



# HOPE worldwide Proposal

## ICOC Annual Delegates Meeting

### Miami 2010

HOPE *worldwide* was started by the churches in 1991 to succeed the "LOVE Offering" as the International Churches of Christ's official, organized way of working together to help the poor. Since that time it has expanded from three small programs to hundreds of chapters and affiliates located in over 60 nations, working hand-in-hand with the churches in many parts of the world. Literally millions of people benefit from the work of HOPE *worldwide* every year. These people are feeling the touch of Christ. And because so much of our work is done by volunteers, the poor are directly being served by disciples, both at the staff and volunteer level.

Many of our young people in our churches have had a chance to serve on HOPE Youth Corps or Volunteer Corps over the years, and this tradition of focused volunteering continues to this day, with another day of service planned at this year's ICMC. The good Samaritan took pity on the man whom he saw on the road suffering, and he met his needs. Our churches have done the same, and HOPE *worldwide* is so grateful for the many years of support.

As our churches continue to get more organized, HOPE *worldwide* appeals to the first world churches who are members of the cooperation group to join together to support our global work. This support helps us to maintain a global organization to serve the poor, and meets a variety of needs:

- \_ Coordinating our Global poverty work and ensuring best practices and assisting fundraising around the world. These efforts help our mission churches in the third world have vibrant, compassionate programs that are mainly funded by outside donors, through cash and in-kind donations. HOPE *worldwide*'s assistance has nurtured and built affiliates around the world, and will continue to do so.
- \_ Coordinating our US poverty work and ensuring that first-world disciples have volunteer and service opportunities in an organized way. Our Christians want to serve. HOPE *worldwide* helps the churches to provide outlets for the disciples' desire to make a difference in their own communities, and to poor people far away.
- \_ Responding to disasters that affect disciples as well as the world. Time and again HOPE *worldwide* has been at the forefront of coordinating and leading the churches' response to disasters. All of us are inundated with news coverage when a disaster strikes somewhere in our world. Many of our people want to do something. HOPE *worldwide* channels these righteous desires into a unified, organized effort that makes a real difference.
- \_ The work of HOPE *worldwide* is something that glorifies Christ, and it has a rightful place in the evangelistic message of our disciples. Most cities of the world are full of foreigners, full of people from countries that HOPE *worldwide*'s work touches. It is a great thing that our Christians can talk not only about our worldwide network of churches, but also the noble work disciples are doing to help orphans, victims of HIV, leprosy patients, the elderly and vulnerable women and children all over the world.

HOPE *worldwide* serves as a nodal point to gather and distribute information about the local HOPE programs from around the world, and keep disciples informed about what God is doing.

HOPE *worldwide* reminds and teaches disciples to "remember the poor", just as the Scriptures say.

The work of HOPE *worldwide* also can create contacts and connections that help protect the church in nations where the work of Christ is not so readily accepted.

What does HOPE *worldwide* need? Our work involves some costs that are "shared costs" of having a global organization. Compared to other charities our administrative cost ratio is very low, under 10 percent. Having flexible funds puts HOPE *worldwide* in a position of being able to meet needs and support work all over the United States and all over the world.

## PROPOSALS

We appeal to the Cooperation Churches for the following:

1. **International Day of Giving.** All Coordinating Churches consider pledging to participate each year in an annual International Day of Giving fundraising drive in November to support the global work of HOPE *worldwide* (\$52 per member per year of unrestricted giving for U.S. Churches). Uses for such funds may vary by country. HOPE *worldwide* will assist the churches with materials to facilitate raising money through fundraisers.

2. **Volunteer Programs.** Promote and support HOPE *worldwide*'s volunteer programs so that disciples can experience firsthand Jesus' ministry of compassion. Disciples who participate in programs like HOPE Youth Corps, HOPE Volunteer Corps and special days of service (e.g., MLK Day in the U.S.) are strengthened in their faith and develop new convictions about serving others.

3. **Disaster Relief.** Officially recognize HOPE *worldwide* as the coordinating organization for the initial and ongoing response by Coordinating Churches to disasters worldwide. Recent disasters in the Philippines and Haiti have demonstrated the value of churches coordinating their responses in disaster relief through HOPE *worldwide*.

--Randy Jordan, CEO, HOPE *worldwide*

--Mark Templer, Chairman, HOPE *worldwide* and Benevolence Committee

--John Causey, Vice-Chairman, HOPE *worldwide* and Benevolence Committee