

LeSEA Global

FEED THE HUNGRY

A full life feels good.™

REFLECTING
JESUS IN
**CENTRAL
& SOUTH
AMERICA**

**FIELD
REPORT**

AUTUMN 2022

Families in Nicaragua scavenge through waste dumped in the local tip. It's not unusual for children as young as 3 or 4 years old to dig for plastic, metal and cardboard, which is sold each day for a small amount of money. Feed The Hungry is trying to break the cycle of poverty by providing food for the children and young people. This encourages them to go to school to receive an education rather than digging through waste just to survive.



TALKING JESUS

The Message of the Gospel is a transformative power; mentally, physically and spiritually. We are created by a God who deeply loves us with a passion that we often struggle to comprehend. It's a love that says "I'm willing to give my up my life, so that you can have life."

The Good News of Jesus is at the heart of Feed The Hungry's mission. We want the people that we connect with to experience life; not just a life trying to survive, but a life of fullness, colour and joy. Wherever we're serving food, we also want to share the message of God's love for people.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" - Isaiah 52:7 (NIV)



Gwyn Williams
International
Operations Director

IN THIS ISSUE...



4 Mission Bolivia
Sharing Good News



8 Mission Map: Central
& South America



10 Ukraine Update from
Daniel Skokan

FEATURE



12 Enabling Mission
in Central America

By feeding the hungry together, and delivering it 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

Feed The Hungry UK is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (5537293) and a charity registered in England and Wales (1112955). Registered Office: Charnwood House, Harcourt Way, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1WP



MISSION BOLIVIA

Sharing Good News

Gwyn Williams, International Operations Director

Mission Bolivia is the vision of Isaac and Anali Butcher. In 2014, when Isaac first visited Anali's family in Bolivia, his heart was stopped by the intense poverty-stricken indigenous tribes and the suffering of street kids found sleeping rough in the concrete flood canals of La Paz and Santa Cruz. That same passion was already in Anali's heart but was now rekindled and burning brightly.

Issac was a bit of a wizz at twisting the old vinyl and toured with Daniel Bedingfield around the World as a DJ. But the pull of his heart towards the needs of Bolivian children and their communities would eventually and inevitably draw them to a point of selling up their home and belongings in the UK,

and following God's call. In April 2021, they moved to Bolivia with their two beautiful young daughters, to look at setting up a rehabilitation centre on the outskirts of Santa Cruz.

Isaac had for some time been a supporter of Feed The Hungry and had offered to run a bare-foot marathon for us. We had previously talked about his passion and heart towards helping the street kids in Bolivia, under the guidance of Cornerstone Church in Kent and other supporting partners. Feed The Hungry was ready to seed into developing the centre.

In August 2022, I was able to visit Isaac and his family over in Le Torno. They had been out in Bolivia for just over a year

FIELD REPORT



The rehab centre is under construction just outside of Santa Cruz.

and had already constructed the first floor of the rehab centre.

On arrival in Santa Cruz, I was met by Issac at the airport and shuttled to a fruit market to buy some supplies. Sleepy vendors were unwrapping themselves out of blankets behind their stalls. We continued along dusty dirt track roads, fording numerous river crossings, through a mandarin grove and up to the centre. It was a spectacular large structure of concrete and brick, nestled into the side of the hill and surrounded by mango, papaya, orange, mandarin and banana trees.

Having rested for a couple of hours and changed into more appropriate clothing, Isaac thrust a machete into my hand and we marched up into the jungle to inspect the water system as the rivers were running dry. The water source was stable and the two 5000 litre tanks were full. They had been praying that rain would

come soon as many villages nearby were reliant on water from the rivers. Only a week later, on my return journey, there was already talk of rationing water.

The project base is 17 hectares that used to be a mandarin and fish farm. The fish pond had been emptied to reduce the risk of Mosquitoes and the fruit trees being pruned back to encourage new



People living in a storm drain in Santa Cruz.

FIELD REPORT

growth. Having added an enclosure for chickens and turkeys, an incubator was busy hatching around 5-7 new chicks a day. Isaac is also adding different places of rest within the terraced gardens for young people and children to retreat to, in sharp contrast to the concrete jungle they have had to endure. The afternoon was spent painting the disabled ramp up to the second floor of the facility with protective paint. The facility comprises ground floor classrooms, bedrooms and teaching areas, as well as different sorts of training rooms for activities to equip the young people for the future.

On Friday, we were up at 5am cooking a Majadito and plantain; a sort of risotto that can be easily dished out on the street. It's a meal packed with a kick. We then set off to meet some of the street kids in Santa Cruz.

Currently, Issac, Anali and Christian (a local Pastor from LA Torno) are using the time to slowly gain the trust of these children, teenagers and homeless families. They're mapping out the various locations where they congregate in the day and sleep during the night. At each area we stopped, a couple of mics were set up with a speaker. Christian played the guitar and Issac played the trumpet as a way of attracting those within the vicinity, whilst Anali and I served the food.

My first encounter was with two young women sniffing glue; one holding a 3-week-old baby. It was a reality check of the need on the ground and the urgency



Isaac cooks food to give out as part of their Street Outreach project, which runs every Friday.

to get the centre up and running. This was followed by Anali bathing cuts and talking through daily problems, whilst Isaac and Christian shared testimonies of grace with the young people now gathered outside the Sports Arena.

On this short visit we met around 50 young people or families in various locations; sleeping rough in archways, derelict doorways and under canal bridges.

We met two girls who were sisters; one 15, the other 16. They had run away from an abusive situation. The intention of Isaac and Anali is that girls in similar circumstances would be welcomed into a loving environment at the centre, which would offer them healing, restoration and hope for the future.

FIELD REPORT

Working with street kids is not the only objective of Mission Bolivia; they have a vision of reaching out to the vast array of poverty-stricken nearby villages. One of these villages was home to the Guaraní people. They live in mud huts in an area that could only be described as a dust bowl, with very little vegetation apart from cactus and scrub. Amazingly they manage to make a living by growing maize. However, this year the rains were late and the harvest was poor.

Having been in touch with the local pastor, we had brought food packs with us for the poorest families, those unable to work due to injury, age or who were caring for children with disabilities (they believe some of these disabilities were from malnutrition before birth).

Despite this, they had set out a dinner for us of maize drink, maize biscuits and bread, chicken with maize and a maize tea, all of which was beautifully cooked but exemplified how dependant they were on maize as a resource.

We were then taken on a tour of the village, including its school and clinic, and then visited families to distribute the food packs. Their dwellings were made primarily of sticks with mud tarp for a door. Most of them were just one room, with food cooked outdoors and a pile of sticks made the privy. It was explained to me that many people die young due to bacterial infections or a parasite that lives in the mud of the huts. We took time to pray for each family as we went from home to home.

We set up in the mud built Church for a time of testimony and celebration. We came away thinking and praying over how we could help to bring this community out of survival to a place of self-sustainability.

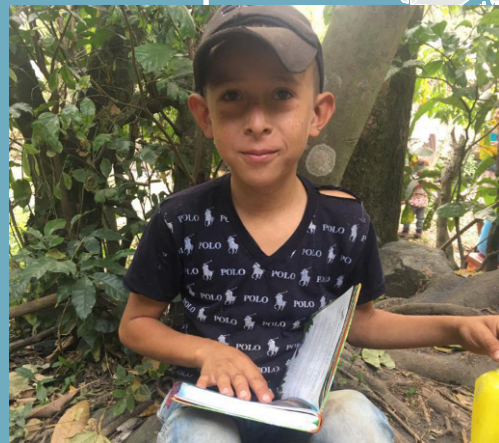
Isaac and Anali are doing incredible work by sharing the love of Christ to those forgotten in Bolivia. Having seen how much they have done over the past year, I'm so excited to watch what God does through them over the next 12 months.



Food and Street Preaching attracts a crowd outside of Santa Cruz's Sports Arena.

FIELD REPORT

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA



Guatemala

Population: 18.7 million
GDP per capita: \$4600 USD
Project Partner: Hope of the Nations
Children being fed: 90,000

Key Issues: Guatemala has a high economic inequality. Almost half of children aged under 5 years old are chronically malnourished.



Nicaragua

Population: 6.83 million
GDP per capita: \$1900 USD
Project Partner: FTH Nicaragua
Children being fed: 100,000

Key Issues: Nicaragua is the poorest country in Central America. It has widespread unemployment and poverty.



Haiti

Population: 11.6 million
GDP per capita: \$1800 USD
Project Partners: Susie Krabacher & Yves Prophete
Children being fed: 2,500

Key Issues: Haiti is at risk of natural disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones and hurricanes, which has pounded the fragile economy.



Honduras

Population: 10.25 million
GDP per capita: \$2500 USD
Project Partner: Pastor Carlos Saavedra
Children being fed: 24,000

Key Issues: Second poorest country in Central America with high unemployment.



BOLIVIA



Bolivia

Population: 12.2 million
GDP per capita: \$3200 USD
Project Partner: Mission Bolivia

Key Issues: Bolivia is one of the least developed countries in Latin America, having struggled to attract external investment. About a third of the population live in poverty, with 15% living in extreme poverty.



UKRAINE UPDATE

from Daniel Skokan, Feed The Hungry Czech

Allow me to share with you about Roza. When the war started, she was living with her husband on the outskirts of Kiev. During the first days, the outskirts of Kiev were bombed, evacuated and re-occupied.

Her husband volunteered for the Ukrainian army. Roza was 18 years old and pregnant. She managed to contact her mother and younger sister and escaped under terrible conditions at the border. They ended up in the Czech Republic.

Because she was pregnant, she was separated from her mother and her younger sister as a new potential "family unit". The mother and sister were placed in Ostrava, while she ended up in Brno. A Christian woman helped her find a decent but very small apartment. Eventually Roza gave birth to her child.

Unfortunately, the neighbours were annoyed by her "Muslim appearance" and did not treat her well. They called her names and told her to "go home". She was informed that her husband had died in the war. The young mother with no close relatives often cried.

The Christian woman still supported her with help from the local church. In time she reconnected with her mother and younger sister and together they returned to Ukraine to find that she was not only without a husband, but that her house had been destroyed. Eventually, they ended up connecting with her husband's father, who is old and has no means. But in such a situation, they stick together and do what they can.

That's when I heard about her story, contacted the ICF Church in Kyiv (Ukraine) and asked if the church could share some of the food we were sending. This week, I learned that she received her second aid package from them.

I am grateful that we are able to link all the dots. Starting with generous donors overseas and here in the Czech Republic, raising material and financial support, buying the missing products and adding it to already donated food, transporting it under complicated conditions to churches in Ukraine, and finally meeting specific needs with the real and heartbreaking stories of hundreds, and now thousands, of people.

THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Leaving a gift in your Will can help to feed hungry children around the world for generations to come.

Feed The Hungry is working to make life-long changes to the lives of over 400,000 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. **And as a Feed The Hungry supporter, you can have a free, legal Will written and checked by a specialist.**

Feed The Hungry is working with one of the UK's leading Will writing services, Farewill, to offer a free Will writing service to anyone who has previously supported, or would like to support, Feed The Hungry.

You can start your free Will today by visiting 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.



Enabling Mission in CENTRAL AMERICA

Stefan Radelich, CEO of Feed The Hungry International, shares his experience of seeing the Gospel transform lives in Central America.

The mission field in Central America is ripe. We are working with Christian partners and Pastors across Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Haiti who, day by day, are passionately advancing the Kingdom of God. And it's my privilege to witness first-hand, the incredible impact that the Gospel is having on people's lives in these countries. I want to share with you a couple of stories from the field.

Honduras

Earlier this year, I travelled with a Ministry Team to Honduras, where Pastor Michelle Johns works with

indigenous tribes living in a remote mountainous area called *Montana de la Flor*. It's a desperately poor area. The tribes have ended up there because there was nowhere else to go; they've been pushed from place to place as the more virtuous lands have been taken and urbanised.

They told us they felt like they had been abandoned by the world, and that even God had abandoned them. There was a real sense of sadness over the community.

In Montana de la Flor, Michelle and her team visited some communities that have never been exposed to the Gospel. Along with Feed The Hungry, Michelle was there to establish six feeding programs in the region,

bringing nutrition and the Gospel to 800 children and their families.

Plans are already in place to establish several more programmes. "It takes time because the area is so remote," Michelle says. "The newest site is a two-hour walk from the end of the road. They meet us there, pack all the food and supplies onto horses and mules and walk back another two hours into the mountains. They will be feeding about 100 children from three communities."

Since the feeding programs began, they have had an incredibly positive impact on the people in Montana de la Flor. The most immediate effect is physical. "There's a lot of malnutrition among the mountain kids. They sometimes don't eat for three days.

You can grow corn, coffee, rice and beans in the mountains, but no fresh

vegetables. Most of the children here have never seen a carrot." Already the children, who were severely underweight, are showing signs of renewed health.

Filling Stomachs & Transforming Lives

More children are now attending local schools, where the meals are served. "Before the feeding program started, school attendance was very low because many of the children have to walk more than an hour to school. On a good day, a teacher would have had approximately 30 children. Since starting the feeding site, attendance has more than doubled to about 70 students every day."

Feed The Hungry's presence has also brought many more unreached souls to Christ during the course of this year. Michelle tells us, "Every time I'm in Honduras with the team, we go to the



feeding programs and do a children's programme, which all the mums in the community come to. They hear the Gospel, and they're starting to get hungry for God. They ask us to pray for their kids and their families. I just stopped in one of the communities and the women asked if I was going to share the Bible, if I was going to pray with them. The spiritual climate is starting to change in the mountains."

Nicaragua

Nicaragua is one of Feed The Hungry's largest programmes, regularly feeding over 100,000 children and young people - about a quarter of the total number we're feeding globally. We've been active there since 1998.

As the programme started, we came into contact with a 6 year old boy

called Josué. He's the son of a single mother and he started coming to the feeding programme that had been set up outside the city dump. He and his mother sifted through rubbish to try to find plastic that could be sold for a little money. He regularly had meals with us through the feeding programme and we built a relationship and trust with him. When he was 11 years old, he came with us to a Christian camp, and through the love that he was shown by the staff, he responded to an invitation to accept Jesus into his heart.

Josué stood out to us as a bright child; when he was asked what he wanted to do when he grew up, he said that he wanted to work for Feed The Hungry and to translate for the preachers that came to visit.



Josué (top-centre) and friends on a Christian Camp in Nicaragua.



Josué has been blessed through a Feed The Hungry feeding programme and now wants to give back.



At 13 years old, Josué started training with us on a farm project that helped young people develop not only practical skills but also encouraged them to build positive character like integrity, honesty and compassion.

When he was 16, Josué was selected to be a recipient of the Lester Sumrall Family Scholarship, which enabled him to take part in a one year programme to learn English. By 18 years old, he was a young man who was fluent in English and was able to weld metal. This opened up opportunities to him, but more than this, he was passionate about Jesus and sharing Him with children and young people, especially those who have come from the same background.

Now at 19 years old, Josué is serving in his local church and working for a call

centre, at which he earns \$600 per month. This is an excellent wage, given that the average wage in Nicaragua is just \$300 a month. Many of the people working to collect plastic on the waste dump earn just \$2 a day. Josué knows where he's come from and he desperately wants to give back. He volunteers every Saturday with the Feed The Hungry feeding programmes and Christian camps, and has helped with emergency responses to crisis like flooding. He said, *"This is my roots; this is what I was made to do."*

We praise God for the children, like Josué, who's lives are being transformed by the Gospel. Jesus is doing incredible things, and we're honoured to be a part the ministry that is being done in His name across Central America.

NEWS

To keep up to date with all our latest news stories, go to fth.org.uk/news or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Flooding in Pakistan

This year the country has been hit by the worst flooding witnessed in living memory. The month of July was the wettest in three decades, according to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, Reuters has reported. The entire country has been pounded by the flooding situation which is of a much larger scale than that of the super flood of 2010. Is it estimated to have affected 30 million people.

The Government of Pakistan has declared Emergency and has deployed the armed forces to rescue people. Rescue workers backed by the military have evacuated thousands of marooned people, including women and children. The situation has

surpassed the capacity of the government to provide relief.

Feed The Hungry Germany is taking a lead in getting food and medical support to our partner in Pakistan, Pastor Salik John Barkat, who is running relief teams to deliver aid to flood victims in South Punjab and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Please pray for all those affected in Pakistan and please help us to provide food and medical treatment to those who are injured and those who are becoming sick with flood waters. Please pray for the safety of our teams and also pray for the funds to come in so that we may provide relief to these desperate people in Pakistan.

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