



## Malawi: The Need for Continued Support



In March and August, two 40-ft. containers with a total of 543,000 meals from Feeding The Nations (FTN) arrived in Malawi, just in time to feed the desperately hungry people. Ravaged by malnutrition, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, the people of Malawi fight many battles to survive. The HIV infection rate is one of the highest in the world. The life expectancy of someone born in Malawi is around 40 years. Nearly half of the population is under 15 years old. That is why FTN has joined with Feed My Starving Children, Global Assistance and Iris Africa to continue supporting these hungry, hurting and lost people. Together we have been reaching the Bangula area with food and hope. Volunteers travel from village to village in search of the most needy, compiling a list of 1,500 families who will receive a portion of the monthly shipment. Then on the 15th of each month, 3,200 children, widows, elderly, handicapped, blind and other vulnerable people, arrive to receive food distributions and learn how to properly prepare the meals. Some travel up to 10 kilometers to receive nine packets of rice meal per family—vital nutrition for families who have no other way of receiving sufficient nourishment.

***Often an entire generation is missing from a family unit because of disease.***

Small children must live with aunts or grandparents because their parents have abandoned them due to death, illness or other disabilities. The area relies on farming to meet their needs and provide for their livelihood, but drought and heavy rains wreak havoc on the crops. Even in good years, Malawi still has a food shortage. In the fall of 2008, the availability of maize, a staple food, dwindled and the price more than doubled. This is why Malawi receives our continued support, and why 95 percent of our donations are used for missions and nothing else. ■

## Ethiopia: A Long-Term Approach

Over the years, Ethiopia has been a nation that has struggled to feed its people. From time to time, **famine** will reach epidemic proportions and soon the nation's struggles become headline news worldwide. Food begins to pour into this **heavily populated** nation that has **scarce natural resources**, especially agriculturally speaking. But, as the headlines fade, very little is done and the Ethiopian people are **soon forgotten**. At FTN, we are devoted to routinely sending food. For example, over the last year we sent over 800,000 meals to Ethiopia, in cooperation with the quality organizations Messianic Jewish Alliance of America, Sunshine Foundation and Bright Hope Ministries. All of this has been possible because of your faithful giving. Your generosity is providing for these people in real and substantial ways. **Thank you for joining with us in making a difference.**



## Kenya: From Deliveries to Drought

Hearing Kenya's cry for help, FTN has been helping the nation in two ways. First of all we joined with Indiana University School of Medicine and Moi University School of Medicine, in Eldoret, Kenya, to provide \$250,483 worth of pre-natal vitamins for distribution at the new Riley Mother Baby Hospital in Eldoret—the only of its kind in East Africa. The vitamins are essential to supplement the increased nutritional needs of the mothers and children, many of whom are battling HIV/AIDS.

Able to accommodate 50 infants at a time and up to 12,000 deliveries a year, the hospital provides care for women and newborns. The 75,000-square-foot facility includes operating rooms for Cesarean deliveries and the first functioning NICU in all of East Africa, replacing the former facility that was simply one open ward for laboring mothers and a small room with 10 wire baskets for newborns. The new hospital will also serve as a training center for health care providers throughout western Kenya.

FTN has also given tens of thousands of pounds fortified rice and soy protein meals to help combat the severe food crisis. Constant drought has devastated this year's harvest, and the increasing price of cooking oil, water and maize flour make it even more difficult for already struggling families to nourish themselves.



## Zambia: The Children's Stories

**There is no greater blessing than to personally serve the Lord by serving others...to look into their eyes...to touch their hands...to see their need firsthand, beyond a mere photograph. We were recently blessed with the opportunity for a FTN/Christ Chapel mission's team to work with missionaries Tim and Trena Johnson in the Dominican Republic. Here are just a few of our experiences while we were there:**

- We went through the neighborhood where the local children live. Our hearts were heavy when seeing the conditions of poverty in which they live. Most of their houses looked to be made up of only one room.
- We were warmly greeted and a local man led us in praise and worship with lively songs with a Caribbean beat. Pastor Steve Sumrall shared how his father first started feeding the hungry of the world. He mentioned Dr. Lester Sumrall's initial reluctance and then his obedience to God's command. Pastor explained that we were here today to continue the vision of feeding those in need around the world. Afterward, we passed out wonderful packets of much needed food. Fifty families were blessed with flour, beans, pasta, oil and much more. Most were women with children and older women with no husbands and no income. Many of them had no food in their homes.
- Our ministry team went to a local church in a neighborhood called "a thousand fires" near the city dump. Surrounded by small homes that were packed together nearly on top of one another stood a large church filled with warm, welcoming people. The Holy Spirit's presence was felt during praise and worship, which was led by a great team with many young people. Although the worship and much of the service began in Spanish, the Holy Spirit still touched our hearts, and we felt God's presence there. We gave our testimony to God's faithfulness in our lives. Pastor Steve encouraged people to use their faith, to seek God's help in their time of need—whatever their need might be. Many people responded to the call for prayer and several people accepted Christ as their Savior.

**The world is hungry. That's why we're here—to feed them their daily food and the food of eternal life.**

## Dominican Republic: First-Hand Experiences



For the past few years, FTN has been committed to supporting 16 Christian schools and orphanages (4,200 children) located around Zambia's capital, Lusaka. Each day, the children receive a meal—in some cases two. This nourishment makes such a difference to the children who spend their days in cramped classrooms with no electricity, windows, lighting or running water. Since 2006, FTN has given a total of 550,000 pounds of food, Bibles and supplies worth \$4.5 million. But more important than numbers are the actual lives that have been changed as a result. Here are just a few of their stories:

**Nelson**, age 15, has been in school for five years now. He lives with his family. His father strives to make ends meet by working as a night guard, but the income does not provide enough. As a result, Nelson worked at a local bus stop, carrying luggage for people to help supplement his large family's unending daily needs. Since receiving the food at school, he can focus more on his schooling and not be as concerned about daily needs.

**Mampi**, age 12, attends school with her brother and sister. Her father is a gardener, but his income is below the poverty lines, making it difficult to provide for their large family. The meals they have received at the school have eased some of their struggles. Thanks to the nourishment, Mampi and her siblings have become more active. They pack up some of their shares and take them home so the rest of their family may also benefit.

**Margaret**, age 8, is an only child and lives with her dad in a one-room house. When she first started coming to school, she was very quiet and inactive because she was not able to eat at home before school. Her father had lost his job and they were living on borrowed money. Often, they had only one meal a day. Thanks to the feeding program at school, Margaret now has a smile on her face most of the time and looks forward to school every day. She finds comfort in the meals, friends and teachers.

Many children come in off the streets, with no family to support them at night, as the children try and find shelter in cardboard boxes through out the city. Many children have no food from the time they leave the day school orphanages until they return the next day. With the ailing situation, most vulnerable children deprived of food fall well below conduct and performance levels. Teaching staff would always report many cases of inattentiveness, lower academic standards and absenteeism. With the food provided by FTN, teachers say the environment has changed to a positive effect and the enrollment has increased in most of the facilities.



### Haiti: A Tithe of Food

The following is a first hand account from Pastor Daniel Sacino with Fishers of Men Ministries who helped FTN in the distribution 43,500 pounds of rice/vegetable casserole meals. After first hearing about the desperate situation in the region of Mabriol, Haiti, my first reaction was, "Yeah, alright. Every place in Haiti is desperate." After time God put it on my heart that we were supposed to help these people of Mabriol. I had met with the U.N. and applied for help, but we found none. Thankfully we had just received a shipment of 271,500 meals from FTN and Feed My Starving Children. This food was for our orphanages, but we could not close our eyes to the hungry and wanted to give a tithe of the food given to us. The reports were coming in that 20 children had died, that the situation was very bad. Just to get to the location was a five-hour trip, through narrow passages, over rivers, up and over rocks. When we arrived the people were literally running to get to our truck. The people inside the church were thanking God, saying *Merci Bondye* ("thank you, God"), *Merci Bondye* over and over again. I realized quickly that this wasn't one of our normal food distributions. Some of the children that showed up had no clothes, most of them had no shoes. I had never seen kids in such bad shape. The little babies didn't even make a sound, their mothers said they were too hungry to even say "momma." One of our Haitian pastors that we had brought could only say, "I have never seen a place like this in all of Haiti, in all of my life." There were people on their knees thanking God, and crying, and running up to me saying, "thank you, thank you." These people live in a place where it is all rocks, no crops, no fruit, no animals, cut off from the world, they are starving. I got emotional thanking Jesus, and I have never been hungry like these people. Everywhere we went we just handed out bags of food. People would run behind our truck for a mile just to get a small bag of food. My heart was breaking, and I know now what Jesus meant when he was talking about seeing Him thirsty and giving Him drink, and being hungry and giving Him food. These are the kind of people he was talking about. Thank you for caring and wanting to help the hurting and dying children of Haiti. We are believing because of our tithe God will open up the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing on our orphanage.

### THE President's COLUMN



## Compare Your Trials

Psalm 23 has been a timeless comfort to many throughout the generations and it continues to be so even today. It begins by establishing who God is and how we should respond. He is the Shepherd and we are the sheep. He covers us, protects us and heals our wounds. He feeds us and takes care of every thing we need so that we shall not want.

From there, he leads us beside still waters, not turbulent and troubled. He rebuilds and restores the broken down and hurting. He restores our souls, bringing us to completeness and leading us along a path of righteousness for His namesake.

In the Psalm, David said, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." Is there evil on the earth? Absolutely. But many people have walked through that valley and have decided to camp out there. We want to build a monument, to stay there for a while and analyze things. The Bible tells us we don't have to live in fear even to the point of death. We don't have to fear evil because He is with us.

Our friends who we feed around the world are going through a tremendous valley with very few mountaintop experiences. Many of these people are believers. We know the Lord is with them and will provide for their daily bread. And that's where you come in. When the Lord touches your hearts and you respond, you make it possible for them to receive the food they have prayed for.

In our part of the world, we think we have problems and great issues because of the damaged economy. Is it a meltdown? For some, yes. But compared to the trials of the rest of the world, it is nothing. Our world is hurting, but we have a Savior and we must bring Him to those in need.

President