

ANNUAL REPORT

BOLIVIA



Word
MADE
flesh



LETTER

from the Directors

Transformation takes time.

As we're currently undergoing major expansion and reconstruction of the ministry center, we've realized through the process, how similar it is to ministry itself: breaking down walls, strengthening the foundation, cleaning up the messes and finally putting on a fresh coat of paint.

Word Made Flesh Bolivia accompanies prostituted women and their children in the process of healing and reaching abundant life. Together we envision new realities and provide the tools, guidance and spiritual support to get there.

In this report you'll see the results of those efforts over the last year, a year of explosive growth, thanks to your partnership, financial support and prayerful engagement.

Some highlights include:

- Connecting with 48% of registered sex workers in El Alto and 8% in La Paz, resulting in 39 women supported in the process of leaving prostitution and 11 who have found gainful alternative employment.
- Conducting 161 counseling sessions with children whose mothers are sex trafficking victims and an additional 30 sessions with those families, resulting in 66 children demonstrating leadership skills and 68% showing increased cognitive development and school performance.
- Increasing sales by 36% at SutiSana, our internal business, which exports handcrafted fashion items while simultaneously providing women with job skills and support.
- Advocating for the opening of the first state-run safe home for trafficking victims in La Paz.

Prostitution causes unimaginable damage, and in addition to an already traumatic past, the wounding is significant. Quite similar to renovating a building, restoring a life and rebuilding a family takes time, so we continue the work, "poco a poco," little by little.

Because your generous gifts and prayers have enabled us to accomplish so much in 2018, we invite you to see how your gifts have transformed lives and served as the hands and feet of Jesus in the red-light districts of Bolivia. We look forward to expanding these efforts together in 2019!

Humbly and gratefully,

Andrea and Doris

Andrea Baker
Executive Director



Doris Monasterios
Director of Operations

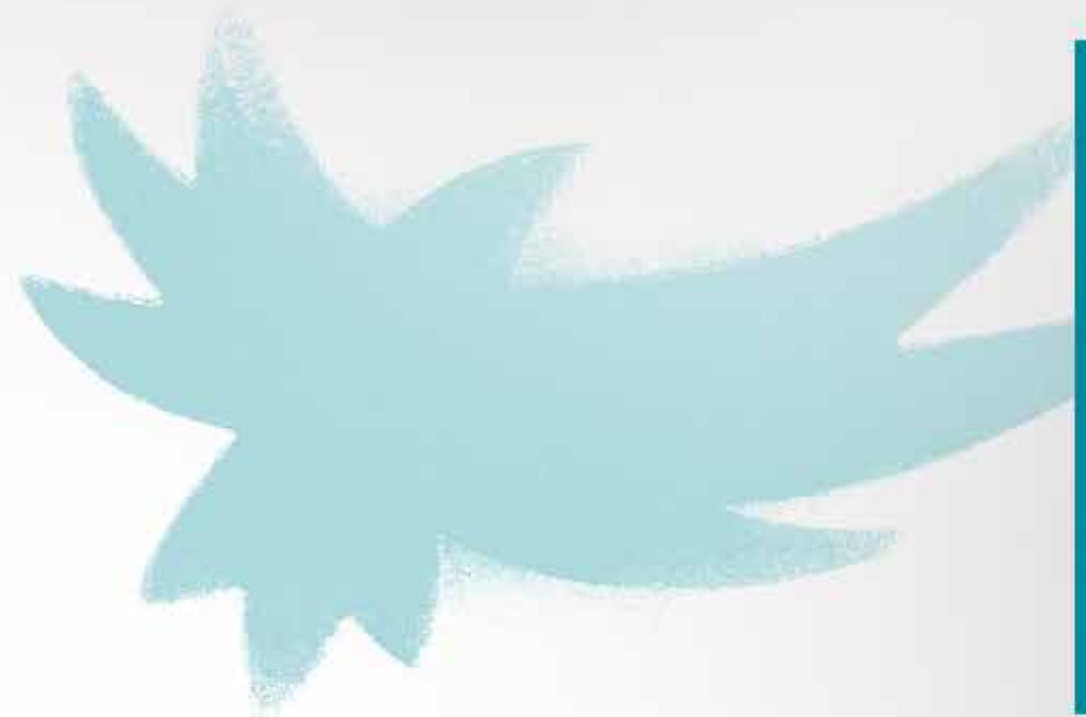




*The reality
behind the door*

Brothel owners mandate a minimum of 10 men be "serviced" per evening, but women can sometimes receive up to 60 clients per night.

VISION & MISSION



Abundant life

for those affected
by prostitution in Bolivia

In community, we seek to practice
and proclaim the Kingdom of God
among persons affected by prostitution,
through *Relationship* and *Opportunities*
for transformation

Stability Victory Joy Dignity Fullness Peace
Dreams Freedom Love Hope Influence
Community Purpose



At 12 years old, Vania* has experienced more hardships than most adults. She began coming to Word Made Flesh Bolivia's activities in May 2018. Her mother had learned of WMFB after receiving an invitation at a public health center outreach visit, and hoped that WMFB could help with her daughter's development in school.

Vania was very shy at first and could not even make eye contact with anyone. She completed activities so quietly that she was almost invisible, yet the staff sensed that Vania had something to share. While in a class about God's transforming and healing power, Vania embarrassingly and privately confided to the teacher that her older brother was abusing her sexually.

WMFB helped Vania tell her mother, who immediately acted to help both her children. Vania began receiving intensive therapeutic counseling where she also revealed sexual abuse by her uncle when she was six. WMFB collaborated with Child Protective Services to ensure Vania's safety and access treatment for her brother, who is in a residential program for teen sexual abusers. Because fewer than 3% of all child sex abuse cases in Bolivia reach a verdict in the courts,¹ her brother's treatment is significant in breaking the cycle of abuse.

Today, Vania has a joyful, vibrant spirit about her. She has friends and easily makes new ones with her newfound confidence. She's a star student who loves math. And outside of school, she even volunteers at WMFB as a leader for the other children. Her future is definitely much brighter than the darkness of her past.

*Name changed for respect and privacy.

"A Performance Study of the Bolivian Public Justice System,"
by The International Justice System, July 2018, p. 59.

Vania

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

WOMEN *The leaders of Abundant Life*



Word Made Flesh Bolivia

is actively working to transition women from sex trafficking to *abundant life* through:



Outreach and intervention to 2,762 women reaching 48% of trafficking victims in El Alto and 8% in La Paz



Provision of immediate safety and **support** for 56 women in crisis



Facilitation of **legal and health workshops** for 301 women

168

accessed resources via the ministry center

96

gained knowledge regarding financial literacy and technical employment skills

39

Assisted in the process of exiting prostitution

11

gained employment in healthy, sustainable careers for both their families and their spirit

100%

believe the ministry center is effective in meeting their needs

Women generally earn \$2 per client. Brothel owners take .35¢ per client, leaving the woman with a net of \$1.65 total.

Analise* first connected with Word Made Flesh Bolivia during a brothel outreach in 2015. Because she had been trafficked into prostitution at the age of 14, she had a natural distrust of people and could not conceive of leaving prostitution. Wary of the kindness of others, she was suspicious of people who solely desired to offer help. Analise also had little education and no ideas of other ways to earn an income.

She arrived at WMFB that same year in extreme debt, confused and terrified. Twelve years in prostitution serving the minimum requirement of 10 clients a night had taken a toll on her physically and emotionally. She had endured multiple illegal and dangerous abortions, and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder that left her unable to express her feelings or even connect with them.

WMFB staff immediately welcomed her and reassured her that she was in a safe place, where she could receive help in leaving prostitution and healing her spirit. She began several of WMFB's programs including individual counseling and weekly therapeutic group sessions with other women.



Today, she has left prostitution, earned a scholarship to the local university, and operates her own business as an entrepreneur. She lacks one class to graduate with a degree in commercial engineering. Analise's college career has been plagued with challenges, yet the tools that she has learned at WMFB have enabled her to persevere and envision a new life for herself. Analise credits the support of the WMFB community for showing her a new way of life and making her feel as though she is not alone.

*Name changed for respect and privacy.

Analise

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

CHILDREN *The future of Abundant Life*



Word Made Flesh Bolivia

understands that sex trafficking has long-range implications, not only for the immediate victim but also their families. Because of this, we worked to protect vulnerable children through:



Academic and educational support for 71 children and youth



Interventions and direct assistance to 21 children in emergencies and other high-risk conditions



Health and nutrition workshops with 43 children and youth



161 counseling sessions, including art and music therapy



30 counseling sessions with parents to better equip them in supporting their children

68%

improved cognitive development and school performance

73

passed onto the next grade level

37

children and youth received medical support, including addiction and recovery care

84%

now practice at least two healthy habits daily

32

accepted Christ and a new hope for their future

66

demonstrate leadership qualities

Many of the children we work with are living in homes with no indoor plumbing or knowledge of basic hygiene for healthy living.

While most five-year-old boys are playing fearlessly among a multitude of friends, Franz* with a limited vocabulary, was timidly saving his own life and that of his family.



*As one whom his mother comforts,
so I will comfort you. Isaiah 66:13*

At 42, Maria* had been working in prostitution for more than 20 years. She had three young sons. The youngest was five-year-old Franz*. Since their father had abandoned the family more than three years before, Maria was finding it increasingly difficult to feed, clothe and shelter them. The anger, frustration and despair had become so overwhelming, so bleak in her mind that she saw only one alternative. She began placing rat poisoning in her and her children's food. Death seemed the only option to end her family's profound suffering. But one day, Franz quietly begged to remain like the other children, playing and laughing. Miraculously, that plea altered Maria's heart.

Franz, his mother Maria, and his two older brothers came to WMFB in September 2018 emotionally, economically and physically devastated. The boys were behind their peers cognitively, emotionally and socially. Franz had no written language or numerical skills. He clung to his older brothers in terror for constant support. He was profoundly shy and lacked self-esteem to even make eye contact or talk with the other children. He was so fearful that his feet could not leave the ground to jump even a few inches.

WMFB began intensive therapy with Maria to develop coping skills and to heal deep-seated wounds. Additionally, she joined the Women's Program, where she could receive community support from other women and develop life skills that would enable her to provide a sustainable income for her family beyond prostitution.

Franz worked one on one with WMFB staff and within the Children's Program to improve his self-esteem and developmentally place him at age appropriate levels cognitively, emotionally and socially. In four short months, he has learned the alphabet, recognizes vowels, and has even been able to form short sentences. He enjoys creating art and craft projects, which he proudly gives to his mom. He even loves math and the obstacle course on the playground, which he enjoys with his three best friends, whom he calls his "three amigos."

Franz especially loves Bible stories. His favorite stories revolve around his hero King David, because of the strength and bravery that he showed in the face of the giant Goliath. Franz can now even see how he is just as brave as David.

*Names have been changed for respect and privacy.

Franz

SUTISANA *Sustaining Abundant life*

SutiSana is a social enterprise of Word Made Flesh Bolivia that provides both the local and international market with unique artisan-fashioned products. While working at SutiSana, women leaving prostitution gain full-time employment, with benefits, as well as valuable skills in sewing, design, leadership, financial literacy and professional development.

2018 *Acomplishments include:*



"THEIR PRODUCTS ARE NOT ONLY BEAUTIFUL,
THEY ARE ALSO DURABLE AND FIT IN OUR MODERN WORLD."

-James Metzger Client



ADVOCACY

Abundant Life Beyond the Red-Light District

Word Made Flesh Bolivia emphasizes collaborative partnerships with other non-profits; local, regional, and national governments; churches in both Bolivia and the United States; and via social media. Through these efforts in 2018, we achieved the following:



Engaged

in state level advocacy to promote the creation of the first safe home for survivors in La Paz

Participated

in the **Bi-National Convention of Bolivia and Peru Against Trafficking of Persons**

Served

as leaders of the regional and national **networks against human trafficking** in Bolivia

Increased

ministry capacity with **renovations and expansion** of the ministry center

Equipped 8 churches

in Bolivia as participants in the Safe Church Program, which prepares churches to receive and assist vulnerable persons

Inspired

stronger regulation of the prostitution industry in collaboration with the Mayor of El Alto

Presented

information regarding the negative physical, psychological and socio-economic effects of prostitution at 18 events in El Alto and La Paz

If you are 18 or older, prostitution is legal and not considered trafficking. Since the average age of entry into prostitution is 16, many women are already victims before they have the ability to "choose" prostitution.

WORD MADE FLESH

Services

WOMEN

- Direct outreach in brothels including meeting with women, offering hygiene supplies, simple gifts, and providing legal and health advice
- Safe zone ministry center, free from abuse and manipulation
- Learning opportunities through health, parenting and vocational workshops
- Therapeutic services and counseling for victims and their families
- Holistic care that addresses the multiple needs of each woman including crisis intervention, physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual support
- Ongoing support and care throughout the process of leaving prostitution, which can often take years

CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

- Academic and cognitive support enabling children to achieve age appropriate developmental benchmarks
- Supervised childcare and after-school care offering a safe, learning environment
- Opportunities to engage in structured, recreational and social play
- Assessments and counseling to support children's psychological, emotional and spiritual health

SUTISANA

- Workforce development program providing marketable skills to women leaving prostitution
- Sustaining wages and health benefits for employed artisans
- Holistic support as needed for artisans and their families

ADVOCACY

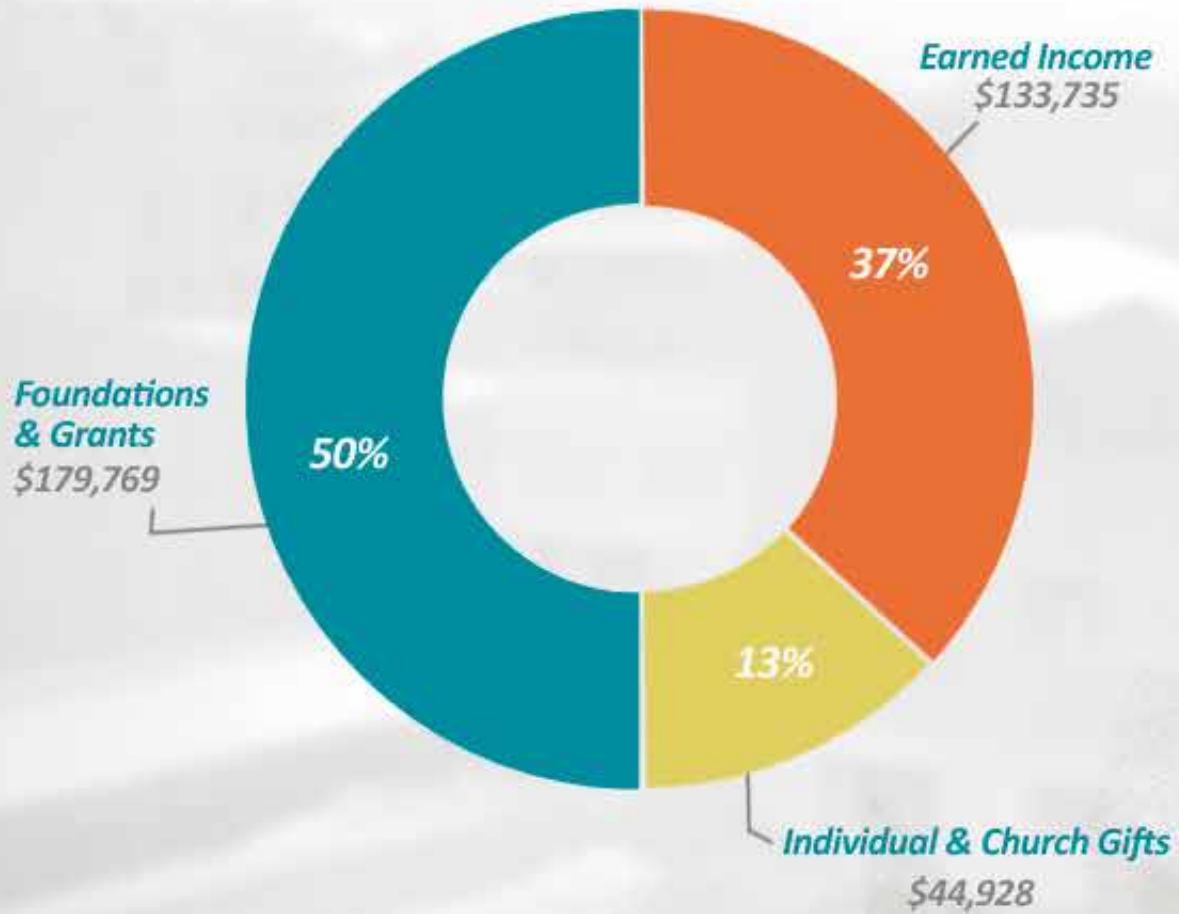
- Collaborative partnerships with local governments and other social service agencies to regulate prostitution
- Educational workshops focused on eradicating human trafficking
- Relationships with churches in both Bolivia and the United States to increase awareness and prevent human trafficking

"YOU CAN FEEL THE KINDNESS AND LOVE OF THE PEOPLE HERE, A SENSE OF SAFETY." - *Ali, WMFB program participant*



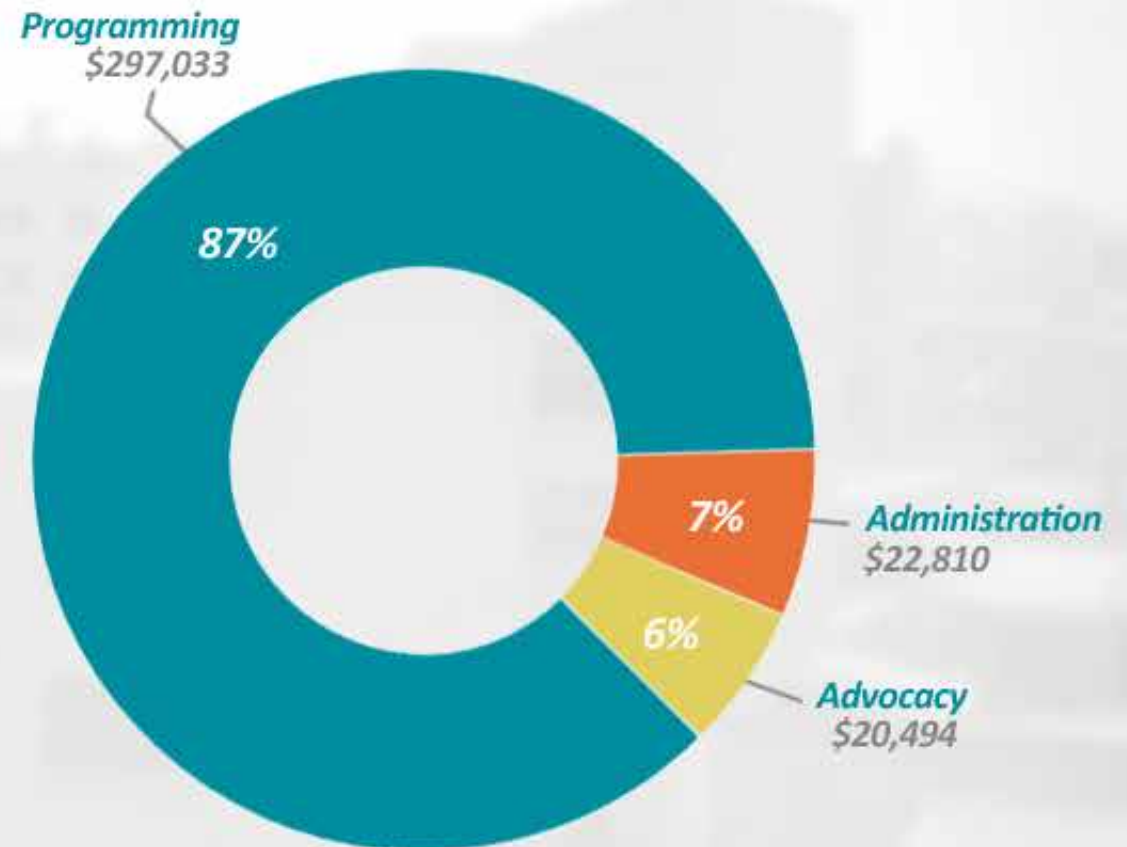
FINANCIALS

Income



TOTAL: \$358,433

Expenses



TOTAL: \$340,338

SPECIAL THANKS

to:



Rescue:Freedom International
Wellspring International
Rope
Imago Dei Fund
Mountain Christian Church
Trinity Church Kelowna
Heartdwellers
Upper Valley Community Church
St. Brendan's in the City

Donald & Faith Krick
Meadowbrook Church
Michelle Mays
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
David & Allison VanderLinden
Andrew & Sarah Ketchum
The Bevan Foundation
Remember Nhu
Robert & Kathy Mabrey

Andrew & Cary Umhau
Greg & Paloma Tarrant
Word Ministries, Inc
Enrique Carrasco
Betty Pinto
Andy Baker
Diana Gonzales
Juan Carlos Mamani

Ministry Center Renovations UNDERWAY



*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11





*We invite you to be part of the success in 2019.
Please consider becoming a **prayer or sustaining partner** by visiting us online via one of the links below.*

Stay Connected!

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