



The Sower's Hands

Newsletter by Hope Seeds

A Quarterly Publication For Our Faithful Patrons

"Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves. A cord of
three strands is not quickly broken."
Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

Developing the Three Strand Cord Approach 8-1-19

-David Balsbaugh, CEO, Hope Seeds, Inc

This is an exciting time of growth and change at **Hope Seeds!** But even as we develop as an organization, we also realize that in order to be effective stewards of the resources entrusted to our care, it is important to develop strategic partnerships. These connections, which combine time, talents, and resources, are crucial for **Hope Seeds** to have a greater impact on those we serve. And so, **Hope Seeds** continues to develop partnerships, with the idea in mind that two are better than one, especially with **Jesus** at our core. Working together *empowers* the Church to be built! Here are a few examples of **Hope Seeds** partnerships that reflect the Three Strand Cord approach.



Healing Hands International/ Hope Seeds/ Chapin Living Waters

In March of 2019, Cyclone Idai, followed shortly by category 4 Cyclone Kenneth, brought torrential rains, winds, mudslides, and flooding, causing devastation to an extremely vulnerable area of Eastern/ Southern Africa, and affecting millions of children and families in the countries of

Malawi, Africa



Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Many families were displaced from their homes making it very difficult to obtain the basics of life such as food, water, and shelter. Crops were destroyed and livelihoods devastated. Working alongside **Healing Hands International, Hope Seeds** and **Chapin Living Waters** formed a strategic partnership to restore hope by providing open pollinated seeds, specifically selected to grow in the tropics, and simple irrigation equipment designed for harsh conditions. A thousand families have been selected to receive family seed packets with the *Message of Hope*, irrigation kits, and training in sustainable farming practices to help them begin rebuilding their lives.



Psalm139LOVE/ Hope Seeds/ Chapin Living Waters

Although **Psalm139LOVE** has only existed since 2015, this organization with its great enthusiasm is having a tremendous impact in Haiti. This year,



Psalm139LOVE, Hope Seeds, and Chapin Living Waters combined efforts to hold the first ever seminar in the new training center on the campus of **Psalm139LOVE** in Pignon, Haiti. Topics such as drip irrigation, crop rotation, raising chickens, organizing community garden efforts, and seed saving were taught. Forty people were invited to receive the *Message of Hope*, drip irrigation kits, a family pack of 10 seed varieties, and *empowering* knowledge. **Hope Seed's** own agronomist in Haiti, Josias J. Romeus, was one of the featured presenters. Josias, who has years of experience serving with **Hope Seeds**, is having a positive impact in many areas of Haiti.

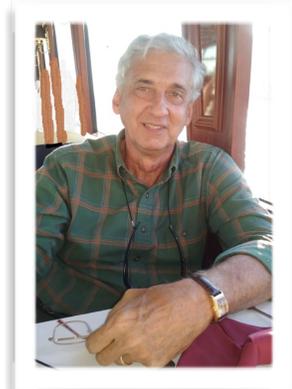


Love A Child/ Hope Seeds/ Chapin Living Waters

Hope Seeds and **Chapin Living Waters** have teamed up with **Love A Child** and their sustainability program in Haiti. Working hand in hand with **Love A Child's** Agriculture Training Center, now referred to as the **ATC**, we have been working diligently with our valued partners this year to combat the ongoing drought that has affected so many people in Haiti. Over 6,000 family packs of seed (60,000+ individual seed packets), along with the *Message of Hope*, have been sent to support one of our largest outreach partners. Not only do graduates of the ATC receive seed and irrigation kits upon completion of their training, but 88 other organizations and ministries that are recipients of **Love A Child's** food distribution ministry, are also given seed packets to share within their own ministries throughout Haiti. **Love A Child** has shared with us that more than 56,000 people have been impacted by the availability of Hope Seeds through Love A Child and that our seeds, along with the *Message of Hope*, are one of their most crucial evangelistic tools for sharing the love of Christ!

Hope Seeds – Progress on Strategic Plan Steps 7/21/19

-Dwight Shackelford, Board Chair,
Hope Seeds, Inc.



As Chair of the Board of Directors, I'd like to provide another report on progress regarding implementation of the Hope Seeds strategic plan. So far, 2019 has proven to be an important and eventful year in putting the work of Hope Seeds on a sustainable path for serving hungry neighbors worldwide for many years to come.

Leadership Transition- After welcoming aboard David Balsbaugh as the new Executive Director of Hope Seeds this past February, I'm pleased to report that he has hit the ground running at top speed. During these past five months he has faithfully kept seed shipments moving out the door, connected with both existing and possible new ministry partners, met with volunteers and donors in MO, FL, TN and NC, and directed the adoption of revised office operations and financial practices. We are so very blessed and pleased to have Dave as our first full-time Executive Director of Hope Seeds. He is turning out to be everything we had hoped for in terms of charting future directions for the ministry.

I note that Hope Seeds co-founder Mike Mueller has now completed his term as Director Emeritus. Appreciation is due to Mike and his wife Jean for their long service to the ministry, and we want to recognize Mike for his foresight in recruiting David last year and for the assistance he provided during the leadership transition. We understand Mike will now be able to devote more time to his interests in vegetable seed development and heirloom variety preservation. It is important to clarify that Hope Seeds does not have a specific relationship with Mike's new seed development endeavor, Day 3 Seeds.



**Hope Seeds
for Souls
EAST AFRICA**



Mary Pifwa
Widow's Seed
Participant

Staffing and Facilities - I am also pleased to report that Maxine Balsbaugh has recently been appointed as Office Manager for Hope Seeds. In this role, she will be managing office operations at the Hope Seeds headquarters location in Bradenton, FL, including handling of financial and communication activities. Maxine is also supporting seed packing and shipping operations. We look forward to the energy and creativity Maxine has already begun to demonstrate in her contributions.

For some time, the Board has been interested in optimizing facilities to best support both the current and future work of Hope Seeds. Based on a recently completed evaluation by Executive Director Dave Balsbaugh, the Board has decided to move forward with consolidation of operations around our FL headquarters, site of Hope Seeds founding some 20 years ago. Since late 2010, Hope Seeds had operated both a main office in Bradenton, FL, as well as a secondary office and seed storage "Show-Me" campus in Bertrand, MO. Dave's assessment revealed that, while the MO campus was useful as a seed storage location for Hope Seeds and as a commercial greenhouse for the Mueller family business, the vision of utilizing the Bertrand site as a worldwide training center had not materialized despite significant investments and volunteer efforts. As a result, we are now moving forward with sale of the Bertrand property while exploring options for expanding our existing headquarters location in FL to accommodate future seed storage and training needs. While we are not maintaining a second office in Bertrand, which may be a disappointment to our dear supporters in the MO region, please rest assured we are not abandoning you! In fact, Hope Seeds will continue to organize seed packing activities at a number of local churches, and we thank former Board member, Luella Franke, for serving as a regional coordinator for these important efforts.

Plant A Seed! Feed A Soul!

Update from Hope Seeds for Souls East Africa (HS4SEA)

Let us introduce to you Mary Pifwa, one of the widows participating in **HS4SEA** program **Widow's Seed**, from the village of Kigezi in the mid-western region of Uganda. Mary has 10 dependents for whom she provides love and care. She grew up as a farmer's daughter in a large family growing beans, maize, coffee, and potatoes. Mary is very active in her community and is the chairperson of the village's seed saving group called Kiwolera Visira. One of the challenges she has faced is retaining good quality seed. She depends upon a good harvest to supply food for her family and sells some produce for income in order to pay school fees for her children. Thank you Raymond Kaija (**HS4SEA** Director) for your partnership with **Hope Seeds**, and a special thanks to our many supporters of **Widow's Seed** for empowering Mary, and others like her, with education and quality seeds, and for making our friendship with Mary possible.

Seed Shipment Report

2019 Year to Date

Hope Seeds has shipped:

170,700 seed packets

\$512,100 US value

11 Nations

30 Ministries

19,704 Messages of Hope!!!





THANK YOU DONORS!

SeedX2 was a great success!

Thanks to your generosity, the recent SeedX2 matching gift campaign in honor of *Hope Seeds 20th Anniversary* brought in \$29,647.17, far surpassing the goal! We ask that you continue to give to Hope Seeds as God directs so we can continue to plant seeds of Hope around the world. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Ways you can support Hope Seeds

- **Monthly support** is vital to our ministry and a great source of encouragement. We can offer envelopes to assist your giving, or we can establish a secure monthly transaction online. Your financial institution may also offer services to send your recurring gifts automatically to Hope Seeds.
- **Leave a Legacy**- Share your faithful support of Hope Seeds with your children and grandchildren so they can continue following your example. Consider making Hope Seeds a part of your estate planning and include Hope Seeds in your will. Our tax number is 65-0911582 and should be included on all legal documents.
- **Has God blessed you?** Consider making a *special gift* to Hope Seeds that will allow us to help more missionaries with seed and materials.
- **Shop through AmazonSmile** and select Hope Seeds as your charity
- If you are a Thrivent Financial member, you may be eligible to **direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Hope Seeds. Call 1-800-847-4836, and ask for Thrivent Choice®.



Gifts of Seed!

Thank you to the individuals who made these meaningful tributes for their loved ones.



In Honor of:

- ♥ Donald & Ruth Telle's 65th Anniversary
- ♥ Gene & Leola Bock's 50th Anniversary
- ♥ Community Church at Sun-N-Fun Families
- ♥ The Balsbaugh Family
- ♥ David Balsbaugh's Birthday
- ♥ Kathleen Engelhardt's Birthday
- ♥ Victor Engelhardt, a very special dad on Father's Day
- ♥ Clyde Kasten's Birthday
- ♥ Rev. Paul & Diane Winningham's 40th Anniversary
- ♥ Ralph & Jill Hoehne's Anniversary
- ♥ Joyce Rupp's Birthday
- ♥ Merle Rupp's Birthday
- ♥ Megan Balsbaugh's 21st Birthday
- ♥ Bob & Cyndi Marquardt's Anniversary
- ♥ Lori & Kelly Skalbeck's Anniversary
- ♥ Kristin & John Gilbert's Anniversary
- ♥ Amy & Bruce Pabst's Anniversary
- ♥ David & Paula Orr's Anniversary
- ♥ Victor Engelhardt's Birthday
- ♥ Karen Pabst's Birthday
- ♥ Mike & Ann Wade's 50th Anniversary

In Memory of:

- ♥ Ray Schreiner
- ♥ Kathy Roth
- ♥ Millie Dost
- ♥ Lois Weis
- ♥ John Craft
- ♥ Rev. Robert Brockhoff
- ♥ Shirley Simonson
- ♥ Louis Herring
- ♥ Mrs. Loide Bahr



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**Plant A Seed!
Feed A Soul!**



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