



HEALING HANDS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Issue 2, Fall 2023



On the Cover:

MAGI makes impact in new locations

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THE MAGI PROJECT

MULTIPLYING MAGI'S IMPACT



Making **A** Godly **I**mpact, the MAGI Project strives to embody that Christian acronym at a personal level for each recipient of the MAGI box. Thanks to divine partnerships and generous donors, MAGI has experienced the great blessing of growth, expanding into countries new to HHI. Fresh opportunities have advanced MAGI's horizons.

Through the MAGI process, over 200 churches, schools and organizations partner with HHI, assembling boxes filled with basic necessities that address the physical needs of children. Gift boxes include educational items, hygiene products, clothing and toys. They are hand delivered into the open arms of children worldwide, and the love of Jesus is shared with their families and communities. In 2022, deliveries exceeded 26,000 boxes to Zambia, Haiti, Honduras, Ukraine, Dominican Republic, Arizona Navajo and the Texas/Mexico border.

Answering prayers to carve new paths into countries yet untouched by the blessings of MAGI, the Lord made a way to reach Venezuela this year through a faithful friend, Enoch Rinks, and longtime HHI supporters at Brentwood Hills Church of Christ. They make regular deliveries of food and clothing to several churches in Venezuela, and they agreed to include a large shipment of MAGI boxes in their project.

Being flexible is a requirement for an international mission. After discovering that drawstring bags pack more efficiently than the typical cardboard boxes, MAGI volunteers made the change, allowing 50% more donations into the total shipment, blessing even more children and families through the Brentwood Hills delivery. By the end of the year, we will have sent nearly 900 MAGI boxes to Venezuela.

MAGI's time-honored process is designed so that HHI receives the boxes, packing and shipping them in containers to various countries. Partners receive and unpack the containers and transport the boxes to villages and communities in distant regions.

MAGI is proud to highlight our new Sponsor A Box initiative, a modern approach born out of a COVID-era pivot. Donations are collected and HHI staff partners are empowered to organize and purchase supplies to locally fill MAGI boxes and bags, and deliver the gifts directly to the children who need them most. MAGI's Sponsor A Box initiative has empowered area leaders to fulfill the MAGI mission in a new way.

Thus far, the Sponsor A Box initiative is active and flourishing in Zimbabwe, India, Uganda, Paraguay, Brazil, Malawi and Kenya. Jannette Akoth, HHI staff member in Kenya, confirms that the MAGI Sponsor program is

making a great impact. **"More children love coming to Church because they see the true gesture of Christ's love."** Jannette prays, **"that God may continue to expand our borders to enable us to reach the unreached with this great tool of evangelism."**

The Lord also connected MAGI with Chris Fry of Great Cities Missions, adding Colombia to a growing list of Sponsor A Box countries. The fall season promises a successful launch of the program in the border town of Cucuta, Colombia. Great Cities is a Texas-based mission focused on the Latin world, meeting basic personal needs and leading people to Christ. With trusted staff already positioned in Colombia, Great Cities has graciously agreed to help HHI and MAGI organize a turnkey setting whereby sponsored funds can be put to immediate use, and children in Colombia can begin receiving MAGI blessings. Chris reports with excitement: **"We anticipate delivering about 150 boxes through two local churches and through a soccer ministry program."**

MAGI efforts continue to thrive because of generous donors who believe in the program. Please pray that MAGI continues to experience positive growth, and that the message will be clear. **"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."** (James 1:17)



Homer Dudley was an ambitious worker in the Lord's harvest field. He was a longtime friend, supporter and volunteer with Healing Hands International and the Hunger to Harvest program in Africa, Haiti and Honduras. HHI is better because of Homer's influence. May the HHI family be uplifted by the documentation of this great partnership and by the joy he infused into life.

To know the Hunger to Harvest program is to appreciate the incredible design of raised-bed planting, composting and drip-irrigation methods, which allow for crops to flourish in soils that have never yielded a harvest in the past. Hunger to Harvest trainers teach these successful farming techniques to willing communities, eventually observing hunger struggles transformed into situations of abundance, prosperity and opportunity. Homer Dudley was a catalyst for HHI's Hunger to Harvest efforts – in many forms – for well over a decade.

Native to Lebanon, Tennessee, Homer retired there with his wonderful wife, Joree. He became a Master Gardener, caring for his crops, vineyards, bees and cows on his land, the Dudley Century Farm. He was well known locally for tending to souls and gardens and especially for operating Mt. Juliet, Tennessee's most beloved roadside vegetable stand.

Working with HHI, Homer became

deeply interested in helping African communities use better farming methods. In 2012, he joined HHI's Hunger to Harvest Director Carl Burkybile on a mission to Zambia, South Africa, and Swaziland (now, the Kingdom of Eswatini). Teaching drip-irrigation methods during HHI's Survival Gardening Workshop for Swaziland's African Christian College, Homer observed the school's macadamia-nut farm in operation. With an impressive total of 14,000 trees, the school needed a tractor to help with the logistics of their admirable ambition. Homer raised \$75,000 to purchase that tractor and a sprayer for the macadamia orchards.

In Swaziland, Homer met and became dear friends with a Malawian trainee, Mbweni Chirwa. Homer and Mbweni formed a friendship that would bless countless others. Mbweni became an official member of the HHI family in 2018, training others in Malawi. When Mbweni began exploring the idea of a farmers' cooperative, Homer raised funds to train farm co-op officers and obtained the proper government registration. Two years later, the Malawian co-op included 750 farms, and Mbweni fostered a deal to sell 213 metric tons of maize at a premium price to the Malawian government.

Whenever a need arose, Homer took on the task, carving paths for others to be used in the Lord's service. He raised funds for grain warehouses, grain-milling equipment, a maize

sheller, a soybean thresher and a truck for hauling co-op supplies. He even sent drip irrigation kits to Mbweni and then raised the funds for greenhouses to grow tomatoes, resulting in a bounty reflective of Homer's incredible generosity.

Late this summer, HHI opened a new office in Malawi, built in dedication to Homer Dudley's memory and timeless legacy. He never saw Malawi in person, but his fingerprints are there.

Jesus instructed his disciples: "**Freely you have received; freely give**" (Matthew 10:8). Homer manifested an entire life through those words, and it was a great honor to have him in the HHI family.

(Pictured right: Homer's son, Keith, and his wife, Joree, recently visited Malawi to see the impact of Homer's legacy.)



*Learn more
about
Hunger to
Harvest*



HUNGER TO HARVEST

HOMER'S HARVESTS

A woman with dark hair and a bindi is smiling at the camera. She is wearing a blue patterned sari with a white border. She is holding a long, colorful beaded necklace in her right hand. In the foreground, there is a metal bowl filled with many small, colorful beads. In the background, other people are visible, including a woman with glasses and a yellow top.

WOMEN OF HOPE

DIVINE CONNECTIONS



Healing Hands International's Women of Hope program is uniquely designed to empower and uplift women in a way that gives them skills and tools for personal success, as well as opportunities to pay it forward and bring more women alongside them as they strive for better lives, better families and better communities.

It is a great pleasure to highlight the work of an exceptional Woman of Hope and to celebrate the way her efforts have exemplified the multiplier effect that HHI knows so well. Linda Smith, a volunteer, was a part of the HHI staff from 2013–2020 and has been a faithful supporter of the Women of Hope program for many years. In fact, since 2016, Linda has partnered with the WOH program to extend microloans to more than 40 female entrepreneurs.

Linda explains that her connection with India was ordained by the Lord. She first visited in 2012, drawn by an interest in her cousin's guided trips to India and her family's support of a preacher there, named Mohan. She says with reverent forethought, *"Those were my motives, yet God had something else in mind."*

Mohan's wife, Prasanthi, is another phenomenal Woman of Hope. She was operating a sewing center in India, teaching women to develop businesses of their own. She felt called to help the women of the area "circus communities," using a portion of her proceeds to help them find safer living conditions and occupations.

After meeting Linda, the connection was made with HHI, and Prasanthi has since opened three more sewing centers. Preacher Mohan even partnered with HHI's Clean Water program to manage the drilling of a well within the circus community, quenching the thirst for potable water and healing struggles on many levels.

God continued to multiply Linda's first call to action in India through Mohan and Prasanthi's ambitious daughter, Anusha. Anusha received her own loan through the Women of Hope program, opening her own jewelry business. Later, she was added to the Women of Hope staff and now teaches business skills and manages microloans for women just like her, concentrating her efforts in the same circus community as her mother.

With boundless energy and continued faithfulness to this mission, Linda took a special interest in Diali, a young girl born into the circus community. Linda guided Diali into the WOH program, and Diali became a star student of the business classes led by Anusha. She received a WOH microloan, opened her own soap-making business and already has plans to expand.

The blessings continue to flow — a floodgate of goodness set into motion by a faithful, passionate heart open to the glories of God. Linda is innately humble with reference to her work with HHI in India: *"Being of service in His name has nothing to do with me, but rather everything to do about His plan, timing, providence*

and the willingness of others who also had a common goal of bringing hope, empowerment and awareness of a beautiful country facing untold obstacles and persecution."

In the Gospel of Mark, the woman with the vessel of expensive perfume broke the alabaster jar and poured the oil on the head of Christ, much to the scoffing of a crowd judging her choice. Jesus defended the woman and her sincere devotion to His unmatched status as the one and only Savior, honoring her actions as worthy preparation for His impending crucifixion and burial: *"She hath done what she could"* (Mark 14:8a).

Linda, Prasanthi, Anusha and Diali... these are women who have seen a moment — a hopeful possibility — and without hesitation, they have all answered a greater calling to extend a hand for the healing work of fellowship, empathy, care and love for each other. *They have done what they could*, and God has multiplied the results. It is from a position of awe that HHI extends the deepest gratitude for them all, these divinely connected Women of Hope.



*Learn more about
Women of Hope*



The family of Healing Hands International is blessed with donors who believe in reaching out when unexpected disasters strike. Because of willing supporters and the Lord's blessing, HHI's Disaster Response program has answered the desperate calls of people crying out in Malawi, Ukraine, Turkey, India, Haiti, Kenya and Uganda this year, sending provisions that help them keep going in the midst of turmoil.

KYALUMA, KENYA

In East Africa, the Kyaluma village is tucked into the rural fabric of Makueni County, Kenya. Nearly 3,000 people live in Kyaluma as farmers, dependent on their crops to feed their families and to fund their livelihoods. The entire country has endured a lengthy drought, especially in the Kyaluma area. Their food stores have dwindled, leaving them at grave risk of malnutrition, starvation and ever-lessening chances of survival. When groceries have supplies to sell, the prices are excessive and rising, and families forced into poverty do not have the resources to make purchases for their households.

HHI's Disaster Response program has just completed an aid effort specific to Kyaluma, providing an emergency response for 97 hungry souls. A

delivery of maize flour, cooking oil and salt bridged the gap as residents seek future options for sustenance and nutrition. Juliet Kilonzo lives in Kyaluma, and she reveals, *"We have resorted to skipping meals, but you have come to bring hope."*

Another resident, Maria Kioko, explains, *"We eat anything we find, regardless of the nutrition components... resulting in ill health. Thank you to HHI for this assistance. We are grateful, and we glorify God."*

BUTERA, UGANDA

Butera, Uganda, sits among the neighborhoods of the clouds and treetops, high in the mountains of Central Africa. Steep slopes outline the edges of the village, isolating it from daily conveniences. The trek is quite far to the market, school and work opportunities, and access to medical and rescue services is treacherous at best.

Heavy rains have resulted in massive mudslides barreling through Butera, sweeping away homes, crops, livestock, roads... and even families caught in the path. Parents are grieving their children lost in the destruction. Spouses are left alone. Gardens are buried along with front doors and futures. Survivors are left clinging to tree trunks, to life

uncertain, holding on for relief in a most unlikely situation.

HHI's Disaster Response program was able to reach Butera with provisions for 90 souls, ultimately finding a total of 125 people who were willing to share, proportion and distribute what was available so that all could be blessed. Community members received beans, corn flour, rice, sugar, soap, palm oil and salt and offered abundant praise for God's mercies.

Wilson Sirriwayo is a Butera resident and the father of eight children. His four-year-old daughter perished in the deadly mudslide, but even in his sorrows, he proclaims, *"Jesus managed to reach to the top of the mountain and saw what happened! Today I feel my hope has been restored... I have seen the gift of God through Healing Hands International."*

The Apostle Paul instructs us all in his letter to the Romans: *"When God's people are in need, be ready to help them" (Romans 12:13).*

Because of incredible donors, amazing staff and loyal volunteers, the HHI family is ready and willing.

May God be glorified through it all.

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DISASTER RESPONSE

READY AND WILLING

CLEAN WATER

LIVING LEGACY





With great joy and gratitude, HHI celebrates a time-honored partnership with Dr. Bill Webb. Dr. Webb has been a steadfast supporter of Healing Hands International for 10 years, and in that time, his generosity has blessed more people worldwide than we could begin to count. His commitment to the HHI mission has fueled passions and a determination to keep reaching out to find and satisfy the desperate needs of humanity. Through his efforts, Dr. Webb is responsible for the successful installation of over 20 clean water wells, and the measure of the benefit to the receiving communities is infinite and ongoing. Dr. Webb has changed the lives of multiple generations in varied locations of former strife and rampant disease attributed to contaminated water sources. He has altered their course of existence by providing access to drinking water that is safe, free and refreshing to the throat and the soul.

Clean Water wells allow for crops and livestock to be watered regularly. By their sheer proximity to the villages they serve, they enable adults to work during the time they would be hunting for water. Children can attend school instead of walking through miles of danger and disenchantment looking for something to drink. Families enjoy the promise of a thriving future, knowing that the well will provide for their

children, grandchildren and beyond. Wells offer a gathering place, often in the backyard of the local church or school. They become an evangelical tool when the story is recounted that these wells were funded by generous hands and hearts of HHI donors, motivated by the Living Water that is Jesus Christ.

And the JOY! There is joy in its purest form at each well — joy that cannot be contained in the jugs that catch the water as it splashes out of the pump for the first time. Smiles beam across faces washed clean of dust and dread. Songs erupt, dance praises the moment, hands raise in relief and receipt of God's abundant grace. Each well is the birth of a new chapter in the lives of these communities, and Dr. Webb is at the heart of over 20 of these beginnings.

Dr. Webb's first project was in August of 2013. He funded a well in Ethiopia by rallying his patients and fellow Christians in Russellville, KY. Always active in his church and community, Dr. Webb turned to HHI wells as a permanent way to honor the memories of his friends and family. He was known to strategically place copies of HHI well reports in his office as a way to spark conversations about wells and Clean Water, igniting the interests of others because of his own decision

to make a positive difference in other people's lives.

Dr. Webb and his beloved wife, Patricia, were married for 58 years. In 2018, she passed away, and Dr. Webb asked that memorial gifts be made to HHI to sponsor a well. Within the same year, a well was constructed in Haiti in memory of Patricia Webb. The love he has for his bride remains in his heart and will *live on in love* for others as long as the water flows.

His influence has prompted many to take a similar initiative. God has exponentially multiplied his hard work and philanthropy, and he represents the reasons that HHI exists.

The Apostle John records Jesus' words in John 15:12: "*This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you.*" Thank you, Dr. Webb, for the great love you have shown to innumerable souls through time and throughout the world. You are an inspiration to all who know you and to the many thousands who are renewed by your faith in action.





COURAGEOUS COORDINATORS

Using a water analogy, the prophet Isaiah offers a reminder of the free, open invitation to salvation: “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1).

Isaiah is referring to humanity’s collective source of [Living Water](#), but his words are relevant to a vital need for clean [drinking](#) water. Globally, 771 million people lack access to clean water. The Healing Hands International family works tirelessly through the Clean Water program to drill wells and provide pumps to communities fighting diseases, starvation and poverty. It takes precise research, planning and equipment to successfully install each well, and the Walk4Water program leads the charge on funding that monumental task.

Through connections with churches and individuals like you, the Walk4Water program has grown exponentially this year, with 66 walks already on the 2023 calendar. With this growth in mind, Walk4Water has identified a handful of local

leaders who have joined our team in a seasonal capacity as part time staff to represent HHI at various walks across the country. So, we want to take a moment to thank these fantastic Walk4Water staff members:

Matt Wilber (Nashville, TN — pictured above at the Old Hickory walk)
Chris Middleton (Clarksville, TN)
Matt Perry (Lincoln Park, MI)
Woody Biggs (Byesville, OH)
Robert Guinn (Decatur, AL)
Chuck Webster (Birmingham, AL)

Woody Biggs is a coordinator from Byersville, Ohio. His experience shines a light on Walk4Water’s ultimate goals and demonstrates the way God uses willing hearts and hands in His service: “One day I witnessed a lady sitting under the pump of a new well, praying for water. When clean water poured out of the well, the celebration of a whole village...changed my life forever.”

Matt Perry is from Lincoln Park, Michigan, and he has been a coordinator for the past 16 years, organizing events through his church.

His testimony highlights the humbling nature of the worthy task of helping others in need: “It’s eye-opening how much we take water for granted. I’m happy to be in a position where I can come out, help make a walk successful and make a lasting impact on a community.”

It takes time, cooperation, creative planning, belief in the mission and pure excitement about life to make these walks happen. Walk4Water team members motivate the entire HHI family with their commitment, responsibility and willingness to pursue the greater good for fellow humans around the world. Because of their hard work and the incredible Walk4Water community across the country, the Clean Water program can invite people to wells close to their homes to quench their thirst and water their crops, and to share the Living Water that is the promise of the eternal Savior, Jesus Christ.



*Learn more about
Walk 4 Water*

A NOTE FROM THE DONOR IMPACT TEAM...

Thanks to the support of incredible donors, Healing Hands International is able to aid, equip and empower communities around the world through Christ's love. You give the most hopeless a chance to experience the joy they thought they could never achieve. Thank you.

To extend my gratitude even further, I want to inform you about an exciting new partnership that will help you and our community: a free estate-planning tool, courtesy of FreeWill.

Why estate planning? Estate planning allows you to feel confident in your future, even amidst all the changes in life. With this resource, you can plan for your assets and protect your loved ones while establishing a legacy that helps the communities you care about.

FreeWill has been used by over 750,000 Americans to create a will or trust – 100% for free and often in under 20 minutes.

I encourage you to explore FreeWill's resource and determine if online estate planning is right for you. This tool is meant to make this important process more feasible and accessible for all, so you can have peace of mind for the future.

Thank you again for being a change maker and giving hope to the people that need it the most.

Sincerely,

Scott Sanchez



KEEP UP WITH US ONLINE!

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NEW FACES JOIN HHI STAFF

As the future of HHI expands, so does our team! Throughout this issue, you have seen the amazing impact your gifts have made through the success of our five programs. The success has rippled as we invest in hiring additional team members both internationally and here in the States. As we continue to thoughtfully add more leaders to our organization, would you join us in covering our staff members in prayer? It is a gift to do this work on a daily basis, and it is our prayer that we are being excellent stewards of the work. We covet your prayers!



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On the Cover: MAGI makes impact in new locations.

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