

# **SEED of GRACE**



## **What is SEED OF GRACE? ( SoG)**

**SEED OF GRACE** is an initiative to assist Methodist Ministers in Zimbabwe with monetary and moral support. **SEED of GRACE** aims to work with ministers in challenging personal or financial situations through the “**SPONSOR A METHODIST MINISTER in ZIMBABWE**” platform. The sponsorship could be short, medium and long-term. The sponsorship could be time limited and located to a Minister in a circuit that is identified as facing challenges, when the minister moves circuits the support will cease.

## **How did Seed of Grace come about?**

This was purely a vision that was given by God to one of his children to try and alleviate the struggling Methodist Church in Zimbabwe given the economic and social challenges currently being faced in the country. The vision was discussed with the Chaplin of the MCZF-UK, Dr Rev J. Dube who gave his blessings to the ingenuity. Dr Dube is from time to time updated on the work of Seed of Grace by way of e mails and what's up messages to ensure that the efforts being carried out by the MCZF-UK at large in supporting our Ministers in Zimbabwe is not duplicated but instead complimented. Rev Sukulao was identified to assist the work of Seed of Grace in Zimbabwe.

## **How long has it been in Operation?**

Seed of Grace has been in operation for 18 months

## **How Many Members have signed up to Seed of Grace Vision**

Currently there are 41 members within the Seed of Grace Family. Members are based in the United Kingdom as well as some in Zimbabwe. A few of them prefer to give a once only donation to a particular Minister in need but the majority have undertaken an ongoing sponsorship arrangement with the respective Minister in need. It is prudent at this juncture to mention that membership of Seed of Grace are not only drawn from the Methodist Church Family but includes various other members from other denominations who were inspired by the vision .

# **SEED of GRACE**



## **How Many Methodist Ministers have benefitted from the work of Seed of Grace?**

A total of 47 Ministers have and some continue to benefit from the work of Seed of Grace. This number continues to grow as the number of sponsors grows.

## **Which Circuits have benefitted from the work of Seed of Grace**

Ministers within the following circuits are benefitting from this initiative :

Zwipani, Sadza, Ndolwane , Zwiyambe, Jambezi ,Gwayi , NyamiNyami , Lupane , Kadoma West , Highlands , Mount Darwin , Bhasera , Rutanhira, Hwange , Gutu , Bikita , Zaka, Chideme , Rusape, Muzarabani, Mudhengezi , Gweru , Mutoko , Manoti , Mount Darwin, Matjinge , Mzinyathi , Rutedze , Chikwanda, Rushinga , Shamba Gutu , Mbembezi, Gwayi and Karoi

## **How does the Initiative work?**

Referrals for sponsorship can be made by individual ministers, the Superintendent Minister or the Bishop. The referral will be received by The Sponsorship Committee who will seek to understand the situation and clarify the exact nature of the support required. Visits and further necessary information may be sought before a decision for sponsorship is agreed. The Sponsor will be provided with direct contact details of the Minister they will sponsor to negotiate and arrange how the support will be administered.

## **Criteria for Sponsorship**

1. The scheme is open to ministers in difficult and remote Circuits
2. A written submission of the personal or circuit situation/location and the reasons for seeking sponsorship with necessary supporting evidence.
3. A supporting statement from the Superintendent or Bishop may be required.
4. Sponsorship may be a one- off donation, short or long term support which will be subject to regular reviews.
5. There is no stipulated amount, time or financial limit to the level of sponsorship. It is subject to sponsor affordability..

# SEED of GRACE



## **SEED OF GRACE GROUP Sponsorship Proforma**

Each request seeking sponsorship will be required to submit a completed Sponsorship Proforma giving the following information:

1. **Applicant's personal details** of name, official position, age, home and/or postal/email address, telephone number
2. **Supporter's details** as above (Supporter being Superintendent, Bishop or independent Minister)
  
3. **Supporting Statement** which outlines the specific request for sponsorship, background The Sponsorship Proforma seeks detailed information or nature of the personal situation or difficulty and reasons for the applicant thinks Seed of Grace should sponsor them. The information will help The Sponsorship Committee determine the need, level and nature of sponsorship to be given or to direct applicant to other sources of funding.

## **How Is Sponsorship Given?**

1. It could be a one- off donation, short or long term; amount will be determined by the individual sponsor.
2. Sponsor and sponsored may determine their own format and/or arrangement for working.
4. The Sponsorship Committee will help foster long term relationships with Ministers within the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

## **WHERE DOES SEED OF GRACE GET THEIR MONEY FROM?**

All the money is donated by individuals from The UK and Zimbabwe. Seed of Grace does not hold any Bank account in the UK or Zimbabwe. There are people in the USA, South Africa and Australia who have indicated they want to support this initiative and sponsor Methodist Ministers in dire situations in Zimbabwe. This opportunity still needs to be explored.

# SEED of GRACE



## What is the progress to date?

### **1. Purchase of Bicycles for Ministers**

Seed of Grace has continued to grow by the Grace of God. The founder of this vision is an active member of the Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford, United Kingdom. Seed of Grace Vision was shared with the church congregation at this church by Rev Mark Pengelly, The Superintendent of the circuit.

Immediately it was unanimously agreed to support the work of Seed of Grace. One concern that was identified by most sponsors was the transport difficulties for a number of these Ministers which hampers their ability to carry out the work of God in their respective circuits.

The Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford agreed to raise a total of £4000 towards buying bicycles for the circuits in need through the “**ONE WORLD. INITIATIVE**”. Seed of Grace would like to truly appreciate Mr J. Green who diligently manages this initiative.

A total of £2000 has since been raised towards the bicycles. 20 bicycles have been purchased in Zimbabwe thus far. Seed of Grace is aware that not all areas in Zimbabwe can use a bicycle due to the rough terrain and also not all Ministers will be able to ride a bicycle. Perhaps as the work of God within Seed of Grace grows, it is intended to buy even motor bikes and vehicles for use by the Ministers in these challenging areas.

### **2. Proposed Registration as a Charitable Organisation**

Members of Seed of Grace have suggested the organisation obtain registration with the Charities Commission of the United Kingdom. Some of the advantages of pursuing this route are the:

- Ability to source additional funds for our Ministers by way of legalised Fund Raising activities
- Ability to pool funds together and negate the concern of Sponsor fatigue.
- Ability to source out more sponsors from different organisations in United Kingdom and Zimbabwe to help support the Methodist Connexion.
- Ability to convince the Methodist Zimbabwe Community in diaspora to take up sponsorship of a Methodist Minister in Zimbabwe imitative thereby alleviate the Financial burden faced by the Church in Zimbabwe

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**(For and On Behalf of Seed of Grace )**

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