



SEED OF GRACE

What is SEED OF GRACE?

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 in a circuit and not necessarily to a Minister.

Challenges faced by Methodist Ministers in Zimbabwe

1. The political and economic situation in Zimbabwe is complex. In the past 18 months, it has been compounded by the global Covid 19 pandemic. Methodist Ministers stipends are low. A sizeable percentage of Ministers are working in a state of abject poverty. Generally, in Zimbabwe, the disparity between earnings and costs of living is too wide.
2. Methodist Ministers’ children receive free and/or subsidised school fees at Methodist Schools. However, because of the geographical spread of the Church stations and Methodist Schools, not all Ministers’ children benefit from the scheme. Some Ministers end up paying their own children’s fees.
3. It is estimated that 60% of Zimbabwe population live in rural areas. There is no reliable public transport network. Ministers often walk in excess of 20km to Church Services, funerals and to provide pastoral care to their congregants. Reliable forms of transport would greatly help Ministers in the discharge of their duties.

How does “Sponsor a Methodist Minister” Initiative work?

Referrals for sponsorship could be made by the individual minister, the Superintendent or the circuit. 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 sort 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/or remote situations.
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 circuit may be required.
4. Sponsorship may be a one-off donation, short- or long-term support 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 and/or subject to negotiation between sponsor and sponsored.

SEED OF GRACE GROUP requests that the sponsor subscribe to the aims of this initiative and help to

- Cross pollinate of good practice
- Share individual success stories, progress and challenges
- Recognise individual sponsor hurdles and limits
- Create a data base of sponsors and sponsored over time

Working directly with an individual Minister in the remote areas of Zimbabwe, the sponsor is provided with an opportunity to foster closer ties with those in need thus getting closer to the wider family of God.

How can you help?

1. Give a one- off donation of an amount of your choice.
2. Work with others in a group to sponsor large projects.
3. Help twin a Church community in Britain with a Church community in Zimbabwe for mutual partnerships
4. Foster long term relationships with Ministers and circuits in Zimbabwe

Please note that this initiative is it's in its infancy and we welcome positive comments and help to grow it to become the best it can be in offering support to needy ministers and circuits in Zimbabwe. For any enquiries, please contact Sheila Mukumba on.

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