

SUMMER 2018

FIELD REPORT

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POVERTY
IN EUROPE

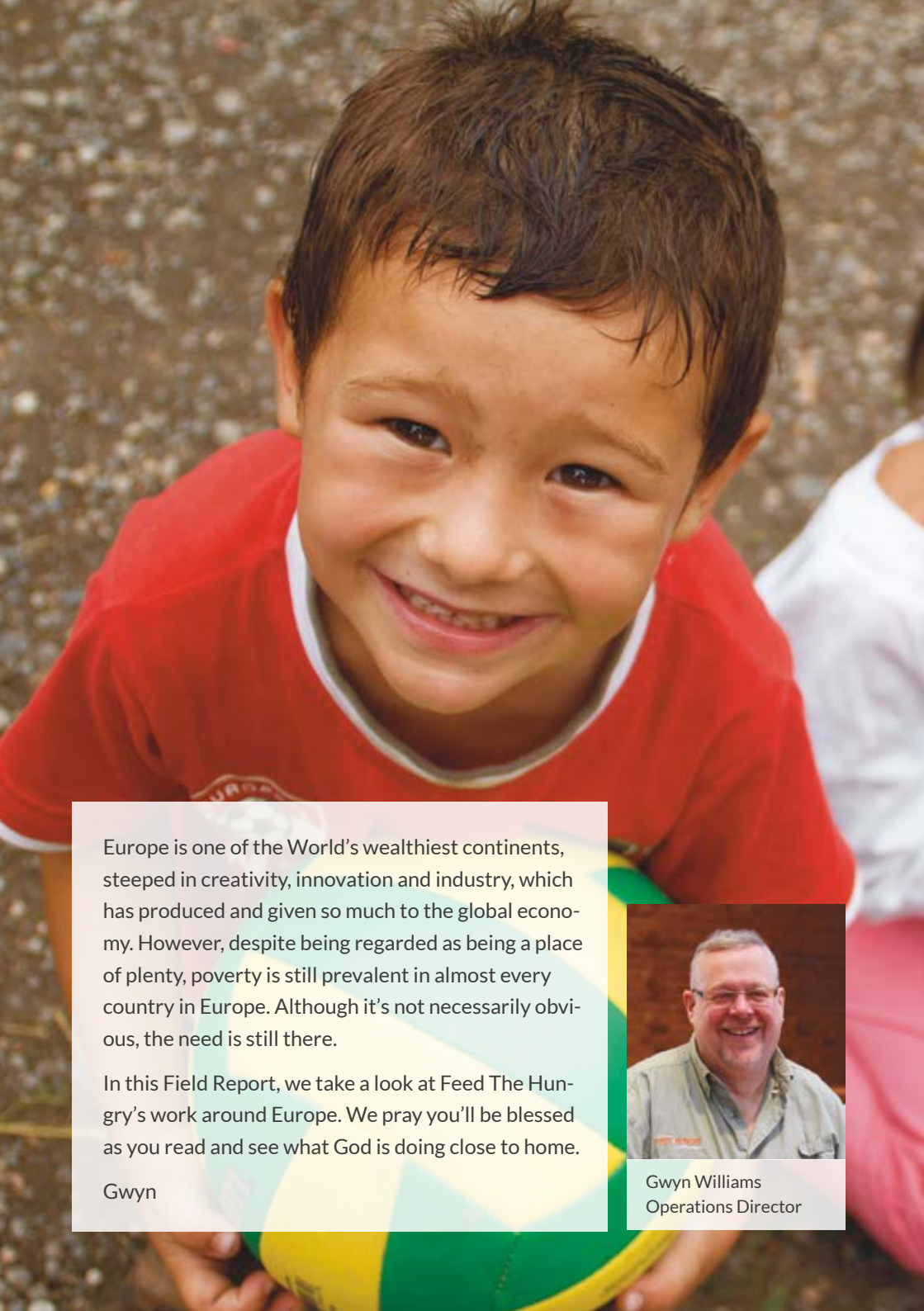
LeSEA Global

FEED THE HUNGRY

A full life feels good.™

In this issue...

Feeding at Joy@KemptonPark
Breaking new ground in Ukraine
We Made May Matter



Europe is one of the World's wealthiest continents, steeped in creativity, innovation and industry, which has produced and given so much to the global economy. However, despite being regarded as being a place of plenty, poverty is still prevalent in almost every country in Europe. Although it's not necessarily obvious, the need is still there.

In this Field Report, we take a look at Feed The Hungry's work around Europe. We pray you'll be blessed as you read and see what God is doing close to home.

Gwyn



Gwyn Williams
Operations Director

CONTENTS

REGIONAL FOCUS : EUROPE



4 Hand To Hand



6 Romania



12 First Steps: Ukraine

NEWS



10 Joy@KemptonPark



16 Working with UCB



16 Kenya Update

FEATURE



8 We Made May Matter

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FEED THE HUNGRY
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By feeding the hungry together, and delivering it in the name of Christ's love, 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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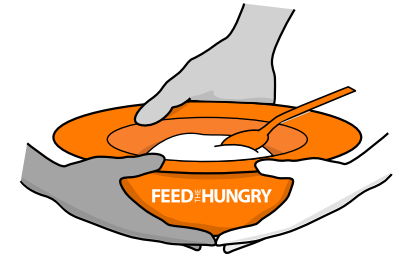
Rachel Thomas shares about Feed The Hungry's church food packing events, 'Hand To Hand'. To find out more visit fth.org.uk/handtohand



We are really excited to launch our Hand To Hand Food Packing events. These events are hosted by churches and community groups, and enable us to facilitate the packing of 10,000 meals in 2 hours with 60 volunteers.

It's a great way to engage with your community with practical social justice, as well as developing relationships.

FROM YOUR HANDS TO THEIR HANDS



Food packing is very simple and creates an end-resource which is sent by Feed The Hungry to help some of the poorest children around the world.

In the United States and elsewhere in Europe, food packing is fairly well known. In 2017, over 300 million meals were packed in the USA and sent overseas. In the UK, food-packing is relatively new, although is becoming more common, especially in the corporate sector. Feed The Hungry takes food-packing and makes it relevant for churches.



Volunteers pack food at a Hand To Hand event

For Feed The Hungry, this means helping put together, seal and put into boxes packs of dried rice, soya and lentils along with a sachet of micro-nutrients. Each

pack contains 6 meals, which will be made up in kitchens in schools, villages and churches around the world.

We come with all the equipment needed to measure out the correct quantities of each ingredient, the heat sealers which keep the food enclosed and fresh and clean during the shipping process, and the boxes which hold 216 meals. Just imagine every box of food you pack will help feed a family of 6 for a month.

We will talk you and the volunteers through the whole process, and we will celebrate each milestone of the pack with you using a gong!

The food packed will literally go from the hands of those who pack it straight to the hands of those children who will be eating it. This really is a practical, hands-on, way of responding to some of the areas around the world in greatest need.

If you would be interested in finding out more about hosting a Hand To Hand event, please visit fth.org.uk/handtohand



ROMANIA

Ben Williams reflects on visiting one of Europe's poorest countries

Photo Credit: Rich Smith, Feed The Hungry UK

My Childhood Experience

I was always encouraged to explore as a child, to go on adventures and to travel. My parents would book holidays in hot countries and we'd scuba dive or run through forests. I was also encouraged to do mission trips both in England and abroad; I remember sailing round the UK doing creative arts workshops, or sleeping under the stars in Berlin before a day of activity in the city. But the place that had the most impact on me as a child was Romania. The huge palaces in the cities, the long dusty roads leading to rural communities made up of shacks with corrugated metal roofs. Sleeping in an orphanage, eating side-by-side with other children who had seen the world

at its worst, not being able to verbally communicate but whose smiles said all that needed to be said.

Returning to Romania

So when the opportunity came up for me to go back to Romania with Feed The Hungry UK, I jumped at the chance! I would be going with others from my new church, with my fiancée and her family, and so it would be a chance for us all to bond. I knew it wouldn't be the same town or orphanage but I couldn't resist the opportunity to see how the country had developed after ten years. We landed in Bucharest to 35°C heat; it felt good to be back. Unfortunately my hopes of seeing progress were soon dashed by re-

ality. Romania was still a country gripped by the oppressive hands of poverty. To be fair, the cities had begun to thrive, businesses were growing and, in economic terms, Romania is moving on up. However, the city success doesn't tell the whole story. People in villages and small townships are still struggling to work, to put food on the table, provide for their children, get basic medical support and clean water. As a result, orphanages are still very much a main part of the civic system and reliance on international support is on-going, to ensure the institutions are funded and sustained.



Feed The Hungry staff share in activities with children in a Romanian Orphanage

However, in the midst of this hard hitting reality the people are hospitable and hopeful. Christian men and women are prayerfully determined to be Jesus' hands and feet; to care for the Orphans, Widows and the poor. Faithfully, they work unrelenting hours to lovingly provide for the children who are left on their doorstep and be a consistently accepting presence in the lives of those who have

experienced immense rejection. These wonderful people are embodying the teaching of Jesus when He declared, "You are the light of the world", and where there is light, darkness flees.

Renewed Passion to Serve

Spending 10 days visiting Romanian villages is one thing; spending a lifetime fighting for the restoration of a place and hoping for the in breaking of God's spirit is another. I returned from this trip with my eyes opened to the physical and spiritual needs of orphans in Romania, but also to the support that is needed by those who dedicate their life to serving these poor communities. Initially, I felt stuck because of the distance between us; we are over 1000 miles away after all, but prayer and worship began to forge connections. I would write songs about my experiences; I was going on prayer walks in places that reminded me of Romania and I would read passages in scripture that allowed me to rest in the knowledge that Jesus was with them.

Perhaps these songs could give you an insight into my experiences too and help inspire you to pray.

To listen to Ben's songs and to find out more about what Feed The Hungry are doing in Romania, visit fth.org.uk/romania

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN EUROPE

Europe is not often thought of as being a place in need, compared to other continents. However, just because the need isn't necessarily on the surface, doesn't mean that it isn't there.

Feed The Hungry UK works with partners in Ukraine, Romania and Greece, to deliver and distribute food to those struggling to survive.

Although our work in the UK is small compared to other places around the world, Feed The Hungry does operate a food redistribution programme to assist those at home in the UK. The programme takes in-date food that would otherwise go to landfill, and gives it to other charities, churches or shelters.

UNITED KINGDOM

UKRAINE

ROMANIA

GREECE

Ukraine is one of Feed The Hungry's most recent additions to the 'Every Child, Every Day' feeding programme. For the first time in 2018, we've been able to send a container of food to our partner, 'Share Your Bread', based in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. In June 2018, Feed The Hungry visited the region of 'Odessa' to minister and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those with whom they work and distribute food to.



In Athens, Greece, Feed The Hungry's partner distributes food sent from the UK to those who have been internally displaced. In July 2018, we sent 33 pallets of baby food to support children and mothers in need.

Romania is a country still recovering from oppressive governance, which ended in 1989. Many people struggle day-by-day. Working with 'The Bread of Life Orphanage', Feed The Hungry distribute food to over 3000 children in the West of Romania.

FEEDING AT JOY @KEMPTONPARK

On Sunday 17th June, Feed The Hungry were excited and blessed to be a charity partner for the Joy at Kempton Park event. This event, organised by St. Saviours Church in Sunbury, was created with a vision to feed 5000 people in the West of London.

Gwyn Williams explained about Feed The Hungry UK's involvement, saying:

“Rowena Cross, of St Saviours Sunbury, invited us to get involved in this project. Rowena has been spearheading the project as an act of faith to feed

thousands of people in need as part of a celebration event. Kempton Park offered not only the use of the racecourse at no cost, but provided all the stewards for free for the event. Chefs and stage artists gave their time for free. Everything was done as an act of faith. God is really blessing this event!



Feed The Hungry assisted in providing ingredients for the meal as well as finding resources such as plates and forks. We feel very honoured to have been approached to participate in this



Guests were served a meal of rice, lentils, potatoes, carrots and flat bread.

project, and to have been involved in a great day of fulfilling God's commission.”

Worship leaders and bands came along to perform and lead worship, including Dougie Dug Dug, Pete James, Noel Robinson and Daughter's of Davis. Evangelist, Andrew Palau, also shared about the love of God with those that came, and we witnessed many people giving their lives to Christ.

For more information about the event please go to fth.org.uk/joy



FIRST STEPS: UKRAINE

Feed The Hungry UK's Operations Director, Gwyn Williams, shares about a new partnership with WLW Church in Ukraine.

Pioneering a new venture has many risks; understanding the need, culture, legalities and relationship are but a few of the issues that need to be considered, never mind the logistics of moving storing and distributing aid where it's needed most. Partnering with Pastor Alex Ilash and his son Alex at WLW Church in Izmail, Ukraine has, in many ways been refreshing, but working through the necessary paperwork has been interesting to say the least.

Izmail region is based on the Danube River, overlooking Romania and cut off from the rest of Ukraine by Moldova's

gateway land to the Black Sea, creating a culturally diverse enclave, with over 50 different nationals resident there. Fifteen of them are represented in the WLW Church, creating a wonderfully dynamic culture to the ministry. Their heart is for God's Kingdom, relationship and serving those in need.

The church provides lunch for the poor each Sunday. Twice a week, they serve food to 30 to 40 homeless people in the summer, and double that number in the winter. A children and youth outreach ministry visits up to 3 different villages each week, giving out food boxes to the families that they come into contact with. They have fun playing ball games, watching the latest episode of Superbooks and, as a result of my recent trip, experienced

a Welshman sharing with them about a Jesus that cares for them through the parable of the lost sheep.



WLW Church meet young people to share with them God's Love and provide practical aid to poor families.

Whilst watching the team playing, laughing and building trust with the young people, Yan Hrosu enquired about some of our African projects, asking how hungry are the children there. I remarked that in remote areas especially, before we came to support, some of the children in our programs will have regularly gone without food for 2 or 3 days at a time. Yan pondered and replied, "Hmmm, these children here are like African children then."

Alex and others from the church collect and distribute clothing and food every couple of months, to take to families displaced by the war raging on the eastern provinces that border with Russia. Alex described their situation as the forgotten casualties of war; living in fear of snipers by day and indiscriminate shelling at night. It's as if the opposing parties are trying to starve ordinary innocent

families into submission, and yet 100 km to the west, people are going about their business as if nothing is going on! Alex firmly believes that these people need compassionate love more than anything else. Despite the risk, he is planning the church's next trip to the region.

WLW is a church family that is doing all that it can with all they can muster. Alex pressed, "but we can do more - we just need the resources to reach out to touch these peoples' lives."

Not hearing about the plight of these people in the news does not negate the need, nor does watching from afar. So, despite many obstacles getting in the way, Feed The Hungry will be providing Bibles, blankets, shoes and clothing to support the work of WLW Church in Ukraine. We are pressing ahead with our first full load of aid as soon as possible.

Please join with us in prayer for the team at WLW Church and the safe delivery of aid. Please also pray for an opening of hearts in the Ukrainian government, to allow us to send food as a charitable donation, to expand the program and meet more families and children at their point of need.

To find out more, visit fth.org.uk/ukraine

In May 2018, Feed The Hungry UK ran the campaign, 'Make May Matter', following its success in May 2017. It was an exciting month full of activity and community engagement. Make May Matter's aim is to encourage staff and Feed The Hungry supporters to raise



Children taking part in a sponsored walk for Make May Matter

provided by Feed The Hungry. As Make May Matter arrived, I felt challenged to identify with them through participating in the Meagre Meal Challenge. Eating oats for breakfast is standard for many people, but made with water and without adding the delicious toppings, leaves them devoid of taste to me, and in it I'm reminded that we eat to live, not live to eat!" You can read more about Karen's experience at fth.org.uk/meagre-meals

In addition to this, several schools, colleges and Sunday Children's Groups took part in a Make May



A market stall was set up outside Feed The Hungry's Offices

Furthermore, Feed The Hungry staff hosted a market stall in the local town, outside the administration office with a tombola, free drinks and homemade cakes.

year after year. The finance raised this year has surpassed that of 2017 and we know that every pound that has been donated will make a huge difference in the lives of the children we support. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Make May Matter is a focused month of activity, but it's never too late to join in! What could you do in 2018 to help tell people about Feed The Hungry or raise money to keep food in the bellies of hungry children?

To find out more, please visit fth.org.uk/mmm

WE MADE MAY MATTER

awareness of the charity and participate in raising money for the 'Every Child Every Day' feeding programme, through organised or sponsored events.

This year, we focused on the 'Meagre Meals Challenge', in which the participants would live on limited food for five days, in order to experience what many people in poorer nations live with every day. Karen Way was one person who took part in the challenge. She shared, "Serving in Kibera Slum, I witnessed the joy and delight in children as they eat their one meal, a rice meal



Supporters enjoyed a coffee morning in aid of Feed The Hungry

Matter sponsored walk. This not only encourages fitness as part of a group activity but reflects the distance that many of the children who Feed The Hungry help, have to walk everyday for water, education or food.

We believe over 50 people around the UK were involved in fundraising during Make May Matter and hundreds were given information about Feed the Hungry for the first time. We also saw Make May Matter launch in Australia and Germany for the first time, with a highlight being a long distance sponsored cycle ride being completed by two European supporters.

While the Make May Matter campaign is still small, the community engagement and awareness raised has been profound and continues to grow



A church holds a raffle and serves tea and coffee.

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.

Kenya Appeal Update

Thank you to everyone who supported our appeal to help provide the Soweto Medical Centre in Kibera with replacement supplies after equipment and the building was damaged by flooding. So far we have raised over £7800, which has been sent to our partners in Kibera. For more information, please visit fth.org.uk/kenya



Feed The Hungry with UCB

We are really excited to announce a new partnership with United Christian Broadcasting. Together, we will pack and send thousands of meals to children in Zimbabwe, and work to support Feed The Hungry's mission around the world. Starting with a food packing event at UCB's offices in August, we will then be following the journey of the food from the hands of those who pack it, to the hands of the children it will feed in Zimbabwe. A member of the UCB team

will be travelling to visit some of the schools in which this vital work is taking place, and learn about what goes into the mammoth task of feeding thousands of children every day.

"We are very excited to be able to partner with UCB in developing an innovative way for people to engage with world mission", says Gwyn Williams from Feed The Hungry UK. "The children at the schools we work with in Zimbabwe are also very excited about this partnership, which will bring greatly needed food to their school community."

Sheron Ferguson, UCB's Director of Development explained, "Each year, UCB partners with a number of UK-based charities and we're delighted to be working with Feed The Hungry this year on a project in Zimbabwe. Our whole team will be involved, helping to pack food parcels and get them to the people who need them the most. We're excited to see what this year will bring."

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