



fh

food for the hungry

let's end poverty together

Winter 2014

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God's heart for the poor

Christmas is a good time to reflect on why Jesus came into the world in one of the poorest situations possible, an animal feeding trough. Could it be that although God loves us all, he has a special place in his heart for the poor and oppressed? What more powerful way to demonstrate this than by entering the world on their terms and in their environment?

At Food for the Hungry, we recognise that the Bible teaches us how to unlock the causes of poverty in our own lives and the lives of the poor. I hope this newsletter may inspire you to join us on a "poverty unlocked" course with your friends or small group. We would be happy to facilitate it for you (see www.povertyunlocked.com).

Thanks for your support during 2014. God has used your gifts to bring joy and transformation to many hundreds of men, women and children. They were born into a world where poverty is the norm. But God wants no-one to remain in that poverty. With your continued support, many more people will experience the impact of applying Biblical truths to some of the most intractable challenges of our time.

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Paul Cornelius - CEO
Food for the Hungry UK



Burundi – the world's hungriest nation

The Global Hunger Index names 19 countries with "alarming levels of hunger." Top of the list is Burundi, with 73.4% of its population undernourished.

Mwumba is a desperately poor village of nine hills in the north of Burundi. FH are working to encourage this community to raise themselves out of poverty in a sustainable way and to change the lives of its children forever. A team from two UK towns, Wadhurst and Beaconsfield, visited in the summer to gain insights into the development process. Successes include strong support from local leaders and improvements in health and sanitation. However, at this early stage in the process, the community remains caught in poverty.

Support in recent months has enabled two new activities to start.

- Many of the poorest families are single women with children. The women typically work for a pittance as farm labourers because they own no land. FH is organizing 100 women into five cooperatives, renting land, and providing seeds and training. We pray that within a few years crops will provide better nutrition for their families and crop sales will enable the cooperatives to become self-sufficient and finance the rent payments themselves.
- A new school is being constructed on one of the nine hills (Gihama). Previously, children had to walk for over an hour to get to the one very overcrowded primary school, contributing to high dropout rates, particularly for girls. The community has made land available, FH has provided finance for the building and the government is supplying teachers.



Who is Food for the Hungry?

We are a Christian international development organisation that has been serving the poor globally since 1971. We tackle root causes of poverty until the change created can be sustained and communities graduate. We have a track record of real and lasting change in some of the toughest situations on the planet. Our mission is to walk with churches, leaders and families in overcoming all forms of human poverty by living in healthy relationship with God and His creation.

Why sponsor a child in Burundi?*

Child sponsorship is a powerful and personal way of supporting the community. It fosters a link between supporter and child which benefits both, as well as transforming the community as a whole. During the next ten years, regular visits to Mwumba will be organized for supporters.



Why children?

Children are made in the image of God, but they are often overlooked and devalued, seen as “just another mouth to feed”. And if they are malnourished or damaged emotionally, it can mark them for the rest of their lives.

FH works not just with individual children but with the people God has provided to nurture them—parents, teachers, medical

workers, pastors, community leaders. Child sponsorship with FH directs resources to the good of the total community, to bring hope, and to help the community function as God designed it to.

- All the children benefit, not just the sponsored ones
- Sponsorship is long-term. This is an effective way to ensure lasting transformation.

Over the next ten years we are seeking to tackle root causes of poverty until children are thriving, with the aim of breaking the cycle of poverty forever. Then it will be time to move on.

* See the enclosed leaflet for more details.



In memory of Jeremy Suter

A young teacher in Beaconsfield, Jeremy Suter, tragically died last month from a brain tumour. His family have generously donated funds in his memory towards desks and equipment for the Gihama school, celebrating his passion for enabling children to learn.

<http://jeremy.suter.muchloved.com>

Woman of Action in Bangladesh



An enthusiastic team visited Bangladesh in November. They were inspired by the changed lives they saw.

Women are regarded as so inferior that mothers often weep when

they give birth to daughters. FH helps women restore their dignity and gain confidence by teaching biblical principles such as the belief that everybody is equally valuable to God.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The maternal health project in the DRC continues to progress well. Life-saving teaching promoting healthy practices for mothers and children has been passed on by FH staff through training sessions with “Care Groups” (groups of mothers). Educational film shows using portable generators



“Leader Mothers” attending films on family planning and breast feeding

have proved a great attraction and enabled engagement with the community. Strong relationships have been built with the local Ministry of Health, who

are partners in the project. In October a remarkable 9,288 members of the community attended training meetings or film presentations!

Mother and Child Health Project in Haiti

Our team in Haiti has just begun a two and a half year project to communicate health, hygiene and nutrition messages to pregnant women and mothers in rural areas of Haiti.

The aim is to reduce mother and infant mortality and malnutrition, which are very high in these inaccessible areas. Funded by a UK Government grant, the project is a partnership between FH Haiti and the Haitian Health Ministry. FH are using the well-proven "cascade" method for training about nutrition and hygiene. In this scheme, 36 experienced Community Health Workers are taught so that each of them can train up to 20 Care Group Volunteers who have been selected by their own communities. Each of these then contacts a "Care Group" of 10 or so "Care-Givers" (or pregnant women). In the end thousands of households are impacted. Radio broadcasts reinforce the messages, seeds will be distributed and "model homes" promoted to exemplify good practice.

TOP: Inaccessible villages in rural Haiti
BELOW: A Care Group meeting



- **Maternal mortality: 630 per 100,000 live births in Haiti**
- **Under-5 infant mortality: 109 per 1000 live births in one of the project areas.**
(Statistics from 2006 national census)



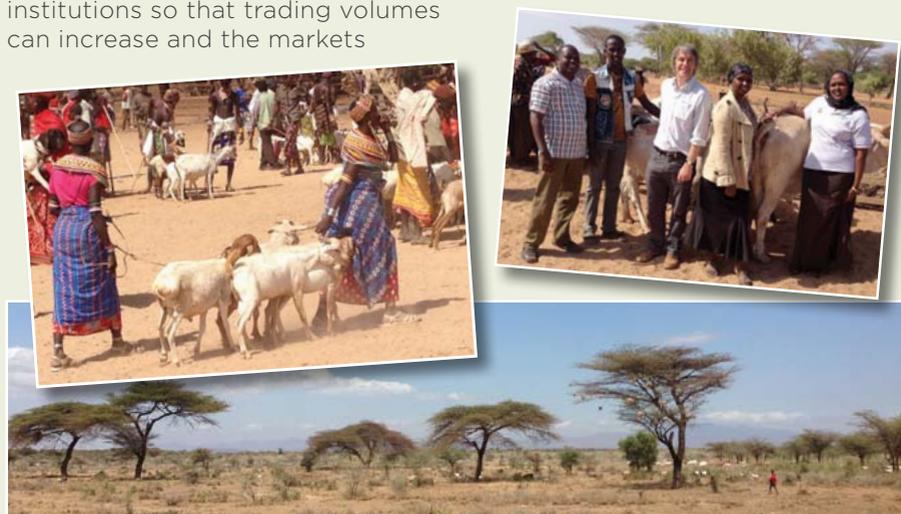
Nkunga, Kenya

49 young people were given life-skills training on growing through adolescence. Concentrating on building their self-esteem, the teaching was based on a verse in Luke's gospel: "and the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." They were also given devotional booklets to help them continue to learn.

Strengthening livestock markets - Northern Kenya

The UK government has also financed a project to reduce poverty among rural pastoralists in northern Kenya. The FH team work in three livestock markets to increase community engagement and to link traders with financial institutions so that trading volumes can increase and the markets

become more vibrant. The team is particularly focused on behaviour change in the community and involving women traders in the market. Research shows this is likely to lead directly to a reduction in child malnutrition.



PHOTOS LEFT: Merille market **RIGHT:** Ian Johnson meets FH staff at Merille market
BELOW: Climate change makes life difficult for pastoralists in Northern Kenya

Maisha Bora, Kenya

Primary education is free and compulsory in Kenya, and no child is turned away, but some children

were staying at home because their families couldn't afford uniforms, equipment or stationery. Recently a meeting was held to encourage the parents of these children. Then the community stakeholder committee voted to provide school uniforms for 110 of them and their families were encouraged to buy the other things they needed. Teachers have since reported on 100% attendance by these children and increased participation in class.



I would like to support the work of Food for the Hungry



I would like to give £ monthly quarterly annually

Standing order form Name and full address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager of

Bank address:

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Bank sort code | | Account number

PLEASE PAY THE ACCOUNT OF

FH UK | Account number: 40359173 | Sort code 20 62 53 | Barclays "Norwich", Leicester LE87 2BB

The sum of In words

Commencing and like sum every month / quarter / annum until further notice
(delete as applicable)

Signature

Date signed | |

Your details

Title Name

Address

Postcode Phone

Email

Tick to increase the value of your gifts *giftaid it* Date | |

I would like Food for the Hungry UK to treat all donations I have made for the four years prior to this year and all donations from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations unless I notify you otherwise. I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the tax year at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p in tax for every £1 that I give.

I would prefer to give a **single gift** to support the work of Food for the Hungry

Enclosed is my gift of £

Please enclose a cheque payable to FH UK

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY,
47 BURGESS WOOD ROAD SOUTH,
BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS, HP9 1EL



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