

I have a confession to make....

Years ago, I read the autobiography of a man named George Müller. George Müller developed several orphanages in Bristol, England during the 1800s. He has been honored much for his faith and determination in taking care of over 10,000 children during his lifetime. I was so impressed by the fact that he made it clear in his book that he had never stated his need nor asked anyone for financial help during his entire ministry. I decided that if God could supernaturally supply his need for the millions of dollars that it required to feed and house 10,000 children during the 50+ years of his ministry without asking anyone for help or stating his needs to anyone, then God could do the same thing for us.

So I decided that I was going to operate in the same manner as Mr. Müller. I had endeavored for the 14 years we have been here in Acuña, to avoid using our newsletter as a means to “ask” for donations. Several times, friends close to me and some of our Board members impressed upon me that when we did have serious needs I should make mention of those needs in our newsletters, but I truly wanted to reach that level where I did not have to make our needs known to others, but rather to develop my faith to the point that I only needed the Lord to hear my requests.

Periodically I did make some serious issues known. For instance: when we were given the new property, the magnitude of the repairs and remodeling coupled with the short time frame that we had to get it prepared was quite daunting. However, even then, I limited telling others about many of our lesser needs. Although now we have repaired and returned the new building to functionality, we have a number of things that need to be addressed in order to develop the building and property to a level that is not just livable but is safe, secure, and operating at a level that is more like a “home” than a “facility”...after all...these children are not ours...they belong to the Lord and we have a mandate to care for them as best we can in all ways...like the King’s Kids that they are!

We have been in faith for the finances to address the issues I will describe in the following section, however, many times we must pay close attention to the Holy Spirit to guide us into a position of receiving that we might not have thought of before. We stand firmly upon 1John 5:14-15 ***“This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.”***

Several months ago, we were extremely blessed to be seated at a luncheon directly across the table from an internationally known minister whom I have tremendous respect for, Andrew Wommack, and his friend, Paul Milligan who had been his CEO for years. In our conversation, I mentioned George Müller and about my desire to reach that level of faith to operate as he did, never telling anyone about his needs. After saying this, Bro. Wommack smiled and told me that that was not entirely correct. He explained that while technically Mr. Müller’s statement was true regarding the fact that he never directly asked anyone for donations, he did in fact have a newsletter that he distributed detailing the needs that the orphanage had. The fact was, that he never went to any specific person seeking donations, but he did let the needs be known to the general list of readers of his newsletters.

Well...that totally upended my “theology of fundraising”!

Now I have had to reevaluate how I communicate with our partners. I now believe after thinking and praying about this new information, that we can still continue to be in faith while at the same time, revealing our needs to our partners and friends. I just spoke to a couple of men who are here from Missouri helping with a project and I told them that I was about to write this letter concerning our needs but that it’s really not a comfortable thing for me to do. One of the men said, “how can anyone know what the children need if you don’t tell them”.

So I have relented and have decided to write this update to our newsletter in order to share our needs with our partners and friends. On the next pages you will find our current and most pressing needs. I have included approximate costs for each one.

Dr. Ron Sherman



Current Needs List

Below you will see 10 items. The first 8 are actually all needed immediately and the last 2 are not urgent but they are things that we need to do as soon as the finances are available. Please keep in mind that the costs listed for the items are approximate and do not take into account the possibility of donated materials.

We humbly ask you to prayerfully consider the following list and ask the Lord if He would have you help us with any of these necessary situations. If you would like more details or clarifications on one of the issues, please do not hesitate to contact us at: drron@whitestonekids.org.

#1. **PRIORITY ONE - SMALL 4-DOOR SEDAN** - \$7000-8000 (used)

Our current fuel costs exceed \$2000 every month. Most of our staff do not own cars and have always come to work via taxi cabs. Cabs are quite cheap so this was the best way for them to get to work. However, now we are located on the very edge of the city and the taxis will not come out this far unless they are paid quadruple their normal rate. That would eat up over half of our staff's salary. We have decided to hire a driver to transport all three shifts of the staff to and from work. Added to those fuel costs is the transportation of all the children to their respective schools. We have children in 4 different schools and all with different schedules. The only vehicles we have are our two very old vans, and they are major gas guzzlers.

Except for 2 of the school runs, all the other runs are for only between 1-3 people. We do not need a van for 75% of the trips. If we have a small 4-door sedan, our fuel bill would easily be cut by over half, **saving us over \$1000/mth!**

#2. **SECURITY AT FRONT GATE: VIDEO & INTERCOM** - \$1500

It is imperative that we install security at the front gate. The gate to enter the property is about 150 yards from any of the buildings and it is nearly impossible to see who is actually at the gate. We have already experienced 3 unauthorized entries and one could have been extremely serious. The man had come to find a child that he heard had been placed with us and he wanted to get her. All exterior doors on the main building are locked at all times, but he was caught in time before reaching the building.

#3. **SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM FOR THE MAIN BUILDING** - \$6000

Cameras inside the building are necessary. I am sure there is no need to explain the need for cameras to monitor the activity within the home. Also, this is not a legal requirement but the Child Protective Services (PRONNIF) have stated that they want all homes to have a camera system.

#4. **SECURITY CAMERAS FOR GROUNDS AROUND THE BUILDINGS** - \$4000

Cameras outside around the buildings and playground are vital for several reasons. As I stated earlier, we have had three unauthorized entries into the property. Two were by cars and the third was a man that jumped the gate. Should that happen again, we have to be able to know before the person gets access to the buildings. Also, during the time of the reconstruction and remodeling, the night watchman saw coyotes (which we hear every night very close), bobcats, a mountain lion, and a small black bear. So it is crucial that we be able to monitor the outside areas around the buildings.

#5. **FLOODLIGHTS AROUND THE BUILDINGS AND PLAY AREAS** - \$2500

In addition to the exterior cameras, it is important that we install flood lights to illuminate the areas around the buildings and the play areas.

#6. **PAINT** - \$1400

There is a lot of painting to do. We need to purchase at least 75 gallons of exterior paint.

#7. **TRACTOR & ATTACHMENTS** - \$20,000

We need to purchase a small tractor with at least 32 HP. The implements we need are a mower deck/ bush hog, box blade, disc, auger, and a front bucket. The cost listed is in addition to a donation of the partial amount designated for a tractor

In addition to the farming projects we will be developing, we have tons of piles of rocks, dirt & brush that have been piled all around the property. We are responsible for maintaining the quarter-mile dirt driveway. We have grass and crops to plant as well.

#8. **WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM** - \$6000

There is a working water well on the property. There is a strong sulfur odor and we are waiting on the results from the water quality test to determine what needs to be filtered out of the water.

This Summer the City of Acuña declared serious water restrictions. They were doing rolling shutoffs around the city. In addition, the government was completely shutting off the water to the companies that process drinking water. We can not be without drinking water. We will need to install a system that includes pre-filtering for debris, sulfur extraction, UV light disinfection, and Reverse Osmosis so that we can provide drinking water for the children no matter what the city does.

****The next two items are categorized better for a "wish list"...rather than a vital need. They are important for us but others may not consider them too important.

#9. **SHADE STRUCTURE FOR BASKETBALL COURT & PLAYGROUND** - \$?

Our children had to stay inside the building all day each day during the Summer heat. Our days can reach over 105 degrees on a consistent basis, and since there are no shade trees covering the playground, the heat is simply too intense for the kids to play outside. I have spoken to several commercial builders in the US and the consensus is that the frame must be built with steel since part of the covering will be covering the basketball court. I have not been able to determine what the cost would be here in Acuna, but we are believing God for a quality shade to be installed before next Summer.

#10. **ARTIFICIAL TURF FOR OUR SOCCER FIELD.** - \$?

Final Thoughts: Financial Partners...you are helping to change the eternal destiny of many children. You may never get a chance to meet them here in this world, but I assure you, you will when we are are gathered together in the Heanvenly Kingdom.

To those who have not yet joined us as monthly partners, I ask you to pray and ask God if He would have you to join with us in rescuing and caring for these precious children. There is no gift too small. These children are so important to the Lord Jesus, so His mandate to His Church is to care for the Fatherless. Please help us with the best gift you can...the rewards are eternal!

Dr. Ron & Anna Sherman