

RESCUE GHANA MISSION (RGM) FIRST QUARTER REPORT: AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016.

Rescue Ghana Mission (a benevolent Ministry under the Elders of Osu Church of Christ, Accra) officially started operating after it was launched at the Nsawam Road Church of Christ on the 2nd of July, 2016. At the launch a total amount of **GHC 14,782** was raised from various churches and individuals as seed capital to help kick off the project. This included about **GHC3000.00** which was raised from basket collection at the launch.

Before the launch, over hundred preachers had applied for support. After a thorough investigation by the Evaluation and Assessment Committee, 50 preachers were shortlisted for approval by the Elders of Osu Church. The criteria for the selection of the first batch of 50 beneficiaries was based on those whose monthly support ranged from **zero (0) to one hundred Ghana cedis (GHC 100.00)** and who were not receiving any form of financial support except that of their local congregations. They are being given a top up allowance to round-up their monthly supports to **GHC 200.00**

To commence disbursement, the leadership of RGM organised a short ceremony at Osu Church of Christ on Sunday 24th of July 2016 to interact with the beneficiary preachers and also sign an undertaking. Those who attended the meeting received clothing which had been donated by a brother in UK (Bro. Paul Offin) in aid of the beneficiary preachers, their wives, children and themselves.

The first disbursement of RGM funds was done on the 1st of August, for the month of July 2016; however, about six (6) preachers out of the first fifty (50) preachers selected were not paid because they could not be reached to provide their mobile money numbers. Also, two preachers were taken off the support scheme following further investigation by the Assessment Committee which proved that one of them had gained admission to school and was no longer at post, while the other was receiving funds elsewhere; an amount which is above the criteria to qualify for RGM support.

The Assessment Committee could only replace one of the two who were taken off the scheme before the second disbursement on 31st August 2016. Besides, the six unpaid preachers whose Mobile Money numbers could not be confirmed received double payment during the second disbursement.

INVESTMENT AND FUND MOBILIZATION

As at 10th July, 2016 RGM had **GHC36, 316.15** in its National Investment Bank (NIB) account out of which **GHC 20,000** was invested in 90 days Treasury Bills.

Following additional cash flow into the bank account, the leadership decided to invest **GHC 30,000.00** into a 90 days Treasury Bills on 16th of September, 2016. This sums up the total funds invested up to **GHC 50,000** with a mandate to rollover both capital and interest accrued on the

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investment after each maturity period. The target is to invest **GHC100, 000.00** as a backup for the fund which will regular generate revenue to sustain the program.

The Functional Administrative Team together with Fund Managers have noticed that individual contributions which is the main source of funding for the project is dwindling; hence the need to get more churches to support the project on monthly basis to ensure sustainability. To this end, the Elders of Osu who have oversight responsibility over the project is yet to write an appeal to congregations to come on board to support the project. So far about 17 congregations have committed to contributing money into the RGM fund on monthly basis, majority of who are rural congregations.

TEXT DONATION

As part of our fund mobilization drive, we have adopted SMS short code (text COC to 1944) to raise funds. Members who subscribe to the short code would receive regular devotional messages from RGM at a minimal fee of about 30 pesewas. The SMS short code works on only MTN, Vodafone and Airtel. About 85% of the total revenue goes to the Telcos (Network Providers) and the third party provider. Though this is not in our favour, we have no option than to do it since it is better than nothing at all.

Publicity on the short code began a few weeks before the launch and since then about 300 members have subscribed. We had to stop publicity of the short code due to some technical problems with MTN which has been rectified at the moment. However, there is also another problem with the system for sending the billed messages to subscribers. This is being worked on and very soon we shall start sending the billing messages as well as promoting the short code for more members to subscribe.

RGM FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2016

Before the third disbursement on the 30th September 2016, the balance in our NIB account was **GHC8, 056.28** and the total funds in our mobile money accounts (MTN, Airtel, Tigo) stood at about **GHC8, 150+.**

STAFF ALLOWANCE

Currently, there is only one staff acting as a secretary who receives monthly allowance of GHC400.00, while all other members of the team providing voluntary services.

EXPENSES ON VOICE AND SMS BLAST

Administratively, about GHC 400.00 is spent on publicity (Reminders: Voice and SMS Blast) to about three thousand members (3000) contacts of Church of Christ members across the country to remind, acknowledge receipt of their monthly contributions. Unfortunately not many are

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committed to contributing monthly to support the initiative. Again we have a few congregations supporting the project on monthly basis.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS DISBURSED

Within the first quarter (three months) of implementation of Rescue Ghana Mission, a total of **GHC 23,891.60.00** has been disbursed to 49 (forty-nine) rural preachers; the beneficiary congregations are listed below. The figure includes monthly allowance to the RGM secretary.

CONGREGATION	REGION	CONGREGATION	REGION	CONGREGATION	REGION
Breman Anhwiam	E/R	Anlo Afiadenyigba	V/R	Dekpor	V/R
Sandema/ Wiaga	UE/R	Adrume -Ehi	V/R	Klo Akwapem COC	E/R
Whindo	W/R	Twifo Kotokyi	C/R	Obosomase	E/R
Derma	B/A	Wamaso	C/R	Jerusalem, Essaman and Kakabo	W/R
Akropong-Esaase	A/R	Akim-Akenteng	E/R	Ekumfi Esiakyir	C/R
Dromankesse	B/A	Tenglinto-Burandeni	N/R	Tamekope	V/R
Klefe	V/R	Sherigu	U/E	Ave- Afiadenyigba	V/R
Anloga - Agorve - Avume	V/R	Babile - Laura	U/W	Azumsapelega	U/E
Kuka	U/E	Bimbila & Kpatinga	N/R	Tadzevu	V/R
Breman Fosuansa	C/R	Alavanyo	V/R	Abam Kurom	C/R
Dzodze	V/R	Sovie	V/R	Twifo Praso No.1	C/R
Mepom - Asamankese	E/R	Worawora	V/R	Garu	U/E
Domeabra	A/R	Anyinamso	A/R	Subrungu	U/E
Yeji-Prembo No.1	B/A	New Susubiribi	W/R	Krachi Nkyene	V/R
Tantro Via New Akim Tafo	E/R	Ayitehkofo	V/R	Nbondo	N/R
Asofar	GAR	Lungni	N/R	Anyinasin Church	E/R
Podoe COC	V/R				

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CONCLUSION

In sum, although we have taken a giant step towards the attainment of our goal to improve the living conditions of our rural preachers, the issue of getting sustainable funding and the commitment of congregations and members of the Churches of Christ to contribute into the fund on regular basis remains a major challenge.

Currently, over 100 applicants are on our waiting lists who call in on daily basis with hallowing stories of financial hardship and pleading for consideration to enrol them onto the scheme. However, we are unable to do so now due to limited funding. While we are seeking funding for those on our waiting list, we keep receiving applications on weekly bases.

To ensure sustainability of this laudable initiative aimed at providing relief for rural preachers who are in financial distress most of whom are surviving on a monthly support of less than Ghc 50 from their local congregation, there is the need for a collective support.

This has become necessary since most rural congregations, per their economic situation cannot support their preachers as expected. Consequently, the growth of Churches of Christ in such deprived communities is adversely affected.

The Management of Rescue Ghana Mission promises to give quarterly report on funds received and disbursed in fulfilment of our policy to ensure transparency and accountability. We are grateful to all who have supported this worthy initiative from a free and kind heart. Our God fails not on his promises; surely he will give back to you in multiple folds what you have generously given to support his suffering rural Ministers. Amen!