



WORD MADE FLESH BOLIVIA
2019
ANNUAL REPORT



ABUNDANT LIFE
for her and her children

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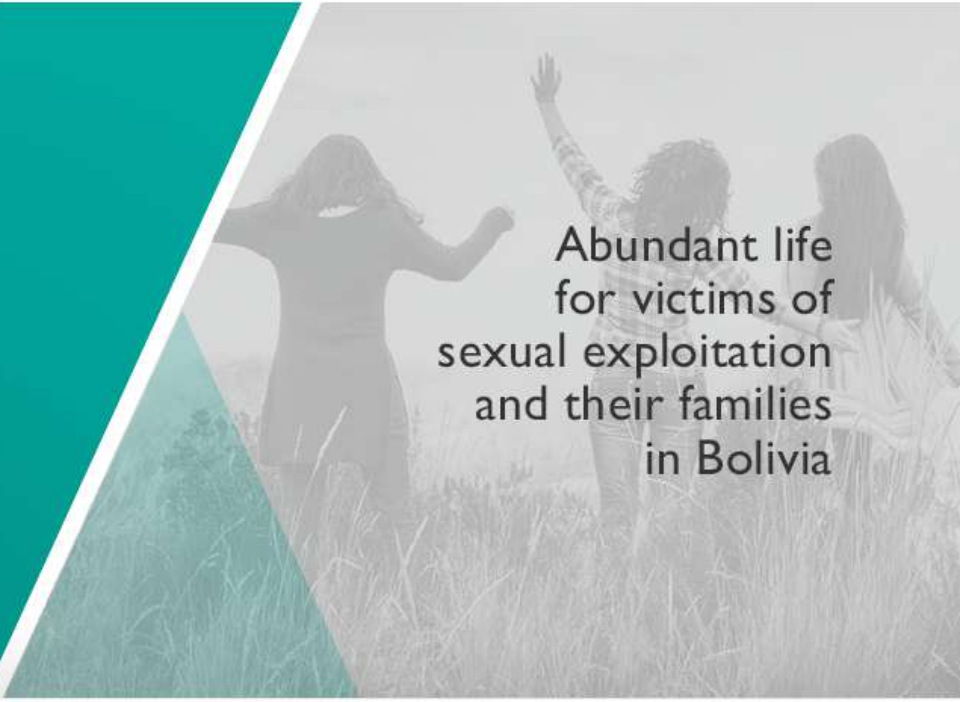


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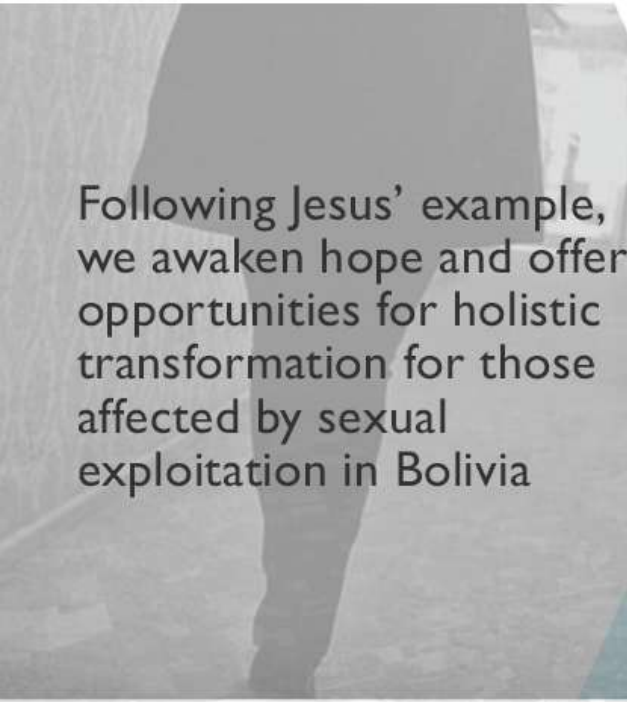


ABOUT US

VISION



Abundant life
for victims of
sexual exploitation
and their families
in Bolivia



Following Jesus' example,
we awaken hope and offer
opportunities for holistic
transformation for those
affected by sexual
exploitation in Bolivia

MISSION



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LETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Much of 2019 felt a lot like a slow walk along the coastline - refreshing at times, while slowly prodding ahead on less stable terrain. Health experts say that walking in soft sand burns twice the amount of calories as walking the same distance on a flat surface. The extra resistance actually improves your endurance and strength. We believe that to be true for Word Made Flesh as well.

Last year we weathered transitions through a major building project, hustling to fill our largest SutiSana order and integrating several new staff - all exhilarating, exciting signs of growth! Later in the year, weeks of national protests, blockades and conflict left us reeling.

The controversial presidential election created a tense environment in Bolivia and, for almost a month, we were plagued with rioting and violence that kept staff hiding in their homes for fear of attack. Basic food supplies skyrocketed to prices equivalent to \$2 per egg. Even now, months later, the country is still feeling the aftershocks with an interim government awaiting new elections.

In the midst of ongoing and overwhelming need, continual sexual violence coupled with national political insecurity and widespread rioting, we achieved the following:

- A complete renovation and expansion of the five-story building that provides services to women and their families (Check out the completed building at the end of this report)
- Improved relationships with the national union of sex workers and exponential growth in our outreach to prostituted women in the area
- Increased staffing throughout the program and particularly within the Advocacy department
- 25% increase in SutiSana sales
- Completion of a five-year (2020-2025) Strategic Plan
- Stronger ties with the Bolivian diplomatic community

None of this would be possible without your continued prayers and support. Thank you. We invite you to learn more about the work and results detailed in this annual report and to consider how you may help us transform even more lives in 2020.



ANDREA BAKER
Executive Director





WOMEN'S

STATISTICS & HIGHLIGHTS

Our Women's Program provides:

- Weekly brothel outreach where we listen, encourage and offer small gifts, like basic hygiene supplies, building trust and relationships
- A safe zone in our ministry center free from abuse and manipulation
- Learning opportunities via health, legal, parenting and vocational workshops
- Holistic care that addresses the multiple needs of each woman including health, emotional, psychological and spiritual support
- Therapeutic services and counseling for victims and their families to heal emotional and psychological wounds
- Support and engagement throughout the process of leaving prostitution, which can often take years

In 2019, our Women's Program accomplished the following:

- 2,331 women introduced to WMFB services through brothel and health center outreach
- 507 women reconnected to WMFB services, as it often takes months or even years to fully escape the sex trade
- 202 women educated in brothels and health centers on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and overall well-being
- 120 women trained to achieve basic literacy, financial knowledge and professional skills
- 47 women received crisis support to reduce their vulnerability of further exploitation and abuse
- 20 women enrolled in ongoing individual and group counseling, and 32 women engaged in spiritual activities





FLAVIA'S STORY



“Flavia*

was often seen as one of the women who would never make it out, who seemed so deeply trapped in the cycles of abuse and exploitation that it would be nearly impossible for her to thrive.”

Kara Chambers
Women's Program Coordinator

Flavia* followed her mother to the brothels and began working in the sex trade as a young teen. The abuse experienced at home only intensified on the streets causing Flavia deep pain that she transferred to her children. Her relationships with her children were frayed, just as she had experienced with her own mother. Eventually, she came to WMFB seeking help with her addictions and a possible new start to her life.

Immediately, staff at WMFB advocated to have her hospitalized where she was diagnosed with extreme trauma. When dismissed from the hospital, she began to participate in intensive counseling to heal old wounds and connect with others going through similar processes.

At first, progress was slow, but Flavia remained persistent and slowly revealed more of her spunk than the anger and brokenness that was always so apparent. She began to reach out and connect with other women in the group, and even found herself a mentor and friend in another woman who was further along in the recovery process.

Today, Flavia attends a support group to maintain her sobriety and is seeking to reconcile her estranged relationships.

*NAME CHANGED FOR RESPECT AND PRIVACY



CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

HOLISTIC ATTENTION TO CHILDREN OF SEXUALLY EXPLOITED WOMEN

Through our program we offer:

- Supervised child care and after-school care that offers a safe learning environment, with nutritious snacks and meals for highly vulnerable children
- Academic and cognitive support enabling children to achieve age-appropriate developmental benchmarks
- Opportunities to engage in structured recreational and social play
- Assessments and counseling to support children's emotional, psychological and spiritual growth

Through our program we accomplished the following:

- 139 children served, whose direct caregivers are sexually exploited women
- 35 children identified as critically vulnerable or involved in high-risk settings received immediate crisis intervention
- 70 children equipped with materials necessary for academic success
- 53 children and adolescents educated regarding the warning signs of sexual exploitation
- 124 therapeutic counseling sessions provided to 11 children

Specific benefits children and adolescents have received as a result of the program include:

- 98% program participants progressed to the next grade level
- 82% of program participants improved school performance
- 91% routinely practiced two or more healthy habits, such as brushing teeth or effectively washing hands
- 87 children showed improved leadership skills





ELIZABETH'S STORY



Little Elizabeth* arrived to WMFB when her mother, a single teen parent at just 17 years old, was searching for emergency child care while working in the brothels during the day. At six years old, Elizabeth had never attended school, unable to name her colors or even count to 10. Having spent most of her life with just her mother, she was terribly afraid of people, including children her own age.

Immediately, WMFB's educators began working with her intensely – sometimes all day. Slowly, she began to trust the teachers and interact and even play with the other children. Within six months, she learned to count and recognize colors, could perform basic addition and subtraction,

and developed a vivid imagination. She loved to invent new colors and imagine traveling with her mother on a jet plane.

About six months in the program, Elizabeth's mother abruptly decided not to return. Despite repeated efforts, WMFB staff have been unable to locate Elizabeth or her mother. But WMFB will be available to serve them again whenever they may need support. In the meantime, we hope that the experiences Elizabeth had while at WMFB and the active imagination she possesses will enable her to dream and create a better life for herself.



SUTISANA

STATISTICS & HIGHLIGHTS

SutiSana is Word Made Flesh Bolivia's social enterprise program offering:

- Marketable skills training and employment to women leaving prostitution and sex trafficking
- Sustainable wages, health and retirement benefits for the artisans crafting SutiSana products

In 2019, SutiSana accomplished the following:

- 13 artisans employed full-time, who regularly receive employment skills training and ongoing supportive services
- 32,000 T-shirts made for Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child local distribution, fulfilling our largest order ever
- 25% sales increase, reaching overall 86% self-sustainability
- Refreshed the international website, implementing ideas from a university marketing study, and launched a separate website for the Bolivian market
- 29 wholesale client relationships maintained
- 22 sales events in Bolivia

"I love the items I ordered for Christmas gifts! Decided to keep one purse for myself, Great quality!"
- **Melissa Corman, satisfied SutiSana customer**

sutisana





VANESSA'S

STORY



**"TO ME, WORD MADE FLESH
& SUTISANA
ARE MY SECOND HOME."**

-VANESSA, SUTISANA ARTISAN

Orphaned as a child with no familial support, Vanessa later became a victim of intimate partner violence. In a last resort for power and control, her husband sued her for legal custody of her children. With mounting legal debts, little education and few professional skills, Vanessa saw no alternatives to provide for her family beyond prostitution.

She began working in one of El Alto's largest brothels, renowned for sex trafficking. WMFB staff shared hygiene supplies and a listening ear during one of their outreach visits. Vanessa, curious to learn more, visited WMFB several days later with her children.

They all became active participants in WMFB's programs. Therapy and engagement with the other women healed many of her past traumas and enabled her to develop a support network. Upon completing the Women's Program, Vanessa became a SutiSana artisan. Currently, she encourages her children to dream big and aspire to hold professional jobs. She is working to purchase a house and secure a good future for each of them. She is also actively engaged in her church, where she holds a leadership position.

She describes WMFB as, "A guide and exit from the darkness my life was. It is a place where I found many friends and people that gave me their support, even more than my own family."



ADVOCACY

A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

Our Advocacy Department creates:

- Collaborative partnerships with local government and other social service agencies to increase awareness and fight trafficking
- Relationships with churches in Bolivia and the United States to increase awareness regarding the existence and prevention of sex trafficking
- Events, workshops and promotional materials for educating the greater public on the prevention and eradication of human trafficking

In 2019, the Advocacy Department achieved the following:

- Established key connections with Western European ambassadors to Bolivia
- Conducted 14 anti-trafficking presentations and workshops educating participants on how to recognize and prevent trafficking
- Facilitated 23 presentations to churches in Bolivia and the United States on the effects of sexual exploitation and the work of Word Made Flesh Bolivia
- Partnerships and training with 12 local churches on how to work more effectively with vulnerable populations
- Collaborated with Rescue:Freedom International to create a video telling the exploitation story of a vulnerable teen tricked into sex trafficking
- Participated in a National Day Against Trafficking March with more than 200 attendees
- Created and hosted an interactive prayer event where participants could understand, empathize and pray for sexual exploitation victims
- Connected with 167,000 people via social media to educate on sexual exploitation in Bolivia



BEYOND THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT



DIPLOMATIC

CASE STUDY

When a scheduling snafu threatened to derail the Gospel Concert fundraiser last spring, Rhian Chilcott, wife of the German Ambassador to Bolivia, immediately offered their beautiful home as the site for the event. We graciously accepted, unaware of how that small act would lead to multiple and ongoing opportunities.

At the event, we enjoyed special music and Yara*, a participant of the Women's Program, shared the impact of WMFB on her and her children's lives. Many were moved to tears, pledging immediate support, and follow-up tours and discussions were scheduled.

A few months later, a team from the U.S. Embassy volunteered their time and resources to teach workshops on self-defense, personal health and leadership skills.

Staff from the British Embassy also toured the facility, and Ambassador Jeff Glekin has since been a committed champion for WMFB, both within Bolivia and externally with our English-speaking allies. He created a brief testimonial video encouraging others to support Word Made Flesh Bolivia, and highlighted SutiSana at the Embassy's Christmas party.

With Bolivian society heavily divided into classes, these connections within the diplomatic corps are connecting us to individuals we would otherwise not have reached. We continue to make the most of all opportunities that come our way, for the most positive impact possible on the lives of those we serve.

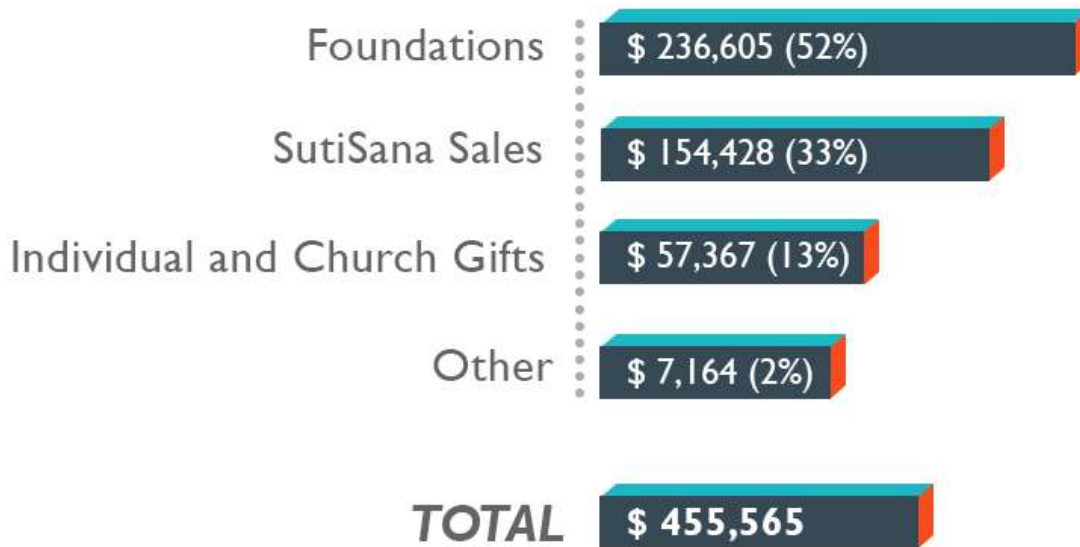






FINANCIALS

Revenue



Expenses





We *invite you* to be part of the success of **2020**.
Please consider becoming a prayer or sustaining partner by
visiting us online through one of the website or social media links below.

