MaranathaKids®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF, INC.

THE MARANATHA VOICE
NEWSLETTER



30 YEARS

SPECIAL EDITION



BRINGING HOPE | SHARING JESUS | TRANSFORMING LIVES



FROM THE

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Celebrating 30 Years
of God's Faithfulness

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As we celebrate 30 years of ministry, my heart is filled with gratitude for what God has done through Maranatha Kids International Relief.

Thirty years ago, this ministry began with a simple calling—to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ by serving orphaned children, widows, vulnerable families, and communities living in poverty. We did not begin with abundant resources or great recognition. We began with faith, compassion, and a belief that God could use ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. Looking back over these three decades, we have witnessed countless miracles.

We have seen children rescued from unimaginable circumstances and given the opportunity to laugh, learn, and dream again. We have watched widows regain hope and dignity as they rebuilt their lives. We have seen families restored, communities strengthened, and lives transformed through the love of Christ.

Every child we have embraced, every meal we have served, every classroom we have helped build, every prayer we have offered, and every life that has been changed reminds us that this ministry has always belonged to God. We have simply been privileged to serve as His instruments.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of people like you.

To our faithful donors, thank you for believing in our mission. Your generosity has provided food for the hungry, education for children, shelter for the vulnerable, medical care for the sick, and hope for families who once believed they had none.

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

1 JOHN 3:18

To our sponsors, volunteers, churches, mission teams, and partners, thank you for standing beside us. Your prayers, your service, and your compassion have reached far beyond what words can express. You have become part of every life that has been touched through this ministry.

One story that continues to inspire me is that of children like Biffane—a little boy whose future seemed lost until compassionate people chose to act. Today, he is safe, receiving an education, and growing in the love of Christ. His story reminds us why this mission matters and why we must continue reaching children who are still waiting for hope.

While we celebrate the past, we also recognize that our work is far from finished. There are still children who need protection, families struggling to survive, widows who need encouragement, and communities longing for opportunity. The need remains great, but our faith is even greater.

As we look toward the future, our commitment remains unchanged. We will continue to serve with integrity, compassion, and excellence. We will continue to share the Gospel through practical acts of love. And we will continue to believe that every child deserves the opportunity to live with dignity, hope, and purpose.

I invite you to continue this journey with us. Together, we can rescue more children. Together, we can educate future leaders. Together, we can strengthen families and transform communities. Most importantly, together we can reflect the love of Jesus Christ to a world that desperately needs hope.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the countless children and families whose lives have been touched through this ministry, thank you for your trust, your generosity, and your faithful partnership. May God richly bless you and your family as we continue this mission together.

With gratitude and hope,

David Allen A.
President & Founder
Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc.



Thirty Years *of Hope, Faith, and* Transformation

For more than 30 years, Maranatha Kids International Relief has been a beacon of hope for orphaned children, widows, vulnerable families, and communities living in poverty. What began as a calling to serve those in greatest need has grown into a Christ-centered humanitarian ministry dedicated to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ through compassion, service, and lasting transformation.

Over the past three decades, we have witnessed lives restored, families strengthened, and communities transformed through the faithfulness of God and the generosity of faithful supporters around the world.

Our mission has always been simple: to reach those who have been forgotten and remind them that they are loved, valued, and never alone.

Throughout these years, we have rescued vulnerable children from desperate circumstances, provided safe shelter, nutritious meals, quality education, healthcare, and Christian discipleship. We have walked alongside widows, helping them regain hope, dignity, and financial independence. We have supported families facing hardship, responded to emergencies, and invested in community development projects that create opportunities for lasting change.

Our work extends beyond meeting immediate needs. We believe true transformation happens when physical care is combined with education, spiritual growth, economic empowerment, and the hope found in Jesus Christ.

Every child who has entered our care, every family that has received support, every volunteer who has served, and every donor who has given has become part of a much greater story—a story of faith, compassion, and lives forever changed.

These thirty years have taught us that even the smallest act of kindness can change the course of a life. A meal can restore strength. An education can unlock the future. A safe home can replace fear with peace. A caring hand can remind a child that they are deeply loved by God.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors, churches, volunteers, mission teams, and partners who have stood beside us through every challenge and every victory. Your prayers, generosity, and commitment have enabled us to continue serving those who need hope the most.

As we look at the future, our vision remains as strong as ever. We will continue to rescue vulnerable children, strengthen families, empower widows, develop sustainable communities, and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ through both word and action.

The challenges before us are still great, but so is our faith.

Together, we believe the next thirty years will bring even greater opportunities to transform lives, restore hope, and build a future where every child is loved, every family has dignity, and every community has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for taking part in this journey. Together, we are bringing hope, sharing Christ, and transforming lives—one child, one family, and one community at a time.



BRINGING HOPE | SHARING JESUS | TRANSFORMING LIVES



Marino Rojas Jr.
EDITOR-DIRECTOR
The Maranatha Voice

FROM THE

Editor-Director's Desk

Thirty Years of a Promise Kept

Celebrating 30 Years of Faith, Compassion, and Service.

Dear Maranatha Kids Family,

Thirty years ago, Maranatha Kids International Relief began with a promise—a promise to save lives, bring hope to the vulnerable, and do good wherever there was a need. It was a commitment rooted in compassion, guided by faith, and grounded in the belief that every human life has value and deserves dignity, love, and an opportunity for a better future.

From the very beginning, our mission was never meant to be limited by religion, skin color, ethnicity, nationality, or background. We made a commitment to serve people because they were people in need. We believed then, as we believe today, that kindness should have no boundaries, compassion should have no conditions, and love should never discriminate.

Thirty years later, that promise continues to live through our work.

Over these three decades, we have witnessed heartbreaking circumstances, faced unexpected challenges, and encountered moments when the road ahead seemed uncertain. Yet, time and again, we have seen what happens when people choose compassion over indifference and action over words.

We have seen vulnerable children receive care, education, and the opportunity to dream again. We have stood beside widows and struggling families, bringing encouragement where there was discouragement and hope where hardship seemed overwhelming. Through our humanitarian efforts, community programs, and Christian witness, we have sought to demonstrate that serving others is more than a mission statement—it is a responsibility we carry with humility and love.

Our journey has taken us across communities and cultures, reminding us that although our languages, traditions, and circumstances may differ, our shared humanity connects us. A child's need for safety is universal. A family's desire for a better future is universal. And the power of a simple act of kindness can reach far beyond what we may ever see.

Of course, thirty years of service would not have been possible without the people who believed in this mission. To our donors, sponsors, volunteers, churches, mission teams, staff, and partners: thank you. Your generosity has helped turn a promise into meaningful action. Every gift given, every hour volunteered, every prayer offered, and every life touched has become part of this remarkable journey.

As we celebrate this milestone, we do not celebrate merely the passage of time. We celebrate the lives that matter, the dignity that must be protected, the hope that has been shared, and the countless opportunities still before us to make a difference.

Thirty years is not the end of our promise. It is a renewed commitment to keep it.

There are still children waiting for opportunities, families facing difficult circumstances, widows in need of support, and communities longing for hope. Their needs remind us that our work is not finished. The next chapter of Maranatha Kids International Relief must be written with the same compassion, integrity, courage, and determination that carried us through the first thirty years.

May the next thirty years find us just as faithful, just as compassionate, and even more determined to serve.

30 YEARS
OF CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

- PEOPLE IN NEED
- COMMUNITIES STRENGTHENED
- BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

With gratitude and hope,

Marino Rojas Jr.

Marino Rojas Jr.
Editor-Director

The Maranatha Voice
Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc.



ONE MISSION.
THIRTY YEARS.
COUNTLESS LIVES.



Nolvia E. Alfonseca
Senior Vice-President &
Chief Administrative Officer

30 YEARS
OF SERVICE

"Thirty years of service. One enduring promise: to make a difference in every life we touch."

FROM THE

Administrative *Desk*

Thirty Years of Service, Compassion, and Commitment

Dear Maranatha Kids Family,

As we celebrate 30 years of Maranatha Kids International Relief, I am filled with gratitude for all that God has accomplished through this ministry. Thirty years ago, we made a promise to save lives, bring hope to the vulnerable, and do good wherever there was a need. That promise continues to guide us today.

For three decades, Maranatha Kids has stood with children, widows, vulnerable families, and communities—without discrimination based on religion, skin color, ethnicity, nationality, or background. We serve people because they are people in need, and every life matters.

Our mission has always been about more than providing immediate relief. It is about restoring hope, creating opportunities, strengthening communities, and showing the love of Christ through practical action. Every child we reach, every family we support, and every community we serve is a reminder that compassion changes lives and that together, we can build brighter futures.

This milestone would not be possible without our generous donors, sponsors, volunteers, churches, mission teams, staff, and partners. Your support has transformed countless lives and has allowed us to respond to urgent needs and long-term challenges with compassion and integrity.

Over the years, we have witnessed remarkable stories of resilience, hope, and transformation. We have seen children receive care and education, families find stability, and communities flourish—proof that when people choose to care, lives are changed.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to this mission. There are still children waiting for opportunities, families facing difficult circumstances, and communities longing for hope. Our work is not finished. The next chapter of Maranatha Kids will be written with the same faith, compassion, and determination that have carried us through the first thirty years.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey. Together, we will continue to make a difference—one child, one family, and one community at a time.

With love and gratitude,

Nolvia E. Alfonseca

Nolvia E. Alfonseca
Senior Vice-President &
Chief Administrative Officer

ONE MISSION. THIRTY YEARS. *COUNTLESS LIVES.*

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

PEOPLE | COMMUNITIES | BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

Thirty Years Ago, We Made a Promise to Serve Humanity.

Thirty Years Later, We Are Still Keeping It.

Thirty Years of Faith, Compassion, and Transforming Lives

Thirty years ago, a promise was born—not from a place of abundance, but from a heart that believed the world could become a better place when people chose to care for one another.

On January 18, 1996, a small group of young Christians gathered in New York City with a vision that would grow beyond anything they could have imagined. They shared a conviction that the lives of vulnerable children mattered, that families struggling in poverty deserved a helping hand, and that no person should be forgotten simply because of where they were born, what they believed, or the color of their skin.

From that humble beginning emerged Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc., an organization built on a simple but powerful commitment: **to save lives, serve humanity, and bring hope wherever it is needed.**

The mission was never intended to be limited by borders, cultures, religions, or ethnicity. Human suffering does not recognize such boundaries, and neither should compassion. A hungry child is still a child. A grieving widow still deserves dignity. A family facing hardship still deserves an opportunity to rebuild. And every human being deserves to be treated with respect, kindness, and love.

That belief became more than an idea. It became a promise.

> *"A promise to save lives, serve humanity, and bring hope wherever it is needed.*

A Promise That Took Us Beyond Our Borders

In the early years, that promise carried Maranatha Kids beyond its beginnings in New York and into communities where the needs were great and the resources were often scarce. After months of preparation, the organization's first official mission trip took place in the Dominican Republic, serving children and families in need.

The journey continued to Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico, and other communities where opportunities to serve opened new doors. Every trip brought new lessons, new relationships, and new reminders that meaningful change begins when someone is willing to take the first step.

In Haiti, Maranatha Kids established Oasis Haiti Children's Home, providing a residential home for 63 children who had been completely orphaned. It was a place where children could find care, protection, and the possibility of a brighter future.

Then came a devastating earthquake that changed everything. The work faced enormous loss, and the future of the ministry seemed uncertain. Yet, even in that painful season, the commitment to serve remained.

Through a major Christian benefit concert, Juntos Por Haití, organized with the support of worship leaders and ministry partners, resources were raised to help continue the work. It was a powerful reminder that when people unite around compassion, even in the face of tragedy, hope can find a way forward.

Circumstances eventually forced the organization to reconsider how it could continue serving safely and effectively in Haiti. What seemed like a closed door became the beginning of a new chapter.



ONE MISSION. THIRTY YEARS. *COUNTLESS LIVES.*



30 YEARS OF SERVICE

PEOPLE | COMMUNITIES | BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

When One Door Closed, Another Opened

In October 2010, a phone call from Los Angeles, California, brought a new opportunity.

Pastor Smith, then 98 years old, contacted Maranatha Kids with a heartfelt request. He had been caring for 32 orphaned children but could no longer sustain the work because of his age and circumstances. He asked the organization to consider taking responsibility for the project.

It was a request that carried both a challenge and a calling.

Maranatha Kids began supporting the children's work in Kenya, providing assistance for twelve months before making its first visit to the country. What began as a response to one urgent need gradually developed into a broader commitment to children, education, faith, and community development.

In Kenya, the work expanded. Children received opportunities for care and education. Oasis Kenya Christian Academy became part of the vision for a better future. Evangelistic outreach, church development, and community programs helped strengthen relationships and extend the mission beyond the walls of a children's home.

The work also continued to embrace the needs of widows, vulnerable families, and communities seeking greater stability and opportunity.

Africa was not simply a new destination. It became another expression of the same promise that had guided the organization from the beginning: to go where there was a need and serve with compassion.



Thirty Years, Countless Lives, One Enduring Commitment

The story of Maranatha Kids International Relief is not merely a record of projects established, journeys taken, or years completed. It is a story about people.

It is about the child who needs protection and the opportunity to learn. It is about the widow who deserves dignity and encouragement. It is about the family that needs support to overcome difficult circumstances. It is about the community that can begin to flourish when someone believes its future is worth investing in.

Behind every program are people who have chosen to care. Behind every act of service are donors who gave, volunteers who offered their time, churches and partners who stood alongside the mission, and supporters who believed that even a small contribution could make a meaningful difference.

To all of them, these thirty years belong in part to you.

Your generosity has helped turn a promise into action. Your prayers have strengthened the people carrying the work forward. Your willingness to stand with vulnerable communities has helped make it possible for hope to reach places where it is needed most.

And while we celebrate what has been accomplished, we recognize that the work is far from finished.

There are still children waiting for opportunities. There are still families struggling to meet their most basic needs. There are still widows who need support and communities that need resources, encouragement, and hope.

The needs of humanity have not disappeared, and neither has our responsibility to respond.

The Promise Continues

Thirty years ago, we made a promise to serve humanity. We promised to do good without allowing religion, skin color, ethnicity, or nationality to determine who deserved our compassion. We promised to stand beside the vulnerable and to use what we had to help those who had less.

Thirty years later, that promise remains alive.

Our journey has taught us that compassion is not measured only by the size of an organization or the amount of resources it possesses. It is measured by the willingness to act, the courage to persevere, and the faithfulness to continue when the road becomes difficult.

As Maranatha Kids International Relief enters its next chapter, our commitment remains the same. We will continue to serve with integrity, to pursue meaningful opportunities for children and families, to strengthen communities, and to demonstrate through practical acts of love that every life matters.

Thirty years is a milestone, but it is not our destination.

It is a moment to remember where we began, honor those who helped carry the mission forward, and renew our determination to serve the generations still to come.

Because a promise made with compassion should not expire with time.

Thirty years ago, we made a promise to serve humanity. Thirty years later, we are still keeping it. And with God's grace, we will continue keeping it—one child, one family, one community, and one life at a time.

ONE MISSION. THIRTY YEARS. COUNTLESS LIVES.

A MESSAGE FROM THE

Board of Directors

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

PEOPLE | COMMUNITIES | BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

Dear Maranatha Kids Family,

As we reflect on 30 incredible years, the Board of Directors extends our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of this journey.

Your prayers, generosity, volunteerism, and continued support have helped transform the lives of countless children, families, and communities. What began as a simple promise to serve humanity has grown into a global mission of hope, education, and compassionate care.

We are deeply thankful for our dedicated staff, partners, churches, and friends around the world who share our vision and help make this work possible. Together, we have seen lives changed, communities strengthened, and a brighter tomorrow for so many.

As we look to the future, the Board of Directors reaffirms our commitment to uphold the mission, values, and integrity of Maranatha Kids International Relief. We will continue to provide faithful stewardship, responsible leadership, and strategic guidance so the work can reach even more children, widows, and vulnerable communities for generations to come.

Thank you for standing with us. Your support turns compassion into action and gives hope to those who need it most.

Together, we can continue keeping our promise — one child, one family, one community at a time.

With gratitude,

The Board of Directors
Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc.



ONE MISSION. THIRTY YEARS. *COUNTLESS LIVES.*