Restoring Hope Ministries Update, February 2024

We thank God for your prayers and support of His work in Dungu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the surrounding area through RHM.

**Trauma-healing groups**

The Bible-based trauma-healing training in Dungu during the summer of 2022 has produced fruit over the last year and a half. Local church leaders have trained others in six neighboring cities where many have been traumatized by violence and poverty. In November 2023, a trauma-healing training session took place at the church in Durukpasi (25 miles north of Dungu) where 130 people attended. Thirty people pardoned their offenders and two couples, both church leaders, offered forgiveness and reconciled with one another.

Anglican Archbishop Samuel Peni from South Sudan drove 150 miles to meet with RHM leaders in Dungu to request more trauma-healing programs in his country where people continue to suffer trauma caused by unrest and local armed conflicts. He also expressed his desire to send students from South Sudan for theological studies at UBECA University.

Please pray for funds to advance the trauma healing ministry to include South Sudan.

**New medical clinic**

After some design updates, the new clinic plans are being completed for final pricing. We hope to start construction this year. Please continue to pray for God’s provision and direction for the oversight of the construction as well as all the materials and laborers needed.

**University Battison Espiror Central Africa (UBECA)**

Bagu Alobeyo, executive director for RHM, provided this report upon returning from Dungu in November 2023: “By His mercy, it was a joy to lead the second graduation of 10 students who completed their undergraduate studies at UBECA. We heard with thankfulness that all 15 students who graduated last year were immediately hired by local firms and have already contributed to the community's transformation. What a joy to have 11 students entering the first year of theological studies and more coming for the preparatory year! God continues to raise up future church leaders for ministry in the region. The construction of two classroom buildings is essential for government accreditation and the expansion of academic and community programs. We have raised only $2,000 out of the $120,000 needed. With it, we can begin making bricks for the building. Please consider giving to this project.”

**RHM annual fundraising bike tour**

We are blessed to be planning for the 10th annual bike tour this summer. The riders will leave Cornerstone on Sunday, July 28, after the March Street campus's first service and return on Saturday, August 3, before the evening service at Second Street. Signups will be open by the end of February. There will be the choice to ride shorter (30-35 miles) or longer (50-100 miles) routes each day like last year’s tour. The first night will be in Gettysburg where the church there will give riders a tour of the battle sites and provide both dinner and breakfast the next morning. Please pray that we can find the last two churches needed for housing the riders overnight. The route can’t be finalized until all churches are lined up.