# JOURNAL

## FEEDING THE NATIONS

Volume 5 Issue 2

# HARE

PRELIEF, LOVE AND HOPE

A 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on January 12. The result was immense destruction, lost lives, countless injuries and cries heard around the world. Feeding the Nations (FTN) refused to stand idly by in the aftermath. Instead, FTN sprung into action and quickly mobilized:

500,000 pounds of food, including rice/vegetable casserole meals, beans, rice, pasta, tomato sauce, corn, protein food bars, assorted soups, juice, applesauce and pudding from 12 states around the country.

50 family tents that sleep six to eight people.

5 Vortex Voyager™ water purification systems that have the capability to collectively purify 3,000 gallons of water a day.



Thanks to our partnerships with various organizations, this aid will reach those who need it most. One of those partnerships is with an organization called Fishers of Men Ministries located in Port-au-Prince. When the quake struck, they were holding a Bible class in the church. The roof collapsed, claiming 30 lives.

But even in the midst of this tragedy, we have seen God's hand in the recovery. At times we see how He provided before the quake even struck as Fishers of Men received 272,000 rice and vegetable meals from FTN the first week of January. Dr. Jay Threadgill, Fishers of Men founder, said, "Thanks to God, we received a container of food from Feeding the Nations earmarked for our feeding program the Friday before the catastrophe. We have enough food to last these next two weeks until the committed aid gets to us." He also reported that the church's soccer field has become a tent city, feeding center, medical clinic and home to many who have been displaced.

Missionary and friend Timothy Johnson from Santiago, Dominican Republic a year ago put together an emergency rapid response team for possible hurricanes. This team did not know that they would use their training and readiness to spearhead and provide aid from Feeding The Nations for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

We thank all of you who have had a hand in making this relief possible. We thank you for hearing the cries, feeling the heartache and making the decision to join with us to reach Haiti with the love of God. We pray for blessings upon the nation and strive to provide them with more assistance as the immediate need turns to efforts of rebuilding.



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NICARAGUA

HONDURAS

### 2009: 15 Million Meals Reach 25 Nations

Thanks to your generosity, FTN provided 15 million meals and countless other supplies to hurting people around the world. The following are just a few examples of the many nations and individuals who received a portion of that generosity. We praise God for all we could do and we look forward to how He will use us in 2010.

In addition to continued food distribution, FTN supplies children living in three slums in the town of Nadidad in the state of Gujerat with much-needed milk. Migrant workers make up the population of the slums. Due to their desperate need for work, they leave their children behind during the day to care for themselves. The routine milk distribution offers those children vital nutrition.

#### **NICARAGUA**

FTN sent 354,000 vegetable soup meals and 960 25-gallon pails of dried peaches and nectarines for Mike Silva Ministries International to distribute in Nicaragua. The organization reported, "The 45,000 pounds of food sent to Leon,

Nicaragua, via Feeding the Nations helped meet our goal of feeding the poor, and also opened the doors to share the Gospel. Many people in Leon live considerably below poverty level, and those are the people we targeted for the food distribution.... At the end of our gathering, we handed the bags of food out to people who were on an already assembled list. It was a wonderful illustration of them having an opportunity to accept a free gift of food, much like our opportunity to accept a free gift of salvation."

World Missions Outreach Center received 126,500 pounds from FTN. The food was used to reach children living in La Chureca del Managua—the city dump. Each and every day, 19,000 children receive a hot, nutritious meal and are given the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One of those children is Maria. She often spends her days rummaging through the dump, trying to find leftover food. When a volunteer found her, Maria's feet were so caked with months' worth of mud that it took two hours to completely remove it. She was given a warm meal and told of God's love.

#### **HONDURAS**

NICARAGUA

Casa de Esperanza operates an orphanage and feeding centers to reach the hurting children of Honduras. Five days a week, it feeds 800 children. In 2009 alone, FTN provided 924,000 bowls of vegetable soup and 542,000 rice and vegetable meals to help make their mission possible. The organization said, "The resources here are so limited and this food is an amazing blessing to the people whose lives depend on a little help. I am constantly amazed at the reaction of the people that receive help. Almost every one of them first says, 'Thanks to God, I prayed for help and He is faithful 100%. He has answered prayer for me!' Giving thanks to God first is a reflection of the fact that many of the people here are in a place where they know that the only way to survive is to hand it over to our Maker."

El Nino has caused prolonged drought periods in the southern region of Honduras. A very high percentage; 77% of the farmers lost 50% of their crops and 40% lost everything. Feeding The Nations responded by sending 271,000 meals to Zion Ministries. Missionary Peter Jurka said, "Thanks to Feeding The Nations many lives are being touched with the love of Jesus."

#### **MALAWI**

Iris Africa blesses 3,000 households (representing over 8,000 people) with food to help ease the perpetual famine that results from unpredictable weather conditions. Households are often headed by the elderly, blind, sick and widowed, making them among the most vulnerable. FTN supplied Iris Africa with 1 million meals to reach those families with life-saving nutrition.

With deep gratitude, 13-year-old Fagrace wrote a thank you note. She resides at an Iris Africa base—a last resort for those in desperate situations. Her letter read: My dear American friends, I just want to thank you for the rice meals. When I eat that rice it makes me happy because the things that you put in the rice are so good. We also help the poor people too. So please next time bring lots. So I thank you for being so kind and I also thank God for His kindness to you. God bless you all the time.

#### **ZIMBABWE**

Throughout the year, FTN reached Zimbabwe in many ways, including 1.5 million meals, seed packets and thousands of pounds of vitamins. In fact, in 2009 FTN provided nine 40 foot containers for Zimbabwe more than any other country. The number sounds great, but what does it really look like? The face of sweet baby Sarah.

When the workers at The Joseph Project first saw Sarah, she was a malnourished infant. Unfortunately she lives in a large household with a father who eats well, saving little or none for his children. For two months, The Joseph Project regularly fed Sarah servings of specially formulated rice casserole meals. The feedings took place away from her home so her father could not take the food from her. The results have been astounding. She has gained weight and her health has immensely improved.

#### ZAMBIA

FTN supports 17 schools and orphanages in Zambia, thus providing 5,000 children a day with specially formulated rice casserole meals. Dave M. Keating, president of Creator's Touch Ministries, reported on the difference this makes to the kids: Most of these children receive only one meal a day and any food served at home is at best "tummy" filler.... After serving rice casserole meals to schoolchildren over a period of even one month or more, we begin to see significant changes in the children's overall health. Children become excited to come to school and are much more attentive thus an ability to learn much more. Many parents and/or caregivers have commented to us on numerous occasions about the significant energy increases that they have seen in these children.

To show their immense appreciation, some of the children at Crown of Life School in Lusaka wrote thank you notes. This one comes from 13-year-old Hildah: I am very happy for the food that you brought for us. I like both rice and soup. The reason why I like soup, because in soup there is energy and the reason why I like rice because it is even making me to be fat.

#### **UKRAINE**

FTN has been blessed to work with Heart to Heart International in the Ukraine. In 2009, FTN gave 778,000 bowls of vegetable soup that fed six orphanages with 800 children, two facilities with 600 elderly adults, two large churches with 2,000 people, and thousands of other families. Svetlana Pokhodina founded the organization in 1992 and has touched the lives of countless people as a result. Svetlana's story has an interesting start as she served as a university professor and married into a family that included the third highest official in the communist government, as well as members of the KGB. All that changed in 1992 when her 14-year-old daughter took her to church. She gave her life to Christ and began working in missions' full time. Svetlana came to South Bend, Ind., in 2009, sharing her story, but more importantly the story of those she reaches each day through Heart to Heart—those who deal with the continual effects of the Chernobyl disaster, who live with daily hunger and malnutrition, and the orphans who have no family to call their own.



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**UNITED STATES** >> Throughout the year, FTN reached many within our own nation, including those affected by the Georgia floods. With the help of Campbell's, FTN shipped a truckload of assorted products to help those hurting in Georgia. The following is a firsthand account and thank you: I saw firsthand the carnage left by more than 18 inches of rain to fall in a 24-hour period.... As we went door to door, people were so receptive to receive our green bags of soup and other products. So many hurting people in a small area. Some would cry and ask why. Others would say thank you for caring enough to give up our time to bring food and ask, if they were all right.... For a moment, strangers met strangers with bags of food and a small glimmer of hope would shine in their eyes. Somehow we managed to walk away and believe we would get through this nightmare and rebuild our communities together. God bless you...for bringing a little sunshine on a very cloudy and rain soaked Georgia counties. You will be in our thoughts and prayers for your support during this time of hardship.

Aside from Georgia, FTN also supplied semi-truck loads of food to many other states. One was sent for the Oral Roberts Evangelic Association outreach at the Montana Crow Native American Reservation. And even a few miles from home base, FTN reached Elkhart, Ind., with 13 trucks of assorted foods to meet the needs of the depleting food banks—a necessity as Elkhart's unemployment rate was in the top two for the entire nation.

## President's COLUMN

### God is a faithful God

to every generation, every person.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.... Nevertheless my loving kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Psalms 89:1-2, 33-34

At the beginning of the Psalm, the praises go up, thanking the God of generations for His goodness and mercy. At the end, we see God's commitment to covenant that He will not break or alter. The Bible tells us that the God of all creation is a covenant keeping God. He will not break His covenant with His people. Unfortunately man struggles to do likewise; a legal system log-jammed with people who have broken their words and promises is living proof.

Yet, God can be trusted. That is why in the face of the tragedies our world has experienced, we can always look up to a God that is ready to intervene on our behalf. He has a helping hand outstretched to those who need Him most and are seeking Him.

Blessing will come from God, but it's through His people and their generous spirit that we help the nations—the people of Haiti who suffered through the earthquake, people in Zimbabwe, India, Nicaragua, Honduras, and all the other nations and people groups we have ministered to this year. We have many more places to go with the help of God and God's people.

I know it might be hard to visualize the hurts of the whole world, but as the body of Christ, we must be responsible for our part. After all, we are the hands and feet of our Lord. Alone we can do so little, but together as all the parts, we can reach so many.

The question is: have you done your part? Have you been those hands and feet? If not, today is a good day to start.

President

Stave Sunsall

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