

# JOSUE'S FAMILY PRAYS, ENDURES AND HOPES



Josue carries the cross of extreme poverty.

**“Bear one another’s burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.”**  
(Galatians 6:2)

**HONDURAS** — Hot, arid mountain ranges surround the tiny shack that little Josue calls “home.” It sits among brittle, lifeless trees whose branches reach arthritically toward the sky, searching for moisture. At night, the branches become menacing figures that bend and snap in the wind and rain. The small hut is no match for Mother Nature.

Josue, 2 — whose name means “God is salvation” — is malnourished, weak and unable to stand on his own. His legs cannot hold him upright, and he can’t walk. He is frequently sick with colds, fevers and coughs from living in such harsh conditions. His 1-year-old brother Cristian, who is still breastfeeding, is stronger, at least for now.

Josue’s mother, Esperanza — whose name means “hope” — built their closet-size hut with her husband, Santiago de Jesus, when they were newlyweds. The couple had faith that one day they would build something better, something permanent. But extreme poverty prevented that. The couple and their two precious little boys are all crammed into this primitive hut together. The whole family

sleeps on one bed — which is merely a platform inside the shack built from bamboo sticks.

The boys’ father does temporary and seasonal work, but he doesn’t earn much. He labors six days a week at a coffee plantation, though his hard work is simply not enough to bring daily food to his family.

### ALONE AND SCARED

When night falls and Esperanza is alone, she holds her boys close. Her husband is gone working Monday through Saturday in a neighboring

town, leaving Esperanza alone to protect her boys. Esperanza doesn’t sleep. She vigilantly listens for any sound. It could be a rat scurrying across the hut’s dirt floor, or the insistent buzz of mosquitoes as they swarm and bite her little boys. And when Esperanza hears the low, dull grumble of an impending storm, she pulls her two little ones even closer. The plastic tablecloth roof leaks horribly in the rain. She knows her children are going to get soaked. She knows they will get sick, and she knows she won’t be able to protect them.

Esperanza is terrified, but she remains strong for her boys. “My husband and I have stood for as long as three hours holding the children in the rain,” Esperanza said. “When my husband is not home, I hold them both until the rain passes. We get scared and the children cry, but we wait until the rain stops.”

### LIVING IN FAITH

Giving thanks to God in the midst of their suffering is important to this faith-filled family. Esperanza carries her two boys to church twice a week, and on Sundays when their father is home, they attend church together. “We give thanks to God for the life He gives us,” Esperanza said.

Josue is living in severe poverty. This precious boy lives with the uncertainty of not knowing whether he will have food to eat each day. But today, you can make a difference in Josue’s life, and in the lives of children like him who are hungry and suffering. Your generous gift will provide lifesaving food and safe shelter.

### YOU CAN SAVE LIVES

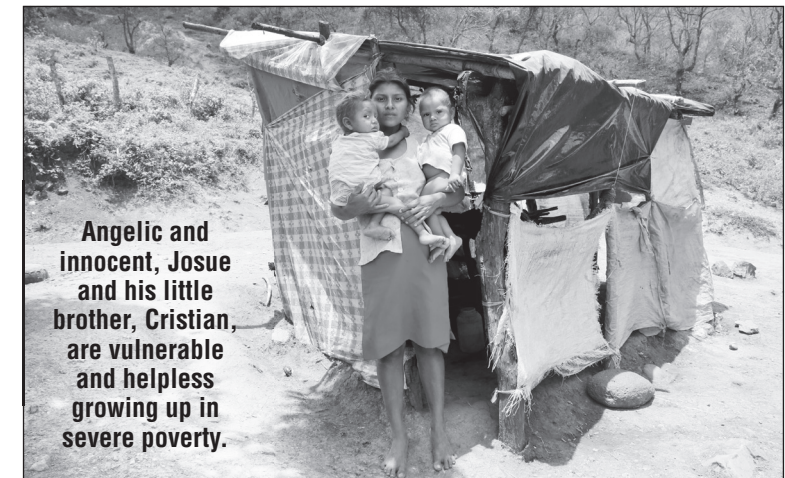
So many children suffer from devastating poverty throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. But you can help. Your gift for food today can give children like Josue the nourishment they need to grow and be healthy. Your gift to build a safe and secure home allows children to sleep

peacefully through the night, with a solid roof to keep rain out.

God has blessed us with a tremendous opportunity. Any gift of a home in Honduras, Jamaica, or Nicaragua will be multiplied four times. This is an incredible chance to show suffering families that God has not forgotten them, and that He has sent someone to help them.

**Because of a generous donor, your gift of \$3,200\* can build two double-unit homes with sanitation and a water component for a poor family like Josue’s. Or you may choose to give a gift of \$178 a month for 18 months\* to build two double-unit homes. Your loving and compassionate gift will be a life-changing blessing for a family like Josue’s.**

\*A gift of a home will be multiplied four times. In some countries, where the average household has seven members, Food For The Poor builds only double-unit homes by combining two single-unit donations.



Angelic and innocent, Josue and his little brother, Cristian, are vulnerable and helpless growing up in severe poverty.



**Pope Francis’ teachings to care for the poor and helpless, and to see the face of Christ in them, challenge us to open our hearts and to take action.**

*Robin Mahfood, Food For The Poor President/CEO, and his wife, Gail, meet with His Holiness Pope Francis. Pope Francis has declared a Year of Mercy, exhorting us to “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)*

### INNOCENT CHILDREN LIKE JOSUE NEED YOUR HELP

Your gift today will help lift the heavy burden of poverty from Josue by providing lifesaving food and safe shelter. And through this special matching gift offer, even more homes can be built to provide peace and security for frightened children. Your compassion and generosity will restore hope and give a brighter future to those who have suffered so much. Please use the Food For The Poor brochure enclosed in this publication to send your gift today. God bless you.

**Food For The Poor, Dept. 109146 • 6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073 • 800-487-1158 • [www.FoodForThePoor.org/savinglives](http://www.FoodForThePoor.org/savinglives)**

