

world vision

OCTOBER 1976

Latin America's

children
of
darkness



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INSIDE OUR WORLD...

Ed's Story

"As I have walked the world for children—touching them, loving them, hurting with them—I have seen about all the pain and ugliness there is to see. I have seen poverty's sores and distended bellies . . .

"I have looked into the vacant eyes of hopeless children.

"And I have asked myself many, many times, 'Is what I am doing going to make a difference in their lives?'"

Those who know Dr. Edmund Janss—just Ed to most folks—will tell you that what he is doing *does* make a difference. A vast difference.



Most of us have seen TV specials about "how bad things are" someplace in the country or in the world.

Ed doesn't have to see it on TV. He's *been there*. Just about anywhere you might care to name. He's been around the world half a dozen times and knows both the hotels and the ghettos of 50 or more countries.

For what reason? *Children*. All kinds of children. But mostly lonely, hurting children.

"I don't like to talk about much of the suffering I have seen," he says, "because it hurts me too much. Because, when I talk about it I see those scenes again. I smell those hovels again. And I hear the weak crying of babies who won't wake up tomorrow . . ."

When Southeast Asia fell, Ed (along with a good many World Vision personnel) worked all day and all night to rescue planeloads of helpless babies from Vietnam (see photo above). Ed's not smiling in that picture. He didn't smile much those days.

He couldn't. He saw too much pain.

Ed Janss knows about Latin America, and writes about it with the terse clarity of a man who's been there (read "Latin America's Children of Darkness," beginning on page 3).

At World Vision we thank God for Edmund Janss. He's got all sorts of college degrees to prove his competence. As far as we are concerned, though, he doesn't need them. He's got heart. Heart touched by the Master's hand. And that's really what counts.

Bob Owen

Latin America's
**children
of
darkness**



by Edmund W. Janss, Director, Childcare Ministries

• Pedro, barely 9 years old, has no home, belongs to nobody. By day he roams the city's streets—running errands, picking pockets, stealing hubcaps and windshield wipers, or anything he can sell for a few pesos. At night he may sleep in an empty doorway (if he's lucky) with a ragged blanket or newspaper to shield him from the cold.

• Helena is a young "woman" of 12, and rather pretty, yet at her age has already seen more raw life than most adults will ever see. A year ago her father sold her into what amounted to virtual bondage as a servant.

She worked long, hard hours with no pay and a few hand-me-down clothes. After a few months of this drudgery, tired of being seduced by the men of the house, Helena headed for the nearest red-light district and a life of prostitution.



Latin America is so large and diverse that attempts at generalization break down. *Yet the needs among the children are so great they stagger the mind.* Pedro and Helena are only two of them . . . two of the many.

Of course there are millions of children in Latin America who are happy, contented and well cared for. My concern, and World Vision's concern, is not for these children.

But my heart breaks for the children who are suffering. The lonely ones. The hungry. And, included in this list are the ones who make up one of Latin America's newest, growing problems: abandoned children. A *Newsweek* reporter recently described them as a "vast army . . . some only 4 or 5 (years old), fending for themselves."

From the *barrios* of Mexico to Brazil's *favelas*, according to Bruce van Voorst, "Latin America's major cities are swarming with well over a million children . . . (whose) families are unable or unwilling to take care of them."

I have seen these children myself wherever I travel—in many parts of the world—especially in Latin America. Many of the conditions under which these children live are so terrible that they defy description. I have often been so sickened and depressed after some of my trips that I could neither eat nor sleep.

I have seen these dirty, ragged children swarm the pavements. They are barefoot, their clothing in shreds. They wander among human derelicts—drunken men and women—wherever they go, undisturbed by the countless flies crawling over them.

The children grow accustomed to these sights. After all, this is their "living room." *Tequila* or *pinga* (depending upon the country: Mexico or Brazil), both

very strong intoxicants, are sold so cheaply that even beggars can buy all they want.

Many young children are already alcoholics, even before the streets become their home.

It's a documented fact that in nearly any city of any Latin American country, thousands of these homeless children live on the streets. Pawing through garbage cans or stealing from peddlers' carts for food. And, according to the police, they can be found nearly anywhere at night: in trash heaps, cemeteries, sewers.

In some of Latin America's higher altitudes it gets very cold, and policemen often pick up the lifeless bodies of these waifs as they make their morning rounds. The newspaper "blanket" did not protect them from the bitter cold.

Tragically, many of these children know only their first names.

Carolina is another of these children. Pregnant and unemployed, abandoned by her lover, she turned to the *favela*. She carried boards from a construction site on her head for five miles. With them she built a shack, roofed with flattened tin cans and cardboard.

Three months later her son was born and she began her fight for survival.

As desperate as her condition was, Carolina was one of the more fortunate: She had gone to the second grade in school. And she could "read." In her loneliness and desperation, to fight off hunger—daily, consistent, never-ending hunger—Carolina wrote a diary.

But she is not the main personage in her diary. It is Hunger. On page after page he appears with unnerving consistency. The other characters are consequences of this Hunger: alcoholism, prostitution, violence and murder.

To earn a living, Carolina picked up waste paper and sold it. For her many-hours-a-day labor she often earned as little as 15 or 20 cents!

These excerpts from her diary (eventually published) read like a nightmare. "I wrote a note and gave it to my boy to take to Senhor Arnaldo to buy soap, two aspirins and some bread. Soon my boy came back saying he had lost the aspirins. I went back with him to look. We didn't find them."

A few days later she wrote: "I left my bed at 5 A.M. The sparrows have just begun their morning symphony. The birds must be happier than we are. . . . The world of the birds must be better than that of the *favelados* (dwellers in the *favelas*, or slums), who lie down but don't sleep because they go to bed hungry." (From *Child of the Dark, the Diary of Carolina Maria de Jesus*, The New American Library, Inc., New York, 1960.)

There is more. Much more. As I read it, it wrenched my heart, and the scenes came back to me again: the scenes that had depressed me so, sickened me.

Of course, there are so many of these unfortunate, suffering children that we can't possibly care for them all. But we can care for many. By that I mean: World Vision can be the instrument in God's hands to reach out to these children—as you help supply the means.

Actually, World Vision is already ministering to a large number of children in a number of Latin American countries. I have been in each of these countries and in each of these schools or projects





Some children can be helped. For others it may already be too late.



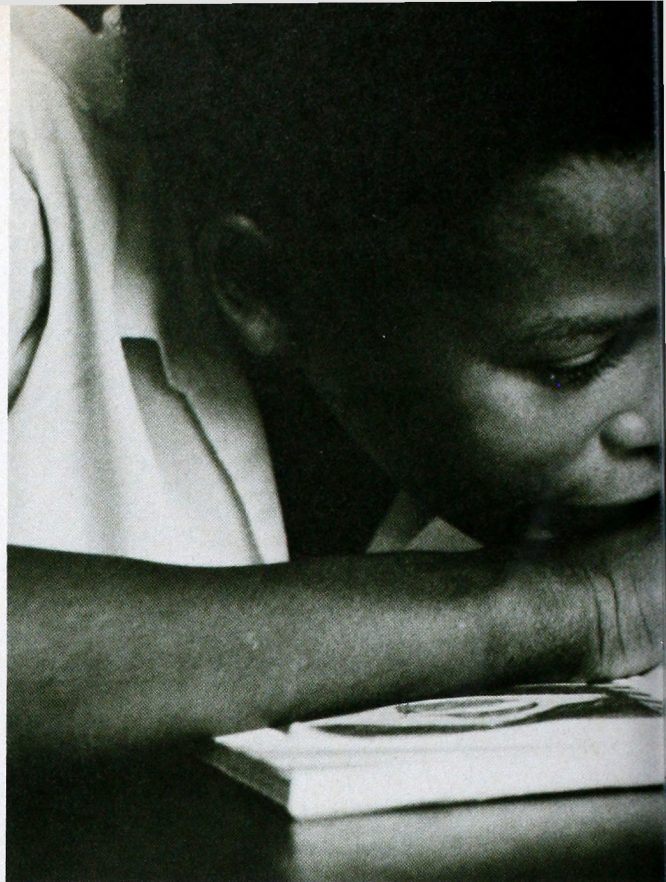
where World Vision is sharing love in a practical way. *Let's take a look at some of them.*

São Paulo, population approaching 8 million, is now Brazil's largest city (also one of the world's largest). And like every progressive megalopolis, it has many problems: pollution, transportation, slums and crime. All of these bring suffering and financial loss to the city as well as to its citizens.

All these problems, including crime, cause terrible pain and suffering to untold numbers of innocent children. Many of the children I described earlier (the ones who live on the streets) have no homes for a simple reason: Their parents (one or both) are in prison.

World Vision helps support many such children in São Paulo, thus giving them a chance in life.

Brazil's third largest city is Belo Horizonte. But with all its beauty—wide boulevards lined with trees, flowers and shrubs, modern architecture and parks—"Belo" has not escaped the grip of poverty, illiteracy and disease. Many rural families have succumbed to



the lure of the "advantages of city life" and have helped swell the city's already overcrowded slums.

Suddenly these families discovered themselves to be much worse off than before. With no skills and unaccustomed to city life, they end up in *favelas*. Their children often leave home or are kicked out for economic reasons.

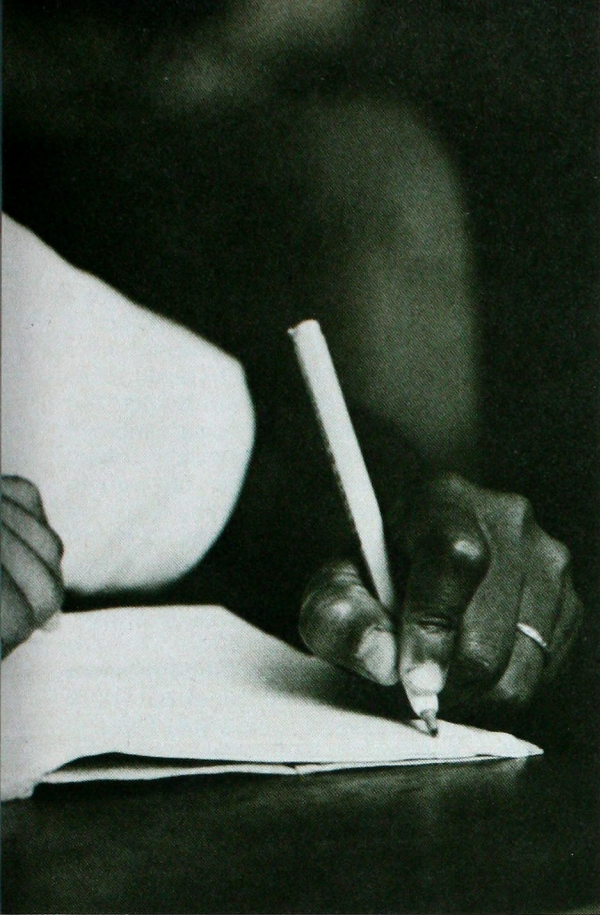
Result: More suffering children.

Here in Belo Horizonte World Vision has initiated the unique Family-to-Family Project (FFP). (Read about how this works in "FFP: Helping to Break Poverty's Cycle," *World Vision*, September 1976.) An advantage of this program, of course, is that children remain at home where possible, and grow up in a loving family unit. FFP works through Belo Horizonte's churches and provides many preschool and primary school-aged children with a chance in life they would otherwise not have had.

Elsewhere in Brazil, and throughout much of Latin America as well, World Vision is reaching children with police records and loving them back into the mainstream of society. Part of this ministry is carried on in cooperation with the Salvation Army and other evangelical churches. Some projects operate as service centers. All are well-supervised and audited. All are registered with the proper agencies in their own country.

All are sharing Jesus' love to children by providing food, clothing and shelter. And a chance to hear and respond to Jesus' love when He says, "Come unto me."

I am grateful to be a part of this widespread, effective, reaching-out-to-others movement, and to have the responsibility of matching desperate, hurting children with loving, wanting-to-help sponsor parents. In all my years of childcare work (see "Ed's Story" on page 2 of this issue) I have never been so fulfilled, so happy with



somberly, "Latin America itself has no future."

Then I ask myself, "Why should I be concerned? My own children are well cared for. Isn't that enough for me to be concerned about?"

To me, the answer is obvious: *It is not enough to be concerned with only the needs of my own.* None of us lives unto himself alone. And none of us dies alone. Whether we like it or not, our lives (and world, and culture, and morality, and economy) are tied up in the lives of others.

Jesus commanded that children be brought to Him. And when they were brought to Him, the Master took them upon His knee and blessed them. Then he said,

"Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming my Father who sent me! . . . But if someone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to lose faith—it would be better for that man if a huge millstone were tied around his neck and he were thrown into the sea" (Mark 9:37, 42, *Living Bible*).

Even if Jesus had not commanded us to care for the needs of the world's children, I believe I would still feel the heavy responsibility

Because *even when I try to sleep I can see Pedro*—9 years old. No home. No father or mother. No refrigerator from which to get a glass of milk. No cookie jar to dip into when he is hungry. No bed. No doctor when he runs a fever or needs an operation

And Helena. A mere child by Western standards. Yet already the plaything of sin. The mother of children with faceless fathers. She should be wearing pretty dresses and learning to cook, to become a wife. But not Helena. She will never know happiness or security.

Do you see why I can't sleep at night?

the end results as I am at World Vision.

We are touching the lives of children (and their families as well) in Brazil, Chile, Colombia (this work is relatively new for World Vision), Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico, among others. We are also ministering in Guatemala (see page 8 of this issue), which is just now beginning to recover from February's disastrous earthquake (read "Guatemala: Unparalleled Tragedy," p. 4, *World Vision*, March 1976).

I have been in all those countries and seen with my own eyes what the needs and problems are. I have read the books and magazine articles relating to Latin America's suffering children. I agree with informed authorities who indicate that governmental programs dealing with the problems are pathetically inadequate.

And I know, as do others who have been there, that the situation in many of these cities and countries is growing worse day by day.

I have also read (and agree with) the statement made by Argentinian psychiatrist Arnaldo Rascovsky, who said: "Of all the dangers to which children are exposed, none—short of outright assassination—is more serious than abandonment." From my years of training, counseling and experience with children, I know for a fact this is absolutely true.

Also true, I am convinced, is the fact that problems such as this (abandonment, alcoholism among the extremely young, prostitution, crime), all brought on by hunger and deprivation, must be given top priority throughout Latin America.

"Unless this is so," remarks one Chilean official

All they ask is a chance . . .

Will you share in helping alleviate the suffering of Latin America's children? You may, at a cost most Americans would scarcely miss. Only \$14 a month (please accept the responsibility for at least a year, if you accept it at all) will give a child a chance in life.



Yes, I will share with needy families in Latin America. Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ . 4200H6A-001

I would like to sponsor a child to give _____ him _____ her (check preference) the chance he needs. Enclosed is my \$14 for the first month. 4102H6A-004

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Identification number (See mailing label)



The first time I saw Sylvia...

by Bruce A. Davis,

Quality Control Officer, Childcare Ministries

The first time I saw Sylvia, she captured my heart.

I was standing in the World Vision office in Guatemala City when the door opened and in walked a tiny moppet singing at the top of her lungs: "Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer!"

She belted it out once in Spanish, once in English—and took my hand, smiling as only a 4-year-old can. As she pulled me toward the playground, I asked one of our staff members to tell me about her. It was a story of love . . . and what it can do to change people's lives in a mere six months.

For it had been six months since the severe earthquake struck Guatemala on February 4. The Government had made extraordinary strides in repairing damage done to roads, communications and buildings. Yet when I went up into the hills overlooking the city, I saw that many of these repaired walls served only to hide the destruction that still lay behind them.

But what about the families of Guatemala? Adobe clay and bricks do not readily rebuild lives. And when 80 percent of a city's people are considered "poor," beginning again is almost beyond reach. Sylvia's family was part of this great fraternity.

"I found her in a *barrio* (slum community) when I went to survey damage done by the earthquake," said Ruth Morales, wife of World Vision's childcare coordinator in Guatemala. "Hugo and I lost our only child last year, and I wondered if this dirty, ragged little girl needed a home. Perhaps she had lost her family in the quake."

After checking further, however, Ruth discovered that Sylvia did indeed have a family. But it was a family close to extinction: They tenuously existed in a shanty thrown together from old cardboard. And it was wet cardboard, soaked with the wetness of the beginning rainy season.

Fernando, Sylvia's father, had not worked for over a year and a half. His ill health had cost him a menial job in a furniture store, and he

looked a decade older than his 51 years. His stooped shoulders and tired eyes were mute evidence that not being able to provide for his family had cost him more than just money.

When Ruth first met the family, there were days when they had nothing to eat. When there was food, it was usually *frijoles*—thick refried beans watered down meal after meal until they were just something to fill empty stomachs. There had been no meat in the house since Fernando lost his job.

But what could Ruth do, where there were so many people who needed help? She was already working long hours with Hugo for World Vision's relief efforts. And existing childcare projects were struggling to get back on their feet, with new ones clamoring to be started.

She sadly told the family goodbye and trudged toward home.

"It was raining that night," Ruth told me. "I tried to get that family out of my mind, but they refused to go. I thought of Sylvia, of her ragged dress and the way she shivered in the chilly rain. And of her family, sleeping on the ground in that leaky cardboard house. Somehow, through the veneer of ugliness—dirty hair, decaying teeth, tattered clothing—the pride and hope they tenaciously clung to came through.

"All they wanted was a chance for a better life—and maybe a taste of meat once in awhile. And the thought almost haunted me that I was someone who could help them have it"

(right) A small stand and a new beginning. (below) Now . . . the Estradas have a future.

So Ruth went back the next day . . . and the next.

She talked to the principal of the Christian school that houses World Vision's office, and he responded with the offer of a schoolroom where the family could live. There was just one bed, plus several sleeping mats, but what a far cry from Guatemala's rain-soaked ground.

The family's immediate food needs were taken care of by World Vision, which provided powdered milk, vitamins and a protein supplement, among other items. And Ruth was able to use an anonymous \$100 gift from a World Vision donor to buy shoes and clothing for the family.

The clothing also meant that Teresa, Antonio, Sergio and Sylvia could go to school—for the first time in their lives. Their parents had been too ashamed to send them to school in rags . . . and could not have afforded a pencil and paper anyway. Their young minds were stagnating.

Both Hugo and Ruth knew that Fernando must have a job to support his family. They found a local wholesale grocer who gave

him a small "Orange Crush" stand. I was told that a stand like this would normally cost \$150, but it was a gift to Fernando in return for buying his supplies from the wholesaler. When I was there, his business was quite brisk. He netted a dollar or two on good days, selling corn chips and candy to neighborhood children.

But the gift of the stand gave Fernando more than just a way to provide for his family. For the first time in over a year and a half, Fernando Estrada felt proud as a father, as a husband. As a man.


And Claudia, Sylvia's mother, found work as well. She was offered a job at the school where they live and earns \$10 a month doing housekeeping duties.

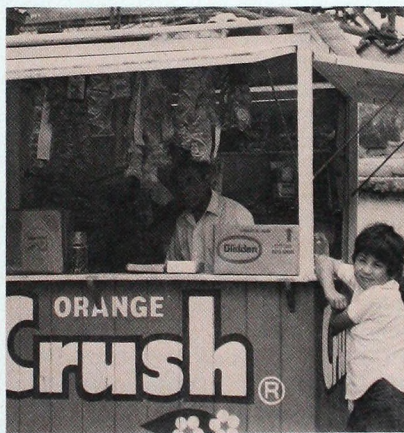
To me, it was a perfect example of how little people really need to begin the long climb up from nothing. It didn't take a big, long training program or thousands of dollars. Just somebody doing a favor, that's all. What a small price for existence—and the gift of self-esteem.

Perhaps the best part, though, is the children. I have found that children of the *barrio* are often quiet; they have either forgotten how to dream or have never learned. They are as poor in spirit as they are in the world's physical goods. The Estrada children have at last been freed to be children, instead of small people too soon grown old from malnutrition—of both body and mind.

It has been a long road from February for the family. They will probably never be rich by our standards, but a mark of wealth to them is being able to buy a little meat once a week. This small amount of tough stewing beef tells them just how far they've come from that cardboard shack in the rain.

And they have seen what the love of Christ—channeled through ordinary people—can do. They are interested in the Lord about whom their Sylvia so lustily sings, and who lives in Ruth and Hugo Morales.

And Ruth told me as I left Guatemala City, "I feel that the same Lord that Sylvia sings about with so much gusto will be the Lord of all the Estrada family soon." 



"Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer!"

Respond to the following two-statement quiz with "right" or "wrong."

1. The world has recently experienced a major hunger crisis.

2. The hunger crisis is over.

If you answered "right" to both statements, you are wrong. The first statement is right; the second is wrong. The world food crisis has not gone away. It has simply been dropped from the headlines.

In recent months there have been reports of improved production of crops in several parts of the world. The world's 1975 rice crop was seven percent higher than it was in 1974. India expects a record grain crop following the best monsoon rains in 20 years. Although the 1976 corn harvest in the United States is not up to the earlier forecast, it, too, is a record crop.

Even famine-ravaged Bangladesh is enjoying a better harvest than it has had in years.

Reports such as these have caused some people to think the world food crisis is a nightmare of the past. One United States senator—himself a large wheat grower—was recently quoted as saying that reports of starvation in India and Bangladesh are "the most ridiculous thing in the world." His authoritative assessment came after spending five days in those two nations, during which time he is reported to have visited five villages and several large cities.

Many of us passionately wish he were right, but unfortunately, not even a United States senator can change the sad facts by wishful thinking.

Hunger is still with us.

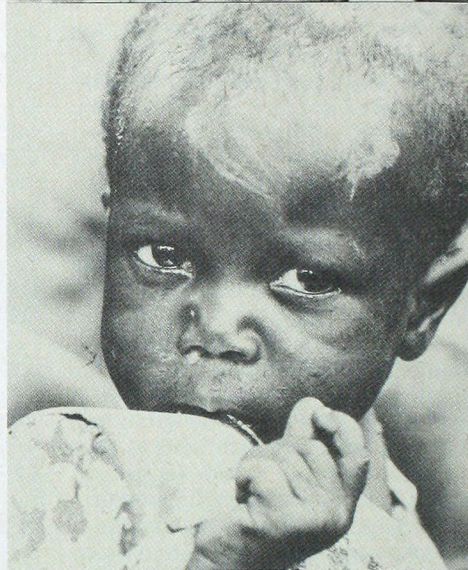
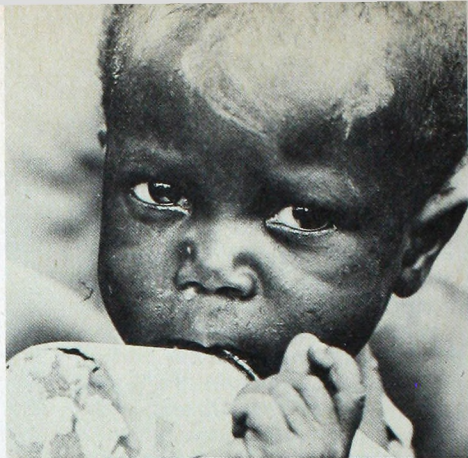
I am thankful that crops have been good. I am glad that some governments seem to be moving toward more effective agricultural policies. I am encouraged that overseas assistance programs by our own Government have been slightly increased.

But one good year does not mean the end of generations of malnutrition. No one has refuted the estimate of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization that 10,000 persons are dying each day from the effects of hunger and the food shortage. There is still a minimum of 460 million people in the world who are severely malnourished, and the number of people experiencing some degree of malnutrition probably exceeds *one billion*.

A Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor of pediatrics and nutrition, Dr. Robert Susskind, recently estimated that "roughly 100 million children under five years of age are severely or moderately malnourished around the world."

The present reality of hunger also means that the number of nations designated by the United Nations as "most seriously affected" by poverty and shortages of food and energy has now climbed to 42—an increase of nine from 1974. World grain reserves are still at their lowest levels in years. Many farmers in countries like India or Upper Volta still can't afford fertilizers for their crops because the cost is too high and their incomes are too low.

Hunger may no longer make the headlines, but it has



WHERE DID THE HUNGER

“There is still a minimum of 460 million people in the world who are severely malnourished, and the number of people experiencing some degree of malnutrition probably exceeds one billion.”

not disappeared. Earlier this year the Government of Niger issued an appeal for 200,000 tons of emergency food to help over one million of its people who face serious malnutrition. A recent United Nations and Red Cross survey in Ethiopia revealed that insect infestation of croplands and uncertain weather could create a famine emergency once again. In India, despite its good harvests, the per person food production last year was still 8 percent *below* that of five years ago—largely because of an additional 65 million people to feed.

In short, as the World Food Council has recently reported, “The world is still balanced precariously on the edge of last year’s harvest. A meaningful international effort to attack the problem of food, malnutrition and food security has yet to be seriously undertaken.”

I don’t want to imply that the world food picture is entirely negative. Governments and international agencies have taken some action. Agricultural assistance to developing nations has increased substantially since 1972—up about 65 percent, according to one source. In contrast to the past, this aid is now focused more on the poorest nations and the poorest people in those nations. The new International Fund for Agricultural Development has mobilized almost one billion dollars to help the poorest nations, with some of the oil-rich Arab nations having recently made substantial contributions.

Another positive note is that more people are aware of world hunger today than ever before. This is a result of a flood of articles, books, speeches, sermons, seminars and conferences, many sponsored by Christian organizations. Fund drives have been held; many church denominations have set up special hunger programs and task forces.

And vast numbers of people have responded.

Voluntary agencies such as Church World Service, Food for the Hungry, World Relief Commission and World Vision have reported significantly increased contributions as a result of hunger appeals. World Vision’s five-hour television special on hunger has been shown on scores of stations across the United States with gratifying results.

Bread for the World, a Christian organization which seeks to mobilize public support for food legislation, reported that its campaign of last fall to have supporters write their congressmen about the “Right to Food” resolution resulted in an estimated 200,000 letters, one of the largest such responses on any issue.

Remedial action is coming, albeit some of it ever so slowly. But the specter of hunger has not yet been removed, nor is it likely to be eliminated for years to come.

Hunger is a complex issue. It is not a single thing which can be “solved” with one good harvest or one heavy monsoon or one generous foreign aid program. Bringing more food of the right kind to the poorest and hungriest in our world takes more than simply growing more crops. It requires government policies that encourage agriculture, reserve storage for bad years and equitable trade. It demands international cooperation and farsighted leadership. It takes individual citizens who are concerned and who will not give up when they find out that the war on hunger is a long, hard struggle.

A preliminary assessment of the world food situation presented a few months ago to the World Food Council concluded that “the basic trends and underlying factors which led to the world food crisis of 1973-74 are still unchanged.” A U.S. Department of Agriculture report on food prospects that looks ahead to 1985 concludes that there will be times and places of critical food shortage in the years ahead, and that substantial malnutrition will probably continue among the poorer members of the poorest nations.

It is among these very people—the poorest of the poor—that World Vision is ministering and will continue to work.

I am continually encouraged and humbled by the letters we receive, letters which reveal the love and concern of so many. These letters tell me there are many who do feel the urgency of responding *now* to the cries of those who are hungry *now*. A woman confined to a wheelchair for 30 years pledged \$10 a month for the rest of her life to help feed hungry people. A 6-year-old girl shared 59 cents from her piggy bank “to buy a glass of warm milk” for a hungry person.

An IBM executive and his wife, members of the Roman Catholic Church, were so moved by the plight of the hungry that they are selling their home, moving into an apartment and giving the equity in their home—about \$50,000—to World Vision to fight hunger.

A 90-year-old lady, living on Social Security, sent a gift for the hungry of Bangladesh. With her gift she wrote, “I wish I could do more . . . when I read about all the suffering and starvation in other parts of the world, I feel rich.”

Needless to say, this kind of response and dedication constantly challenges us. Widespread, crippling hunger remains part of the sadness of our world today. As long as this is true, World Vision will remain committed to the twin mandates of the New Testament, ministering to both the physical and the spiritual needs of this suffering world in Christ’s name.



CRISIS GO? by W. Stanley Mooneyham
President, World Vision International



Do ye hear the
children weeping,
O my brothers . . .

The young,
young
children,
O my brothers.

They are weeping
bitterly!

They are weeping
in the playtime



facts of a field

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



VITAL STATISTICS

Capital: Brasilia.
Area: 3.3 million square miles, the fifth largest nation in the world.
Population: 113 million (1976 estimate). Major ethnic groups include Portuguese, African, American Indian, European and Japanese.
Population Growth: 2.9 percent annually.
Urbanization: Approximately 58 percent of the population is urban. Ten major cities include about 20 percent of the total population.
Language: Portuguese.
Literacy: Approximately 67 percent (1976 estimate).
Economy: Widely varied from primitive agriculture to highly developed industries. Per capita gross national product is US\$900 (1974).
History: Discovered by Portuguese in 1500. Became independent in 1822. Republic proclaimed in 1889. Several military presidents and "strong man" leaders.
Religion: Roman Catholicism claims the majority of the population, approximately 85 percent. Protestants total about 10 percent. Widespread spiritualism is also reported.

Current Status of Christianity:

Christianity has been an influence in Brazil since the 16th century, primarily through the Roman Catholic Church. That church still claims the majority of the population, although less than 10 percent of all Catholics are estimated to be active members. Protestant churches have exhibited rapid growth, particularly since the 1950's, and Brazilian Protestants now constitute approximately 65 percent of all the Protestants in Latin America. Protestantism in Brazil is growing at the rate of 5.6 percent per year, or approximately twice as fast as the population growth. It has been projected that Brazil will have 16 million Christians by 1980, with 5½ million church members.


Churches: The four largest Protestant churches in Latin America are found in Brazil. The communicant church membership in Brazil is over 11 million, about 70 percent of which is composed of members of Pentecostal churches. Forty Pentecostal bodies make up

the fastest growing religious group. The largest single church group is the Lutherans, followed by the Assemblies of God. Of a total membership of 910,000, approximately 400,000 communicant Lutherans are found in southern Brazil, while the Baptist churches have more than 430,000 members.

Many churches are growing along the frontier road system. Churches and missions in Brazil are engaged in several forms of ministry: church founding, broadcasting and literature distribution. Many other ministries involve Christian worker training. Brazilian Christians have also become a major sending agency; 500 missionaries, making Brazil third among the sending churches of developing countries, are currently at work in other parts of the world.

Missions: Protestant missionary work began in Brazil in 1855, and the country continues to attract more Protestant missionaries than any other nation in the world. In 1975 there were over 3000

missionaries from 150 different mission organizations in Brazil. Approximately 80 percent of these were from North America.

The largest agencies active in Brazil are the Southern Baptist Convention and Wycliffe Bible Translators. Most of the missionaries are centered in the southern part of the country, with the second largest area of concentration being along the eastern seacoast. Work among the primitive tribes in the northern interior has attracted approximately 15 percent of the missionaries. 



readers' right

Magazine Response

Sir: Be assured that I greatly value receiving your magazine as a regular reminder to keep your work and the needs of a hungry world in my own prayers and before the congregation which I serve in Christ's name. The centerfold posters are particularly helpful for the latter; please keep them coming.

Thank you for your ministry to and for me.

*Ken J. Miller, Pastor
Ingle Farm Baptist Church
Ingle Farm, South Australia*

Sir: It is my warmest greetings from Tripura to you. I was glad that you are constantly involved and publishing the *World Vision* magazine all over the world. So I earnestly desire to have it.

Would you please supply me a copy?
*Mr. Budhrai Debbarma
Tripura, India*

Sir: I read your article on orphans and the one on hunger in the April 1976 issue of *World Vision* magazine. I thought they were just excellent in making me feel just a little closer to the reality of those problems. I also thought that it was well written for kids, and I plan to use it this coming fall in my grade six class.

*Joe Reitsma
Bradford, Ontario, Canada*

Children Share

Sir: We are the first-grade class at First Lutheran School in Glencoe, Minnesota. We are all very fortunate and are thankful for our warm homes and good food.

Each day at school, before we said our prayer, we put a quarter in a grape jam jar. We used a jam jar because (1) we had enough money to buy the jam, and (2) we were able to eat it—with bread—and enjoy it.

So enclosed you will find a check (rather than all those quarters) for \$25.25. Please use this money to make someone happy and give them a good day.

*The First Grade
First Lutheran School
Glencoe, Minnesota*

Sir: I am a Bible teacher in two country schools—a high school and an elementary. I often tell the older students of world needs and we pray. I do not remember telling the third graders very much about the world famines, but I have mentioned the "people who don't have enough to eat."

Kelley Poole, age 8, is in the third grade. She has seen the things on TV that distress her. So she has been sav-

ing some of her money to go to the "hungry children." She brought me \$4.20 in change and asked me to send it to "someplace where it would do some good." I told her a little bit about World Vision and she was delighted.

*Catherine Brazell
Salisbury, North Carolina*

*Dear Dr. Mooneyham,
My name is Mike Holmes
and I am 12 yrs old I saw
your program on TV I saw
how skinny the people were and
all the dead people and I
decided today to send some
of my birthday money to
help feed some hungry people.
Mike Holmes
Birmingham Ala*

Hunger Telethon Comments

Sir: I watched your program on TV last night, and I cried myself to sleep, just to think that there are thousands of children who are too small to help themselves that are dying for need of food and water. Water!

I will be praying each night for your success in trying to help the poor and needy. May God bless you and all who are working with you.

*Mrs. Trudy Rubin
Los Angeles, California*

World Concern

Sir: I felt very sad about the letter you sent me because I always have a good meal and clothes and a nice house. I am a very lucky kid. I'm 12 years old.

I'm sorry that I didn't have more money to send, but I guess it will help. You know I feel good that I can help. I hope I can send more when I save up again. I really care!!

*Miss Janel Nesbitt
Marana, Arizona*

Sir: Your letters always tug at my heart so. For as a child in Oklahoma and Texas, I too, have been without enough food and adequate clothing. I once couldn't start school on time because I needed shoes and a coat, so I do understand.

I'm sure your heart is broken a thou-

sand times a day, when mine breaks every time I get your letter. I am emptying my purse today to send this (money) because I love these people, and I'm going to trust God to save them.

*Mrs. Joyce Johnson
Sumner, Washington*

Love Loaf Caring

Sir: We requested your Love Loaf for the children—ages 3 to 8—who attend Chester Community School.

It was an enjoyable experience for us. Every day at the lunch hour we would pass the Love Loaf and the children would make their contributions. They cared and they shared.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity that we all enjoyed. It was a real experience for our children.

*Matthew T. Purnell, Director
Chester Community School
Chester, Pennsylvania*

Sir: Could you please send me a Love Loaf?

I always seem to have lots of change. It either gets thrown in a drawer or in a pocket, or I spend it on candy or on other small things, since a few nickels and dimes don't seem like much. But all together it would be a lot, and it could help someone. I just need a little reminder now and then that my pennies and dimes do add up!

*Miss Vicki Vanek
Chicago, Illinois*

Sir: The collection through the Love Loaf project is the largest single offering ever collected in the cause of missionary work of any type in the 169-year history of this congregation.

Being a small congregation with the majority of members in the senior citizen age group, this offering was a high spot in our church life. And it proves that even though we are facing severe economic problems, the mission spirit and concern for the hungry of the world is still there.

So on behalf of our congregation, I wish to thank World Vision for this great opportunity to help fight hunger in the world.

*Roy Paterik, Pastor
Flatbush Reformed Church
Saugerties, New York*

Sir: A note of thanks for such a neat idea—Love Loaf. It was an inspirational event in my life. Thank you for giving someone who loves to cook for others the opportunity to feed hungry people all over the world.

*Echo-Leigh Bertolini
Syracuse, New York*

*Kellie Diane
(Pha Lla) and her
new brother,
Kevin Brown.*



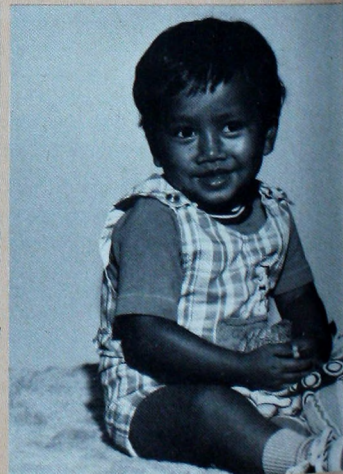
*Everybody had his hands
full those days. Here Dr.
Mooneyham helps with the
babies during the flight.*



Thea Leng Ower



*(above) Anthony Sok-Heng
Tessandori "before" and
(right) as he is now.*



What has happened to the Cambodian orphans?" is a question we hear often these days.

Until recently we had nothing new to say, so we said nothing. Now—joyfully—we have good news to share with you: The babies are secure in their adoptive homes. And for that fact we give God the glory. It's been a long, hard fight.

It began about a year ago with the Los Angeles Superior Court decision that ruled "that 20 Cambodian orphans should be seized and removed from their adoptive Christian families and turned over to the county adoption agency for placement in foster homes and, eventually, re-adopted."

These children, brought to the United States by World Vision, had been turned over to Family Ministries, a licensed California Christian adoption agency, for placement with evangelical Protestant families.

All of them had been processed through a World Vision nutrition center in Phnom Penh. And just days before the Khmer Rouge took over the city, they had all been evacuated by Dr. Stan Mooneyham

Cambodian Orphans ... HOME AT LAST

—with U.S. and Cambodian Government approval—in a chartered aircraft.

They were sick, dehydrated, malnourished.

"I risked my life to save those babies from certain death," Dr. Mooneyham said, which he did indeed. Despite the imminent takeover of the city, Mooneyham delayed his return home until he could personally evacuate the last child.

It was natural for World Vision to be upset by the Court decision, as it was for every concerned American. Because the Court decision, if allowed to stand, would have imperiled every private religious adoption agency—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish or any other faith—involvement in intercountry adoptions.

Therefore, World Vision appealed

the Superior Court's ruling on the basis that the decision violated World Vision's constitutional guarantee of religious freedom under the First Amendment. In addition, the Christian families involved retained legal counsel.

As a result of this immediate action, even though the judge had ruled that the children were to be in the county's custody, none of the children were removed from their adoptive homes. All of the homes were granted special foster home licenses to make this possible.

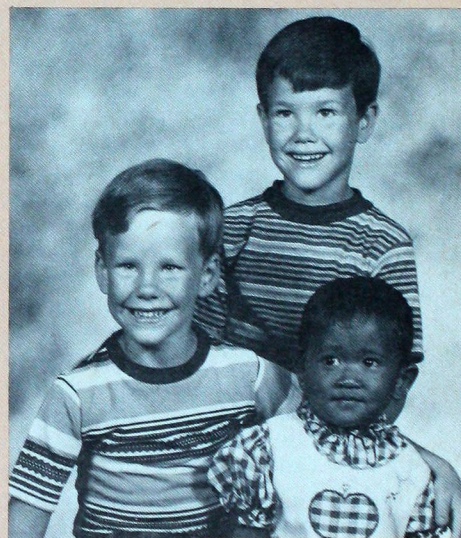
For nearly a year the whole situation was up in the air. Hundreds of people around the world assured us of their prayers and concern, many sending in gifts of money to help fight the expensive legal battles. But all during that time the families lived under a cloud, realizing that there was the possibility that the children would be removed and placed somewhere else.

Then came the good word:

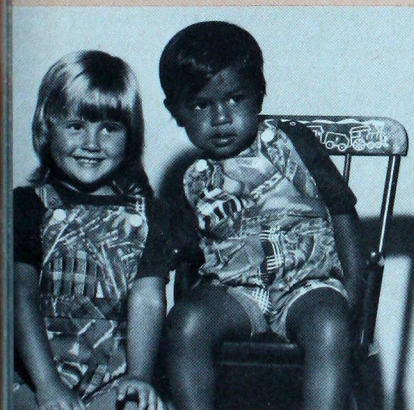
"Just last month," said Marty Lonsdale, one of the adoptive parents as well as a World Vision staff member, "we received notification through our attorney that the Los Angeles County Adoption Board is now prepared to process and proceed with the formal placing of the children in our homes."

In each case the parents would be allowed to keep the child they had spent so much prayer and effort to retain within their own family unit.

"We praise God for that," Marty says. "It's come about through a series of miraculous happenings... but all because scores of God's people banded together and prayed."



(left to right) Stephen, David Jr. and Sok Chea Scott.



Lisa Lonsdale and her new brother, Nathan Srin.



Zandra, Rous and Kevin Wagoner

globe at a glance

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

SUPPORT FOR MISSIONS GROWING IN THIRD WORLD

Worldwide inflation continues to give North American mission agencies cause for concern. With few exceptions during the past few years, agencies have reduced overseas missionary personnel. Observers believe the trend is likely to continue next year, in spite of increased giving reported by most agencies and churches.

Although the number of North American missionaries is declining, the total number of missionaries is growing. Christians in Korea, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and other nations are supporting missionaries of their own. A recent research project conducted by Dr. Marlin L. Nelson (Associate Director of the Asia Church Growth Institute, Seoul, Korea) disclosed that in Asia alone there are 1293 missionaries in 53 agencies involved in cross-cultural ministries. Of the total, 51 percent are working in different cultures within their own country; the remainder are active in foreign countries, including the United States.

Asia

BANGKOK, Thailand—A Roman Catholic priest was recently expelled from South Vietnam after working in Saigon for 46 years. Interviewed by a World Vision acquaintance upon his arrival here, he reported that there is a severe food shortage in South Vietnam. People are getting only 300 grams of rice daily; much of the other food, medicines, spare parts, radios, fans and supplies has been collected and taken by military truck convoys to Hanoi. The priest noted that it is against the law to give to the poor or to beggars, and that the Church in South Vietnam, as well as all Government offices, is infiltrated with spies. Job seekers who admit on their applications that they are "Christian" or "Catholic" do not get hired. He predicted that the Church in "his" country will become "old and weak very quickly, but God will live in the hearts of my people."

Africa

KAMPALA, Uganda—There are reports circulating here that President Idi Amin Dada, a Muslim, has initiated attacks against the Roman Catholic Church. Sources say that one priest has recently been killed and that two Canadian priests have been deported without reason. A lay brother who protested the deporta-

tion was arrested. Also, the Catholic newspaper, *Munno*, has been closed down and its editorial staff arrested.

South America

QUITO, Ecuador—Missionary radio station HCJB here has been successfully combining telephone counseling and evangelism with spot announcements and local newspaper advertisements. The announcements seek to describe specific needs of the reader or listener which can be met through faith in Christ, and then note that help is available by calling a certain telephone number. Those who call the number hear a recorded message that concludes with another telephone number. This time a qualified counselor answers. The dual system constitutes a screening process that seems to eliminate most of those who are not open to help. Of the 300 calls received by the station each day, a high number are helped and many experience a new spiritual awakening.

Europe

GENEVA, Switzerland—Although hurting financially, the World Council of Churches has nevertheless allocated more than \$500,000 from its controversial fund against racism for 37 groups in 19 countries. Nearly half of the amount is

being directed to causes in southern Africa. While the funds are given and specified for humanitarian services, the WCC exercises no control over how they are spent.

The Rev. Mitsuo Fuchida, the former naval pilot who led the air assault on Pearl Harbor, has died at the age of 73. Fuchida became a Christian and traveled for several years as a Pocket Testament League representative in the United States.

The Rev. Samuel Van Culin, 45, has been named the new executive for national and world missions of



the Episcopal Church. He has served on the national staff of the three-million-member denomination since 1962.

Don Nash, a California engineer, has invented a spring-powered cassette player that significantly reduces the amount of battery power needed. When used for two hours a day, present cassette recorders consume more than \$100 worth of batteries a year. While Nash's new recorder requires some electrical power, it is estimated that \$1 worth of batteries will last a year. The invention should be a big boost to missionaries the world over who now employ cassette recorders in Christian education and evangelism programs.

After having been cleared in an Australian court challenge, it appears that the planned merger of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches into the United Church of Australia will take place soon.

UV

monthly memo

It is so encouraging to us here at World Vision to see how eagerly young people want to be involved in the compassionate concerns represented in our ministry.

A beautiful letter recently came across my desk from a girl who had seen our five-hour television special "What Will We Say to a Hungry World." I was moved by her heart and compassion. She said, "I was really touched by the program the other night . . . I am interested in the world's hunger problems and hope that when I am older I can become more involved. If there is anything that a 14-year-old girl can do to help out with the world's problems, I would like to know, for I would be happy to help.

"Maybe one day, the sound of hunger won't be echoing through the world. Maybe one day we can hear the sound of happiness throughout the world. I hope I am still alive when that day comes. I hope more people will become involved in helping and sharing, for generosity comes from the heart, not the bank."

Young people care about the injustices of our world; they care about people who are suffering. They care about preserving a



meaningful quality of life for their children and grandchildren. They care about war, ecology, poverty, oppression.

And—they find creative ways to express their concern and become involved. For example, a youth group on Long Island raised \$1500 for hungry people during a 10-hour volleyball marathon. A handful of students at Lawrence University in Wisconsin earned \$450 from sponsors in a two-day rocking chair marathon. A Pennsylvania youth group raised \$2500 during six consecutive days of nonstop bowling. And a third-grade class in Shawnee, Oklahoma earned \$125 for hungry people by making popcorn and selling it to the rest of the school for five cents a bag.

Last spring a nearby Southern California church youth group decided to stage an old-fashioned melodrama—complete with hero, villain and damsel in distress. Even those who weren't in the cast worked on costumes, sets, publicity and tickets. They raised \$800 to alleviate suffering in Bangladesh and had a great time doing it!

We here at World Vision have now developed a special hunger program for youth, placing as much emphasis on education as on financial success. By going without solid food for 30 hours, young people involved in our "Fast 30" program learn by experience how it feels to be hungry. The participating members of a youth group spend 30 hours together, from Friday afternoon until Saturday night. They see films, discuss Bible passages on a Christian's response to hunger and do creative role-playing exercises. They begin to identify with hungry people in countries like India, who don't have hope for even an adequate meal.

We view the effect of "Fast 30" on the young people involved as being just as important as whatever money is raised from their sponsors. It's a life-changing experience that is hard to forget.

When Jesus invades the life, He touches every part of it every day. He realigns our value systems and challenges our life styles. A project to help the hungry isn't just another activity—it can be the opportunity for the Lord to speak to young people about their individual values and their long-term responsibilities to need.

Ted W. Engstrom
Executive Vice President

unreached peoples



Tucked away in the northeastern region of India, hard upon Burma, is a large, beautiful valley. There a proud people practices one of the four classical traditions of Indian dance. "To Please the Gods" is the name of the dance, but the people are only beginning to know the God who created all pleasing things.

The Meitei are 700,000 strong. Heavily influenced by Hinduism, they have nonetheless retained


India's People of the Dance

much of their own way of life. Drama, storytelling and dance are all high favorites among this largely illiterate people. They are restless with Hinduism and are casting it off. But who will teach them a new dance and give them a new God?

The tribes in the surrounding hills have become largely Christian. But a prejudice barrier between these valley Meitei and the hill people "who stink" hinders evangelization. Indians from other parts of India are rejected (the Meitei feel oppressed by the Government). Foreign missionaries are prohibited. Little more than 300 know Christ.

The Meitei of Manipur, India, are becoming responsive but are as yet unreached. They are symbolic of

the thousands of people groups around the world who are yet to hear and respond to the gospel. You can become a part of reaching these people by learning more about them—and the hundreds of unreached peoples around the world.

In order that you may pray, love and understand the needs of unreached people like the Meitei of Manipur, India, World Vision's MARC Ministry has prepared a brief prayer folder. This folder includes the data from the World Vision/MARC Unreached Peoples Program. It 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. 

What you are saying to a hungry world

With the help of concerned Christians, World Vision is meeting the emergency needs of suffering people throughout the world and making it possible for them to build for future self-reliance.



LIFESAVING WATER FOR UPPER VOLTA

It rained in Upper Volta last month. In fact it poured the past three months. That's normal. But much of the precious, lifesaving fluid has already washed away in rivers and streams. In another three months, people by the thousands will literally be tightening their belts as the then dry earth becomes parched. That, too, is a normal condition in this West African nation into which the Sahara Desert has slowly spread over many years.

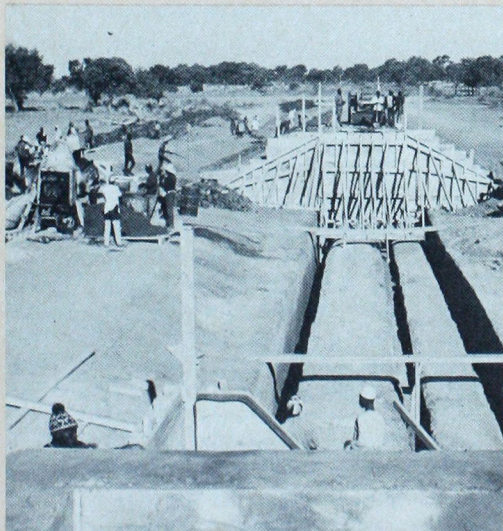
For some 14,000 men, women and children living near the villages of Tita and Sassa, "normal" is no longer normal. A miracle took place this year. Thanks to the concern of caring individuals in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, two dams

were completed in time to capture and hold the monsoon rains for year-round availability. Constructed primarily by local laborers who will now benefit from the water that is backed up two and a half miles, both dams illustrate that people will help themselves when given the opportunity.

Before the dams were built, the normal rainy season in Upper Volta gave farmers enough time to grow only maize and sorghum. Now, with water available year-round, families in the Tita and Sassa areas will be able to improve their diets with potatoes, cabbages, tomatoes and onions. In addition, green beans can also be grown as a cash crop; there is a market for beans in the capital city of Ouagadougou as well as for export to France. For most of the families, it will be the first time they have ever been able to grow their own food and earn some extra money.

The Tita and Sassa dams are but two of the projects World Vision International has undertaken in Upper Volta this year in partnership with the Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions. The total cost of both dams was \$337,000—\$21,000 under the original estimate.

In addition to these water development projects, World Vision is also constructing two more dams near the villages of Sigili and Leo. Their cost estimate of \$217,387 represents only about half of the total funds World Vision has budgeted for Upper Volta during the next 12 months. Thank you for caring. No matter how insignificant your "little bit" may seem to you, it can help change the lives of thousands.



Local laborers, in January 1976, preparing forms for concrete spillway at Tita. Remainder of dam is earth and rocks.



Lifesaving water, about 10 feet deep, is now backed up two and a half miles at Tita and Sassa.

The world situation was bleak . . . the Church in desperate straits, when God communicated through His prophet . . .

It was quite an autumn in Jerusalem that year—520 B.C.

There had been a series of bad years, and the farmers were in trouble again because of a poor harvest. They had drought, hail and insects in unbelievable combinations, so that whether they were in dairy farming or grain or the fruit business, they all suffered. Food seemed perpetually scarce, and they had a hard time keeping warm. As for prices, they were exorbitant. To those that had any income at all, it seemed to disappear as though it was put into pockets with holes.

Even their faith did not seem to do them much good. Up there in the Temple, there was not much to inspire—it was a heap of rubble and masonry. It had been like that for the 18 years since they came back from exile in Babylon.

What a sight! The pile of rubble said it all. Nebuchadnezzar with his battering rams had breached their national theology beyond recognition. The three things they had thought would always be there as the sign of God's presence with them—God's Temple, the holy city of Jerusalem and the land of Israel—were all taken away. Gone.

Still, they had a subsidy from the Babylonian King Cyrus, and it gave them heart that God had at least fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecy: Their exile would only be for 70 years.

So they set about rebuilding the Temple. They hired masons and carpenters and made arrangements with the wood merchants in Tyre and Sidon to send some good cedar by sea to Jaffa and then overland to Jerusalem, much like Solomon had done for the original building. They even got as far as rebuilding the altar and reinstating the sacrifices and doing something to the foundations.

But then they had to stop. Their neighbors saw their return as a threat and agitated until the Jews gave up the restoration of the Temple. There was nothing left for them to do but to retreat to the surrounding countryside to quietly look after their farms.

They did a good job. The years in Babylon were not wasted on them, and they showed taste and skill in making nice homes—with paneled interiors a special-

ty. But little good it had done them, they thought, as they sat cold and hungry in such pleasant but useless comfort during that long autumn.

In addition, there was the endless argument about whether they should be doing something about the Temple again. Some said they should. Others said it was hopeless because their neighbors would never let them do it, and, in any case, could easily block their supply of cedar coming up from the coast. No one could make a decision, and the discussion endlessly repeated itself.

Their leaders were uninspiring—a far cry from David and Solomon. Zerubbabel had some connection with the royal family, but that was the best to be said for him. Joshua the priest was the brightest of the bunch, but even he was mediocre at best.

With the bleakest of outlooks for the winter ahead, that autumn was an all-time low.

Somehow God came through to one man in that dejected community. His name was Haggai. He went straight to the top—to Zerubbabel and Joshua. He minced no words.

"Your trouble is that you are not giving God His place," he told them. "You are all looking after yourselves and your families, and you don't need to look further than your own homes for proof of that. You seemed to manage very well without cedar from Lebanon when you put paneling into *your* posh rooms. Where did you get the wood for that? It was local timber!"

"All right then. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build God's house. Do as much for God as you have done for yourselves. The fact that you have done it for yourselves shows that you *can* do it for God. The materials are there. You have the skill. And you don't have to provoke your neighbors, either. Get a move on!"

It was a new approach—basically simple and self-evident. The people had never thought about it like that. They were not getting any more to eat; prices were still rising. And they had no hope of ever doing a job that would come remotely near to Solomon's Temple as it had been.

But they did not need to do it the way Solomon had done it in the past! It did not really need to be as big and as grand!

For they began to realize if they did what they could, then that was all they were expected to do. If they did not do what they could, then they had no right to complain or make excuses about the need.

Haggai told them that turning to God brings new forces into play in one's life and circumstances. It's what Jesus called repentance, and it's a scarce commodity.

We are all much better at blaming God, circumstances or other people—and making excuses for ourselves. If we have a long haul ahead of us, however, humbly accepting the consequences of our own past behavior will give us an easier passage than repeated fits of self-pity. It takes a real experience of the forgiveness through the Cross to do this.



HAGGAI: "Get a move on!"

By Tom Houston, Communication Director,
The British and Foreign Bible Society

International Intercessors

Thousands of Christians circle the world each day with their prayers. One fellowship of intercessors numbers 11,000 and has as its special concern the spiritual and physical needs of suffering people worldwide.

International Intercessors, the prayer arm of World Vision, believes the only way an impact for God can be made upon the 2.75 billion unreached people of the world is by intercessory prayer. Its printed daily prayer reminder might include a request to pray for refugees in Bangladesh, a Pastors' Conference in India or handicapped children in Egypt.

World Vision makes this prayer guide available without charge. For information, please write International Intercessors, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, California 91016.

Seed Project

Using "The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11) as their theme, the fifth grade girls' Sunday school class at West Side Church in Richland, Washington found a unique way to help hungry people.

Miss Cindy Campbell, shown below in the "Seed Stand," was one of the girls who carefully packaged hundreds of sunflower seeds. With a suggested donation of 50 cents, the seeds were then made available to the congregation between services.



At the project's close, \$17.25 had been raised to send to the hungry. The class requested that the money be channeled through World Vision "to buy vegetable seeds to be distributed in underprivileged nations."

Village Assistance

World Vision staff members were traveling to Baan Mai Sawan in northwestern Thailand recently to deliver school uniforms when they found a boy lying beside the road, obviously near death. They learned that his family had no money for medical help and had left him there to die—a victim of dysentery and typhoid fever.

After taking the boy to a hospital, the workers discovered that his entire village had only one toilet and that the infectious dysentery problem was severe. World Vision Foundation of Thailand took immediate steps to keep the disease from spreading further by providing a number of sanitary facilities for the villagers.

Update: Demra

The program to educate refugee mothers on Bangladesh's Demra Island is growing steadily, reports World Vision nurse Mary Campbell. The first class of 20 mothers graduated on July 3, and 40 mothers are currently enrolled in each two-week session.

Through the use of flash cards, posters and practical demonstrations, the women learn the basics of health care, nutrition and family planning. They learn to make four types of bread, dry fish curry and dishes from various leaves. Talks are also given on baby bathing and home treatment of fevers and other common illnesses.

Although the mothers are not required to attend the daily two-hour classes, many women see the results of the teaching in their neighbors' families and decide to sign up. As the current teachers are able to train others to help them, there will be more classes for the women of Demra's 5000 families.

India Flood Relief

"All of a sudden the waters came into our hut and it was up to my stomach," said Nakothira, who lost everything in the floods.

It was a nightmare—not only for Nakothira, but for over 50,000 families in the Cachar District of Assam, India. They stood shivering in the rain, their huts tottering in six feet of water, their food, clothing and crops gone. It was the worst flood since 1929, according to an American missionary. The high water continued for over 45 days.



World Vision has stepped in to give immediate relief in the form of wheat flour, rice and seedlings for new rice paddies. Arrangements are also being made for clothing and new blankets for the cold season, which begins in October.

New Books

Three new books are available for your personal and management library:

Strategy for Living, by Edward R. Dayton and Ted W. Engstrom, published by Regal, which is the heart of the World Vision/MARC Managing Your Time seminars; *The Art of Management for Christian Leaders*, by Engstrom and Dayton, Word, a compilation of three years of the *Christian Leadership Letter*, and *The Making of a Christian Leader*, authored singly by Ted W. Engstrom, Zondervan.

Each of these books is \$6.95 and is available through the publisher or your local Christian bookstore. The books cannot be ordered through World Vision.



I Shall Go to My Grave~

I am not ill . . . not morbid . . . not despondent.

To the best of my knowledge, I am not suffering from what some psychiatrists would call a "death wish."

On the other hand, I am not young. The 20th century and I have kept close company for many years. This June Mrs. Rees and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary. I have outlived all of those senior men of God who helped to mold and mature me when I was a youthful preacher-in-the-making. More than that, I have outlived many of my peers, respected and much-loved contemporaries.

So I speak in a mood neither callow nor melancholy.

Let me try to ring some bells that resonate with my strong and persistent convictions:

1. *I shall go to my grave* affirming that Jesus Christ is what I mean by absolute reality. Not the Church, which is less than eternal; not the Bible, which is instrumental rather than ultimate; but Jesus Christ, the Lord God revealed.

2. *I shall go to my grave* convinced that the Church—the visible community of Christian faith and fellowship—needs to exhibit a unity that is perilously contradicted by the exclusive, self-defensive and often warring divisions into which we have fractured and factioned ourselves. With time's passing I am less and less impressed by our attempts to justify this rabbit-warren proliferation of our sects and subdivisions. Concurrently, I am increasingly struck by the flimsiness and self-serving of our arguments for going on as we are.

3. *I shall go to my grave* declaring that the human condition of estrangement from God is so profound that it can never be put right except as God in mercy takes the initiative, as he has in Christ. At the Cross, the place of reconciliation has been found and founded, once for all and for all who will kneel to accept.

4. *I shall go to my grave* persuaded that rules and regulations for Christians, if used as means by which we pigeonhole our Christian comrades into "true" or "false," are legalistic devices for producing "cult" or "culture" Christianity instead of the Beloved Community of the New Testament.

5. *I shall go to my grave* firm in the feeling that one of the most frequent undetected sins of Christians is idolatry. Customs, tradition, forms, ideologies, organizations, institutions (including the State), precedents, structures, titles, clichés—in every one of them there is a potential idol. They arose, it well may be, out of historical necessity. We cling to them, or kowtow to them, or somehow perpetuate them, out of lethargy, or bigotry, or stupidity, or vanity.

6. *I shall go to my grave* believing that the long years of controversial "pulling and hauling" over the

personal gospel was a poignant miscalculation. There was myopia on both sides. Now, thank God, the signs point to clearer understanding.

7. *I shall go to my grave* with the conviction that theological "tunnel vision" has kept multitudes of Christians, both clergy and laity, from discovering the wealth of Christlikeness that is open to them on the pages of the New Testament. A holiness of motivating love, offered both as gift and as growth, has been missed by masses of Christians. They have missed it because of their preoccupation with two-nature theories, or "after-all-I'm-only-human" rationalizations, or mistaken exegeses ("Paul saw himself a bigger sinner at the end than at the beginning of his Christian life"), or justifiable fears of perfectionist excesses that they have witnessed or that history has recorded. We are wrong, I am persuaded, to set limits to what the grace of God can do in redeeming and refashioning the believing person.

8. *I shall go to my grave* asserting that nine-tenths of our either/or's are abstractions of the mind rather than reflections of reality. There *are* absolutes and there *is* truth in situation ethics. There *is* subordination in family and other community life and there *is* sexual equality. We *do* have a trustworthy Bible and we *do* have a Bible whose authority is not derailed by a misspelled word, or an erroneously translated term, or an incorrect date.

9. *I shall go to my grave* believing that, side by side with my ardent expectation of the Second Advent, most of our "signs of the times" sermons and books are based on opportunism and a mistaken understanding of what the apocalyptic portions of Scripture are meant to teach us. These hot sermon and literary outpourings tend, in the cases of many Christians, to distract from the "occupy until I come" mandate for missions and social responsibility.

10. *I shall go to my grave* unshakable in the faith-confession that, all appearances to the contrary, "Jesus is Lord."

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick and lead the blind.

Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

Paul Rees

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