

A financial update of Our Neighbours Ministry from Martin Barrow -
Projects Director

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Dear friends,

I hope this update finds you doing well.

I was thinking it's a good time to give a financial update for Our Neighbours Ministry. I hope you enjoyed seeing photos and hearing news from us in the recent newsletter that Belinda sent out in May.

Firstly, we want to give all the PRAISE and GLORY to God, who ALWAYS provides enough for what He would have us do, regularly in amazing and unexpected ways. We have amazing testimonies to share in this regard!

Secondly, we want to THANK SO MUCH the MANY amazing people, and our partner churches, Pittwater Uniting Church, The Point Church, Grace Church and Sovereign Church, who give generously, partner and support Our Neighbours Ministry, to enable us to have the HUGE impact that God has led us to have in this community.

Thirdly, we're sensing this is the right season for us to share some more specifics on finances for ONM (I generally am on the hesitant side in this regard!), and to give people the opportunity, and even encourage people, to see how they can support some of the needs we have, and for us to seek new partners.

So, here are some specifics in terms of finances for Our Neighbours Ministry currently:

- Our average monthly expenses over the last 6 months, including all of the 5 different ministry areas, is US\$32,000 (excluding goods-in-kind donated).
- The further drops in the Australian dollar (AUD) against the US dollar over the last 12 months have significantly impacted the amount this equates to in AUD, being approximately AUD\$41,000 currently.
- Of this, approximately 49% is 'sort of pledged' currently. 'Sort of pledged' includes support from all regular donors, whether that be monthly or even annually. Where amounts given by regular donors vary, that is they aren't set amounts, we've used an average and adjusted them all to a per month amount, to calculate this percentage.
- Other support on top of this 'sort of pledged' amount comes from supporters who give every now and again, or in some different and at times very

surprising (or not!) ways.

- We believe God is calling us to grow as a ministry in ways this year, as we seek to respond to the growing needs within Zimbabwe (unfortunately the needs have been growing higher over the last couple of years), so our budget for this month and the following months is higher than that mentioned above.
- Currently we are also in some debt (AUD\$7,000), have outstanding bills, and have only paid part of the May staff salaries. (Ordinarily we wouldn't want to go into debt, but felt this was appropriate in these particular circumstances - please ask for more information if desired)

Therefore, we are seeking to grow our number of regular supporters, ideally to get to 80% of our monthly budget being 'sort of pledged' from regular donors, by the end of 2015 (see ourneighbours.org as we go for updates on progress). We are seeking to do this by:

- encouraging people to consider regular support to particular parts of ONM (for example, Hearts of Love, or sponsoring a baby at Isaiah's, or Lighthouse Christian Academy, or 'wherever needed'). We will provide updates to these supporters on the particular part of ONM that they are supporting/partnering with.
- seeking new partners, including churches and organisations. If you'd like to do a presentation to some people or organisation about ONM, or get us to do this, we'd love to hear from you.

So, I hope that this information is helpful. If you have any questions about any of it, or would like more information, please don't hesitate to ask me.

Thank you so much again for your love and partnership. And we thank God for His guidance and provision!

Love Martin

Our Neighbours Ministry is proud to be a partner for Project J301 Our Neighbours Community Project - Zimbabwe with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), Australian DFAT approved Non Government Organisation carrying out quality humanitarian projects with approved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty and provide long term solutions.



* No non-development activities (welfare, evangelism) are a part of the approved project (Project J301). Evangelistic and welfare activities which are done by Our Neighbours Ministry are done outside of Project J301.

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