

LeSEA Global

**FEED THE HUNGRY**

A full life feels good.™

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Vicky Gibbens visits Zimbabwe

Boxes Abroad : An insight into  
the process of sending food  
around the world

# “I AM ME”

Building aspiration  
in East Africa's  
largest slum

SPRING 2019

# FIELD REPORT





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In 2019, Feed The Hungry's vision is to bring people from a place of just surviving, to understanding that they have significance and purpose in the world today. Jesus wants to use people to put this broken world back together - to be His hands and feet - but in order to do that, we need to know that we are loved by Him and that He desires to use us. Please join with us this year, as we take Jesus' message of hope to the least, the last and the lost.



Gwyn Williams  
Operations Director

LeSEA Global  
**FEED THE HUNGRY**  
A full life feels good.™

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](http://fth.org.uk/fieldreport)**

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# FROM HAND TO HAND: ZIMBABWE

Photo Credit: Rich Smith, Feed The Hungry

*In 2018, Feed The Hungry partnered with United Christian Broadcasters. Through radio, print and online the media charity works to change lives for good by sharing God's powerful word. UCB Presenter, Vicky Gibbens, travelled to Zimbabwe in November 2018 to experience our work.*

Vibrant orange Feed The Hungry bowls were all around a UCB room. It had been transformed for a brilliantly organised Hand to Hand packing event. Last August, I was introduced to this incredible work by rolling up my sleeves and preparing meals to be sent to Zimbabwe. In this country alone, 14,000 children are fed through Feed The Hungry's church partner, The Joseph Foundation. Many of UCB's listeners wanted to partner in this work and help to send food and Bibles to children in Zimbabwe and beyond. The

mini production lines of UCB staff joyfully sang, prayed for the children and felt encouraged knowing we were practically using our hands to pass on what could be a lifesaving meal. Could you host a Hand to Hand event? It's fun for all ages and enables you to take action in working towards ending world hunger.



Vicky visited 3 schools in Zimbabwe who receive food from FTH.

We've all eaten from bowls, probably as children having patient parents or grand-

parents playing aeroplane or "choo choo" train with puréed food, ensuring we had all the energy we needed so we could grow and reach our potential. Many children in the world don't experience this.



Rosemary looks after her Grandson, Tanyaradzwa.

In Zimbabwe I met 11 year old Tanyaradzwa. Abandoned by his parents, his Grandmother Rosemary was caring for him. She was unable to work and her other son was disabled; their situation was desperate. However, Tanyaradzwa went to a school in an area called 'Epworth', near the capital Harare. His school was one of many that The Joseph Foundation distributes the Feed The Hungry meals to. A nutritious meal was vital, not only for this young boy, but because he would take part of it to share with his family, otherwise some days they wouldn't eat. This was a daily reality being repeated by other young people I met during the week- a sign of severe economic hardship and high unemployment rates.

Lunchtimes at the different schools I visited were always a delight. Food carefully cooked by community volunteers was served into bright orange bowls or boxes and given to the children. There was always an opportunity for me to play games, join a lively school assembly where we could share more about Jesus or sing and dance- a wonderful part of African culture. Despite the basic living conditions at home and the lack of resources at school, young people were optimistic and shared their aspirations. Their education held the key to unlocking careers in science, healthcare, languages and so much more.



Vicky was able to broadcast back live to UCB from Zimbabwe.

When I now eat from a bowl I remember the overwhelming gratitude of Zimbabwean children and adults, I pray for those who have yet to receive help and give thanks for your support which brings hope of a better future.

Watch the full story of Vicky's trip to Zimbabwe online at [fth.org.uk/ucb](http://fth.org.uk/ucb)



## BOXES ABROAD

*Paul Way explains a little of the process of sending food from the UK around the world.*

**FTH:** Paul, let's start at the beginning. Who are you and what do you do?

**PAUL:** I'm Paul Way and I'm the Logistics & Event Manger for Feed The Hungry UK.

**FTH:** Excellent. And what does that mean?

**PAUL:** I'm responsible for Feed The Hungry's Food Packing events; sometimes that's running the events and sometimes it's facilitating others in being able to run them. I'm also responsible for the storage of food before and after events in our warehouse and also in the shipping of the finished product overseas.

**FTH:** How did you come to work for FTH?

**PAUL:** I spent 24 years working for YWAM and there was a definite sense that time was coming to an end and God was moving me on. I met Gwyn Williams while doing some YWAM leadership training, who told me about FTH. I initially started volunteer-

ing with FTH, but then came on as staff in April 2016.



Paul coordinates a team in filling a shipping container full of food, ready to be sent to one of Feed The Hungry's overseas partners.

**FTH:** What does the job look like day-to-day?

**PAUL:** I spend a lot of time problem solving; getting materials, equipment and people to and from where they're needed, be that in the UK or abroad. There's a team of people who work with me in the warehouse - both staff and volunteers. I spend a lot of time driving, which I quite

enjoy - especially large trucks. I'm also in the warehouse a lot; sometimes that's pushing things around and putting stuff into containers; sometimes it's tapping on a computer or making phone calls. Occasionally, it's being sent off to another country to work with our partners at the other end of the logistics chain.

**FTH:** How on earth do you go about sending several tons of food to another continent?

**PAUL:** It is not easy. It starts with food packing events; volunteers in the UK pack the rice, lentils, soya and micro-nutrients into sealed bags. These go into boxes, which go on to pallets, which get sent to our warehouse in Leicestershire for temporary storage. When we've got enough food to send - about 300,000 meals - we start the shipping process. Again, it's not easy. There's paperwork at both ends that needs to be filled out perfectly, or else everything comes to a halt. Sometimes there are inspections and tests that need to be carried on the food before it's sent. Every country's shipping requirements are a little bit different. Time is a critical factor; food has an expiry date, and there's time needed to physically move the food by lorry, train or cargo ship, as well as time at ports and for customs checks. When we're ready with the paperwork, I arrange for a shipping container to come to the warehouse. That's a really exciting time. It typically takes three people about 60 to 90 minutes to fill a container with 21 pallets of food. We've got a folk-lift truck,

which makes the process easier. When the container is full, the doors are closed and a 'seal' is stuck on to lock the doors shut until it reaches it's destination. Then we sign the final forms and the container sets off on it's journey. It takes a few weeks to arrive; we send a lot to Africa and that usually takes about 8 weeks door-to-door.



Volunteers in Zimbabwe empty a food container sent by Feed The Hungry, ready to be distributed to schools..

**FTH:** What happens at the other end?

**PAUL:** When the container arrives with our church partner, they have to unload it. I don't think any of our partners have folk-lifts, so it's all done by hand; box by box. I saw a FTH food container arrive in Zimbabwe last year; it took a team of 10 people about 3 hours to empty it. But for them, it's literally life-saving food - they're just so grateful that it's arrived.

**FTH:** What's the highlight of your job?

**PAUL:** A real highlight has been actually seeing the children receiving and eating the food we've sent - again, it's life changing. Also, I love working as part of a team to create impact for God's Kingdom - there's something very special about that.

**Find out more at [fth.org.uk/logistics](http://fth.org.uk/logistics)**

# SENDING FOOD FROM A TO B

## GETTING FOOD TO WHERE IT IS MOST NEEDED

In support of Feed the Hungry's global effort, each year around the UK, packing events take place to put together food bags to send to our Church partners around the world. It's a mammoth operation and the backbone of Feed The Hungry's vision to alleviate world hunger and take the Gospel to the least, last and lost. This is how it happens...

## STORE & SEND

The food is boxed, palletized and then stored in our warehouse until enough has been packed to fill a shipping container. Usually, a container will carry around 300,000 meals. When the container arrives, it takes about 60 to 90 minutes to fill it with 21 pallets of food.



## HAND TO HAND FOOD PACKING

Food Packing Events are organized around the UK, where typically 10,000 or 20,000 meals will be packaged by volunteers at a time. These meals contain a mix of carbohydrates and proteins, such as soya, rice and lentils, along with additional nutrients.



## ROAD, RAIL & SEA

The containers are sent from the UK to trusted partners working on the ground in countries like Kenya, Burkina Faso, Romania and Zimbabwe. Often, the containers are unloaded by a team of volunteers, one box at a time, typically taking 3 to 4 hours.



## A FULL LIFE

The local partners cook and distribute the food, often through school-based feeding programmes. Around the world, over 250,000 children are fed using food provided by Feed The Hungry on a regular basis.





# YOU'VE MADE THE DIFFERENCE

THE FOOD YOU  
PROVIDE TO  
CHILDREN IN  
UGANDA HAS  
DRASTICALLY  
IMPROVED  
THEIR LIVES

Photo Credit: Ben Evans, Feed The Hungry

*Children are a precious blessing from God. But what happens when they are left unsupported with no food or resources to survive? That was a problem Robinha wanted to fix. When some local pastors recognized they needed help in a school on the edge of a refugee camp in Kiryandongo, Uganda, Robinha answered the call.*

She arrived and started to work right away. But the children were not doing well. The teachers were frustrated because despite their hard work, they seemed to be failing. The problem was the kids were malnourished, lethargic and couldn't focus. They often fell sick and missed class. Robinha needed to

change that situation but found that she couldn't do it on her own.

Then, Feed The Hungry came along to provide food for this school. Every day since the children have received a hot lunch, packed with nutrition. The vitamin and mineral fortified rice meals that you provide through your donations have made the difference. These formerly malnourished children are now healthy, thriving, hungry for an education and hungry for God!



Robinha, in the old school building filled with children eating lunch.

Robinha named the school 'Glorious Link Primary School'. Its because she believes children need a link to God, so they would see His glory. That is what she wanted to do ... to "help children to see the glory of God." And she does. The children are strong in faith and in the joy of the Lord. They also excel in their studies. The food you provide to children in Uganda has drastically improved their lives.

All was going well, until the government imposed new school regulations. Be-

cause the Glorious Link Primary School was not a 'permanent structure', they were told they would have to rebuild or shut down. By faith Robinha had a builder draw up plans and a budget for construction. The cost to build two new classroom buildings came to just over £23,000.

For a year, the teachers prayed - the grace period given by the government before closure. Then during a visit by Feed The Hungry in September 2018, they presented their need to us. We knew we needed to help save this school and presented the challenge to some faithful donors who responded generously. Praise be to God!

**With much joy, Robinha has been able to finish the first classroom block and has started construction on the second school building; this has satisfied the Governments requirements and so the school remains open.**

The children and teachers are so proud of their new school! And with the larger buildings, Robinha can now take in many more children, who will grow not only in stature, but in the knowledge of Jesus' love for them.

Find out more about Feed The Hungry's work in Uganda at [fth.org.uk/uganda](http://fth.org.uk/uganda)



Worship & food packing in Fareham

# MAKE MAY MATTER 2019

*It's nearly that time again! Spring is upon us and we've started planning for Make May Matter 2019.*

For Feed The Hungry, May is a focused month of fundraising in which supporters are encouraged to bake, make or take up a challenge to raise money to support our global effort to tackle the problem of hunger and take the Good News of Jesus to the least, last and lost.

To kick-off Make May Matter this year, our Schools & Volunteer Co-ordinator, Rachel

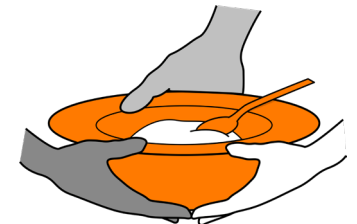
Bird, is running a sponsored half-marathon in Stratford. There are Coffee Mornings and a family-fun walk already being planned, as well as another round of the 'Meagre Meals Challenge'.

We'd love for you to get involved in your own way and let May 2019 really make a difference in the lives of hungry children around the world.

To find out more, get fundraising ideas, discover the stories of some of the children that we support and to sign-up, please visit [fth.org.uk/mmm](http://fth.org.uk/mmm)

# THANK YOU

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has organised or participated in a Hand To Hand food packing event. You are awesome!



**HAND TO HAND**

It's been just over a year since our very first Hand To Hand event. Over the past 12 months, we have run dozens of events up and down the UK in churches, schools and community centres. We've been to Doncaster, Exeter, Birmingham, Portsmouth, Gloucester, Manchester and London to name just a few. Hundreds of volunteers have generously given their time to help to pack nutritious food to send to children who wouldn't otherwise

have the resources to be able to feed themselves. These events and meals are literally changing lives and bringing about God's Kingdom in an incredibly practical and tangible way.

Coming up in the next few months, we have more events booked around the UK. If you'd like to organise a food packing event or find out more information about them, visit [fth.org.uk/handtohand](http://fth.org.uk/handtohand).



Photo Credit: Rich Smith, Feed The Hungry

# “I AM ME”

BRINGING SIGNIFICANCE THROUGH SONG

*In January 2019, award winning Gospel Singer and Feed The Hungry Trustee, Sandra Godley, visited The Soweto Academy in Kibera, Kenya, to write and record a song with some of the students who receive a daily meal provided by Feed The Hungry.*

Kenya is beautiful. It’s an amazing country, so rich in talent and culture. And yet, the poverty is so overt. Millions of people there live on tiny amounts of money. Visiting places like Kibera, Nairobi, really rams that fact home.

Kibera was the city dump. Poor people came to sift through the rubbish to find food to eat or scrap to sell. Eventually, they started building there, and over the past few decades, it’s grown into a dense sprawl of small shacks that have become home to over a million people. I’d seen photos before I went, but there’s nothing like seeing it in the flesh.

Kibera is not a safe place; alcoholism and sexual abuse tragically are common.

Teenage pregnancies are ‘normal’. For a young woman, there is an unspoken expectation that they’ll live, have children, raise their family and die in Kibera - it’s seen as their lot in life.

It’s in this slum that The Soweto Academy is based; a small haven in the midst of deprivation. Here, students are given an education and a daily meal,



The girls wrote about themselves; their past and what they would like to do in the future. These formed the basis for the song lyrics.

but vitally, the opportunity to hear and respond to the love of Jesus Christ.

I spent a couple of days working with 60 of the girls who board at The Soweto Academy. During this time, I learned about the stories of where they had come from; their homes and what life is like for them in Kibera. But I also learned about where they want to go and what they want to do in the future. The aspirations of these girls are incredible. They want to be doctors, teachers, pilots, lawyers and politicians. Where they live, the little money they have, the emotional and physical abuse they may have experienced, does not define what they want to do in life. They have hopes and dreams of a future beyond their current circumstances.



Sandra and the choir: A local church was used as a recording studio to capture the girls singing.

These aspirations and drive became the basis of the song, “I Am Me”. On the first day of working with the girls, each of them wrote down their story, condensed into a couple of paragraphs. That evening, I took the stories and used them

as stimuli to write the song. Within a couple of hours, the music and lyrics had come together and a backing track was produced that same night. The next day, I took the song to the girls, who picked it up in a matter of minutes. Before lunchtime, they’d recorded their singing parts, and over lunch, Jemimah Okumu, a former Soweto Academy student who is now studying Dance and Performing Arts at university, worked with the girls to choreograph a dance routine.



After recording the song, the girls performed to film a music video.

In the afternoon, the girls performed for a music video, recorded in front of a container used to store food sent by Feed The Hungry to support The Soweto Academy.

It was a whirlwind couple of days, but a time in which these amazing girls, living in one of the poorest countries in the world, were given a voice to share their dreams of a better future.

You can watch the ‘I Am Me’ music video online for free at [fth.org.uk/me](http://fth.org.uk/me)



# NEWS

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



## No funny business! Comedian, Tony Vino, becomes Feed The Hungry's first ambassador

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Manchester-based Christian funny man, Tony Vino, as the charity's first Ambassador.

Tony Vino is a well known Christian comedian, who is currently hosting the Britain's Got Talent Live show across the country.

"It is an honour and delight to become Feed The Hungry UK's first ambassador. I'm looking forward to getting more and more involved with the amazing work", said Tony.

"First thing is to organise an Ambassador's Reception - I've already ordered a crate load of Ferrero Rocher. Seriously though, it is an incredible charity working to meet the most basic needs of so many children."



## Growing Food in Romania

Last year, a small team of Horticulturalists, sent by Feed The Hungry, spent a week working with 'Bread of Life'; our partner in Romania. The team, headed up by Horticultural Tutor, Peter Ball, started laying the groundwork for a new long-term self-sustainable farming project.

Bread of Life currently feeds over 2000 children throughout Eastern Romania, which is done largely with donated food. The hope of the new project would be to see some of this food grown locally, as well as potentially delivery a qualification for participants, accredited by the Royal Horticultural Society.

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