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FIELD REPORT

LESEA GLOBAL
FEED THE HUNGRY

Dr. Lester Sumrall, Founder

Feeding the Hungry Encouraging the Church Reaching the Lost

Back to Life in Burundi!

Feed The Hungry helping to restore malnourished children

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- Update on partnerships in Nicaragua

A personal word from President Pete Sumrall



Peter Sumrall
 PRESIDENT

ON THE COVER:

HELPING CHILDREN AT RISK:

These malnourished children in the African nation of Burundi receive life-saving food and nutrition thanks to Feed The Hungry friends and partners.

Dear Partner,

For centuries, Africa has been called “the dark continent,” incredibly rich in natural resources, yet plagued by war, poverty, hunger, and death. The average life span of a person in Africa is far less than anywhere else in the world.

I’ll never forget the trips I made with my father, Dr. Lester Sumrall, to Africa. They were certainly eye-opening experiences. My Dad had a heart for Africa. When Feed The Hungry was formed, some of our first efforts were in Africa due to the incredible needs. Those needs continue today.

When we launched *Every Child Every Day*, Africa was the first place we started taking care of kids. Today, the majority of kids we feed are in several nations of Africa. The needs are unbelievable. Our ministry partners on the ground continually tell us they can do more if given more. It is something we sincerely want to do, but we can’t without the support necessary to meet the tremendous needs.

For instance, the work going on in Kitgum, Uganda, is amazing and uplifting. Most of the kids are not orphans, but live in refugee camps with their families. They come every day to learn, play, be taught the Word of God, and receive life-giving food. There are no government supplies. Their families do not have a “safety net” like we have here. What we provide is likely the only food they receive every day. It’s heartwarming to watch, yet tragic to think that we could do more. Even though we are feeding thousands at this one place alone, there are more kids to feed.

In the capital city of Kampala, the situation is similar. King Solomon Academy reaches out to kids who live with their families in poverty . . . yet they are happy, learn the Word, and receive a daily hot meal. Again, we could do more if there was more support.

The same story can be repeated all over Africa, in fact all over the world. Asia, Central America, the Caribbean are all areas where Feed The Hungry provides necessary food for the day.

I was touched in Haiti to see kids bringing their own container for a daily meal. They would eat some and take the rest home for the family, possibly the only food the family would have that day. Just think of kids having to provide food for the entire family.

We live in such a blessed country. While we may have our challenges, God has blessed us in so many ways. Because of this blessing, we are able to touch the ends of the earth with life-giving relief. Thank you for being a partner, thank you for praying for the work of Feed The Hungry and the kids we feed every day.

Serving the hungry,

Pete Sumrall
 President

30-Ton Miracle!

Feed The Hungry emergency aid feeds starving families in Uganda

Jaja has eight grandchildren. But she is not the typical grandmother you may imagine. She doesn't spend her days taking children to the park . . . baking cookies for others . . . or reading stories from the rocking chair. Jaja digs.

This Ugandan grandmother spends her days hard at work digging into the hard, dry land so her grandchildren can eat. Tired and aching, she digs. Hot and thirsty, she digs. Weak from hunger, she digs.

After a long day of digging, Jaja earns a few scraps of food or a little money to feed her family. But it is not nearly enough.

And now, as Uganda faces the most severe drought and crop failure in a generation, it would take a miracle for Jaja to have enough to feed all eight children.

Severe food shortages in Uganda have left tens of thousands of people without enough food. An entire



Friends like you helped provide this Ugandan grandmother of eight with maize flour to feed her hungry grandchildren.

planting season has been lost and families have exhausted their food supplies. Many have resorted to eating bugs, rats, twigs, and leaves to survive.

Pastor Solomon, who feeds 1,600 children through our Feed The Hungry *Every Child Every Day* program in Uganda, said that the situation is desperate.

He said, "As food prices continue to rise and hunger continues to bite, some people have decided to demonstrate violently to force the government to help, while others are watching helplessly as they wait to see what tomorrow may bring. Some people don't have hope for tomorrow."

With the help of friends like you, God delivered a 30-ton miracle to Jaja and her grandchildren, and to thousands more starving people in Uganda.

Through your support, Feed The Hungry recently provided 30 tons of food and nutrition to Pastor Solomon for distribution. In addition to the *Every Child Every Day* daily program, Pastor Solomon established four additional feeding centers in the region to provide hungry families with at least one meal a day.

"I believe if the church is equipped, it can help reduce the suffering of the people," Pastor Solomon said. "You can see the smile as they see real food being served. What a joy to see people's needs being met as we demonstrate God's love. Keep us in your prayers to help us keep putting food to the table of these we are feeding so far. Thank you very much."

Your giving is saving lives! But the people of Uganda still need us. Even if the rains came today, it would take three to four months for a harvest. Please help continue providing life-saving food to Jaja and thousands more in Uganda.



Families line up for life-saving food at the Bulenga school after Feed The Hungry provided 30 tons of emergency aid.



You were there . . . in her time of greatest need

Thirteen-year-old Erla needed a break. She had just lost Christopher, her best friend in the orphanage, to cholera. And she was grieving for the only family she knew.

Erla was born with Down Syndrome. In poverty-stricken Haiti, babies born handicapped are often seen as unnecessary mouths to feed and left on the streets or in garbage piles to die.



For many children like Erla, Mercy & Sharing orphanage is not only a home, but a refuge. Your support allows Feed The Hungry to support Mercy & Sharing, and help care for children like Erla in Christ's name.

Our partners at Mercy & Sharing provide food, shelter, education, and most importantly, share the love of Jesus Christ with Erla and other orphans. They were there for Erla in her greatest time of need.

"As I entered the handicap building, I'm greeted with lots of smiles and hugs," said Terry Swope, one of our partners at Mercy & Sharing. "My goal today is to take Erla down to the church for some one-on-one time. The house mothers had her dressed in a pretty sundress and her hair fixed with ribbons. We don't get far, when four other handicap children want to go with us. So, I take them along as well."

Once at the church, the children see the crayons and coloring books. They immediately start coloring. Erla likes

coloring pictures of dogs while practicing her best "woof, woof."

Next, Erla and the others moved on to magic noodles that they could stick together and make different shapes and creations. Hours flew by as the children worked intently on their art projects. Before long it was lunchtime.

"We gathered up our projects and headed back," Terry said. "As lunch was being served, Erla gave me a big hug and smiled. I knew it was her way of saying, 'Thanks. I needed that!'"

Friends like you help feed about 550 poverty-stricken children, five days a week, through Mercy & Sharing. You are also providing food for a program that feeds 1,500 children and seniors a meal seven days a week.

And most recently, you helped provide Mercy & Sharing with a water purification system. The safe, clean water will help ensure Erla doesn't have to lose any more of her "family" to cholera. Thank you. Your continued support makes a life-saving impact on these children.

New filtration systems pumping clean water!

You have helped save lives in Haiti by providing clean water! Feed The Hungry friends and partners sent two water purification systems to Mercy & Sharing, our partner on the ground in Haiti.

The entire region has been battling a deadly cholera outbreak, and the orphans we help care for were in danger of exposure to unsafe drinking water. But through your generosity, new filtration systems are pumping clean water . . . for the children and the entire community.

Our partners report that the public well is pumping 1,200 to 1,500 gallons of purified water a day. In the past month, Mercy & Sharing has supplied about 40,000 gallons of purified water from the public well. That means most days between 150 to 200 people have access to clean water. On market days, as many as 325 people drink the life-saving water!

Thank you for helping to provide safe, clean drinking water for children and others in the community. Whatever we do, we do in Christ's name.



In the last month alone, the public well has provided 40,000 gallons of purified water.

In a country where almost 70 percent of the people live below the poverty line, every bowl of rice is precious.



Saving the “least of these”

Nutrition program in Burundi focuses on malnourished children

In Burundi, one of the 10 poorest countries in the world, almost 70 percent of the people live below the poverty level. Every single day is a struggle for survival in this country in eastern Africa. And sadly, the children suffer the most.

That is why our *Every Child Every Day* partnership with Dr. Aline Muryango and her school and nutrition center there are a lifesaver.

The nutrition center for malnourished children is literally snatching the youngest and weakest of Burundi from the jaws of death!

“We help children from 1 to 6 years old. When they come to us severely malnourished, we weigh them and put them on a two to three month program in an attempt to bring them to normal weight,” Dr. Muryango said. “On a diet of porridge of soya and maize, it can take a while for the children to recover.”

Now, through your generosity, Feed The Hungry is sending Dr. Muryango fortified rice to help speed up the return to health. “This will provide

even better nutrition for the children,” she said. “With the fortified rice, they can recover more quickly.”

When you help care for malnourished children, you are following Christ’s command. “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me,” (Matthew 25:40, NIV).

“We take care of up to 100 children at a time here,” Dr. Muryango said. “Many people ask to bring their children here, but we do not have the capacity for more.”

Your continued support will not only help Feed The Hungry enable this critical program to save malnourished children, but will also help feed 2,000 children daily at the school and provide nutrition and HIV education to the community.

“Please pray that we can help the people coming to us in need,” Dr. Muryango said. “It is one thing to feed people, and it is another thing to change society. Pray that God would give me wisdom to know how to do this.”



Parents of severely malnourished children in Burundi find help at the nutrition center.



Fortified rice speeds up the restoration process for children suffering from effects of poor nutrition.

Thank you, Dr. Todd Coontz!

Dr. Todd Coontz is a Feed The Hungry partner with a big vision and a big heart. He envisioned underwriting “1 Million Meals” for our Every Child Every Day outreaches in 2011 and is well on the way to accomplishing that goal through his generous prayers and giving.

Dr. Coontz teaches and practices the command from God’s Word to care for “the least of these.” We are so grateful that he is a part of our ministry family! Below are some of his comments on why he partners with Feed The Hungry:

“I get an incredible feeling knowing thousands are being fed and that the tsunami victims are being helped and the people in Haiti, Uganda, and around the world are being helped.

“People in America have no idea of what real, genuine poverty is. In Africa, I’ve seen people rummaging through a 20-foot-high garbage heap and eating out of that garbage because they were so hungry. Nothing can portray a picture of hunger and need like watching the desperation of people trying to find food.

“Feed The Hungry is not just feeding and helping people. The Gospel is being preached. If Jesus was physically walking the earth today, this is exactly what he would be doing.”



Relief to U.S. Tornado Victims

Partners truck in load of food day after storm strikes

Your Feed The Hungry support not only travels around the world, but offers hope and help to people right here in America.

When a savage, late-April storm set off hundreds of tornadoes across at least six states in the South, killing more than 300 people and leveling entire American communities, our partners launched into action.

Stephen and Catherine Reese of Shelter Rock Ministries delivered a truckload of food from Feed The Hungry to Mountain City, Tennessee, a region that suffered deaths and miles of destruction.

“It was just in time for the horrible tornadoes that went through Tennessee,” Catherine said. “We were on the ground the next day in Mountain City, Tennessee, with a truckload of food. We dropped it at a location there, and are supplying weekly to those families that lost their homes.”

Shelter Rock also ministers to the impoverished children throughout

When destructive storms swept through the south in late April, entire communities were left homeless.



the Appalachian Mountains and the Native American reservations of the Northwest. Thousands of people attend Shelter Rock events where they receive food, hear a concert, and learn the message of the Gospel. “At one recent event, over 1,400 people came to Christ on the football field,” Catherine said.

She said, “The poverty that we have seen in this country, I believe, equals that of the third world. We could not feed the poor without Feed The Hungry. I just pray that you continue to have that food to share with us so we can share it, and the Gospel, with the people we serve. Thank you for your prayerful partnership!”

Providing food for those in need puts the hands and feet to the message of the Gospel.

Emergency aid rushed to tornado victims

Feed The Hungry has delivered several truckloads of ready-to-eat foods, drinks, baby food, and canned soup to help thousands of residents affected and displaced by the recent tornadoes in the United States.

Within 36 hours of the tornadoes that ravaged Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, two semi-loads of supplies were dispatched carrying 40 tons of aid — 8,788 ready-to-eat meals, 268,000 servings of oatmeal and granola bars, and 24,000 bottles of Gatorade and water.

Much-needed aid has been sent to St. Louis and Joplin, Missouri, and Fort Payne, Birmingham, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Your continued support helps us respond quickly to emergencies.

From the Field in Nicaragua

One man's trash . . .

By Lamar Austin, Feed The Hungry

"They are starving. If Feed The Hungry wasn't there, I don't know how they'd receive their food . . . especially the children."

-Lamar Austin, Feed The Hungry

He tried to hide it behind his arm.

The little boy looked quickly around to make sure no one saw what he had. You would have thought he had found priceless treasure . . . but I knew better. We were standing in the middle of a trash dump in the slums of Nicaragua.

The starving child had been digging in the bags of refuse for scraps. He ran behind a trash truck to hide. Then pulled out his prize — a half-eaten, blackened banana. The boy quickly peeled what was left of the banana and gulped it down before anyone could take away his only meal of the day.

It broke my heart. This child was literally eating someone else's trash! And he wasn't the only one.

After visiting a nearby ministry partner, our Feed The Hungry mission team had walked over to the dump. We arrived the same time as a tractor pulling a trailer of trash.

Children came out of nowhere and swarmed the trailer with long sticks, marking bags of trash as their own. Adults huddled near the trash heap as the bags were pushed out of the trailer. An entire community of hungry people were digging through trash just to survive!

This is the type of desperation and need I saw in poverty-stricken Nicaragua on our recent trip. But I also saw hope in action. I led a team

of church members from the U.S. on their second mission trip into Nicaragua . . . it was not only a time to see the need, but a time to impact lives and build relationships.

The U.S. church members renewed friendships begun the year before. We didn't just take national churches and pastors food, but encouragement and support. The volunteers helped at feeding centers, painted a church in the mountains, and visited locations where we are launching new *Every Child Every Day* programs where the need is greatest. Our presence in Nicaragua is growing as support grows. There are so many who are hungry. There are so many who still need to know about Jesus Christ.

Right now, friends like you are feeding more than 1,300 children through *Every*

Child Every Day here in Nicaragua alone. But if we had the resources, we could easily feed 5,000 more children who are hungry.

It was incredible to see the work our partners in Nicaragua are doing in a place where the need is overwhelming. With your help and God's grace, they are changing lives through meals and ministry! On behalf of the next little boy who will not have to find his only meal of the day in the city dump because of *Every Child Every Day*, thank you.





Entire villages were destroyed and thousands left homeless by the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan. Recovery will take a long time. Your gift today will make a difference.

Feed The Hungry empowers local churches in Japan to shine the Light

Months after Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami, disaster victims are still picking up the pieces of their lives. Thousands have been made homeless. Many are left without a source of income. The road to recovery will be a long one.

That is why your support through Feed The Hungry is a blessing!

In the days following the tragedy, you helped provide more than 20 tons of food and relief supplies to partner churches in the Sendai area to distribute. Thank you! But they need our ongoing help.

Armanda da Roza of Feed The Hungry Hong Kong visited some of the hardest-hit areas. She wrote, "The hunger need is very real. Not one shop was open. Nothing was available. Even if you have money, no one could buy a thing. These people have no food, no clean water, houses were seriously damaged, no hot water to bathe, no cooking facilities."

Fueled by Feed The Hungry support, local churches are reaching out to communities in need. In one North Sendai location, church volunteers

use a school auditorium to cook two meals a day for about 400 refugees. In another more remote location, church volunteers truck in food and cook for villagers.

"Church members have become their lifeline, visitors in their dark nights to bring comfort and hope," Armanda said. "We must continue to help Japan . . . because this country needs Jesus."

Japan is the world's tenth most populated country, but less than 1 percent are Christians.

"People's hearts are soft now," Armanda said. "They recognize Christians visiting them, cooking for them, listening to them, bringing needed resources to them. I never thought I would hear Japanese people asking for help. We must help them to help themselves . . . to see the Light and anchor onto the Rock. Japan leaders are pleading to overseas Christians to help."

Your Feed The Hungry support will not only help meet the great needs of Japan's disaster victims, but will give them a glimpse of the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

Get involved:

Please contact Lamar Austin for more details at laustin@feedthehungry.org or call (574) 291-3292



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- NEW ZEALAND
- SLOVAKIA
- SWITZERLAND

- Your ministry through Feed The Hungry is threefold:
- *Emergency food for hungry believers around the world
 - *Encouraging pastors worldwide to build and strengthen the local church
 - *Evangelistic campaigns — the Gospel preached, the sick healed, the oppressed set free in the Name of Jesus!

We cannot do it without you. We need your continued support to change more lives, like the ones in this Field Report.



With every meal, the homeless in Japan learn that God cares about them.