

SPRING 2018

Walking TOGETHER

THE NEWSLETTER OF FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY UK



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**

WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to our new edition of 'Walking Together' – so much has happened over the last six months and we hope you enjoy reading about the impact we are having in some of the poorest places in the world.

We are deeply concerned about the recent news reports regarding sexual misconduct by aid workers. We need to keep in our thoughts and prayers those that have been affected by this situation, especially those in Haiti and elsewhere who have not been afforded the dignity and respect they deserve.



Our priority is to demonstrate that your support is helping us deliver life-saving transformation in the communities in which we work. I have just returned from trips to Burundi and Uganda where FH staff are serving sacrificially in the name of Christ to help the most vulnerable. You can read about that in this newsletter.

Now, more than ever, we are committed to our mission to end poverty and to our values:

- We follow Jesus
- Our work is relational
- We invest wisely and focus on results
- We serve with humility
- We pursue beauty, goodness and truth

We will continue to maintain a zero-tolerance approach to any staff misconduct that breaches our code of behaviour including fraud, abuse, sexual misconduct and other acts. We are confident in our current policies but will continue to reflect on whether they can be improved.

Blessings

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul".

Paul Cornelius



*The generous will themselves be blessed,
for they share their food with the poor.
proverbs 22:9 (NIV)*



INSPIRING HOPE COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY

Report by Ian Johnson

Our aim in Food for the Hungry is to bring hope and graduate communities out of poverty. In January, I visited several African communities and saw different stages of the process of transformation: before; progress in partnership with FH; graduation and beyond.

Together with a team from the UK, my first port of call was Burundi, a beautiful country with fertile land. Long-standing civil war and ongoing neglect have meant

that people lack basic necessities such as access to clean water, nutrition, adequate healthcare and education.

A COMMUNITY PRE-TRANSFORMATION

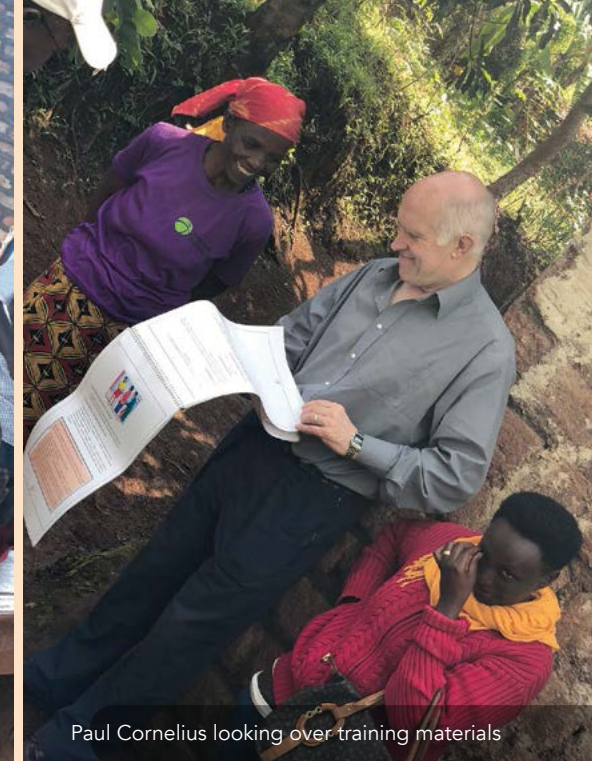
We visited a community in Mwumba where FH, in partnership with the Elim church, is about to start work. We met two families struggling to survive by subsistence farming and labouring.



Farmers in Mwumba



Thriving schools



Paul Cornelius looking over training materials

The adults were dressed in rags and the roof of a house had collapsed. The children were undernourished. They felt powerless. In the community as a whole, there was an overwhelming fatalism and a lack of hope for the present or the future.

A COMMUNITY TRANSFORMING

In contrast, in the neighbouring community on Gihama Hill where FH is currently working, the sense of achievement and rising hope is palpable. One mother, a member of an FH trained Farming Association, proudly told us, "Our harvests have grown. My family and I used to eat one meal a day. Now the children have three and my husband and

I have two meals a day." Her children are thriving in school.

We met Karenza, and asked her what FH training she had benefited from. "Training? I'm a trainer!" she said with a big smile on her face. She explained that she had been selected as a volunteer "leader mother." She teaches twenty of her neighbours what she has learned about health and hygiene. She is proud to be part of a movement to end poverty in her community.

Having seen the progress, self-belief and hope in the Gihama Hill community, we are optimistic that they will become self-sustaining in the next five years or so. When that point is reached, FH will exit and the community will graduate.



Rejoicing over successful crops

COMMUNITIES TRANSFORMED

A community nearby has just reached that stage and we joined with them for their graduation celebration. There was plenty of singing and dancing and the many speakers described with joy the huge change in their lives, achieved by working together and using their resources in new ways. Now they have hope for themselves and their children.

The following week, I visited two communities in Uganda which had graduated in 2010 and 2012. Community leaders explained enthusiastically how they had continued to progress. Families had enough to eat and many had their own businesses. Schools and churches were thriving. Sponsored children from the poorest families had grown into strong young men and women. "You gave us hope and that made the difference," one of the church leaders told us. "We give glory to God."

When we see communities in the grip of extreme poverty and hopelessness gradually transform into self-sufficient communities with a future and a hope, we do the same.



INTERVIEW WITH ELOHO

So Eloho, you started being an Ambassador for us last year. Can you tell us what has struck you most positively about the work we do?

FH partners work with the local community to end poverty, not just physical poverty but spiritual poverty. The God Factor has really struck me. Also the fact that FH doesn't just go to the community like 'Santa' but involves the beneficiaries every step of the way to take ownership.

You went to Burundi last month and met your sponsored child, how was that?

Meeting my sponsored children changed my whole concept of sponsorship, the entire experience was surreal. Seeing the level of poverty completely humbled me and knowing that the little amount I send monthly is contributing towards ending poverty made me thankful. I loved it and would do it again.

Why would you encourage others to become a sponsor?

Because this is God's heart. We are here to be His feet, His arms, His hands. We are here to show His love.

What else happened on your trip?

So much happened, from meeting the local FH staff to visiting the communities that FH UK are working with and attending the graduation ceremony of one of the communities FH Canada has been working with all inspired me to want to do more. It was also an honour being at the Elim church – seeing how they worship and singing 'How Great Thou Art'. I loved the reaction of the children each time they saw us coming.

What is happening with you in your Ambassador role this coming year?

I've been sharing my Burundi experience and have gotten a few enquiries. Friends want to give a one-off donation and others want more information on sponsorship. I have sent the link to FH Website and am also planning to have a "Meet & Greet" at this year's Engage.



BANGLADESH UPDATE

WOMEN OF ACTION

Throughout 2017, FH Bangladesh continued their work with women in Bogra through Learning and Savings groups. A mid-term evaluation demonstrated that the work between 2011 and 2017 has not only benefited the women and children, but also the whole community. Highlights included cutting the percentage of children underweight from 38% to 32% and ensuring 90% of children had received deworming medicine. Our work addressing the role of women and domestic violence also drew fruit. In 2011, 70% of women gave 4 or more reasons where they believed it was OK for a man to hit a woman. By 2017 this had fallen to 31%.

As an organisation, we try to measure multi-dimensional poverty which takes into account moral/emotional and spiritual dimensions of poverty. We were

successful in reducing the score for this from 95% to 75%.

An exciting aspect of this progress is that it has been driven by the community and particularly the women in the learning and savings group themselves.

WHAT OUR WOMEN IN BANGLADESH ARE SAYING:

"I have learnt about women rights and I know what kinds of rights a woman has. I have also discussed with my family members about this. After discussing with my husband, he gave me full freedom to do my work."

"After the mother leaders training now I know about the care of pregnant women. I am pregnant now and I go to the health centre for regular anti-natal checkup. I promise to give breastmilk to my baby exclusively."



CASE STUDIES



SHANTI

Shanti is a confident and enterprising woman living with her husband and children. Her family had no fixed income and as a result, she and her husband would fight often. At the same time, her children's school attendance became irregular. Shanti decided to do something about the situation and became a member of a Women Leaders group with Food for the Hungry. She was able to take out a loan and establish her own grocery shop business. From the sale of groceries, she then took out a further loan to enlarge her shop by including a more diverse range of items to sell. A steady profit has continued to be generated from her business to provide a regular income for her family. Through the Women Leaders group, Shanti has been learning about the mission and values of Food for the Hungry - from having faith in God to cultivating a strong work ethic.

DOLLY

Dolly was married at a very young age and deprived of an education as a result. Despite this, she still held on to a deep desire to learn to read, and to also support her children's education. Dolly started to attend an adult literacy group formed by Food for the Hungry, and after studying for eight months, learned to read and write. Now she can assist her children in their own studies, giving them the best chance of learning the basic skills which she had missed out on for years. Her progress inspired her fellow team members who elected her as Mother Leader. Every month now, Dolly takes part in the Mother Leader training and shares what she has learned with the community. She said, "I will always be thankful for what FH has given me. I will definitely maintain and apply for a life time what I learned."



Uganda Update

In the last edition of our newsletter we shared about our new post-harvest handling project in Magada, Uganda. The projects aim is to increase household income by over 30% within it's first year through the provision of Hermatic silos, training and post-harvest management.

HERE IS A BRIEF UPDATE ON HOW THINGS ARE GOING SO FAR.

The project was officially launched in the District on 27th July. Local leaders and other stakeholders including the District Local Council chairperson attended the launch meeting at Magada Subcounty headquarters and a statement from the FH livelihoods specialist and the District Leader was broadcast by the local radio station.

Initial training in post-harvest handling has been completed for all of the target community of 600 farmers, representing 100 from each of the 6 parishes of Magada Subcounty. The training was facilitated by a hired consultant and the FHU livelihoods specialist.

The training covered principles of grain management, including harvest timing and techniques, post-harvest handling, transportation, cleaning, drying (avoidance

of soil contamination and moisture content determination), sorting and storage.

40 farmers have now made commitments (financial contributions towards silo cost) to date. The eventual target is 600. The first batch of 34 hermetic silos (20 metal silos of 500 litres and 14 plastic silos, also of 500 litres) has been delivered to the FH Namutumba district Office for allocation to the farmers who had made the agreed contribution. Commitment to buying silos (payment of initial contributions) has been slower than expected due to financial struggles, but with local Savings Groups now helping out, this should pick up over the next six months.



Hermetic silos to replace baskets so that farmers reap the rewards of harvest rather than rodents and insects



Full Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Postcode: _____
 Email: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

I would like to make a one-off donation of towards community development in;

- ☐ Burundi ☐ Kenya
☐ Uganda ☐ Bangladesh
☐ Where Needed Most

Cheques should be made payable to Food for the Hungry UK and sent to us at 47 Burgess Wood Road South, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1EL

If you would like to make a direct transfer, our bank details are;

Barclays Bank - Account name: FHUK Sort Code: 20-62-53 Account No: 40359173

Please also email us at uk@fh.org to let us know your donation is on its way.

- ☐ Please do not acknowledge this gift.
☐ I am interested in having someone from FH speak at my church.
☐ I would like to know more about volunteering with FH in the UK.
☐ I no longer want to receive your newsletter, please remove my details from your mailing list.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Food for the Hungry UK can reclaim 25% tax for every £1 you give.

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- ☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation today and any donations I may make in the future or have made in the past four years to Food for the Hungry UK. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Please notify us if your circumstances change or you want to cancel this declaration. If you pay Income Tax at a higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.





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