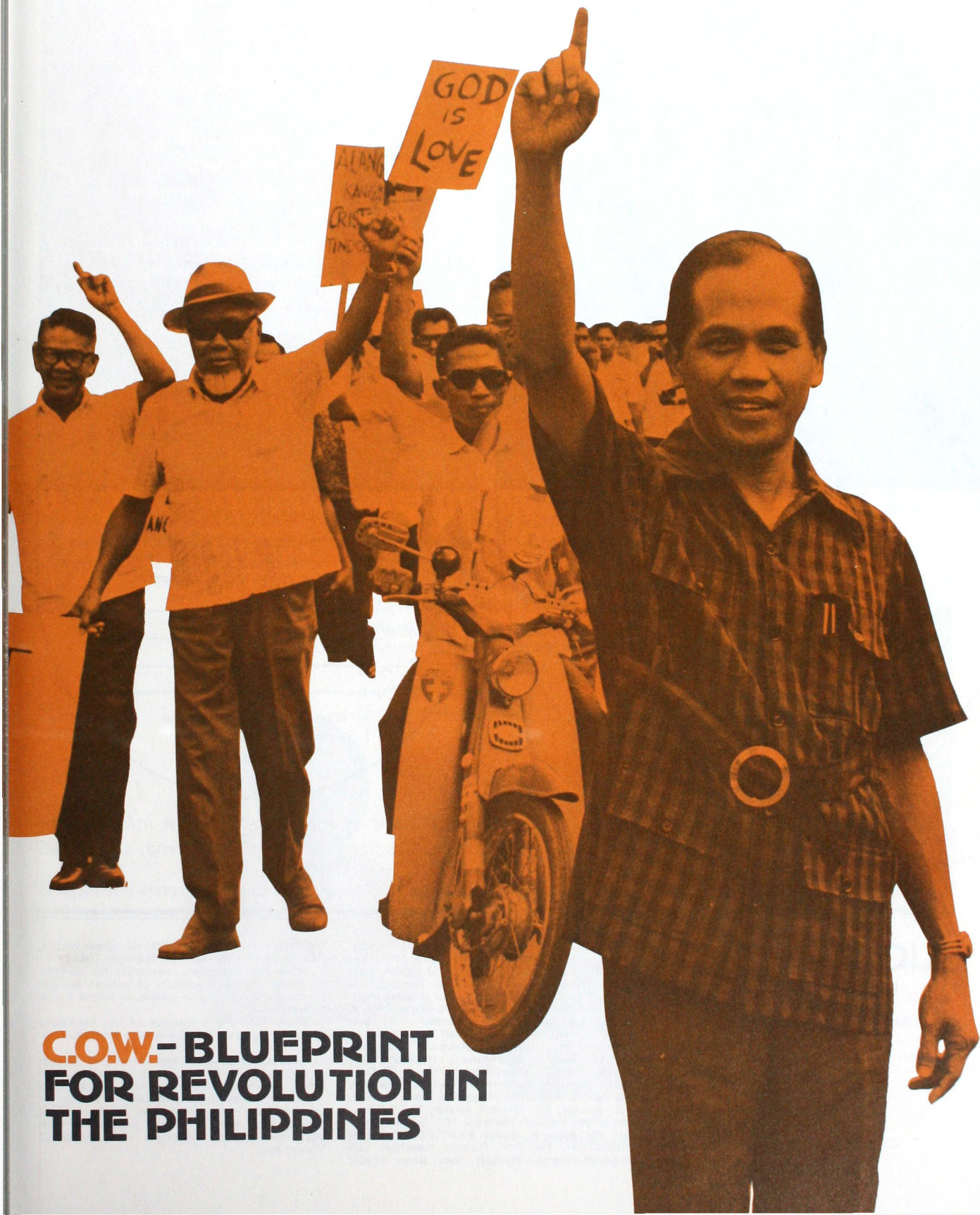


# world vision

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**C.O.W.- BLUEPRINT  
FOR REVOLUTION IN  
THE PHILIPPINES**



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Volume 16, Number 3 / March 1972

Cover Photo: Nene Ramientos leads Christian march (see page 4).

## world vision

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# Your ticket to Tibet

This issue of *World Vision* could well be termed the "by-the-grace-of-God issue." There is of course a sense in which that term applies to every issue of our periodical and indeed to all the issues of life. But this month is something special. If there is not a universal flu epidemic raging its way to the far corners of the world, you could not prove it by our staff. Our ranks were decimated wave on wave in a manner suggestive, on a reduced scale, of a charge up San Juan Hill in the face of withering gunfire. Yet providentially, it seemed each person was struck down at a time which happily fitted into the schedule with regard to his particular assignments, and later when the schedule decreed, he was ready to rise and fight another day. In retrospect, for example, there was something strangely moving in the fadeless spectacle of Ann Baker crawling to her typewriter on hands and knees, of Jean Caldwell draped across her easel, or whatever it is you drape artists across.

While I was taking my own turn in sick bay, I was privileged to finish my reading of William Law's classic, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*. In view of our prayer theme for

this issue, I read with great interest his fine passages on intercessory prayer and was particularly struck by this perceptive exhortation:

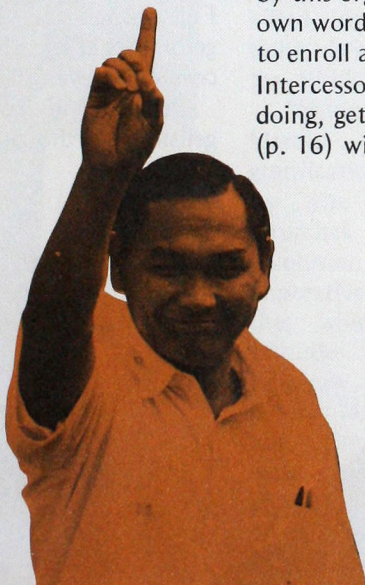
*Be daily, therefore, on your knees in a solemn, deliberate performance of this devotion, praying for others in such forms, with such length, importunity, and earnestness as you use for yourself; and you will find all little ill-natured passions die away, your heart grow great and generous, delighting in the common happiness of others as you used only to delight in your own.*

If any reader is at a loss for items to fill out his intercessory prayer list, he has but to look at the concluding article in Faris Whitesell's three-part series on prayer and missions (p. 14). If there is any doubt as to the intensity of current need, a look at Stanley Mooneyham's plea for prayer support for his forthcoming Asian evangelistic crusades should suffice (p. 8). If there is any question as to the degree of importance World Vision International places upon prayer, one need but turn to page 16 for news of one of the most significant ministries ever launched by this organization. Let me add my own word of encouragement to you to enroll as an "International Intercessor." And in so doing, get acquainted (p. 16) with the other

Frank in our organization—Uncle Frank—not to be confused with me (I think/hope I'm as yet more in the Nephew Frank bracket).

And, toward your enrolling, let me remind you of Pascal's first answer to the question as to why God established prayer. It was in order, he said, to communicate to His creatures the dignity of causality, — that is, to give us a taste of what it is to be a creator, within His Holy Will. With this power you will not only linger in the lanes of Bethlehem and sit by the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, but more—you will walk the streets of Paris and Peking, you will probe the hinterlands of the Amazon, push to the upper reaches of the Nile and also into the villages of Tibet. You will walk the high roads of this planet through this highest of privileges, a calling exalted, nay sublime, beside which other callings will pale. For here is to be found a life lived in a profound harmony, for its perspective is celestial.

*Frank E. Farrell*



*Blueprint for Revolution in the Philippines*  
Page 4



*In Cambodia and the Philippines: "I feel intensely the need for the prayers of God's people."* Page 8



*Hunger Knows No Generation Gap*  
Page 12

**L**ast year, Dinah Genotiva was the leader of a radical leftist youth movement on the Philippine island of Leyte. Today, she is coordinator of the World Vision evangelistic crusade scheduled to begin the last week of March in the island's leading city of Tacloban.

Three years ago, Colonel Damazo of the Philippine army was known in his community primarily for his ability to consume alcoholic beverages. Today, he is talked about for his dynamic witness for Christ and the life-changing power of the gospel seen in his life. Through his influence, more than 70 families have been reached for Christ.

Elsie Lagado suffered a crippling attack of polio before her first birthday. As she grew older, she fought her handicap with brutal self-discipline, developing a temperamental and impatient life-style seeded with bitterness. She had few friends. Today she is leader of a Christian youth group in Tacloban City. Her smile captivates those with whom she shares the new dynamic that has come into her life removing bitterness and generating new attitudes toward herself and those around her.

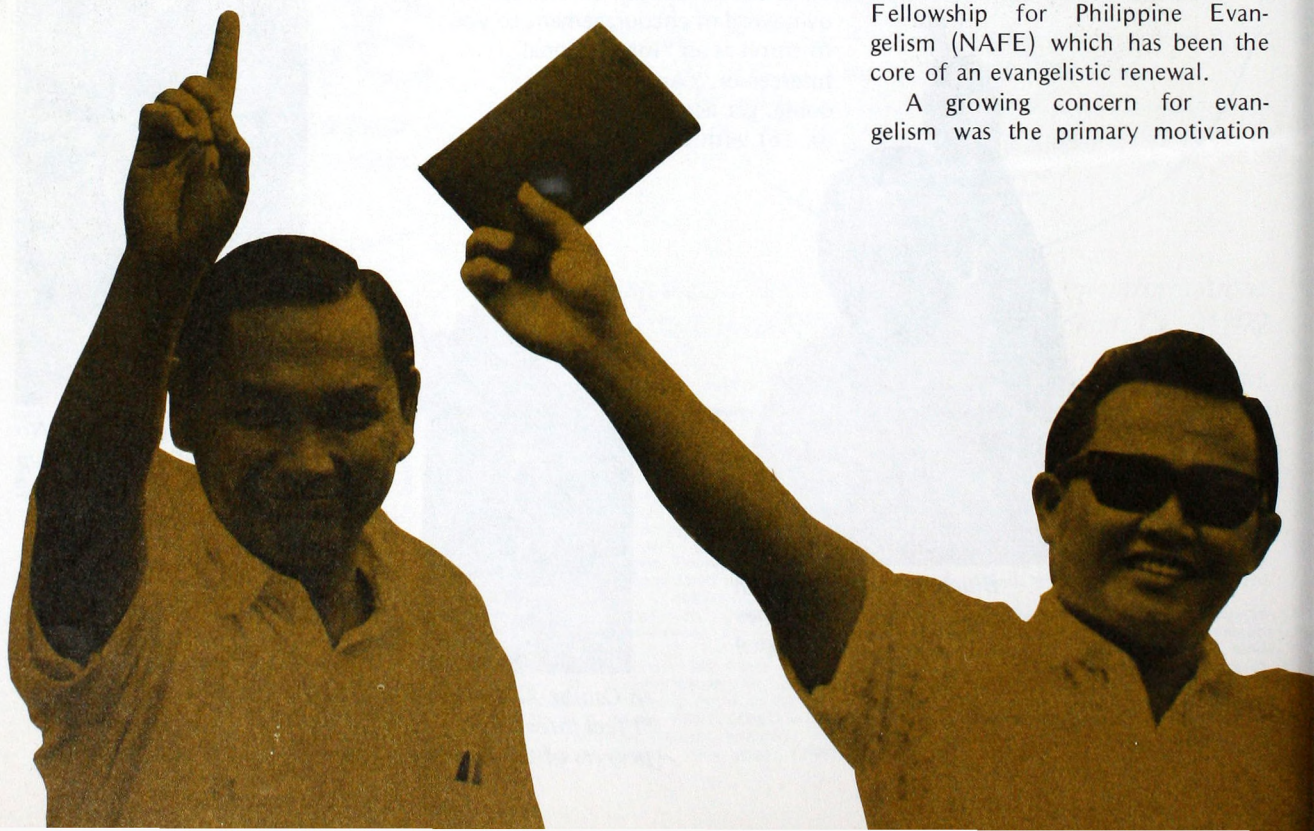
What is happening in the Philippines where a nation vibrates today with the prospect of a new kind of revolution? Throughout the 65 provinces, evidence is found of a fresh working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of people as lives are being radically changed by the

gospel of Jesus Christ.

The rock music recording "Jesus Christ Superstar" became an overnight sensation in the Philippines just as in North America. Unfortunately, the music leaves unanswered the basic question of who Jesus Christ really is. Fortunately, a dynamic group of Filipino evangelicals are taking advantage of the openness of the hour to declare to their countrymen that "Jesus Christ is the only Way."

This activist Christian movement, popularly referred to as COW (Christ Only Way), began in the hearts of Philippine delegates to the Berlin Congress on Evangelism in 1966. The vision of an in-depth evangelism campaign for the Philippines was further nurtured by the Asia/South Pacific Congress on Evangelism in Singapore in 1968. Filipino delegates to these two congresses formed the National Fellowship for Philippine Evangelism (NAFE) which has been the core of an evangelistic renewal.

A growing concern for evangelism was the primary motivation



# C.O.W.-BLUEPRINT FOR REVOLUTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

by Jerry Ballard

Director of Communications—World Vision

of the All Philippines Congress on Evangelism in 1970. More than 500 delegates and observers from all 56 Protestant denominations and organizations in the Philippines met at Cainta, Rizal, for nine days of prayer, study and discussion of the evangelistic challenge of their native land.

The fact that the Philippines is

considered the most Christian nation in Asia can be misleading, according to Philippine evangelicals. COW leaders say that less than five percent of the nation's 37 million inhabitants are classified evangelical Protestants. Nene Ramientos, COW chairman, suggests, "As to how many of these are true believers in Christ is a matter only God ultimately knows. Although by the standards Christ set, such as knowing one by his fruits, perhaps not many of the one and a half million evangelical Protestants in the Philippines can be called born-again children of God."

The Republic of the Philippines today, like most countries of the world, is a nation engulfed in revolutionary change. Sometimes the revolution takes on violent characteristics. During last year's election campaign, the bloodiest in the nation's history, 200 people were killed including political assassinations, bringing the government to the brink of declaring martial law.

Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, in expressing his personal gratification for the "initiative taken by the Philippine evangelical churches in promoting spiritual revolution," said: "One of the imperatives of national reform is that which would transform the attitudes and the very spirit of the Filipinos, such that there will be a perceptible spiritual revolution in our country. This is one of the main concerns of the government, and should be the concern as well of all people of goodwill in this

country. . . . It is my hope that the Christ the Only Way movement will help pave the way for this transformation of our people."

This is the goal of the COW movement. . . transformation of people through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. "There's hope for us," COW leaders proposed, "when we start loving each other. This is possible only in Christ."

Ramientos suggests that the



movement "is probably the only COW that moves in cycles." The movement is now in the second year of a carefully planned series of 12-month cycles of activities designed to "mobilize the total manpower and resources of the Christian community to communicate the gospel by word and deed to the totality of the non-Christian community."

To help COW move, its mentors created LEGS, a program of Lay Evangelistic Group Studies based on the cell group concept. COW's goal is to have 10,000 LEGS operational by March 1973.

This seems to be the strength of COW... the movement's ability to harness laymen power in aggressive gospel witness. Throughout the island nation, people are sharing this faith with a new sense of priority for the evangelistic mission of the Church. A series of 17 congresses


were held last year to launch COW activity at the local level throughout the country.

The schedule for 1972 emphasizes *visitation evangelism* during January and February, *outdoor evangelism* during March and April, *youth ministries* during May and June, *literature evangelism* during July and August, *village evangelism* during September and October and *social concerns* during November and December. COW strategy includes a national evangelistic crusade in 1973 with intensification of its LEGS program.

The COW movement is an indigenous program in that it sprang up in the hearts of Christian Philippine nationals. But it has increasingly been receiving the endorsement and support of the Protestant missionary force in the islands. A significant number of the North American Protestant missionary agencies and their 1200 missionaries have accepted their shares of the opportunity COW presents.

The COW blueprint is based on four presuppositions:

- (1) Abundant sowing results in abundant reaping.
- (2) Christians can and must work together.
- (3) When Christians pool resources together, God multiplies them.
- (4) A minority can have impact on an entire nation.

As an entire nation is moved by the power of the Holy Spirit working through a dedicated, militant minority, the COW blueprint will be vindicated. 

*Joy Webb, a Crusade singer, and Christian marchers—two approaches to evangelism in the Philippines.*



## WORLD VISION IN THE PHILIPPINES

World Vision involvement in the Philippines goes back to 1955 when the first pastors' conference was held in Manila. Today—nine pastors' conferences later—the World Vision ministry to the Philippine peoples has expanded to include childcare projects, prison evangelism, and support of the "Christ Only Way" program.

A special Mission-Project-of-the-Month grant, support of a COW district leader, and financial assistance for evangelistic crusades late this month are ways in which World Vision has shown its intense interest in the COW country-wide saturation evangelism efforts.

In the relief area, World Vision has assigned staffer Mel Van Peurse to the Philippines to survey areas of greatest need with the possibility of further assistance to the people of the Philippines through emergency aid and self-help projects in view.

The World Vision ministries in the Philippines and 21 other countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America are made possible through the continuing gifts of concerned individuals and groups in the United States, Canada and Australia. Your gift this month is urgently needed to enable World Vision to respond to major needs around the world. An envelope is provided in this issue for your convenience.

# facts of a field

Compiled by MARC, a division of World Vision International

## VITAL STATISTICS

**Capital:** Quezon City.  
**Area:** 115,700 square miles consisting of over 7000 islands.  
**Population:** 36.9 million (1970 census), sixth largest in Asia.  
**Population Growth Rate:** 3.1 to 3.5 percent annually; one of the world's highest.  
**Population Density:** 309 persons per square mile average. Eleven islands have 96 percent of the people.  
**Urbanization:** Up to 30 percent may be loosely classed as urban.  
**Languages:** Ten regional languages; three major ones: Cebuano, Tagalog, Ilocano. Tagalog, English and Spanish are the official languages.  
**Economy:** Over half of labor force is in agriculture. Per capita gross national product: U.S. \$180.  
**Government:** Republic with elected president, two-house legislature and separate judiciary.  
**History:** Occupied by Spain, 1521-1898; under American control, 1898-1941; independence, 1946 to present.  
**Religion:** about 80-85 percent Roman Catholic; 3-5 percent Protestant; 5 percent Philippine Independent Church; 5 percent Muslim.



Churches and missions in the Philippines are engaged in a variety of ministries, with significant programs in broadcasting, evangelism, education, and social concern. Filipino Christians have gone as missionaries not only to remote areas of their own nation but to other countries as well. These missionaries have been sponsored by both denominational and independent churches and societies. Filipino missionaries are ministering in various nations of Asia including Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, New Guinea and Japan.

**Foreign Missions:** Roman Catholic missionary work dates back to the mid-sixteenth century. Protestant missionaries came to the Philippines at the very end of the nineteenth century. The earliest included Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists. In 1969 over 60 North American Protestant mission agencies reported ministries in the Philippines with a total staff of over 1300 missionaries.

By far, the largest Protestant mission agency is Wycliffe Bible Translators. This organization is primarily engaged in Bible translation among primitive tribes, mainly in northern Luzon, on Palawan and on Mindanao. Other large missions include the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Far Eastern Gospel Crusade. Many missions (and denominations) have their ministries concentrated in specific areas of the country while some are active throughout the nation.

**Status of Christianity:** The Philippines is one of the few "Christian" nations of Asia. As a result of almost 400 years of Spanish rule, most of the Filipino people identify with the Roman Catholic Church. There is freedom of worship and Christian activity in most of the country, a strong and growing indigenous church, and diverse missionary activities. Many churches are self-supporting and some have sent missionaries to other Asian nations.

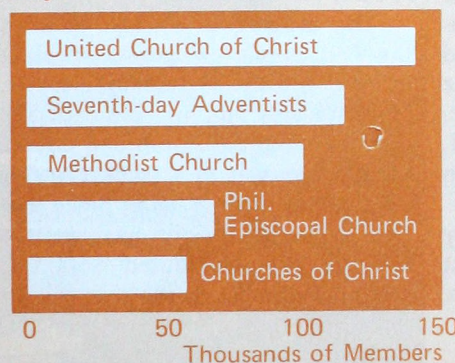
Certain peoples have been resistant to Christian witness. These include the over one and one-half million Muslims living mainly in the southern islands, and some of the tribes living in mountainous areas.

**National Churches:** The Roman Catholic Church is the oldest and largest Christian church in the Philippines, and claims a constituency of between 26 and 30 million people. The Aglipayan, a break-off from the Roman Catholic Church, has a

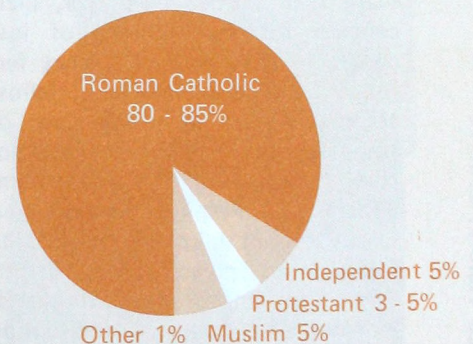
membership of almost two million.

The largest Protestant denomination is the United Church of Christ in the Philippines which was formed in 1948 from a merger of three denominations plus individual congregations. Membership is over 146,000, with more than 2000 national pastors and workers. Other large Protestant bodies include Seventh-day Adventists, United Methodists, Churches of Christ, Evangelical Methodists, and combined Baptist groups.

## Major Protestant Churches



## Religious Affiliations



# “I feel intensely the need for the prayers of God’s people.”

In Tacloban City the main plaza is reserved. In Zamboanga the all-city choir is practicing. Printers in Phnom Penh are rolling out the red and green posters and handbills.

In the two Philippine cities and in the capital city of Cambodia, Christians are meeting daily in small groups to pray for the strengthening of the Church and the salvation of their neighbors and countrymen.

## Special Prayer Needed

Specifically they pray about the four days of the forthcoming Crusade—four days when months of planning and prayer will climax in city-wide evangelistic meetings. The small groups are also praying that Christians around the world will share their burden of prayer, their concern for the millions of lost people in their countries. They fervently intercede for their fellow countrymen asking in the name of Jesus for the freedom to proclaim Him and His new life. These Cambodian and Filipino brothers and sisters do not take for granted the freedom to preach Jesus Christ. They have known opposition and, in some cases, physical persecution because of their faith.

As these Christians meet, they uphold Stan Mooneyham, evangelist and president of World Vision,

asking God to speak through him during the three crusades. They also pray for the ministry in music through the Danniebells, a San Francisco Bay Area singing group which is to accompany Dr. Mooneyham.

The Philippine city-wide meetings are part of the nationwide Christ the Only Way saturation evangelism movement. Dr. Mooneyham points out that Zamboanga and Tacloban City are not on the usual evangelistic crusade schedule. Visiting speakers seldom travel that far. Zamboanga, on the island of Leyte, has recently been the scene of civil and religious strife with particular opposition from the Muslim population.

## A First for Cambodia

The crusade in Phnom Penh is the *first* public evangelistic meeting in the history of Cambodia. Dr. Mooneyham's initial trip to the country after the war broke out 22 months ago was in a truck carrying relief goods from Saigon. Since that time, World Vision has assisted refugees and distributed \$500,000 worth of supplies in the country. At

the request of the Cambodian government, World Vision is building a hospital on government-supplied land. When completed, the hospital, to be run by the Christian and Missionary Alliance, will be the *first* Christian institution in the country. The Cambodian church, which has gone through a period of opposition and persecution, is eager to take the opportunities for service and witness that are now open.

We asked Stan Mooneyham to share his personal burden for the late March and April crusades. Dr. Mooneyham, who coordinated the 1966 Berlin Congress on Evangelism and the 1968 Asia/South Pacific Congress on Evangelism, is deeply concerned that evangelism be the church's (and World Vision's) foremost commitment. "There is a tremendous opportunity in these crusades to win individuals to Jesus Christ and to build the Church," Dr. Mooneyham shared. "Yet there are also dangers. As I view the possibilities and responsibilities, I am again reminded of how weak I am, how weak all of us are without Jesus. I feel intensely the need for the prayers, the support, of God's people."

## Battleground for Satan

A tremendous opportunity to tell people about Jesus Christ does not open without Satan's opposition. The Philippine church knows this, and so do the Cambodian Christians.

"These meetings are the first crusades World Vision has participated in since the 1961 Tokyo Christian Crusade," Dr. Mooneyham relates. "During those first World Vision crusades in the fifties and early sixties, the World Vision family joined with overseas Christians in prayer for the evangelism efforts."

Dr. Mooneyham paused and added, "How much it would mean, not only to myself, but to the Philippine and Cambodian Christians to know that brothers and sisters in the United States were joining with us in one spirit to pray that Jesus



Christ will be made known to many through these crusades."

The Philippine and Cambodian Christians have set aside a time when they meet together in small groups to pray for the meetings. Perhaps you and a friend or a member of your family could establish a regular time when you meet and pray specifically for the crusades. Or just by yourself take a few minutes each day to intercede before God for the people of Zamboanga, Tacloban City and Phnom Penh.

Join with the World Vision staff, Dr. Mooneyham, the Danniebelles and the Christians of Cambodia and the Philippines in a promise to make these crusades a daily matter of prayer.

Below are the specific details of each crusade to help you in your prayer support and intercession.

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### ZAMBOANGA CRUSADE

March 27 thru April 3

—Island of Leyte, the Philippines.

—Main meetings to be held in the band shell at the high school.

—A week before the crusade morning prayer watches will be held in each church in the city between five and six in the morning.

*The Philippines and Cambodia will be the scene of three evangelistic crusades.*

### TACLOBAN CITY CRUSADE

April 4 thru 10

—Island of Leyte. This area was hit in January by the worst typhoon in 30 years. People are still homeless and in need.

—Major meetings will be held in the main city square, Plaza Rizal.

—A leader in the Philippines evangelism program wrote in a recent letter detailing plans for the crusade, "Rejoice with us in what God is doing in Tacloban City for the Crusade."

### PHNOM PENH CRUSADE

April 13 thru 17

—Capital city of Cambodia.

—This country has experienced war and destruction for nearly two years and was formerly closed to missionaries, and the church was restricted in its activities. A World Vision liaison man for the crusade wrote recently, "I am really excited about the possibility and believe that the crusade will be a great time of sowing and reaping."

—Main meeting to be held in the National Theater.

### JOIN US IN PRAYING SPECIFICALLY FOR THESE THREE CRUSADES. . .

- the people involved in planning as they arrange publicity and take care of last minute details.
- travel safety for Dr. Mooneyham and the team.
- the training of counselors to do personal work during the crusades.
- the follow-up preparation which will insure that people responding

to the invitation will be nurtured and taught.


→ Dr. Mooneyham as he prepares his messages and as he speaks.

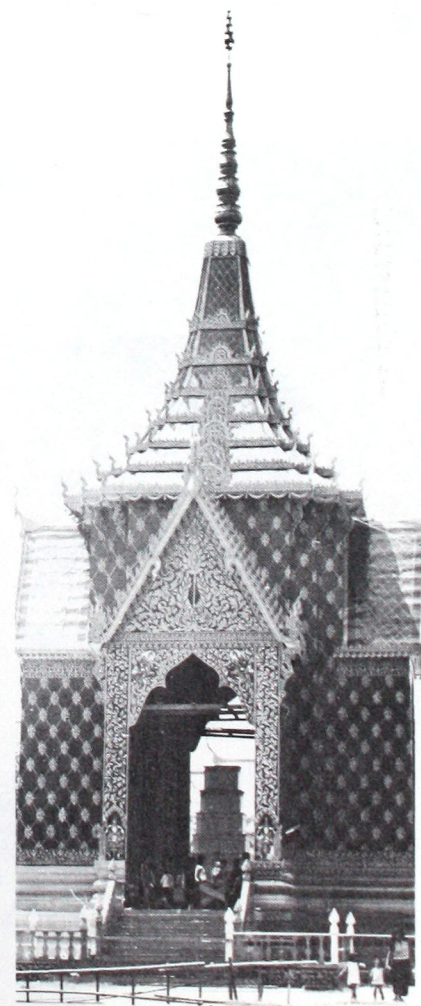
→ the Danniebelles as they sing and witness; they will have opportunities to sing at various community functions, radio programs, schools, factories and government offices.

→ the government and community leaders who will be contacted. In Zamboanga a breakfast with city officials is planned before the crusade; a special section is being set aside in the National Theater in Phnom Penh for invited guests.

→ the growth of the Church as Christians work together to reach their community with the message of Jesus Christ.

→ the freedom of the Spirit of God to touch hearts, break down barriers and bring men to God.

→ praise to God for the opening and opportunity He has provided. 



# For 17 years Mrs. Ethel Miller has had an addiction to drugs,

but an external one. Unlike the habits common today, Mrs. Miller's addiction has brought healing and help to thousands of people around the world. At times her house has been covered from living room to basement with various drugs and medical supplies destined to be used in Christian hospitals in Africa and Asia.

What began as a question in Mrs. Miller's mind after a meeting has grown into Medical Supplies for Missions, Inc., headquartered in Tacoma, Washington. The work of collection and sorting has moved from Mrs. Miller's own house to larger quarters. Today volunteers work in an 1800 square foot abandoned store on K Street.

**T**he idea for the work came during a meeting in 1955 when Mrs. Miller heard a Christian psychologist say that there were many things that could be done for medical missions in addition to prayer and giving money. Mrs. Miller wanted to know just what he had in mind. As an example, he told her of a hospital in India which was in need of surgical instruments. Mrs. Miller's first reaction was "that's expensive." But later she wondered if doctors got an overabundance of such instruments in the same way a housewife gets too many kitchen utensils.

She called two doctors she knew well. Yes, they both had equipment they would be happy to donate. A nurse who had worked in India suggested, "Why don't you ask for sample medicines? These accumulate



Mrs. Miller (above)  
and the MSFM  
staff (right) at work



and doctors, in time, have to throw them away.

The women of the Inez F. Weyer Guild at Mrs. Miller's church decided to see what they could gather from local doctors. Mrs. Miller headed the project.

"It sounded so easy," Mrs. Miller recalls. "We launched out never thinking of one obstacle."

It turned out there were many obstacles. Despite total despair several times, Mrs. Miller kept at it. And when the answers and help came, Mrs. Miller wondered why she had been so slow in seeing it. She often wondered why God had chosen her for the job. She had no education and certainly was not a public speaker.

Then she realized, "God wanted the program to be His own. I could go around worrying and trying to do it myself and never get anywhere. But when I asked Him, knowing I could do nothing—defeated by self—God gave the wisdom which was clear, plain and so simple all I had to do was follow His instructions."

"So many, many times I needed a person with particular experience, and each time God answered my innermost cries with one of His soldiers just waiting to step in and take over a particular task. MSFM has done far more for me than I have done for MSFM," Mrs. Miller states.

**T**he collecting, sorting, labeling and packaging of the medical supplies for overseas shipment was a huge job. As the women began to run into some of the obstacles, one lady suggested that they just take up a money collection and buy medicine. However a Christian druggist quickly changed their minds. He walked around the tables with the drugs laid out for sorting, estimating their worth. He gently told the women, "You have \$10,000 worth of wholesale drugs here. How long would it take for you to get \$10,000 from your group?" Mrs. Miller recalls, "That really reached home to us. We worked with a new joy."

Over the years God has led many people to donate, not only medical supplies and drugs, but also hours of their time.

Last year Donald C. Peterson, a retired Army colonel, felt led to accept the presidency of Medical Supplies for Missions. Mrs. Miller now serves as executive director emeritus.

Chairman of the MSFM board of directors, C. Davis Weyerhauser, reports that as of September 1971 the group of dedicated men and women has put together 778 250-pound wooden crates, plus many cartons of drugs and supplies with a wholesale value of two million dollars. More than 60,000 hours (nearly 30 man-years) of volunteer service have been donated. For every 3.8 cents of cash expense MSFM has placed one dollar's worth of supplies overseas.

Most of the crates are shipped through World Vision International to hospitals in Africa and Asia. The Presbyterian Hospital in Taegu, Korea has received the largest quantity of goods.

MSFM operates almost entirely on surplus drug samples from physicians and hospitals plus a few donations from manufacturers and distributors of pharmaceutical products. Approximately one-half of

the supplies received in 1971 came from Oregon. Pickup was organized and made by the various County Chapters of the Women's Auxiliaries of the American Medical Association. In the local Tacoma area three retired businessmen collect the surplus medical samples from physicians' offices on the third Monday of each month.

**S**eventeen years ago Mrs. Miller told the Lord she would say "yes" to anything He asked her to do. Today Mrs. Miller is still saying "yes" to God. She has been joined by others who have said "yes" to Him. Mr. John C. Potts, Sr., who is 87, still works half a day, four days a week, cleaning, sweeping and sorting tablets and capsules. Mr. Potts has recorded more volunteer work hours than any other individual in 1971. He was the first man to pick up supplies from physicians' offices many years ago and is still remembered for his sweet personality.

Mrs. Miller talks about the many retired, older women who volunteer their time. "They are often people

with heavy burdens. Tired but keeping on, sad and lonesome, but tears of joy come to them to be able to do this gathering of the fragments that nothing be lost. They believe that if they do 'it unto the least of these my brethren' they are doing it unto the Lord."

With the volunteer help and an ever-increasing challenge, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Peterson are both anxious to see the work expand.

"Millions of dollars worth of medications are being discarded in this country each year," Mrs. Miller says. "The theme verse of MSFM, John 6:12, tells us to 'gather up the fragments that remain that nothing be lost.' I can see this small local project enlarged to a national venture."

Ethel Miller continues, "God has surely done great things for us in the past. And in faith we look to Him to supply our need at MSFM for greater quantities of medical supplies, personnel and finances to carry out a larger task for His glory."

Mrs. Miller is still saying "yes" to God and expecting Him to supply.



## Who cares about statistics?

There is nothing new about statistics on world need. In fact, there is nothing new about their not being new. Our wonderful numbers have lost their magic.

When you try to tell people about world need, they look away or mumble something like "tragic." With desperate embarrassment, they may change the subject to Segal's *Love Story*.

But the statistics remain. You can find them in any library. Demographers' warnings are lost among the dusty volumes, but they are there nonetheless.

And for every misplaced statistic, there is a suffering individual. The numbers can be ignored, but we cannot forget the people. Christ died for them. He loves them. And Christians in turn must serve them.

The response to our first poster has been most gratifying. On the following two pages is another 11 x 17 color visual aid. We know you are concerned about the needy thousands who make up the statistics, and we hope the poster will help you express your feelings.







hunger knows  
no generation gap

# THE ESSENTIAL LINK: PRAYER & MISSIONS

**H**ave you ever promised yourself and the Lord that you would pray faithfully for missions, and then as time slipped by, you found that you were forgetting them? Most of us tend to forget, and it is a tragic situation. If we could poll evangelical missionaries, prayer would certainly rank at the top of their lists of things people "back home" could do for them.

Just as Moses needed Aaron and Hur to stand beside him and hold his weary hands up toward God until Joshua won the battle over the Amalekites, we believers need help to keep our souls uplifted in prayer for missions until the battle against Satan, sin, ignorance and death is won. In spite of increasing tensions and pressures in America, Christians have more time to pray than any other generation. Shorter working hours, more holidays and longer vacations, labor-saving devices, and earlier retirement contribute to this abundance of leisure time. Yet we do not find time to pray. What is the matter with us? We must admit to a lack of desire, a decline of spiritual fervor, and a backsliding heart.

Most of us cannot go overseas to serve the Lord, and often we are not able to give as much financial support as we would like, but the throne of grace is open to our petitions. The missionaries are our representatives in other lands. Let us learn to take advantage of our prayer opportunities on their behalf.

Missionaries need our prayers for many reasons. Consider loneliness, new languages to learn, a different culture to absorb, unfamiliar food and ways to dress, a different climate, unusual diseases to face, and friends to make. Then too, missionaries must learn to live on

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low salaries and contend with the competition of religions they have never before faced. And Satan is always there to discourage, depress, confuse and resist them.

We should not only pray for the missionaries but for the mission boards and societies. They must select qualified missionary personnel, send them to appropriate fields and raise their support. The agencies must also deal with foreign governments, maintain hospitals, schools, printing presses, radio stations, and administer the entire program.

Then we need to pray for the national workers. This personnel can do much for their own people if they have the training, support, and encouragement. And, they will be able to remain with the ministry when foreigners go home.

In lands like Burma, where missionaries have been ordered out, the whole enterprise is in the hands of the national workers. And in mainland China, where decades of faithful missionary work has been done, the survival of Christianity has depended, by and large, on the underground activity of local Chinese believers. Christian radio can reach into these closed fields and some Christian literature can trickle in, but the solid task of living the Christian life and winning others is in the hands of nationals. How much they need our prayers! Along with prayer for national workers, we should pray for rulers, political leaders, and the flow of political events. Freedom of religion and new doors opened for the entrance of the preachers of the glad tidings could be the result of our prayers.

There are two ways to pray for missions—generally and specifically. One can pray by impulse for whatever comes into his mind. This method will help but often is too subjective and leaves out too many needs. It is far better to pray specifically. A prayer list, or prayer book will help. Listing our prayer objectives alphabetically is also an aid.

We should pray for missionaries by name. Some mission boards send out prayer helps, listing all missionaries and stations. Intercessors can pray for each

item on the list in a month. Too, we should know the different fields of our particular denomination, the fields of other denominations, and "faith boards" which interest us. We can pray for these fields from time to time, and especially when disasters strike, such as Peru's earthquake, India's cyclones and floods, and Africa's civil wars and bloodshed.

We could well give time to pray for the nations of the world. There are approximately 142 nations in the world with their own governments. All these countries and their people need our prayers. Check the 1972 World Almanac for an alphabetical list with accompanying vital data about each nation.

And we should pray particularly for the great non-Christian nations and their peoples. China has 800 million people, India has 523 million, Russia has 242 million, Japan has 104 million and Indonesia has 121 million. Nearly half the population of the world is in utter darkness. David Livingstone died on his knees praying for Africa. We should be in prayer for the lost of these non-Christian nations. John Knox prayed, "Give me Scotland, or I die." Do we, like Knox, believe that prayer can reach a nation?

Believers should form prayer partnerships or cell groups to pray for missions, and thus encourage one another and add to the prayer power. Churches should

run the name of one or more missionaries in the bulletin every Sunday as the object of prayer for that week. Midweek church services should feature one service every month or six weeks to pray for missionaries from the home church and for the spiritual needs of the world. One of the objectives of church groups getting together should be prayer for missions.

Denominational and interdenominational conferences, conventions, and synods, should have a place on the program to pray for the missionary enterprise. Christian training schools, colleges, seminaries should have special days of prayer for missions.

One of the most effective prayer warriors known to the writer is a black lady living in an Indiana city. She is known far and wide across the nation, and outside of it, for her power in prayer. Living alone, she takes telephone and mail prayer requests from pastors, evangelists, missionaries and laymen. She gives full time to Bible study, meditation and prayer. She could be performing one of the greatest ministries of our day. Who follows in her train?



## PART III: IN PRACTICE TODAY



# Here is a vital opportunity to reach suffering people effectively - with your prayers.

Everywhere I go Christian people share a confidential concern that they are dissatisfied with their prayer life. If you are one of these, I believe the new ministry of World Vision called "International Intercessors" will prepare you for more effective prayer. This program is a fellowship of Christians worldwide who sense the need for a more satisfying prayer life, and want to covenant to supplement their regular prayers with special petitions for suffering peoples of other countries.

Two factors indicate to me that it is especially timely to launch this ministry: (1) We are seeing an increase in the number of people affected by disasters. These days could be the times prophesied by our Lord in the Olivet Discourse. (2) I also sense that the prayer life of many Christians is at a low ebb and in need of encouragement and challenge.

World Vision has active projects in 25 countries and contacts in many others. We receive frequent reports from national Christian leaders. The requests come, "Please pray for us."

We will be encouraging you to do three things:

(1) Pray for the relief of suffering people in disaster areas and for their spiritual salvation;

(2) Study the biblical prayer helps that we send you and seek to apply them in your own prayer life; and

(3) Seek to enroll others as International Intercessors to join in prayer.

We will provide you with the following tools:

(1) *World Vision* magazine each month without charge, to be used as your regular, international prayer bulletin;

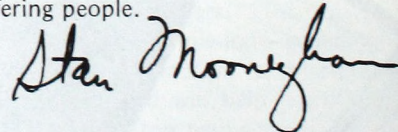
(2) Reports on the international scene from outstanding national

leaders, supplemented by special reports during emergencies; and

(3) Biblical prayer helps designed to assist you in having a more satisfying prayer life.

"Uncle Frank" Ineson (see Personality Profile, page 17) will be directing the development of this ministry as a part of World Vision Associates. I can personally commend "Uncle Frank" to you and urge you to enroll today as an International Intercessor.

Please note: this is a fellowship with no fees and no dues. It is a "partnership of concern" for suffering people.



I would like to enroll as an International Intercessor.

Please send me more information on International Intercessors.

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_

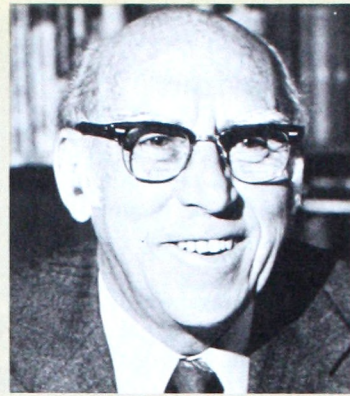
state \_\_\_\_\_

zip \_\_\_\_\_

"Uncle Frank" Ineson  
World Vision International Intercessors  
Box O, Pasadena, California 91109







"Uncle Frank" Ineson

## "The Garment Maker"

"I'm sorry, sir, but there are no vacancies. It is the Fourth of July camp! We've been booked for over a year!"

"Please... just check. There must be *someplace* I can sleep."

The registrar at Pinebrook, a Christian camp in Pennsylvania, reluctantly checked his cards, and looked up in surprise. "Why there was a cancellation. I didn't know that! All right... follow those young people down the trail. The last cabin on the right will have an empty bunk."

### "God's Coincidences"

Today Frank Ineson refers to that experience as "one of God's coincidences." After years of believing that Jesus' life ended at the cross, Ineson met the living Christ that weekend at the age of 47 years.

Two months later, he left for an assignment as economic advisor to the Japanese government on General MacArthur's staff. In June 1950, Dr. Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision International, showed his first film, "China Challenge," in Tokyo. The movie was Ineson's mission challenge and the beginning of a 20-year association with World Vision. The following year, Frank accepted the position of business manager for Youth for Christ in Japan.

A revival among the missionaries of Japan took place in 1953. Ineson remembers the time as a "personal revival." The missionaries spent days in prayer, confessing and submitting to one another. "We were getting

our horizontal relationships cleared up to open the door to vertical relationships," Ineson further recalls. It was a period of preparation for effective prayer: "We cannot pray for others when we aren't right ourselves."

During this revival, the "Uncle Frank" image was born. Laboring with his wife Katherine ("She always has a sweet spirit"), Ineson counseled the missionaries as they sought to renew their faith and strengthen their prayer life. He taught them to pray effectively individually and collectively for more satisfaction. They learned to be of "one accord."

In 1955, the Inesons accepted a call to a Christian radio station in Hawaii for two and one-half years. This experience led to two years with the Far East Broadcasting Company on Okinawa during the construction of the powerful station for broadcast to mainland China. Ineson considers this a partial fulfillment of his personal "China challenge."

### Another World Vision Association

The year 1962 found the Inesons in Brazil under the Go-Ye Fellowship. Frank studied the radio situation and then assumed direction of Missionary Information Bureau. His studies led to a cooperative arrangement with MARC, Missions Advanced Research and Communication Center of World Vision. During the last two years, Frank has been working at the MARC headquarters in Monrovia, California.


Now in "retirement," the Ine-

sons are entering a new ministry—new to World Vision, but not new to the Inesons. As director of the recently established International Intercessors (see page 16), "Uncle Frank" will assist Christians internationally as they seek a more satisfying prayer life. As he recalls the Olivet Discourse, and as he observes Christian prayer life at a low point in Church history, Ineson feels a sense of urgency.

Special attention will be given in the new ministry to prayer for suffering people worldwide. "Uncle Frank" feels that World Vision's emphasis on prayer for China is a continuing phase of his own China interest.

### Missionary "Helper"

After 20 years of full-time Christian service, "Uncle Frank" Ineson sums up his ministry with: "I view my ministry as a fulfillment of the Exodus commandment to 'make garments for Aaron and his sons that they might minister to the Lord in the priest's office.' I am a helper, not a 'missionary.' A missionary, by definition, is a messenger. I aid the messengers."

"God's coincidences" have resulted in an effectual, vital ministry of "helping" missionaries. The 1953 revival in Japan marked the beginning of "Uncle Frank's" ministry among mission colleagues. Recently he stated, "For 20 years, I have been 'making garments' for the missionaries. Now God seems to be opening a door of opportunity to extend this ministry of counseling to Christians all over the world." 

## WORLD VISION AIDS BANGLADESH PEOPLE IN FIGHT AGAINST TIME

The Bangladesh people are racing against time. Rice crops must be planted before the first rains due in April or May. If they fail, famine is inevitable in August when the crops should be harvested.

"Time is working against us all the way," said Bill Kliewer, World Vision Assistant to the President/International Relations, who recently returned from a tour of Bangladesh.

Kliewer reported that World Vision is assisting people in Garoland, one of the areas hardest hit by the West Pakistan army. The northernmost Bangladesh territory, a 10 mile wide, 120 mile long area near the Assam border, was ravaged by the retreating West Pakistan troops. People were tortured; crops, houses, schools and bridges destroyed. Estimates run as high as 50 percent total destruction. Mass graves reveal unspeakable atrocities.

Through the 103 churches in the area World Vision is distributing emergency aid and supplies for rebuilding and replanting. World Vision is also assisting in rebuilding schools. The Garo Baptist churches are distributing the aid to all the people in need regardless of religion.

If you would like to have a part in helping these people rebuild, please designate your gift, Bangladesh. And please pray daily for these people fighting against time to stop yet another disaster—famine.



*People of Bangladesh, politically free, are still enslaved by destruction and poverty.*

## BIBLES BOUND FOR THE KACHINS

The Kachin tribal people in Burma—cut off from outside contacts and harried by troops of various self-interest groups including the Communists—are receiving aid from World Vision International. Funds designated for these people have been forwarded to Southeast Asia to buy medicines and supplies. Kachin Bibles are being bound and will be shipped as soon as they are ready. In this short-term project World Vision is providing a link between the Kachins—an isolated people, many of whom are Christians—and the people of the United States who want to tell these people they have not been forgotten.

## CHOIR TRAINS FOR TOUR

Kurt Kaiser, noted Christian musician, is currently working with the World Vision Children's Choir in Seoul, Korea. Kaiser is helping the choir with training and preparations for the North American tour scheduled for October through February.

The choir recently performed for both Korean and U.S. armed forces. A USO director wrote: "The servicemen's appreciation for the talents of the choir was manifested by the fact that one could almost hear 'a pin drop' during the performance."

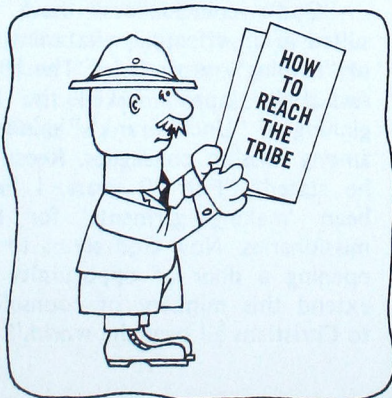
The choir accompanied 15 WV staff people December 29 to visit Korean soldiers of the Third Military Division stationed near the front at the Armistice Line. The choir carried "comfort bags" made especially for the troops.

One report stated, "The soldiers were so pleased with the kits and the choir's lively songs, that they forgot for a while the winter's cold and the hardships."



*A choir member hands out a "comfort bag" to a Korean soldier.*

# Dr. Worvis



## LAOS: HARD HIT AGAIN

World Vision Laos director, Don Scott, reports the situation in the country is "very tense." The annual dry season offensives are forcing many tribal people to leave their homes and join the already numerous refugees. Food and emergency relief goods are being provided through World Vision to the refugees.

## FALL PASTORS' CONFERENCES ANNOUNCED

Dr. Paul Rees, vice-president-at-large, has announced plans for three pastors' conferences to be held in September in Uganda, East Africa; the New Hebrides, South Pacific; and Ceylon. Immediately after making the announcement Dr. and Mrs. Rees left for Japan where Dr. Rees participated in the annual Keswick meetings.

## TV SPECIAL IN PRODUCTION

Story preparation has just been completed on a television special which will tell the story of the needy children of our world. Film crews working with Dr. Mooneyham and Art Linkletter will be filming in the Orient during April and May.

## KOREAN PRISONERS GRADUATE

In the hall of the Choon Chun Prison 48 prisoners were graduated December 28 from the World Vision Bible Correspondence School.

The Bible Correspondence School is used in 26 prisons



Marlin Nelson, WV Korea director, presents a prisoner with his diploma.

throughout South Korea. There are 31,959 prisoners enrolled and 18,704 who have graduated.

Prison officials give full cooperation to those teaching and preaching the Word of God. They recognize that a prisoner becomes a different person when he meets Christ.

Mr. Jong Sei Sohn is director of the World Vision Christian Education department and is assisted by Mr. Whang and Mr. Yoo, both seminary graduates, who are active in Christian social work.

## NEWS ON THE FOUNDER

Though Dr. Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision International, has had to observe a limited schedule in the past several years due to his health, he reports that he is feeling well. During the first months of this year he traveled through the Orient including some rough trekking in New Guinea with Lillian Dickson, missionary to Taiwan.


## MINISTERS' MANAGEMENT SEMINARS PLANNED

During April, World Vision's Missions Advance Research and Communication Center (MARC) will sponsor and staff management seminars for ministers in Los Angeles and Denver. Similar seminars have been held for various leadership groups in the past two years.

## RESPONDING TO A VILLAGE'S NEEDS IN INDIA

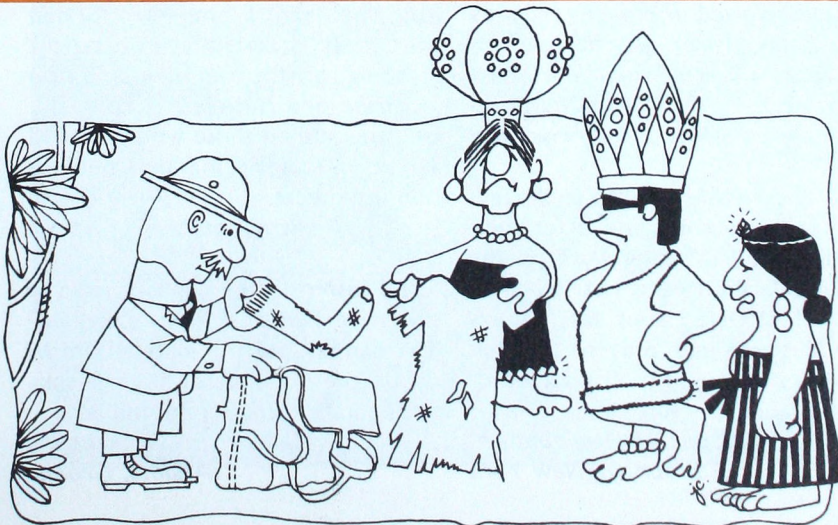
George Cornelius, a World Vision area director in India, was simply to speak at the dedication of an Indian village church. But he found he was compelled to do more. After the dedication the church served a meal for the needy of the village, which included lepers and a large number of malnourished children.

"I was very much moved by the need in that village," Cornelius reports. "These conditions are to be found in many of India's villages."

As a trial project Cornelius set up a temporary "noon-meal" program for the village's needy children and leprosy patients. 



Children in an Indian village receive a nutritious meal that will fight malnutrition.



# monthly memo



The evident confidence friends have in World Vision's ability to move immediately into crisis areas to meet critical needs and their further confidence in the integrity of the program expressed in so many ways is most deeply appreciated by those of us at the heart of this ministry.

Let me illustrate. An unusual, but at the same time a rather typical, reaction to World Vision's involvement in meeting human need in the name of Christ came in a telephone call to Dr. Mooneyham.

Dr. Mooneyham and I were in the Midwest when a call reached us. The caller was a valued friend of the work from Pittsburgh whose simple question was, "If you had 10,000 dollars extra to feed hungry people this Christmastime, what would you do with it?"

It did not take Dr. Mooneyham and me long to confer about this and agree that the need for feeding hungry refugee tribespeople in Laos was of high priority. The word was relayed back to our Pittsburgh friend very shortly and that day a check in this amount was mailed.

In God's marvelous and mysterious providence, upon return to this Monrovia office, we found a cable awaiting us from Director Scott inquiring whether or not funds might be available for a desperately needy program to feed hungry refugees in the Laos hills!

The 10,000 dollars was cabled immediately to Vientiane and within hours food was purchased.

In reporting of this food distri-

bution, made in the name of Christ, Scott wrote: "Right now we are in the midst of one of the biggest refugee moves in the history of the war here. World Vision will again be one of the biggest sources of help in the time of emergency. Praise the Lord! What a wonderful testimony of the goodness of the presence of His spirit in us."

Thank God for friends who obey the Holy Spirit's prompting to give to alleviate hunger, ease pain and assist the dispossessed of our world through this and other evangelical agencies committed to the "ministry of helps." Heaven alone can record the spiritual results as the message of the gospel both accompanies and follows the aid given to relieve human suffering.

We are more grateful than we can say for your partnership in prayer and giving. Thank you—and God bless you.

*Ted W. Engstrom*  
Executive Vice President

## Kudos to the New

Sir: Congratulations on the first issue of the new *World Vision* magazine. I think it is superb and it will be more beneficial to the total ministry of World Vision.

*Cyrus N. Nelson, President  
Gospel Light Publications  
Glendale, California*

Sir: I was so happy and grateful to receive the January *World Vision*. No other magazine or denominational organ can point up the trouble spots and inspire one to become involved in bringing relief as well. Thus, I am grateful for the privilege of receiving the new magazine.

*Dorothy Diehl  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Sir: The *World Vision* magazine staff is to be commended for their excellent and inspiring work on the new publication. It is heartwarming and informative. Your task is tremendous and my prayers are that the Lord will supply all your needs as you labor for Him.

*Catherine Higginbotham  
Brooklyn, New York*

## readers' right

Sir: I was intrigued to see the new format for the magazine and commend you on the realistic route taken.

*Ken Anderson  
Ken Anderson Films  
Winona Lake, Indiana*

Sir: A few days ago I received the first issue of the new *World Vision* magazine, and I am very thrilled with it. It is certainly an excellent blending of the old *World Vision Magazine* and *Heartline*. I congratulate you and all those who have had a part in bringing this new publication into being.

*Bruce Ogden  
Warwick Farm, Australia*

Sir: I just read the January issue of the new *World Vision*. Excellent! The format and the material are of the highest standards. Congratulations to all who are responsible.

*Colonel Ernest Pickering  
Atlanta, Georgia*

Sir: I am serving as a "national" pastor on a Colombian salary basis and just did not feel we could afford the magazine. Now we'll get it. Thank you very much. Congratulations on this step you are taking and thank you again for the blessings it will bring to my wife and me.

*Dr. Robert W. Lazear, Jr.  
Bogota, Colombia*

Sir: I like the set up in the new *World Vision*. The material is new and interesting to read. Enclosed please find a check to say "I care" to the Christian refugees in Africa.

*Mrs. Blanche Kays  
Ann Arbor, Michigan*

Sir: I was especially pleased with the poster in the January *World Vision* magazine. I'll post it at my church. This is the type of thing we need to keep missions before the eyes of all in our church. I want you to know that I appreciate your magazine.

*Mrs. Wallace O. Brown  
Fulton, Illinois*

He looked like his classmates—healthy, eager to learn. He liked to play games and could recite with the best of the students. But he was never asked. The other students refused to play with him. The teacher resented his presence in the classroom. He was handicapped, not physically or mentally, but socially. His parents had had leprosy. Even though they were now cured, many people in Korea bound by centuries of superstition and ignorance refused to accept them. Even though their boy had never had leprosy, he was treated as an outcast. His parents, not allowed to reenter normal society, tried to build a new life in a resettlement village.

### Overcoming the Obstacles

To such a child a social handicap is just as limiting as a physical or mental disability. Social rejection which denies the opportunity to learn is no less difficult to overcome than blindness or deafness. For a child unable to fight back, unable to go to another place, unable to meet his own needs, it is a handicap. Yet with help, the obstacles can be overcome.

In a sense any child born into poverty is also handicapped at birth.

Poverty, whose bedfellows are malnutrition, ignorance and disease, may be the greatestcrippler of all. But a child who is in some way handicapped in addition to poverty has no chance. No chance, that is, if no one takes a special interest in him.

Helping children overcome handicaps and providing the opportunities for them to achieve a useful life in Christ Jesus is what World Vision childcare is all about.

### Hundreds of Others

In addition to the tens of thousands of poverty-handicapped children sponsored through World Vision, there are hundreds of "special" children—special children, boys and girls, facing a handicap which can destroy their lives, if they do not receive special care.

In Japan, Burma, India, Korea and Taiwan children with various physical, mental or social handicaps are sponsored in special homes and schools. Most recently children of cured leprosy patients in Korea have been accepted for sponsorship.

Because of World Vision sponsorship these children receive the special care and attention they need to grow into mature adults. They are reassured of their value as

human beings through the personal concern of their sponsors—sponsors who remember their birthdays, write to them personally, pray for them as they struggle to overcome their handicap, and care enough to share their income with a needy child.

World Vision does not assign a handicapped—a "special"—child unless a sponsor indicates he is interested. Many of these "special" children are waiting for sponsors right now. If you would like to provide a link of love to one of these handicapped children, please fill out the coupon below. You will receive a photograph and information about your child and his condition.

I would like to sponsor a "special" \_\_\_\_\_ boy/\_\_\_\_\_ girl.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ month(s).

I understand that sponsorship is \$12 a month and I promise to continue it for a year, if at all possible. 4101/H32

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

# THE SPECIAL CHILDREN

*Children of cured leprosy patients in Korea*



# globe at a glance

## Christians Gear to Aid World's Newest Nation

"One of the major projects for 1972 is a rehabilitation program for Bangladesh," stated Mennonite Central Committee's executive secretary. The MCC is only one of the many Christian churches and relief agencies that are aiding the Bangladesh people in rebuilding and resettling their war-ravaged country.

The World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation and the East Asia Christian Conference have established a Bangladesh relief and rehabilitation committee which is to administer a five million dollar one-year project. The Baptist World Alliance has asked affiliated churches in 75 countries to contribute \$100,000 to Baptist relief work. Catholic Relief Services immediately sent out \$200,000 for purchase of relief goods. World Vision International is aiding the hard hit Garo people in northern Bangladesh. Yet this aid may not be nearly enough according to observers who have visited the country since the war. See page 18 for more detail on World Vision work and the current situation.

## Zaire Government Requires Churches to Register

In a decree issued January 7 the Zaire (formerly the Congo) government has made registration of all religious organizations mandatory with the exception of the Church of Christ in Zaire, the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth by the Prophet Simon Kimbangu.

In November of last year Dr. Jean Bokeleale, head of the Church of Christ in Zaire, issued a letter condemning the divisions among Protestant churches in Zaire. He cited many of the divisions as artificial differences brought by certain missionaries who have transported Western cultural differences into the Zaire situation. Though commending the many missionaries who

had planted and are now aiding the Zaire church, Bokeleale called for a resolving of differences and seeking a Zaire solution to church problems.

Some observers see the government decree on registration as an attempt to increase the church's indigenous control, thereby decreasing mission control which, in some cases, is still strong.

## U.S. Methodists Cut Mission Program

At the annual plenary session of the United Methodist Board of Missions in January, the church's overseas staff and mission budget were cut. The mission force in 1972 will be 950, a drop of 450 since 1968.

"Limitation of funds" and "increased strength" of the overseas church were given as major reasons for the cut.

The UM board also established a policy of only sending missionaries to Latin America at the specific request of the national churches. Block grants of funds will be made by the board to Latin American churches, but the board will not stipulate use of the grant.

Despite the cuts, a study group on personnel stressed that "we do not share the prophecies of doom foretelling the demise of the missionary movement."

## Japan's United Church Ends Ban on Missionaries

The United Church of Japan recently ended a two-year moratorium on requests for missionaries from North American denominations. The decision followed a survey taken among church leaders on the missionary presence. Of 188 people receiving the questionnaire, 108 replied. Eighty-five percent found missionaries acceptable, 75 percent said missionaries are a clear "witness in Christ," and 74 percent said missionaries offer "encouragement to the church." Only 16 percent said missionaries have a "predominantly negative effect."

## Baptists Cover Devaluation Losses

An additional \$186,460 has been appropriated by the Southern Baptist Mission Board as an emergency compensation for missionaries affected by the devaluation of the U.S. dollar. This money only covers losses in missionary support and does not adjust for losses in operational and capital funds of missions overseas.

## Mission Agencies Merge

The Belgian Gospel Mission, founded in 1918, and the Greater Europe Mission, founded in 1952, merged in January, following two months of negotiations.

## Liberia's President Encourages Missions

The new president of Liberia, William R. Tolbert, indicated the continuation of a cordial and open attitude toward missions in Liberia. At the President's invitation, missionaries were present at his inauguration. Tolbert is an ordained Baptist elder, and has served as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance.

## Mission Work Passes into Church Hands in Colombia

The work of the Latin America Mission in Colombia passed into Colombian hands in January as the new Federation of Evangelical Ministries met in Sincelejo, Colombia to approve by-laws, elect officers and take the reins of administration. This is part of a continuing program by LAM to put the administration of its activities into national hands.

## Poland Baptists Set for Evangelism

The Baptist Union of Poland held 150 evangelistic crusades at churches and mission stations during February. As part of the World Mission of Reconciliation through Christ, the cooperative program sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance is to continue through 1975. There are an estimated 3000 Baptists in Poland.



## Thoughtful Insights on Thorny Points

“Must Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims become Christians in order to belong to Christ?”

“No,” answered Dr. Kaj Baago of Bangalore, India, in an article he published in the *International Review of Mission* some time ago. “Jesus,” says Baago, “is not the monopoly of the Christians. . . . He is for all men; he is to be incarnated in all religions, not just in Christianity.”

### Distorting the Gospel

This position, both in Protestant and in Roman Catholic circles, has been gaining in popularity. It keeps close company with other views that are being proclaimed with mounting boldness: (1) conversion is unnecessary, (2) all men are already saved in Christ, needing only to be informed of this fact; (3) the kingdom of God is in reality the kingdom of man, whose secular existence requires a lot of putting right of that which is politically, socially, and economically wrong.

On these and other current distortions of the gospel Bishop Leslie Newbigin, of the Church of South India, has made a series of penetrating comments in a useful little book called *The Finality of Christ*. Says Newbigin:

*According to the New Testament, the coming of Christ, his dying and rising and ascension, is the decisive moment in God's plan of salvation, presenting to every man who hears of it the opportunity and the necessity for faith, repentance, conversion and commitment to participation in the work of God in this present age. It is certainly made clear that it is possible to refuse this opportunity and thereby lose the possibility of salvation—to be lost.*

But what of those who have never heard of Christ? Bishop Newbigin accepts the reticence of the Bible on this point, including our Lord's own refusal to answer categorically the question, “Are there few that be saved?”

### Discerning the Gospel

Newbigin argues strongly against the view that what gives to the gospel its uniqueness is the *content* of the revelation made in Christ and not any historical claims that can be made for Christ himself. “To claim finality for Christ,” he insists, “is to endorse the judgment of the apostles that in this life, death and resurrection God himself was uniquely present and that therefore the meaning and origin and end of all things was disclosed. . . .”

To be sure, the content of what Jesus and the apostles gave us as teachings is of utmost importance but if this is the whole story, what we have is a philosophy or a theology whose relation to the womb of events is accidental and expendable. Not so the apostolic witness! “Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king” (Matthew 2:1). “When Cyrenius was governor of Syria. . . . Mary. . . gave

birth to her first-born son” (Luke 2:2, 5, 7). Here we have the historical rootedness—the scandal of secular particularity, if you will—of the Christian gospel.

The gospel is not even “spiritual” in, for example, the Hindu understanding of spirituality; that is, an inner, timeless realm of reality that is detached from the outer world of things and events.

“Suffered under Pontius Pilate!” We have all repeated the words in the oldest of the universal creeds. A discourse on suffering would have given no uniqueness to the gospel story. Indeed it would not have been a *story*; it would have been an *ideology*. What the apostles came to realize was that in the suffering love and the resurrection-fulfilled death of Jesus of Nazareth God was bearing the cost of putting an end to man's alienation and damnation.

God in Christ appeared at a particular point in time to give a sign that He is time's Lord, and that in the end all of time, which now appears so chaotic and meaningless, will find its consummation in Him and in His kingdom.

God in Christ appeared to a particular people—Israel—to give a sign that His holy and loving concern includes all people.

This is the gospel!

### Demonstrating the Gospel

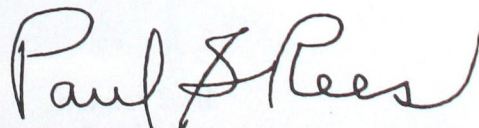
It is precisely here, Newbigin argues, that the necessity and reality of conversion must be seen. The most formally and flauntingly religious people in Israel—the Pharisees—rejected Jesus. Their religiousness would save them. They did not need Him!

Religiousness, including *Christian* religiousness, saves no one from the pride that makes oneself the center of one's world. Conversion, therefore, as Newbigin puts it, “involves the deepest possible kind of personal cleansing, forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewal.”

But this is not all. It involves commitment to a community of Christ's friends and followers whose sign is baptism, whose act of fellowship is the sharing in the Lord's Supper, whose enlightenment comes through a disciplined listening to the Bible, and whose responsibility is discharged in forms of witness and service appropriate to the needs and challenges with which Christians are confronted.

As for so very much of the “baggage” with which communions of Christians, especially those of the West, have loaded the word “Christian,” it is disposable under the freedom that Christ gives to His devoted followers.

“The Finality of Christ!” Bishop Newbigin never insists that you agree with every bit of his phrasing. He does ask that you think, and think hard, about gritty questions and live issues.



# Bigger Benefits ... after 50!

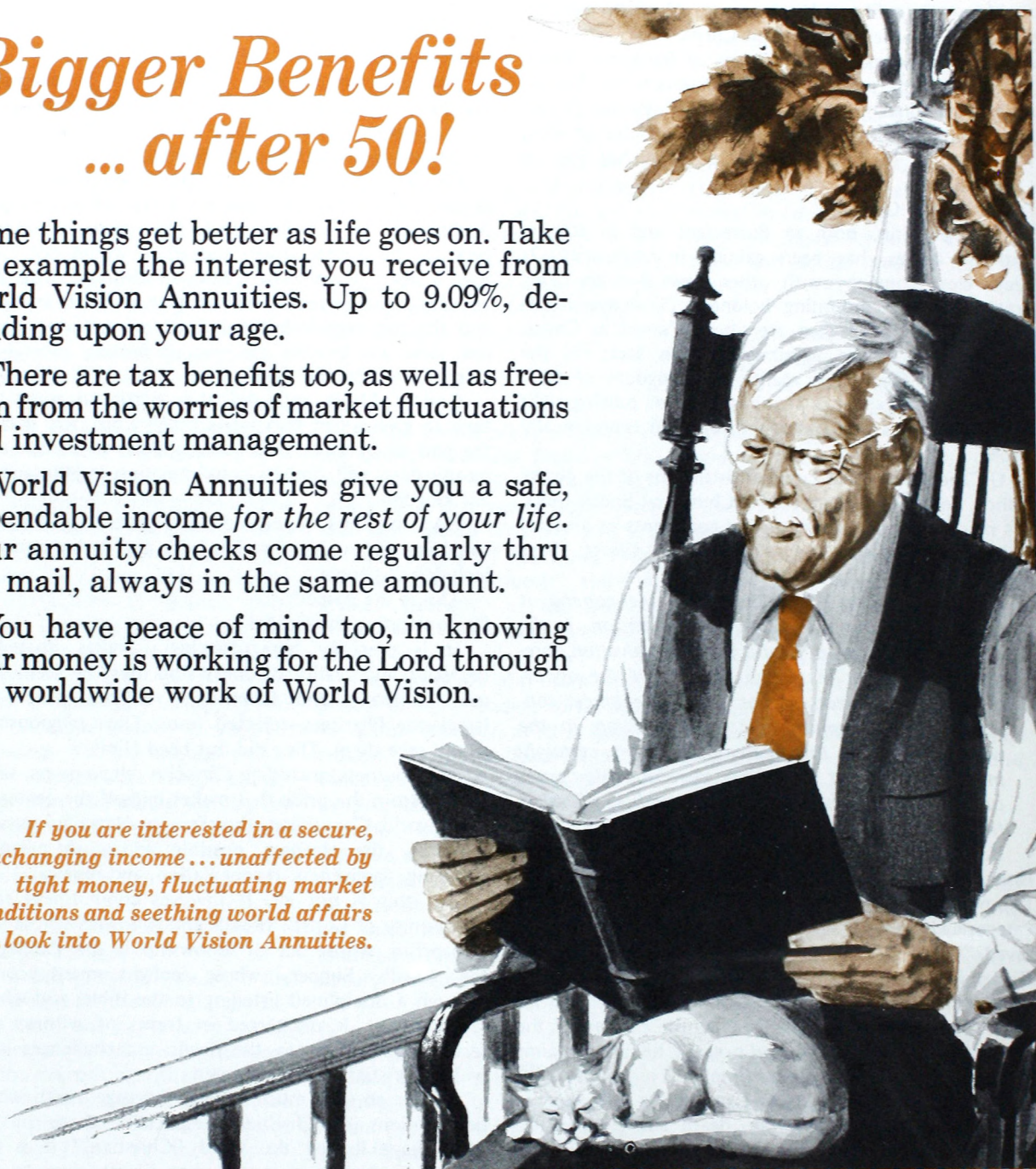
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