

world vision

JULY-AUGUST 1972

Special Issue: Children of the World



Members of World Vision's Korean Children's Choir

Sent by Heaven

It is an exceptional privilege for me to welcome some 200,000 and more new readers to these pages, our print order for this issue having been almost doubled beyond our regular 210,000 copies. For this special issue on the children of the world is also serving as a program for the 1972-73 tour of World Vision's Korean Children's Choir. In the pages which follow, you will confront the awesome plight of the majority of the world's children, but you will also see something of the potential of these children when the love of God is applied to the problem. Our case in point is the extraordinary story of the Children's Choir.

His Father's Business

The one most important childhood in the history of this planet, the childhood which affected the destiny of all children, was passed in almost complete obscurity. A babe was born in Bethlehem and drew the attention of angels, shepherds, magi, and a king. But then in Nazareth a boy grew up separated from our adoring gaze by an almost impenetrable veil. Once, the veil is drawn back and we hear Jesus' first recorded words, uttered as a 12-year-old on His first visit to Jerusalem. When found in the temple after the Passover festival He asks His parents: "How is it that ye sought me? Wist

ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

With these words He sums up His whole life. One of Holman Hunt's paintings called "The Shadow of Death" portrays Jesus in His workshop at Nazareth. Near the end of the day the young carpenter straightens up from the bench to stretch. The setting sun catches His outstretched arms—and the shadow on the wall behind Him is in the form of a cross. That shadow crossed His life from the beginning. "His Father's business" was centered on the conquest over our sin. The silent years of His childhood are brought into focus by Henry Alford, once Dean of Canterbury:

We are apt to forget that it was during . . . these mysterious years . . . that much of the great work of the second Adam was done. The growing up through infancy, childhood, youth, manhood, from grace to grace, holiness to holiness, in subjection, self-denial, and love, without one polluting touch of sin,—this it was which, consummated by the three years of active ministry, by the Passion, and by the Cross, constituted "the obedience of one man," by which many were made righteous.

The Carpenter was indeed working out in flesh and blood the right-

eousness reflected in the theses hammered by Luther on the Castle Church door at Wittenberg.

At the close of Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities* is a scene of great poignancy. Rumbling through the streets of Paris on the way to the guillotine is Sydney Carton, to die in the place of another. Beside him on the cart is a girl—scarcely more than a child. In the prison she had asked, "If I may ride with you, will you let me hold your hand? I am not afraid, but I am little and weak, and it will give me more courage." So now they ride together, her hand in his. When they reach the place of execution the girl looks into his face and says: "But for you, dear stranger, I should not be so composed, for I am naturally . . . faint of heart, nor should I have been able to raise my thoughts to Him who was put to death, that we might have hope and comfort here today. I think that you were sent to me by Heaven."

A Loving Hand

Does not this scene have an application to many a World Vision sponsor who provides a loving hand in the form of prayer and financial support for children otherwise facing physical and spiritual deformity or death? And is there not here an echo of the Prototype of all sponsors, the Heaven-sent Carpenter, the risen Christ, who one day will stretch out His nail-scarred hand to welcome you Home when your day arrives at sunset and the evening star shines overhead?



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Vigorous, gifted adults come to mankind wrapped in the tiny package of a new born baby. Such helpless bundles hold the future of man.

A national leader expressing concern for the billion-plus children in the world put it this way: "Children are a mirror of a nation and of the world itself. We realize our potentialities through our children. We are judged by what we do for the children."

What would happen if the world today were to be judged on the care of its children? What would the scorecard show? If you live in North America, Europe, Japan, Australia or New Zealand, you might be surprised with the judgment. When the children around you are well-fed, well-clothed, well-educated, you tend to feel that the hungry, ragged and uneducated are the "unfortunate few."

If we could expand our vision to see the whole world, we would discover that the opposite is true. The children in industrially developed countries are the "fortunate few."

To take a closer look at the situation, let us represent the billion-plus children in the world by just four youngsters.

Since three out of every four children live in the less developed countries, three of our children would live in either Asia, Africa, or Latin America. Just one would

GIFT OF A CHILD

live in an industrially developed country. Let us say his home is in the United States.

The three children representing the Third World would probably never see a doctor or sit in a classroom, much less graduate. Their chances of reaching their potential, physically or mentally, are very limited. What the child in the United States will *waste* in food, clothes, and classroom time would meet the needs of at least one of the other three children. UNICEF statistics tell us that a penny will buy enough vaccine to protect a child against tuberculosis and five cents will cure a child of trachoma. Yet these two diseases continue to kill and disable.

Even as we grasp just how uneven and unfair the distribution of goods is in our world, we also know that you cannot just take what Johnny in the United States does not eat and give it to little Sanjay in India. It is also true that there are healthy, privileged children in the less developed countries, just as there are malnourished



CHILD FROM LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS

LIFE EXPECTANCY

50 years old—40 times more likely to die before reaching school age than a boy in the U.S.

MEDICAL AVAILABILITY

Chances of seeing a doctor are slim. . . in Asia there is one doctor for every 6000 people; in Africa one for every 18,000.

INCOME

The family yearly income is between \$100 to \$240.

FOOD

Suffers from some degree of protein/calorie deficiency. Possibility of permanent damage.

EDUCATION

Only one in three receives any education and he is unlikely to finish elementary school.



CHILD FROM DEVELOPED NATION (U.S.A.)

LIFE EXPECTANCY

70 years old. Will probably receive pre- and post-natal care.

MEDICAL AVAILABILITY

Has family doctor available. There is one doctor for every 683 people.

INCOME

Family income is at least \$4000.

FOOD

Eats 10-12% more protein than his body can use.

EDUCATION

Goes through free elementary and secondary schools. (86% of those eligible are enrolled.)

children in the United States. But as we again look at the total problem, we find these children are in a small minority.

Let us investigate one category on the world's childcare scorecard. How do we rate in nutritional care?

Estimates put the number of malnourished preschool (ages one through six) children (in the less developed nations) at 300 million. As high as two-thirds of the children under the age of 15 who live in these nations suffer from some degree of protein and/or calorie malnutrition.

Better to Let Them Die?

The question is often asked, "Even though it is terrible, is it not good from a population viewpoint that the death rate is so high among the children?"

Yet the question reveals a dehumanizing attitude which assumes that the children dying are not your children, and somehow "those" children are not as valuable



or as worthy of life as our own.

It is also a naive question which overlooks one important fact—not all the children affected by malnutrition die.

The death rate among pre-schoolers, which is 40 times higher in less developed countries than it is in industrialized nations, tells only part of the story.

The man who heads the United Nations Children's Fund explains: "The most terrifying prospect of all to contemplate is that there is growing evidence to suggest that malnutrition may impair the mental as well as physical capacity of those who survive. If we cannot find the means to provide these youngsters with the proper foods they need for growth and development, then all our plans for a better, more prosperous world will rest on a foundation no more secure than shifting sand."

As one world nutrition expert puts it: "Every day malnutrition in

the world's poorer countries kills and *damages* more children than all the man-made and natural catastrophies combined."

What does all this mean? Three hundred million children between the crucial growing years of one and five are living in conditions that make it impossible for them to develop their physical and mental potential. Or, one of every three children now living will carry through life some of the irreversible effects of food deficiency. The international community is just now beginning to realize the close relationship between programs to benefit children and national economic and social development.

In less developed areas, as many as 70 percent of the children may suffer from malnutrition. (And remember that three-quarters of the children in the world live in these areas.) The maimed survivors of malnutrition become adults who lack vigor and initiative essential for productive

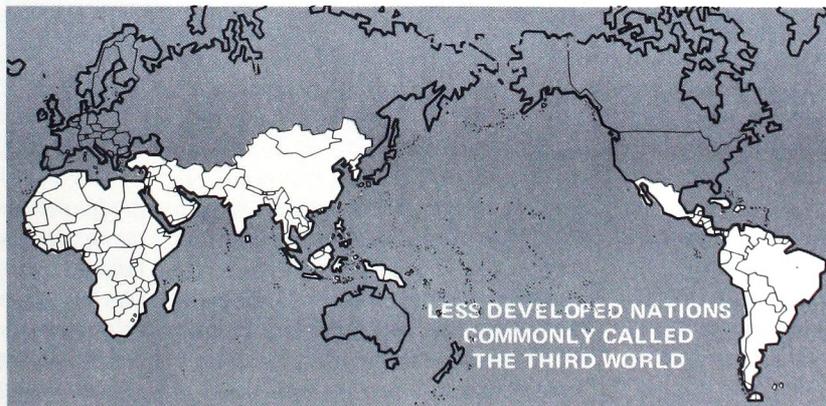
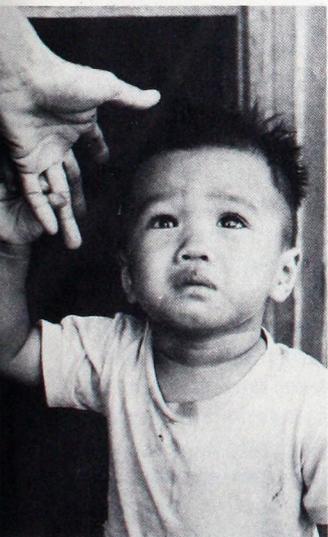
advancement. Their shortened life span and decreased ability to produce seriously impede the physical, mental, and economic growth of the population.

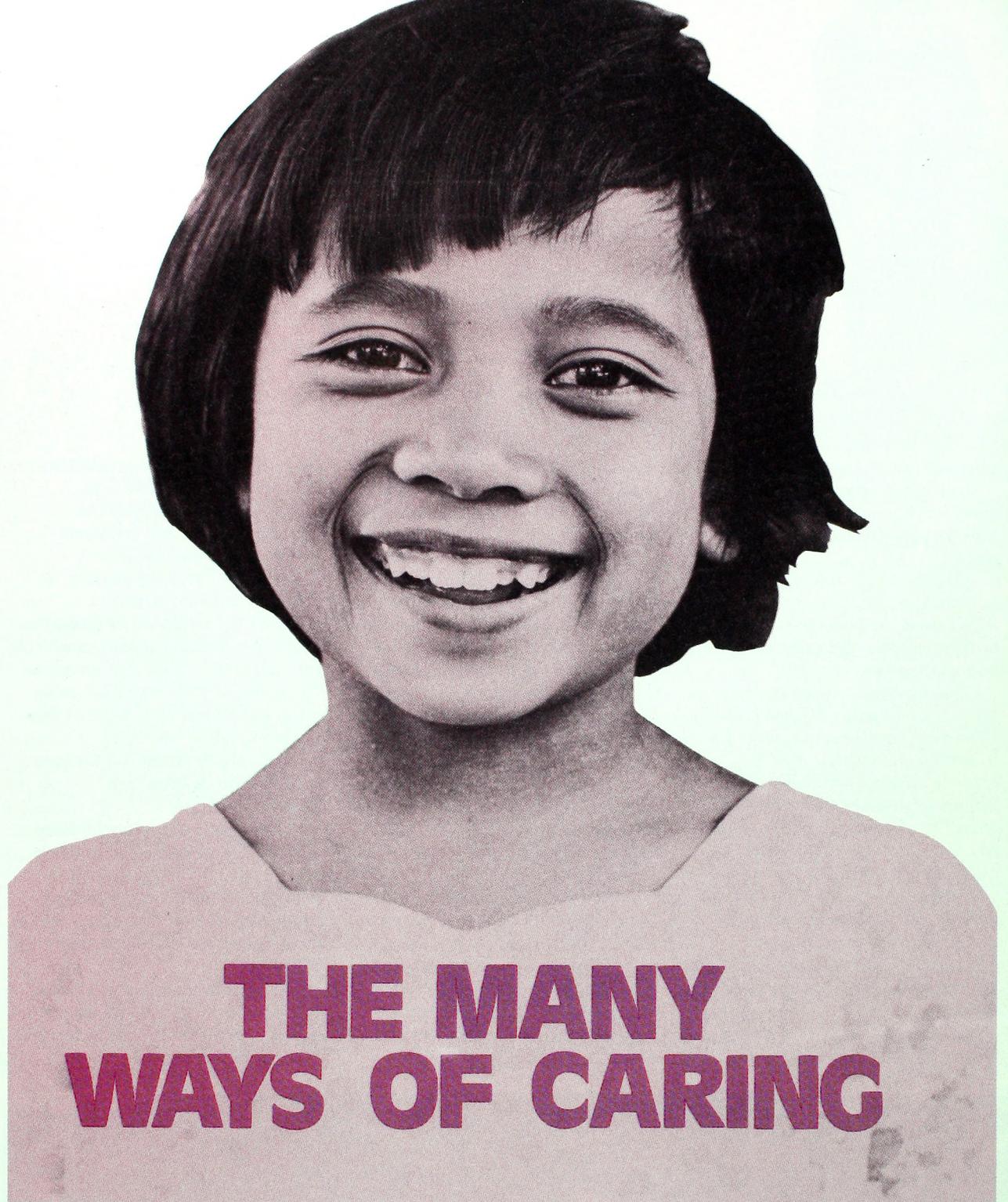
In brief, that is the world's childcare score on nutrition.

And how would we be judged on education, housing, health care? You are right if you think that we are as far behind in these essentials as we are in nutritional care. Most of the world's children—60 to 75 percent—are not receiving the care they need to develop into productive adults.

The world's score for childcare adds up to a vicious cycle of death and frustration repeating itself in each new birth—a kind of living death perpetuated. The fact is we are squandering our most vital asset: the children.

Another more important fact is that there is something we can do to change this dismal prognosis for the children in our world.





THE MANY WAYS OF CARING

The facts about the needs of children in our world are dismal! And, because the facts tell only part of the story, they can be harmful, lulling us into a feeling that nothing can be done. It is not the "facts" that are hungry, unclothed, and uneducated. The children are. There is something you can do to change a child's life.

Every day millions of youngsters are given a chance to develop and

grow because people cared. As the needs are many so are the ways of caring.

Many organizations—governmental and private—are working to conserve the resources of our children. Through their efforts and through the concern of individuals like yourself, millions of children are being rescued from the crippling grip of poverty.

New foods which meet the high

protein/calorie needs of children are being developed, and limited distribution has begun in many Third World countries. Community development and agricultural improvement projects, so vital to a child's chances for survival and growth, are going forward in nearly all developing countries.

World Vision International is actively involved in meeting the needs of our children and changing that

*Education fights
poverty's best friend,
ignorance.*

*(far right) Food of
good quality and quantity
insures that this youngster
will not be one of
the 10,000 who die daily
from malnutrition.*



dismal scorecard on childcare. The growth and diversity of World Vision's childcare program show the many ways open to helping children reach their potential.

What began as an effort to aid the orphans of the Korean War has grown into a work involving 22 countries and more than 37,000 children supported by people in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Support for widows and their children and orphans was the first childcare work in 1952. With the rise of nationalism and the lopsided economic balance that became more and more obvious after World War II and continues into the present, it soon became obvious that the greatest need was not homes for true orphans. A new kind of "orphan" had emerged, one with parents. These were poverty's orphans, abandoned by a parent or parents who could not provide care for their children. Orphanages were renamed children's homes, and other means of helping children in poverty situations developed. In many cases both parents must work to provide a living. Babysitters are out of the question when the purchase of sufficient food is in doubt. To aid these families, day care centers are sponsored where the abandonment problem is severe.

Schools are another effective means to aid children and their families and to fight poverty's chief ally, ignorance. World Vision now sponsors children in schools in Vietnam, Hong Kong, Laos, and Indonesia. In Vietnam, World Vision is providing

assistance to the entire educational program of the Protestant churches through its development of curriculum, teaching aids and training.

Scholarships are available to promising young people who otherwise would be denied any chance of higher education. Vocational training opens avenues to children wishing to learn a trade.

Community development work is carried on in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Laos. Another development project is planned among refugees in Ethiopia.

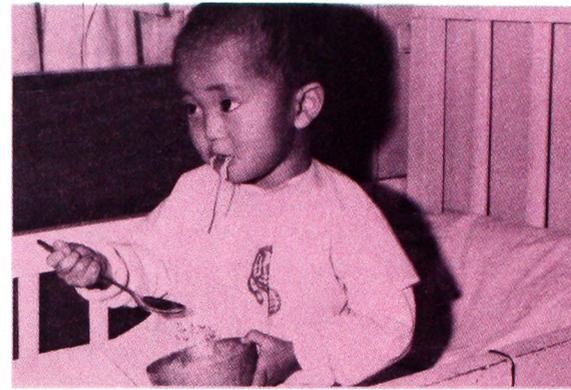
Crises and emergencies take their greatest toll among the very young and very old. Through emergency relief and rebuilding assistance, World Vision again aids children. Currently assistance is being given to northern Bangladesh for rebuilding and equipping schools.

In brief that is what World Vision—just one of many organizations aiding needy children—is doing to change the world's bleak childcare score.

The work of World Vision, or any organization, is not complete without the concerned people who make the childcare work possible. Tens of thousands of people in the more affluent developed nations share their money and love to make possible this care for needy children.

The facts tell us there is a tremendous job to be done if the world is to realize the potential of its children. But it is the face of an individual child that compels us to help.

Believing that you help children, not facts, World Vision childcare is based on a sponsorship program. A person who wishes to help a needy child can become a sponsor. Each month he provides \$12. He receives a photo and a brief history of "his" child. Sponsored children write several letters a year to their sponsor.



Sponsors are encouraged to write to "their" children, and to pray for them. Many, when traveling overseas, actually visit their sponsored children.

The meager standard of living now available to the majority of the world's children cannot be changed by new inventions and better methods alone. It is going to take personal involvement with the needy children on the part of us who have so much.

The problems are not all material. Deprivation, hunger, and hopelessness leave emotional and spiritual scars. These scars need personal, emotional and spiritual help if they are going to heal. Meeting these needs is part of World Vision's childcare program. The sponsors also play a role through personal correspondence with an individual child which helps reinforce a child's feeling of worth and encourages him to study and to achieve. Many who cannot assume the financial responsibility of sponsoring a child give what they can to the general childcare fund.

Through World Vision childcare thousands of people have found a way to become personally involved in helping a needy child grow and in adding one more statistic to the plus side of the world's childcare scorecard.

If you would like to have a part in being the "answer" to a child's need, please use the envelope in the center of this magazine.



A lot of planning goes into successfully touring 32 children, 10 adults, 100-plus pieces of luggage, and a vast array of equipment across the United States, Bermuda, and Canada for four months. Think of it: 32 lively youngsters who can only quote their name and age in English; and enough luggage, musical instruments, and other equipment to supply a choir.

Over a year ago, Richard Hamilton, tour coordinator, and Peter Lee, World Vision of Korea associate director, began their arduous task of putting together the tour. Approximate dates and an itinerary were announced.

At each engagement site, program chairmen began their involved preparations. Auditoriums must be reserved. Stage hands and lighting men are hired. Dressing rooms must be arranged. A grand piano must be rented and tuned. Parking space is reserved for the choir bus.

Someone has to meet the choir—traveling directions are given weeks before the arrival. Frequently the children sing for public officials, and these meetings must be arranged. Often extra police must be assigned to handle crowds.

Publicity is enlisted, including the television and radio media. Newspapers are contacted.

Overnight accommodations and meals must be provided. Asked if they will get tired on the long trip, one child laughed, "We don't have time to be tired." When another child was asked what she would miss on the tour, she squealed, "Oh, kimchi—we'll miss it!" Kimchi is a Korean dish made of fermented sliced cabbage, red peppers, and garlic. During a previous tour, the chil-

dren made up for the lack of kimchi by putting Tabasco sauce on everything.

Meanwhile, preparations are being made in Korea, too. While the children rehearse several hours a day—and continue in their public school activities—Peter Lee and his staff are working on a myriad of trip details.

Passports, pictures, and shots are processed. Musical instruments and other equipment are readied. Traveling uniforms, performance costumes, and other wardrobe items must be seen. Each child needs luggage and personal grooming supplies. Special medication prescriptions are filled. The children's sponsors must be informed of the tour itinerary.

Choir members are taught necessary "Western ways." Hosts nearly



always comment on the children's outstanding manners and exceptional cleanliness.

Shopping for trinkets, post cards, and other items will provide relaxation on some of the rest days. Birthdays will be celebrated with the traditional cake and candles.

The hours the children spend with their sponsors are happy times. Exchanging gifts is a traditional Korean



gesture, and the sponsors will receive pieces of Korean art that will be treasured for years to come.

Although nagging questions like "What if the American children laugh at me?" loom in their minds, the youngsters are looking forward to visiting Disneyland and meeting the "grandfather" they see in the Kentucky Fried Chicken ads.

Amid the bustle of activities, however, the children sense the seriousness of their trip. They realize they are little "ambassadors of Korea," thanking the North American sponsors for their loving care for needy children, and telling others the Good News of Jesus Christ. Twelve-year-old Suh Mee Na explained, "Music is better than talking, and since there are so many people who don't know about Korea, I want them to understand us through music."

Pigtails choir member, Lee Young Sook, further added, "I want to make people happy and lead them to our Lord."

And that is exactly why all the tour preparations are made.

HOW A CHOIR TOUR HAPPENS



“Their dedication and professionalism never cease to amaze me”

Kurt Kaiser is no novice when it comes to evaluating professional talent.

As director of artists and repertoire for Word Records, America's largest producer of religious albums, he works with some of the best known Christian musicians in the Western world — Pat Boone, Ralph Carmichael, Burl Ives, Anita Bryant, Ethel Waters, and on the list could go. Not only that, his own musical gifts as composer, arranger, and conductor have gained international acclaim.

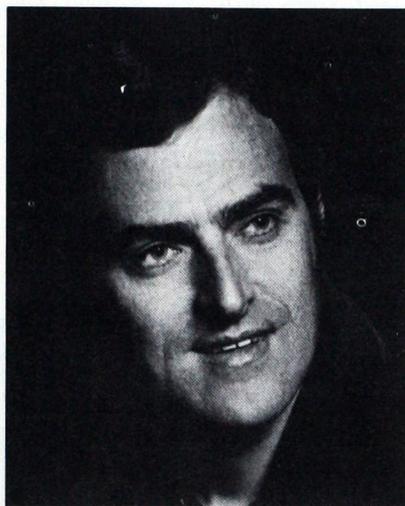
So when Kurt Kaiser says that the World Vision Korean Children's Choir is the best of its kind in the world, he knows what he is talking about.

During his last trip to Korea, Kaiser arranged music for the choir's visit to the United States, Canada, and Bermuda.

“Their dedication and professionalism never cease to amaze me,” Kaiser reflects about the days he spent with the choir in Korea in early spring 1971. It was not his first time to work with the choir. The youngsters are among the major recording groups on the Word label.

The choir warmed up quickly to their talented foreign friend. As Kaiser put them through the rigors of learning a completely new repertoire for their North American tour, they adjusted smoothly to the diversified styles that characterize the contemporary Christian music scene in this part of the world.

The usual full-time use of a director and pianist has been reduced to less than half of the program time. Recorded orchestra accompaniment



Kurt Kaiser

By Jerry Ballard

Former director of communications for the National Association of Free Will Baptists and for World Vision, he is currently completing his doctoral work in communications.

will give background to most of the choir's performance. The stage decorations, costumes, and choreography have a stronger Korean flavor than ever before.

The program for the 1972-73 tour is more sophisticated than previous ones according to arranger Kaiser. “It is more of a complete stage production. But the children tackled it with the zeal and commitment of true professionals.”

“I found them up early in the morning,” Kaiser recalls, “rehearsing the music we had worked on the day before. And after dinner, they would return to the practice room as though they hadn't already worked a full, hard day.”

The American musician describes the young Korean artists as “incredible children. Their powers of con-

centration, so important in achieving artistic excellence, would astound anyone. And not only do they polish their performances to exacting perfection, they add the dimension of the heart.”

Kaiser ranks working with the Korean Children's Choir “one of the highlights of my professional career.” And when a man as busy as Word's top music man will pull himself away from pressing writing and recording schedules to prepare arrangements for a choir in another country, the attraction must be strong.

The singing children who have captured the hearts of audiences all over the world have also captured the heart of Kurt Kaiser. And to the members of the choir, he is not only a fellow musician and esteemed teacher, he is their warm friend.



THREE WHO MAKE IT GO



Peter Lee, Tour Director

Peter Lee has 32 children. The youngsters, all under the age of 16, are the members of the Korean Children's Choir. Lee is tour director and "Daddy" for the lively brood.

Peter was born in what is now North Korea. Reared in a devoutly Christian home, and the nephew of a Methodist evangelist, he remembers persecution of Christians beginning almost as soon as Communism took over the area. When the Korean War started in 1950, Peter's family joined the thousands of refugees who fled South.

Lee soon joined the Army, and the war became the turning point in his spiritual life and a major influence on his later decision to enter full-time Christian work. Although he had grown up in a religious environment, Peter said he was living on "borrowed faith." The suffering and destruction of the war forced him to reevaluate the impor-

ance of material wealth. "All the things people normally treasured lost their value," he explains.

"I found faith in God during a battle," Lee recalls. The decision was far-reaching in its effects. When one of his Christian friends—who was then business manager of World Vision—sought his help with war orphans, Lee was "temporarily" released from duty by Korea's Defense Department.

He has never left World Vision since then. Today Lee is the top Korean leader in the organization, which sponsors over 15,000 children in his country.

Lee and his wife are the parents of three children, and have adopted a child themselves. Sensing the sacred responsibility of childcare, Lee recently commented, "This tour is much more than just a promotional effort for World Vision of Korea... it is a way in which we are able to share in helping the needy children... in the world that are less fortunate than those in Korea."

Yoon Hak Won, Choir Director

University graduate... husband... father... choir director... music librarian... choral arranger: it all adds up to Yoon Hak Won, director of the Korean Children's Choir.

A music major trained at Seoul's Yonsei University, Yoon is a sensitive, intense young man dedicated to Jesus Christ and his work at the Music Institute. He worked 14 months on the repertoire for the choir's 100-city tour through North America. The program in-

cludes two hours of popular music and hymns, as well as Korean folk dancing. It is Yoon's premier American tour.

Putting together a program this size involves hurdling a number of barriers that would cause most conductors to throw up their hands in panic. Since most of the songs are sung in English, pronunciation becomes a major battle. "Even a dictionary is little help," remarked Hak Won, "because there is a difference between singing pronunciation and normal speaking." The help of special speech coaches will allow the children to sing in English, even if they cannot speak the language.

School schedules are also a handicap as the children attend several schools scattered around Seoul, making rehearsal time difficult. Somehow, though, Yoon manages to see that everyone scheduled for



the tour puts in two hours of practice a day. On holidays, the children practice four hours.

One of Yoon's greatest concerns is the health of the children. The gruelling tour in a foreign country will make the youngsters extremely

susceptible to illness and fatigue. The schedule is therefore carefully arranged to include adequate rest time, personal supervision and medical attention when needed.

Most of the children in this year's choir are elementary school age, eight to 16 years old—"more small children than ever before." The Music Institute's interpreter believes the reason Yoon is able to handle the youngsters effectively is because he is the father of two small children himself.

An associate of Yoon's recently commented, "He pours out his love and total effort into the Choir."

Kim Chong Ok, Choir Pianist

When you are the pianist for 60 of the brightest young vocalists in Korea, you have to be available to rehearse at some unusual hours. All the children—boarding students at the World Vision Music Institute outside Seoul—are attending regular

schools on different schedules, and this creates havoc with any kind of practice plans.

Kim Chong Ok, 24-year-old Institute accompanist finds this situation particularly true when the 34-member Korean Children's Choir is preparing for one of their overseas tours.

A Hanyang University graduate, Chong Ok has been forced to end most outside activities in order to be available to the children for practice sessions whenever their irregular schedules allow a few free moments. The choir rehearses two hours each day together, and Kim also practices with the folk dancers and soloists. Then she must rehearse her own parts and maintain a personal practice time of "one or two hours a day."

Miss Kim began studying piano when her older sister lost interest in taking lessons. Her mother, anxious to get her money's worth out of the teacher, allowed then nine-year-old Chong Ok to take her remaining lessons of the course. She has never lost her passion for the keyboard since her introduction to piano.

While piano accompaniment is

common in Korea—even in traditional opera and Korean theater—Chong Ok is devoted to the Western classics. Like many other Asian professional musicians, she prefers a Brahms or Rubenstein to current popular music.

A winner of the second prize for piano from Hanyang University while still in high school, Kim is looking forward to graduate study—perhaps in the United States. She is "hoping to have a life-long career" in music.



Useful adults do not just "happen".

Creative, responsible citizens do not merely "appear" in society. If you are to influence the future, you must start with today's children. An ancient Chinese proverb states it: "If you are planning for one year, plant rice; if you are planning for 10 years, plant trees; if you are planning for 100 years, plant men."

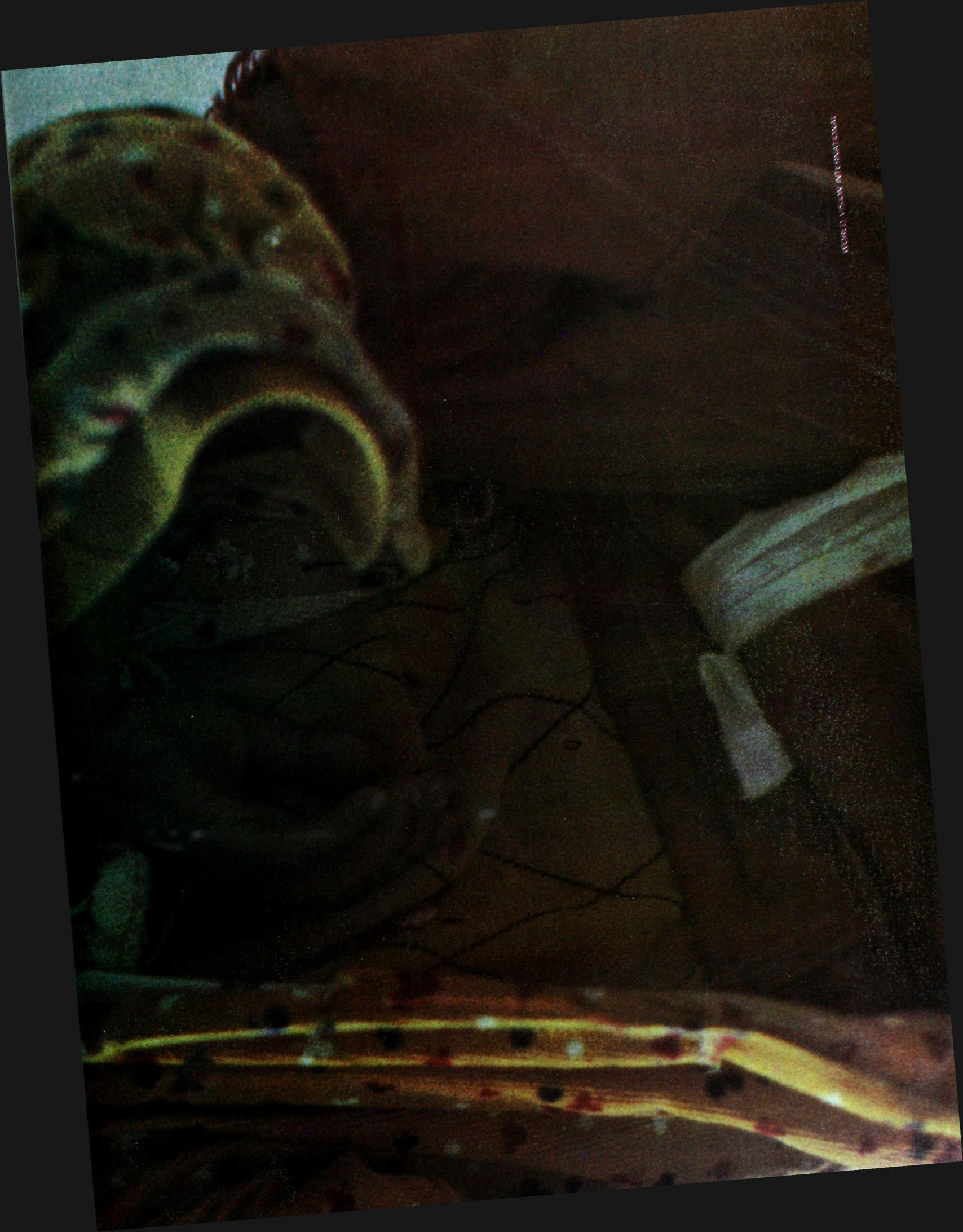
The Korean Children's Choir is a "success story" about positive influence on directionless children. Along with 37,000 other needy youngsters, the members of the choir have been redeemed from their earlier "human refuse" status. World Vision recognized their individual worth and, along with the loving help of sponsors, has given them a new hope.

But around the world, hundreds of thousands of desperate youngsters are slowly strangling on their own helplessness. Without the aid of concerned Christians, they will die—or they will live, deformed in body, mind, and spirit.

On the following two pages is a poster you may find helpful in encouraging your friends to remember the suffering billion children in the Third World.



Dear child,
delicate
breath
of Heaven,
is your gaze
a benediction...
or an indictment?



MOORE VISION INTERNATIONAL

MEET THE CHOIR

A few years ago the World Vision Korean Orphan Choir changed its name to the World Vision Korean Children's Choir. Just a change for the sake of change?

No, happily Korea has nearly solved its orphan problems. This year almost half of the choir members have both parents and another eight have one. The choir is not only singing to thank those who have assisted them, but also to encourage further help to needy youngsters in desperate situations around the world.



Choi, Min Ok: *age thirteen*
two years with the choir



Park, Nam Sil: *age ten*
one year with the choir



Sohn, Il Rang: *age nine*
one year with the choir



Lee, Yung Rim: *age nine*
one year with the choir



Kim, Yung Shik: *age ten*
one year with the choir

Cho, Sung Hwan: *age ten*
one year with the choir

Lee, Hyun Ok: *age eleven*
two years with the choir



Sohn, Jung Woo: *age twelve*
four years with the choir



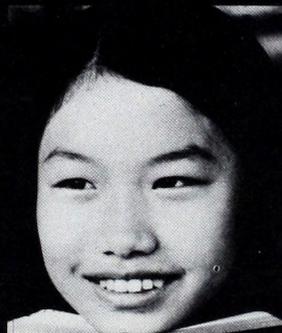
Kang, Seung Ho: *age ten*
two years with the choir



Moon, Ki Woong: *age eleven*
two years with the choir



Kang, Mee Woon: *age twelve*
four years with the choir



Oh, Mi Soon: *age twelve*
three years with the choir



Bae, Woon Kyung: *age eleven*
one year with the choir



Han, Soo Duk: *age nine*
one year with the choir



Suh, Mee Na: *age fourteen*
four years with the choir



Kim, Seung Ae: *age eleven*
one year with the choir



Park, Wang Woo: *age eleven*
four years with the choir



Kim, Hae Soo: *age thirteen*
six years with the choir



Joo, Sook: *age fourteen*
two years with the choir



Oh, Kyung Soo: *age fourteen
six years with the choir*



Shin, Mee Kong: *age fifteen
four years with the choir*



Hae Chul: *age eighteen
years with the choir*



Park, Jung Hie: *age sixteen
four years with the choir*



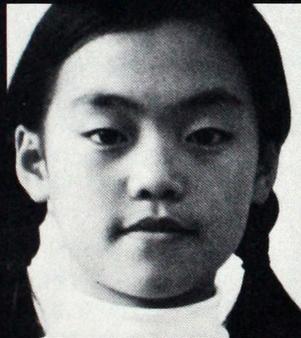
Kwon, Mee Ae: *age thirteen
six years with the choir*



Kyung Hee: *age sixteen
years with the choir*



Park, Myung Ok: *age fourteen
four years with the choir*



Lee, Yung Sook: *age fourteen
four years with the choir*



Kim, Hae Sook: *age ten
two years with the choir*



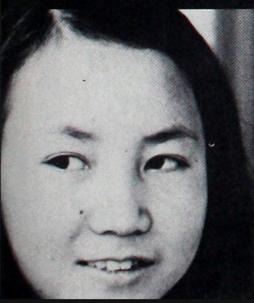
Yung Keum: *age thirteen
years with the choir*



Shin, Sung Kyung: *age eleven
one year with the choir*



Hong, Hei Kyung: *age fifteen
seven years with the choir*



Chung, Soo Ryung: *age seventeen
six years with the choir*

Remember the song "Love Makes the World Go 'Round"? Sometimes love makes people go 'round the world. World Vision is known for going around the world to offer help—in Christ's name—to suffering people.

The World Vision Korean Children's Choir will travel half-way around the world—to express a grateful love to the sponsors who have helped thousands of needy youngsters. The 100-city tour is the fourth North American visit for the country-hopping group.

Organization of the now-famous choir began in 1957. As World Vision founder Bob Pierce visited orphanages in South Korea, he noticed the Korean love and special talent for music, and established a music institute in Seoul.

From the beginning, a beautiful voice was not the only requirement for selection. The youngsters had to have passing grades in school and gentle, tractable dispositions. They would be living and traveling together so there could be no pouting, jealousy, or temper tantrums.

Audition dates were set throughout South Korea. Often as many as

80 children would gather at one auditorium. Wisdom was needed to select the youngsters, but at last 43 children were chosen.

The original World Vision Music Institute shared a compound with a widows' home—needy victims of the Korean War along with the orphans. The Institute consisted of two buildings. One was a dormitory for the choir, and the other building housed a kitchen and dining room on the first floor and a practice room on the second.

One word describes the children's lives: busy! They rose at 6:00 a.m. Rice, soup, and vegetables made up their breakfast menu. They rehearsed until it was time to go to the local schools.

After classes, the children were "free" until supper. A second and longer practice lasted from supper to 8:00 p.m. Then they went to their rooms, studied their lessons, and curled up to sleep.

Through the years, each choir director has been able to draw out remarkable music capabilities from the children. They develop the ability to transfer from language to language, culture to culture, style to style. For instance, the choir switches easily from Handel to Schubert to Korean folk songs. Although they speak only Korean, they sing in English, Latin, several European languages, and even learn the national anthems of each country they visit.

A major difficulty for each new choir is the conquering of the Western seven-tone scale—different from the oriental five-tone scale with the addition of *mi* and *ti*. Also the half tones of *mi-fa* and *ti-do* are problems for the children. But after they learn, the youngsters frequently ask, "Why do our Korean songs have only five tones?"

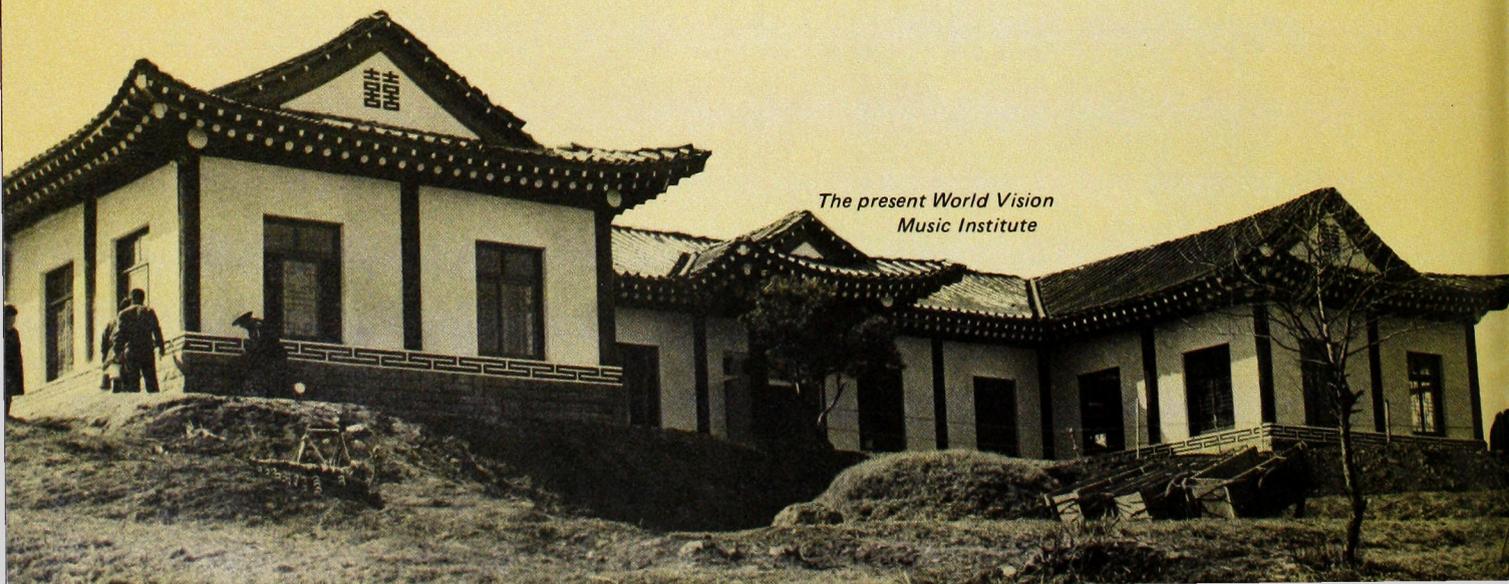
In the fall of 1961, the first World Vision Korean Children's Choir arrived in Los Angeles. Their repertoire consisted of 50 songs, and included such favorites as "He Sent My Sins A-Rolling," "Maing-Kong Frogs," and "The Lord is My Shepherd." The children were in the United States 113 days and sang in 73 cities. They returned to their homeland with a well-deserved new reputation as "singing ambassadors of Korea." They had won the hearts of thousands.

The choir has returned to North America three times since its first successful tour: in 1962, in 1965 and in 1968. In 1962 they traveled 16,000 miles through 14 countries, including the United States.

Once when the choir returned home, *The Korean Republic* observed: "The meritorious 'diplomatic job' done by the boys and girls . . . again brings to the fore the importance of people-to-people cultural intercourse."

But the children have a great sense of mission and view themselves as more than "child diplomats." They see themselves as "missionaries" singing on behalf of needy children the world over. One little choir member commented, "We only pray that we do not fail God." 

HOW IT ALL BEGAN



The present World Vision
Music Institute

YUNG SOOK'S STORY



A Choir Girl Grows Up

Twenty-two-year-old Kim Yung Sook is typical of many of today's young Koreans. "This is exactly why we chose her for the most important role in our new movie, *A Billion and Three*," explains Russ Reid, executive producer of the film. The color documentary is being produced by Atkins-Gilbert Company of Hollywood for World Vision. It is scheduled to appear on about 200 North American television stations late this fall and "will show the progress Korea has made in eliminating its social problems."

Kim Yung Sook has matured into a beautiful young woman whose principal ambition is to become a public health nurse. *A Billion and Three* features a typical day in her life, showing her in class at Kyung Hee University and treating children at one of the World Vision baby homes. In the film, Kim is interviewed by television star Art

Linkletter and meets Dr. Stanley Mooneyham, president of World Vision International.

Kim Yung Sook lost both her parents as an infant during the Korean War. She was taken in by a World Vision childcare home, and, later as a student at the World Vision Music Institute, she traveled abroad twice with the Korean Children's Choir. The 1962 tour whisked her through 14 nations.

Yung Sook explained that members of the choir come from all over South Korea, winners of difficult auditions. Soon their regional accents blend into one special accent. People often ask her, "What accent is that? Where are you from?" She always tells them, "I'm from the Korean Children's Choir."

During one of the tours, Yung Sook met her sponsor, Miss Lois Reynolds of Canada. Miss Reynolds has sponsored Yung Sook since she was eight years old. She still assists with the university tuition.

Although she thinks she would like to travel again—this time for advanced medical training in the West—Yung Sook says she has no desire to leave Korea permanently as many students have done after study-

ing overseas. "I want to remain here and help my own country," she recently explained.

Pediatrics is her major interest, and Kim feels that eventually she would like to work in rural Korea with some kind of mother and childcare program, perhaps as part of the World Vision ministries. She believes there are great needs in Korea today for preventative medical care for children in rural areas.

Although Korea is solving the "orphan problem" that was so prevalent until recently, Yung Sook feels that the World Vision childcare programs continue to be vital "because many children are still growing up without proper care." She hopes that *A Billion and Three* will be helpful in promotion of these programs, not only in Korea but in other countries which desperately need assistance. "I'm very happy to have a role in this film," Kim Yung Sook confided, "because I think God has shown a lot of love to me and I hope that other people will come closer to God by seeing the story of my life." 

facts of a field

Compiled by MARC, a division of World Vision International
Information on other countries available



VITAL STATISTICS

Capital: Seoul (6 million population).
Area: 38,000 square miles.
Population: 32.9 million (1971 estimate).

Population Growth: 2 to 2.5 percent annually.

Population Density: Averages about 850 persons per square mile.

Urbanization: About 50 percent.

Ethnic Composition: Very homogeneous. Non-Korean population is about 50,000.

Languages: Korean is official language. English, Japanese, and Chinese are also spoken by some.

Literacy: About 85 percent.

Economy: Growing fairly rapidly. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing account for about 30 percent of total gross national product. Per capita gross national product in 1971 was about \$220.

History: Semi-independent state associated with China until late nineteenth century. Under Japanese annexation, 1910-1945. Division of Korean peninsula followed World War II and southern half proclaimed Republic of Korea in 1948.

Government: Strong presidential form of government. Elected unicameral national assembly.

Religion: Majority may follow a mixture of the traditional religion of shamanism with other beliefs. About 10 percent Christian.

In 1971 there were about 30 Protestant church bodies in Korea. Other large denominations include the Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists, Salvation Army, Assemblies of God, Nazarenes, and Episcopalians.

In addition to evangelistic, educational, and social concern ministries, Korean churches have also shown interest in foreign missionary outreach. As early as the 1930's Korean missionaries were serving in parts of China. Today there are several dozen Korean missionaries overseas in at least 13 countries.

Foreign Missions: Korea's first knowledge of Christianity came in 1631 through a Christian book taken from China to Korea. A Chinese Catholic priest, the first missionary to go to Korea, went in 1794. Continuing Protestant missionary efforts began in 1882.

The Protestant missionary community in South Korea is largely from North America. In 1971 there were 53 foreign mission agencies in Korea, 43 of them North American. The total Protestant missionary staff was between 600 and 700. Roman Catholic foreign priests numbered about 360 in 1970.

The largest Protestant mission staff is Presbyterian. Other large mission agencies include the Methodists, Southern Baptists, The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), and World Vision.

Significant ministries are being conducted in broadcasting, literature, and education. The Bible has been translated into Korean and distribution in 1970 was almost four and a half million pieces. 

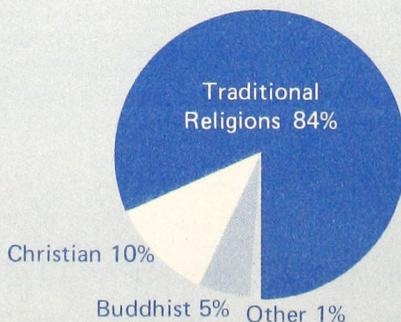
Current Status: Christians in the Republic of Korea comprise, at best, about 10 percent of the total population. Protestants number about two and a quarter million adherents. Protestant influence, however, extends far beyond the numbers because many Protestant Christians are educated and influential. The Roman Catholic Church has about 789,000 members, or 2.5 percent of the total population. There is also a small Eastern Orthodox community.

Churches and missions have little or no interference in their ministries from non-Christian groups or from the government. This is a welcome relief to Korean Christians after years of suffering inflicted by the Japanese and later by Communist forces. Christian ministries in Korea have been varied but have been noteworthy in education, medicine, relief, rehabilitation, and literature, as well as in evangelism and church planting.

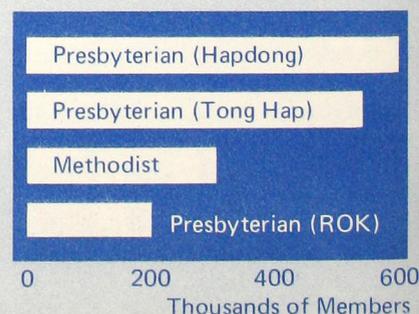
National Churches: The Presby-

terians are the oldest and largest body of Protestant Christians in Korea. Divisions within the denomination have resulted in four major Presbyterian bodies, plus about a dozen other smaller groups. Church leadership has been in Korean hands since the early 1900's and there are over 6000 Presbyterian ministers and church workers. The Methodist Church is the second largest Protestant church body. Another large church is the Korea Holiness Church, an outgrowth of the ministries of the Oriental Missionary Society.

Estimated Religious Affiliation



Major Protestant Churches



monthly memo

Her name is Kyung Ja Moon. She was only eight years old when I first met her at the "old" World Vision Music Institute in Seoul, Korea, back in 1964.

The children were rehearsing for their third world tour. Selections were soon to be made of the children who were to take the tour—out from about 60 or 70 children training in the institute.

She was so delicate. . . and frail. . . and sweet. I called her "my Dresden Doll." I was so hoping she would be selected to become a part of the traveling choir. She was.

Both in 1965 and in 1968-69 Kyung Ja traveled with the famed World Vision Korean Children's Choir. I was with them often in concert, in their fun times, as they traveled—and grew to love so dearly these gifted and well-behaved children.

My little "Dresden Doll" is not with the choir this tour. She has matured into a young lady—too old



for the group. This lovely Christian girl continues her musical training in Korea and wants to serve the Lord with her remarkable musical gifts.

However, her young brother, Ki Woong Moon, has now joined the choir. Korea director Marlin Nelson and his Korean associate Peter Lee, knowing how dearly our family loves Kyung Ja, managed for us to be Ki Woong's sponsor.

What a privilege and delight to invest love, interest, and prayers in such children around the world.

The World Vision family of needy children being loved and cared for in 22 countries now numbers over 37,000, every one of whom is deeply and especially loved by God and is one for whom our Lord Jesus Christ died.

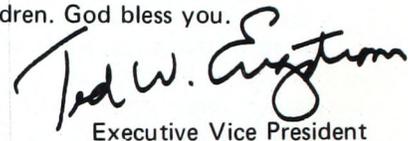
The children, taught the Scriptures and "led in paths of

righteousness," are part of the "salt to savor" and "light to shine" in our world in the years ahead. What a privilege to rescue these who have nothing in the world, abandoned by everyone, and share our love and the love of Christ with them.

A recent United Nations report stated that "today there are over 300 million children who, for lack of sufficient protein and calories, suffer grossly retarded physical growth and development."

This means that there seemingly can be no end to our efforts to meet this kind of need. Not only are there these physical and psychological needs to be met, but the need—and opportunity—to present the love of God in Christ to these children who are without hope apart from our concern.

Thank you, so many thousands of you, for your expressions of concern and interest as you pray for, write to, love and support these children. God bless you.


Executive Vice President

NEVER TOO YOUNG TO CARE

by Donald E. Vasey, Manager, Sponsor Department

*"Children can't do much."
"They're too small." "They're all so self-centered."*

Do not believe those comments! In Jamaica World Vision has a childcare home filled with bright-eyed boys and girls from poor backgrounds. Ten years ago they asked their teacher to write, "The children are putting their tithes and offerings together and want to sponsor a child. Enclosed you will find a cheque for \$50." All these years little Jamaican orphans have cared enough to sponsor another youngster in South Africa, faithfully, joyfully, and prayerfully.

A kindergarten teacher wrote, "Our class sponsored a World Fair. We showed curios and souvenirs from different countries of the world. We gave pony rides on our playground, charging 10 cents for a ride. At the end of the day most of the boys and

girls gave any monies they had left over because we announced that our offerings would go to help the boys and girls of Vietnam. Enclosed is \$26.25 for just that."

From South America: "We have the only orphanage in this area that will accept babies and tiny tots, so you can imagine how the story of those poor, helpless children in Bangladesh touched our hearts. Many of our children are now old enough to understand things like the needs of others. We asked them if they would like to help these poor, unwanted children. Everyone answered, "Yes." There are only 11 of them who are old enough to participate, but we soon figured out that what they have all together amounts to \$144. We have all had special prayer for these unfortunate children and shall continue to remember them in prayer."

A girl in Korea has over 1500 "brothers and sisters" in a small

California town. The Released Time classes voted to give their weekly offerings to sponsor someone their own age who lives in less fortunate circumstances. They receive letters and pictures from this sponsored "member" of their group who lives half a world away. As they watch her grow physically, they know that she, too, is learning about the same Jesus who loves "all the children of the world."

As manager of the World Vision sponsor department, I have an extremely rewarding job. Letters arrive daily from many countries with children telling their sponsors of their love and promises to pray for them. And sponsors write to their children, offering encouraging and heart-warming words of comfort and cheer. I sit in the middle of a two-way stream of blessing.

Thank God for faithful sponsors—so many of them are children—who really care. 

CHILDCARE: We've a long way to go

From the experts who toil with research and statistics we learn that—

- *Nearly 120 million babies are born every year—more than three every time your pulse throbs—two-thirds of them without obstetrician or midwife.*

- *There are still underdeveloped areas in which the infant mortality rate runs as high as 40 percent.*

- *Of the billion and a quarter children under 15, 60 percent of those who are in the preschool bracket are suffering from malnutrition.*

- *In the developing areas of the world the water used by an estimated 90 percent of the people is either unsafe or inadequate or both, one result being that the number of infant deaths due to diarrheal diseases approximates five million a year.*

- *During the first six months of life the infant requires more than twice as many calories per pound body weight as does an adult man on heavy work.*

- *An infant suffering from undernourishment both before and after birth will have a brain that may be as much as 60 percent smaller than normal.*

- *In the first 45 months of a child's life "the foundation for all growth is constructed."*

With these facts as a background consider the Declaration of the Rights of the Child as adopted unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1959. These are some of its principles:

- *Special protection, opportunities and facilities to enable children to develop in a healthy and normal manner, in freedom and dignity;*

- *Social security, including adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services;*

- *Special treatment, education and care if handicapped;*

- *Love and understanding and an atmosphere of affection and security, in the care and under the responsibility of their parents whenever possible;*

- *Free education and recreation and equal opportunity to develop their individual abilities;*

- *Prompt protection and relief in times of disaster;*

- *Protection against all forms of neglect, cruelty, and exploitation.*

One thing is obvious: between the *realities* with which we began and the *rights* that we have just reviewed there yawns a wide and ugly gap. Shall we merely bewail it or shall we do something about it? At the governmental and United Nations levels some progress is being made: better nutrition, improved care at childbirth and in infancy, disease control, longer life expectancy, decreasing illiteracy, higher quality of education. Slow and inadequate, to be sure; still, not to be despised. After all, the total childcare picture in our own land is far inferior to what one might expect in a country founded on the affirmed right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

But what can Christians do to involve themselves helpfully in that plight of children which is international in scope and tragic in cost?

1. We can throw all our weight, in prayer and action, behind the forces of peace. (As one citizen I have written to President Nixon, thanking him for the temper and content of his address to the Russian people, especially for the impact of his reference to "Tanya," but pleading with him to give something more than a military answer to those Russian fathers and mothers who were heard to say, after the speech, "But what about the Tanyas in Vietnam?")

2. We can pray for the substantial reduction, if not the elimination, of those gross abuses of power and those honeycombs of corruption found in too many countries—always to the detriment of children.

3. We can work toward the growth and the constant renewing of the national churches, whose ministry to children will include that gentle evangelism by which the Holy Spirit brings boys and girls to the knowledge of Jesus as Savior and Master.

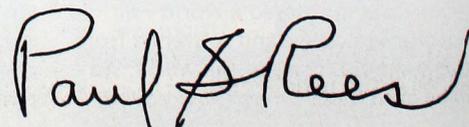
4. We can make our concern for underprivileged children concrete and practical by assuming the sponsorship of one of these "little ones" under such an experienced organization as World Vision.

Francis Xavier, the flaming missionary Greatheart, one day in exhaustion lay down in his tent. "Do not call me," he said, "unless a little child passes by."

That would be opportunity too grand to miss!

So Xavier felt.

How do you feel?





World Vision president Stanley Mooneyham frequently visits the choir, and follows their program closely.

WORLD VISION
KOREAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

1972-73 TOUR

"To the World with Love"

OCTOBER

- 12 Santa Cruz, California
- 13 Travel Day
- 14 Eugene, Oregon
- 15 Portland, Oregon
- 16 Seattle, Washington
- 17 Bellingham, Washington
- 18 Rest Day
- 19 Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
- 20 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 21 Travel & Rest Day
- 22 Penticton, British Columbia, Canada
- 23 Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 24 Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
- 25 Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada
- 26 Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada
- 27 Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
- 28 Travel & Rest Day
- 29 Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- 30 Travel & Rest Day
- 31 Minneapolis, Minnesota

NOVEMBER

- 1 Duluth, Minnesota
- 2 Willmar, Minnesota
- 3 Rochester, Minnesota
- 4 Waterloo, Iowa
- 5 Des Moines, Iowa
- 6 Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- 7 Rest Day
- 8 Rockford, Illinois
- 9 Chicago, Illinois
- 10 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 11 Peoria, Illinois
- 12 Mishawaka, Indiana
- 12 Flora, Indiana
- 13 Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 14 Detroit, Michigan
- 15 Rest Day

- 16 Lansing, Michigan
- 17 Indianapolis, Indiana
- 18 Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 19 Marion, Indiana
- 20 Louisville, Kentucky
- 21 Cincinnati, Ohio
- 22 Rest Day
- 23 Columbus, Ohio
- 24 Erie, Pennsylvania
- 25 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 26 Cleveland, Ohio
- 26 Akron, Ohio
- 27 Buffalo, New York
- 28 Rochester, New York
- 29 Rest Day
- 30 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

DECEMBER

- 1 Syracuse, New York
- 2 Scranton, Pennsylvania
- 3 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- 3 York, Pennsylvania
- 4 Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- 5 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 6 Hartford, Connecticut
- 7 Boston, Massachusetts
- 8 Brookvale, Long Island, New York
- 9 Montclair, New Jersey
- 10 Travel & Rest Day
- 11 Bermuda
- 12 Bermuda
- 13 Travel & Rest Day
- 14 Baltimore, Maryland
- 15 Washington, D.C.
- 16 Norfolk, Virginia
- 17 Raleigh, North Carolina
- 17 Greensboro, North Carolina
- 18 Charlotte, North Carolina
- 19 Atlanta, Georgia

- 20 Birmingham, Alabama
- 21 Travel Day
- 22 Rest Day
- 23 West Palm Beach, Florida
- 24 Orlando, Florida
- 25 Miami, Florida
- 26 Rest Day
- 27 Boca Raton, Florida
- 28 Fort Myers, Florida
- 29 Tampa, Florida
- 30 St. Petersburg, Florida
- 31 Tallahassee, Florida

JANUARY

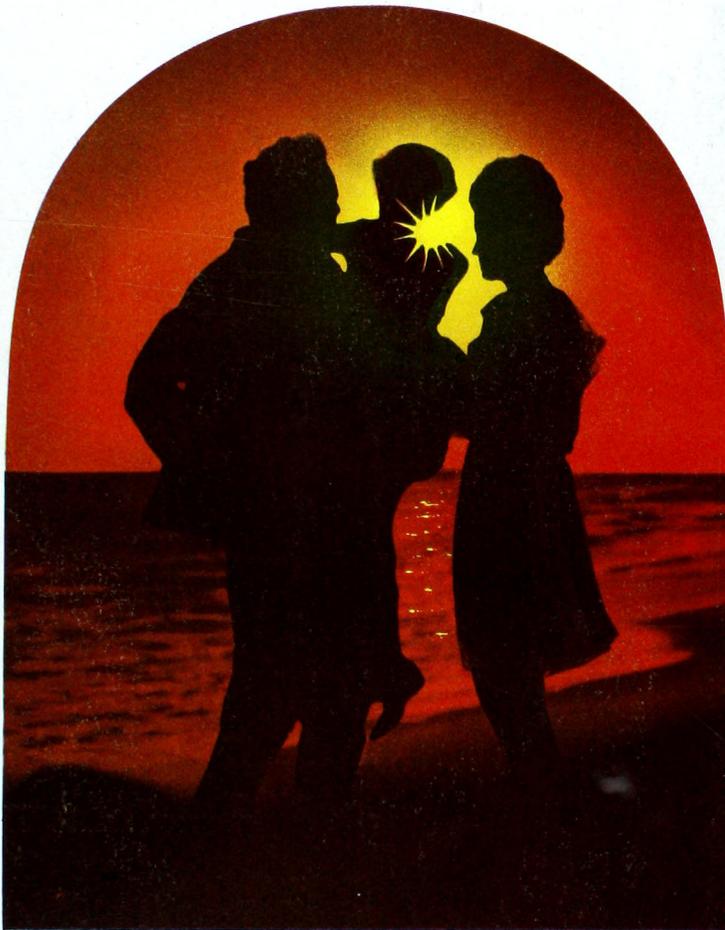
- 1 Pensacola, Florida
- 2 New Orleans, Louisiana
- 3 Travel & Rest Day
- 4 Waco, Texas
- 5 Dallas, Texas
- 6 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 7 Amarillo, Texas
- 7 Hereford, Texas
- 8 Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 9 Travel & Rest Day
- 10 Phoenix, Arizona
- 11 San Diego, California
- 12 Long Beach, California
- 13 San Bernardino, California
- 14 Van Nuys, California
- 15 Bakersfield, California
- 16 Fresno, California
- 17 Rest Day
- 18 Sacramento, California
- 19 Oakland, California
- 20 San Jose, California
- 21 Santa Barbara, California
- 22 Pasadena, California
- 23 Anaheim, California

Subject to change. Watch the newspaper for time and place. For more specific information write Mr. Ed Norman, World Vision International, Box O, Pasadena, California 91109.

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