



July 2021

## Counting the Cost

Plans are so important. Without a vision for a new initiative, idea, business or facility, not much would be accomplished in the world. Everything starts with a vision, **but the vision will never become a reality unless careful plans are made.**



At Hope Haven Rwanda, we are in the midst of a massive building project. This is just one example of Susan Hollern's many areas of expertise - planning and building. She amazes me as she wrestles with architectural renderings, design decisions, plumbing and mechanical plans while simultaneously leading an amazing team of contractors via Zoom and email. It is one of her gifts!



Jesus emphasized the importance of solid planning. In Luke 14, we read his exhortation to a large crowd:

*"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'"*

What has been most exciting to me, personally, in recent weeks is to see our well-laid plans becoming a reality.

### Beginning years ago, our team prayed and planned.

Usually in that order.

The sequence matters.

It is better to seek God's wisdom before building, rather than to ask for His blessing when you are already underway!

### Today, we are seeing God make a way for this vision to be realized.



As I oversee operations on campus these days, I am so encouraged to see the conscientious efforts from so many of our administrators, faculty and support staff. They are gems!



Then as I visit the construction site, I am thrilled to see a new backhoe at work (thanks to a generous donor who recently visited us and saw the need) alongside more than 100 workers who have been hired from our immediate community to help build. As these workers prepare a concrete foundation for our three-story High School academic building, they are using carpentry skills, shaping rebar, applying termite protection, pouring concrete and literally moving tons of dirt.

Each step of the way, we are witnessing God provide what we need. To Him be the glory! I wish we could share all the stories of God's provision, but many significant donors refuse any recognition for their investments in Hope Haven. They simply want to serve the people of Rwanda and to glorify God as they

steward their resources well.

Thanks to each one of you who pray, give and visit. The best is yet to come!

*Dr. Jason Peters, CEO*

## COVID Update

In late June, the Rwandan government issued what is commonly known as a "Yellow Paper." This was an official notification to the general populace that stringent lockdown policies would be put in place effective July 1st. A curfew from 6:00 PM - 4:00 AM was imposed each day and all business are now required to close at 5:00 PM.

Most significantly for Hope Haven Rwanda, all schools were closed and all meetings were cancelled. If someone is found outside their home after curfew, they will be taken to the National Stadium where they will stay the night and pay a \$15 USD fine. In one case last week, an unauthorized meeting was disrupted by police and everyone in attendance was detained and required to pay a \$10 USD fine.

Additionally, all workers were told to stay home and work remotely if possible. All churches were closed and all weddings, civil or religious, were cancelled. **Please pray with Rwanda especially during this time.** Our CEO, Jason Peters, remains in the country, along with a few volunteers, but their activity has been limited. Most importantly, students and business are being severely impacted each time one of these strict lockdowns are put into place.

May God give wisdom to the Rwandan government as they do their best to preserve the safety of the country.

## OUR PROMISE

**C** **Compassion:** We will continue to love those who are suffering deeply.

**O** **Outreach:** We will reach out to anyone in need with open hearts.

**V** **Vigor:** We will work tirelessly to meet the needs of Rwandan families.

**I** **Intentionality:** We will deliberately serve without withdrawing.

**D** **Dependence:** We recognize we are all utterly dependent upon God.



Since our last update in April, we have 114 more students matched with a Hope Angel! **This brings our total to 420 students who are blessed by the prayers and support of so many.** If you are not a Hope Angel yet, or you know someone who would like to get involved, please contact [Paige Steele](#) for more information.

Thank you to all the Hope Angels who submitted their recent letter. Due to the recent lockdown, our next Letter Writing Day has been postponed. We apologize for the delay and hope to distribute your letters in September. We will continue to keep you updated.

If you haven't and would still like to write your student a letter, you can do so by [logging in here](#). From your home page **click on My Account** in the top menu **and then Inbox**. **Click on New Message** to get started.



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