

8th November, 2013

Dear Members and Supporters,

This is one of the most challenging letters I have written in my professional career. There is no easy way to lead into the point that is the primary purpose of this letter's contents, so I have chosen to be direct by making the following statement:

In order to survive our movement needs urgent prayer, practical and financial support.

2013 has been a year of amazing success for BBNZ with God honouring every aspect of our ministries. Feedback from the National Road Shows in 11 locations has been fantastic, 48 young men had their lives positively changed through their attendance at the National Leadership Development Course (NLDC) held in July, and we have seen 14 new ICONZ Units start across the country. In November some 200 Team/Adventure boys from the Northern Region will attend the "MINDCRAFT" CAMP at Finlay Park, and, in December 19 young men will receive their Queen's Badge at a formal ceremony hosted by the Governor General at Government House, Wellington. 2014 will start in similar fashion with record numbers expected to attend the Family and 130th Celebration Camps being held consecutively at the Waipara Adventure Centre in Canterbury.

In the last 12 months there have also been heartfelt disappointments. Through a lack of local funding the position of Otago/Southland Development Manager was retrenched meaning there is limited national support for an area that is crying out for our ministries (God willing we hope to see this position re-established early 2014). Like most charitable organisations BBNZ's primary source of income comes from grants from external funding sources. Many funders have changed their allocation criteria meaning that BBNZ and other likeminded organisations are no longer eligible to apply. On top of this funders are being inundated by organisations for support from what is a diminishing funding pool.

October, and already November, has caused much angst for your Executive. October is the month when the majority of funding providers respond to grant applications thus enabling the coming year's budget to be finalised. Whilst remaining incredibly supportive of the work being done by BBNZ, this year our traditional providers have not been able to support BBNZ at the levels of past years leaving an income shortfall for 2014 of \$70,000.

With no cash reserve remaining, this situation is serious and has significant consequences for the movement if not able to be backfilled.

How can you help?

You have received this letter because you are or have been part of the movement or previously shown your interest and/or support. Often we are guilty of making the assumption that "*there is nothing more I can do*". I want to challenge this as there are so many ways in which you can help – three ways to be precise!

Prayer

The first and arguably most important way in which you can help is by praying. BBNZ is unashamedly an organisation that is founded on Christian principles and its mission of advancing Christ's Kingdom remains at the forefront of all that we do. Our God has and continues to bless the work of BBNZ and wants us to play our part by remaining faithful in prayer. Will you pray?

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Our Vision

To have every boy in New Zealand take part in our life development programme.

National Resource Centre

PO Box 100983

North Shore

Auckland 0745

New Zealand

Ph: ++64 +9 448 1157

Fax: ++64 +9 448 1192

E-mail: info@bb.org.nz

Website: www.bb.org.nz

Practical

Through practical necessity a large portion of Michael Good's time as National Director is spent identifying new funding sources, preparing funding applications and meeting with funding providers. This is often at the expense of fulfilling core mission activity.

Commencing in 2014 under the Chairmanship of Michael, BBNZ is setting up a National Funding Commission which is a purposeful working group with a specific and coordinated approach to:

- identifying new funding sources;
- preparing applications for funding, and;
- presenting to and/or meeting with providers.

Accordingly, BBNZ is seeking a team of 10 people across the country who are willing to help with all or specific components of the above. For example, you may not be comfortable or have time to front a meeting with a potential funder, however are competent in researching funding providers and/or filling out a funding application using a set of pre-defined statements. Will you accept the challenge and be one of the 10?

There are many other areas where BBNZ needs specific project support from time to time. Please complete the response form below (page 3) indicating your skill set and known availability for future projects.

Financial

Possibly the hardest question is asking for your (new or on-going) financial support. We absolutely respect that many receiving this letter are already contributing financially and we are incredibly grateful for your faithful, faithful support. Is there someone that you know that has been touched by the mission of Boys' Brigade? Would they consider supporting BBNZ? Would you consider asking the question? These are all practical ways in which we can grow the faithful base that support us.

Closing Comment

I close by reiterating that this has been a very difficult letter to write. We will continue to keep you informed of progress by way of regular updates showing progress against key targets.

In this 130th Anniversary Year I am convinced more than ever of the critical role the mission of BBNZ has here in New Zealand and abroad. As your Executive presses into God as it is tasked with managing what is a very tenuous situation, I am reminded of one of my favourite Bible verses.

Psalm 37:5 records: *"Give yourself to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will help you".*

So, as a movement, *"Here we are Lord; we do trust in you, and we are excited of how you will help us!"*

Blessings



Paul Blackler
BBNZ National President

MY RESPONSE TO NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 8TH NOVEMBER 2013

In response to the BBNZ President's Appeal of 8th November 2013, sharing my concern for the situation outlined, I am pleased to commit to the following;

- 1. Praying regularly – daily/weekly/monthly – for the ministry of BBNZ.
(Please circle or highlight which you are able to commit to)
- 2. Being available to be part of the team of 10 which will investigate funding sources, prepare and present applications for funding.
- 3. Being willing to be approached for assistance with specific projects in at least one of the following areas:
(Please enter which expertise or skill/s you are able to offer)

- 4. Pledging financial support by;
 - Monthly contribution to BBNZ's "Investors' Club"
 - Arranging / assisting with fundraising projects
 - A 'one-off' donation of \$ _____
 - a) By cheque as enclosed (Payee: The Boys' Brigade in New Zealand Inc.)
 - b) By direct credit to BBNZ account: 06 0513 0005755 00
(For direct credit please enter your name as 'Payee reference')

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Landline: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Please forward your response, which will be kept in strict confidence;

By post to: The Boys' Brigade in New Zealand, PO Box 100 983, North Shore, Auckland 0745

By email to: info@bb.org.nz