BUILDING HOPE REPORT
APRIL 30, 2019

“We Can Do More Together Than We Can Separately”

The Mission Team is going to Malawi the day after Presbytery meets. **We will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of The Ebenezer School that was started by this Presbytery** with money from First Gastonia at the request of the hospital. Imagine the difference you have made in the lives of these children, who before were learning outside or sitting on the floor with another hundred children without books. Some 350 girls and boys are now studying in a Christian focused lighted classroom with desks, learning in English. (Imagine a child riding on the back of a bicycle for an hour from a village to attend school. Others walk because their parents are working at the hospital.) Think of the hopes of the parents of nurses, medical staff, and farmers for the future of their children.

You are making a difference in the lives of children. Some of you are supporting a scholarship of a child. I imagine one day a leader of Malawi will have attended Ebenezer.

When we started the school, there was a strong desire to be sure that the school continued to be an excellent school for the future. In Africa, often buildings are neglected. Building HOPE has set aside money for continuous maintenance so buildings will stay in good condition. Building HOPE cares about the future. We are in for the long term to support the children of Nkhoma. **We will celebrate the tenth anniversary of Ebenezer with the hope and plans that we will also celebrate the 15th and 25th anniversary, and so on.**

The Mission team will also have an opportunity to see the impact of the mobile health unit that brings medical care to people that live a long walking distance from the hospital. Because of your and others gifts, now nine rural health clinics, all but one, are ready for electricity. The one will have solar power. First comes electricity, and then the ability to get water to the clinics and staff houses. That’s one of Building HOPE’s next projects.

**Camp Grier is one of the strongest Christian Camps around.** You, through Building HOPE, have helped that be a reality by contributing. Lodges have been drastically improved with new interiors, porches, bathrooms and updated living space. One person thought they were brand new! Go to their website and smile when you see all the opportunities they provide their campers. How many camps have opportunities for white-water canoeing, a climbing wall and off-site rock climbing, houseback riding, swimming in a lake and pool, farming, goats, and the normal camping activities, with a Christian focus? You have provided Camp Grier $280,400 to use for updating lodges, buying equipment, and creating outstanding programs. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina and Building HOPE have been blessed to continue to partner with Camp Grier.
Because of Building HOPE, every camper from this Presbytery gets $100 off the cost of camping. Take advantage of that!

VITAL CHURCHES

Our vision as a Presbytery is to strengthen churches and equip disciples. We are looking at how the vital church funding can help.

The Celtic Spirituality Retreat that was supported by Building HOPE was fantastic, with almost one hundred people and pastors attending from all over the Presbytery. One of the objectives of Building HOPE was to provide spiritual and leadership training for pastors and members of the presbytery. This is just one way that funding has helped with this objective.

New “Water to Wine” grants have been given this quarter for outreach into the community. Marshall is envisioning that their facility can be used for the community in new ways, with the strongest being to help alleviate hunger. Dulatown will be hosting a weekly Wednesday coffee house to provide an opportunity to reach out to people who don’t come on Sunday, and to provide fellowship for members.

The GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP continues to benefit from Building HOPE. (See the report of the Guatemala Education Committee.) For me, one of the most exciting things is putting libraries in the schools and churches in Guatemala. We are not just putting books in places where children can read them, but they also are teaching teachers and parents how to help the children learn and love to read. In the schools, most days the children read for 30 minutes. Compare that to no time at all or only a few minutes. Wow! How blessed. In addition, Building HOPE is putting books in the churches for community use. There are six university scholars studying in the areas of education, business administration, law, music, and social work. The seminaries in the two presbyteries are being supported as well as seminarians. Dreams that the three presbyteries Education Task Force had are becoming a reality!
Bringing Vitality to our Congregations: BUILDING HOPE COMMITTEE REPORT
April 30, 2019

The Building HOPE Committee is pleased to report that the most recent financial statement for the committee discloses that we have a balance available for requests in our campaign donations for Building Vital Churches in the sum of $279,152!

The committee recently sent out invitations to committees of the presbytery inviting their ideas and comments on how to spend these monies for building vital churches, and we received input at a committee meeting on April 2, 2019.

The original brochure seeking donations described the Vital Churches Ministry as

OUR VISION Grow vital churches in our presbytery. By building on their strengths and growing in new ways, churches will be able to reach out to new people, build relationships and use the best modern technology. Churches can more effectively proclaim the Gospel in a rapidly changing society and boldly demonstrate God’s love.

PROJECTS were stated to include

* Strengthening congregations’ outreach in their communities, encouraging experimentation, reflecting changes in spiritual needs, and equipping congregations for meaningful work.

* Equip pastors and other church leaders to renew their personal and professional life. Workshops and educational opportunities for ministry and uniting leaders in mutual support systems.

* Engage congregations in the upgrading of their technology to make effective use of modern media and marketing technology.

Keeping our mission and representative projects in mind, we have received the following ideas from the Youth Committee, the Education Committee, the Mission Committee and others on how to expend Vital Church Initiative monies:

1. Fund youth gatherings to develop leadership and equip youth in the development of mission projects and to model projects.
2. Fund the development of youth who would act as technology consultants for churches needing assistance in developing their technology capability.
3. Fund a youth ministry forum at an overnight retreat where ideas will be exchanged on dynamic youth ministries.
4. Fund creation of regional cohorts who can advise local churches in their youth ministries.
5. Encourage churches financially to establish local missions, i.e., New Beginnings mission to the homeless.
6. Continue funding of pastor renewal retreats and enhance participation of pastors.
7. Upgrade presbytery website to improve communication with local churches on presbytery activities and programs.
8. Provide for a wider group of persons to receive emails from presbytery on a monthly calendar of upcoming presbytery events and opportunities.
9. Seek the input of smaller churches as to what assistance they might need for building vitality in their churches.
10. Study and implement ways we can increase enthusiasm for evangelism outreach in our churches.
11. Explore and implement ways for churches to better market and promote themselves.

As the Building HOPE Committee continues to explore ideas for building church vitality, we would encourage other committees, individual churches, especially smaller churches, and members of our Presbytery to offer their ideas on expending monies for building church vitality as our goal is to have the maximum input from all of our presbytery!

Let’s all join in building vitality in our congregations as we continue canoeing through the mountains!!!

Roger Rizk, Chair of Building HOPE Committee
### Building H.O.P.E. Financial Statement

**Health Care (Malawi) - Outdoor Adventures (Camp Grier) - Partnered Growth (Vital Churches) - Education (Guatemala)**

As of 3/31/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campaign</th>
<th>Ministry details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Pledged

- **$1,896,099.87**
- **$847,406.37**
- **$377,726.88**
- **$367,204.66**
- **$303,761.97**

#### Collected Pledges

- **$1,721,888.77**

#### Uncollected Pledges

- **$174,211.10**

#### Campaign Expenses

- **$105,694.92**

#### Ministry Utilization To Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Utilization</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>Malawi</th>
<th>Camp Grier</th>
<th>Vital Churches</th>
<th>Guatemala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care (Malawi)</td>
<td>$3,541.42</td>
<td>$3,541.42</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Adventures (Camp Grier)</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnered Growth (Vital Churches)</td>
<td>$11,449.23</td>
<td>$11,449.23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (Guatemala)</td>
<td>$3,406.17</td>
<td>$3,406.17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Ministry Utilization</td>
<td><strong>$544,153.12</strong></td>
<td><strong>$177,899.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$280,400.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,158.12</strong></td>
<td><strong>$58,696.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balance Available for Requests:** **$1,072,040.73**