic. They are great folks and I hope you each get the chance to meet them while they are here!

Nepal. We have supported a couple of kids in Nepal, and we recently provided funds for a Bible Training Center there. We agreed to pay the startup costs for the Center, while Gloria Deo Baptist Church is providing the monthly costs. This is a neat project that will be run primarily by Nepalese Christians, with oversight and occasional teaching by folks at Gloria Deo.

Current Needs.

- **Agricultural needs:** We have requests from a group in Kenya to provide agricultural equipment for their shipment. We also need grain augers and larger grain bins for the work we support in Laos.
- **Educational needs:** We continue to get requests for tuition help from kids of all ages, including some in college. Depending on their school and age, cost is from \$50 to \$3000/yr. We continue to believe that this is a good way to have a long term impact in these countries.
- **Medical needs:** We hope to continue providing support to a clinic in Zimbabwe and providing funds for emergency medical needs in Tanzania. These needs run from \$100 to \$1000 depending on the medical situation.

We welcome your contributions as we reach the lost, feed the hungry, heal the hurting, and educate the next generation so their countries can be self-sufficient. 100% of donations are used for these projects.

For more information contact Floyd and Gayle Dowell
785-776-8523; plantinghope@yahoo.com;
www.PlantingHopeInternational.org

You can make a tax deductible contribution to Planting Hope International, 3310 Germann Drive, Manhattan, KS 66503

James 1:27, 2:18 "care for the orphans and widows . . . show your faith through your works"

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Recent picture of a tractor we sent to Eden Children's Village.