
Planting Hope International

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

Spring 2016

We ended 2015 strong, and we have started 2016 very busy! You can read our annual report on our website to see a summary of our 2015 projects and how we spent your donations. Our overhead remains at less than 1% and was covered by designated gifts so that all your donations go directly to projects. The little overhead we pay covers expenses like our website hosting, registration fees for our charity status, liability insurance, and newsletters. As always, we have no paid staff and no office overhead.

A few of our highlights from 2015 were helping send 40 ft containers of agricultural equipment and medical supplies to Zimbabwe and Laos, seeing several kids we support graduate from college in Africa, funding the completion of a medical clinic in Zimbabwe, and funding a solar power system for a church in Vanuatu.

Some of our recent activities are:



One of our recent college graduates

Educational Support. Many of the ~50 kids we support start new semesters in January and February. Thus, we spent a lot of time corresponding with current and new students and sending funds to those that meet our criteria. We require all kids to maintain C's or better in all classes, submit a receipt for the tuition paid for the previous semester, and whenever possible their family must contribute towards the cost. We hear many touching stories of kids wanting funds, but unfortunately we turn some down that don't meet our criteria. We continue to do all we can to make sure we use your donations wisely. The picture shows a recent graduate that now has a job and can help support her mother and siblings. Without your donations, she had little hope.

Agricultural Projects. In our last newsletter, we featured Rev. Gerald Martin who went to be with our Lord last November. We were honored that his family designated funds from his memorial be donated to this charity. As a result of those generous donations, we are now purchasing a tractor in his memory at Africa University in Zimbabwe where Gerald spent some time. The tractor will be stenciled with his name, and we hope to have pictures in our next newsletter.

Also, I was able to visit Laos in December to set up a portion of a feed testing lab for a Business as Missions (BAM) project there. We have sent many grain bins, mills, and grain handling equipment that is used to help farming operations become sustainable. The BAM model works with local farmers to produce grain that is then dried, made into feed, and then sold to local hog and chicken farmers. The Lao government is impressed with this BAM model, and they may support replicating this model throughout Laos. We also funded formatting and printing of a Lao/English Bible that is being distributed there.



Grain being sold from a grain drying project in Laos



Medical supplies shipped to Zimbabwe

Medical Projects. We purchased over \$10,000 in medications for the clinic at Eden Children's Village in Zimbabwe, and they arrived there in January. This is about a year's supply of medication for this clinic that serves not only the kids at the orphanage but many people from the surrounding communities. The Gospel is boldly being proclaimed to all that come for treatment.

Current Needs.

- **Agricultural needs:** We continue to collect grain storage and handling equipment for work in Laos. We may also start supporting a similar project in Kyrgyzstan. One unique role we may play is to help set up quality control labs in these developing countries so that they can insure they are producing and marketing a safe and wholesome product. Other missions are requesting help with irrigation, farming, and construction equipment. Specifically, one mission is needing a backhoe and/or a skid steer. Costs range from \$1,000 to \$50,000.
- **Educational needs:** We continue to get requests for tuition help from kids of all ages. Depending on their school and age, cost is from \$50 to \$3,000/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 sending a year's supply of medications to a clinic in Zimbabwe. This will cost about \$10,000. We also continue to help specific medical emergencies, and those needs run from \$100 to \$1,000 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
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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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Taking down grain bins to be shipped to Laos