

January 1, 2017

Mission Moment

Jesus describes the Kingdom of God as a tiny mustard seed. This small seed doesn't stop as a plant or a bush, but it grows into a tall tree.

The concept of small, humble beginnings turning into something great is similar to a program launched in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Tiny tree seedlings contain the potential to save and nurture lives of whole communities.

Food for the Hungry has instituted a food for work program. Families who chose to join the program will be paid in food to work at an agriculture station. The seedlings they raise will be planted in an effort to reforest their community.

Marceline, living in the Congo, is a mother of eight. She and her husband once could not provide enough food for their family. They were always hungry. Food for the Hungry began working with Marceline's community and she and her husband soon joined the program. The village was burdened with malnutrition and the land bad for farming. Any crops that were produced were usually ruined by the flooding of the nearby river, thus creating a food deficit.

But that is all turning around. Working at the agricultural station, Marceline and her family receive food and also learn valuable information about farming. Other community members have joined this work, learning what plants benefit the soil and how to maximize the success of their farming efforts.

Knowledge learned about one subject can often lead to knowledge in another. Marceline is now a part of her community's care group learning about health and hygiene practices. This knowledge she brings to the rest of the community.

Marceline can now feed all of their children because of the payment they receive from their work. ***Food for the Hungry's*** program not only benefits the community with food, but also long term by their reforestation efforts and farming skills. When the trees begin producing fruits, the community will know how best to market the produce to benefit their community.

When Christians go out of their way to aid a hurting people, the impact is more than just physical, emotional or mental. It can be spiritual too. Acts of kindness like this one can be a gateway to share the Gospel to those who are in need.

Praise God for the hope that He has brought to this small village. Pray that Christian organizations will continue to use their blessings they have from God to share the Gospel in a loving and effective way.