GULF OF THAILAND (AP) -- A Vietnamese woman pleads for help as she holds her sick child aboard a small fishing boat carrying 50 refugees. The refugees were not allowed to land.
Taking Risks

Since World Vision was founded 28 years ago, it has developed a reputation both for its compassionate response and for being at the cutting edge of what’s happening in missions. Perhaps its beginning in the midst of the Korean War is what established World Vision as a risk-taking evangelical agency.

Whenever an individual or an organization acts while others are still weighing the circumstances or the costs, risks are involved. World Vision braved considerable risk in Vietnam during the 1960’s and 1970’s, and again in Bangladesh and Cambodia through the mid-1970’s. More recently there were risks in helping to resettle the Ogaden region of Ethiopia while Somalia and Ethiopia forces fought each other.

Risk was involved, also, in being the first agency to sponsor city-wide evangelistic crusades in Osaka and Tokyo, Japan, in 1959 and 1961, respectively, and in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 1972. But in each situation, whether we attempted to minister to physical needs or to spiritual needs, circumstances were such that there was much prayer and room for God to provide. He did, as He does always.

While most of World Vision’s responses to need are considered and carried out in relatively short periods of time, such is not always the case. The organization’s newest ministry is one of the exceptions. It was in January of this year that Stan Mooneyham, president, first felt God calling World Vision to help Vietnamese boat refugees. Before the decision to do something was finally made, five months elapsed. During that time, Dr. Mooneyham traveled to Washington, D.C., as well as to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. He talked to senators, United Nations officials, ambassadors and others in high-level positions in each country.

Despite all the extensive discussion and careful consideration that has gone into the decision, there are still many risks involved in ministering to the boat people. But Jesus never promised a safe journey to anyone following Him—only that He, too, would be present. We hope you will read the article on page four, and let us know what you think about this latest, vital ministry in which World Vision is becoming involved.
CHRISTIANS UNITE TO USE INFLUENCE

Christians are increasingly using their influence to express concern on issues confronting American corporations and the United States Government. For example, a coalition of 17 Protestant agencies and Catholic orders recently consolidated their stock in a large corporation to strengthen their influence. With enough votes accumulated, they presented a resolution urging the company to stop marketing infant formulas in developing nations. (This is a practice detrimental to those infants’ general health.)

Church groups also spoke out at the recent annual meetings of several other corporations. Several groups bought stock in order to press the companies to stop selling equipment to repressive governments around the world.

Christians are also exerting their influence in Washington. Organizations such as Bread for the World (BFW), a Christian citizen’s movement, are organizing members to voice their views. BFW produces a monthly newsletter that encourages members to write their representatives in Congress when key decisions are being made on issues relating to hunger.

Last month, the Associated Church Press asked its members to write letters supporting a bill now in Congress that will continue the lower second-class postage rates for nonprofit publications.

In addition, the National Association of Evangelicals recently announced the expansion of its Office of Public Affairs in Washington, which serves as a “watchdog” for evangelicals in matters of legislation.

NEW DELHI, India—New regulations imposed by Prime Minister Morarji R. Desai have closed almost all of India’s bars and sharply limited the hours of operation of liquor stores. Desai has set his country’s sights on total prohibition by 1981. He calls his goal an “essential part of the fight against poverty and the struggle for peaceful domestic environment.”

HONG KONG—An estimated 28,000 people indicated that they accepted Jesus Christ as Savior during a three-week “Here’s Life” campaign here during March and April. Campus Crusade for Christ, sponsor of the media blitz evangelism program, called the crusade the “most successful ‘Here’s Life’ campaign in the world to date.”

North America

LA MIRADA, California—Four mission organizations are working with students from Biola College here in a June outreach to Trinidad. The Evangelical Alliance Mission, West Indies Mission, Child Evangelism Fellowship and Christian Literature Crusade will work with more than 100 students in the evangelism project. In other Latin American summer ministries, Gospel Missionary Union will direct 50 summer workers from 26 other Bible colleges in projects in Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia.

PEOPLE

The Polish Government has approved an invitation by the Baptist Union of Poland for a visit by evangelist Billy Graham. It will be Graham’s second visit to a Soviet bloc country, and is likely to take place sometime in September.

Jack Kendall, president of the Technical Assistance Program, died April 19. TAP offers free technical assistance to missions, churches and Christian colleges.

Dr. Robert Schnabel has accepted the presidency of Valparaiso University, the nation’s largest Lutheran college or university, succeeding Dr. A.G. Huegli.
This man typifies many refugees who lost loved ones in their escape from Vietnam. Seven of his children were in a boat turned back by Vietnamese gunboats.
The planning and waiting were over. The night had come for Tran Van Nam to escape with his family from Vietnam. After dark, he and his wife and six children slipped down to the shore. Nam boarded one small fishing boat with two of his sons; his wife got into a second boat with the remaining children. Another family was in a third boat. Navigation in the dark proved difficult, and the boats became separated.

Nam and his sons eventually reached Thailand, landing at the Laem Sing Refugee Camp. Crowded in with hundreds of other boat refugees in this camp of makeshift bamboo shacks between the mountains and the sea, Nam waited anxiously for the rest of his family to arrive.

After a full month, three refugee boats put into shore, bringing bad news. The newcomers had seen the other two boats from Nam's group seized by Vietnamese Navy gunboats and escorted back to the South Vietnam shore.

When I talked with Tran Van Nam a few days later, he broke into tears once again as he thought of his wife and children. I wept with him. This man, as he told me, would very likely never see his family again.

Nam's tragic story is one of many similar stories that have emotionally devastated me during the past five months. The plight of the people fleeing Vietnam in boats is something I have not been able to ignore. While the nations of Southeast Asia and the West argue about what to do with the refugees, the suffering of these victimized people has gone unsolved and unsoothed. The conviction has been growing in me that since God cares for the refugees, He wants to do something to help them.

The boat refugees' situation first came acutely to my attention last December. I was preparing to preach in an evening service at the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in south-central Los Angeles when my friend, Dr. E.V. Hill, handed me a newspaper clipping that told of refugees being refused entrance by one of the neighboring Southeast-Asian nations. Ed said to me, "You can do something about this." My immediate feeling was that I had all I could handle already. Couldn't someone else get involved instead? But I told Ed I would study the situation and see where God might be leading. We had done what we could for the people while the war raged. We had gone the "last mile" during the final evacuation. Was there something else God wanted us to do?

Since the end of the Indochina war in 1975, large numbers of refugees have been leaving the countries of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. These refugees come from all walks of life—fishermen, lawyers, army captains and university students. All wish to regain the freedom they lost under Communist rule. I found out that there are approximately 140,000 refugees in nearby countries, most of them having fled over the borders of Cambodia and Laos into Thailand. Refugees from Vietnam, however, have no free nation they can flee to by land. Many are setting out to sea in small (often unseaworthy) fishing boats, hoping to land in Thailand or some other nation where they can resume life apart from Communism. In Vietnam, they face potential removal to that Government's "new economic zones," often meaning a permanent break up of one's family.

During the good weather season (April through October), some 1500 boat refugees have been making it to land every month. It is estimated that at any given time there are approximately 5000 people adrift in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. One source estimates that 40 to 60 percent of those who put out to sea in the little boats drown before they get to land. But those who are out there right now have no place to go.

As I learned very quickly in my investigation, refugees are no longer welcome in Southeast Asia. Neighboring nations, especially Thailand and Malaysia, are helping out all they can under difficult circumstances. But the influx of refugees has been putting an increasingly heavy economic and political burden on these countries. Boat refugees, it seems, have...
become especially unwelcome because of their more dramatic arrival.

The Southeast Asian nations involved have expressed a willingness to give the refugees temporary asylum, provided the United States and other Western nations can guarantee resettlement of the refugees in their own countries. But the response of the Western nations has been to desire a slow, orderly approach to the refugee problem, not wishing to make any long-term commitments. This is the political problem that has remained unsolved thus far.

The refugees, meanwhile, are setting out to sea in ever greater numbers. They take few supplies with them in order not to arouse suspicion. The boats are usually overcrowded; one boat arrived in Songkla, Thailand, with 83 people standing because there was no room to sit down.

Out in the water, these refugees face a number of problems. Many are ill, and have no medicine. There are shortages of water and food. Some boats run out of fuel or develop engine problems, leaving them adrift, totally at the mercy of the sea. Nearly all of the boats come into contact with coastal pirates who have reportedly even murdered the men and raped the women passengers. I talked to refugees at the Laem Sing camp who told of being pirated four times during their voyage.

Only a few commercial vessels have been willing to stop and give aid on the high seas; they are afraid they may have to take refugees on board and then not be able to land them anywhere. Thus, for what seems like the first time in history, the cardinal law of the sea (to help a boat in distress) is being violated regularly because of political and economic pragmatics.

As horrified as I am by what these people are facing on the high seas, the condition of those refugees who have successfully landed at Laem Sing and two other camps is not something I will easily forget. The Laem Sing camp, originally expected to contain 300 people, now has a population of 1100. I sat and talked with many of these people in the doorways of their bamboo shacks. While some saw promise for being resettled in a foreign country, others had given up almost all hope. Some had been there only a few weeks, others as long as three years.

One young father I talked to had lost his wife, two children, two brothers and a sister when patrolling Vietnamese gunboats scattered their party in the dark.

Another refugee, Mrs. Le Thi Xuan, told me how she escaped with her child on a boat carrying 62 people—32 of whom were children. Her husband had escaped to Singapore two years earlier, but she had not heard from him since then.

An old fisherman told how he was separated from his wife in a shuffle to reach a large fishing boat that was to take them to freedom. He reached the boat; his wife did not. He then realized that he held her identification card, which one must carry at all times in Vietnam. If she were not captured immediately by the Vietnamese gunboat, she still faced arrest and imprisonment or worse, being a woman with a missing husband and no identification card.

The fisherman wanted desperately to go back for her, but he could not risk the lives of the other 40 people in his boat. He misses his wife very much.

The situation is much the same for other refugees in the camp. From their huts on the mountainside, they look out at the scraps and skeletons of boats that line the shore—wrecks of boats that speak poignantly of shattered hopes and broken dreams.

In the past few months I have asked myself many times, “How can I cope with what I know about the boat refugees? How does one take what has become a white-hot emotional experience and somehow translate that into a

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**UNITED STATES' REFUGEE POLICY**

The Carter Administration is putting together a new “interim” refugee policy that could bring relief to the Vietnamese boat people. Using the Attorney General’s special parole authority, the Administration may begin admitting boat refugees to the United States who have been refused asylum elsewhere. The temporary measure would reportedly allow in some 25,000 Indochina refugees a year.

Two bills now before Congress propose changes in America’s immigration law to alleviate the refugee problem, but the new legislation could take up to a year to be enacted. Though the Government has admitted about 22,000 Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians since last summer, this has not convinced officials in Thailand and elsewhere that the United States will bring a more permanent and tangible solution to the refugee problem. The use of parole authority and a push for revision of the immigration law might provide the assurance these nations seek before allowing boat refugees to land.
(upper left) Fishing boat laden with 50 refugees who have nowhere to go. (above) Vietnamese woman shelters herself and her child from the hot sun while afloat in the Gulf of Thailand. (left) This baby was born in the fish hold of a refugee boat at sea. (below) Stan Mooneyham talks with refugee Tran Van Nam.

(right) . . . wrecks of boats that speak poignantly of shattered hopes and broken dreams.
carefully considered, objective plan of action?"

As I talked with my colleagues at World Vision and with numerous government leaders, my first desire was for World Vision to launch a rescue ship to pick up people from the boats and land them safely in refugee processing centers in Asia. Because of the confused policies that exist regarding resettlement of the refugees, we were strongly discouraged from doing this. However, I could not shake a strong feeling that we had the capability and responsibility to find a way to do something until the governments solved the larger problems. God was not, to my mind, closing the doors.

My special assistant, Mr. Hal Barber, and I were prayerfully considering the situation on our way back to our hotel in Singapore one day when the answer came to us: Why not charter a service-and-supply ship that would cruise in international waters in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand looking for boats in distress? The ship could offer whatever kind of assistance was needed without taking refugees aboard. The least we could do is keep these people alive until the political problem is solved and they are able to land somewhere.

We then discussed this plan repeatedly with many key government people, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; leaders in the United States Congress, U.S. State Department and U.S. embassies; officials in the Governments of Canada and Australia; the Minister of the Interior for the Royal Thai Government, and other government leaders in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Though no government was willing to publicly state their approval of the plan, the unofficial response was invariably, "Thank God, somebody cares about the refugees!"

So we have taken action. "Operation Seasweep" has begun. World Vision has chartered and launched a 345-ton vessel into the South China Sea in the hope that we, as Christians, can be God's means of helping these desperate people. The ship's staff, headed by Mr. Burt Singleton from our headquarters' office, includes a doctor, nurses, mechanics and supply personnel. We are there, by God's grace, to be used in any way He directs. We are ready to distribute food and water, clothing and medicine. We will be able to fix boat engines and supply fuel. Boat repairs will also be made whenever needed.

I cannot get out of my mind the picture of those helpless people, their boats bobbing up and down on the ocean waves. You and I can see, and hear, and feel the need of these people only so long before we have to do something to help. Since God cares, He always acts. And in this instance, it appears that He wants to act through you and me.

One thing we should do immediately is to pray that the governments will soon resolve the resettlement issue so that our service-and-supply operation can become a rescue operation.

The other thing we can do is give of our resources to relieve the refugees' immediate suffering. One church has already pledged to support "Operation Seasweep" for an entire month. Your gift of $5, $10, $35 or $100 is something our Lord wants to use. A gift of $30 will pay for a Boat Pak that contains all the supplies needed to keep a family alive for two weeks. This includes food, water, clothing and personal hygiene items. World Vision is also prepared to replace any refugee boat that is damaged beyond repair. Each replacement boat will cost $2000.

The service-and-supply ship is now at sea. World Vision will carry reports on the operation in further issues.

Editor's note—Actual names of refugees mentioned have been withheld to protect relatives living in Vietnam.

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I want to help the refugees. Please use my enclosed check for $_______ for "Operation Seasweep" and refugee assistance.

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
City _____________________________
State ______ ZIP _______________
I.D. # _________________________
(See magazine mailing label.)
As our Land Rover slithered to a stop at the edge of the mud-churned highway, I peered ahead, trying to discover the cause of this latest delay. Finally, word came back from vehicles in front of us that rock slides, caused by the heavy rains, had closed the road. It looked as though we would be there for awhile.

We were headed for Bajubang, in Central Sumatra, home of Indonesia's Kubu people. Normally, in the dry season, it would have taken only two days to reach the area. But this time, we couldn’t wait for the rains to end. It was already December 12, and we were determined to reach Bajubang before Christmas.

I was making the journey with the Rev. R. Burtzlaff, a German missionary with Overseas Missionary Fellowship, working with our Indonesian Protestant Church, and our Land Rover was loaded with big bundles of clothing for the Kubu people.

It was my second journey into the remote area, and Mr. Burtzlaff’s first. But I knew we would be welcomed by the Indonesian pastor ministering to the Kubus. Simanjuntak had been in their settlement for two years now, working with the help of the Norwegian Christian Mission.

His work was slow and sometimes discouraging, but he realized that helping people build a better life is never an easy or instantaneous task.

I was relieved when the “All Clear” signal came and the Land Rovers began to move again. As we oozed through the mud, I began to think about the Kubus.

I knew that they belonged to an isolated tribe in Central Sumatra’s Jambi Province, and that many of them lived in very poor conditions. Their diet consisted of tubers found in the jungle as well as wild pigs, deer, fish and snakes. Fire is an alien element to the Kubus and they eat everything raw.

Kubu housing conditions are in the same state as their diet. For a Kubu, a house means only a shelter against the sun and the rain; it usually consists of poles put in the ground and topped by a thatched roof. Only the most “modern” houses have walls.

Disease is rampant. Because of their poor diet, impure water and lack of clothing, many members of the tribe suffer from malaria, gastrointestinal ailments, skin diseases and respiratory infections.

So it was a huge task that Simanjuntak had set for himself: not just to preach the Gospel to these people, but also to help them better their physical lives.

I believe this is the important concept behind all of our missions work in Indonesia. There is a saying, “If you give a hungry man a fish, he will be satisfied once only, and will be hungry again. But if you give him a fishing hook, or fishing net, he won’t be hungry any more.” Teach the Kubu people Christianity, but teach them at the same time how to earn a living and how to build better houses. Build schools for their children and show them how to farm. Then, when you tell them that Jesus loves them, they will understand, seeing this love in action.

Dr. Andar Lumbantobing is the Bishop of the Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia.
As we entered Kubu territory on the third day of our journey, we were immediately flagged down by young men selling plant roots. "Obat Bapa!" they cried. "Satu . . . merah Bapa!" I knew they were saying, "Medicine, sir. A hundred rupiahs buys this red root, sir." The Kubus believe that drinking the scrapings from this root will make childbirth easier for a woman. Mr. Burtzlaff and I had a hard time convincing the young entrepreneurs that we wouldn't have much use for their goods!

Barking dogs announced our arrival in the settlement and we were quickly surrounded by the curious villagers and their children. We spotted the mission house—perhaps mission "hut" is a better term for it—and we were warmly greeted by Pastor Simanjuntak. He later explained that he tried to live simply, in much the same style as the people he serves.

"If my house were much better than theirs," he said, "the Kubu people would be afraid to come into it. I would lose my ministry before it really began."

Since the clothing was the purpose of our visit, we distributed it immediately. As the Kubus usually wear just a loincloth, the trying-on session was full of fumbling, curiosity and much laughter.

We then surveyed the area with Simanjuntak. He has succeeded in teaching the people how to bathe regularly, and in making them realize the importance of boiling their water. He has also taught them how to develop fisheries; a number of fishponds are located in a nearby valley. Simanjuntak also plans to introduce basic farming methods, and he hopes to bring in chickens and sheep.

Yes, there is much to be done in this isolated area, both from the physical and the spiritual standpoint. We covet your prayers for the Kubu people, and for all Indonesians. Pray that God will continually guide us in our ministry to them as we seek to give fishing hooks instead of just fish, and introduce them to the Bread of Life.
Cairo's Children:
So Small a Share

by Maureen Lampard
Childcare Coordinator, Middle East
World Vision International
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When I was a child, one of my favorite games was to pull our vacuum cleaner, brooms and boots out of a cupboard under the stairs, and turn it into a playhouse. Sitting on a tool box, surrounded by a family of dolls, I spent many happy hours in my lovely little make-believe home.

But when I was in Cairo recently, a pastor introduced me to a family who had my make-believe world as their sad reality. A mother, father and three little boys were living under a staircase in a big dingy block of apartments. Their "house," no more than a cupboard, was furnished with a naked light bulb, a shelf and some bedding.

I wondered how five people could fit into that little wedge-shaped space. And what was it like in the heat of summer . . . or when one of their family had a bad cold . . . or when the baby cried all night?

The parents were paid a few dollars each month as janitors in the building, and they earned extra money by running errands for the other tenants. But their earnings never stretched far enough; more than half was spent on bread, and the remainder barely bought the necessary beans, cheese, vegetables and a bit of clothing.

Sami, the oldest boy, was nearly seven, and had already missed a year of school. But his young mother merely shrugged her shoulders. How could they eat, and still afford to buy Sami's school books, pencils and shoes?

When the pastor and I left the little staircase family to make other visits, we picked our way carefully. Cairo's side streets are usually unpaved, and always very dusty. Since most poor people have no indoor plumbing, they simply throw all their dirty water, vegetable waste and other household rubbish into the street.

We passed a filthy urchin with unbrushed curls and a dirty shirt, happily floating an orange-peel boat in one of the dark, foul-smelling pools. Four boys, each wearing only one shoe, played football in and around the mess. The dust was so ingrained in their skin that they would need a bath every day for a week to really come clean.

They were the children of Cairo's poor: living in windowless, cell-like basement rooms; fighting off TB, typhoid and parasites, playing in the garbage and never having the chance to go to school.

Sami's mother was right: What good was it for the Egyptian Government to provide a free education if the parents have no money to buy books, pencils and shoes?

When I returned to my modest hotel room, with its spaciousness and running water, I broke down and cried for the children in those terrible homes. Yet, at the same time, I knew that tears wouldn't help them eat better, or go to school, or receive medical care. What could be done?

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gypt is a poor country with a rapidly increasing population. The Government has set up health care and feeding programs, but they can't reach enough children.

So the evangelical churches in the country, assisted by World Vision, are starting Family-to-Family Projects (FFP) to help hundreds of these children. Supervised by pastors and local church members, the projects provide food and vitamins, medical and dental checkups, school uniforms, materials and books. And since most of the children in the projects live in crowded conditions where it is difficult to study, rooms are provided on the church premises where they can bring their school books and do their homework. There are also areas where they can play, away from the traffic and the garbage in the streets.

Most importantly, though, these children will have the opportunity to hear about Jesus. In Egypt, even a family with a Christian background may have little personal knowledge of the Gospel and be greatly influenced by their Muslim neighbors. In the FFP's, there are Sunday schools for the children, Bible classes for their parents and encouragement in home Bible study.

As I left Cairo, I remembered that Jesus promised abundant life to all who follow Him. Through sponsorship, you can give a needy child the chance to experience this abundance as he or she has never before.

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Your sponsorship will provide food, clothing, an education, medical care and the opportunity to know Jesus. You will receive a photograph, letters and progress reports from "your" child. Simply complete the coupon and return it to World Vision with your gift.

I would like to sponsor a child. Please select a _____ boy _____ girl for me. Enclosed is my first monthly check for $15. I accept this responsibility for at least a year, if at all possible.

Name ______________________

Address ____________________

City ________________________

State _______ ZIP ___________

I.D. # ______________________

(See magazine mailing label.)
She walks 10 miles to the marketplace with one pineapple to sell. All day she sits with nothing to eat, hoping the six cents she’ll get from selling the pineapple will be enough to buy necessities for her family.

As the sun sets, she starts down the dusty road for home with other villagers. Though her task for the day is accomplished, her tomorrow remains a question mark.

She is one of Kenya's rural poor. Many people in this country trudge regularly to the towns with flagging hopes that their sales will provide enough money on which to live.

Home for some of these people is a large grassland area near Lake Victoria in the southwestern corner of Kenya. Here they grow what they can—a little maize, millet, beans, pineapples, onions, cassava and sugarcane.

The problem is that they do not grow very much. Even when their sales efforts are successful, the little money gained hardly makes the exhausting trek to the marketplace worthwhile. These people just don't have enough to sell.

It's a frustrating existence. The young people, seeing this frustration, often lose hope and drop out of school. As long as no one is teaching them practical job skills to earn a living, they face the same kind of life as their parents.

One of the basic problems is a lack of agricultural know-how. Most everyone does a little farming, but general methodology is poor, and specialist skills unknown. So crop yields are low.

To bring employment and hope to the younger generation of Kenyans, a program of vocational training in agriculture is being funded by your contributions. The three-year program will cost $20,500.

Young people, especially school dropouts, are being trained in agricultural techniques, including vegetable growing, use of manure, control of insects and diseases, manufacture of tools and implements, poultry raising and distribution, care of animals and use of ox plows. All this is being taught at a training center in Migori, a community of about 10,000 people.

The first year of instruction at the training center emphasizes agricultural theory, the second year, specific skills. In the third year, students form work groups and gradually phase back into the community, applying their new talents.

Some are being trained to drive tractors and handle heavy machinery. They will find employment at nearby sugarcane farms.

Project leaders hope that many of the young people trained will be able to pass on their knowledge to others. Community education, development and income generation are the long-range goals of the program.

People in Migori want to move ahead, but they have no sense of direction. Thanks to your concern, a step is now being taken in the direction of self-reliance. Unlike the experience of the woman with the pineapple, these people—through increased agricultural production—may soon find the marketplace a place of satisfaction and hope.
The Moken are a boat dwelling people who live among the islands of the Mergui Archipelago off the Burmese coast. Their name, roughly translated, means those “immersed in the sea.”

The 5000 Moken stay together in mobile floating villages (known as kabang) comprising 10 to 40 boats. Each village is highly protective and suspicious of other floating villages. People generally marry within their own village. If two kabang visit the same bay, they stay at opposite sides and avoid contact.

Because of the isolation of the floating villages, each kabang has its own language dialect. Each also has its own shamans (priests) who help placate the spirits in control of both good and bad forces of nature. Most illness is attributed to evil spirits, and shamans go into trances to suck the illness out and spit it into the wind.

The Moken have no chiefs. They find stability, instead, through alliances with opium traders and peddlers. Shellfish and oysters, snails and sea-worms are exchanged with Chinese and Malay traders for necessities like rice, salt and clothing. Each floating village has one trader with whom it forms a stable alliance. Often this single tradesman will make them dependent upon him over the years by gradually turning his village partners into opium addicts. While the Moken know they are exploited by their trading partner, they feel that without him they would be at the mercy of all the world.

Because of their nomadic sea life, their language diversity, their extreme suspicion of outsiders and the jealousy of their trading partners, evangelization is difficult. The only known Christian contact at present is some missionaries from Burma’s Karen Baptist Church.

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

DR. WORVIS
Love is being given what you need most. To young Rusia Begum at Chanpara Village (previously known as Demra Refugee Camp) in Dacca, Bangladesh, it was a simple treadle sewing machine.

Little more than three years ago, Rusia and her husband, Muklesur, were living happily together near the jute mill at Narayanganj with their baby daughter, Rina. Theirs was a comfortable home, and Muklesur had a steady job at the mill as a security guard. But overnight their happy world was shattered. Muklesur was arrested and placed in police custody on suspicion of political crimes.

"I know he’s innocent; he has never held any strong political views," she said.

Rusia and baby Rina were told to leave the Narayanganj house, and they went to join her parents at Mirpur, near Dacca. Her parents were squatters, as their own home and land had been destroyed by river erosion. Rusia’s mother and blind father were already finding it impossible to scrape together sufficient food to silence the gnawing hunger in their own stom-

RESTORING RUSIA’S SHATTERED WORLD
achs. Rusia did what she could to find work, but thousands of others were in the same situation. Rusia always remembered Muklesur in his jail cell; each night she would quietly cry herself to sleep clenching to a tiny photograph of him. It is still one of her dearest material possessions.

Then came the massive 1975 Government “clean-up.” Thousands of squatters were rounded up overnight and taken to three centers. Rusia found herself, along with her parents and Rina, on barren Demra Island. More than 30,000 other squatters had been dumped there too—many without clothes and shelter from the approaching cold winter. That’s when World Vision went to Demra and immediately began dispensing emergency relief in the name of Jesus: shelters, soap, cooking utensils, medical treatment and food.

As the months went by, emergency relief efforts gradually gave way to more lasting ways of helping. The people were given a chance to begin helping themselves.

This was the opportunity that Rusia had never dreamed possible. World Vision announced it was starting sewing classes for all women interested in making clothes for their own families and for selling in the markets at Dacca. Rusia didn’t hesitate. She enrolled immediately. The jail authorities had told her she would need between 500 and 600 taka ($35-$40) to secure Muklesur’s release from prison. Rusia saw the sewing classes as her family’s chance to be reunited. Slowly but resolutely, she mastered the techniques of treadle machine sewing.

Eventually her efforts paid off. Rusia began to travel each week by boat and rickshaw to Dacca, where she established a steady market for her work at the ready-made clothing shops. She delivered clothes she had made and picked up new orders. Rusia’s new business was so successful that she also supplied work for three other women on the island.

In a further move toward self-support, Rusia attended World Vision adult education classes to learn to keep records on her new business. Like most people at Demra, Rusia was illiterate; she had received a very limited education as a youngster. The World Vision classes were now giving her the chance she had missed earlier in life.

Rusia saved her hard-earned money and finally reached her goal: Muklesur was set free on bail. Presently, his health is poor, so World Vision is giving him medical attention. He also faces a legal battle to clear his name. But back together now, Rusia and Muklesur are hoping for an end to their struggles and a new beginning in life.

Rusia’s story is the story of Chanpara Village in a nutshell—an emergency response that paved the way for future development. It’s a story of love, and of people caring about people. Love that hangs on despite the circumstances. Love that, to one courageous young woman at her point of need, was simply a sewing machine.

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Prayer for Persistent Compassion by Mildred Tengbom

Our Father,
we thank You for the generous way people respond to emergencies.
Help us to remember that thousands in the world live in continual emergency, never having enough.

Save us from sporadic, sentimental sharing.
Instill within us, instead, the same steady, persistent compassion that finally led Your Son to the Cross.
May our entire lives reflect a conscientious stewardship, because we realize all we have has been given us in trust.

Amen.
Our Changing Tax Benefits

By His own example during His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ impressed upon us the importance of meeting mankind's physical and spiritual needs. One of the ways in which we can help carry out these mandates is by contributing to Christian charities dedicated to attaining these goals.

You and I do not think about the tax deduction we can take when we make our gift to help suffering children and other needy individuals. Nevertheless, the privilege of reducing our income taxes because of our charitable gifts has helped many of us.

In recent years, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has been encouraging more and more people to take the "standard deduction." This is an alternative to itemizing our charitable donations and other deductions such as interest, real estate and state income taxes.

Since 1970, the standard deduction has gradually been increased. It is now $3200 for a couple and $2200 for a single person. If our itemized deductions are less, it is better to take the standard deduction on our tax returns.

In 1970, 48 percent of the taxpayers itemized their deductions. By 1977, only 23 percent received the tax benefit of deductions in excess of the standard deduction. The tax proposals from President Carter are designed to reduce this benefit to only 16 percent of the taxpayers in 1978.

The standard deduction is now called the "zero bracket amount." This is the flat amount that everybody may deduct whether or not he has any donations, medical expenses, real estate taxes or interest to deduct.

For those who give generously to Christian ministries, the "zero bracket amount" means that they get "zero" tax benefits for their voluntary donations until they have given more than the standard deduction.

These changes in our tax laws have undoubtedly contributed to the decline in donations to charities since 1970. World Vision has grown dramatically during this period of time, however. You have not ceased to support our caring ministries for needy people around the world. But many of you have lost the tax benefit your itemized deductions provided in the past.

Historically, government agencies have assumed larger and larger roles in areas of our community life that were once dominated by churches and charitable organizations. These organizations are financed by people who support their purposes voluntarily. Government provides some similar services to the community, but it is supported by taxes assessed to all people. Many schools were founded and run by nongovernmental agencies. The Salvation Army and other groups provided for the welfare needs of the community. Now, government agencies run our schools and welfare programs.

We need to maintain a balance of government and private voluntary agencies in our nation. The independent charity provides a model against which government efforts may be judged. Some government people would like to reduce the risk of comparisons of their government agencies with the effectiveness of the private sector.

Because of the increased standard deductions, only those higher-income donors whose deductions exceed the "zero bracket amount" now have the benefit of tax deductions for their charitable giving. Since most of the donors to Christian organizations are in the "average" income bracket, they have now lost the tax benefit of their voluntary contributions. They have lost it because the standard deduction goes to everyone whether or not contributions to charities have been made.

There is an effort in Congress to develop a bill that will permit taxpayers who take the standard deduction also to deduct contributions to charitable organizations. Such a bill would encourage charitable giving rather than discourage it as is presently the case. But whichever way the IRS determines our deductions, we must not forget from whence our benefits really come. "All we have comes from God and we give it freely out of His hand" (1 Chron. 29:14b, Dutch Paraphrase).

Ted W. Engstrom
Executive Vice President
Magazine Response
Sir: I am a Korean naval officer. I came here [the United States] to study. I pay my respects to you and pray for your evangelism. But I was surprised while reading a phrase of "ACTS: Asians Reaching Asia," in World Vision, April 1978, by Carroll Hunt. The phrase is: "Taking a look inside the classroom. . . . Here are the high cheekbones and pale skin of Koreans. . . ."

My questions? Where are the high cheekbones and pale skin of Koreans inside the classroom? Where are the high cheekbones and pale skin of Koreans in Korea? Please show me the Koreans. Please send me Carroll Hunt’s address. I am Christian, too.

Jung Sung
Virginia

Sir: My wife and I have been supporters of World Vision for a number of months and have been receiving your magazine regularly. I am writing to thank you for publishing and sending me this fine periodical. It is a real joy to see the work the Lord is helping your organization to do.

One feature of the magazine that particularly like is "Facts of a Field." Each country of the world has its own characteristics and needs, and this column certainly helps me learn something. I trust that you plan to continue this feature. I also appreciate the other sections, “People and Projects,” "Globe at a Glance," "What You Are Saying to a Hungry World" and "Lift Up Your Eyes." Thank you again for a fine magazine.

Kenneth Johnson
Virginia

Special Christmas Gifts
Sir: I have been led by the Lord to send my Christmas gift to your organization. It is just a small amount, I know, but it is sent with much concern and prayer. After seeing your program, I could not help but be touched to want to reach out to these children in some way.

I am a college student at Auburn University in Alabama, studying nutrition and dietetics. Hearing of the mass starvation and malnutrition in such places as India inspires me to dedicate my life to helping in some way when I graduate. Thank you for the blessing I have received from your program.

Ms. M.L.
Florida

Sir: The severe flood in India hit a few days after a flood here at Toccoa Falls College, where we attend. Thirty-nine of our friends, teachers and their little ones were taken home. Of course, we were heartbroken. I guess that’s why the flood in India touched our hearts so.

All the needs have been met here, so we send on to you the money a concerned church sent us to help our flood victims. Please help those poor people in India, since everyone’s been supplied for here.

We pray that God will use the disaster in India to bring people to Himself as He has done here at Toccoa Falls. One man lost his whole family, but saw seven of his relatives meet Jesus as the result. One woman led two reporters to the Lord at the gravesite of her sister. Another man who lost his wife and two youngest children led his two brothers to the Lord the day after the flood. Our prayers are with you, as we know some of how it must be for you as you try to help people in India. God bless you.

Mrs. A.H. Oren
Oregon

Sir: I couldn’t help asking the question, “I wonder how much that three-piece suit cost?” regarding the picture of Bob Owen in the March 1978 issue of World Vision. I read the magazine from back to front, so the picture was the dessert after those fine articles on hunger. I wonder why there is so much criticism of feed-the-hungry organizations?

Dave Smith
Oregon

Students Write
Sir: Please designate this check for hunger relief—where most needed. I teach rapid reading seminars, and my husband and I have dedicated my total earnings to hunger relief. With both of us in graduate school we could use this money in many ways. But we have prayed about this, and sense the Lord’s guidance in not trying to keep it for ourselves.

Very simply: We can survive without this. We want someone to survive because of it.

Mr. and Mrs. C.K.
Georgia

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Ms. M.L.
Florida

Sir: Enclosed is my special Christmas gift for World Vision. I praise God for the decision to use this money wisely.

This afternoon I went shopping with my wife and brother-in-law. I was needing a new coat for the winter. As I walked into the store to buy a coat, I asked God to help me make the right financial decision.

We looked and looked and finally I found a coat I liked real well. I felt no conviction against it, so I bought it.

Then, this evening, when I got the mail and found your letter, I started feeling badly about buying the coat I semi-needed. I read the letter, and heard about all the disease and dying that goes on in India. I felt real conviction, so I asked God what to do. And the Lord told me that the coat money could be used better to help those people in need.

I felt absolutely terrible. I am a Christian of one year at the age of 24, and still my head is sometimes turned toward what is in the world. I thank God for showing me how selfish I really am.

Please give no praise to me for giving this money. Give all the praise to God, for without Him I would be wearing a new coat—and more importantly, some children would have spent their Christmas without anything.

Mr. R.M.
Ohio
world vision presents the 1978 Festival of Missions

Maranatha Bible Conference Grounds
Muskegon, Michigan
August 27 thru September 4 (Labor Day)

EAST AFRICA

World Vision is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Ato Mulatu Belachew as Regional Coordinator for Evangelism and Leadership in East Africa. Mr. Belachew will work out of World Vision’s field office in Nairobi, Kenya. For the past two years he has served with World Vision in Ethiopia, developing the childcare program.

HAITI

Farmers are receiving much-needed water for irrigation through a World Vision-supported project in this island republic. Wells are being drilled on La Gonave Island, one of Haiti’s poorest areas. Erosion and minimal rainfall on the island have made crop production difficult.

The ten new wells will not only make possible small-scale crop irrigation, but will make clean drinking water more accessible to the people. In the past, they have often walked up to eight miles a day to obtain water.

About 65,000 people live on La Gonave Island. Their average yearly income is a meager $35 to $50. Malnutrition is widespread, along with typhoid, TB and other maladies.

INDIA

When a tornado swept through Orissa, India, in April, it left a painful aftermath. Ten villages were destroyed and 1000 people were killed by the high winds. World Vision promptly sent emergency supplies including food, blankets and temporary shelter to aid 1000 families affected by the disaster.

A ten-year-old girl is receiving chemotherapy treatment for cancer through World Vision aid. The drugs, not available in India, were purchased in the United States and flown to southern India, where the girl is under a doctor’s care.

The girl’s mother, Mrs. Zarina, has written World Vision’s office in India expressing her gratitude. “I am highly indebted to World Vision people who are helping to save my daughter’s life,” she wrote. “Presently she is recovering.”

Three sewing machines and an embroidery machine have been supplied by World Vision to further the vocational training of young women at Ikkadu, a village in southern India. The sewing and embroidery training school in Ik Kadu was started in 1973, and has expanded since then to enroll 22 girls at a time. All the girls are from poor families in surrounding villages.

INDONESIA

The Rev. Eugene Daniels and his wife, Diana, were recently presented with a gold medallion honoring them for their 14 years of work in Indonesia. The pre-

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sentation was part of a farewell banquet sponsored by World Vision of Indonesia. Rev. Daniels has served as Field Director for World Vision in Indonesia during the past 10 years.

The Daniels have returned to California where Gene is now Associate Director for Evangelism in the Evangelism and Research Division at World Vision's Monrovia headquarters.

Mr. David Evans, who has been assisting Daniels in Indonesia, has been appointed as the new Field Director there.

MEXICO

Heavy flooding covered outlying areas of Tijuana recently, leaving many people without shelter or food. World Vision quickly responded by giving milk, beans, rice and cereal to 3000 needy people. The Salvation Army distributed the food.

UNITED STATES

Initial studies have indicated that the “alumni” of World Vision’s childcare program become fine workers, as well as good husbands, wives and parents. Nearly all of those alumni surveyed proved to be committed Christians.

According to the study, childcare alumni in Korea include physicians, nurses, engineers, housewives, businessmen, mechanics, carpenters, electricians and others.

The wreaths were stuffed, the tree ornaments completed and the flower holders crocheted. The members of the Oxford Craft and Bible study in Oxford, Pennsylvania, were prepared to hold their Christmas bazaar to raise money for hungry people. Now all they needed was to arouse the interests of people passing by the group’s shop on a cold, rainy Friday.

A frog costume turned out to be just the creative trick needed. Members of the study took turns wearing the costume through town with a sign over their shoulders reading, “Come to the bazaar and benefit those that are hungry.” People took the frog’s advice, browsing and then buying from the vast selection of handmade Christmas items provided by members of the group.

Proceeds from the bazaar, amounting to $1200, were sent to World Vision to feed the hungry.

World Vision is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Harry Williams as a World Vision telethon host. Mr. Williams will also serve as a church relations associate, working out of World Vision’s Monrovia office. He comes to us from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, where he spent 13 years working in television.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

- the plight of the Vietnamese boat people. Pray that World Vision’s “Operation Seasweep” will be effectively used of God to help refugees now at sea. Pray that the ship’s staff will be given wisdom in handling all emergencies. Pray for the lives of all refugees in danger, and for those who are there to give aid. Also ask God to move the hearts and minds of government leaders toward a quick solution to the refugee resettlement issue.

- the 460 million hungry, malnourished people in the world. Pray that their cries for food might be heard and answered by those who have an abundance of food and wealth.

- God’s blessing on World Vision hunger telethons during July and August. Please pray that viewers will come to a greater awareness of hunger’s worldwide scope, and that people will give generously and sacrificially to help the hungry in Christ's name.
How do I relate to the person who loses everything in a flood? How do I relate to the person who never has more than enough to live from day to day? How do I relate to the person who has only enough for one meal a day? I have a place to live. I have money in my pocket to buy whatever I need. I eat three meals a day.

After thinking about the haves and the have-nots, I decided to run an experiment. I decided to eat only one meal a day for a month. My work would continue as normal.

During the first five days, I felt hungry as my regular time of eating drew near, but after drinking a glass of water my hunger passed. The meal I ate was in the evening, and I found that I wanted to eat quickly, consuming a large amount.

After the fifth or sixth day, I really did not get hungry during the day. However, I started to notice places to eat, and the smell of food often caught my attention. I was always ready to eat by evening.

Paul Kennel is Material Resource Coordinator for the Mennonite Central Committee in Asia. He lives in Dacca, Bangladesh.

Between the second and third week, the hunger I felt was different—not hunger pains, but a gnawing feeling along with a lack of physical energy. The time of eating became a real experience rather than something to dive into out of habit; having something to eat was now a conscious pleasure. I ate slower, taking a longer time. As I ate I felt the food give me strength. A great thankfulness to God for food welled up within me.

Moreover, I noticed a change in my attitude toward things around me. Now a cup of tea was something that gave me strength, not what I did to kill time during a break or while I talked. I noticed people who were overweight. Eating places where people threw away part of their food made me want to eat what was left. It looked so good.

My whole perspective of life started to narrow down. Food became a strong focus—not necessarily that I wanted to eat all the time, but that to do anything I had to have a certain amount of food. I saw things through the screen of basic human need.

As time progressed I became even more thankful for just a cup of tea or a glass of water. I saw the person who begs in a completely different light. To say “No” to a person needing food was not done easily. I felt closely what they were feeling. I also knew that if I didn't get my one meal, I would have great difficulty doing my work. It was the same with them. Any energy expended was not from the food eaten but from oneself. It was distinctly felt.

What good was all this? It is hard to say, but I do know it helped me to feel what a person who does not have food feels. It was not completely the same because I still had money in my pocket to buy what I needed; I did not feel the mental strain of not knowing where the next meal would come from. It hurt to not have food—with a gnawing, sapping feeling.

My experiment gave me a new perspective. Now my decisions regarding disaster victims are not made in a vacuum. A person in need has become to me more a person than a thing.

Strength from a Cup of Tea

by Paul Kennel
Henri Nouwen, in his *Reaching Out*, tells of a Lutheran bishop who, in World War II, was held in a German concentration camp. An SS officer tried by torture to force a confession from him. Though the pain of the torture was deliberately increased, it could not break the bishop's silence. The infuriated officer, hammering his victim with harder and harder blows, finally exploded. "But don't you know," he shrieked, "that I can kill you?" Leveling his eyes at his bullying master, the bishop said slowly, "Yes, I know—do what you want—but I have already died."

In an instant, as though paralyzed, the officer could not raise his arm. It was as if his power over the bishop had been suddenly taken from him. Why? Because his presupposition was—a perfectly normal one—that the bishop's life was the most precious thing he had and he would therefore hold onto it by confessing to a lie. What was the point of further violence when torture had been turned into a piece of futility?

**A Biblical Perspective**

Have we Christians explored this "I-have-already-died" concept as carefully as we should? Have we looked at it in biblical perspective? Have we related it to numerous situations less vicious, perhaps, than that in which the brave bishop found himself?

For one thing, we need to be clear on what is meant. It is neither death-wish nor death-dread that we have in mind. Wishing to die may be the momentary aberration of an aged sufferer or the pathological escape of a frustrated youth. In neither case does it bespeak normality. The Creator has seen to it that our life-instinct is a potent thing. The black man of an older era, when asked what he would do if he knew where he was going to die, replied, "I jess wouldn't go there!" There's nothing unhealthy about that.

What we are talking about is death-transcendence, even in certain circumstances, death-defiance. Listen to Saint Paul:

> The Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may accomplish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus (Acts 20:23,24, RSV).

Or there are Paul's often misinterpreted words, "I die daily." Attention to the context rules out taking this as a proof-text regarding the persistence of the sin-principle in the Apostle. It is mortality of which he speaks. His circumstances are so deadly perilous that each day his life must be held in forfeit to the Gospel he proclaims. From dawn to dusk, like the Lutheran bishop, he walks as a man who has already died. After all, nobody takes the life of a Christian; it has been taken already and deposited in Higher Hands.

Then why the angry tizzy because you couldn't have your way at the breakfast table? Or the spat-out sassiness to the airline agent who was rude? Or the ear-cuffing blow of your hand because you were in a pet over something wrong your child has done? Or the bitter reply to a correspondent who had insulted you? Are you not under what someone has called the "illusion of immortality"? You may be dead before sunset.

**A Bachelor Foiled**

When I was a pastor, a frequent visitor in our congregation or, failing that, a listener to our broadcast was a retired corporation executive who frequently said to me, "I am going to do something substantial for your church and its missionary program." His promise, however, lacked one thing—execution. One morning his housekeeper found the dear old bachelor dead in bed. It was soon discovered that he died without making a will. It was further discovered that among his assets were $400,000 in Government bonds. Most of it went to the Government. He lived under the "illusion of immortality." He had plenty of time to do for God's Kingdom what he had in mind to do. Or so he thought.

The time to die is now. This is what being "crucified with Christ" really means. How can death destroy the person who has beaten death to the rap—by dying in Christ and rising again?

Die now! It helps to get a lot of things settled. Then live forever!
Nancy Kim can tell you.

Her father died in a waterfront accident two years ago.

Her mother couldn't face the near-impossible task of trying to raise six little children on her own, so she found the simple way out. She remarried, abandoning Nancy and the five other little ones, because her new husband would not accept another man's children.

Nancy Kim was found abandoned in a Korean marketplace. She was hungry, cold and afraid. Two of her sisters were also found, but the others have disappeared.

Today, Nancy enjoys the comfort of a warm bed in a Christian orphanage. She receives good food, new clothes and lots of loving attention. She has friends. She has a chance to learn how to read and write, and later on she may get to learn vocational skills in a World Vision training program. Most important, Nancy is learning about Jesus.

Sponsorship makes a difference.

All of this has been made possible by Nancy's sponsor, who gives $15 a month for her care. Nancy exchanges letters and photos with her sponsor in a bond of affection.

We know of 6100 other children like Nancy who need someone to be their sponsor and friend.

Will you say yes today?

Right now, about 150,000 children around the world are getting help through World Vision's childcare program. Over 5000 of them still need someone who will single them out for special concern and support.

Think about Nancy Kim. For just $15 a month, you can be the one who shows a child like Nancy what Jesus' love is all about.

Listen to your heart and say yes today!