

# world vision



*Seasweep  
rescues 93*



## **1400 tons of compassion, 93 faces of joy**

Adrift and awaiting death, a boatload of refugees experience rescue by World Vision's Seasweep. Page 3

## **Two families who made it**

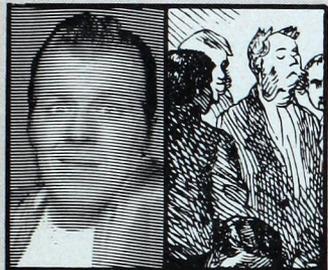
A double miracle reunites Vietnamese relatives in America. Page 10

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*COVER: Their looks of happiness tell the story of 93 Vietnamese boat people saved from certain death by World Vision's "Operation Seasweep." Author Kenny Waters took this photo seconds after the refugees were told they would be taken aboard Seasweep because their engine could not be repaired.*

# **world vision**®

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**W. Stanley Mooneyham, president**  
**Ted W. Engstrom, publisher**  
**Richard L. Watson, director, communications division**  
**David Olson, editor**  
**Ray Seldomridge, associate editor**  
**Don Aylard, art director**  
**Richard J. Watson, assistant art director**  
**Paul S. Rees, editor at large**  
**Carl F. H. Henry, special correspondent**  
**Kenneth L. Wilson, consulting editor**

PHOTOS: Cover, pages 3 (bottom), 4 (top, bottom left, right), 5,6 (top, bottom), 8 (center left, center right, bottom), 16, Kenny Waters; pp. 2,7,10-11 (bottom), 12, W. S. Mooneyham; p. 3 (top), Steve Lawson; pp. 10-11 (top), H. Shoebridge; p. 13, KABC-TV; p. 17 (top, bottom), NW District C&MA; p. 20 (left), Bob Larson, (right), Lindsay Nicholls; p. 21, Ossie Emery.

# **Leaping Psalms**

Have certain Psalms leapt out to you when you've pondered the plight of refugees? Parts of three Psalms leapt out at me while I was preparing the contents of this magazine.

One is David's cry from a cave: "No refuge remains to me, no man cares for me" (142:4b). Artist Rich Watson called that one to my attention. It had caught his eye in devotions after he'd studied the stories and photos we'd gathered for this issue.

Another leaping portion of a Psalm is the declaration, "God blesses those who are kind to the poor. . . he publicly honors them and destroys the power of their enemies" (41:1a,2b, TLB). Norval Hadley, our new church relations director, used this one in a letter to prayer partners, before any of us knew how soon God would honor our Seasweep people with an opportunity to save anybody's life.

The third leaping verse is an exclamation Stan Mooneyham quoted in his telex from Singapore when the ship's go-ahead came through at last. "May there be shouts of joy when we hear the news of your victory, flags flying with praise to God for all that he has done for you. May he answer all your prayers!" (20:5, TLB).

Since that recent day, God has answered in more ways than we had anticipated. Soon after the news of Seasweep's rescue trip came news that U.S. naval ships and planes would seek and save boat refugees. And then that ships of several other countries would, too!

The combined efforts of so many rescue teams will save thousands of lives. But much more than anti-drowning work remains to be done. As next month's magazine will show, there's urgent work for Seasweep and for every one of us who serve the One who once came to this weird world to seek and really save the lost. Not only on the high seas but in overflowing refugee camps and, increasingly, in our own cities and towns, there'll be great opportunities for us all to share in Christ-directed ministry to men, women and children who cry, as the Psalmist did, "No man cares for me."  
*David Olson*

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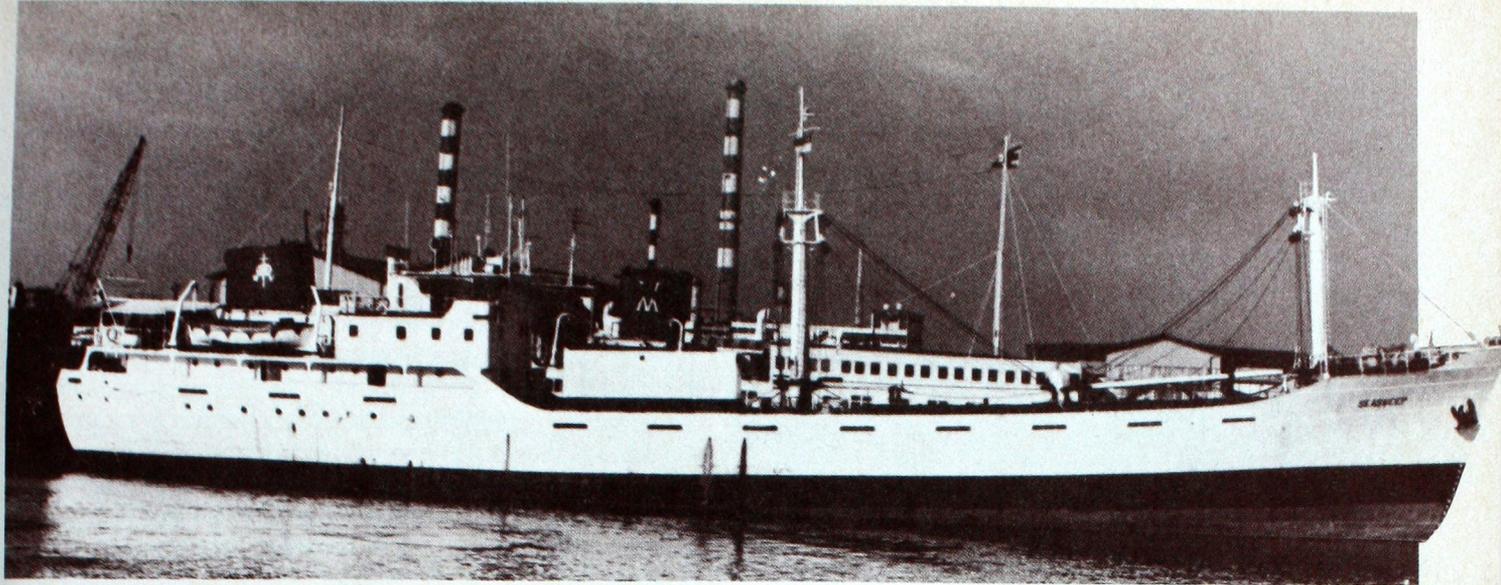
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## *1400 tons of compassion,*

## *93 faces of joy*



**Lifted from a disabled fishing boat, refugees express their joy aboard Seasweep.**

**by Kenny Waters**  
Special Correspondent  
World Vision International

**Barely a ripple** pierced the river's surface as the boat crept silently through the dark night. Inside the noiseless hulk, Phong Ngoc Huynh, 27, huddled with his wife, Ank Ngot Tran, 25, their two children and 285 other Vietnamese. The boat passed the river outlet and began bobbing in the rough coastal waters of the South China Sea.

Phong glanced back at his native land. "Will I ever see her again?" he wondered. In that moment, torn between the sorrow of departure and the joy of finally being free, he lifted his conflicting emotions to God. "Please take care of my family and my people," he prayed silently.

After four years in a living hell, Phong was a free man. No one could take his freedom away now. Not even death. To die in freedom on the South China Sea was better than continuing to live under the oppression his family was experiencing.

Phong and his countrymen turned south as soon as they cleared the river outlet. Their destination: Singapore. The night and the first day passed uneventfully.

The second day at sea, they were rammed by a fishing boat. Swiftly the fishermen boarded the crippled refugee craft, took valuables, including two of Mrs. Huynh's rings and the family watches, and left.

On June sixteenth, four days after leaving Vietnam, the boat ran aground near Trengganu, Malaysia. Malaysian police rounded up the refugees and confined them in a barbed-wire enclosure on the beach. Five hundred other Vietnamese refugees were already inside the barbed compound.

Phong and his friends received no food or water for their first eight days in Malaysia. They lived off rations salvaged from their escape boat.

On the eighteenth day of confinement, Phong's group learned they were going to be transferred. Some food and

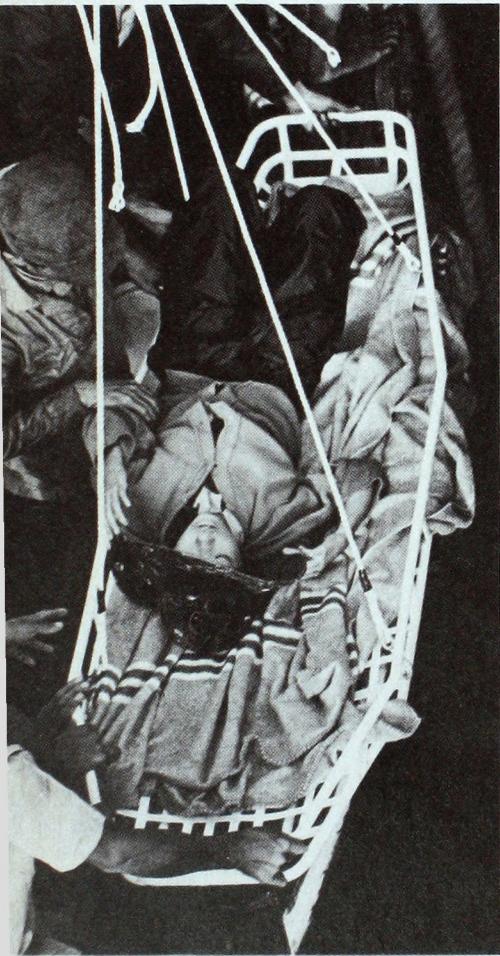
supplies came from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. The Malaysians also took their remaining valuables but gave the refugees a receipt so that when they were resettled they could reclaim them. That day, July 3, a Malaysian navy ship appeared, towing five fishing boats. A large segment of the refugees were separated into groups of about 100 and put on the boats.

"You're going to an island in the south," a guard told the refugees. Phong and his family boarded the converted Malaysian fishing vessel, its identification blotted out by a dull green paint.

In all, 93 people were crammed into the 30-foot-long, 8-foot-wide boat. Once the refugees were aboard, the Malaysians towed the five boats at speeds up to 15 knots per hour.

After 20 hours of towing, the Malaysians cut the ropes, setting the refugees adrift on the high seas.

The captain of Phong's boat yelled that he did not have enough fuel. "Shut up!" a sailor yelled back, firing a shot over the captain's head and then lowering his gun toward the boat. The captain hit the deck and shut up. The navy ship then steamed away. Taking stock of their fuel,



**First to be hoisted aboard, by stretcher, was a 17-year-old girl. Phong Ngoc Nuynh and his wife, Ank Ngot Tran, carried aboard Kim Chi and Kim Loan.**



the refugees found that only one of the five boats possessed an adequate supply. So that boat's captain struck a course toward Indonesia's Anambas Islands.

Hoping to conserve fuel, the other four captains made a pact: two boats would pull two others for a while. Then they would switch off. The plan worked well—for one day. Then the small diesel engine on Phong's boat quit, its injector fouled by a mixture of rust and seawater.

The pounding seas soon separated the four boats. Phong's boat drifted hopelessly. The passengers tied several tarps together to make sails. The sails provided some motion, but the winds were blowing north, nudging the boat back toward Vietnam.

Phong and his people drifted day after day. Their food supplies dwindled; water became scarce; desperation increased. Twice they floated near fishing boats. They begged for food or water. Both fishing boats left without giving aid. On the sixth day, Phong and his family were so debilitated they huddled together on the deck awaiting death.

Late that afternoon, July 10, Phong glanced up from his lethargy and spotted a ship. Friend? Foe? *Who cares*, he thought, and settled back to await the angel of death.

**It was 4:10 P.M.** when World Vision President Stan Mooneyham and *Seasweep* Commodore Burt Singleton first spotted Phong's small boat bobbing 120 miles off the Vietnamese coast. The World Vision-owned boat, a 300-foot-long converted freighter, had been plying the seas for three days, outfitted with extra food, water, tarps, navigational aids, medicine and engine equipment. Its mission was to find and aid distressed Vietnamese boat people fleeing their nation.

I joined Dr. Mooneyham and Burt Singleton on deck moments after Phong's craft had been sighted. "It's awful small," Dr. Mooneyham said, eyeing it through binoc-



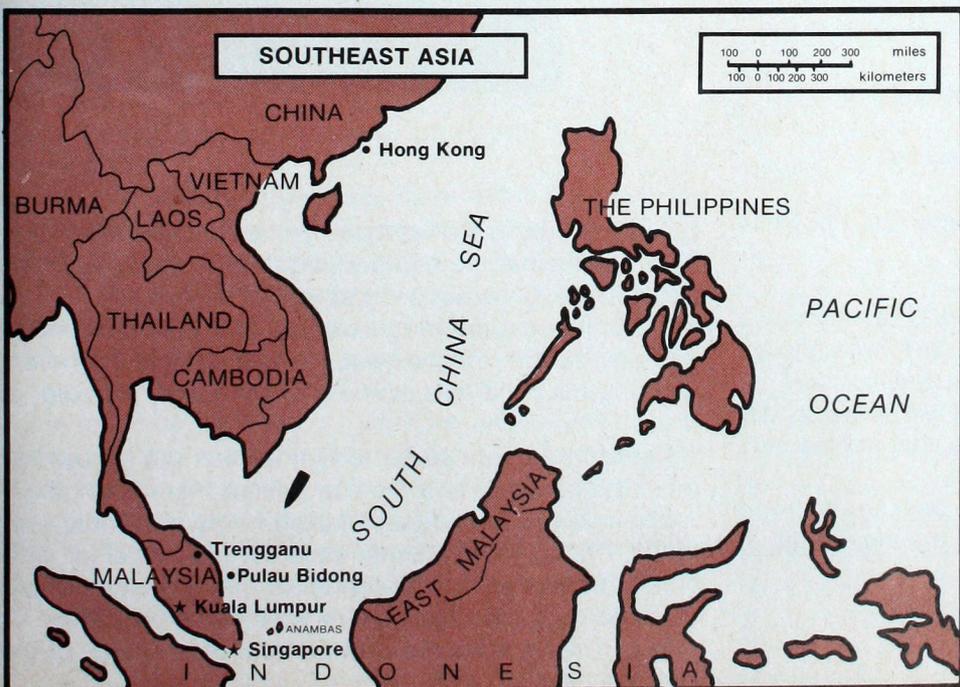
**Ninety-three faces gazed upward from the incapacitated fishing vessel when *Seasweep* came alongside.**

ulars. "It must be a refugee boat. And it looks dead in the water. Definitely not moving."

"They're raising a white flag. Now, two of them," he said a few minutes later as the craft came into better view. "It's packed full of people!" His voice cracked.

As *Seasweep* maneuvered closer, a few refugees waved. World Vision translator Ngoc Phan yelled words of comfort to the refugees through his bullhorn. Several refugees had read about *Seasweep* in a Vietnamese-language newspaper that someone had brought into their country from the United States. They assured their friends that help had finally arrived. "Our savior!" a refugee yelled. Others joined in, yelling back towards Ngoc Phan, "You're our savior!"

As the two boats moved alongside each other, *Seasweep* became a hive of activity. With Ngoc yelling



**From the pickup point in the South China Sea, *Seasweep* brought its human cargo to a Singapore refugee camp run by the UN High Commission on Refugees, where they enjoy freedom to go in and out of the city during a 90-day period after which the United States will receive them if no other country has opened its doors to them.**

instructions to the refugees, crew members let down drums of water mixed with dextrose: quick energy for dehydrated people. The refugee boat captain came aboard *Seasweep* to talk to Singleton.

*Seasweep's* chief engineer was dispatched down the rope ladder to inspect the damage to the refugees' engine.

As he disappeared into the cabin, a stretcher was lowered over the side of *Seasweep*. A limp 12-year-old girl was loaded on and hoisted up. Minutes later a 73-year-old, partially paralyzed woman was hoisted up. Then a dazed man, blinded when his tear ducts dried up from dehydration, was brought aboard. The doctor and his two nurses administered aid to the injured.

After inspecting the engine for 15 minutes, the chief engineer returned to *Seasweep* and huddled with Singleton and Mooneyham. "Can you repair the engine?" Singleton asked. The chief engineer shook his head, telling the pair that seawater had seeped into the engine and it may not ever start again. Singleton turned to Ngoc. "Tell the refugees to pack their belongings and prepare to come aboard. We've just inherited 93 new passengers."

Too exhausted to cheer, the refugees clapped their hands in unison when Ngoc gave them the news. Those who could, smiled.

A few minutes later, I climbed down the rope ladder with Gerald Utting, a reporter for the *Toronto Star*. When my bare feet made contact with the oily floor of the boat, my Western-bred, cleanliness-minded body recoiled. The boat reeked of urine, vomit and body odor. In ten days, even the fastidiously clean Vietnamese had been reduced to living almost as animals.

I sat on the roof of the small cabin as the boat bobbed. My stomach turned. My head throbbed. As I began shooting photos, hoping to regain my composure, I thought of how I would weather six days adrift in a small boat with 92 other people. I would have died—if not physically, then surely emotionally. To brave the South China Sea in a small boat, leaving behind the familiar, and venture into a world that doesn't want you—that is the ultimate definition of desperation.

My thoughts were interrupted by a light tap on the shoulder.

"You American?" a tall, skinny man asked.

"Yes."

"I have brother in California. San Diego. Do you think my family go live with him?" he asked.

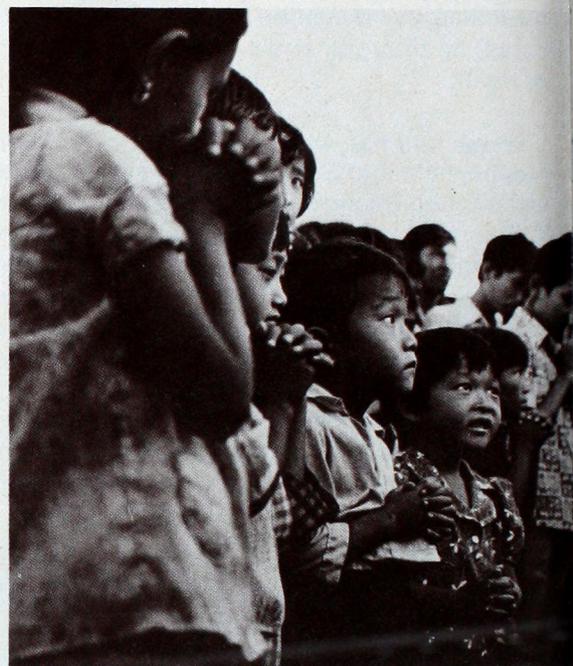
"I hope so," I responded.

"I no eat in five days," he volunteered. "I mechanic."

I smiled, and he pointed out his wife and two children seated in the stern. One small daughter was covered with scabs caused by continual contact with the salty air. Yet there was joy in all their eyes, a joy that settled my stomach and eased my throbbing head.

I said goodbye to the man and went back up the rope ladder to *Seasweep*. During the rest of the encounter, I

**In a thanksgiving service aboard ship, Stan Mooneyham led in praise to God, and children joined with their elders in prayer.**



joined in helping the refugees get accustomed to their new home, the number two hold of *Seasweep*. The last refugee came aboard just after 9:00 P.M.

Early the next morning I went to find the mechanic I had met on the refugee boat. He was outside the hold, washing his children's clothes. "I feel better," he said. "I eat."

I asked if I might speak to him further. We agreed to meet the next day after he had gained more strength.

The following afternoon I talked to my mechanic friend, Phong Ngoc Huynh, amid the happy banter of children and the friendly chatter of their parents dishing out food and milk. The new refugee home was alive with activity, a welcome change from the lethargy of the previous days.



### How good it felt to eat well again!

Speaking through our interpreter, Phong told me about his life after the Communists took over South Vietnam. "I was an Air Force corporal stationed at Soc Trang in the southernmost part of Vietnam," he said. "When our base was overrun we became prisoners. We built dikes for rice paddies. We were constantly called imperialists."

Phong's captivity lasted only three months, but he was forced to toil in rice fields for the next three and a half years. For every ten bundles of rice he harvested, he got two for his family. "We were always hungry," he said. In addition, Phong lost his right to travel. He could not leave his village. And his running water and electricity were turned off.

He made up his mind to flee. After several missed opportunities, he and his family set out to sea that fateful June night in their bid for freedom. With so many disappointments, how did he feel when he saw *Seasweep* and realized that he was finally safe?

"I was more than happy," he said. "There are no words to describe how happy I was."

"What now?" I asked. "What about the future?"

"I want to rebuild my family's life and provide a good education for Kim Chi [aged three] and Kim Loan [six months], my two daughters. I hope I can learn better English and get a mechanic job in California. The first months will be difficult, but we will work hard to see our dreams come true."

Phong left then to help feed his daughters. But I saw him later that day at a thanksgiving ceremony that Dr. Mooneyham and *Seasweep* personnel held with refugees. Phong stood in the back of the refugee group as Dr. Mooneyham explained World Vision's purpose and delivered a message of hope from the Scriptures. My newfound friend joined with gusto as the refugees sang a Vietnamese song, and nodded vigorously when his captain said, "Because of *Seasweep* we Vietnamese are the luckiest people in the world. We are forever grateful."

It was fitting that the ceremony ended just as a brilliant sunset filled the sky. I saw Phong still smiling while we teary-eyed World Vision people sang "Amazing Grace" to the refugees. God's amazing grace had rested on Phong and his people and they had found freedom—at long last. □

# The people who make Seasweep work.

"I wish all our World Vision friends, whose support and prayers mean so much to Seasweep, could have seen how the members of this mission worked together." That was Burt Singleton's remark after the initial rescue. "It was a beautiful example of talents blended to serve Christ."

As operations officer, Singleton coordinated the work of everyone on the voyage. Four World Vision staffers were assisted by a doctor, two nurses, the captain and ten crew members. Singleton was also responsible for making decisions about the ship's course, and what forms of assistance to render the refugees. A retired project manager from TRW, Burt's regular work is in

World Vision's evangelism and research division.

After last year's Seasweep operation (which he directed also), Burt's wife, Ellen, asked if she could accompany him. Ellen proved a great blessing to the Vietnamese children whom she gathered and taught nursery rhymes. She was constantly besieged by appreciative children.

Serving as handimen aboard Seasweep were Ted Agon and Ralph Lewis. Ted, who makes his home in Canada, is a former tugboat operator in Saigon. His work there gave him a burden for the people of Vietnam. His association with Seasweep arose out of that sensitivity.

Lewis is a retired Los Angeles city fireman from Newberry Park, California. "When I read about Seasweep I was ecstatic," he said. "I'd wondered what kind of ministry the Lord might have for me. Being an ex-Navy man and fireman, Seasweep seemed the perfect thing to do."

After the rescue, no one worked harder than Ngoc Phan, the ship's interpreter. A former lawyer in Saigon, Phan had been doing refu-

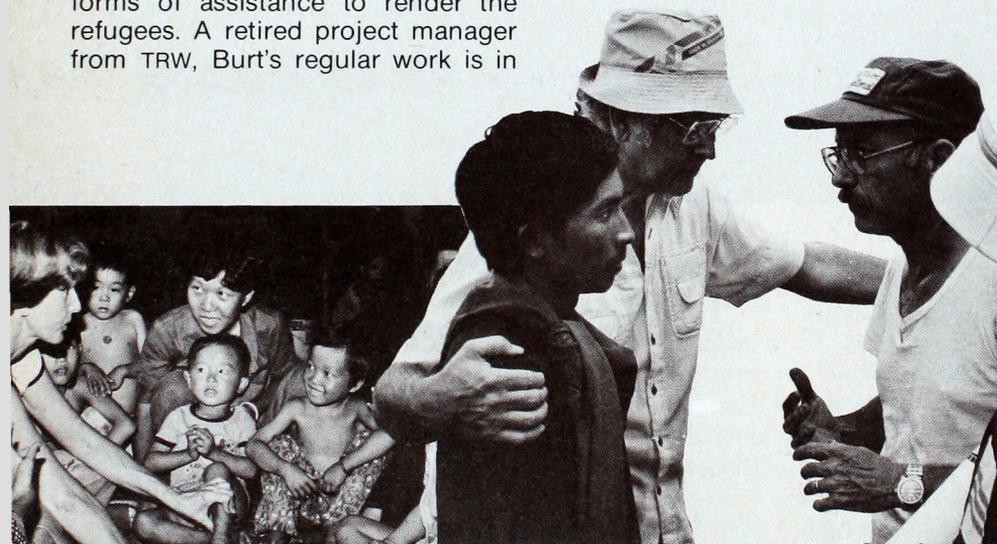
gee resettlement work in California before joining Seasweep. While refugees were aboard he slept little, insisting that any news people interrupt him if they needed his translating services. When not translating, he acted as an unofficial consultant to the refugees.

For everyone on the mission, the three-times-daily trip to the galley was a treat, thanks to the cook, Quan Du Tran. Known to all as August, he had a special reason for being on board Seasweep. "I have not seen my wife and youngest son in six years," he said. "When Vietnam fell in 1975, my wife said, 'You go. I will help our parents.'"

August's wife and son escaped Vietnam once, but when their boat reached Hong Kong, it was sent back to Vietnam. "I looked at the morning paper and there was a photo of my boy on board a ship being towed back," August recalls. "I prayed, 'Lord, Lord, why is this happening?' But I never gave up hope." Recently August gratefully received word that his wife had made it safely to Quan Tan, a camp in Malaysia.

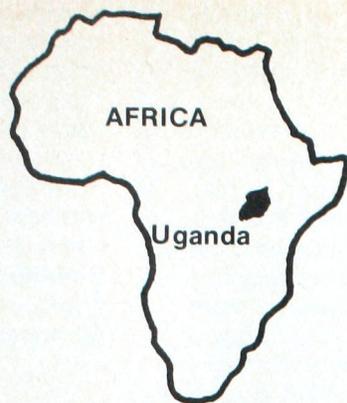
While the project crew and the media plied the seas looking for refugees, they kept daily ship-to-shore contact with John Calder, Seasweep's project manager, who is chairman of the board for World Vision of New Zealand. Calder has worked tirelessly on Seasweep for two years, coordinating the purchase of the ship and making arrangements for supplying the vessel.

These people and others behind the scenes—notably you who continue to pray and give—make Seasweep work. God willing, many more refugees will be saved through this ongoing effort. □



Center photo: Dr. Mooneyham and Burt Singleton confer with the captain of the refugee boat. Left: Ellen Singleton captivates refugee children with "Hickory Dickory Dock." Right: Prior to launching, Seasweep workers gathered for a group photo.





## Uganda

A recent telex from World Vision's Africa regional director, Ken Tracey, stated, "I believe it urgent that we call the church to prayer for the situation in Uganda. Pray that God will intervene and bring stability to this country. There is confusion and loss of life at the moment, yet the potential is for a well-developed, flourishing country where the gospel can be preached and the church grow unhindered."

July 25 phone contacts with Tracey and with African Enterprise (AE) personnel confirmed that:

- The capital city of Kampala remains under curfew as tribal disputes and some assassinations continue to make life there dangerous.
- Uganda's new president, Godfrey Binaisa, son of an Anglican clergyman, is allowing churches and Christian relief agencies considerable freedom to work. Several of his government's officials are Christians.

- Binaisa met with church leaders for 3½ hours, discussing suggestions offered in a letter prepared by Archbishop Wani, Bishop Kivengere and other church leaders.
- Relief goods provided by World Vision, World Relief and other evangelical agencies are being channeled through AE.
- Ken Tracey, Dan Brewster and Roger deLemos have overseen the purchase and delivery of large quantities of tools, seeds, blankets, milk and other essentials purchased with money contributed by WORLD VISION magazine readers. Dean Hirsch, World Vision's new relief/development director for Africa, is now returning to Uganda after a brief trip to the U.S. for strategy sessions.
- During the coming year, AE leaders will go to all 17 dioceses of the country to conduct pastors' conferences aimed at strengthening reconciliation efforts and evangelism.
- Ugandan refugees who fled to Kenya are now required by Kenya to return to their own country.
- Noting that the moral values of Ugandans have deteriorated seriously because under Amin only survival seemed important, Festo Kivengere is teaching his countrymen that forgiveness is the indispensable basis for reconstruction.
- AE director Keith Jesson, who characterizes the people's spiritual and psychological needs as incredibly great, says the main ministry of AE in Uganda for the foreseeable future will be reconciliation.



## Nicaragua

Although communication from Nicaragua continues to be difficult, WORLD VISION has learned (as of July 24):

- War casualties include well over 15,000 dead and 600,000 homeless, according to the Red Cross.
- Shortages of food, water, clothing and medicine are still severe.
- Eighty percent of Nicaraguan refugees suffer from gastroenteritis due to poor food and impure water. Other widespread health problems include malnutrition, dysentery and bronchitis.
- Thousands of Nicaraguan children are suffering severe mental and emotional trauma.
- Many mothers of infants are so traumatized their breast milk has dried up or has the consistency of water.

- About 4000 refugees are returning to Nicaragua from Costa Rica each day. (Estimates of the total number of Nicaraguans who fled to Costa Rica range from 70,000 to 125,000.)
- Many refugees are reluctant to return to Nicaragua because their homes and jobs are gone.
- Virtually all of the country's major industries were destroyed in bombing raids.
- This year's crop of cotton, the number one export, was almost totally destroyed, much of it rotting at port.
- The provisional governing junta in Managua has:
  - pledged safety for Red Cross planes delivering relief supplies.
  - pledged freedom of speech and press.
  - promised free elections in two to five years following reconstruction.
  - ordered all citizens to report to militia leaders for organization into work crews to help with reconstruction.
  - urged the return of Nicaraguans who fled during the war, and promised no reprisals.
  - instituted mandatory jail sentences for activities interfering with reconstruction, such as hoarding or speculation.

For more information on World Vision's Nicaragua relief work, see page 21. Predictions concerning the future change daily. Next month's WORLD VISION magazine will further update the situation. □

**T**inh Phan looked up, his prayer interrupted by a chorus of excited voices. Another boat had been sighted. Soon all 110 passengers on the slowly sinking 55-foot craft began waving wildly and shouting to the still-distant vessel.

It had taken them just two and a half days to sail from Vietnam to within sight of the Malaysian coast. But then their small engine had failed, setting them adrift. Soon the boat started to leak. For nearly 24 hours the passengers had been taking turns bailing, in a losing battle to stay afloat.

Tinh Phan, his wife, Sarah, their six children and one nephew, the only Christians aboard, alternated bailing and praying. By now, Tinh had begun to wonder if they had acted against the Lord's will in deciding to leave their beloved homeland. And yet, he remained convinced that God would not have guided them safely so far only to abandon them at sea.

As the newly sighted vessel approached, the refugees' joy at having been found was tinged with a bit of apprehension. They had heard many stories of other refugees being robbed or fired upon at sea. Tinh looked at the hopeful eyes of his family. Nine-year-old Bich-Son

smiled weakly and grasped her father's hand. Tinh's heart ached. "What have I done to them? God forgive me."

The approaching boat turned out to be a boat of the Malaysian coastal police. A line was thrown to the refugees' boat and they were put under tow. Soon it became apparent that they were headed not out to sea but to shore. What awaited them there was uncertain, but surely it would be better than drowning. In port, hope restored, Tinh and his family continued to pray while the

Malaysians decided their fate. After two days, the tow line was reattached and they headed out to sea again. Their destination: a makeshift refugee camp on an island 20 miles from the mainland.

Tinh and his family waded ashore with their few belongings and collapsed on the beach of Pulau Bidong, the most crowded, most poorly supplied refugee camp in Southeast Asia.

## *Two families who made it*

by Joyce Minor



*Seated: Mrs. My Hue Tran, Mr. Tinh Van Phan, Mrs. Sarah Phan, Minh Hoang Phan. Standing: Bich-Son Thi Phan, Thong Quoc Phan, My-Hanh Thi Nguyen, Hung Quoc Nguyen, Bich-Van Thi Phan, My-Phuong Thi Nguyen, Bich-Thuy Thi Phan, Kim-Chau Thi Phan, My-Lan Thi Nguyen.*

A thousand people were already there on a habitable patch of land barely four times the size of a football field, awaiting resettlement in other countries. By the time they left Pulau Bidong, the refugee population of that patch had swelled to 40,000.

For the first five days, the Phan family lived and slept on the beach. Then a United Nations representative

***They had failed in nine attempts to escape from Vietnam.***

gave them roofing material and told them to build their own shelter with whatever other materials they could find.

Tinh, a jeweler by trade, and his sons, one an electrical engineer and the others just students raised in the city, headed up the mountain to chop wood for the 9½ x 19' hut that would be their home for the next eight and a half months. The children worked on some crude furniture; Sarah learned to cook over a fire on the ground.

With one spade, provided by the Red Crescent Society, they dug a



well beside their hut. God had surely led them to the spot, for 19 feet down they struck fresh water, rare on Pulau Bidong. Because of it, the family escaped much of the disease rampant in the camp.

As they talked with their fellow refugees it became apparent that God had spared them other griefs as well. Their boat was never attacked by pirates from Thailand or Malaysia as most others had been. One boat was attacked 14 times in 10 days, the passengers robbed, the women raped.

Food was scarce on Pulau Bidong. The Red Crescent Society distributed food provided by the United Nations but there was never enough. Rations consisted of rice, sugar, milk, flour and one can of sardines per person every five days. But often the supplies were looted before reaching the island, making it even longer between distributions.

Malaysian fishing boats came to

***In Vietnam the children of a "capitalist merchant" like Tinh Phan were not allowed to go to school beyond the ninth grade.***

the island at night to sell food to the refugees at prices up to ten times the market value. Tinh was forced to sell many of the family's remaining possessions at less than half their value just to buy food.

During many dark days on Pulau Bidong they were tempted to despair. Could abandonment in the Communists' "new economic zones" in Vietnam have been any worse than dying here? In Vietnam the children of a "capitalist merchant" like Tinh Phan were not allowed to go to school beyond the ninth grade, but they were not going to school here either.

They had failed in nine attempts to escape from Vietnam before finally succeeding. And God had saved them from drowning when all seemed lost. He would not fail them now.

Finally, in May 1979, a miracle happened. Tinh received word that they had been accepted for resettlement in the United States. It was God's answer to their prayer. They were then transferred to another camp in Kuala Lumpur for medical checkups and waiting for flight arrangements.

There another miracle happened as Sarah's sister, My Hue Tran, and her four children were transferred from the refugee camp in Kota Baru to the same processing camp in Kuala Lumpur. All fourteen of them were scheduled to leave for the United States on the same flight.

Near midnight on June 7th, An Tran, Sarah's brother who is an employee at World Vision Inter-

***"If the Lord calls, I will even go back to Vietnam."***

national, paced the floor at Los Angeles International Airport. A jet landed, and through the tunnel poured 14 people he once thought he would never see again in this life. Locking together in one great embrace, they offered a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to the God who makes all things possible.

The children are all in school now, studying English so they can begin regular classes in the fall. One wants to be a hairdresser, another a jeweler, but all want the Lord's will for the new lives He has given them.

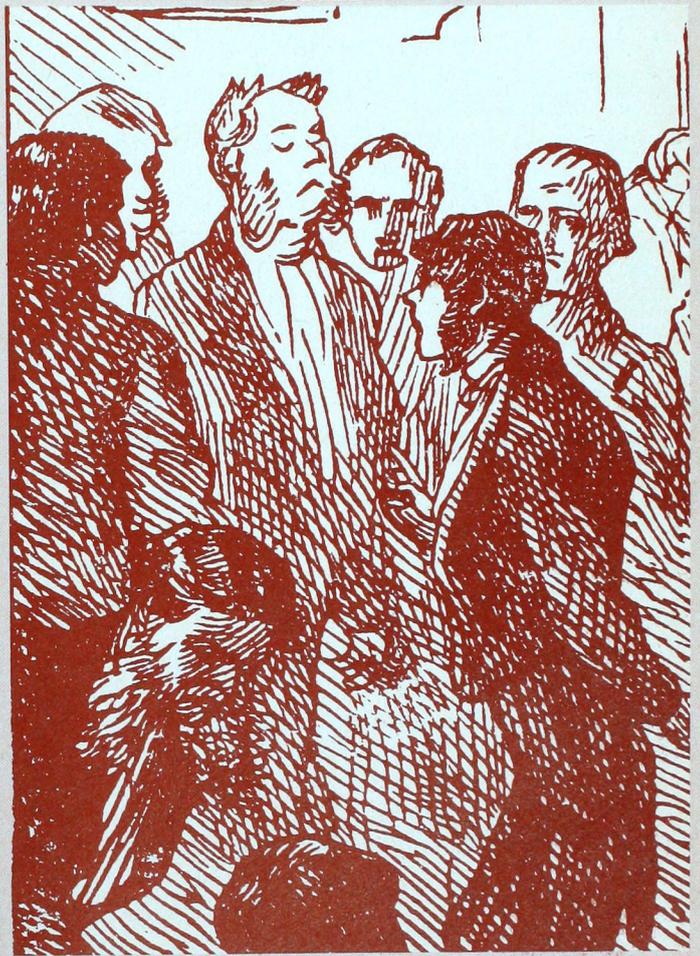
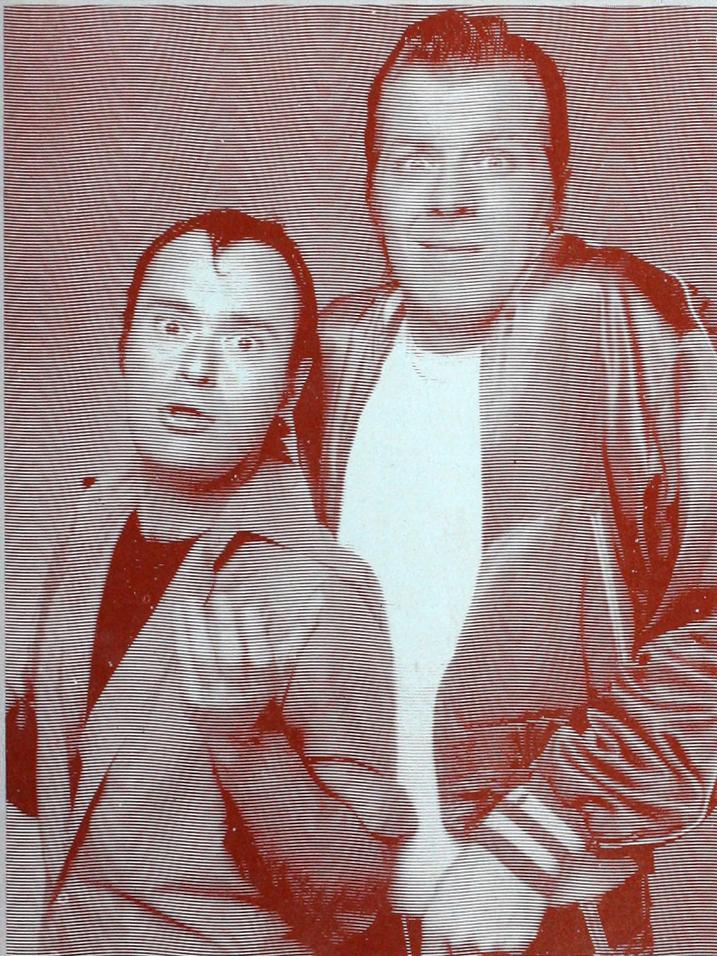
Sixteen-year-old Thong Phan, an accomplished pianist and gifted student, said of his future, "My aim is not to develop my own personal skills but to prepare for whatever the Lord calls me to do."

Through tears of sorrow for her homeland, Bich Van, 19, said, "If the Lord calls, I will even go back to Vietnam." □

*To contribute toward Seasweep, please use the return envelope between pages 12 and 13.*

# of NERDS & PODSNAPS

Sponsors of a Planned Famine program in Nashville, Tennessee, asked Dave Fraser, a research sociologist, to bring a talk to a group of college students who had chosen to spend 30 foodless hours together studying hunger. Here's a condensation of his speech.



by Dave Fraser

**Hunger** is probably my least favorite subject. It makes me uncomfortable, distressed, frustrated. Having had my 3200 calories yesterday, I find it difficult to talk about something so far from my personal experience.

When asked to speak on hunger at the beginning of this Planned Famine program, I searched for a text that would

speak distinctly and powerfully to me, and that could confront us all. I found almost too many.

*"If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he be thirsty, give him a drink" (Romans 12:20) . . . "If a rich person sees his brother in need yet closes his heart against his brother, how can he claim that he loves God?" (1 John 3:17) . . . "When*

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*you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind; and you will be blessed because they are not able to pay you back" (Luke 14:13-14).*

These verses barely suggest the wealth of Scripture telling us to care for the needy, the poor, the hungry.

I had to admit, when I looked at my own experience and that of my fellow evangelicals, that they are not words we hear. They're words we *don't* hear.

When I thought about why this is, I concluded that two factors are at work. The first I call

## the Nerd Factor

If you've seen the TV show "Laverne and Shirley," you know already what a nerd is. Lenny and Squiggy are such a pair. We get a bang out of their absurdity, their extreme naivete, their obliviousness to the nature of the real world about them. They're both nerds.

To much of the world, we in America are nerds. We don't understand the world we live in. We're preoccupied with our own little worlds.

In our youth, for example, the problem of whether "our team" wins the basketball game is, for the moment, the most important thing in all the world, far overshadowing the recent disasters in India that snuffed out 150,000 lives or the genocide that exterminated two million in Cambodia.

Not having quite the right clothes for a date can be so shattering that the only way out is suicide. And if somebody else gets a date with the one *I* wanted to date—wow! The

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*To much of the world,  
we in America are  
nerds. We don't  
understand the world  
we live in. We're  
preoccupied with our  
own little worlds.*

sun turns to darkness, the moon to blood and the stars fall from heaven.

Of course, there is more to our failure to hear these signs, these words of Jesus, than just our naivete, preoccupation with trivia and our unawareness of the real world. On top of that we live in a menagerie of guilt trippers, halo polishers, spiritual superstars, glamor hogs and ignorant dogmatists who fill the radio and TV waves with drivel. And we subject ourselves to a constant buzz of misinformation and shallow analysis that feathers our comfortable position and lulls us to sleep. We are wrapped up in ourselves, peacefully floating down the river of life, unaware of the Niagaras of need that will one day dash us to the depths.

Charles Dickens in *Our Mutual Friend* gives us a masterful characterization of the second factor that afflicts many Christians. It's

## the Podsnap Factor

*"Mr. Podsnap was well-to-do and stood very high in Mr. Podsnap's opinion. Beginning with a good inheritance, he had married a good inheritance . . . and was quite satisfied . . . with most things, and, above all other things, with himself.*

*"Thus happily acquainted with his own merit and importance, Mr. Podsnap settled that whatever he put behind him be put out of existence . . . 'I don't want to know about it; I don't choose to discuss it; I don't admit it!'*

*"Mr. Podsnap's world was not a very large world, morally; no, nor even geographically: seeing that although his business was sustained upon commerce with other countries, he considered other countries, with that important reservation, a mistake.*

*"As a so eminently respectable man, Mr. Podsnap was sensible of its being required of him to take Providence under his protection. Consequently he always knew exactly what Providence meant. And it was very remarkable (and must have been very comfortable) that what Providence meant was invariably what Mr. Podsnap meant." (Chapter 11)*

There you have it: podsnappery—a smug self-satisfaction. Don't bother us with disturbing realities like starvation, malnutrition, revolutionary discontent. We do not accept their existence, we cannot accept responsibility, we do not admit such disagreeables into our consciousness! If people are that way, it is their own fault and God has willed that it be so.

Mr. Podsnap is alive and doing very well. Our world is not very large morally or geographically, and we have congratulated ourselves many times on living in the best nation in the world. We come inside from offering burnt

sacrifices to the gods of America on our Hibachis of suburbia, to gather about our ever-enlarging television screens that continually invoke the deification of "More."

The reasons we fall prey so easily to podsnappery are several:

(1) We confuse orthodoxy of creed with orthodoxy of life.

Remember the tale of the good Samaritan? A rather foolish man traversed the dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho alone. Two who came upon the victim of banditry saw that he'd been left for dead, yet they passed him by.

Well, the passerbys were a Levite and a priest. Religiously orthodox, the evangelicals of their day.

We're not told why they both ignored him. Perhaps they were too busy working on their memory verses as they traveled. Perhaps they were running late to a speaking engagement—or needed to arrive early to put the finishing touches to a sermon on the golden rule!

Then, Jesus tells us, along came a Samaritan. A Samaritan who cared. The Samaritan's theology was mixed up. He would worship at the wrong place. And he was racially inferior—socially unacceptable to God's chosen people.

But he was moved with compassion. He bound up the foolish traveler's wounds and traumas. He even paid for his cure without delivering a sermon on his stupidity. He *lived* compassion.

How is it that the very people who claim orthodoxy and fight for its victory often show the least compassion? Isn't it damning that the heart of Bible-believing, born-again, holiness-shouting, pulpit-pounding Christian America has also been the heartland of some of the strongest racism?

Our theologies are fine-tuned. We know where we stand on Gog and Magog, whether we are pre-trib, mid-trib, post-trib or pan-trib on the rapture question. We scrutinize our Christian leaders to be sure they are baptized, sanctified, revived, sanforized and simonized. Our ethics stand equally in resplendent completeness. We know what we think about clones, clowns, and computers. *But we do not have compassion.*

There is another reason for podsnappery:

(2) We have been caught in the talons of the great American Dream.

It's hard to identify the American Dream; it's such a cornucopia of things. So let's allow an outsider to speak to us. Paulo Francis, a Brazilian living in New York, commented on the current malaise in "Folha de Sao Paulo," December 3, 1978:

*"Propound what you may, everything points to the fact that the religion, the ideology of this nation is 'Consume.' One hundred million Americans, every night . . . faithfully watch TV, a relentless, permanent bazaar. Every possible human emotion, anxiety, fear and uncertainty is*

*We are moved more by this week's rise in the cost of gasoline than by the titanic problem of world hunger.*

*captured in the TV commercials, whose final message invariably is that if you purchase X product every problem in your life will be resolved.*

*"Some fool wrote that we live in the 'Age of Me,' in the generation of 'I love Me.' The Madness of buying for oneself has taken hold, and the ultimate object to be consumed is the individual himself."*

Gradually, without our realizing it, much of the life of the spirit has been squeezed out of us. We don't *want* to hear what Scripture says about the hungry and needy. We are moved more by this week's rise in the cost of gasoline than by the titanic problem of world hunger.

We're busy consuming ourselves. Read the titles of the flood of books skyrocketing the sales figures of Christian bookstores. The vast majority deal with self-fulfillment.

If we make our navels the center of the spiritual universe, we are titanic failures. Even a frenetic pursuit of spiritual highs can rob us of awareness of the world we live in—and of our absurdity in it.

True inward spiritual discipline will lead to an outward ministry of concern—and away from the great American pursuit of self-consumption.

We live in a hungry world in which more people are unreached than ever before. We have greater things to do in our generation than to fight one another or run a treadmill of spiritual self-fulfillment. Thousands of groups of people desperately need both bread and their first taste of the Bread of Life. We have no time to be either nerds or podsnaps. □



*Hmong tribespeople from Laos await their fate at a refugee processing center in northern Thailand.*

## ***Help them find a home***

### **Refugees from Indochina.**

We can weep for them.

We can pray for them.

We can give money for their temporary relief on the high seas or in crowded camps.

But can we do anything else?

The answer is yes. Concerned citizens in the United States are no longer restricted to caring from a distance. Thousands of churches, clubs and families are inviting refugees into their own lives. The Tom Norrises of Darden, Tennessee, welcomed the Huynhs, a Vietnamese family of four. Caring groups in Salem, Oregon, took in numerous Cambodian refugees. The churches in the northwest district of the Christian and Missionary Alliance sponsored seven Hmong families from Laos, and minister to 1200 other Hmong now living in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

How does refugee sponsorship work? Twice a week in New York City, the American Council of Voluntary Agencies parcels out the names of incoming refugees to nine agen-

cies that are busily matching refugees with sponsors.

One of these agencies is World Relief Refugee Services (WRRS), part of the National Association of Evangelicals. WRRS has been resettling about 250 refugees a month. This will increase since the U.S. has just doubled—from 7000 to 14,000—the monthly number of refugees allowed into the country.

T. Grady Mangham, Jr. directs the work of WRRS. Here he answers some basic questions that prospective sponsors often ask.

### **Who are the refugees?**

More than a quarter million people from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam languish in refugee camps scattered throughout Southeast Asia. They are victims of war, political oppression, ideological or religious prejudice, and racism. Thousands come to the U.S. when sponsors are available to assist them.

### **What is our role as sponsors?**

Basically, to rally your resources to give the refugee family a new start in a new world. First this means pro-

viding for their immediate needs—food, shelter, clothing, personal items. You will want to help them find employment as soon as possible, be sensitive to their feelings as they make tremendous adjustments to our culture, and work with them at communicating through the language barrier. With vision and strength, good humor and mutual respect, imagination and patience, you and the refugees will achieve mutual understanding which is the key to successful resettlement.

**How is the refugee family or individual selected for us?**

A representative of WRRS will contact you by phone and will discuss with you a specific family group. Names, family relationships and ages can be shared with you. You will probably be informed of work experience, basic skills, religious affiliation and English language capability, if any. You may make the decision regarding the family or individual assigned to you.

**When will they arrive?**

Once you have been assigned a family, they will be cleared by a U.S. government medical exam and a security check. This, with all other clearances and formalities, may take three to six weeks. If delays occur, you will be advised. About one week before the arrival date of the family/individual, the WRRS will inform you by phone of their arrival time at the major airport nearest you.

**What housing is best? What food?**

For refugees who know no English (about 80 percent of all refugees), housing with an American family

may be helpful for two or three weeks. Generally, separate housing will be most satisfactory after this initial period. Remember, they know nothing about arranging for utilities, and may not even know how to use a refrigerator, gas or electric stove, washing machine, indoor plumbing, heating systems or telephone, let alone credit cards.

As for food, rice is their staple. Meat (including fish and chicken) has probably been only a small part of their diet. They may not like cheese, pizza and other American fast foods.

**How shall we find work for them?**

Many refugees are already skilled tailors, oral surgeons, electricians, businessmen, fishermen, farmers and watch repairers, to name a few.

Within a few days after they arrive, you should take the employable members of the family to the Social Security office to get cards. Do not wait until they can speak English before seeking employment. It is important that they begin soon to provide for themselves. Most will be willing to work at anything. In general, they will be industrious and ambitious. Check with the local employment agency or social services office.

**What financial commitment is involved?**

You do not make a legal commitment. It is simply a moral undertaking on your part. You will endeavor to provide the necessary support until such time as the employable members of the family have work. WRRS has a grant program of \$100 per refugee sponsored, which may be requested by the sponsor.

**What about education?**

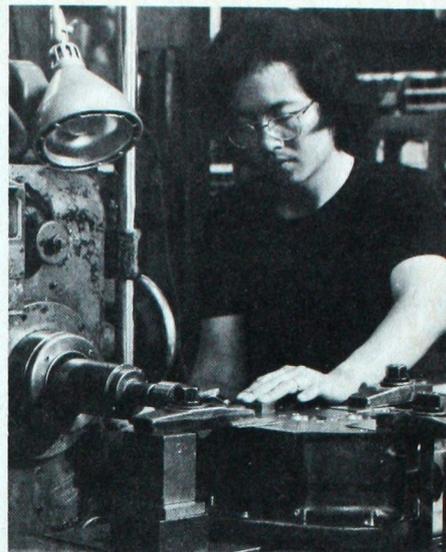
Children should be entered into school after the first few days. The medical record, issued by U.S. authorities and given to the family prior to their arrival in the U.S., should be submitted to the school upon enrollment.

Adults will find an opportunity to learn English or improve it through the federal government's "English as a Second Language" program.

**What concern should we have about their health?**

The refugees have been screened medically. This is primarily to ensure that they are free from communicable diseases. They have not had a complete medical exam—perhaps ever. You may wish to arrange one early in their stay with you. A dental

*Phong Yang, a Hmong, has adjusted to his new life in Minnesota.*



check will probably be advisable. Some doctors may consider providing these services without charge.

**Should we invite them to church?**

Only 5-8 percent of the refugees are Christians. Most are Buddhists. However, feel free to invite them to church. You will surely wish to share with them your Christian faith, but without coercion. We must be careful not to show disdain or disrespect for their beliefs or feelings.

Explain to them the part Christ has in your life, and how it is His love that motivates you to love them. A full understanding of the Christian faith will come slowly, especially through the filters of a new language and culture.

Refugee sponsorship is definitely working for most everyone involved. Since 1975, more than 200,000 Indo-chinese refugees have been resettled in the U.S. through sponsorship. About 95 percent of the employable refugees are now self-supporting. And for the sponsoring churches it is a stretching, gratifying experience.

Christians tangibly sharing the love of Christ with homeless people in need. When you think about it, nothing could be more in keeping with Jesus' own words (Matt. 25:35): "I was a stranger, and you invited me in."  
*Ray Seldomridge*

*For more information about sponsoring a refugee family, write World Relief Refugee Services, P.O. Box WRC, Nyack, N.Y. 10960. Mention seeing this article in WORLD VISION magazine.* □



*Vietnamese refugee Kiet Vo at work in St. Paul.*

# monthly memo



**Thousands of you** who now read this magazine have become partners with us through response to our recent television programs. How grateful we are for your loving concern and your having joined with other thousands who have been sharing their love, prayers and gifts through World Vision for many years. How glad we are that all of us can be "co-laborers together."

Our latest television venture, a five-hour special entitled "Come Love the Children," is now showing in scores of cities across the country. I hope you will view this program when it comes your way.

Every year, millions of children are born to parents who lack even the simplest necessities of life. In India, for example, most of the 14 million born each year exist at a bare subsistence level. In Calcutta, one-

fourth of that city's more than 10 million residents have no home except the congested sidewalks.

And thousands of these are little children, many crippled and deformed, who wander as beggars with empty stomachs and empty eyes.

All these are persons of whom our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Let the little children come to Me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

As you view the program "Come Love the Children," you will see the heartbreaking reality of such children's suffering portrayed poignantly and compassionately. And you will see that not all of these children need to suffer so severely. Much of the malnutrition, the bewilderment, the general deprivation can be avoided.

We are pitting the best of almost thirty years of childcare experience

against these problems. And we have developed a program whereby those who give financial help can also develop a personal relationship with one or more of these children if they so desire.

Childcare sponsors, we are striving diligently to make sure that each child you sponsor is well cared for physically and spiritually. The effectiveness of each childcare project is evaluated regularly.

A particular concern is how best to guide these children into productive, meaningful vocations so they can become economically self-sufficient. We seek to utilize each child's unique abilities and talents. We seek also to keep their vocational training indigenous to their particular locale.

To all of you who share our deep concern for the millions of needy children in our world, we are deeply grateful. God bless you for all your support and prayers.

Ted W. Engstrom  
Executive Vice-President

## readers' right

### Gratitude

Through our newly arrived refugees from Malaysia and Thailand, we learned about the precious assistance they had received from World Vision. Thank you most sincerely for the operation to save and assist our Vietnamese boat people.

Last month, our association held a bilingual folk song and music evening in Fresno for the benefit of the boat people. We were able to raise \$600, enclosed with this letter. We would very much be happy if you would kindly use this amount to assist, in whichever way is best, our Vietnamese refugees in Malaysia.

Please convey our gratitude to any and all who are taking part in saving and helping the refugees. *Sy-Dang-Le  
Fresno, California*

### Third graders help Niksek people

I am a teacher at Campbell Central School in Campbell, N.Y. My children sold copies of a book of their poems for 10¢ each. They collected the money for World Vision. They also gave extra money in the loaf you sent us. We have \$15.75 for the Niksek people. [June

issue.] We all enjoyed helping these people.

*Ginny Gunnison  
Corning, New York*

### Our own kind of suffering

Some months ago the *Sacramento* (Calif.) *Bee* carried an article on famine with the typical pictures of the starving that we have become so callously accustomed to. I thought at the time that if, alongside of these pictures, were printed some of ourselves lined up at the favorite smorgasbord, piling our plates high, we might suddenly see ourselves in a truer perspective as part of a cruel, unjust, unbalanced situation to which we thoughtlessly contribute.

I, for one, am tired of suffering the results of overeating, both physical and economic, with which so many of us are burdened, and then suffering the equal guilt of realizing that so many in the world are in dire need of the food we so easily stow away or throw away.

Four years ago the National Geographic carried two articles ("Food, Will There Be Enough?" and "The Nightmare of Famine") in which experts told us that food shortages are a serious prospect even here. Isn't it time we took it seriously and at least did our part by cutting down on the overeating and overspending, and redirected our excesses to help solve the problems?  
*Barbara Veirs  
Placerville, California*

### Turn-off

I work hard—I enjoy it.  
I play hard—I enjoy it.  
I eat well—I enjoy it.  
I love my family—I enjoy them.  
I love my friends—I enjoy them.  
I love my Lord—I enjoy Him.  
I love my church—I enjoy it.  
I tithe my income—I enjoy it.  
I tithe my talents—I enjoy it.  
I contribute to World Vision—I enjoy it.  
I enjoy life.  
But when you tell me to seek a simpler lifestyle—you turn me off!

*John H. Walton  
Haddonfield, New Jersey*

# globe at a glance

NEWS BRIEFS FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION AND INTERCESSION

**Millions of Chinese** will soon have a Bible written in "simplified script," the form of the language now used throughout mainland China. The American Bible Society expects to publish the Today's Chinese Version (TCV) in late 1979 or early 1980. The TCV will also publish the text in traditional characters read by Chinese in other parts of the world.

**Letters from China** received by Christian broadcasters total over 10,000 so far this year, compared to 53 in all of 1978. Broadcasts beamed into China include daily Scripture readings, which the American Bible Society plans to double in the next few months. Most of the letters being received come from nonChristians inquiring about the Christian faith.

**Slaughter by the Khmer Rouge** has left large portions of Cambodia with only one man to each nine women, according to Cambodians in Vietnam who visited their homeland when the Pol Pot regime was overthrown. *The Alliance Witness* said they also found near-famine conditions in Cambodia after stores of rice had been destroyed.

**"To promote global peace and justice,"** more than 350 religious leaders from ten major religions will meet at Princeton Theological Seminary from August 29 to September 7 for the third assembly of the World Conference on Religion and Peace. Buddhists, Christians, Confucianists, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims, Shintoists, Sikhs and Zoroastrians will attempt to formulate guidelines for peace programs by the world religions.

**More people are hungry** and malnourished in 1979 than five years ago, reports Maurice Williams, director of the United Nations World Food Council. Maurice also says that religious organizations form a "major part" of voluntary efforts to help the hungry, and that distribution of food is "better handled by church groups than by government."

**By the year 2000** more than six billion people will inhabit the earth, twice as many as in 1960. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities reports that the poorer, developing nations will account for 90 percent of the increase, causing even greater suffering from hunger, disease and unemployment in the migration to the cities.

**The rights of disabled persons** will receive special attention during 1981, designated by the United Nations as the International Year for Disabled Persons. Most of the world's 450 million disabled persons live in the devel-

oping countries. The UN will be considering ways to educate the public about the social, economic and political rights of the disabled.

**Churches of Eastern Europe** are gaining acceptance by their Communist governments, says Archbishop of Canterbury Donald Coggan after a tour of Hungary and East Germany. "Of course, the Communists hope that the church will eventually die," he said. "They don't realize it is an anvil on which many hammers have been broken, and will be broken in the future."

**Malaysia's naval blockade** against refugees will not be lifted, said Malaysian Prime Minister Hussein Onn following the recent international conference that met in July to deal with the Indochina crisis. Malaysian authorities towed 16,000 newly arrived refugees back to sea in the month preceding Onn's statement. Since then, Italian, French and American ships have begun cruising the South China Sea in search of refugees.

**New chairman** of the Organization for African Unity (OAU) for one year is Liberia's president (since 1971), William R. Tolbert Jr., an ordained minister and past president of the Baptist World Alliance. Tolbert, 66, is a grandson of an American slave. The OAU represents 49 black and Arab countries in Africa.

**Prime Minister Abel T. Muzorewa** of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia said in July that all foreign missionaries who had been expelled from the country in recent years and "whose presence might be required" will be allowed to return. Under the regime of Prime Minister Ian Smith, some 25 missionaries, most of them Roman Catholic, were deported from the country on charges of giving medical and other aid to black nationalist guerrillas.

**The married way of life** is still the overwhelming favorite of Americans, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics. Despite the changes in family lifestyles, 77 percent of the United States population still lives in husband-wife households. Households headed by a single parent (usually a woman) make up 10 percent of the population, and all other living arrangements make up the remaining 13 percent.

**Adolescent suicide** will be one of the major problems of the coming decade, according to medical writer Arthur S. Freese. An estimated 400,000 young people aged 15 to 24 attempt suicide each year. More than 4000 succeed. Freese said at least 75 percent of all suicide victims give prior warning which people can learn to detect.

## New tool for evangelism planning

Edward R. Dayton has written a workbook for use by individuals and groups wishing to focus on a particular people whom God would have them reach with the gospel of Christ. *That Everyone May Hear* explains the concept of people groups and then offers questions to help readers think through the specifics of evangelizing the particular set of people they have in mind.

Mr. Dayton is director of evangelism and research for World Vision International.

Order from MARC/World Vision, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, California 91016. \$2.50 when pre-paid. California residents must add 6% sales tax.

## Aboriginal college aided

The Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship in Australia has received a \$5750 grant from World Vision toward the completion of Bimbadeen College, a college that will offer vocational, Bible and cultural training to aboriginal people. The grant stems from World Vision's desire to enhance national church leadership around the world.

## A Planned Famine record

Fifty-eight teenagers fasted for 30 hours while supporters cheered them on and contributed \$3338 to World Vision for global hunger relief during the record-breaking Planned Famine program. (See back page if you don't know what Planned Famine is.)

The senior high students of Grace Chapel in Lexington, Massachusetts, gathered for a 30-hour weekend of fellowship, singing, learning, games, prayer and hunger. They had lots of support. Paul Borthwick, director of senior high ministries at Grace Chapel, said the entire congregation got involved. "Our mission board agreed to match the amount raised by the kids," he said, "and the challenge was met with enthusiasm."

In addition to supporting World Vision's hunger program, the youth at Grace Chapel sponsor two children through World Vision.

## Moving?

If you are planning to move in the near future, be sure to let us know your new address at least 30 days in advance. We want you to stay informed through WORLD VISION. Besides, undeliverable magazines only waste money that could be used to help the hungry.

Please enclose the address label from a current copy when you send us your new address.

## Funds for Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa's work in India has received support from World Vision in the form of a \$10,000 grant. The Little Sisters of Charity are widely acclaimed for their ministry among the poor and dying in the streets of Calcutta and other cities.

## Perkins on U.S. board

The Rev. John Perkins, founder and director of Voice of Calvary Ministries in Jackson, Mississippi, has been elected to membership on the World Vision/U.S. board of directors.

Mr. Perkins was one of eight children in a Mississippi sharecropper's family. He settled in California after World War II and there became a Christian. In 1960 he returned with his wife and children to Mississippi, where today he heads one of America's most significant black community ministries.

A frequent lecturer on college and university campuses, Mr. Perkins is the author of *A Quiet Revolution* and *Let Justice Roll Down*.

## Tung An update

Latest information available to World Vision indicates that the freighter *Tung An*, anchored in the Philippines' Manila Bay (reported in our April issue) still teems with Vietnamese refugees six months after it arrived there. World Vision's request for permission to care for the refugees remains unanswered be-

cause of the Philippine government's unwillingness to give such responsibility to any private voluntary agency.

## Bangladesh drought

Bangladesh has suffered an extended drought and heat wave, causing pockets of distress, loss of rice, and serious effects on the end-of-year crop now due for planting. World Vision is preparing to give emergency grain supplies to 10,000 persons from September to November, at the cost of \$40,000.

## Kenya fire victims aided

Fire swept through Mathare Valley, a poor suburb of Nairobi, Kenya, in June, rendering 3000 to 5000 families homeless. Some of the families affected are participants in World Vision's childcare program. A special \$5000 grant will aid the neediest 1000 families with food, clothing and blankets.

## Trees for Haiti

Over the past year, about 350,000 tree seedlings have been distributed to communities near Fermathe, Haiti, for planting on eroded hillsides. Topsoil erosion is partly to blame for low food production and resultant poverty in Haiti.

Now in its third year, the World Vision-funded project has seen a significant improvement in the atti-



tudes of the local populace toward soil conservation. They are beginning to realize how their lives would

improve if trees and terracing held the soil intact.

Local farmers do the actual planting of the seedlings. One of their supervisors, Mr. Gesner "Toto" Guelisse, remarked, "The earth no longer falls down at the same rate."

### Kamaleson honored by Indian Christians

Last month Dr. Sam Kamaleson, World Vision's vice-president-at-large, was honored by American Indian leaders at the annual conference of CHIEF (Christian Hope Indian Eskimo Fellowship) in Flagstaff, Arizona. The fellowship awarded Dr. Kamaleson the Sioux Indian name Wachakia Wechasha (Prayer Man).

At the conference, attended by several thousand Christians representing 30 tribes, Kamaleson gave a series of Scripture studies on the Lordship of Christ.

### Hendrix to lead ECFA

The appointment of Olan Hendrix, 52, as executive director of the newly formed Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) has been announced by Ted W. Engstrom, executive vice-president of World Vision and chairman of the temporary board of ECFA.

ECFA is seeking to serve as a self-governing association of Christian charities that have demonstrated compliance with strict standards of financial disclosure and accountability.

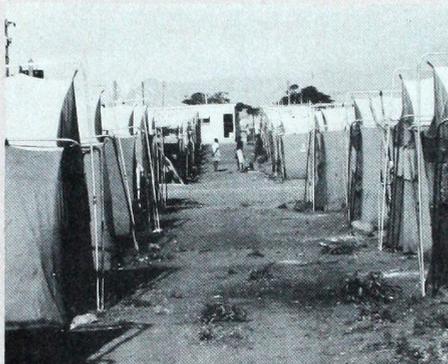
Hendrix, of San Marino, California, is an ordained Baptist clergyman and a pioneer in the field of management skills for Christian organizations. He most recently served as publisher of Regal Books. Prior to that he was general director of the American Missionary Fellowship in Philadelphia.

### Nicaragua relief update

While fighting continued into July between Nicaragua's national guard troops and the Sandinistas, World Vision was cooperating with several church agencies to bring relief to refugees in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua's capital, Managua.

By June, at least 125,000 refugees had fled Nicaragua to its southern neighbor, Costa Rica. Several hundred of them were wounded. The vice-president of Costa Rica asked voluntary agencies to assist in caring for so many refugees. Goodwill Caravans, a Costa Rican Christian service agency, was utilizing food and medicine supplied by the United States and international agencies. Distribution was handled by CEPAD, the Evangelical Council for Relief and Development (of Nicaragua). When Goodwill's funds ran out in June, World Vision gave \$30,000 so they could continue supplying food and medicine to 20,000 refugees for three more months.

On Nicaragua's northern border,



some 50,000 refugees had flowed into neighboring Honduras. World Vision has been working with Central American Mission since last fall to feed refugees at several camps. The Evangelical Church of Central America is also helping with the food



# MANAGING YOUR TIME

A TWO-DAY SEMINAR

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**Ted Engstrom**  
Executive Vice-President  
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## Please pray for:

### ■ resolution of tribal and political conflict in Uganda.

Pray for progress in the reconciliation movement led by Bishop Festo Kivengere and others.

■ **quick resettlement** of the 93 Vietnamese people rescued by *Seasweep*. Pray for them as they undergo culture shock and try to begin a new life.

■ **Nicaragua's children**, who suffered emotional devastation during the conflict that raged around them until recently. Pray also for the relief efforts that Christian agencies including World Vision are conducting jointly.

■ **more sponsors** for Indo-chinese refugees flowing into the United States. Ask God what He wants you personally to do to help.

### MANAGING YOUR TIME

- Kansas City, MO  
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(Check one. \$125 covers all costs. Make checks payable to **Managing Your Time**.)

- Send complete details.  
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distribution, which was benefiting 7000 refugees.

The Red Cross camp in Managua contained 45,000 refugees by mid-June. In cooperation with the Red Cross, Church World Service, CEPAD, Campus Crusade of Guatemala, Mennonite Central Committee, Christian Reformed World Relief Commission and World Concern, World Vision sent 64,000 pounds of dry milk, high-protein powder drink

and medicines to meet emergency needs there. Another 20 tons of beans were flown in from Honduras, and 20 tons of rice from Costa Rica. World Vision was also making arrangements for a sizable shipment of dry milk from Canada in mid-July.

Now that the conflict has ended, World Vision hopes to provide significant help in reconstruction efforts, under the direction of Nicaraguan evangelical church leaders. □



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## *The voice crying becomes a chorus*

The second UN-sponsored conference on Indochina refugees has just ended. The news from Geneva sounds good. Writers and commentators give upbeat reports.

One story says that Vietnam promised to try to stop "illegal departures"—its term for thousands of boat people seeking freedom. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim reported that Western nations have pledged to resettle over 250,000 of the refugees. President Carter has ordered four U.S. navy vessels on a refugee search-and-rescue mission in the South China Sea.

Three ships from the Italian navy have just arrived in Singapore on the same mission. Indonesia and the Philippines have offered large islands to house 250,000 refugees on their way to resettlement.

All of which is good news. "Finally," I sigh with each report. Finally . . . thank God . . . finally. A few days ago, when I came off World Vision's rescue ship, *Seasweep*, with 93 lives we had plucked from certain death, I was crying, "How long, O Lord, how long?" Now help seems to be on the way.

But lest we turn from Southeast Asia with the thought that the Geneva conference has dealt with those problems once and for all, we need a few sober reflections to balance hope against realism.

1. The refugee crisis is far from over. The overwhelming numbers may diminish, but as long as there is oppression in those Communist countries, there will be brave people who will risk death to find freedom. In recent conversation with a U.S. ambassador in Southeast Asia, we found ourselves in agreement that yet another one million or two million people will try to flee unless the brutal policies of their governments change.

Additionally, more than a quarter-million people languish in fetid, sprawling refugee camps awaiting resettlement. It will be a long time before those numbers pledged in Geneva are translated into reality for many who have already spent up to four years in camps.

Don't quit caring. The crisis still goes on.

2. The Western nations will never be able to atone for their long indifference and neglect toward those refugees. As thankful as I am for this sudden burst of concern, I am inconsolably sad with the knowledge that it comes two years and perhaps 100,000 lives too late—that many may have died trying to make it to freedom.

Every single action announced at Geneva could and should have been taken at least two years ago, when the crisis was equally grave. Tens of thousands have died needlessly. We didn't hate them or will their death. We only turned away and let them drown.

This generation of world leaders, faced with their own watery Auschwitz, acted with equal neglect and unconcern. Neither God nor history will judge them kindly for that.

3. The media deserve high praise for continually stabbing the world's conscience and refusing to let the tragedy remain unnoticed.

Governments finally acted only when people, aroused by frequent and dramatic reporting of the horror, demanded more than political platitudes. The long delay in dealing with the problem is evidence that governments did not act out of pure, self-motivated compassion. Constant exposure and advocacy reporting by the media finally prevailed.

Some newspapers and networks actually adopted the plight of the boat people as a cause and devoted much money and talent to giving the coverage that this enormous tragedy deserved.

It was one of the media's finest hours.

4. No amount of nationalistic rhetoric can erase the shame of those Asian nations which have denied a haven to these victims of conscience. They have clearly violated one law of God ("Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy") and are now dangerously exposed to the consequences of another eternal law: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

History has left too many examples for this truth to be ignored.

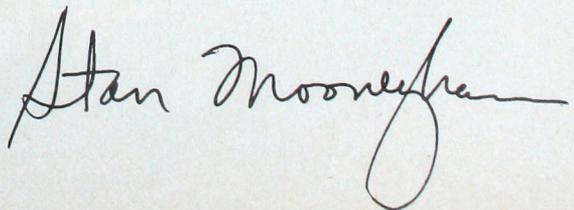
5. Don't expect any smitten conscience or sudden reformation on the part of the government of Vietnam. Why am I skeptical about the promise to halt the flow of refugees? I simply remember how East Germany stemmed the exodus to West Berlin. The government didn't reform. It built a wall.

The Vietnamese government may curtail the flood of refugees, but it will not be by more humane treatment. They will simply swell the population of their prisons, their reeducation camps—and, yes, their graveyards. If that seems overstated, let me cite a story in today's paper that reports 85 refugees slain—including 45 children—when their boat ran aground on an island occupied by Vietnamese soldiers.

6. Private agencies still have an important role to play in the refugee drama. Agencies like World Vision have been on the scene since refugees started pouring out of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. For the past year, only World Vision and Food for the Hungry have been engaged in rescue work on the seas. We are glad to have the navies of the world join us there.

Frankly, it feels good to have our missions of mercy vindicated. Our lone voices crying in the wilderness have now become a chorus.

I hope it is being heard by those who have waited so long.



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