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The Shed That Fed A Million Children



Synopsis

In 1992, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow was enjoying a pint with his brother when he got an idea that would change his life and radically change the lives of others. After watching a news bulletin about war-torn Bosnia, the two brothers agreed to take a week's hiatus from work to help. What neither of them expected is that what began as a one-time road trip in a beaten-up Landrover rapidly grew to become Magnus's life's work, leading him to leave his job, sell his house and direct all his efforts to feeding thousands of the world's poorest children. Magnus retells how a series of miraculous circumstances and an overwhelming display of love from those around him led to the creation of Mary's Meals; an organisation that could hold the key to eradicating child hunger altogether. This humble, heart-warming yet powerful story has never been more relevant in our society of plenty and privilege. It will open your eyes to the extraordinary impact that one person can make.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read many books, but it is a rare one that I can't put down. I intended to read only the Prologue of this one, but upon reading it --- and after my tears stopped --- I had to continue it to the end. Magnus Barrow writes this book in his company office, a 100-year old, lopsided, corrugated-iron shed at the back of his dad's house. The story of his charity, Mary's Meals, starts when as a young man he sees the news about a war in Yugoslavia, the slaughter of men, raping of their wives and kids, and their impending starvation. His reaction is to buy a used Land Rover, load it with food,

and drive from Scotland across Europe to feed those war refugees. His next trip is with a convoy of trucks. Over time he delivers needed supplies to hospitals, as bombs fall around him. And he hears of starvation in Malawi, Africa. Visiting there he meets a woman whose husband died of Aids, as she soon will, and her six starving children. He takes their picture. It hangs on his office wall. Itâ€™s in this book. And he begins delivering food to Malawi, with two stipulations: 1) the kids will be fed, for most their only meal of the day, in school, and 2) the villagers must prepare it. Today 25% of the school children in Malawi (and in many other countries) get their only meal, in school, from Maryâ€™s Meals --- Mary being the name given to one of their large food-hauling trucks. Maryâ€™s Meals feeds over one million children, each day! Much of this book resonated with me, including the authorâ€™s visit to Medjugorje, and his commitment there which later motivated his actions, as mine did me. I recently a story read about a very rich man who said: â€œDespite all my money, thereâ€™s nothing I can do.â€• I read about a very intelligent woman who said: â€œDespite all my wisdom, thereâ€™s nothing I can do.

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