



August 1, 2020

## Greetings!

In May, I sent out an email to keep you abreast of the distribution of funds for food for CY2020 and for the deep appreciation shared by the saints in Zimbabwe. This is an update on Open Heart Helping Hands (OH3) benevolence since then and the continued need for prayers and assistance for our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe.

Since my last letter, OH3 has been able to make four money transfers to Zimbabwe which has blessed 375 Christian families with needed food. I want to emphasize that this would NOT be possible without the compassion and donations from EACH of you. Your generous support truly has made a difference in many needy brethren's lives! Thank you and may our Lord bless you for your prayers and support.

## How OH3 Operates

To give you some insight into OH3 operations, I want to reiterate that none of your donation is used to compensate anyone on the OH3 staff which are all volunteers. The OH3 focus is exclusively on emergency food support for saints in Zimbabwe although we occasionally get requests for preacher support or medical assistance which we decline. We only accept donations from generous, compassionate individuals. As you will see later in this letter, OH3 outlays fall into 3 categories: (1) Transfers for food purchases and distribution, (2) wire fees, and (3) banking and legal compliance fees. Due to the widespread need, OH3 usually provides relief for 1 month at a time to help the largest number of saints possible. Funds are sent to vetted Zimbabwe preachers who purchase the food and make distribution to the saints. At the time funds are sent, the receiving preacher and at least one other local man are notified as a safety precaution. After distribution, vetted preachers supply OH3 with purchase receipts and pictures of the families that were helped. (Some of the pictures received are included at the end of this letter.) If receipts/pictures are not forthcoming, the vetted preacher is dropped from the list. If you would like to know more about our vetting process, feel free to email me at [oh3forstarvingsaints@gmail.com](mailto:oh3forstarvingsaints@gmail.com). Please include your phone number so I can call you and answer any questions on the spot.

## About Wire Fees

OH3 prefers donations via check or a "regular" bank transfer via PayPal. PayPal does not deduct a fee for a "regular" transfer to OH3 made using a bank account whereas



they do deduct a fee for an “instant” transfer or where a credit card is used for payment. (The highest PayPal fee for a single transaction in 2020 has been \$30.29.) Please know that OH3 gives you credit for your full donation whether PayPal charges a fee or not.

Zimbabwe is a tough place to send money to. Some wire services don’t even do transfers to Zimbabwe, and the ones that do have a number of unpublished triggers that result in random refusals to transmit funds. It has sometimes taken us days to get a transfer through. OH3 is now using World Remit that charges ~\$50 vs Western Union’s ~\$115 for a comparable transaction

A summary of the cash transfers made since the last newsletter is shown below:

**Zimbabwe Money Transfer Summary:**

Date Sent	Requestor	Location Helped	#FAMILIES HELPED	Amount	Tracking Number
31-May-20	<b>Silence Chiramba</b>	Masvingo area	Test	\$10	wr63194821
31-May-20	<b>Silence Chiramba</b>	Masvingo area	86	\$1,700	wr63236356
5-Jun-20	<b>Mahburi Betera</b>	Zikani church	75	\$1,770	wr63699367
8-Jun-20	<b>Farai Chingondi</b>	Nyamakate, Mutoko, Mupfure, Mahusekwa	139	\$2,290	wr63967008
24-Jul-20	<b>Mahburi Betera</b>	Zikani church	75	\$1,770	wr67797861

Depending upon family size and circumstances, OH3 usually provides a small family 20 kilograms (2.2# per kg) of Mielie-meal, and 1 liter of oil (1 qt roughly = 1 liter) and 1 kilogram of beans. Sometimes these amounts are doubled depending on availability of funds. Here is an accounting of OH3 funding:

**OH3 Account Cashflow**

19 May Balance	\$3702.45
Donations	6775.00
Transfers to ZBW	7540.00
Wire Fees	110.23
Bank & Legal	3.00
31 July Balance	\$2827.22



### Outstanding Food Requests

**Request from Silence Chiramba (Masvingo District, ZBW)**

**25 Jul**

“We now have 92 families from Mushandike and Matihwa. Mealie meal 20kg costs \$12; Cooking oil 3.50; Beans \$2. Each family needs 20kg mealie meal, beans and oil. Transportation \$200. This will relief them. The purpose for request is that this year we didn't have good harvest, some are in worst conditions and they require food immediately. Many people go for 1 meal a day, yet they have children needs balance diet but the situation force them to have one meal a day. Others are on medication yet pills need food. Our request to you will be monthly due to our condition of serious drought in our country. rivers and wells getting dry.” Amount needed- \$1810 for one month. Requested 2 months.



Food Distribution at Matihwa church of Christ





Food Distribution at Mushandike church of Christ

**Request from Moses Mukwada (Betera, ZBW)**

**26 Jul**

“OH3, We greet you in the Mighty name of Jesus. We continually lay before you the situation, which the brethren at Betera church are going through and we keep thanking you for your support. Economic hardships are at a climax as inflation rates continue to go very high. Poverty is ravaging our members and the situation is bad. Food insecurity is at a peak and this has even eroded the health of our members due to poor nutrition. Drought has also done complete damage to food security and the ills of Covid 19 have worsened the plight of our members. We continue to depend on your generosity for the livelihood of our members. The government drought relief scheme is not operational and there continues to be no other source of help other than you. Basing on the negotiations which I did with the Grain Marketing Board of Zimbabwe government yesterday we have been allowed to purchase at a discounted promotional price of US\$16 per bag and when the money is available, we can get the opportunity to purchase from there. Betera Church as of now has seventy-one (71) members. As usual, each family needs 40 kgs @ US\$ 16 each. That is 71 families x US\$ 16 =US\$1 136 by two months. The Total is US\$2 272. That will cover July & August. **Please note that in June we did not ask for the help since the money you send us in April has extended for 3 months**



As usual again, for the sake of transparency and accountability, we request that any help should be copied to the below emails:

1. Moses Mukwada. mosesmukw@gmail.com
2. Betera Church of Christ. beterachurchofchrist@gmail.com
3. Tinaye Betera tinayebetera@gmail.com



Food Distribution at Betera church of Christ

**Request from Farai Chingondi (Mukosa & Chapinduka, ZBW) 25 Jul**

“I will be needing help for 25 families at Mukosa and 23 Chapinduka in Mount Darwin They need 20 kgs x 48; 2kgs Beans x 48; 2 liters cooking oil x 48”. This comes to \$993.20 for one month with transportation. Two months are requested.

Farai also shared that “Mahusekwa and Mupfure have 135 families and they do not need mealie meal. We have a sharing program those who had a better harvest brought maize and we shared with those who had no harvest so they are covered on maize meal.”





Food Distribution at Mahusekwa church of Christ



Food Distribution at Nyamakate church of Christ (social distanced)

### Other Distributions

Pictures of the recent distribution of food to the Zikani church of Christ are shown below. There is no outstanding food request for that church at this time





Food Distribution at Zikani church of Christ



Food Distribution at Zikani church of Christ

Hopefully, these pictures show you the gratitude of our Zimbabwe brethren. The President of Zimbabwe just declared that the country remains on lockdown because of



the virus. Normally, many of our brethren work day jobs, earning just enough to buy their daily food. Today, many are not able to work, and others are confined without food. This makes the food situation much worse. Also, the government has decided at this time to raise the price of basic staples, making them unaffordable for most people. I wish I could report that there is no need, but unfortunately, the situation is not good for our Zimbabwe brethren. Please pray for them to draw closer to God and to remain faithful. Please pray for the lockdown to be lifted so that they can work; pray for needed rain for their crops; and pray for their spiritual and physical protection.

I realize that times are tough for many Americans. Many cannot donate funds at this time. Please know that your prayers are deeply appreciated. We are striving to be good stewards of your contributions. We have received pictures of receipts for purchases. We send to trusted brethren who have a love for helping their spiritual family.

At this point, our bank account has \$2827.22. Your continued help would mean so much to the needy brethren in Zimbabwe. Thank you so very much for your continued interest, sacrificial love, merciful benevolence, and prayers.

Ways of donating:

By mail:

Open Heart Helping Hands  
P.O. Box 341514  
Tampa, Fl. 33694

By PayPal:

Send to: [oh3forstarvingsaints@gmail.com](mailto:oh3forstarvingsaints@gmail.com)

Finally, OH3 is a 501(c)3 charity. Your donations are tax deductible, and I am happy to send an annual verification letter for tax purposes on request. Please keep us up to date with your email address, so we can continue sending these reports to you. Please feel free to email [oh3forstarvingsaints@gmail.com](mailto:oh3forstarvingsaints@gmail.com) if you have any questions or suggestions on how we can serve you and our Zimbabwe brethren better.

Again, thank you very much for your prayers and support!

Jeanne Sullivan  
Treasurer