



HELPING VENEZUELANANS

Through Uncertain Times

DEAR FRIEND,

The people of Venezuela have suffered for more than 25 years under the darkness of socialist oppression imposed by the leadership of Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro. There's still a great deal of uncertainty, but Venezuelans now have hope.

Since 2014, more than 8 million people have fled this Caribbean nation, which was once the wealthiest country in South America. The world watched as a corrupt regime of narco-terrorists took nearly everything from the people they claimed to be representing. Tragically, there were also millions who had no choice but to stay and endure extreme poverty and persecution.

That's why Samaritan's Purse has supported churches in Venezuela for over a decade to bring people the hope of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We partner with an extensive network of churches to help them spread the Good News and serve their neighbors in Jesus' Name.

While the country has been disintegrating, pastors have stepped up to meet urgent needs around them, including providing hot meals to hundreds of thousands of people. "Samaritan's Purse has brought its helping hand and love to us, working in every community with so many vulnerable people," said one pastor in Valencia. "Thank you from Venezuela."



On the border in Cucuta



Samaritan's Purse is also supporting more than a dozen local Christian medical organizations that provide treatment to those with nowhere else to turn. The healthcare sector was one of the worst hit by hyperinflation. Venezuelan currency at one point became completely worthless, and the country simply has not been able to maintain its hospital equipment, medical staff, or pharmacies.

For over two decades, Samaritan's Purse has been delivering our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to boys and girls in need across Venezuela—over 330,000 total. Thousands of teachers have been trained to lead *The Greatest Journey* discipleship course, and they continue to teach the children despite gang violence and chaos. One leader held class just hours after a murder in a nearby neighborhood, but said, "Young and old left very calm and happy knowing that we have a Savior who frees us from all evil!" We praise God that we have seen over 52,000 decisions for Christ since 2004.

CARING FOR THE VULNERABLE: Samaritan's Purse is feeding hungry Venezuelans and providing medical care to those in need, including new moms and babies.

While Maduro held power, about 3 million Venezuelans settled in Colombia. There, Samaritan's Purse has been providing food, water, shelter, and medical care since our field office opened in 2018. I've preached in Cucuta and seen the migrant trail with its constant flow of people—sometimes whole families—dragging their suitcases behind them.

Many newly settled Venezuelans, including pregnant women, rely on our medical clinics in Colombia, as do some who often cross the border for healthcare and then return home at night. For moms-to-be, we offer a check-up, prenatal vitamins, nutritional counseling, and a gift kit full of baby care items. Many mothers report that their babies are thriving.

We need to pray for the people of Venezuela, that their tremendous suffering would end soon. Please pray especially for the churches and ministers of the Gospel. No one knows what will happen next, but we know God will supply the needs of His children. Let's ask for courage for them to boldly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and help meet the needs of their neighbors. The Lord tells us in His Word: *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand"* (Isaiah 41:10).

Helping Flood Victims in Washington

Washington's Whatcom County is on the Canadian border north of Seattle. Its unique name comes from a Native American word for waterfall, and the county has been inundated by stormy torrents twice in the past five years. Just before Christmas, Samaritan's Purse deployed our disaster relief units to Whatcom to help flood victims.

In some cases, our teams reunited with some of the same people we served in 2021. Rose Herrera (at far right) welcomed our volunteers back to clean out her flooded house so it could be made livable again. As our teams hauled out waterlogged furniture and sheetrock, chaplains reassured Rose of God's continuing care and concern. She repented of her sin and received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, saying, "I want to praise Him. I just need to open my eyes and follow." Our volunteers signed a Bible and gave it to her.

As we begin a new year, many families are still recovering from recent disasters. Samaritan's Purse continues to work across the country to help storm victims, rebuild houses, and share the Good News of Jesus with those who are hurting. Thank you for your prayers and support for our disaster relief work and the global ministry of Samaritan's Purse. May God bless you.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST FLOODING:
Our volunteer teams helped more than 160 families in Jesus' Name.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

■ PRAY

Please pray for our relief and evangelism work among the people of Venezuela. Pray also for our work in disaster relief and rebuilding across the United States.

■ VENEZUELA RELIEF

Samaritan's Purse is working to alleviate the physical suffering of the Venezuelan people. We are providing food, medical care, and more. As we minister, we are pointing people, young and old, to the eternal hope found only in Jesus Christ.

■ U.S. DISASTER RELIEF & REBUILD

Your gift for U.S. Disaster Relief and Rebuild equips us to respond to natural disasters across our nation. If you or your church can help, go to spvolunteer.org to see where Samaritan's Purse is working.

■ WHERE MOST NEEDED

Samaritan's Purse works in Jesus' Name to help victims of disaster, disease, famine, poverty, and war. Your gift to "Where Most Needed" equips us with the resources—including personnel, materials, supporting services, and more—to fulfill our mission of relief and evangelism.



All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Samaritan's Purse has complete control over the use of all donated funds. Our Board-approved policy is that all gifts designated for a specific project be applied to that project, with up to 10 percent used for administrative and fundraising expenses. Occasionally we receive more contributions for a given project than can be wisely applied to that project. When that happens, we use these funds to meet a similar pressing need. It is our policy to meet the needs God lays before us, so that Christ is lifted up and the Gospel advanced.