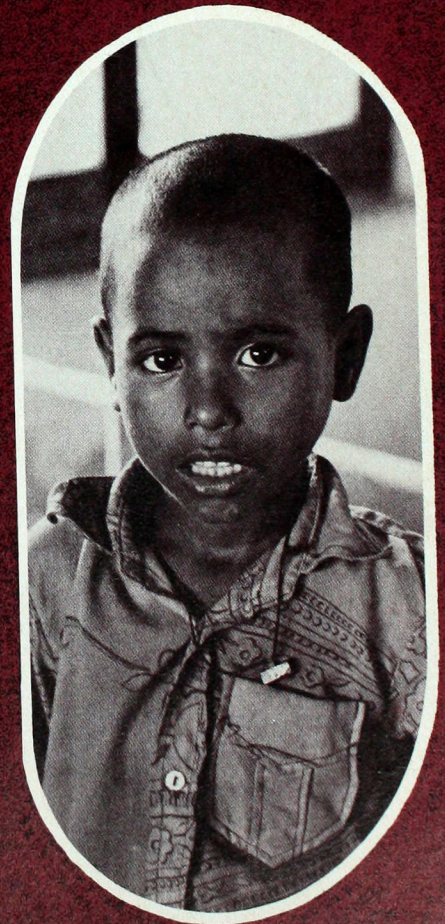


world vision

JANUARY 1978

Dacca Shishu
Children's Hospital...

THE REALITY / THE DREAM



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INSIDE OUR WORLD...

Coming next month:

Complete details of India's worst cyclone in recorded history, one that has left a million people homeless and thousands without families.

Concerning this major disaster in the state of Andhra Pradesh, the text of Dr. Stan Mooneyham's cable—datelined Vijawada, India—appears below:

Have just completed heartbreaking survey of cyclone area with our India staff. Tidal wave up to 30 feet high and 125 MPH winds caused incalculable damage to vast area and indescribable human suffering. Have wept with the grieving and prayed with the sorrowing, but must give tangible help to thousands who have lost everything.

By faith have begun emergency help to 20 worst affected villages. Estimate we'll need \$150,000 in first phase to provide family survival kits at \$10 each and rebuild simple huts at \$100 each. Want to start vaccination program for 25,000 people. Will let you know second phase rehabilitation cost estimate later, but need these emergency funds immediately. Ask our faithful friends to please help now.

In this issue:

The painful account of Bob Ainsworth's confrontation with a grieving mother whose child had reached the Dacca Shishu Children's Hospital too late. Beginning across the page, "The Reality/The Dream," is the incredible story of this hospital that is operating near its full capacity, even before it is completely finished.

Last month we covered the background of Thailand's Protestant Church. This month, we pass on that Church's insistent appeal for prayer. The page 9 article, "1978: Thailand's Year of Evangelism," makes it very clear that *Thailand's time is right now.*

On page 14 we have Dr. Carl Henry's provocative insights into "The Future of Evangelical Christianity," to get us thinking right, as well as praying right.

Have a good year.

I have always prided myself on my ability to react quickly, even in times of great stress. In fact, I can't ever remember—in any crisis—of having been stuck dumb, unable to function.

But I was that day in Bangladesh.

We were being shown the new Dacca Shishu Children's Hospital. I had lagged behind the others. And suddenly, there she was. . . .

She was standing only three feet away, a young girl who couldn't have been much older than my own 14-year-old daughter. With her sari flowing down around her head and body, she reminded me of Mary in the Nativity scene.

Her eyes burned into mine. And I shall never forget . . . never. She held out to me a limp, rag-covered bundle. At first I thought it was a sack of dirty linen. Then I saw: a tiny leg and foot . . . the minuscule head, barely covered by the rough burlap shroud.

I wanted to reach out to her, to offer some words of comfort, as I do when my own daughter hurts. But I couldn't move or speak. I felt utterly helpless.

The girl paused momentarily. Then, with a piercing cry, she clutched the lifeless bundle to her breast and brushed past me, soon disappearing on the busy street.

Only her hurt cry remained, hanging in the air. But it too trailed away as it became part of the other noises.

I was soon to learn that the girl's child had died of malnutrition, *just another statistic in a long column of similar statistics.*

This incident took place just a few months ago. As a new member of World Vision's Relief and Development team, I was on an orientation tour of Asia.

Others on the staff had told me to be prepared for the worst. But with my past experiences as a soldier in Vietnam, I doubted that I could

see anything here I hadn't already seen: poverty, hopelessness, death. . . .

As an American advisor during the very early stages of the Vietnam war, I had been forced to grow accustomed to sudden, violent outbursts of destruction: a tossed grenade in the marketplace, an exploding mine along the roadside, an ambush outside a village.

These actions, though, were those of a live enemy—faceless, brutal, men who had somehow justified their violence in order to achieve specific goals. And I had been trained to counter such men and their actions.

Now I found myself totally unprepared to face hunger—this new enemy. It was more illusive and insidious than the one that had faded into the jungle upon my approach. This one seemed to have the single objective of destroying or disabling young lives—even before they'd had a chance to survive.

Standing there now, alone and shocked



Dacca Shishu Children's Hospital...

THE REALITY/ THE DREAM

by **Bob Ainsworth**

Associate Director/Asia
Relief and Development Division
World Vision International

to the very core, I realized that my apparent callousness had quickly disappeared.

Our party had arrived just a few hours before: Dr. Bryant Myers, my predecessor, enroute to his new assignment in Africa; his wife, Lisa; Dr. Robert Pickett, World Vision's agriculturist, and myself. After checking into our hotel, we were shown the new Dacca Shishu Children's Hospital.

As we drove to the hospital, World Vision Field Director of Bangladesh Ellis Shenk explained, "This is one of World Vision's oldest developmental assistance projects in Bangladesh."

Established in March 1972, the hospital was started in an attempt to stem the tide of a runaway infant mortality rate. At that time nearly 50 percent of Bangladesh's total population consisted of children, most of whom were in desperate straits.

But now the overcrowded conditions of the original hospital—just a private residence with only 22 beds and few other facilities—had necessitated the premature move into the new facility.

"Don't be shocked at anything you might see," Ellis said. "And don't expect to find the same kind of conditions you'd expect to see in an American hospital."

I was struck by the modern architecture of the large four-story building, and how it stood out like a sore thumb among the drab, single-storied buildings and shacks that had lined our route.

A closer look revealed piles of bricks and rubble, similar to the destruction I had often seen in war zones. "This can't be a full-scale, operating hospital," I thought. "The windows aren't even installed yet. . . ."

It was at that moment when I was stopped dead in my tracks by the young mother's cry.

Looking back, I realize the encounter happened so quickly that it's difficult to re-create. But the girl's agonizing wail reminds me of one I might have heard echoing outside Jerusalem that dark Friday afternoon some 2000 years ago.

I know now that that same cry rings out again and again in Bangladesh . . . and in many other areas of the underdeveloped world . . . where our fellowmen suffer from hunger, sickness and despair.

As we toured the facility, conducted by Doctors Toyfayel Ahmed, chief pediatrician and motivating force behind the development of the hospital, and D. N. Khatoon, the hospital administrator, we became increasingly aware of the critical need the hospital meets.

Our small party was silent as we passed by the large pavilion, literally crowded with young mothers—patiently waiting—balancing their babies on their hips. Dr. Ahmed told us that this outpatient section "handles over 1000 children a day."

I realized that, as children of God, each of



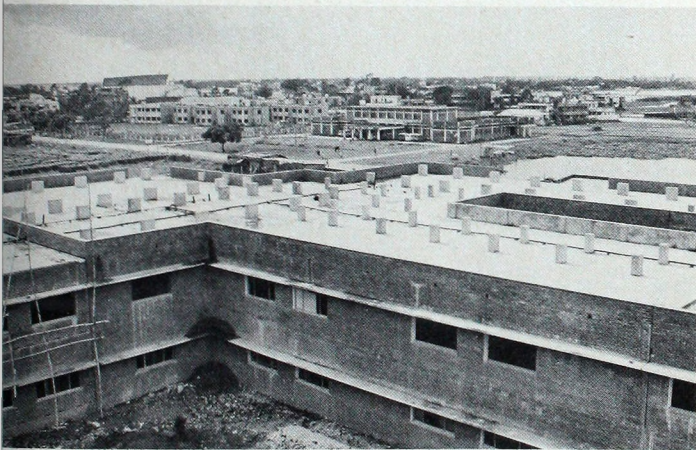
them was unique and precious in His sight. Yet, the hollow eyes and emaciated little bodies of those little ones made them all look identical to me. I can see them yet. . . .

Remembering his own orientation trip to the country a few years before, Dr. Myers told us, "As bad as the scene is now, you can't possibly imagine what it was like then. . . ."

He told us that, of the meager 12,000 hospital beds in the entire country, only 300 had been available for children. The Dacca Shishu Hospital was the first, and is today the only hospital in the country specifically designed for children.

In answer to my question about malnutrition being the major source of death, Dr. Ahmed explained, "Common children's diseases that would normally be shaken off by healthy bodies take a heavy toll upon these children, because their bodies are in such a weakened condition."

With the new, expanded hospital facilities, he told us, the staff can now administer inoculations



*(across page) typical Dacca street scene.
(above) Every child had its own mother in constant attendance. (left) Though obviously unfinished, Dacca Shishu Children's Hospital is very much in operation.*

against many of these common diseases, "... as long as the mothers can bring them to the outpatient clinic."

In addition, the hospital is also becoming the center for teaching and training doctors and nurses in the field of child health. Dr. Ahmed described the new rural health program that will bring similar treatment to those who do not have access to Dacca Shishu Hospital.

Plans are under way for the hospital to serve as the national center for training paramedical personnel to run rural health clinics throughout Bangladesh. Dr. Ahmed was excited that the initial stages of the program had already

begun, "thanks to an additional grant from World Vision," he added.

He paused and his face took on a new look. "We can . . . and we will . . . bring adequate health care to all of our people some day."

I was fascinated by Dr. Ahmed, a pediatrician trained in England and the United States. A Bengali himself, he possesses a firsthand understanding of his people's needs. Coupled with a compassionate vision of what can be done, plus his total dedication to fulfill the monumental task, I truly believe that it will be accomplished.

Thrown together with a small group of fellow Bengalis in West Pakistan during the war of liberation, Dr. Ahmed joined with others to organize a committee dedicated to assist Bengalis who were stranded and cut off from their own society.

After repatriation to their homeland, the group continued to involve itself in helping their fellow countrymen. In 1974 they learned that the

only children's hospital—Dacca Shishu—was floundering and in serious financial difficulty.

The committee took on the responsibilities as the hospital management board. And, with the help of Save the Children Fund and World Vision, they began steering the little hospital toward its now leading role in health care for their new nation.

This partnership continues to operate today as a successful example of what men of goodwill can accomplish with God's love and mutual respect for one another.

The highlight (perhaps I should say, climax) of our tour was the visit to the two inpatient wards. As I stood in one of the wards and looked across the room at the 50 metal cribs—neatly lined in rows of six across—I saw that every bed was occupied by a small child.

And every child had its young mother standing beside it!

Some of the mothers were waving straw fans to cool their fever-ridden children. Others just sat—staring impassively through the metal bars—and watched their babies' struggle for life.

Suddenly I was struck with an incongruity: This room, filled with 50 children—all of them desperately ill—and their mothers, was *totally silent*.

I heard not a single whimper, not a single sob. Just silence. . . .

It was then that I was reminded of some of my

own cynical and selfish thoughts of earlier years: "It's probably just as humane to let those hoards of starving children die," I had said.

But now, those former thoughts have been drowned out by Christ's words, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these . . . you have done it unto Me."

When those words got through to me, I realized that there is a solution to all this: His love.

And I began to see just a glimmer of that solution as I traveled through Asia, visiting projects sponsored and supported by caring Christians through such agencies as World Vision.

I saw that solution of love evidenced on Demra Island in Bangladesh, now Chanpara village, where 25,000 refugees have become a viable community—*thanks to three years of your caring support*. There and elsewhere, for the first time, mothers and fathers who have begun to see a future for themselves and their families are attending family planning clinics, because they no longer need to bring as many children



(above) Dr. Toyfayel Ahmed and the author.
(right) Thousands of children like this boy will live to thank God for Dacca Shishu Children's Hospital.



into the world to care for them in their old age.

I saw part of the solution in the Philippines, where formerly destitute villagers are now providing their own well-balanced food supply—thanks to an irrigation system and the introduction of backyard vegetable gardens.

I saw it in a small leprosy community in India where new agricultural techniques and vocational training activities were allowing the poorest of the poor to begin leading self-reliant, dignified lives.

When I thought of these scenes I realized that the total quiet of this simple children's ward in Dacca, Bangladesh wasn't such a bad thing after all.

At least there were no cries of agony like those I had heard from the young mother I met on the pathway. Or of the others at the hospital entrance and in the large waiting area. At last some of the hopeless ones have now found a place to get help in their struggle for survival.

A place of love and caring concern.
We left Dacca Shishu Children's Hospital

knowing that this was a vital, necessary project, one that merits our continuing support.

Running a hospital in a country like Bangladesh, however, is not an easy or simple venture. If anything, it's even more complex than in the United States. For example, finances. You can't ask for a patient's Blue Cross number. He has no Blue Cross, or any other insurance, for that matter.

And the relatively new Government of Bangladesh, besieged with nearly insurmountable, countrywide problems—plus regular calamities such as floods and tropical storms—is in no position to do much at all. It has already provided the land upon which the hospital is being built.

In Bangladesh there's no wealthy aristocracy to appeal to. There's not even a large middle class to tax. The vast majority are poor. So it will be many years before the people who so desperately need this facility will even be able to begin paying for their own health care.

In short: The money must come from outside.

But not just from "anybody" outside.

The money to complete this hospital, to care for the thousands who cannot care for themselves, to teach them to lift themselves by their own bootstraps, will only come from those who are motivated to give because of the deep love for the Christ who has changed their lives and given them hope.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME ONE WHO WILL HELP FULFILL DR. AHMED'S DREAM OF "Setting the health care standards for the nation"?

.....
Yes, I would like to help fulfill the dream. Please use my enclosed check of \$_____ to care for Bangladesh's many needs. 5000-H18-312

I would like to sponsor a child. Please select a _____ boy _____ girl for me. Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ months, at \$15 a month. I accept this responsibility for at least a year, if possible. 4102-H18-101

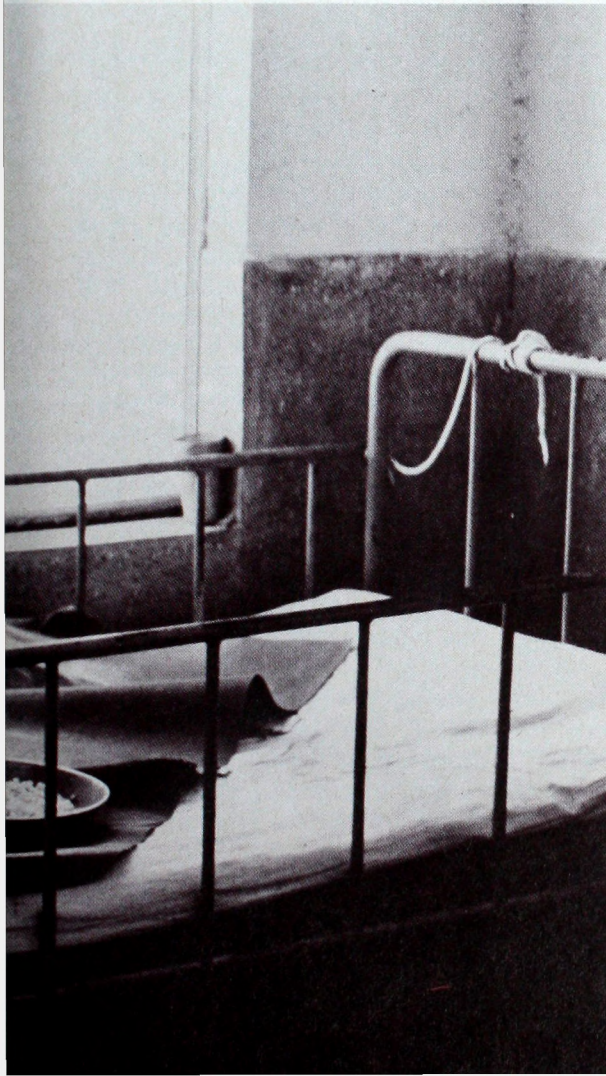
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facts of a field

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

VITAL STATISTICS

Population: 83,300,000 (1511 people per square mile). Most densely populated country in the world.

Population Growth Rate: 2.7 percent annually.

Urbanization: About 9 percent.

Capital: Dacca, population: 1,300,000.

Area: 55,126 square miles (slightly larger than the state of Wisconsin).

Ethnic Composition: Bengali, 90 percent; Bihari, 8 percent; tribal peoples, 2 percent.

Languages: Bengali, English and tribal languages.

Literacy: 20 percent.

Economy: Annual per capita income is \$90. Agricultural and industrial production are increasing, but the balance of payments is still unfavorable.

Agriculture: The national economy is heavily dependent upon agricultural production. Jute production accounts for 75 to 80 percent of the crops. Rice and tea are also grown. Since the land

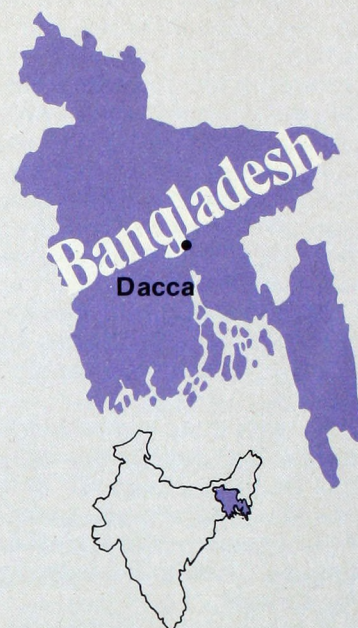
is honeycombed with waterways and is only slightly above sea level, this often means economic disaster during the typhoon season.

Industry: Mostly "cottage" industries. Other basic industry is controlled mainly by the Government, although private investors are now being encouraged.

Natural Resources: Natural gas and coal fields (the latter have not yet been developed).

Religion: Muslim, 85 percent; Hindu, Buddhist, Animist, 14.73 percent; Christian, 0.27 percent.

History: Formerly part of India, the nation became East Pakistan in 1947. Following the 1971 civil war against West Pakistani-dominated rule, it became officially known as Bangladesh. Martial law has been in effect for several years, and as of April, the former head of the army is the country's president. There have been several attempted military coups since independence, the most recent one in October 1977.



Current Status of Christianity:

The Christian population of Bangladesh has remained essentially stable since the 1971 civil war, despite the three million dead, 10 million migrants and 30 million destitute. This is due primarily to the 3 percent annual growth rate in the Christian community. It is generally felt that this continued growth has been due to the compassionate ministries and Christian witness by foreign missionaries who chose to stay in Bangladesh during the 1971 war.

Churches: There are an estimated 200,000 Christians in Bangladesh. Of these, approximately 82,000 (41 percent) are Protestants. The Baptist Union of Bangladesh is the largest of the 16 Protestant churches in the country, and the Evangelical Christian Church is the second largest. The All-One-In-Christ Church is the only totally indigenous church. Most of the

others are affiliated with one or more foreign missions, including Baptists, Assemblies of God, Churches of God, Seventh-day Adventists and Anglicans.

Churches and related mission agencies in Bangladesh are currently involved in literature distribution, primary and secondary school support and Bible correspondence courses. There are also Bible-reading groups, medical work, family planning projects, agricultural assistance programs and evangelism.

There are over 30 major tribes and castes with numerous subclasses in Bangladesh. At least two of the tribes are 100 percent Christian, and two others are well over 50 percent Christian. Progress among Muslims is much more difficult and slow.

Missions: In 1695, Portuguese Catholic priests were the first Christian missionaries to land in Bangladesh. The oldest Protestant mission in the country is the

British Baptist, begun in 1795 by William Carey. Today there are about 500 missionaries from over 40 Christian organizations. These groups include the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, the Australian Baptist Missionary Society, the Oxford Mission (U.K.), Assemblies of God, Food for the Hungry, World Literature Crusade, World Relief Commission and World Vision International.

Matters of Immediate Concern:

Disasters continue to threaten this nation, which has only one hospital bed for every 6000 people and very few doctors. Within the past few months there have been 260 deaths caused by cholera, and the incidence of malaria has increased sharply. Also, the fall and early winter months bring the typhoon season to Bangladesh, and many thousands of lives, homes and crops could be destroyed.

1978: THAILAND'S YEAR OF EVANGELISM

- Upon his recent return from Thailand, Dr. Stan Mooneyham reported: "For the past 10 years I've walked the busy streets of Bangkok . . . I've trudged along northern Thailand's jungle trails. But never before have I seen the churches of Thailand ready to believe God for miracles. Now these Protestant Christians are ready!"

- A young Thai pastor says, "This year is Thailand's best time to hear the Gospel. We are beginning a new day for the Church of Jesus Christ in my country! We are expecting new things for the glory of God."

As a young man Boonkrong Pitakanon had been ostracized, presumably for life, because he was a victim of leprosy. But when two missionary ladies shared the Good News of Jesus Christ with him, his body was healed and his spirit was set free. Now he happily tells his fellow Thais how they can find new life.

- Alex Smith is a longtime missionary to this country, and has written a great deal about the specialized ministry of evangelizing rural churches. He is very excited about Thailand's Year of Evangelization.

"A handful of rice can only become flour," he says, "as the individual grains are willing to be beaten, ground and sifted. So, likewise, in evangelism, we as God's grains of rice must be prepared to be broken . . . to produce the fine flour out of which He can expand His Church."

There are hopeful signs of that brokenness in Thailand as the Spirit of God begins moving powerfully in the land. Dr. Carlton Booth, World Vision's liaison with the Thailand Church Growth Committee (TCGC), agrees. He says, "Indeed, there are signs of revival."

He tells of being in the TCGC office recently when the Committee treasurer entered. Mr. Seri Tae opened his heart to the group. "I was awake most of last night," he said. "The burden for Thailand is so much upon me that I could not sleep. . . ."

Then he told how he planned to turn over his entire business to an associate to care for during the next three months, "so I can devote myself completely to this matter of evangelism."

Many others share his concern.

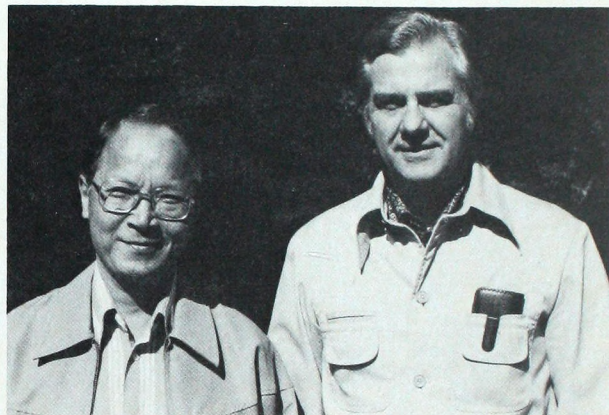
In fact, the entire month of February is being devoted to nine well-planned and publicized city-

wide campaigns throughout Thailand. Dr. Mooneyham will be preaching in Bangkok's Lumpini Hall, the largest inside auditorium in the city, and in Chiang Mai, often called the religious center of Thailand.

The burden for the month of crusades is upon the hearts of others, such as Dr. David Liao and the Rev. Silaweij, who have spent endless hours during the past months speaking in seminars and churches and endeavoring to make laymen and pastors aware of the responsibilities that are upon them—*now*.

With all this preparation, and much, much more, there seems to be little doubt but that 1978 is truly the Year of Evangelism for this beautiful country, with its 44,000,000 inhabitants.

Speaking of the upcoming crusades, the largest, most comprehensive ever to be conducted in Thailand, Dr. Mooneyham said, "As I realized the



Dr. David Liao (l.), Church Growth Consultant, and Bob Jones, Associate Director, Pacific/North Area Office.

awesomeness of the task facing us in the churches of Thailand, I literally felt a weight hit me right between the shoulders and fall on my back.

"I don't know if it was the weight of a city of 4,000,000 people, most of whom do not know Jesus Christ—and many who have never heard His name—but I suddenly realized that there is no way that we are going to touch this country apart from the supernatural movement of the Spirit of God.

"The human odds are overwhelmingly against us. Yet there is now a convergence of circumstances that makes Thailand a ripe harvest field for the Gospel. What we have seen God do in Indonesia, what we saw Him do in Cambodia, I believe we are going to experience this year in Thailand!"

Then Dr. Mooneyham shared the crux of his burden with this plea: "Pray for Thailand! If ever you've prayed for a country, do it now. Pray for Thailand. As strongly as I can say it: *Pray for Thailand!*"



DISASTER RELIEF- A REASON FOR BEING

by Steve Maynard

When floodwaters inundated Gujarat, India last July, World Vision was on the scene immediately with food, medicines, clothing and other emergency supplies.

The unusually heavy monsoons dropped up to six inches of rain on the stricken district, washing away crops over a wide area. In some places water stood as deep as seven feet.

Flood waters destroyed hundreds of homes, leaving thousands stranded. Hundreds suffered from exposure; scores perished.

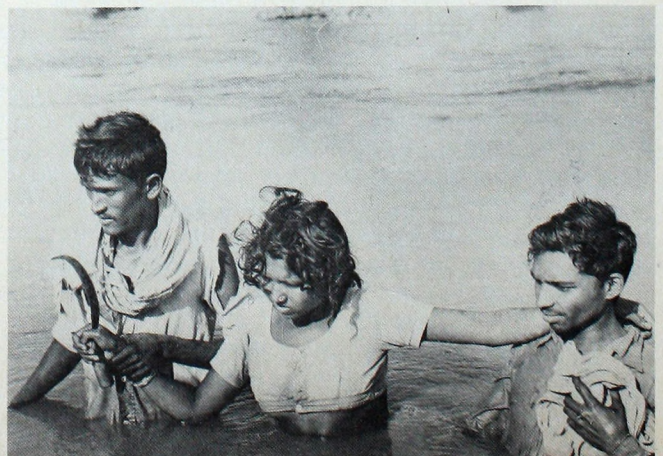
Rescue operations were often hampered or made impossible because of washed-out roads and communication lines.

One farmer said, "I've been ruined. This is the third time this year I've sown seed on my 50-acre farm. And for the third time it's been washed away."

Another distraught farmer wrung his hands in despair. "First I lost all my crops," he said. "Now the floodwaters have cut my fields in two pieces!"

For many villagers, life became a day-to-day fight to find shelter from the flood waters. Their flimsy, now-waterlogged huts threatened to collapse. Some people sought refuge in nearby train cars or Government buildings. Others tried to outlast the floods, hoping their huts would survive.

And others without shelter sat and slept in muddy streets. One




woman huddled at the side of a road with a tin can in hand for several days. Her wrinkled face was etched with shock and fear. She was homeless and without food.

The floods in northern Gujarat left thousands homeless and without money. With no belongings of their own, farmers had no means of buying seed for planting winter crops.

World Vision sought to provide help for these problems.

Large amounts of food, clothing, utensils, medicine, building materials and seeds for winter crops were sent to three of Gujarat's hardest hit areas.

The Gujarat floods in India were just one of many world disasters World Vision responded to during 1977. In each case, we quickly moved in with the necessary emergency supplies and assisted the stricken peoples until they could fend for themselves.

A partial, representative list of other such emergencies includes the Goma volcano eruption in Zaire, Hurricane Anita in Mexico, a disastrous hospital fire in Indonesia, drought in Upper Volta and Haiti and flooding in Brazil and Kenya. 



I Had a Dream....

There before me on a dusty path in a remote village of Bangladesh stood Jesus. His ganji and lungi were soiled, His brow filled with sparkling beads of perspiration. Hands of labor radiated a message of dignity. Calloused feet spoke of hours behind a plow. His brown, golden skin communicated a startling truth. God had become a Bengali!

I fell upon the hot blistering earth in awe and reverence. His hands of love tenderly embraced me and drew me to His breast. His voice spoke with the tenderness of the flow of a small rippling brook, Yet with the authority of the roaring Ganges: "Come, my Bengali child, Come and follow Me."

*My conquered will could only respond with words of brokenness,
"My Lord and My God."
Slowly rising to my feet, I found myself struggling for composure.
"What new thing was this?"*

*My heart was as joyous as the dancing of the newborn lamb;
My tattered clothing seemed as regal as that of the wealthy land owner;
My aching limbs became as refreshed as if I had just bathed in the cool waters of the nearby pond;
The gnawing pangs of hunger subsided as if I had just eaten a most sumptuous meal of rice and curry.*

*Yes, now I understand, I have just accepted Jesus of Bengal
As My Lord . . .
My God.*

—Phil Parshall
Missionary to Bangladesh



MUSIC
OF THE

is still,

WHEN THE STAR IN THE SKY IS GONE,
WHEN THE KINGS AND PRINCES ARE HOME,
WHEN THE SHEPHERDS ARE BACK WITH THEIR SHEEP,
THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS:



TO FIND THE LOST,
TO HEAL THE BROKEN,
TO FEED THE HUNGRY,
TO RELEASE THE PRISONER,
TO REBUILD THE NATIONS,
TO BRING PEACE AMONG PEOPLE,
TO MAKE MUSIC IN THE HEART.

— AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The God of the Bible is the God of promise, and the God of promise turns the believing heart toward the future. The God of the Bible alone sustains hope in man's past, present and future, and does so through "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Years ago, I turned on the radio one Sunday morning and heard bleak news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. World War II soon became a global conflict. It shattered the peace of Asia and sent earth tremors through the far-flung missionary community. Anxieties multiplied everywhere over the future of the Church.

I was a seminarian and student pastor at that time, and while walking on campus I saw my church history professor, a towering Scandinavian whose big heart throbbed for the cause of Christian missions. Overtaking him, I asked: "What does all this mean for the future of the Church?"

In his heavy Norwegian accent he said, "I have lived by the sea, where the tide goes out and the tide comes in—and on this Rock will I build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

"I have no fear," he added, "for the future of Christ's Church."

Yet despite encouraging signs of evangelical advance in the world today, there might seem abundant reason nonetheless to be fearful of the near future.

For one thing, the great universities of the West are increasingly given over to a radically secular interpretation of human life and culture. However, the most vigorous missionary and evangelistic thrust in America is being carried on by the student generation that was thought to be lost to the faith of the Bible; Campus Crusade, Inter-Varsity and other movements carry forward this vigorous witness on campuses across the nation.

Even so, the powerful mass media condition the values of the general public. They give the impression that Christian morality is archaic, and that modern enlightenment justifies moral permissiveness.

Yet even here, Christian public opinion is beginning to make itself heard. There is greater Christian interest in using the media to preach the Gospel, in reminding the influential networks of their answerability for more than audience ratings and in judging the media by God's higher standard of truth and right.

Our century of totalitarian dictators recalls the books of Daniel and Revelation. Tyrants turn the underground believing Church into bleak basements, or above ground into austere attacks, stripping away much of the human liberty and dignity that the Gospel has brought. Yet from Pharaoh's time to Stalin's and Mao's, no tyranny has been able to eradicate the biblical faith.

"There is the ever-present danger that evangelicals may erode their own best opportunities, which have seldom been greater, by unnecessary conflict among themselves." **THE FUTURE**

by **Carl F. H. Henry**

Lecturer-at-Large
World Vision International

Georgi Vins and others may languish with broken bodies and near-broken minds in Soviet prisons, but Russian rulers know that the Eastern European bloc is opening some doors. Hungary recently allowed Billy Graham to share in a large outdoor meeting attended by 15,000 Eastern European Christians, and to conduct a week of services inside different churches.

Let us pray for freedom to evangelize publicly, for freedom to proclaim the Gospel's bearing upon the whole man and all of human life. Let us even pray for the conversion of some modern Saul of Tarsus who, though now breathing slaughter, might rise from within the Communist forces themselves to become a standardbearer of the Gospel in the Sino-Soviet sphere.

The Christian Gospel is also penetrating other frontiers of modern oppression, persecution and restriction, and is finding a lodging in needy lives. In the Muslim world, notably in Indonesia, Christian evangelists have been imprisoned and intimidated, yet the Gospel continues to make its quiet way among both Muslims and non-Muslims. Some Asian churches have even sent missionaries to the Arabs of the Persian Gulf.

In Latin America there is a massive movement of lay Christians numbering 20 to 25 million. In Africa, some missions observers anticipate that if evangelistic momentum continues unabated, that vast continent (south of the Sahara) will be

half Christian by the turn of the century. Even in Asia, where only 3 percent are believers—despite its vast percentage of the global population—15 percent of the South Koreans and 5 percent of the Indonesians are Christians. Some countries are even dispatching missionaries themselves.

The evangelical faith is therefore on the march almost worldwide. Despite many external obstacles, the evangelistic effort moves ahead from generation to generation, with unbroken confidence in the risen and returning Lord.

But as you know, the fiercest attacks upon the biblical faith sometimes rise from within the nominal Christian community itself. Some radical scholars now classify the biblical teachings under the category of "myth."

This critical antievangelical assault on the

OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY

supernatural faith of Scripture is already an international phenomenon. It enlists nonevangelical university scholarship and influential television and journalistic personalities, as well as those who identify themselves with the Church while they assail its historic beliefs.

Evangelical penetration into the Anglican Church is stirring neo-Protestant spokesmen to counteraction. They formulate no rationally compelling alternative to evangelical belief (since they can find none), but rather declare the historic faith to be now unbelievable because of insights articulated by modern thinkers. This ruse has repeatedly failed in every generation of unbelief, since it relies on a wisdom of modernity that is soon catalogued with the follies of the past. But in a naturalistic age it temporarily supplies university students a specious rationale for rejecting the Christian doctrine of the incarnation.

In Germany, long the fountainhead of most radical attacks on biblical supernaturalism, some laymen who have defected from their inherited faith now share in the attack on biblical theism as vigorously as do university and divinity scholars. Many German theologians speak so abstrusely that even young seminarians have difficulty understanding their positions, but the defecting laymen speak to the common people.

Rudolph Augstein, founder and publisher of *Der Spiegel* (Germany's *TIME* magazine), believes that the Christian Church has nothing to offer the modern world. He says: "I think it would be a deception to say that the Church has any real power . . . to solve the problems of human society." He is profoundly right, of course, in sensing that the power of Christ's Church lies not in the Church *per se*. But he is profoundly wrong in failing to discern that the Church rests not on the shifting sands of critical theory, but on the Rock of Jesus Christ.

I have stressed that the tide of unbelief is now rising from within professing Christendom in an even more astonishing way than from the outer world—of which one expects little else—and does so at a time when much of the secular world is vulnerably open to the Gospel through a sense of end-time despair.

But I wish now to speak of evangelical strategy in the present generation.

Surely the evangelistic and missionary task falls always and everywhere upon us. That we proclaim the Good News worldwide is the only commandment added by the Risen Lord, and it is recorded by all four gospels. Wherever the Church evangelizes the Church is growing; where it neglects evangelism for other pursuits, it is ailing. And wherever Christians evangelize, the Lord of the harvest soon evidences His transforming power in unexpected and astonishing ways, as when in America He captures fugitive figures like Charles Colson and Eldridge Cleaver, who then reflect the message of redemption as national media personalities.

But the civilizational crisis calls for much more than preaching the need of new birth. We must speak powerfully of God's providence and judgment and grace, of God's purpose in human life and history, of the meaning, worth and duty of man in society. We need to proclaim openly the unchanging moral standards by which Christ will judge men and nations at His return, and by which He calls them to live in the world even now.

It is high time therefore, to speak not only of *the grace God proffers*, but also of *the righteousness God demands*—personal holiness, social righteousness and public justice. We need to speak with the scourge of ancient prophets to nations whose cup of iniquity is almost full, to merchants whose unjust weights now take the form of shoddy products or overpricing or misleading guarantees. We need to speak up for the destitute and the jobless, to warn the wealthy employer and the struggling worker alike that the Living God considers both to be stewards of talents, and to

caution both against the deceitfulness of riches and the temptation to worship false monetary gods. We need a skillful grasp of the biblical principles of social ethics, lest we fall for the propaganda of secular revolutionists and liberationists on the one hand, or into the trap of baptizing and confirming the social *status quo* on the other. We need to let the world know that Jesus the Nazarene triumphed over all the powers of evil in His sinless life and subsequent resurrection, realities that signal the doom of everyone and everything that would destroy Christ and His cause. We need to let the whole world know that the message is for the *whole* man in his *total* need, and that God will make all things new, and that even now the Risen Lord extends His victory over sin and injustice and oppression and exploitation through His body, the regenerated Church.

However, I must in closing mention some disconcerting signs, by way of caution. There is the ever-present danger that evangelicals may erode their own best opportunities, which have seldom been greater, by unnecessary conflict among themselves. I am not pleading for doctrinal softness or for ecumenical pluralism or for a politically unconcerned Christianity. But a problem is posed by evangelicals who thrust extreme views or institutional enthusiasms or partisan political preferences upon fellow evangel-

icals as the price of acceptability. We evangelicals rightly emphasize that unity of doctrine is essential to the full unity of the body of believers, and we therefore have a special duty to exhibit the unity of the Church worldwide.

Jesus Christ towers above many of the prejudices we would so readily add to our evangelical heritage out of overly protective motivations. Jesus Christ is Himself the power of God. Our proclamation of Him is not powerful on the basis of our own energy, our strategy, our schematizations, but on the basis of the Word and wisdom and power of God. Standing firm on the authoritative Book, John Wesley said: "I offer Christ to the people." That gets to the heart of the message: the person and work of Jesus Christ for otherwise doomed sinners.

Though the Church be assailed from without and within, and though even evangelicals themselves in our clouded times sometimes blur a clear vision of their own priorities, I cannot forget my church history professor's remark: "The tide goes out and the tide comes in . . . but 'on this Rock will I build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"

In an age when secular civilization crumbles and when a beleaguered race stretches grasping hands from the wreckage of its fast-fading hopes, may we who are men and women of the Book and of the Rock stand firmly on God's unbreakable Word and on the changeless Christ, for that is the only sure wave of the future.



From Headhunters to Missionaries

What a success story!

Several generations ago, the Garos of Bangladesh were world-famous headhunters. Now 40,000 out of 60,000 of this tribe give their allegiance to Jesus Christ. They are living proof of the power of the Gospel as it was brought by the missionary movement.

But there is even more to their story. Though they are a tiny island of Christianity, surrounded by a massive sea of Muslims and Hindus, resource-poor when compared to the churches of the West, they have determined to take on the Goliath-sized task of reaching unreached peoples.

The Garo Baptist community is reaching out to evangelize the Koch, a neighboring Hindu-animist caste that has a completely different culture. Their goal is 200,000 Koch Baptists!

And already they have seen a response. A Koch Church, the size of a mustard seed, has begun to grow. But several hundred Christians—what is that among so many who are still waiting to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ? The Koch are but one among hundreds of groups in Bangladesh who are unreached and unevangelized, even after almost 200 years of mission activity.

The Koch are an example of

the spiritual tragedy of the forgotten and neglected unreached peoples of the world. The Garo Church challenges us all to get on with the job of helping at least one such people group.

In order that you may pray, love and reach out to the needs of people like the Koch, World Vision's MARC Department has prepared a brief prayer folder. This folder includes the data from the World Vision/MARC Unreached Peoples Program and is available to you for the asking. At the same time you will receive a list of 200 other unreached peoples about whom you may receive additional information.



OXEN BRING HELP TO KENYA'S FARMERS

Plowing with oxen may seem backward to us who live in developed countries, but to small farmers in western Kenya it is the latest technological advance—one that promises to radically improve their lives.

Past efforts by these farmers to use oxen failed because they were not taught how to use them properly. They removed the depth adjusters from their plows to reduce weight, but this allowed the plow to dig too deeply. Oxen were then unable to pull it.

Your gifts are making it possible for farmers to learn better farming techniques at the Christian Rural Service Center in Khasoko. Many farmers come to this 15-acre model farm to see instructor Gabriel Odwaro skillfully guide a team of oxen through a plot of soya beans. He shows them how to weed an acre in four hours; farmers have been accustomed to spending a week at this task, even with the help of their wives and children.

By reducing the time and effort required for cultivation, the use of oxen promises to bring much higher crop yields. Increased food production, together with the introduction of new crops through the Rural Service Center, will help to reduce malnutrition throughout the region.

In addition to training farmers, the Christian Rural Service Center conducts experiments in various kinds of land management and food production. The center also has a workshop where improved farming tools are constructed.

On the drawing board for the coming year is a 20-bed dormitory to house farmers who travel a long way to study at the center. Also envisioned is the training of field workers, who will visit churches in the region to teach people better ways of farming.

This year's cost for the project is \$29,000. Thank you for doing your part.

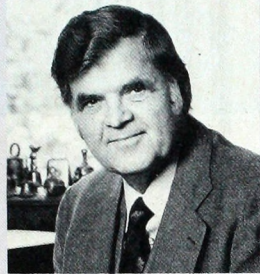


monthly memo

Over the past several years, along with our childcare ministries, World Vision's fastest-growing outreach has been our relief and development work. This year it is our plan, as God supplies the funds, to channel \$11,500,000 to suffering people through emergency aid and self-help programs. This is more than double the amount budgeted for 1977. But exactly what do we mean by "relief and development"?

"Relief" includes three principal activities: (1) providing emergency assistance to people in areas stricken by a disaster, such as an earthquake or flood; (2) providing ongoing support to people who have not been able to recover from an emergency, and (3) providing generously donated goods such as food, clothing and medicines to people in need. This is done through national church groups in the name of Christ.

"Development" generally



refers to projects that help people help themselves. Some examples are health care, nutrition, family planning, agricultural production, land regeneration, income generation and vocational training. All of this is done as a ministry, with the "bottom line" being our keen desire that the people being helped may be brought to a knowledge of the Savior.

Because resources are limited, World Vision does not attempt to set up nationwide relief and development programs. Rather, we concentrate on individual communities. We try to establish a well-rounded program that includes several kinds of projects to meet the needs of the community, all centered around a Christian witness.

For example, we might

combine public health and nutrition classes with help for the community's farmers. Our goal is that, after three to five years, the community will be able to carry on these projects without outside help, and that neighboring communities will follow their example.

We thank the Lord for giving us a capable and dedicated staff to guide this important work. Under the leadership of our R & D Director, Hal Barber, they are helping communities in more than 24 countries. World Vision provides planning advice, coordination, monitoring and evaluation services, but we expect the community itself to provide the project managers and labor.

You, our friends and supporters, make up the third side of a three-way partnership by providing the funds that make this involvement possible. Thank you for your gifts and your prayers. God bless you.

Ted W. Engstrom

Ted W. Engstrom
Executive Vice President



a bridge for Cimientos

by Barbara Weisbrod

During the dry season, the farmers in the village of Cimientos, high in the mountains of Guatemala, consider the Rio Blanco their friend.

But during the rainy season, the river becomes an angry mass of rapids. Running right through the middle of the village, it is a raging barrier, completely isolating the two halves. For weeks at a time, children cannot get to school, medical help cannot reach those in need, and farmers trying to reach the market downriver in Cubulco are forced to travel several hours more to find a crossing. Many of those attempting to cross during

the rainy season have become the river's victims.

For years, the people of Cimientos have dreamed about building a bridge across the Rio Blanco. But even a simple cable footbridge was beyond their means.

Finally, by 1977, they had managed to save \$900. Imagine their discouragement, however, when an engineer estimated that a bridge would cost at least \$5000.

Then came a glimmer of hope.

Don Weisbrod, World Vision's Relief and Development coordinator for Guatemala, was working on earthquake reconstruction projects in the area and heard about the situation in Cimientos. He says, "The villagers were really discouraged. They were about to make the decision to buy some cable and build the bridge themselves when we heard about it.

"Bridge building is a very technical process," Don explains, "and dozens of bridges are lost each year because of Guatemala's harsh natural elements. I suggested that they wait a few weeks



before making a final decision—and I'd check into getting some help on the bridge."

A few weeks later, Don had good news for the village committee. World Vision had agreed to help Cimientos build the bridge. World Vision would provide technical assistance and all the construction materials. The villagers would provide the labor and transportation of the materials from the road-end. They could begin almost immediately!

Sounds simple, doesn't it?

But getting the materials to Cimientos was almost as big a job as building the 30-meter (about 90 feet) bridge.

"It takes seven and a half hours to reach Cimientos from Guatemala City," says Don Weisbrod. "It's 30 minutes by plane, two hours by car—over dirt roads—and then another five hours over the mountains by foot and mule. Believe me, you really feel like you've done something when you get there!

"When the road ended," he goes on, "men and mules had to carry a dozen sacks of cement—each weighing more than a hundred pounds—plus 500 feet of one-inch-thick steel cable, plus 150 thick wooden planks. It was practically

a human army of ants!"

But at last the supplies arrived. Then the entire community pitched in, pouring the foundations, stringing the cable, attaching the planks. Under the watchful eyes of George Hughs, a Christian engineer who would accept no pay for his technical assistance, and Tom Becotte, the Christian project manager, the bridge began to reach out across the Rio Blanco. And at last—three weeks after work began—the bridge was finished!

The bridge was dedicated on June 28, 1977, a festive occasion. When Don Weisbrod, Tom Becotte, George Hughs and Les Ingrahm (project manager at Cubulco) arrived, they found the bridge decorated with crepe paper and flowers. People from all the surrounding villages had come to celebrate with the Cimientos residents.

During the dedication, the community leaders expressed their thanks to World Vision for helping them construct the bridge. Then Pastor Vitalino Similox, the project manager at Comalapa, spoke.

"Each time you cross this bridge," he said, "remember what our relationship to God offers us; a bridge to eternal life, a bridge over troubled waters, a bridge to more perfect communication and fellowship

(below) Involved in assisting with the bridge were (l. to r.) Les Ingrahm, Vitalino Similox, Don Weisbrod, Tom Becotte, George Hughs.



with our fellowman."

After the dedication, the villagers ceremoniously crossed the bridge together. Women with babies on their backs were solemn and dignified, children confidently ran full speed. All appreciated the difference the bridge would make in their lives. It was a special bridge, one made possible by the concern and dedication of the village workers, coupled with the generosity of World Vision donors—all merging in a visible, concrete demonstration of the way God cares for His people's needs.



one + one = love

a drama of lives
touching each other

Appearing in the following cities:

BAKERSFIELD, CA
JANUARY 14

BOULDER, CO
JANUARY 23

CHEYENNE, WY
JANUARY 27

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
JANUARY 26

FRESNO, CA
JANUARY 13

GRAND JUNCTION, CO
JANUARY 20

LAS VEGAS, NV
JANUARY 16

PALM SPRINGS, CA
FEBRUARY 2

PUEBLO, CO
JANUARY 24

RENO, NV
JANUARY 30

SALT LAKE CITY, UT
JANUARY 19

VENTURA, CA
FEBRUARY 3

For reservations, please contact the Pacific/South Area Office, World Vision International, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016, (213) 357-1111.

INDIA

An estimated 20,000 people have been killed in the cyclone and tidal wave that ripped through Andhra Pradesh, India in late November. Two million others are homeless, and 2300 villages have been destroyed.

Immediately after the disaster struck, World Vision field personnel were on the scene, working with two interdenominational relief committees. Initial aid of \$125,000 was cabled by World Vision/Monrovia to feed, clothe and provide medical attention for the victims.

Dr. Stan Mooneyham, president of World Vision, and Mr. Hal Barber, director of the Relief and Development Division, flew to the disaster area to survey the situation and determine how World Vision might best help the thousands who have lost everything.

In a cable received as this issue goes to press, Dr. Mooneyham said, "A tidal wave up to 30 feet high and 125-mile-an-hour winds have caused indescribable suffering and incalculable damage to a vast area. We have wept with the grieving and prayed with the sorrowing, but we must give tangible help to thousands who have lost everything."

A more detailed article on the disaster and relief efforts will appear in the February issue of *World Vision*.

About 500 pastors and other Christian workers will attend the World Vision Pastors' Conference in Poona, India, near Bombay, January 23 to 27. "Above All, Christ" will be the theme of the conference, which will bring together church leaders from many denominations.

Dr. Ted W. Engstrom, World Vision's executive vice president, and Dr. Sam Kamaleson, vice-president-at-large, will rep-

resent World Vision and will be among several national and international speakers at the conference.

Participants in the conference will refine and rebuild themselves spiritually, enabling them to minister to their people more effectively.

PHILIPPINES

Over 30 members of World Vision's Relief and Development staff are now in Manila to discuss how needy people can be helped more effectively through community development projects.

During the conference, which runs from January 7 through March 2, field staff from 15 countries will examine policies and procedures through discussions and presentations. Topics of the conference include how to improve plant and livestock production, how to combat the spread of disease and how to educate the poor and illiterate.

GUATEMALA

A footbridge in the mountainous area around San Andres has recently been completed, providing a wooden walkway between three small villages. The 150-foot cable bridge makes it



possible to reach other villages across the Chilil River, which is flooded during the rainy season.

The 70-foot-high swinging bridge was built with World Vision funds. Labor was provided by the local communities.

Because of the bridge, life will be a little less harsh during the rainy season for the Indians living in this isolated area. (For the complete story of a similar project, please see page 18.)

UNITED STATES

"A Tour with a Purpose" is the theme of World Vision's 1978 Sponsor Tour to the Orient, May 16 to June 2, 1978. From visiting rooftop schools to children's homes, you'll see and hear what God is doing through the many unique aspects of World Vision's ministries. You'll also be able to celebrate World Vision's 25 years of childcare work in Korea, as well as visit Taiwan, Hong Kong and Hawaii.

For more information, please write Mr. George Hahn, Tour Director, P.O. Box O, Pasadena, California 91109.

World Vision has just released a new film on its childcare ministries. "If I Could Take Your Hand" will lead you through slums, barrios and refugee centers to see needy children around the world.

You'll also see how World Vision, with the help of loving Christians, has been able to feed, clothe and provide medical care for children living in poverty. You'll be challenged in hearing how *you* can make a difference in one child's life through child sponsorship.

The 15-minute film is now available for showing, at no charge. To order, write your nearest World Vision area office, listed on the inside cover of this issue. Please allow two weeks for delivery of the film.

The 1977 World Vision International Annual Report has just been completed and is now available upon request. The report details what countries World Vision is active in, what projects are being supported and through what Christian denominations and agencies funds are being channeled. To receive your copy, at no charge, please write World Vision International, 919 West Huntington Drive, Monrovia, California 91016.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

■ Dr. Kamaleson and Dr. Engstrom as they share in the upcoming **Pastor's Conference in Poona, India**, that the national pastors attending might be blessed and return to their churches refreshed and "recharged."

■ the countryside **evangelistic crusades in Thailand**. Pray that Dr. Mooneyham and other leaders will have continued strength as they minister, and that many in this country might come to know Jesus as Savior.

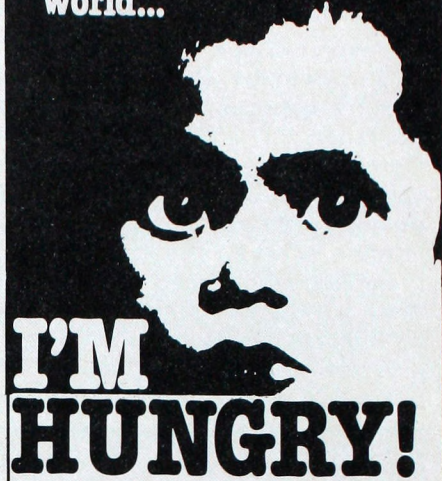
■ residents of flood- and cy-

clone-stricken **Andhra Pradesh, India**, as they begin to rebuild their lives. Pray that many will come to know the Lord as relief goods are distributed in the name of Christ.

■ **Dr. Engstrom**, as he participates in the Relief and Development training conference in Manila, Philippines. Please pray also for all those attending the conference, that they might be spiritually and mentally challenged as they learn more about their roles in community development.

FIRST TIME ON TELEVISION

The cry of a hurting world...



Consult your local listings for time and channel

BATON ROUGE, LA
JANUARY 21

CHEYENNE, WY
JANUARY 22

FT. MYERS, FL
JANUARY 17

MONROE, LA/
EL DORADO, AR
JANUARY 12

PHILADELPHIA, PA
JANUARY 10

ROCKFORD, IL
JANUARY 23

TALLAHASSEE, FL
JANUARY 22

The National Television Special
on World Hunger
Presented by World Vision International

globe at a glance

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN SCENE FOR YOUR
INFORMATION AND INTERCESSION

EVANGELICALS DISCUSS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On November 2, 1977, 40 leaders from various evangelical missionary agencies met near Colorado Springs, Colorado, for a symposium on "The Ministry of Development in the Life of the Church." Sponsored by Development Assistance Services, Inc., and convened by Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, noted theologian and author, the symposium provided an opportunity for evangelicals to discuss the relation between development and missions and churches.

Participants looked at development from a number of perspectives, but there was always an emphasis on keeping a strong priority on the proclamation of the Gospel, while recognizing the validity of ministering to physical needs. Papers from the meeting will be published in book form and made available to the evangelical public.

Africa

NAIROBI, Kenya—Reports have been received here that the purge against Christians in Uganda is continuing. Sources say that perhaps 20 persons have been killed, and between 100 and 400 have been arrested. Most of those involved are Roman Catholic and Anglican businessmen and church officials. There has also been a report that a Canadian Catholic missionary was arrested, imprisoned and later deported.

Europe

MARSEILLE, France—On January 10-12, the North African Mission will hold a seminar on Muslims near this city. Aimed toward Christian professionals who will be working in Muslim countries, the seminar will discuss Muslim beliefs and practices, the current situation in Muslim countries and the presentation of the Gospel to Muslims.

Latin America

PACHUKA, Mexico—At its 1977 meeting here, the World Methodist Council unveiled a four-year plan of global evangelism. The million-dollar program will be a concerted effort to mobilize Methodists around the world for the outreach, and programs will include lay training in evangelism, a world evangelism conference, preaching missions

and media presentations. Earlier this year, an American Methodist leader contended that too many ministers are content with being "keepers of the aquarium," rather than "fishers of men." He implored the church to once again make evangelical outreach an indispensable and ongoing priority in every congregation.

BOGOTA, Colombia—Evangelist Luis Palau recently had a unique opportunity to speak to Government leaders here. Organized by the Evangelical



Confederation of Colombia, the "Banquet of Hope" was attended by Colombian President Dr. Alfonso Lopez Michelsen and 1500 senators and legislators. Dr. Palau presented the Gospel to the gathering and stressed, "The hope for a nation and for individuals is found only in spiritual rebirth through Jesus Christ."

BRASILIA, Brazil—More than 100 American missionaries affiliated with the Wycliffe Bible

Translators' Summer Institute of Linguistics have been asked to leave this country. The group has been extremely successful in translating and reducing to writing the never-before-printed languages of many Indian tribes, but they have been told their work will be taken over by Brazilians.

North America

WHITTIER, California—Although the Bible was the best-selling book in Japan last year, according to the Far East Broadcasting Company here, hundreds of thousands of copies have never been read by their new owners. To counter this trend, FEBC has now begun a 30-minute radio program called "The Bible for You," taught by a well-known Japanese Bible teacher. Christians are urged to start home Bible studies, inviting their friends to listen to the broadcast.

RICHMOND, Virginia—Southern Baptist officials here report that Rhodesia appears to be tightening its restrictions on visas for missionaries. One couple has been denied visas, and Southern Baptist missionaries now on furlough and not holding permanent visas have been told that they must follow additional procedures to be able to return to the country.

The Rev. B. E. Underwood has been named executive director of the Department of World Missions of the Pentecostal Holiness Church. He replaces the Rev. R. L. Rex, who has retired.

Dr. Eugene A. Nida, executive secretary of the Translations Department of the American Bible Society, has been awarded the Alexander Gode Medal of the American Translators Association.



ECHOES AND ETCHINGS

Medellin, Colombia—Medellin, with over a million souls, is the second largest city in the fourth largest country in South America. It has a long axis north and south because the Andean beauty of two mountain ridges offers sturdy resistance to extensive growth east and west. It is a city of orchids and palms, of textile plants and cathedrals, of skyscrapers and pizza parlors, of pure air on the ridges and smog in the huge trough through which the city's life flows back and forth. To add a mundane note jarring enough to make millions of "gringos" envious, the best quality coffee is selling for 60 cents a pound.

Landing at Medellin airport was a little bit like coming home. In the past 17 years we have had five Pastors' Conferences here. With one exception I have had the good fortune to participate in all of them. That one exception would not require noting here but for open-heart surgery in 1973. To stand again within the auditorium-gym made possible by a gift from World Vision brought back a flock of cherished memories.

Our speakers panel has the kind of international and interdenominational balance that is appropriate to the occasion: two Colombians, one Nicaraguan, one East Indian and one North American.

The Nicaraguan—mentioned first because I have known him longer and better than either of the other Latin brothers—is the Rev. Rafael Baltodano, a senior churchman and evangelist who has ministered in every country in Central America. In the years 1973—76 he served with distinction as the General Secretary of the Community of Latin American Ministries. The shorthand for this group is CLAME, which means in fact the national, autonomous churches that have emerged from the work of the United States-based Latin America Mission.

To illustrate the sort of shock treatment that God sometimes uses to shatter the independence and exclusiveness of Protestant groups, Brother Baltodano points to what the terrible 1972 Managua earthquake did to the complacency of Nicaragua evangelicals. On that night of December 23 it required only a few seconds for the quake to hit the capital city with such violence that not a single building of any size was left intact. Through the long night and into the next day the pastors of the city were busy trying to locate and help their

members. They soon discovered that it was impossible to sort out their own members without offering help to the members of other churches. As December 24 was ending, 25 of the pastors met under a tree. Exhausted? Certainly. But also exhilarated. For they had abandoned exclusiveness in favor of mutual assistance.

They prayed together. They took the initial steps toward the formation of CEPAD, a joint venture in mutual assistance in which 38 evangelical groups have been contributing to the material and spiritual aid of the nation's people. In a climate of action that is less competitive and more cooperative, the number of churches has tripled in the past four years, and the 12 new denominations that have entered the country have to work fraternally rather than exclusively.

It was CEPAD, Baltodano has reminded us, that in 1975 organized and conducted a World Vision-sponsored Pastors' Conference in Nicaragua.

We have heard two powerful addresses by the President of the Colombia Confederation of Evangelicals, Dr. Luciano Jaramillo. A onetime Roman Catholic priest, he brings to this presidency an unusual theological competence, a gracious yet urgent Protestant concern and the gifts of an arresting public speaker. I, for one, will long remember his sermon on "Calluses," based on the biblical appeal to Christians not to "harden their hearts." His handling of the insensitivities that too often encrust the souls of the saints was remarkably sobering.

Other speakers are the Rev. Francisco Fiorenza, an Argentine now living in Bogota, Colombia, and our own World Vision Vice-President-at-Large, Dr. Samuel Kamalason. "Dr. Sam," one of India's great gifts to the Christian world, is so multifaceted and multitalented that he is a "conference" in himself. These dear "Colombianos" will never forget his addresses on Christian family life.

True, we have not tackled some of the really substantial issues that are of burning concern to Latin American Christians. But that attack, I suspect, will have to be made in a smaller conference. This one, in its own way, has hit home.

Paul Speer

world vision

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World Vision International
P.O. Box O
Pasadena, California 91109

Nonprofit Organization
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Monrovia, California
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Photograph by Harold M. Lambert

Property gifts can help you and others

Real estate gifts can benefit not only the Lord's work, but you, your spouse, your children and even your grandchildren, if you wish. Bequests of *income*, rather than property, to your loved ones may be more helpful and desirable.

LOCKED IN?

If the increase in your property's value is causing you to pay excessive capital gain taxes, consider giving it under an arrangement that would reduce or even eliminate the taxes altogether. You can do this by deeding the property to World Vision for either immediate or future sale. We have many flexible plans, so one or more can be designed to fit your special needs. Our professional staff will be happy to assist you . . . confidentially and without obligation.

WHAT KINDS OF PROPERTY CAN I GIVE?

RESIDENCES, LOTS and ACREAGES are the most com-

mon property gifts. But high taxes and tough regulations are making FARMS and BUSINESSES prime candidates for planned giving as well.

HOW SHOULD I HANDLE A PROPERTY GIFT?

World Vision's Stewardship ministry offers a wide variety of giving plans: PROPERTY DEED, RESERVED LIFE ESTATE, REVOCABLE TRUST, UNITRUST, MEMORIAL TRUST, CHILDCARE TRUST, GIFT ANNUITY and WILL. We can help you decide on the plan or plans that are best for you.

WHY A PROPERTY GIFT?

It can mean more spendable dollars for you, your family and missions. Arranging it now can save on probate costs, taxes and settlement time. And you'll have the peace of mind of knowing you've planned ahead.

..... please clip and mail today

FOR MORE INFORMATION—

Stewardship Department, World Vision, Inc.
919 West Huntington Drive, Monrovia, California 91016

Please send information on:

- Deeded Property
- Reserved Life Estate
- Revocable Trust
- Unitrust
- Memorial Trust
- Childcare Trust
- Gift Annuity
- Other _____
- Need Will or update—send booklet, "God's Will & My Will"
- Need estate reviewed—send "Confidential Estate Analysis Form"



I understand this service is confidential and without obligation.

Mr. Mrs. Miss _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Single Married Widow(er)

Birthdate _____

Occupation _____

Own: Residence Farm Business

Acreage Lot Stocks Bonds