

## Drowning Out Hunger

*Your Compassion is Saving Lives*



We can't **teach** hungry children about God's love unless we first **show** them God's love by relieving their pain.

**O**f all the influences that compete for a child's attention, hunger is the loudest and the most urgent. Hunger is the obstacle we encounter most frequently at every Metro location from New York to Kenya, the Philippines to South Africa and beyond.

A child who hasn't eaten a meal in days can't focus on anything but the consuming ache inside. **When children are that hungry, they can't bear the message of God's love without first seeing it in action.**

Thanks to caring friends like you, they ARE seeing God's love in action. Elinah is in 6th grade at one of the schools in Kenya where we hold Sunday School and offer a meal program. She is very grateful for her Metro Won by One sponsor who

ensures that she receives a school lunch every day. But when Elinah noticed that a boy in her class, named Pili, had no food and no money to buy any, she became very concerned. She decided that, since she at least gets a small breakfast and dinner at home, she would start giving her lunch to Pili every day because he has nothing. Now, Pili eats a little of the lunch at school and carries the rest home to share with his family.

The compassion of our God—extended through the kindness of a Won by One sponsor—is being multiplied to touch even more lives through the sacrifice of this little girl in Kenya!

That is how you drown out the influence of hunger in a child's life, and right now, many more kids need our help. This might be a tough pill to swallow, but it's true: Kids are not only at



## Drowning Out Hunger

*continued from page 1*

risk of hunger-related illnesses that claim lives every day, but hunger also makes them vulnerable targets for predators like traffickers, pedophiles, drug dealers or militants who offer them the false security of food, unity, and the chance to be on a payroll. We **MUST** reach these kids with Jesus and food first!

**In New York City**, we've seen children get off the bus in tears because they hadn't eaten in days. We've had others pass out from hunger during Sunday School. These kids aren't "anomalies." It's fact. Statistics indicate that 1 child out of every 4 is at risk of hunger in the areas we reach. Thanks to the ongoing support we receive from caring people and sponsors, we can provide food for hungry kids at Sunday School, and, at times, our staff can also provide a box of groceries for a child whose family is in desperate need.

**In Kenya**, hunger is a constant, chronic pain that gnaws away at innocent children. Imagine the hopelessness that sets in after a hungry child's sibling or best friend has died from hunger. This is a harsh reality that leaves these kids not just hungry for food, but also for hope. That's why we try to feed as many kids as we can in our Sunday Schools. For some kids, it may be the only meal they receive that day. Desperate children do desperate



things to stay alive, like stealing food, stealing valuables to buy food, or simply begging for food. Recently, a few boys got in trouble for bringing their sling-shots to school—until the principal discovered that they only used them to hunt birds on the way home so their families could eat.

**In the Philippines**, one of our Sunday School sites is at a massive garbage dump where hundreds of families live in makeshift shacks. The children dig through the mountains of garbage hoping to find things they

can sell for food. When a mother in this situation is so desperate that she hands you her young child and tearfully pleads, "Can you take her and raise her? Please. I can't feed her," it rips your heart out and you know you have to take action.

**Being that close to the urgency of life demands a response—and when you act with compassion, everything changes!**

Thanks to friends like you who see the need and take action, Metro is reaching more children than ever with nutritious food to sustain them and the message of the Gospel to save them. And your acts of compassion are having a ripple effect. Like the multiplication of a few loaves of bread and fish in the hands of Jesus, there is more than enough when we give what we can in faith! Please be as generous as possible today because the need is great.

**Hunger is an urgent matter for Metro kids, but we can drown it out when we partner together to share food for their bodies and the love of God for their souls!**

**To help us feed kids now, visit [MetroWorldChild.org/hunger](http://MetroWorldChild.org/hunger)**



## Easter Basket Blessings

Give New York Metro Kids a reminder of God's love!

**A**s we teach Metro Kids about the gift of eternal life given to them through Jesus' death and resurrection, your gift of an Easter Basket Blessing gives them a tangible reminder of God's love to take home.

**Your extra gift of \$25 (\$27 in Canada) by March 30 will provide an Easter basket for a child in New York City to help celebrate God's most precious gift to mankind. Thank you!**





## Fire in the Philippines

When tragedy struck, you responded!

**W**e could hardly believe what we were hearing as our Metro Team in the Philippines relayed the tragic news. Around 2 a.m. on October 18, a massive fire broke out at one of our Sunday School sites in Manila. The families there live in extreme poverty; a slum area. Their homes are little more than rough shacks put together with whatever they can find.

The next day, after the fire was finally contained and put out, the homes of several hundred families had been destroyed. Though the smoke was still thick and there were still hot spots on the ground, the children were walking around—many of them barefooted—rummaging through the debris to collect bits of metal to sell for food. As soon as we were able, our Metro team began providing meals for the children and families affected.

Thanks to the generosity and quick response of Metro partners like you, we were able to assist families with food, emergency supplies, rebuilding their homes, spiritual comfort, and hope in the midst of such a catastrophe. **Your gift this month can help us replenish our emergency fund so we can effectively respond in situations like this!**



## How Hungry Are Metro Kids?

Making the Gospel available to children is our main focus. But it's not easy when we're competing with empty stomachs. After all . . .

- Poor nutrition causes nearly half of deaths in children under 5 worldwide—that's 3.1 million children each year in countries we serve!
- New York is ranked 17th worst among all states for food hardship, leaving 1 child out of 4 at risk of hunger and the issues it causes.
- Prolonged drought has doubled the number of food-insecure people in Kenya to 2.6 million this year.

We can't let hunger destroy these children. Your generosity makes it possible for Metro to give kids the best possible spiritual and physical nourishment to build their bodies in Christ!



# I'M JUST HUNGRY

FROM PASTOR BILL



One day, an ordinary Christian on his way to see his son in the hospital walked up to a hungry, abandoned boy and asked, “Are you ok?”

As you know now, that day changed the course of my life forever. I'd gone from living in a broken home where I was so undernourished my ribcage became deformed from rickets, to being abandoned on a sidewalk with no food or water for three days. The only thing I could say to the man who cared enough to stop and talk to me was, “I'm just hungry.” Out of all the problems I had at that moment, hunger was screaming the loudest. After giving me food and water, he borrowed \$17.50 from a friend to send me to Sunday School camp so I could hear about Jesus for the first time in my life.

**As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Metro in 2020, I'm not losing momentum—I'm gaining it!** We've moved from addition into multiplication, reaching more children today than at any other time in history. And thanks to “ordinary Christians” like you, Metro kids all over the world can experience that same “moment” that snatches them from despair and changes everything.

**Are you ready to change a child's life forever? I know a bunch of kids who need you right now.** Every day I see



children who desperately need us to step into their world and show them the love of God in action. Just like the five loaves and two fish in the hands of Jesus, when we offer what we have . . . miracles happen. Your compassionate generosity can help us feed children who may not get to eat for days without our intervention. Your action can provide the stability that lets them know someone cares, and even more important—that God cares.

Please join me. You won't be sorry and your sacrifice will help us raise a generation that knows and serves the Lord. Together, we'll see even more children come to know Jesus this year!

Blessed, broken and multiplied to meet every need,

## Prayer Network Update

As a partner of Metro World Child, we deeply value your prayers as we carry out our mission. Please join with us as we pray . . .

- For strength, wisdom, and safety for Pastor Bill as he travels more than ever before.
- For our Metro staff and interns to have the same passion and commitment to minister to every single child attending Metro Sunday School around the world as we enter our 40th year.
- For the resources to continue meeting the needs of the children and communities that Metro has the privilege to serve.
- That the hearts of the children will be open to receive the love of God during the spring semester and that they may put their faith in Him and trust Him to lead their lives.
- For the well-being of children in households that struggle to feed them.

**Amen! Thank You.**



At Metro, feeding children is part of delivering the Gospel. There is no more urgent time than now to rise to the call to provide the food, hope, and help that puts children's lives on new paths through the love of Christ.