

Issue 67: **SPRING 2021**



**Matching Fund Opportunity**  
See Back Page to learn how you can  
**Be the One to Bring Hope to the Hungry!**

## Where Do We Focus Our Work?

- **David Balsbaugh, CEO**

Have you ever heard of **subsistence living**? By definition, this term refers to individuals or families throughout the world who grow their own food to meet their daily needs. Most of their day is spent caring for their crops, fetching water, gathering firewood, and laboring on other basic survival tasks. According to the World Food Bank, at least 50% of the world's population today, 3.4 billion people, struggle to meet basic daily needs, earning less than \$5.50 US per day. Of these, nearly 1.9 billion people, or about 26% of the population, live on less than \$3.20 US per day. Even though these numbers are alarming, great strides have been made since the 1980's when the percentage of people living subsistence lives was 70%, but there is still a long way to go.

**Subsistence living** not only includes farmers living in rural areas, but also includes urban dwellers who depend on growing food and

finding ways of earning additional income in limited space.



Now, where do the majority of those living a subsistence lifestyle live? Have you heard of the **10/40 window**? This is an area that refers to those regions of the eastern hemisphere, plus the European and African part of the western hemisphere, located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator, a general



area that was purported to have the highest level of socioeconomic challenges along with the least access to the Christian message and Christian resources on the planet.



Understanding this, the focus of **Hope Seeds** becomes clearer. We also include areas of the Caribbean, such as Haiti, the Dominican Republic, The Bahamas, and Cuba, along with Central American countries, such as Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras, which face similar conditions.

Next, consider the daily average income for most of these areas compared with the average cost of a packet of seed. In many countries that cost can range from \$1.50 to \$3.50 US per packet (remember, the average person lives on \$3.20-\$5.50 US/day), and if seeds are available, depending on location, much of the time they are old and past their viability. So, it can cost up to a day's wages to buy a packet of seed that may or may not be good, but through Hope Seeds, recipients are receiving quality seed at no cost!

Finally, when we consider that most of those subject to **subsistence living** are also located in parts of the world with the least access to the message of Christ's love, where many are considered **unreached** or **unengaged** people groups, this narrows down our target area considerably. Our goal is to reach as many individuals and communities with the gospel message as possible, and we do this in a tangible way, not only with **The Message of Hope**, but also by sharing **life-saving seeds** and **sustainable garden techniques** that bring so much hope.

### What's New this Year in Seeds?

**Amaranth!!!** has been added to our list of highly nutritional plants to help better improve health for those we serve. Both the content of nutrients in amaranth grains and leaves are very nutritious. The leaves are exceptionally

high in **vitamin C**, **iron**, **carotene**, **calcium**, **folic acid**, and **protein**. There have been reports from UNDP that the incidence of childhood blindness has been greatly reduced when amaranth is included in the daily diet of children. Not only does amaranth have great health benefits, it's also very drought resistant which makes this plant ideal for many warm/dry areas where we send seed. Amaranth is truly a miracle plant!



### Life-Saving Seeds on their way to South Sudan!

**Hope Seeds** is now partnering with **ACROSS**, a ministry in the Republic of South Sudan.



Understanding Hope Seeds' strategic areas of concern, South Sudan is an important area for Hope Seeds to focus our ministry. According to the World Food Bank, the **Republic of South Sudan** became the **world's newest nation** and **Africa's 55th country** on July 9, 2011. Renewed conflicts in December 2013 and again in 2016 have undermined the development gains achieved since South Sudan became independent and have worsened the humanitarian situation.



The formation of a national unity government in February 2020 provided for a positive outlook. Nonetheless, subsequent shocks that included flooding in parts of the country, locust infestation, and COVID-19 have changed the outlook. South Sudan remains in a serious humanitarian crisis due to the cumulative effects of years of conflict which have destroyed people's livelihoods. Extreme levels of acute food insecurity persist across the country leaving nearly 7.5 million (more than half of the population) in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2020. Almost 4 million people remain displaced by the humanitarian crisis, with nearly 1.6 million people displaced internally and some 2.26 million from South Sudan living as refugees in six neighboring countries. Women and children continue to be the most affected.

However, despite the hardships, missionaries like Carol Ward with **Favor International** and the Janzens with **ACROSS** have stayed the course through very difficult and dangerous times to bring the hope of Jesus to so many. As of the first of March, enough **seeds**, **training materials**, and **The Message of Hope** for the first 500 families were on the way to South Sudan to help share the good news of Jesus and equip many to feed their families. Let's pray for the effort of all who serve on the front lines and for **Hope Seeds** that we can work diligently to provide the necessary support for those we serve.



## Opportunities to Serve

Are you looking for ways to have a lasting and **eternal impact**? **Hope Seeds** is looking for help and you may **Be the One** who can make the difference. Hope Seeds' outreach continues to grow as needs around the world, and also in our own nation, continue to grow. We currently have close to **800 volunteers packing seed** and **assisting the ministry**. Last year we logged over **7,000 volunteer hours** thanks to so many working for Christ!



If you have office skills, bookkeeping, social media, writing, publishing newsletters, fundraising, would like to work in our Hope Gardens, or are looking for a summer internship, contact our office to find out how you can get involved. Most positions at **Hope Seeds** are volunteer, however, with the right skill set and a heart for missions, a **volunteer** position could lead to a **part-time** or **full-time** staff position.

## Last Year's Statistics

2020 brought many changes but **Praise God** we were able to **double** our average outreach, providing over **500,000 seed packets**, over **50,000 Hope Garden Family Packs**, with over **50,000 Messages of Hope** in the local language of the destination. **We partnered with over 100 missionaries/organizations in 14 countries, plus expanded outreach in the US!** Thank you to all who rose to the occasion to bring **Hope to the Hungry!**





## Matching Fund Opportunity 2021!

Wondering how you can help in these challenging times? You can **Be The One** to bring **Hope to the Hungry**.

**Double your gift and impact** during this **20 day matching fund opportunity, \$SeedX2, April 10th through April 30th!!!**



### How to double your gift:

1. **Mail your gift to Hope Seeds in the enclosed self-addressed envelope between April 10 and April 30.**
2. **Go online to make a secure credit/debit card donation between April 10 and April 30. Simply visit our website: [www.hopeseeds.org/donate](http://www.hopeseeds.org/donate)**
3. **Call in your credit/debit card donation to be processed securely during our regular business hours M-F, 9am - 4pm April 10 - April 30. Call 941-228-5660 ET**

## Join us in Prayer!

**Pray:** as Dave travels to follow up on projects.

**Pray:** as we begin new outreach in Uganda.

**Pray:** for wisdom how best to serve, and for new volunteers to work in gardens and office.

## March 31st deadline to direct 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars



Thrivent members who qualify may call 1-800-847-4836 by March 31st and ask for Thrivent Choice®. You will be connected to a representative who will help you allocate your Choice Dollars® to **Hope Seeds**.

**Thank you to the individuals who made these meaningful gifts to Hope Seeds:**

### In Honor of:

♥ Bob & Lynn Schroeder  
♥ Robert (Bob) Schroeder  
♥ Lynn Schroeder  
♥ Hannah Balsbaugh  
♥ Maxine Balsbaugh  
♥ The Balsbaugh Family  
♥ Art Pabst  
♥ Kathy Engelhardt  
♥ Ann Quackenbush  
♥ Sue Wertman  
♥ Cyndi Marquardt  
♥ Allison Balsbaugh  
♥ JoJeanne & Jim Baughn  
♥ Art & Karen Pabst  
♥ Rad & Sandra Hazelip  
♥ Bob Marquardt  
♥ Paula Orr  
♥ Dave & Maxine Balsbaugh

### In Memory of:

♥ Ruth Bultemeyer  
♥ Ted Armbruster  
♥ Esther Anderson  
♥ Rev. Orv Mueller  
♥ Lawrence William Von Stroth  
♥ Naomi Ruth Eggerman  
♥ Melvin Charles Eggerman  
♥ Emma Marie Kreissler Cassity  
♥ Betty Steffens  
♥ Julie Abernathy  
♥ Rev. Jim Walter  
♥ Eugene Aurich  
♥ Virginia Lohmann  
♥ Herman Erzfeld  
♥ Dorothy Lichtenegger  
♥ John Hagans  
♥ Fran Marquardt  
♥ Geri Leimbach  
♥ Jeff Keyser  
♥ Margaret Shaber



Hope Seeds, Inc.  
Corporate Office  
4501 Manatee Avenue West #161  
Bradenton, Florida 34209 USA  
[HopeSeeds.org](http://HopeSeeds.org) | 941-228-5660

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



© 2017 Hope Seeds, Inc. All rights reserved.

Hope Seeds Inc is a 501(c) 3 organization and your gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. #65-0911582

Hope Seeds, Inc. meets all requirements specified by the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act (Registration # CH14975). A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE, OR ONLINE AT [www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.