LIOPID VISION

THE IMMIGRANT ON YOUR STREET



Also: Confronted with hunger Hospital of light

Retired? No. Recycled.

world vision

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Volume 25, number 8 August 1981

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Friend making for fun and fulfillment

Oh, it's fun to build friendships with folks who reflect your own background and outlook. But it can be even more fun (once you've taken the plunge) to build friendships with persons whose background and outlook are different from yours.

Take the displaced family who has come to your street from the Orient or Latin America or wherever. They (though they may never show it) need your love. And you (though you may never think it) need theirs.

The fun starts only if you do; but (as many are finding) it's sure worth the effort.

You get two kinds of fulfillment when you pursue the fun-work of friendship with an immigrant family: Scripture fulfillment and self-fulfillment.

Scripture fulfillment? You probably already know lots of well-aimed Scripture statements, from a shortie "Do unto others . . . ," on back to the noteworthy oldie recorded by Moses: "When a stranger sojourns in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 19:33-34).

And *self* fulfillment? That you discover as you go. *David Olson*

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PHOTOS—Don Dorr: page 5 (top). Patrick Farrell: pages 1 (center), 3, 4 (left). Ake Lundberg: page 16. Eric Mooneyham: pages 2, 4 (right), 6, 7, 8 (bottom), 11-13. David Olson: page 17. Geoff Renner: page 22. John Stewart: page 19. David Ward: page 8 (top). Kenny Waters: page 5 (bottom). ILLUSTRATION—Gary Lett: page 14.

"We're not the givers. We're the receivers."

by Jim Hicks

Little did we realize, in the spring of 1976, how deeply our family would become involved when we responded to a mailing inviting our church to participate in the Love Loaf offering.

In September 1977, I was called to be the organizing pastor of a new non-denominational church to be known as Spartanburg's Church Of The Redeemer. Later that same year, members of our congregation and I were invited to a banquet in Greenville, South Carolina, sponsored by World Vision. At this banquet we were presented with the challenge and opportunity of child sponsorship. Our family agreed to sponsor a six-year-old

The Hicks bousebold on vacation in Florida (left to right): Susan, Tuan, Jim, Marie, Long, Vinb, Van and Jamie



girl named Inés, in Colombia, South America. Before Inés learned to write, we received progress reports from her school and an occasional colored picture from Inés. Our own two children also colored pictures to send to her. Soon these were followed by notes from Inés in Spanish, translated by an interpreter.

It was at about this time that we began hearing in the news and reading in WORLD VISION magazine about the "boat people" and the Cambodian refugees in Thailand. I remembered a Cambodian exchange student named Someit Uk who was in one of my classes at the University of Florida. I wondered if he was still alive or had been a victim of Pol Pot. Our family felt compassion and wanted to do something, but we weren't sure what we could do with our limited resources.

About that time, Inés wrote telling us that she and some of her fellow students had worked on a farm and sent all the money they had earned to help with refugee relief in Southeast Asia! It reminded me of what the Apostle Paul said about the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:2: "They have been severely tested by the We were at the airport again.... The previous November we had been a family of four, and now we were eight.

troubles they went through; but their joy was so great that they were extremely generous in their giving, even though they are very poor."

Then we read an article in the local newspaper. It told of a need for families who would provide foster homes for Southeast Asian refugee children who had been separated from their parents. This was something we could do! We praved about it. Feeling certain that this was God's will for us, we applied to the South Carolina Department of Social Services to take a Southeast Asian refugee child. We were told that most of the unaccompanied refugee children were boys between the ages of 12 and 17. We were also told the smaller children and girls often do not live through the dangers and exposure of escape, and that we would have a better chance of



Vietnamese boat refugees such as the Hicks' foster children are still escaping in large numbers, while media attention has diminished. getting a child quickly if we did not specify age or sex.

Mr. Tri Huu Tran, who is in charge of refugee resettlement for the State of South Carolina came to our house and interviewed us to see if we would be a suitable family for such a placement. And on December 4, 1980, nine months after we first applied to take a refugee child, Mr. Tran and I waited at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport for the 11 P.M. arrival of Tuan, a 14-year-old Vietnamese boy who would be placed in our care.

Tuan was the last person off the plane, stepping out into a brisk 35-degree breeze, clad in thong sandals, thin cotton pants, a T-shirt and a winter coat which had been given him by the U.S. Catholic Conference in San Francisco. He reminded me of a little scared rabbit as he met us and viewed his strange new surroundings. In two days time he had traveled from the refugee camp at Galang, Indonesia, to Singapore, to San Francisco, to Atlanta, to Spartanburg.

As we checked to be sure his papers were in order, we noticed that stamped beside each entry on his immunization record was "World Vision International—Operation Seasweep." Tuan (pronounced *Tooun*) had left Vietnam in April of 1980 on a small fishing boat crowded with more than 100 people.

Because Tuan arrived with almost no knowledge of English, we began to communicate through the use of a small paperback *Vietnamese-English Phrasebook* and a lot of pantomime. Tuan began to learn English rapidly and we started picking up some Vietnamese words and phrases.

In January, we received word through the U.S. Catholic Conference that two of Tuan's brothers and a sister had escaped Vietnam in October. They had been rescued at sea by the U.S. destroyer Parsons and had been taken to Palawan in the Philippines. After praving about it, we contacted the Catholic Conference and the State Department of Social Services and told them we were willing to take the other three children as well.

On March 13, 1981, we were at the airport again for the arrival of Vinh, age 17; Van, age 12; and Long, age 9. The previous November we had been a family of four, and now we were eight.

People continually tell us how wonderful they think it is that we took these four children into our home. If they only knew the whole truth; if they could see through my eyes and hear through my ears and feel the joy of seeing all six children playing together and helping each other; if they could experience the love; if they could hear the beautiful sounds of the children singing together accompanied by Vinh on the guitar; if they could know the depth of faith and commitment of these children who have endured persecution and faced death for the sake of Jesus in whom they believe! We are not the givers. We are the receivers of abundant blessings through having these children come into our family.

We are thankful to World Vision. Without your ministry none of this could have happened. May God continue to bless you and prosper your work.

Jim Hicks sent this letter to World Vision's Southeast regional office in Atlanta, Georgia.



American volunteer English tutor Ruth Sadoyama (left) enjoys a laugh with Vietnamese immigrant Minh Lam and her son Bao.

More ways with refugees



Emcee of a SEAF (South East Asia Fellowship) gathering in San Gabriel, California, is Don Dorr, TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) professor at William Carey International University.

to work Providing a foster home is not the only way to make a lasting difference in the lives of refugees in America. Another important way is to sponsor a whole family or group of immigrants who want to resettle in your community. More such volunteers are being sought by World Relief Refugee Services, P.O. Box WRC, Nyack, NY 10960 [toll-free phone number is (800) 431-2808].

> There's also a need for families and church groups simply to become true friends of refugees who have already moved into their neighborhood. For some good ideas on how to do this, write South East Asia Fellowship (SEAF) at 1605 E. Elizabeth, Pasadena, CA 91104.





Rebecca Cherono stands with missionary Dick Hamilton in front of two trees—one black, one white that bave come to symbolize the unity between Kenyans and their friends from abroad.

Rebecca Cherono is head of the project management department of World Vision's Kenya office. She and her husband, Bill, have five children— James, 16, Philip, 13, Dorothy, 11, Rosemary and Bernard, 9.

Rebecca was interviewed by a reporter for the World Vision wives' publication, *Parakaleo*. Her responses proved so interesting that we decided to share them with the readers of WORLD VISION magazine.

What is the nature of your work?

My normal work is overseeing seven project coordinators who are each in charge of a region with 10-15 projects. In Kenya we have 90 projects that include child sponsorship, relief or development. The coordinators handle everything relating to the project accounts. They also send checks, do project submission forms, and make certain that the children are there in the project. I must see if we are moving in the right direction and insure that the needs we are meeting are really the needs of the people. And I must make sure the money goes on time to where the project says it is to go.

How much do you travel outside Nairobi?

One week every 4-6 weeks, and short trips of 3-5 days.

What is it like to be a traveling mother?

Well, that's a difficult question. As a mother I also have other responsibilities. For the last 10-14 years I have been traveling. I've always had a job where I have had to travel, but not so much when the children were young. My housegirl has been with us for ten years, so she is like a second mother.

THIS KENYAN WOMAN FINDS THAT

It's good to be a channel

Although no one but I can ever be a mother to my children, it gives me peace of mind to have her there when I go out, and of course my husband is very keen on taking care of the children. I also phone on the second night that I'm away, just to know what's going on in the family.

God has blessed me. In all the years I have traveled I've never come home to find that something drastic has happened.

What is your working background?

Initially I was a teacher. My second job was working with the Ministry of Health to set up the Department of Nutrition. My job was to train and supervise field workers to teach mothers the best ways of feeding their children.

From the Ministry of Health I went to Christian Children's Fund, which required much more traveling than I have ever done since I joined World Vision. As the CCF childcare coordinator I was in charge of 60 projects all over Kenya.

In August 1978 I started with World Vision in relief and development, and later moved into childcare and community development. I began as a project coordinator and have continued since then to get more responsibilities.

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed by the tasks of community development and childcare coordination when the need in Kenya is so great?

I don't think the job itself is overwhelming. Sometimes I must do things a certain way (because of government requirements, for example), and that



forces me to delay completing a task. That delay often seems overwhelming.

Do you sometimes get frustrated when you see such immense needs and must go through all the working channels?

It is true that sometimes we get irritated when people are so needy and yet there is so much paperwork. But of late, I thank God for what is happening in World Vision. We can do relief work while we are preparing to do sponsorship or community development. It is not as frustrating as it used to be.

What makes you stay with World Vision?

I could have stayed on in the Ministry of Health if it was status or position that I wanted, but I wanted to do something more. I have satisfaction in my job when I see the poor people in a community who are not being helped by anybody—it's not easy to put into words—when people have nowhere to go for help, nobody to look after them, and I am able to assist them in a very small way. That is enough to keep me with World Vision. Of course, I am only the channel for the help to these people, but it is good to be a channel.

Are there advantages or disadvantages in being a woman doing field work, or does it make any difference?

When there are problems, I feel they would be there whether the worker is a man or a woman. A good field person must know how to approach people, and must know something about the community's culture.

When I go out I am also aware of how I dress. If I go to the field looking the way I do in Nairobi, I will be a stranger to the people. I must feel like them, look like them, and sit down and chat with them.

We often hear that development is among the women, that they are the ones who run the family and the garden and the economics. Is it an advantage to be a woman when trying to communicate with these women about development projects?

It does help. First, women respond more easily to change. Men will stand by and watch to see if it works. It helps to be a woman and talk about my own family—my children, their children. They can relate to my own life. I say, "I want to take care of my children; this is the way I take care of my children; it might be good for you, too." It is the attitude I have towards them, more than the fact that I am a woman, which makes the difference. □

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING





by Jane Hamilton



In the March issue of WORLD VISION, Stan Mooneyham reported on the serious drought and warfare conditions existing along the western border of Kenya and Uganda. As a result of his survey, World Vision began a \$60,000 relief project to assist the Pokot people at Kiwawa. We also have childcare work in that area. This report from Jane Hamilton of the Associated Christian Churches of Kenya tells of improved conditions provided in part by World Vision donors. **How can we begin** to say "thank you" to you who have given so much to help the Pokot in their time of need? The offerings for food and medicine have made the difference between life and death for many people. We know these offerings have also meant sacrifices for many of you. Your love has reached out to the people of Karapokot.

In addition to the money, boxes of medicine and vitamins have come from the States. Some large checks came from Chinese Christians in Hong Kong who had heard about the Pokot from their missionaries and wanted to share.

Praise God for His people! And for those of you who have been praying with us for rain—it is raining in Karapokot! In fact, when one missionary came to survey Kiwawa for a possible clinic, he had to be flown in by helicopter because they could not get across our usually dry riverbed.

Blessed by more rain than all of last year, we have provided seed for the people and are sending them out to plant. But if a crop is to grow, rains must continue for the next three months. So please continue to pray. (We'll figure out how to get across the river!)

About 250 Kiwawa children have

been enrolled in a World Vision sponsorship program. Each child was photographed and interviewed for a case history. Then we helped each one write a letter to a sponsor. These little children told heartbreaking stories.

to draw scarce water. Now it is pouring from the sky.

A few months ago, the Pokot people had only a few deep wells from which

"My brothers and father were killed by Karamoja raiders. Only my mother and little brother remain," one little girl told us. Another child said she was abandoned in the bush after her mother died while trying to go to Kenya from Uganda.

Most of the children we talked to described losing all their cattle to the famine or to raiders. Because of the desperate situation, many children have been left at the mission station where they will be fed and schooled. Their parents have gone to find food or pasture for a few remaining cattle.

A girl named Natau lives with her blind grandmother. Natau cares for her and does all the work: cooking, planting, gathering wood, carrying water. She is eight years old!

As we wrote their histories, our hearts ached for these boys and girls. They accept their situation as normal because they don't know how the rest of the world lives. \Box

Haiti's bospital of light

by Ed Smith



In the mountainous area of south Haiti, some years ago, an American missionary doctor walking near the Cavaillon River came upon a beautiful, expansive plateau of land called *Bonne-Fin* ("Good End"). The owner of the land, walking with the doctor, reportedly told him his father had solemnly warned him not to sell the land prematurely. The father apparently had a vision, years before, of a hospital built there, where many were healed of their diseases, lame children learned to walk, and patients heard the gospel of Jesus.

Today that vision is reality. It is called *L'Hôpital Lumière* (French for "Hospital of Light"), and it has a special ministry to handicapped children.

A disabled person, according to UNICEF, is one who "is unable to do all of the things which a person of that age and sex can normally be expected to do." Out of the present world population of 4.3 billion, an estimated 450 million are disabled. Two hundred million are children.

A large percentage of disabilities caused by malnutrition and childhood diseases can be prevented through primary health care and adequate diet for expectant mothers and young children. (World Vision is already participating in several programs of community health care in Haiti.) But there is another needy group of children in Haiti—those born with crippling birth defects or stricken with disabilities caused by infectious diseases like polio and tuberculosis. They have

One of the many disabled children fortunate to receive care at Bonne-Fin.

no hope for a useful future without surgical treatment and rehabilitative therapy.

One such child is Elia Lucienne, a 13-year-old girl living in the heavily populated southern peninsula of Haiti. When she was four, she contracted osteomyelitis, a crippling disease of the spine. Surgery to remove a part of her spine was required to enable her to walk again. But surgery is only part of the process. Rehabilitation therapy is also needed. Now, through the work of Worldteam and World Vision, Elia has hope for the future. She is being treated at L'Hôpital Lumière.

Since L'Hôpital Lumière first opened in 1977 as a Worldteam health facility, the number of children being treated with birth defects and other disabilities has increased steadily. There is no other such facility available in south Haiti. This year, World Vision supporters are enabling the work to continue.

Dr. Robert Blake, an orthopedic surgeon from Gastonia, North Carolina,

and his partner, Dr. Edward Whitesides, have been coming to Haiti every four months for more than three years to perform surgery. Dr. Blake remarked, "The appealing idea of our new program in rehabilitative therapy is the continuity of care. The one-shot visiting doctor corrects a physical problem, but can't offer the long-term care necessary to restore these children to productive lives. We finally



have the hospital space and funds to initiate a complete physical therapy and rehabilitative program."

When completed, the handicapped children's service will provide a 20- to 24-bed inpatient facility, with complete therapy available. That will include surgery, casting, bracing and physical therapy. Doctors Blake and Whitesides, along with Dr. Fred Brown, the project manager and medical director of L'Hôpital Lumière, will also train a competent Haitian staff of one physician and four nurses to carry on the program after five years.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the program is its emphasis on teaching the families of disabled children how to care for the children once they leave the hospital. One hour each day is devoted to classes on hygiene, nutrition, sanitation, vaccination information and other aspects of preventive medicine. The children themselves are guided through a complete educational curriculum during their rehabilitative stay.

When parents see their children walk for the first time, stand straight for the first time, or even just smile for the first time in years, they become motivated to learn health methods that may prevent another child in the family—or a neighbor's family—from becoming disabled. What better end to labor toward at Haiti's Bonne-Fin?

Ed Smith is communications director for World Vision of Haiti.

(upper left) Young Haitian wbo lost bis arms in a sugarcane press bas since received artificial arms, (left) Dr. Robert Blake counsels the child's mother through an interpreter.



ONE MAN'S EMOTIONAL TORMENT IN SEEING OTHERS STARVE



by Bill Bone

This past March I traveled to Africa and India with Stan Mooneyham. He had invited me on several previous occasions and we made plans, but always at the last minute I had canceled. A month seemed too long a time to be away from my family and business. But in reality, I knew I would be challenged and disturbed in my affluent lifestyle, and I wasn't emotionally prepared to deal with that. So I delayed it for a couple of years.

Finally I knew I'd never really be ready for it, so I went anyway.

We went to Surma in the south of Ethiopia, where a drought had begun two or three years ago, affecting southern Ethiopia, southern Sudan and parts of northern Kenya. All the animals have died, and the people have been starving.

We flew into an area where there were no roads. The only way to reach the people living there is either to walk in, ride a camel or fly into one of a few dirt landing strips.

When we got off the plane, I was partially prepared to see starving people because I had seen photographs and movies over the years. I had received reports as I sat on the finance committee of World Vision. I'd dealt with hunger at arm's length. But all of a sudden I was face to face with it.

Some of the people sat or lay on cots in what they called an intensive care unit, a fenced-off area. Thousands more waited nearby. No relief flights had come since November, so the people had gone for several months without food. It looked like a Nazi concentration camp. You have all seen pictures of adults who weigh 80, 90, 100 pounds and babies who weigh 3, 4 or 5 pounds. It was the most pathetic sight of humanity that could exist this side of the grave.

The people, mostly women and children, were very orderly. They did not mob around the plane. When we disembarked they were sitting quietly, patiently, in rows on the groundmaybe several dozen rows wide and about 50 deep.

I'd never seen people display so much dignity and character. I looked at these people—looked at them and studied them. I picked out three children who were the ages of my own. Since we were there all day, I had plenty of opportunities to talk to them.

When we had been there about three hours, six large bags of maize were brought out for distribution the first food in four months. The



people were waiting. A bowl of maize was given to each of those inside the fence. The people sitting outside were watching. The maize was distributed, and then someone went over to those sitting down and said they were sorry but there was no more food that day and they would not get any. Very orderly they got up, took their children, and walked back into the bush. I thought, What would I have done if I had been sitting there with my three children, seeing people just yards away get food while I got none? In Los Angeles this would have caused a riot.

Three years ago the Surma people did not need outside help. They are victims of a quirk of nature.

My feelings were very difficult to deal with. Stan and I were tormented by the knowledge that we were looking at only 2000 of the nearly 30,000 Surma in the area, all in great need. The ones in the camp were dying at the rate of

I thought, What would I have done if I had been sitting there with my three children ...?



Bill Bone (right of center) and Stan Mooneyham join others to observe a Surma burial.



one an hour. In just the short time we were there, four to six people died. We had no idea how many Surma were dying in the bush—but even in their entirety they constitute only a small sample of the five million people who are suffering from famine in Ethiopia.

It tormented us that we could do so little when the need was so great. We *are* doing a great deal, as are others, but the need is so much greater.

A week or so later we went to India and spent an hour and a half in intense dialogue with Mother Teresa. Stan and I had each worked out some questions we wanted to ask her. How did she deal emotionally with this tremendous human suffering that was all around her? How did she live in the midst of it?

She had several things to say, simple, but profound. One was that she really was joyful. She had the most beautiful, infectious smile I'd ever seen on anybody's face. It has never been captured in pictures I've seen, but it was there. Unfortunately it was a dark room, and we couldn't get a photograph, so I don't have a picture to show you. But it was the radiant face of Christ. I know it was.

Mother Teresa said all that is required is to do everything you can, and let God do the rest. Then you can

We tend to think in broad terms, of doing big things—and we forget the smaller needs of those close to us.

be peaceful and joyful even in the midst of such suffering.

That is terrific for her because she *is* doing all she can. But we're not. I'm not. I was still tormented, knowing that was the true answer, yet I wasn't willing to do it. I wasn't willing to give 100 percent as she was. I'm still tormented by that.

She said the greatest disease affecting humanity is not the leprosy prevalent in that part of the world, nor even the tremendous starvation we had seen in Africa. Rather it is that of being unwanted and unloved. We had seen such intense physical need, and here, all of a sudden, she changed our whole perspective. Reflecting on her work with the Missionaries of Charity in New York, Miami and Chicago, she said the disease of the Western world is that of people being unwanted and



She said we must make the family the center of our love and radiate out from there; that our mission concern needs to start with our own family, radiate out to the larger family, the community, the country, and then the world. She said it's very easy to love the world and forget our own family, or love our own families and forget the world. Yet we must do both.

Mother Teresa said, "Don't look for the big things to do. Do the small things to show your love." That strikes home. We tend to think in broad terms, of doing big things—and we forget the smaller needs of our neighbors and those close to us. She said, "It's how you do it in love that is even more important than what you do. It's your attitude and your spiritual feeling that is as significant as the achievement of some goal." That was convicting to me.

I've thought a lot about my experience since coming home. I encourage each of you to take the step from supporting to involvement. But you don't need to go to Africa or India. A few years ago, I was challenged to go downtown and spend an evening with some other citizens who were trying to resolve a community problem. I went, and it changed my life.

I encourage you to get involved; you will benefit tremendously. Maybe all of us can find ways to help not only those with tremendous physical needs, but also the unwanted and the unloved. Not only in Africa and India, but in Los Angeles and New York and everywhere else in America.

I challenge you to do that.

Bill Bone is a member of World Vision's board of directors. He is also founder and chairman of Sunrise Development Company in Rancho Mirage, California. This article is condensed from comments he made in a worship service at the La Cañada Presbyterian Church, a few miles northeast of Los Angeles.





Thursday, October 1

MONTHLY MEMO

Once each year at World Vision we spend extended hours of prayer *seeking God's direction* for our personal and corporate lives and for His work around the world. We believe that it is dangerous to depend on our own understanding and insight. In the days of Joshua, for example, a carefully planned deception completely fooled the Israelites; and it is recorded that they fell for that trick primarily because they "did not ask direction from the Lord" (Joshua 9:14).

This year we have selected Thursday, October 1, as a day of prayer—a special time of praise and petition. And we want to invite you, our partners in ministry, to join with us in this day's important ministry, which we will highlight in various ways through WORLD VISION magazine and our other printed materials.

On this day of prayer we are asking that all of our U.S. offices cease business, and that each staff member join in seeking guidance from the Lord. We will pray specifically and pointedly for deep human and spiritual needs around the world both outside and within our direct World Vision ministries. We will pray also for each other's particular needs. And, as we have done each year, we will conclude with a season of praise to the Lord for His goodness and power to change lives and events.

We can think of no finer way to start our new fiscal year than through extended prayer together, and we earnestly ask that you, our partners in ministry, join us in seeking God's counsel concerning the new year's opportunities and responsibilities.

N. aytim

Ted W. Engstrom Executive Director

"Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me," said Jesus, "has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24, NIV).

The fallenness of all persons is a tragic fact. But God has provided a positive solution, which He spells out clearly in such books of Scripture as the Gospel of John.

If you feel the weight of guilt in God's sight and fear the consequences, your heart needs what you can find by responding to the message of the Gospel of John concerning the Savior-Lord.

Read or re-read John open-

Have you crossed over?

mindedly and openheartedly *today*. Let God release you from eternal condemnation and let Him lead you in a life of joyful service with a future as different as day from night, and as endless as eternity.

As you go on with Christ, meditate also on the entire Bible. Make it your practice to worship regularly in a Christ-centered church and to serve God wherever you are.

For a belpful, small, free booklet on becoming a Christian, write WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.

Love in a letter

Yu Mei Hua's mother disliked having her daughter attend Sunday school and would intentionally give her work to do so she could not go. But Mei Hua was both charming and industrious. She would quickly finish all sorts of housework and rush off to Sunday school, arriving on time. There she enjoyed singing hymns, learning how to pray and hearing stories about Jesus Christ.

One day Mei Hua, who was in the sponsorship program of World Vision/ Taiwan, received a letter from her sponsor in Australia. The letter's content moved her mother's heart. She could not explain why the sponsor would love her daughter and be willing to help them so much. "Anyone who loves my daughter like this has found the source of love," she thought. Through this tangible expression of the sponsor's love, the mother learned to understand the love of Jesus.

Some years have passed since little Mei Hua's mother tried to keep her from Sunday school. Now her mother and father both join Mei Hua in her walk with Christ. They were won to Him through the love conveyed in a sponsor's letter and the good example set by their daughter.

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Recycled, not retired

by Violet Richey

My husband and I are supposedly retired, but we seem to be getting into more than we are getting out of.

Three years ago, as retirement approached, our mission fields in Bolivia and Peru needed some maintenance work done. My husband, Stuart, offered his services, and although I did not feel the same call to service, I remembered my commitment to my husband of 40 years: "Whither thou goest I will go." So we answered the call to be recycled instead of retired.

I did not enjoy preparing to go, because I was concerned about some health problems and about leaving older family members. But one day, as I turned to God's Word for comfort, He spoke to me in the words of Isaiah, "He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength" (Isa. 40:29). And our Heavenly Father remained true to His promise through all the uncertainties we faced; I was able to enjoy every minute of our time spent there.

It was an exciting moment when the 727 circled for landing at the airfield in La Paz, Bolivia. We fancied that we could reach out and touch Mt. Illimani, a beautiful rugged snowcap that towers over the city. We thought we must still be dreaming, as we had been en route from Portland, Oregon, for 26 hours, dozing fitfully as we hurtled through the night.

At 13,500 feet this is the highest international airport in the world. We were breathless and light-headed from both the altitude and excitement as we gathered our hand luggage and attempted to limber up our stiff muscles.

We were now in a culture that was foreign to us, and it was reassuring to be greeted by our missionary friends. Culture shock is a real and traumatic experience. At first it seems to dull the senses; the body and mind can absorb only a little at a time.

We were given seats of honor in the front of the pickup. Our missionary



host then gave us a special guided tour of the city before taking us to the mission house.

La Paz is a city of about 700,000, approximately one-half of whom belong to the Aymara Indian culture. These people are descendants of the Incas and are still prominent in Bolivia. They wear their colorful dress and maintain a distinctive lifestyle.

For the Aymara, a tremendous struggle seems to be going on even now between the 16th century and the 20th century, the latter trying to take over while the former struggles to hold on. I suspect that the final outcome is inevitable and that another generation of technology will do what Inca power could never accomplish.

My husband has always been a do-ityourself man. He was able to accomplish many of the tedious maintenance jobs on which missionaries should not have to spend priority time. At first he spent much of his time repairing and painting the cracked adobe walls of the mission buildings. He is an expert electrician, appliance repairman and mechanic, capable in construction of any kind and sometimes an inventor if necessity dictates.

From the beginning I wondered what I had to offer, as I have none of the special skills my husband possesses. However, as a mother and grandmother I willingly committed my hands, feet and heart of understanding. I was kept busy sewing, typing, dishwashing,



Violet and Stuart Ricbeybard at work in Peru

painting, cleaning, reading to the children, listening and sometimes "just being there."

We climaxed our three months of service by going to Peru, where my husband repaired an electric plant generator and motors. Last and most enjoyable of all, he had the opportunity to wire a new church building in Tacna. I did some sewing for two little girls whose parents were about to leave on furlough.

It may sound like a dull time with all work and no play, but that is far from the truth. We went on many trips with the missionaries into remote areas as they carried on their work. The final thrill of the entire trip was our visit to Cuzco and Machu Picchu, the ancient Inca City of the Sun in Peru.

I believe that short-term mission service (a few months to one or two years) is the answer to the needs of both career missionaries and retirees. It can be mutually beneficial. Free of family responsibilities, with some income, flexible time and good health, we can be good stewards of money, time and talents.

Life has not been the same for us since. God kept His promise that His strength would be made perfect in our weakness.

Violet Richey and her busband live in Newberg, Oregon, where they are active in the Friends Church.



"Let Glasgow flourish," says the city's motto, "through the preaching of the Word and the praising of His Name." It is a sad commentary on our times that in recent years Mammon has triumphed to the extent that only the opening three words are used.

Determined to reverse that tendency, Luis Palau came crusading for five weeks (ending June 7) in Scotland's biggest city. The 46-year-old Argentine, who had previously conducted campaigns in other parts of Scotland (and who boasts a Scots grandfather), had done his homework: 13 percent unemployment rate in the Glasgow area, chronic alcoholism at a higher rate than in any other British area; 95 percent of Scottish homes with a Bible unread by nearly 70 percent; 2000 churches closed since 1929; church membership reduced by a third in 25 years.

All this, he told the opening meeting, in what used to be "the number one Christianized nation in the world," which had played a leading part in sending missionaries to his own Latin America. What was needed, he told them, was a return to God. "It's either back to the Bible or back to the jungle," he went on.

While we do not make the mistake of making head counting the extent of Christ's victory, the statistics for the five weeks are interesting. Cumulative attendance was around 200,000. Inquirers numbered about 5100, the majority of them 18 or under. With gifts still coming in after the last meeting, all but a fraction of the \$700,000 budget had been met.

Remarkable stories abound. One small crusade prayer group of four found that seven of their own children had gone forward. A 13-year-old boy received Christ, and when he shared in his church's evening service, ten more teenagers made a decision. Said

J. D. Douglas is editor at large for Christianity Today and lives in St. Andrews, Scotland.

one girl: "My father has a drink problem, and to see him claiming the victory of Christ over that problem, and to see him pouring two bottles of Scotch down the sink was a truly wonderful sight!" (Let this Scottish reporter confirm that for a fellow countryman to do that was victory indeed!)

"The thing that annoys me," said one young convert, "is that many adults don't seem to realize how hard it is to witness in schools. If you're an adult, a non-Christian just accepts that, but at school it's different. The teachers blaspheme and make fun of you if you are a Christian. Pupils keep on coming up and asking questions to try to confuse you."

When crusade planning began nearly two years ago, many people made a prayer list of ten friends and relatives they would like to see receive Christ. A large number of them have told team members that all ten of the folks on their list have become Christians

"Palau is God's good gaucho," said one national newspaper, "rounding up the strays of the world." during this crusade.

One night, a woman of about 75 came to the meeting, and was met at the door by a young man around 20.

'You're my granny, aren't you?"

"I don't know," she replied.

"I recognize you," the young man continued. He had run away from a broken home when he was nine. That night he had called at his grandmother's home and learned she was at the crusade. That night he went forward.

"All over Glasgow, and beyond," said one minister, "the ecclesiastical barriers are coming down. It should not surprise us; they were brought down at Calvary, but have been too often reerected since."

This was the Palau team's longest crusade to date, and one of the first in English. Skillful publicity had ensured that most Glaswegians knew about the meetings. Palau received numerous invitations to appear on TV and radio, and to be interviewed in the press. "Palau is God's good gaucho," said one national newspaper, "rounding up the strays of the world."

The media were remarkably kind. "There is no play on the emotions," reported one national magazine, referring to inquirers. "They walk off as matter-of-factly as if he had asked for volunteers to help with the washing-up."

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"It's either back to the Bible or back to the jungle," Palau tells the crowd at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.



Here are some ways people are helping others in the name of Christ. And some ideas for your own possible involvement.

Urban ministry specialist Ray Bakke is visiting eight major cities in Latin America this summer, consulting with pastors in each city. Invited by local groups, Bakke is traveling under the auspices of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE). He hopes to help urban church leaders in each city develop strategies to reach their city with the message and healing of Christ. LCWE plans to send Bakke to major cities of Africa in 1982 and to Asia in 1983.

ETC (originally standing for English Tutoring Center) offers interested Christians a number of ways to learn about China and befriend Chinese people. You can ask to be matched with someone in China who wishes to learn English through the help of a corresponding American friend. ETC publishes a 40-page bilingual English instruction magazine, Tutor, to aid in this, along with other manuals and cassettes. Also available is information on visiting, teaching in and praying for China. Write ETC, Paradise, PA 17562 or call (717) 687-8198.

Dr. Ronald Sider says input is welcome now in preparation for the June 1982 Consultation on the Relationship Between Evangelism and Social Responsibility (sponsored by the World Evangelical Fellowship and the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization). Churches, Christian agencies and individuals are encouraged to form local study groups and submit their findings, questions and recommendations. Those interested in doing so should contact Dick Van Halsema, Consultation Coordinator, Reformed Bible College, 1869 Robinson Road, S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Christian Computer Users

will hold their seventh annual conference at Glen Evrie in Colorado Springs, Colorado, September 21-24, 1981. Primary objectives of the conference are to share ideas, concepts and expertise on the use of data processing in Christian organizations. Christian Computer Users was developed jointly by Navigators, Campus Crusade for Christ and World Vision. Anyone interested in attending this year's conference should write The Navigators, Attn: Thavne Shank, P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934 or call (303) 598-1212 ext. 340.

LBT (Lutheran Bible Translators) has issued *And It Was Good Soup*, a film depicting Bible translation work in Papua New Guinea. The film reflects the impact of God's Word upon the lives of the Yessan-Mayo people of the Sepik River region of Papua New Guinea. Interns are needed at Bread for the World (BFW) to do research, organizing, media and educational work. Others are needed to perform basic office tasks such as typing and filing. BFW is a Christian citizens' movement that works to influence U.S. government policies affecting the hungry both here and abroad. Anyone who wishes to consider donating three months to a year or more for intern service should contact Sharon Pauling, BFW, 32 Union Square East, New York, NY 10003.

Urban church leaders can get a useful list of best periodicals and books on urban ministry by sending \$1 and a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to SCUPE, 30 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610.

Prison Fellowship needs volunteers simply to correspond with inmates who have become Christians during their confinement. Many of these new believers never receive mail or have other opportunities for Christian fellowship. Volunteers may also choose to visit prisoners, attend Bible studies in a prison, find jobs for former inmates, or a host of other tasks. For a volunteer application, write Prison Fellowship, P.O. Box 40562, Washington, D.C. 20016 or call (703) 790-0110.

Thriftco, one of the Voice of Calvary ministries through which previously welfaredependent Mississippi blacks are now becoming selfsupporting, is seeking more sources of surplus clothing and household goods marketable in its stores. You may know of manufacturers or wholesalers with overstocks or quantities of slightly damaged but salable clothing



Two of many Mississippians now benefiting from Voice of Calvary's self-belp programs.

that they would contribute as a tax writeoff or provide at a very low price. If so, please write Thriftco's director, Spencer Perkins, at 3365 Delta Drive, Jackson, MS 39213 or phone him at (601) 366-0552.

Undocumented aliens-

who they are, why they enter the U.S., what their impact is on society—are discussed in two brochures available from the Mennonite Hispanic Immigration Service Office (MHIS). For a copy of "Undocumented Aliens: Myths and Realities" or "U.S. Immigration and Refugee Law and Policy," write MHIS, 100 Maryland Ave. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Reader's right

Donkey express

I certainly appreciated the article "By Donkey Express." I am a new sponsor. The article helps me know how to correspond. "Stickers, bookmarks, greeting cards, pictures of you and your family, etc."

I thank the Father that I can help a little girl. And she is helping me. Vivian M. Christian

Shawnee Mission, Kansas

Car replacement

At Christmastime I called in to sponsor a child. After I received your instructions and forms for sponsorship, I was in an automobile accident. I wasn't hurt, but my car was totaled and I did not have collision insurance.

With regrets I wrote to you about my financial trouble and said I could not be a sponsor. Then I prayed for three months that the Lord would find some way I could help. He did. Today I won a 1981 Cadillac in the Hostess Twinkie Golden Anniversary Sweepstakes. So I am enclosing a check for \$18 to begin a one-year sponsorship.

> Sharon Huhn Somerville, New Jersey

Bible smuggling

You quote Dr. Hoffman of the United Bible Societies as saying that Bible smuggling "is illegal and doesn't do us much good." Perhaps Bible smuggling doesn't do Dr. Hoffman much good, but millions in Communist lands have indeed been blessed through the ministry of Bible smuggling organizations. Herb Lucas Lompoc, California

Total surrender

The 20th-century church is full of sloppy "Christians" claiming the power of the Holy Spirit, yet without deliverance from a lifestyle of sin. Lessons must be taught on total surrender to God. John Hidy West Seneca, New York

Eating

Eating habits were mentioned in your June issue, and many thoughts entered my mind. Why make children overeat? Feed them nutritious food in the amount they will eat, and help those who *are* starving!

Brown rice and beans eaten together provide protein superior to meat, are very inexpensive, are versatile and I *love* them. *Lin Lambert*

San Diego, California

Why?

Every time I see a little child with hunger written across his face, my heart cries out, "Why must this be?" How can we just close our eyes and ignore it? I believe we must do *all we can* to help others and quit making excuses. *Rita Lowman Vale, North Carolina*

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Blessing or no blessing

The article "It's me...." spoke to me and my husband. We shared it in our church's Wednesday service. We don't think we will any longer be content with giving to the Lord only when He has just blessed us. Our relationship is that of servants to master, whether or not He blesses us. When He comes again is when we'll be rewarded for service.

Rosemary and Andrew Corrington Raleigh, North Carolina

Discipling

I disagree with Mr. Mooneyham about "disciplers." Disciple making is critical. Indeed, everyone is not to teach, but many who *are* qualified are not taking one-on-one encounters seriously. *Mike Brady Royal Oak, Michigan*

Pray for rain

If God really answers prayers (and I know He does), then let's all petition Him for water to fall on East Africa. I can't do it alone! *Jim de Caussin Chicago, Illinois*

One is enough

Please don't send me the magazine anymore. My husband and I both receive copies, and we feel one is enough. I am always provoked and challenged to examine my walk with the Lord and my service to others when I read WORLD VISION.

> Kathleen Schneider Highland, California

Gift exchange

I was deeply touched by the letter to little Heather (in "Shaken from Complacency"). I know I am personally going to specify at gift-giving time that money normally spent on presents to me be sent to you to help those in need. Grace Louise Haldeen Brule, Nebraska

Third world health

Don't you think it criminal for our government to be increasing funds to heip the tobacco industry sell its deadly products overseas? And to ship tobacco instead of food to developing nations? Ed Carranza Tucson, Arizona

Limits to immigration

I am glad that World Vision is helping the Haitian refugees in Miami. But to allow all the poor of the world to come live in the United States with our bloated lifestyle is not a permanent solution to their problems.

We use too many of the world's resources now. We must aid the people's homelands, not encourage them to move here. Jordan Lorence Mound, Minnesota

Interact!

Write us on any subject we deal with. Letters chosen for print may be excerpted for brevity's sake. Address Reader's Right, c/o WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016.



A grateful villager, Rosa Jimenez, pumps water from a World Vision well at Monti Christi,

"We are poor and we are strangers to you. Yet you have taken an interest in us. Thank you."

These words come from a grateful man, Alcibiades Familia. He and his wife, Dorys, first arrived in their isolated village near the northwest coast of the Dominican Republic 11 years ago. Dorys recalls, "There were just seven families living here then. The only available water was contaminated and two miles away. We couldn't return to where we had come from because we had no money for the journey."

Today, thanks to the Lifesharing Partners who support its work, the Monti Christi community development project is transforming the lives of this couple and their five children. (Each Partner in World Vision's Lifesharing program contributes \$12 a month toward a project such as the one at Monti Christi.) The Familias' village is one of 16 that are benefiting from the Monti Christi project. Alcibiades and Dorys are typical of the thousands being helped:

• Together, the project's staff, Alcibiades and his neighbors built a well in his village. "Now my family is much healthier," Alcibiades notes, "because we have water that is clean. And there is enough for everyone in the village—including the people who



are moving here from communities that do not have good water."

• Alcibiades has joined the agricultural association that project workers began in his village. The workers teach improved methods of farming and help people begin raising animals. When a recent pig-fever epidemic made it necessary for the Familias to kill their pigs—animals they depended on for income—the association gave them five chickens. Now the family raises chickens and sells eggs.

Dorys attends a women's group

started by the project; she learns about health, nutrition, the home, sewing and other subjects.

• Most important, after hearing about Christ through the project, Dorys has committed her life to Him. "My husband enjoys listening to the gospel too," she says, "and I know that he will become a Christian soon."

God is the giver of health and life. For the Familias and thousands of others, God's gifts are coming through Lifesharing Partners. □

If you would like to have a part in a program such as this, write Lifesharing Partners, Box O, Pasadena, CA 91109.

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Ethiopians unload relief supplies from World Vision airplane.



Ethiopia update

WORLD VISION '

Relief supplies continue to be delivered to famished peoples of southern Ethiopia using World Vision's Twin Otter airplane. Flown by a crew from the Missionary Aviation Fellowship, the plane is carrying food, blankets, cloth and farming tools to the Kaffa, Gamo Gofa, Sidamo and Bale provinces. Local churches are helping to distribute the supplies. A sixperson medical team also flies on each mission, treating 500-600 patients a week for malnutrition, diarrhea, worms, TB and malaria.

Where possible, relief supplies are brought in by truck; the plane is used only in remote areas. But the beginning of the rainy season is making all navigation more difficult. Small amounts of rain in the drought regions offer cautious hope that the people could grow crops. But most of the seed grain has been eaten, and the earliest possible harvest would not be until the first part of next year. Meanwhile, massive relief efforts are needed to stave off tragedy.

Sponsored child killed in El Salvador

Fighting in El Salvador continues to take the lives of innocent civilians. Jose Noe Contreras, a child sponsored by World Vision, and his mother died in May when fighting broke out in their town. The mothers of two other sponsored children are also known to have been killed recently.

People & projects

> World Vision donors have helped at least 82,000 people to date, providing more than 315 tons of food and other relief supplies.

> In Honduras, the Salvadoran refugee population being assisted by World Vision increased from 7000 to 13,000 in May. The expanded work includes a major campaign against tuberculosis.

Progress in Somalia

Refugees in Somalia's Las Dure camp are showing "real signs of progress," according to World Vision's Somalia director, Paul Goddard. "The most encouraging sign is seeing kids playing in the camp—flying kites and kicking soccer balls," notes Paul. "They didn't have the energy to do that eight or nine months ago." See the next issue of WORLD VISION magazine for an expanded report.

Vietnamese refugees on the increase

A new wave of Vietnamese boat refugees is causing hardship in the Anambas Islands, where World Vision's ship *Seasweep* is continuing to work. The current monthly average of new arrivals there is 1100, greater than a year ago. Paul Jones, World Vision's associate director for relief and rehabilitation in Asia, says there is no indication that the refugee flow will suddenly slacken. Refugee camps at Kuku and Galang are jammed beyond capacity.

Native American congress on evangelization

Speakers at the recent Sonrise 81 congress of Indian Christian leaders included World Vision's Stan Mooneyham and Sam Kamaleson. Sixty-six tribes were represented among those who met at the University of Oklahoma in May to discuss evangelization of Native American communities. This was the first real opportunity for Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts to join together in Christian unity. And it was the first time that Christians from indigenous peoples of Central and South America were able to share with their North American neighbors.

Sam Kamaleson encouraged cooperation among tribes, saying their tribal identity should be secondary to their identity in Christ. Stan Mooneyham challenged Indian leaders to dedicate their lives anew to the evangelization of Native Americans. The congress was sponsored by CHIEF, the Christian Hope Indian Eskimo Fellowship.

Malaysians help refugees

Five Malaysian churches collected a joint Easter offering and asked World Vision to spend it on the needs of refugees in Thailand. The churches called



In Pbnom Penb, Kampuchea, young Datt tours the orphanage in his "upside down" bicycle donated by World Vision supporters. He is paralyzed from the chest down. Before he got the bicycle, he had to let others carry him around. His brother, Mom, carried him halfway across Kampuchea after their parents were killed.

Is God calling you . . .

to use your gifts and technical skills in direct Kingdom work? Consider these needs of World Vision International, and then call Mary Ann Williams, (213) 357-7979, for an application.

MANAGER, MANAGEMENT DECISION SYSTEMS

Need for an experienced manager who desires a challenging position requiring solid conceptual and systems skills coupled with a keen interest in making electronic information processing support World Vision's management decision-making process. Will help create an effective data base information system, participate in the development of an international data model, and assist in the study and development of organizational standards for systems and communication networks. Will manage the EDP function using our new HP-3000 and help plan and implement "office of the future" their gift "an expression of our concern for refugees and also of our partnership with Western Christians in the worldwide work of bringing Christ's love to dark corners."

Bird's Head project

An ambitious five-year program has been launched to bring health, agricultural, educational and spiritual services to tribespeople in the Bird's Head area of Irian Java, Indonesia. Working with TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) and the Indonesian government, World Vision will try to lower the incidence of malnutrition and child mortality by 10 percent. Fifteen village clinics, run by trained nationals, will ensure that 85 percent of the population lives within reasonable distance of medical care. Wells will be drilled for potable water, and roads will be improved. TEAM is beginning an active literacy campaign and plans to translate the gospel into the languages of the area.

Please pray for:

guidance on how God may want you to help some recent immigrants.

 handicapped children who need surgery and rehabilitative care.
relief efforts in East Africa

and El Salvador.

• **Polish pastors** who attended a World Vision conference in June.

concepts such as electronic mail, facsimile, electronic filing and word processing.

Requires at least five years experience managing an EDP department and some experience as a data base administrator. Experience with an HP-3000 and some knowledge of COBOL would be helpful. Experience in "office of the future" technology and systems support for management decisionmaking would be a definite asset.

SENIOR PROGRAMMER/ANALYST

Need an experienced and creative senior programmer/analyst with extensive experience in COBOL and BASIC. Applicant should also have experience in systems design, and be able to work effectively and in harmony with end users. Will help develop "office of the future" applications and be part of an international systems development team. Must have experience in data base design, as we are embarking on a program to develop an international information system based on data base management.

Concerned Hong Kong students

A group of students in Hong Kong recently raised \$11,000 for drought victims in East Africa. Pamela Y.S. Lo, secretary for the Hong Kong Inter-College Christian Fellowship, said the money was donated by students at local post-secondary institutions who heard about World Vision's relief efforts.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Is God speaking to you about using your vocational skills in Christian work? World Vision may be able to help you respond to His leading. We're looking for persons to serve in the following positions:

> Assistant Director of Major Donor Relations - Oregon Endowment Funds and

Insurance Coordinator

Public Relations Director

Send resumes to Ann Overman, World Vision Personnel Office, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.



a program designed to help you use your resources in a God-honoring way. If you would like more information, please mark your areas of interest and mail this coupon to World Vision.

Yes, I would like more information on:

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Globe News BRIEFS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND INTERCESSION at a glance

All who flee Indochina for any reason are to be considered legal refugees by the United States, ruled the Justice Department in May. Previously, immigration officials had interpreted the 1980 Refugee Act to mean that Indochinese fleeing mainly for economic reasons were ineligible for admission to the United States.

Denied a U.S. permit to ship wheat flour to Vietnam, the Mennonite Central Committee charged Reagan's administration with using food as a diplomatic lever. Other relief organizations joined in the protest, saying malnourished children would suffer as a result of the denial.

The world's worst refugee problem is now to be found in Africa, says a new report by the United States Committee for Refugees. Although Southeast Asia recently held that sad distinction, today thousands of Kampucheans have returned to their homes. War and drought in Africa have caused the number of refugees there to soar to 6.3 million.

Bangladesh enjoyed bountiful harvests this year, coming close to being self-sufficient in food production for the first time in its ten-year history. Crediting this mainly to favorable weather and to agricultural programs of President Zia (recently assassinated), *The Economist* magazine says Bangladesh's outlook for future self-sufficiency remains uncertain.

"The road of violence, in any of its various manifestations, is not the road of Christ," declared CONELA, the Consultation of Evangelicals in Latin America. The church leaders were protesting violence from both the left and the right that has resulted in the deaths of Chet Bitterman in Colombia and several Christian leaders in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Citing substandard health and safety conditions at the Fort Allen refugee center, Puerto Rico's Baptists asked their government to provide more effective aid to Haitian refugees. The Baptists said many Haitians have had no choice but to leave Haiti "in search of other opportunities."

Demand for Bibles in Poland is great, but a severe paper shortage is preventing the Polish Bible Society from meeting the need. According to Barbara Enholc-Narzynska, the society's executive secretary, the Bible has become a best-seller in Poland; some two million copies of a post-war New Testament translation have been sold.

Egyptian Christians who convert to Islam have no right to renounce that conversion and return to Christianity, the Egyptian Supreme Court has ruled. The American Coptic Association reports that some Christians have been forced to "convert" by having "Islam" written on their government identification cards.

Evangelism not balanced by a concern for social justice runs the risk of being written off by young black South Africans, notes Michael Cassidy in an interview for *Eternity* magazine. And while petty discrimination in public facilities such as buses and restaurants is easing, he doesn't see much change in the overall apartheid plan. The government "... is still talking about the Africans having their political rights within separate homelands."

"Low-level war" between Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge forces is the most important variable affecting further relief efforts in Kampuchea, according to David Hawk. He directs the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) Khmer program in Bangkok. Hawk says, "A flare-up in the fighting could easily cause havoc to many parts of the relief operation and renew a full-scale crisis."

Concern that the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization is "in danger of diluting its commitment to social responsibility" has been expressed by some. In response, LCWE chairman Leighton Ford recently stated, "If we are to be faithful to the whole mission of the church and to the whole gospel, we must not abdicate our social responsibility."

Salvadorans escaping their country's violence receive no welcome from U.S. officials, who have sent more than 12,000



Salvadoran refugees in Honduras

back to El Salvador since October 1979. Nevertheless, predicts *Newsweek*, the flow of refugees is "certain to continue until peace comes to that war-weary country."

Unemployed and underemployed people worldwide number 350 million, according to Worldwatch Institute senior researcher Kathleen Newland. These individuals represent a vast pool of potential "economic refugees" (those who flee their own land for economic reasons). "Already an estimated 20 million people have left their homes to seek work in other countries," reports Newland.

Church life is vibrant where its hierarchy sides with the oppressed, according to journalist Penny Lernoux's survey of Latin America's Roman Catholic Church. The church's shift to the side of the poor in Latin America has resulted, she says, in a thousand clergy martyrdoms in the past decade. Persecution of religious leaders by military regimes "speaks eloquently" of profound changes in the church.

WORDS ON THE WAY



Punctuating life and death

Five days before his recent death, William Saroyan called the Associated Press to leave a statement: "Everybody has got to die, but I have always believed an exception would be made in my case. Now what?"

To at least some extent, I suspect, he was being facetious, putting words in his own mouth as he did with the characters about whom he wrote his short stories, novels and plays. Even so, there is more to it than meets the ear, not just for him but for all of us.

Mr. Saroyan was whimsical enough to say it out loud. Most of the rest of us, including us Bible-believers, have at some time had similar ponderments, though unvoiced and fleeting. The difference, it seems to me, is that, for the Christian, life can end with an exclamation point instead of a question mark.

This is not to say there are no question marks. Over the years I have heard many sermons preached on variations of "Now what?" Most of them charted everything from here to eternity with a precision that would do credit to the engineering of a spaceship. There was never any question in the speaker's mind that he had everything figured out from the last heartbeat on, down to estimated arrival time at various way stations, the latitude and longitude of heaven (and hell), and any and everything else. These "experts" did not, however, agree with each other. Protestants, who do not accept the Catholic concept of purgatory, from which new arrivals have to be prayed out, or Limbo for the unbaptized, have a whole set of road maps of their own, each produced by someone who thought he had every twist and turn and crossing down pat.

I must confess that I am uneasy when I run into someone who thinks there are no question marks at all and who could, if asked (or even if not), draw a picture showing exactly what heaven is like. Personally, I don't care whether the streets are paved with gold. I am not even sure that streets are an indispensable part of it. Those who have passed along inspired scriptural clues were faced with the immense problem of describing the indescribable, translating heavenly visions into sentences with subject and predicate. Sometimes, as in prayer, all that results are "groanings which cannot be uttered," or, as the Living Bible puts it, "such feeling that it cannot be expressed in words" (Romans 8:26). I think there is nothing wrong with a few question marks. To assume that one has all the answers is to exhibit a sophomoric naiveté.

Where, then, does our confidence lie? What makes it possible for the Christian to come face to face with the realization that there may well be "no exception," and at the same time not be shattered by a "Now what?"? The way, I think, is to recognize the adventure in what lies ahead. Not acceptance only, but excitement. Not needing to care so much about what, when one knows Whom.

On the cross, the Lord told the repentant thief, "This day

thou shalt be with me in Paradise." It is the "with" that is important, not the where. Though Omar Khayyám had something a little different in mind in his *Rubaiyat*, there is an application here:

> "—and Thou Beside me singing in the Wilderness— Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!"

I have always found confidence in the words of Jesus to His disciples: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3). Not many specifics. An earlier verse speaks of "many mansions" in the Father's house, but whether of marble or stucco or aluminum siding, I do not know. Or care.

We also don't know how we shall spend the time (Talk about a "terrestrial" concept!), what we shall look like, how we shall get around, how we shall relate to others including our loved ones, what we shall wear. Such things Jesus does not tell in nearly the detail that some of His present-day spokesmen presume to offer. On earth, He did tell His followers not to be concerned about what they should eat and drink and put on, and the advice would seem to be at least as applicable to heaven. What satisfies me is the assurance "that where I am, there ye may be also." If He is there, that's good enough for me. If I'm with Him, what better place to be, even if I cannot begin to define "place" or have a floor plan in advance?

What, I wonder, is the value of trying to determine our "celestial" nature? I have been always a little baffled by a phrase in the Apostles' Creed: "the resurrection of the body." I know what it means—that, somehow, personality and identity will be maintained. But a body as we know it? Here I am helped by the believer who freely admitted that he didn't know all the details: "It doth not yet appear who we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). Who needs Gray's *Anatomy*?

Well, you do it your way. This is my way to face the future without getting so hung up on details that I have no energy or motivation left to do what God has given us to do in the present. If we—if I—can let God handle the question marks, the result will be a glorious freedom, a buoyant confidence, a release of enabling power.

Now what?

Now what!

As for me, I want to punctuate my life now—and my death when it comes—the second way.

Staw Mooneyhan

President, World Vision International

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Meet Flora.

She's poor, but she bas great possibilities.

Flora is the youngest of nine children. Her father used to be a high school janitor. But as hard as he worked, it seemed like there was never enough to go around. Never quite enough food, never enough money for school supplies, or clothes, or needed repairs for their bamboo hut.

To make matters worse, one of Flora's sisters was born blind and needed special care. That meant extra expenses. Flora and the other children often had to do without.

Then Flora's father had a stroke. It left him almost paralyzed on one side of his body, and unable to work.

But when Flora became part of the World Vision family of sponsored children, the impossibilities of her life began to change to possibilities.

The sponsorship program helped Flora with such things as school fees, books and clothes (new, not hand-me-downs, for a change!). Her whole family is helped with rice, lumber for house repairs and emergency medical care. And Flora's parents are learning about nutrition, sanitation and basic health care.

Best of all, the entire family has come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and attends a weekly Bible study. Flora enjoys going to Sunday school and helping in the church office. She says her "favorite part" of the World Vision program is learning how to pray.

Flora and her family are still poor, but now they can see a chance for a better life ahead. Flora likes school, and wants to become a nurse when she grows up. Because of the consistent care of Flora's sponsor, the whole family has renewed hope in life—and new possibilities for the future.

Right now, World Vision knows of more than 14,000 children who need sponsors. For just \$18 a month, you can help one special child like Flora.

Think of the possibilities!



World Vision International Box O, Pasadena, California 91109 Yes! I'll sponsor a child.

I understand that my \$18 a month helps provide food, clothing, medical care, education and spiritual guidance. Please send me the name, a photo, the personal history and mailing address of my child. I understand that my donations are tax deductible.

I would like to sponsor a boy a girl cither. I would like to send in my gift yearly (\$216) quarterly (\$54) monthly (\$18) Enclosed is my first gift of \$________ 1001-H81-101 I cannot be a sponsor at this time, but I want to do what I can. Here's my gift of \$_______ to help a needy child. 1000 Name

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