

SEPTEMBER 2006

SENDING HOPE TO ZIMBABWE

As we continue to expand FTH operations in Sudan, this month I wanted to bring your attention to our work in Zimbabwe.

Beginning back in May 2005, the Zimbabwe government demolished thousands of structures deemed "illegal" as part of their "Drive Out the Filth" campaign in the capital city and surrounding areas. More than 700,000 people were left homeless and with no way to earn a living. I was told a story about just 2 of these homeless people, a seven-year-old boy and his three-year-old sister...

Their parents had died after their home was destroyed, and for months these two children searched the rubble of their old lives for food, shelter, and someone to help them. But there was no one. The orphanages of Zimbabwe are already full of hungry children. So are the hospitals. The problem wasn't that no one wanted to help them. The problem was that no one had anything to give.

And so, one day, the little girl's body was found in a ditch. Her brother simply disappeared.

There aren't words to describe how to feel when you hear a story like this. But you probably feel it. It's why you pray so faithfully and give so generously.

Life in Zimbabwe is very hard right now. Their inflation rate has grown to nearly 1000%, as a five-year drought and the AIDS epidemic cripple the economy. And when more than 700,000 people were left homeless by this government campaign last year, the suffering became even more terrible.

FTH is planning to ship six containers full of prepackaged meals to Zimbabwe this spring. As soon as we're able after that, we want to send another four.

Today I'm asking for your help to put the food in those containers, ship it to Zimbabwe, and distribute it to orphanages, schools, villages, and farming communities. Because the food itself is donated, the impact of every dollar you give is multiplied seven and a half times! That means if you give \$10, you'll help us deliver \$75 worth of food to hungry people.

We'll distribute the food directly through partner churches and ministries in Zimbabwe, who have proven their ability to help effectively when we've sent containers in the past. These six containers will carry enough food for 9,000 people for six months!

And there's another kind of hunger in Zimbabwe -- the spiritual hunger of people who urgently need to hear about Jesus Christ. I thank God that with your support Feed The Hungry is uniquely positioned to meet this need, too.

I've enclosed a special **Prayer Note** at the end of this letter. It has space for you to write a word of encouragement to the people who will receive food through FTH. The official language of Zimbabwe is actually English, so when the children receive your notes of encouragement they will be able to read it for themselves. Help the Zimbabwean Church share God's love and saving message with their neighbours.

There is an old saying "that food is a little key that opens big doors". A good meal accompanied by a caring note from you will be a real demonstration of God's concern for people living in physical and spiritual hunger.

About 80% of the food you help us send will go to children like that little boy and his sister so that, by God's grace, their stories will have a much happier ending.

There are so many more children who are still looking for someone to help them. Together, we can be their "someone," in Jesus' Name. When they receive the food through the hands of local churches, I know their faces will light up with new hope! They'll know that God's people are reaching out to them, and many will come to know Christ because of it.

Please help send these six containers, by sending a gift as God leads today?
And will you send your Prayer Note along with your gift, to encourage a hurting heart?

Voice for the Hungry,

Benjamin Evans
Operations Manger, Australia & New Zealand
Feed The Hungry

ISRAEL / LEBABANON RELIEF

Although we did not have time to go into detail, I also wanted to mention that FTH has been active in Northern Israel during the recent military action. We have been distributing food in the Israeli city of Acco. Relief operations are also planned in Southern Lebanon.

More information can be found at the news section of our website
www.feedthehungryaustralia.org

ZIMBABWE PRAYER NOTES

Please feel free to photocopy the attached form and send in multiple copies from your church or social groups, friends and family. The forms are entirely optional and can be sent without sending a donation. We will collect these prayer notes of encouragement during the month of September and send to Zimbabwe at the start of October

I'm Praying for You!

"The Lord bless you
and keep you; the Lord
make his face shine
upon you and be
gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face
toward you and give
you peace."
(Numbers 6:24)

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FEED THE HUNGRY®

My Gift of Food and Hope for Zimbabwe

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