



RHM Board Members:

Dirk Friend - Interim President
Pastor Bagudekia Alabayo - Executive Director
Bill Lambert - Treasurer
Kevin Johnson - Secretary

RHM Executive Team Members:

Pastor Tim Ackley
Steve Schetelich
Jim Funari

The LORD continues to graciously bless the endeavors of RHM and to meet its needs in miraculous ways. For clarity, In 2018, a local steering committee was organized to be the voice of the community for Restoring Hope Ministries/ Bâtissons l'Espoir. As you read this report, understand that RHM is our stateside team, while Bâtissons l'Espoir (House of Hope) is the Ministry name of RHM in Dungu. The steering committee is the African team that is overseeing on the ground in Dungu. RHM affirms and recognizes that this world needs a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Salvation is found in Him alone. He is the Grace-Giver, and Mercy-Giver, Who promises that ***"your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in."*** Isaiah 58:12

SUSTAIN Pillar: Partnerships we are pursuing

- ReachGlobal has confirmed that the RHM Mission Statement aligns with their mission statement.
- They have requested that Pastor Tim make a vision trip to their Kinshasa facility, to meet with Pastor Salenga. The cost would be borne by RHM not Reach Global.
- They have stated that partnership with us must happen, and we are working on developing what that partnership will look like as we meet with Jim Snyder, the head of Reachglobal.
- We are also looking into a possible partnership with the "Snyder Avenue South Philadelphia Church" and;
- "Hope 4 Congo": They are looking to develop a ministry similar to ours in the Congo. They have started a "publish-on-demand" business and would like us to get involved with them.

Agriculture:

- We now have 28 pigs and counting in our piggery. This growing source of revenue will take approximately 3-4 years to mature and begin yielding a profit for RHM.
- The farming of soybeans and sesame seeds yielded 3 tons of produce which were headed to the markets in the neighboring country of Uganda until Covid shut the border. Michel is trying to sell them in Dungu markets now.

Micro-Financing:

- 47 women were trained and received \$100 loans. All of them have completed their small business management training, and all have met their initial payments on the loan. Their living conditions are improving, and they are taking part in successful trauma healing groups.
- These 47 women include a total of 437 children and 25 husbands who are being helped by these loans.

RESTORE Pillar: *Trauma Healing Initiative*

- Dirk & Linda Friend are putting the finishing touches on a proposal that will eventually be submitted for financial backing to ABS, Stark Financial, ReachGlobal and others. This proposal will include:
 - Audio training for adults / training without the requirement of literacy
 - Trauma healing training
 - Establishment of a community of practice
- This initiative will also focus on children's trauma healing.
- Dirk & Linda are working with the RHM Executive Team to establish both a timeline and a budget.

TRAIN Pillar: *Education Status*

- UBECA is the University arm of RHM. Current enrollment is 54 students (down with COVID), with an expected 104 students next year.
- With funds lacking, RHM has shifted responsibility of sustaining and developing UBECA to the local leadership in Dungu, and they have accepted. They (Steering Committee in Dungu) asked that RHM would continue to ignite and implement projects under the 3 pillars, Restore, Train and Sustain. RHM agrees and is working to bolster these pillars.
- The Steering Committee has opted to keep the University opened using local resources.
- UBECA has applied for government grants with the Department of Education, but this can take several years to potentially receive.
- Areas of concern included the lack of a library, little access to internet services, and insufficient classrooms.

Update to our Internet Services:

- Our previous ISP, Mission Aviation Fellowship, was unable to supply bandwidth and maintenance in a reliable / timely manner, forcing us to look for another source.
- We have engaged a Nairobi/Kenya firm as our new ISP called 'Sunlight'. They have completed the installation of the new hardware as well as rewiring the service to the Solar Container and the Pavillion.

- The monthly cost of this new service is \$600, which is \$100 higher than our previous service. To offset this increase, B.E will offer to provide internet service to the local CECA-20 radio station as well as the Military Base just north of our property (MONUSCO). We also have the opportunity to become a distributor to other villages and towns in the local area. This will further reduce the internet expenses as well as giving us another source of income.
- We tested the internet service with Micheal, the Executive Assistant at B.E, and were pleased with the connectivity (both audio and video). Michael will now start working with I-Tech to get the Solar System back on the internet. I-Tech will then be able to resume monitoring the system remotely.

Financial Update:

- Current money in bank: \$17,592.00
- Projected monthly costs: \$2,000.00
- Status of debt to Cornerstone: \$19,000.00
- Need for a computer and QuickBooks software, with associated costs of approximately \$2K

2021 RHM Bike Tour:

- The RHM Bike Tour Marketing Team, Stacey Liberti & Kris Schetelich, in conjunction with Pastor Tim, have secured three underwriters who have agreed to fully fund the cost of the Bike Tour this year. We have set our financial goal this year to raise \$50K for medical equipment so that Dr. Emile will have the tools to conduct medical procedures he is now trained to do. Dr Emile graduated in December and is now in his residency. He will be returning to Dungu in August. With the generosity of the underwriters and additional large donors, the Bike Tour team is well on their way to reaching the \$50K goal.

Challenges we are facing:

- Currently it costs approximately \$2,000 / month to fund Batissons L'Espoir.
- The suffering in Dungu is vast, and the generational poverty is holding them in prison. Yet the church is alive and active and rejoicing in the mercy of God that He daily gives. Covid has been just one of many challenges in this difficult ministry.
- The RHM Exec Team is continuing to prayerfully search for additional experienced men and women to expand both the Executive Team as well as the RHM Board. Please pray that God will lead us to the individuals He is preparing, for the sake of the suffering people of Dungu, DRC.

Joyfully submitted,

Restoring Hope Ministries Team-May 2021 Report

“And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6