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GIVE US
TODAY
OUR
DAILY
BREAD

FIELD REPORT

SUMMER 2023



GIVING DAILY BREAD

It's a prayer that many of us will be familiar with - a prayer as old as Christianity itself - a prayer directly from the lips of Jesus Christ:

"Give us today our daily bread." (Matthew 6:11)

Jesus knows that every good thing we have comes from God; from the material to the spiritual. Bread is a symbol of our dependance on God, like the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, being fed day by day with manna from heaven, we are dependant on God for His daily provision.

I've known God's provision in my own life; sometimes unexpectedly and sometimes miraculously when I've been desperate and have had no idea what's going to happen next. When I've seen God answer my prayer for provision, it's almost always been a prayer answered through someone else's generosity.

Consider today that you might be the answer to someone else's prayer of need.



Gwyn Williams
CEO
Feed The Hungry UK

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By feeding the hungry together, and delivering aid in the name of Christ, you are joining with Feed The Hungry to help change people's lives for the better, for the future and for eternity.

Please consider financially supporting the work of Feed The Hungry. To donate, phone 0303 3000 484 or visit fth.org.uk/fieldreport



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TO GIVE

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Responding to **DROUGHT IN UGANDA**

In the North-East of Uganda is a region called 'Karamoja'. It's home to villages and communities who are dependant on the land, both for growing food and farming cattle. But, over the past year, this has become much more difficult.

Doan is an elder in his community. He is 70 years old and has fathered 10 children. He has worked the land that feeds his family and village for decades.

"When there is no food you can get milk from the animals which is enough. Or you can sell the animals and buy food. So you don't worry about the grains not growing", Doan shared.

"But last year it changed. Raiders came and took our animals. So there were no animals. Then our grains did not grow.



Doan's village has struggled to grow food.

There were no animals and no grains and so it became tougher than it used to be."

The area in which Doan lives has seen unpredictable rainfall over the past year, making it very difficult to grow anything. Across the region food is scarce. People scavenge what they can to fill their stomachs - bark, leaves and insects - just to stay alive.



Feed The Hungry East Africa has distributed food around the Karamoja region.

Feed The Hungry East Africa, led by Bishop Solomon, has been monitoring the situation and began distributing food in affected areas in April. Solomon's teams have been making regular trips to give out maize meals and beans. Ugandan Defence Force platoons accompany the teams in order to keep the peace and protect the relief effort from raiders.

In addition to the 120 tonnes of food given out, over 7 tonnes of cassava seed has been purchased, which should



cover over 1200 acres of land, ready for when the rain begins to fall again.

"We've received food from Feed The Hungry", said Doan. "It's really helped us - we wouldn't have survived without it."

Sadly, Doan's words are painfully real. Two men, one young and one old, died of starvation at a church outside Kotido, where a food distribution was taking place.

"If you are able to, please help so that every village in our area is able to have food," said Doan. "If food is given in one village but not another, it causes fighting. Please help to send food to all of the villages."

Please help us to support communities like Doan's. You can find out more about our work in Uganda and donate at fth.org.uk/uganda



“This place is a life line of help for people in Camp Hill and loads of support. It helped me a lot.”

- Pantry member

Over the past year the cost of living increase has impacted everyone. The stark reality for many during the winter months has been a choice between heating and eating.

However, with the cost of basic food items rising faster than inflation, families on the lowest incomes have been hit the hardest.

Funded by Warwickshire County Council, Feed The Hungry launched

“The Community Pantry” in three locations in Spring 2022.

This programme is aimed at those who are regularly struggling to make ends meet. That might sound similar to the services being provided by foodbanks, but is distinctly different in a number of ways; Foodbanks do an incredible job supporting people who are facing a food crisis - a sudden loss of income, a large unexpected bill or missed benefits payments are common reasons that someone may need to access a foodbank. It’s an emergency service - a safety net for the unexpected.



But there are some people who need more regular support beyond receiving a food parcel. Someone may be facing long term financial problems, which a one-off food parcel isn’t going to solve. This is where The Community Pantry comes in to help.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY PANTRY?

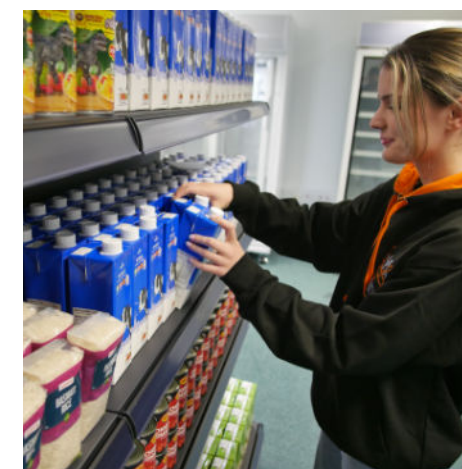
At face-value, a Community Pantry is a subsidised supermarket. A Pantry member pays £5 and in exchange, can get about £25 worth of food. Members can access the service once a week, and they have a choice as to what food they want. This differs from a foodbank parcel, which contains a pre-selected set of items. Membership isn’t available to everyone, but only those who have been through a vetting process to determine if they’re eligible.

Community Pantry membership is time-limited, initially to 6 months, although can be extended. While someone is a Pantry member they are encouraged to engage with additional

support services, such as Citizen’s Advice, Christians Against Poverty or an Adult Education provider. By encouraging engagement with other services, Members not only receive food support, but help tackling the root problems that lead them to use a Community Pantry as well.

THE PANTRY SUCCESS

During the first year, every expectation of the project was exceeded. Across the three Pantry sites, the target was to provide support for 140 families each week, but this number has been regularly exceeded. Whilst membership in the first year has surpassed 700 families, by engaging with the support offered, 216 families no longer need to use the Pantry because their financial situation has improved.



One Pantry member shared, “It helped me massively through a hard time and a time of need. I’ve been helped by many professionals within the Community Centre and always have been pointed in the right direction by the lead of the Pantry. I can’t thank everyone enough for all the support.”



TACKLING RURAL POVERTY

It was identified early on in the programme that some people are isolated because of their geographical location and lack of transport. In order to make The Community Pantry accessible in rural areas, Feed The Hungry renovated an old St John’s Ambulance into a Mobile Pantry, lovingly known as ‘Lazarus’. This large van carries the contents of a basic supermarket, so that it can be driven and stationed wherever a local rural community might benefit from it.



Initially The Mobile Pantry served two communities in North Warwickshire; New Arley and Camp Hill. However, very quickly, demand grew at Camp Hill and a permanent static Pantry was installed.

WORKING WITH CHURCHES

The Community Pantry offers an opportunity for churches to engage with their local communities. Wherever the Mobile Pantry goes, it needs a host location where it can park and set up shop. Churches and church car parks provide great locations to host The Community Pantry. The churches open their doors to the Pantry members and offer refreshments and a base for support services while The Community Pantry is open. This means that people are not only being supported with food and support services like Citizen’s Advice, but are also being shown care by the

local church - a great way to break down walls and help people to feel comfortable stepping into a church building.

CREATING COMMUNITY

One of the side-effects of running The Community Pantry project is that communities have started to come together. The Pantries have become welcoming spaces, where troubles and concerns are heard. In one of the Pantries, English lessons are regularly taught to help Ukrainian refugees and a Community Cafe has been set up to provide opportunities for people to gather, supported with Warwickshire Rural Community Council Warm Hub funding.

Other Pantry members have felt isolated at home; knowing that the Pantry will be open once a week gives them a safe place to look forward to

visiting. Some members have become volunteers to help the Pantries to run each week.

THE NEXT STEPS

The success of The Community Pantry project has been rewarded with a second year of funding from Warwickshire County Council. In addition, Cadent, the largest gas distribution network in the UK, has funded three more Mobile Pantry locations in Leicestershire, which commenced operation in the Spring of 2023. Feed The Hungry currently operates six Pantry locations and are seeking funding for a seventh, based in a school in Leamington Spa.

While 2023 continues to be a financially challenging time, we pray that Community Pantries will be a support for both individuals and communities.



COUNTRY FOCUS: FEED THE HUNGRY IN UGANDA

More than 67,000 children and young people are regularly fed with meals provided by Feed The Hungry across Uganda.

PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Feed The Hungry has two partners in Uganda who distribute food; *Feed The Hungry East Africa* and the *Irene Gleeson Foundation*.

REFUGEE SUPPORT

Over 50,000 children and young people across several refugee settlements in Uganda are regularly fed with meals from Feed The Hungry. Many of those supported are from South Sudan, where civil war has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee to neighbouring countries.



FEED THE HUNGRY EAST AFRICA

Bishop Solomon has worked with Feed The Hungry for over 30 years. In Kampala, over 1000 young people are fed through school programmes, where they also receive Christian teaching.

FIELD REPORT

KITGUM

KARAMOJA

KIRYANDONGO

KAMPALA

FIELD REPORT



RURAL COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RELIEF

Unpredictable rainfall has led to poor harvests in the Karamoja region. In recent months, Bishop Solomon has regularly taken food up to rural communities who are facing starvation.



IRENE GLEESON FOUNDATION

Irene Gleeson Foundation has partnered with Feed The Hungry for 17 years. The Foundation runs four Primary Schools, which have over 4,400 students, regularly fed with food from Feed The Hungry.



I would like to pass along an update on the ongoing work of Feed The Hungry in their outreach to Afghan Refugees in Tajikistan. Over 30,000 refugees have passed over the border from Afghanistan into Tajikistan. Many, who have fled atrocities in Afghanistan, are being supported and welcomed by Tajik Christians.

God is doing amazing things among the Afghans through the work of Feed The Hungry. Over the past 18 months they've been able to reach over 2,000 families with food packs that contained MP3 players with audio Bibles recorded in Dari and SD cards with the 'King of Glory' movie. They've started three new self-sustaining house churches among the refugees with

more house groups being started. They've baptised over 57 new believers since October. We were blown away by these results because Afghans are considered by missiologists to be among the hardest of people to bring to Christ.

During my trip I led a two-day class among 30+ Afghan refugees on the topic of 'God and suffering' – all of them new believers that benefited from Feed The Hungry. We visited a school for Afghan children where food packs are being distributed among students and teachers. We visited the Afghan border where missionaries are rescuing refugees and getting them food, shelter and safe haven among the churches. Included among them are



stories of shattered lives, unspeakable horrors and the power of God and the church to end starvation and bring hope and salvation to many.

One new Christian shared his story with me:

I was born in Kabul. I heard the saving message of the Christians who distributed food packages to us and invited me to their Christian meeting. At first these Christians were suspicious to me and I was so curious of how they pray and worship God.

A Tajik brother shared about how Jesus spent his infancy as a refugee in Egypt, being persecuted in His hometown and understand what Afghans are going through.

He shared with me: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble

in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

I have never met Christians before and didn't know what they believed. Hearing these words turned my world upside-down.

As I remember myself, from childhood until now, my family always lived in fear sought for a safe place. My whole life, my family was always on the run as the refugees without a homeland and country.

My Father and brother were brutally killed by Taliban - those shouted loudly that they will bring God's Sharia and act justly but instead we got another evil ruling and destroying everyone, everything I loved.

When I heard the message of these Tajiks, something in my heart broke my eyes filled with tears. I came to brothers and prayed accepting Jesus into my heart as my Saviour, Lord and someone who gives rest to my weary soul.

I came home that night and shared with my poor wife who faithfully went with me through hardships. She accepted Jesus as her Saviour and Lord. We have one son and two daughters who also enjoy reading Jesus' words and support us, as we have one another. For almost one month we gave our lives to the Lord, to someone who loves our soul and gives us rest!

Jim McLain is Director of Learning and Development at Gustave A. Larson.



After years of ministry, Pastor Kouami has learned an important lesson: When opportunity knocks fling the door open! It's often the Holy Spirit delivering just what you need, when you need it most.

Pastor Kouami first experienced this as a child growing up in Africa. His family was not Christian, but clung to animistic beliefs that everything from rocks to plants to animals had a spirit. In fact, his grandparents were both respected witch doctors in their village. But when his uncle visited from



Pastor Kouami with Feed The Hungry's Director of Ministry Programmes, Roger Walterhouse

the city, hoping to have his failing eyesight restored, God cracked open a door that brought young Pastor Kouami to a vibrant relationship with Him.

"My grandfather wasn't able to heal my uncle's eyesight," Pastor Kouami recalls. "Butaman in the village was preaching the Gospel and my uncle was saved. He became a Pastor and led me to Christ."

Pastor Kouami's grandfather proved harder to reach, but his grandmother accepted Christ as her Lord and saviour at the age of 97!

Today, as a minister in Togo, Pastor Kouami sees many opportunities for bringing more souls to Christ, especially through his partnership with Feed The Hungry in our Every Child, Every Day programme.

"God has opened doors for us in Togo", he says. "Feed The Hungry is vital to us in evangelisation. Two churches have started as a result of this outreach. Children from all backgrounds - animistic, Muslim - come to eat. It might be the only food they have all day. They are becoming smarter and healthier."

These children go home and share what they have learned about Jesus Christ. Pastor Kouami reports that many mothers come to church, but not their husbands.

"There is a relationship between Muslims and Christians, but we don't have fellowship with them yet", he says. "But I



have Muslim friends, and I build a bridge to draw them to Christ."

Pastor Kouami tells us he plans to open another food distribution centre in northern Togo, which is primarily Muslim. He prays for further growth of the Every Child, Every Day programme in the coming months - and he will be ready to open the door to that opportunity.

"I would like to send food to Ghana and Benin, if possible. It would make a lot of difference. A lot of people would be nourished. If we can triple it, praise God!"

Find out more about our ministry in Togo at fth.org.uk/togo



THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Did you know that a legacy of just 1% of your estate left in your Will to Feed The Hungry UK could transform the lives of thousands of children in Africa?

Feed The Hungry is working to make life-long changes to the lives of over 430,000 children globally. By providing food, education and spiritual care, we are sowing seeds that will bring real, positive change to communities.

You can make a life-changing impact by leaving a gift in your Will to Feed The Hungry UK; you can help shape the future of these young people.

Free Will Writing Service

As a supporter of Feed The Hungry UK you can benefit from our free Will writing service. To find out more, visit fth.org.uk/freewill, or call Farewill on 020 8050 2686 to book a telephone appointment.

To get a free Will, make sure to tell the Customer Service operator that you're a Feed The Hungry supporter at the start of the call.