



**fh**

food for the hungry

# CHANGING LIVES IN THE HARD PLACES

Ending poverty in one generation

El Alto, Bolivia

Spring News 2010

## When Helping Hurts

A number of times in the last few months I have been reminded that well meaning is just not enough. Billions of pounds and hours of human effort have been wasted on projects and programs that have tried to import solutions from one culture to solve problems in another. On the other hand Jesus' example of meeting people where they were at physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually, risking his reputation, status and his safety, provides us with a model of development which we know works.

God has already given every person the skills, talents and resources to live an abundant life if used wisely in community. Our role is not to solve problems for people but to help people understand their own God given potential and envision their own future. Thanks to supporters like you, thousands of people have been able to discover their value, restore their dignity and use their unique gifts to escape from poverty.

If you would like to know more about our work at any time, or if you and your friends would like to go through a 4 week programme "Poverty Unlocked" a Biblical perspective on the causes and solutions to poverty, please just get in touch with me by phone or email. In the mean time, I hope you enjoy this Spring news letter.



Paul Cornelius



*Paul with John Marsden in Bangladesh*

## CONTACT US

**Phone:**  
01494 674 898

**Email:**  
[pcornelius@fh.org](mailto:pcornelius@fh.org)

**Write:**  
**Food for the Hungry**  
47 Burgess Wood Road South  
Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1EL

**Visit:**  
[www.uk.fhi.net](http://www.uk.fhi.net)  
[www.womenofaction.co.uk](http://www.womenofaction.co.uk)

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Registered office: Nigel Wordingham Ltd, De Vere House,  
90 Faiths Lane, Norwich, NR1 1NE



Kenya

## News from Maisha Bora



Food for the Hungry have been supporting the Kenyan community of Maisha Bora since October 2008. This long term community development programme run by local Kenyan staff is targeting hundreds of vulnerable children and working alongside guardians, parents and leaders to release their potential.

Initiatives so far have seen the nursery school renovated, sponsorship for children to go to school and gaining apprenticeships, income generating sessions for people living with HIV/ AIDs, regular home visits for those in need, health trainings and much more.

Alongside this progress the community have endured many challenges; including bouts of severe drought - which have led many into a desperate scramble looking for work away from their homes .

As the community continue to work their own way out of poverty, we need your support to help this vital work to continue in 2010 and beyond.

This Spring please join the people of Maisha Bora and consider a one off gift to the community, by cheque, or become a regular, monthly sponsor to be part of a lasting difference in the community.

To support this community and hear more of their story please visit our website or contact David.

Email: [dfinlay@fh.org](mailto:dfinlay@fh.org)

[www.uk.fhi.net/maishabora.htm](http://www.uk.fhi.net/maishabora.htm)



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# CHANGING LIVES IN THE HARD PLACES

## COVER STORY: BOLIVIA

Located on the outskirts of Bolivia's poorest city, El Alto, is Puerto Camacho; an impoverished community whose 1450 residents battle daily against hunger, poor living conditions and lack of hope. But things are changing!

Since the FH project started in Puerto Camacho in October of last year, the children in the programme and their families have rapidly been changing and developing before our eyes.

Our aim is to discover and develop the potential of each of the 100 children in our Learning and Development programme to equip them to confidently satisfy their own needs in the future, thus breaking the poverty cycle in one generation.



## Ending poverty in one generation

The programme provides a loving and positive environment which the kids love to be a part of and it is clearly developing their characters and aiding their growth in every area.

The children also share what they learn on the programme with their families. Due to low self esteem, parents were closed and shy. But through seeing the change in their children, they are gaining confidence in us and themselves.

One mother said,

*“My son comes home and teaches me what he has learned on the programme! He says ‘no mum, we have to order and clean everything at home (to prevent sickness and disease)!”*

As well as working with children we also walk with their families, the local church and local leaders to equip them to identify and overcome problems which lock them in poverty.



If you would like to sponsor Puerto Camacho with a monthly gift or give a one off donation to help make this transformation possible, or you would like more information, please:

Email us at: [uk@fhi.net](mailto:uk@fhi.net)

**Or visit: [www.uk.fhi.net/bolivia](http://www.uk.fhi.net/bolivia)**

# WOMEN OF ACTION

## Empowering women, transforming communities

Our Women of Action initiative is empowering overlooked women to bring hope to their communities across Bangladesh. Our aim is to set up more learning and savings groups in the disaster torn Southern region and displaced communities along the Jamuna river, helping more mothers and families to rebuild their fragile lives. Mothers like Julia Begum.

Displaced from the floods and struggling to make ends met, Julia feared for her children's health and future, but in 2004 she joined one of our women's group and started to discover her unique potential.

Today Julia bears little resemblance to the vulnerable girl who moved starving from the riverbank. She dreams of supporting her children through higher education and stands against injustice in her community. Knowing that she can feed her family and that she has the capacity to make a difference gives her a sense of self assurance and dignity that radiates in everything she says and everything she does. [READ JULIA'S STORY ONLINE](#)



In the UK our Women of Action network steadily growing. Across the country members are hosting events to raise awareness, speaking to groups and organisations and gathering to pray, give and learn about life in Bangladesh.

Over the last year many people have also visited Bangladesh. Jenny and Viv have kindly shared their reflections with you.

## Get involved

Contact Charlene to receive an advocacy resource pack and find out more.

Phone: 077423 65155

Email: [chayden@fh.org](mailto:chayden@fh.org)



## Reflections from Jenny

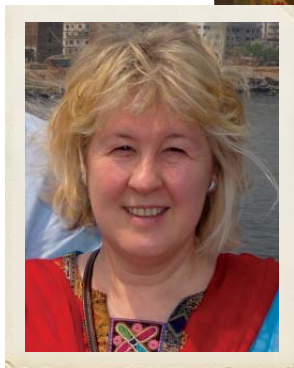
**HIGH SPOT:** The impact of the learning and savings groups: Seeing women growing in confidence, self worth and dignity.

**LOW SPOT:** Traffic jams!

**LASTING MEMORIES:**

Women of all ages eager to learn. A little girl whose prized possession was a plastic water bottle made into a doll.

Brightly coloured people, brightly coloured birds, water everywhere, green fields. Lots of colour, noise, life, traffic, children, people, animals all jammed into one small country.



## Viv's reflections on visiting an urban women's group in Dhaka.

When we arrived they were gathered in a circle in the shade between several buildings. There were about twenty ladies, some with babies, who were dressed in bright clothing and who welcomed us very warmly.

The session started with collecting savings. Each group saves a certain amount each week, based on what the poorest person in the group can afford. Each member in this group gives ten takas a week (equivalent to 10p). The group lend the savings without interest to individual group members for items such as a goat or a sewing machine or family need. The group learn numeracy and literacy, Biblical values and skills for generating an income.

The day we were there, it was a health education session, helping the ladies to learn about intestinal worms, and how they are spread and can be prevented. The leader used large coloured pictures and discussion to teach.

At the end of the session we exchanged questions about our lives. The ladies were particularly keen to ask us about our family. They then gave us a sachet of tomato ketchup as a gift. I was overwhelmed by such generosity from people who had so little.

After this we visited two local projects. We met a lady who was doing beadwork on cloth to sell for making beautiful garments. Through her learning and savings group she had learned this skill to enable her to earn money for her family. We then visited a workshop where young women were making items such as table mats and lamp shades.

We left the project feeling overwhelmed by the beauty of the place, the poverty, the fortitude and cheerfulness of the group and the generosity of their welcome to us. Through Food for the Hungry they are learning how to be healthier, how to protect their families, to create income and to be more independent.

By exploring Biblical values they are discovering their value as people and God's love for them and how this can impact their lives. It was wonderful to see what a difference that Food for the Hungry is making in the lives of the people of Bangladesh.

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[www.womenofaction.co.uk](http://www.womenofaction.co.uk)

[watch our video](#) | [join our network](#) | [sponsor](#)

## Update on some of our seconded staff

Here are some reflections from some of our seconded staff, many of whom are moving on to new challenges. We would like to thank them for their dedicated and faithful service.



### Isabela Manescu, Kenya

As a missionary, relationships and changes are constant in my life. To learn to accept them, adjust to them and enjoy them is God's grace and blessing for me at this time. I'm very grateful for all of you who joined me in Kenya in this wonderful journey of faith. May God bless you richly and unfold new and exciting faith journeys for all of us! With love in Christ.



### Maira Mclure, Ethiopia

Photo of me in my favourite place literally at the "grass roots" chatting to mothers in our community nutrition programme. Groups of 10-15 mothers meet together regularly to discuss about child health and nutrition.

Here, mothers were sharing how they are changing their child feeding behaviour including and improving on home hygiene and sanitation. We are hopeful that this will have a great impact on the future health and well being of the children!



### Anne Stordy, Burundi

Anne-Marie and I have worked together to help families make good use of their resources they have at their disposal and to improve the diets of their children. Praise God for enabling us by his grace.



### Steve Stordy, Burundi

When I leave in June, Omer will be continuing the work to support coffee growers' cooperatives. Prosper was the first FH local Burundi recruit in Kayanza and has been a great help on so many occasions. ( From Left to Right, Omer, Stephen and Prosper. )



### Lorna and Roman Zischka, Romania

Lorna has gathered her experiences of being a SIS in Romania To read her challenging observations you can download her article at [www.uk.fhi.net/romania](http://www.uk.fhi.net/romania)