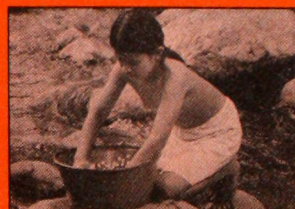


## Working under fire in El Salvador



## Living with refugees in Thailand



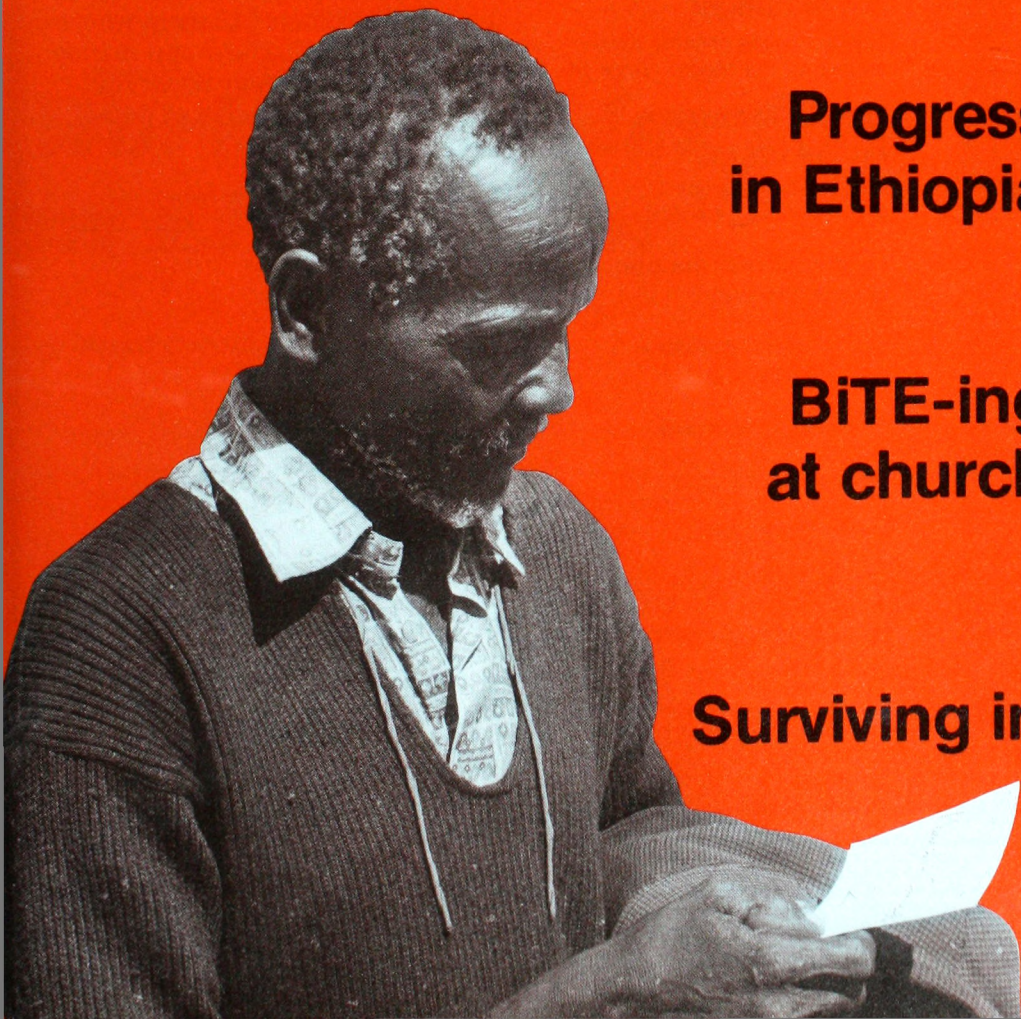
## Progress in Ethiopia



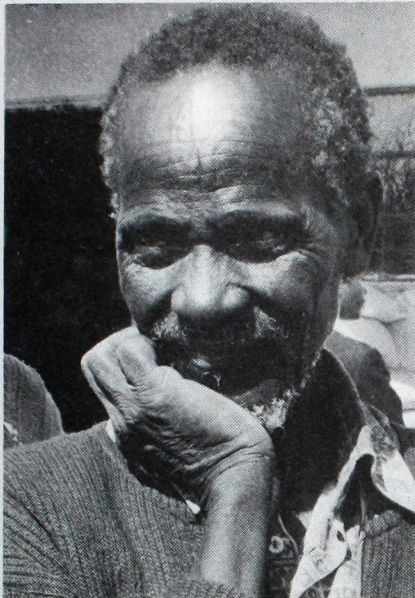
## BiTE-ing at church



## Surviving in Zimbabwe







**Zimbabwe drought victim Baba Chinungu waits his turn to receive an allotment of relief food at the Murewa distribution center.**

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Kelly: page 9 (upper). Jim King: page 19. Jerry Krellwitz:  
pages 14, 15. Priscilla Logue: pages 6, 7, 8, 9 (lower). Phillip  
Muko: page 21 (upper). Faith Sand: page 17. Sanjay Sojwal:  
page 20. David Ward: page 13 (upper). Stu Willcuts: pages 3,  
4, 5, 16.

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**WORLD VISION**

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Zimbabwe's drought brings more suffering and less food for thousands. *page 10*

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# Salvadoran Samaritans

## Looking for 1983 Samaritans?

Look into violence-torn Central America. In El Salvador, for example, where World Vision project workers, like the Samaritan in Jesus' parable, not only give their time, energy and means, but daily risk their lives for the abused.

Outdoing the Samaritan of Luke 10, these unheralded ones manifest compassion like that of our Lord Himself.

When you have read Terry Owens' and Stu Willcuts' accounts, share them with a friend who will join you in prayer for these Samaritans and others like them who are showing Christ's love and sharing His gospel faithfully under fire.

*David Olson*





*This young girl washes corn that will be used to make tortillas.*

# *Working under fire in El Salvador*

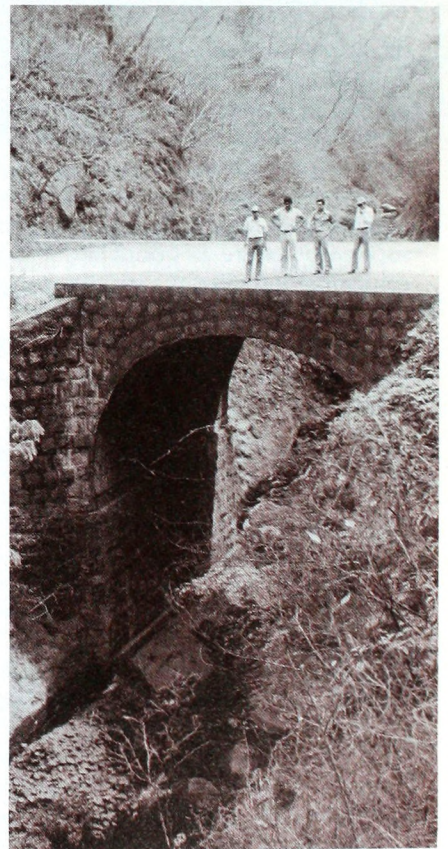
*by Terri Owens*

**“In my 15 project visits** to Chalatenango Province,” says one World Vision El Salvador area supervisor, “I have been stopped 29 times by both guerrilla and government troops.”

Like many of his colleagues, he works in danger daily. “Fortunately for our people,” notes John McMillin, “World Vision stands for fair treatment for everyone, and fair treatment for everyone is in the lexicons of all factions.”

McMillin and Stu Willcuts—relief and rehabilitation staff members based at the World Vision International office—traveled recently to El Salvador to lead World Vision’s first formal relief and rehabilitation training conference.

The 20 Salvadoran World Vision area supervisors who gathered during the first week of May are all too familiar with disaster. Each is responsible for the entire range of WV activities in his or her assigned



*World Vision area supervisors stand over the river where more than 200 bodies of young men and women were found.*



*This woman and her daughter are among the last pureblood members of their tribe, due in part to the brutal massacre that took place recently in their village.*



geographic area. They work closely with local Christians and community leaders to develop projects that address local needs in a meaningful way.

Since civil war erupted in 1979, the area supervisors' jobs have put them in direct contact with the people suffering most. And that has meant direct contact with warring factions on both sides.

"The weekend we arrived for the conference," says Willcuts, "two area supervisors were 12 hours late returning home from a routine project visit. We learned later that in celebration of International Workers Day, guerrilla groups had launched offensives in several areas. Unknown-

ingly, our two workers had entered a combat zone.

"They were stopped by a group of guerrillas who had never heard of World Vision. Before long, after hearing the explanation of how World Vision is helping to relieve suffering, they released our people.

"Further along the same road, the supervisors were stopped again, this time by a government patrol. Following a second interrogation, during which they again told about their work, they were again released."

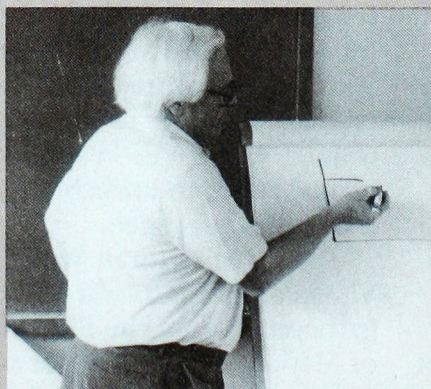
**All World Vision** area supervisors in El Salvador are university graduates. Several have master's

degrees. Most could be earning more money elsewhere, under far safer conditions. But all are highly motivated Christian people who believe it is through World Vision that they must make their contribution to this troubled land. Their goal is to help equip people for spiritual and physical survival no matter what political course their country eventually takes. Toward that end, they sacrifice much. And their families spend long, suspenseful hours praying for the safety of their loved ones.

The May training conference was designed to help area supervisors better cope with their stressful personal and professional responsibilities. The conference agenda was

### ***Practicing teamwork under stress***

**Being a positive element** in the midst of confusion is the lesson WV El Salvador area supervisors learned with these Tinkertoy sets. The supervisors were divided into teams and each team given 20 minutes to design—but not assemble—a tall, sturdy, aesthetically-pleasing structure. At the end of 20 minutes the toys went back into their cannisters. Then, at the sound of a



gong, each team had one minute to take out the pieces and assemble the structure they'd designed. The exercise



yielded learnings in cooperation, management and performance under stress. In the photos, left to right, an

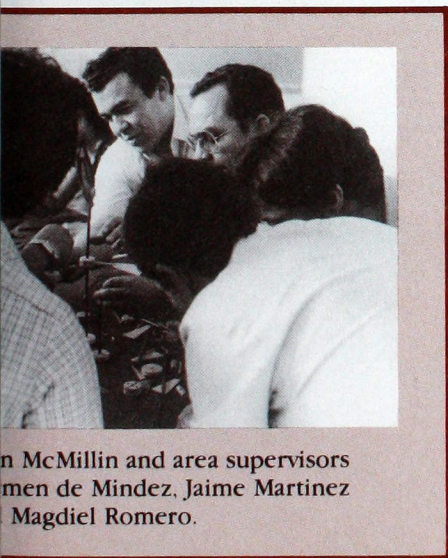


divided into four sections.

The first section covered World Vision's disaster response philosophies and techniques. "One major accomplishment was getting across the idea that World Vision must never limit its relief assistance to only Christians," says McMillin. "Our focus is on *helping people in need*—Buddhists, Muslims, atheists, whatever they are. That doesn't mean World Vision becomes a part of any such group. It simply means that it is right for Christians to care for people who don't share our beliefs."

The conference's second section helped the supervisors understand the profound psychological effects of a disaster. McMillin described in detail most disaster victims' experience: first of denial, then euphoria, then depression and later apathy. As he spoke, supervisors began to remember their own experiences: "Now I understand why people didn't seem to care about planting seeds I brought to them; they were in the apathy stage." The psychological training also included suggestions for how to bring victims into a recovery cycle.

On the fourth day of the conference came the next section: Participants formed several small groups. Then each group traveled to a different World Vision project, where they had opportunities to apply some of their new learnings. McMillin and Willcuts each joined a group.



John McMillin and area supervisors men de Mindez, Jaime Martinez Magdiel Romero.

**"The village I went to** was quiet and calm, with several shady green trees," remembers Willcuts. "As I sat there eating the tortillas and beans that one of the women had prepared for us, I felt as if I could stay at that peaceful spot forever."

Just a few months earlier, that same tranquil community had been the scene of a bloodbath. "On our way to the village, we stopped for a short swim in the local river. I was told that 200 bodies had been found in that part of the river—mostly young men and women from the village." The woman who provided the lunch had not been untouched by the violence. Retreating guerrillas pursued by government troops had taken cover in her home; when they left she discovered her own son dead in his bed, killed in the crossfire.

But Stu Willcuts noticed that the village was beginning to show signs of psychological recovery. "Several people had flowers in their houses. Others were doing art and craft-work—all signs of creativity—which indicates that they were coming out of their depression and making a positive recovery."

On the final day and fourth section of the conference, the World Vision area supervisors learned how to anticipate and forecast disasters, and they were exposed to the idea of relief contingency planning.

**For John McMillin**, that day was marked by a tragedy that no one could have predicted.

"I had been in El Salvador the previous November to check on some projects," he explained. "While there I met Max, one of the area supervisors you can't help loving. Max is a great big hunk of a guy—as big as me. For a Salvadoran, that's big! And he has a hard time finding (and affording) clothes that will fit him.

"When I returned home after that November trip, I told my wife Jan about Max and she said, 'Next time you go there, why don't you leave your shirts with him?' So I had some shirts laundered and rolled up, and on Friday night as I was preparing to fly home I gave them to Max. 'Now Max,' I told him, 'this gift is not from



A Salvadoran villager carries firewood to her home.

me, it's from Jan. She told me to leave them for you.' "

That bundle of shirts was Jan McMillin's last gift. At the very time her husband was giving the shirts to Max, Jan and Matt—the McMillins' teenaged son, their only child—were killed in a traffic accident near their family home in Los Angeles.

Even his profound personal tragedy has not dimmed McMillin's commitment to the work God has called him to do through World Vision. Nor has the daily violence in El Salvador dimmed the commitment of 20 keen young area supervisors who daily are reaching out to people in Christ's name. Their goal—and the goal of the entire World Vision International team—remains to help equip people for spiritual and physical survival, even when it means working under fire. □

Terri Owens is a staff writer for World Vision International.



# *Shamans, herbalists and modern medicine*

by Priscilla Logue

## **Exorcism and folk medicine**

were not subjects I studied in nursing school. Nor was I taught to heal "spirit-caused" diseases or guard my patients from the anger of evil spirits. But my nursing career took on a new perspective when I went to Ban Vinai refugee camp in Thailand and served as a public health worker at the World Vision camp hospital.

I wasn't prepared to see our patients kneel beside an altar, light incense sticks and pray to invisible spirits to be cured. Nor was I ready to see Laotian refugees walk right past the hospital, knock on the door of one of the 600 shamans (spirit healers) who worked in the camp, and ask *them* instead of us to heal their illnesses. Nevertheless, during the six months I worked at the camp, I did see hundreds of people who visited our medical facilities and allowed us to treat the fevers, diseases and infections. But gaining their trust in order to treat them was an uphill challenge.

Forty thousand Hmong refugees are crowded onto some 240 acres at Ban Vinai. Maintaining proper sanitation there is almost impossible. The Hmong, who had once lived freely in the tropical mountains of Laos, were now forced into cramped quarters in small thatched huts. There was no running water, and bathroom facilities weren't much more than outhouses.

The Hmong may bathe several times a day, but the camp was more rustic than what they were used to, and common infections were passed quickly from hut to hut.

At Ban Vinai, I had the help of 13 Hmong men who could speak English and who were trained by World Vision staff members to recognize

health problems and treat minor illnesses. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, we divided into small groups and walked through our section of the camp, hoping to spot someone fighting a fever or suffering from a disease. (Because of cultural differences, the Hmong were afraid to go to the



*(right) "This is Mia Tog, an 80-year-old shaman and a lovely lady," says Priscilla. "I was impressed by her presence and the sense of warmth and well-being I felt with her." (upper right) Comparing children's weight with the United Nations' weight scale helps medical workers prevent illness. (lower right) The Hmong custom of tying strings around each other's wrists is a way of saying "good luck" and of holding in the 32 spirits they believe everyone carries with them.*



World Vision camp hospital for initial treatment, and sometimes we had to go out looking for patients. With over 4000 people to keep tabs on in our district, it sometimes got frustrating.)

**Because I was a nurse,** I was often invited to attend healing ceremonies, then treat the patient at the end of the ceremony. It was an eerie feeling, sitting on the dirt floor of a hut, listening to the sing-song chants, and knowing that before World Vision built the camp hospital, many refugees died because there weren't enough "good spirits" to go around.

One spirit healing I remember



happened after doctors discovered that a newborn baby had a congenital cleft palate and heart murmur. Our medical team was ready to take the baby to the hospital and start the operation when the healer told the baby's parents that their child's health problem was the result of their not burying the baby's placenta in the right place. The girl's parents should have buried it directly beneath their bed, the shaman said, or placed it beneath the center post of their home, if it had been a boy.

"Look, the baby is going to die if we don't examine her," one of the camp doctors said. "I'm really worried about your daughter's heart."

The father was afraid if he didn't show respect to the family shaman, the few remaining good spirits surrounding their child would disappear. So, to keep peace between the angry shaman and an even angrier doctor, the father simply said, "Both."

Observing a shaman healing ceremony was a fascinating experience and a good way to begin to understand some of the social and religious customs of the Hmong culture. But beyond that, by showing respect for them in this manner, I gained *their* respect and trust, and thus was able to provide medical treatment and to share about Christ with more of them than I would have been able to otherwise.

Before a healing ceremony begins, a shaman will toss water buffalo horns into the air and watch how they fall. The shaman looks for a specific pattern that indicates when the patient's spirits are ready. Until the spirits are ready, the shaman will continue chanting and casting the horns.

Following the tossing of the horns, the healer uses a pair of small finger bells and a tiny gong to signal to the spirits that everything has been prepared and that their presence is

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### ***My nursing career took on a new perspective at Ban Vinai.***

needed. The Hmong believe each person has 32 spirits that must be contained within the body for good health. To lure wandering spirits back to the body, a food offering of chicken or pork is prepared and placed on an altar with burning incense. In the case of an infant, the ceremony climaxes when the baby's parents burn a pile of white paper called spirit money, and the shaman knows the spirits are once again at peace with the patient.

After one service, it was our turn to examine a tiny infant who had developed a fever. It caused us anguish to wait until the "healing" ceremony was completed before we could admit the infant into the hospital. But we'd learned that the Hmong would agree to our medical checkups only after they trusted us.

**At the end of another** healing ceremony, I was invited to stay and eat a meal with the patient's family. A pig had been sacrificed to the spirits and later was prepared as a meal with rice and vegetables. Being a nurse, I knew the kind of germs likely to be found, but I didn't feel I could refuse their invitation. To do so would have been rude.

The Hmong don't waste any part of an animal used for food. Everything is cooked, including the stomach and the tail.

The food was excellent, but I had





a hard time eating my soup. It had a pig's ear, complete with hair, at the bottom of the cup. With a sickly smile, I politely nodded at the hostess, then at my shaman friend, hoping they wouldn't notice the difficulty I had chewing and swallowing the ear. I was having a hard time trying to bite through it, let alone get it down.

I heard a giggle and looked up to see the hostess smiling at me. Others in the dinner party were close to laughter. I weakly smiled and continued chewing.

The hostess must have understood my problem, for she suddenly handed me another bowl of soup, motioning for me to put the other one down. I

think she knew ears are an acquired taste, and that I had a lot more to learn about the Hmong culture.

Shamans are not the only healers the Hmong turn to when they are ill. They also may consult an herbalist, who has roots and berries to treat everything from childbirth pains to broken bones.

One young woman in the camp was in danger of dying from an abscess. But by working alongside an herbalist, I was allowed to treat the patient with her. The herbalist prescribed a special root tea for the patient to drink. Then I gave her erythromycin and penicillin, and the infection went down almost immediately. If I had gone to see her by

myself and told her what to do without the "help" of the herbalist, the family probably would have politely taken the medicine from me and later thrown it away.

As a Christian, I could easily understand how insecure these people were. I could make excuses when they used home remedies for their family's health. It was their tradition.

But as a nurse, I would go home at night and grieve for the children—children condemned to die because their parents refused to take them to our hospital.

One incident brought to a head the maddening conflict between traditional and modern medical treatments. I met a couple whose two-month-old daughter had a near-gangrenous elbow infection. They told me they were using a home remedy to heal their child's arm and that my services weren't needed, thank you.

When I asked them what they had been using for treatment, I almost got sick to my stomach. The parents had mixed rhinoceros horn, rotting elephant skin and mother's milk into a cream and applied it to their daughter's arm, covering it with dirt and leaves.

I tried to allow for their beliefs and family customs, but my heart broke when I saw the baby girl getting worse because her body



*(above) "This is my friend Yeng Yang, who is a quilt-maker," says Priscilla. "She made the quilt shown on the wall behind her. What she is doing here is called pandau, or flower sewing." (right) By showing respect for the treatment offered by this girl's mother, who is an herbalist, Priscilla was allowed to administer her own modern medical treatment and greatly improve the girl's condition (far right).*





couldn't fight off the infection. Even the local shaman said the rhinoceros horn wasn't working and recommended another treatment. But the family wouldn't listen to the shaman, and they wouldn't listen to me.

I wish I could tell you this was a success story, but it's not. As far as I know, the little girl will have to live with a crippled arm for the rest of her life.

World Vision has been committed to improving the lives of the Hmong at Ban Vinai since 1977, when the

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### ***I found many Hmong women eager to learn about the four basic food groups.***

camp hospital was first built. Since that time, staff workers have taught the Hmong specialized trades to help them find work when they leave the camp and relocate. Classes are offered in soapmaking, sewing, pottery, farming, childcare, nutrition and food preparation. When children are old enough, they are sent to school. Night classes are offered to adults who feel up to classroom study after a long day of working in the fields or the home.

World Vision's first priority to the Hmong, however, is to improve their health and reduce the rate of infant mortality. Of 37 mothers I interviewed at Ban Vinai, I found 22 of the women had lost at least one child, and 14 had lost three children. "Fever" was given as the leading cause of death by the mothers, followed by "convulsions," "diarrhea" and "unknown."

**Health beliefs** about pregnancy, childbirth, lactation and weaning are often the most strongly held by the Hmong women. Living in the mountains of Laos, with no access to hospitals, doctors, nurses or education, these mothers have had to rely upon their own strength and expertise to survive childbirth. It is not uncommon for a woman to give birth to as many as ten children.

Problems result, however, when

these women act upon traditional beliefs and endanger the lives of their children. Many Hmong women believe the spirits of a newborn child can be easily lost if the child is taken outside the hut before he or she is one month old. This is their reason for not taking their babies to the hospital.

Tradition also dictates that Hmong women refrain from eating fruit or vegetables during pregnancy for fear of weakening the baby's bones. And bananas given to young children, they believe, may ruin their teeth.

In light of their poor eating habits, I found many Hmong women eager to learn about the four basic food groups, and many are now preparing wholesome, nutritious meals for their families. And by eating properly during pregnancy, fewer Hmong women feel weak and drained following childbirth.

Because Hmong women are realizing that World Vision public health nurses are genuinely concerned about their well-being, many young mothers are beginning to deliver their babies in the camp hospital. Other women, still uneasy about making a break with tradition, will accept the gift of a delivery kit and use the sanitary equipment provided to make the birth process a little easier.

I found that the most appreciated gift I could offer the women living at Ban Vinai was friendship. Many young mothers I talked to felt

trapped within their small homes and were eager for special friends to talk to. The demands of their small children often prevented them from establishing meaningful friendships with other women who were just as busy.

As a public nurse, however, I was able to befriend many refugee women and try to make them feel valued as human beings. One 80-year-old woman I was especially fond of worked as a shaman throughout the camp. She always had a moment to talk to me as I made my rounds. Because I showed respect for her, she in turn respected my work as a public health nurse, and often invited me to attend her healing ceremonies.

On a human level, I have to respect people's beliefs before they will respect my own. And I know that by respecting the people living at Ban Vinai, I was able to convey God's love for them in a special way. □

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*Priscilla Logue is a nurse who, in 1982, spent six months at the Ban Vinai refugee camp in Thailand as a World Vision medical worker.*



*Stoves used in preparing meals at the World Vision hospital kitchen*

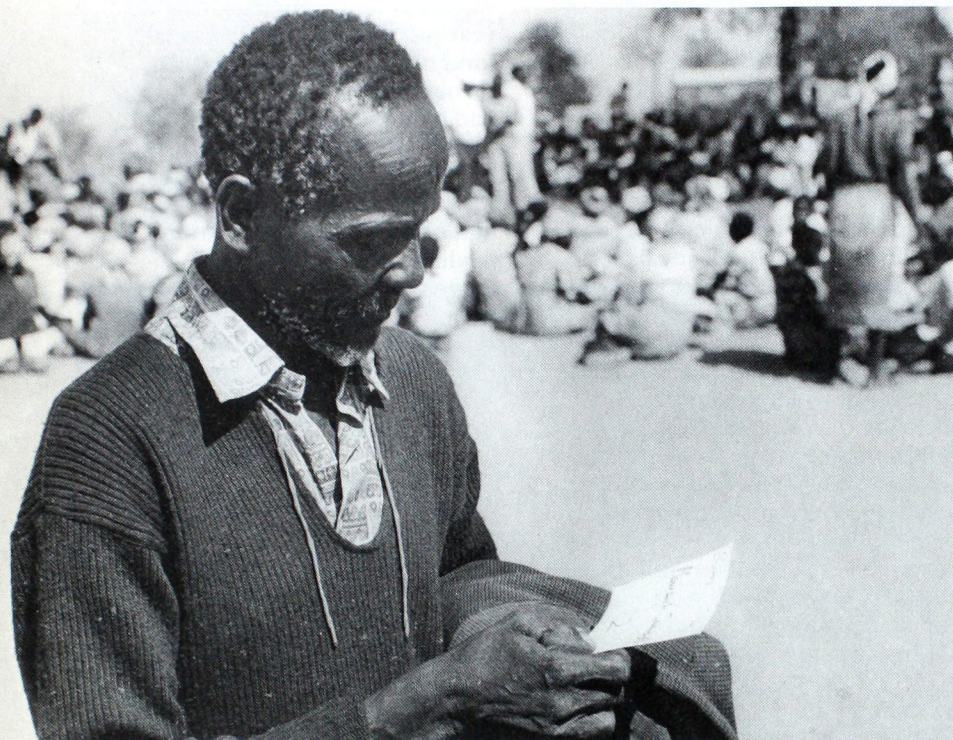




IN THE HEAT OF ZIMBABWE'S DROUGHT

# *A ticket to survival*

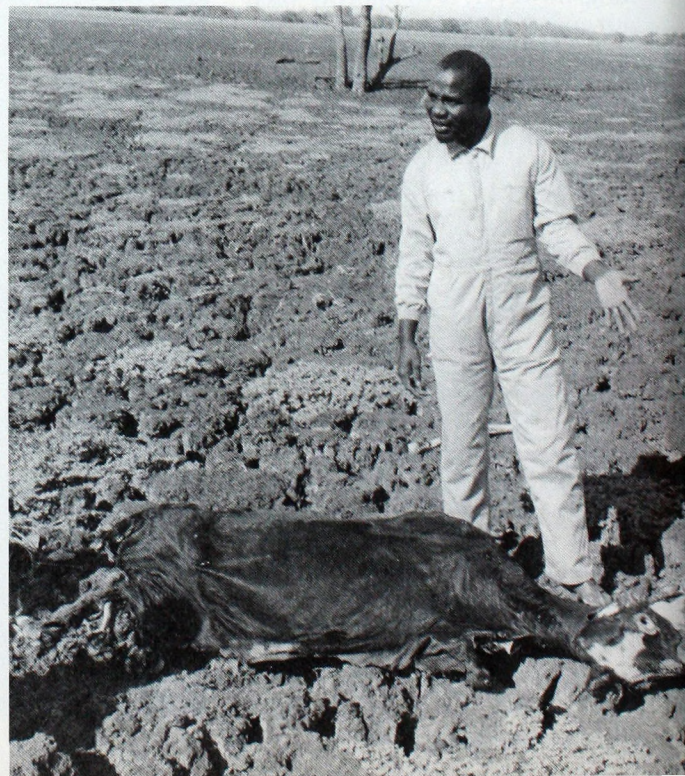
*by Jacob Akol*



**In Zimbabwe**, near the Mozambique border, 62-year-old Baba Chinungu carefully examines his "ticket to survival"—a ration card issued by government officials of Murewa District. The card entitles his family to a monthly allotment of slightly more than 20 pounds of corn from a government relief center. A married man with seven children, Baba Chinungu long ago saw his family consume the 100 pounds of corn he managed to grow this year.

He is not alone. More than 100,000 people of this district now have no means of survival apart from government and charity organization handouts. And nationwide, some three million Zimbabweans are believed to be affected by the drought as it settles in on rural areas.

In Murewa it is the first year of drought. But in Beitbridge, at the South Africa border, drought has



*(top photo) Baba Chinungu examines his "ticket to survival" at the Murewa food distribution center. (above) In Tsholotsbo, schoolchildren gather to watch the unloading of mabweu, a nutritious supplementary food mix provided by World Vision. (right) Beitbridge District Administrator Harold Simpanda stands next to the carcass of a cow. This hard, deeply-cracked land was once covered with water.*

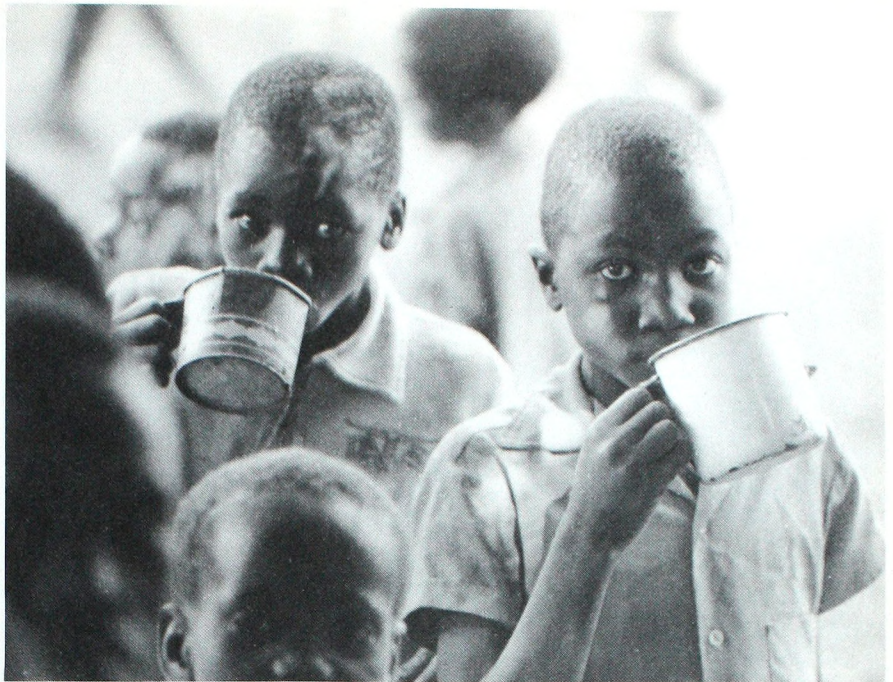


been a constant companion since 1980. Skeletons of dead cattle are scattered alongside the dusty roads and next to dried pools where the animals took a final drink. Most local cattle herders have abandoned the area, taking their remaining herds elsewhere in search of water and pastures. A few emaciated cattle nibble at withered vegetation, but nothing is growing to any appreciable size in Beitbridge. The only living things apparently impervious to the dryness are the baobab trees (broad-trunked trees native to tropical Africa) which dominate the landscape. And at Chikwarakwara, a village southeast of Beitbridge, the Limpopo River has dried up.

According to District Administrator Harold Simpanda, "It is most unusual for Limpopo to dry up at this time of year."

Relief food has been given to the people of Beitbridge District since the war ended in 1980. Some of the relief supplies have been provided by World Vision.

The Benda people living here and across the border in South Africa are



*Schoolchildren in Chikwarakwara drink large mugs of mabweu.*

cattle farmers who traditionally have earned their livelihood by trading animals. Now that drought has taken such a heavy toll on their herds, the Benda likely will experience drastic lifestyle changes. Already many have reconciled themselves to settling in at the community development centers in Matebele Region, where the government provides water, medical care and other basic services.

To the northwest of Matebele Region is one of the most recently hit—and most seriously affected—drought areas. Relief efforts here have been complicated by insecurity created by anti-government dissident groups. Relief activities were suspended for some time in Tsholotsho and Plum Tree Districts. But when a government team touring the area recently saw famished women gathering wild grass seeds to eat, relief activities soon resumed.

The government has demonstrated concern for the disaster, cooperating with international aid agencies while mobilizing the country's considerable material wealth to bring relief. Indeed, because of vigilant leaders and a relatively healthy economy, Zim-

babwe has thus far averted a major catastrophe.

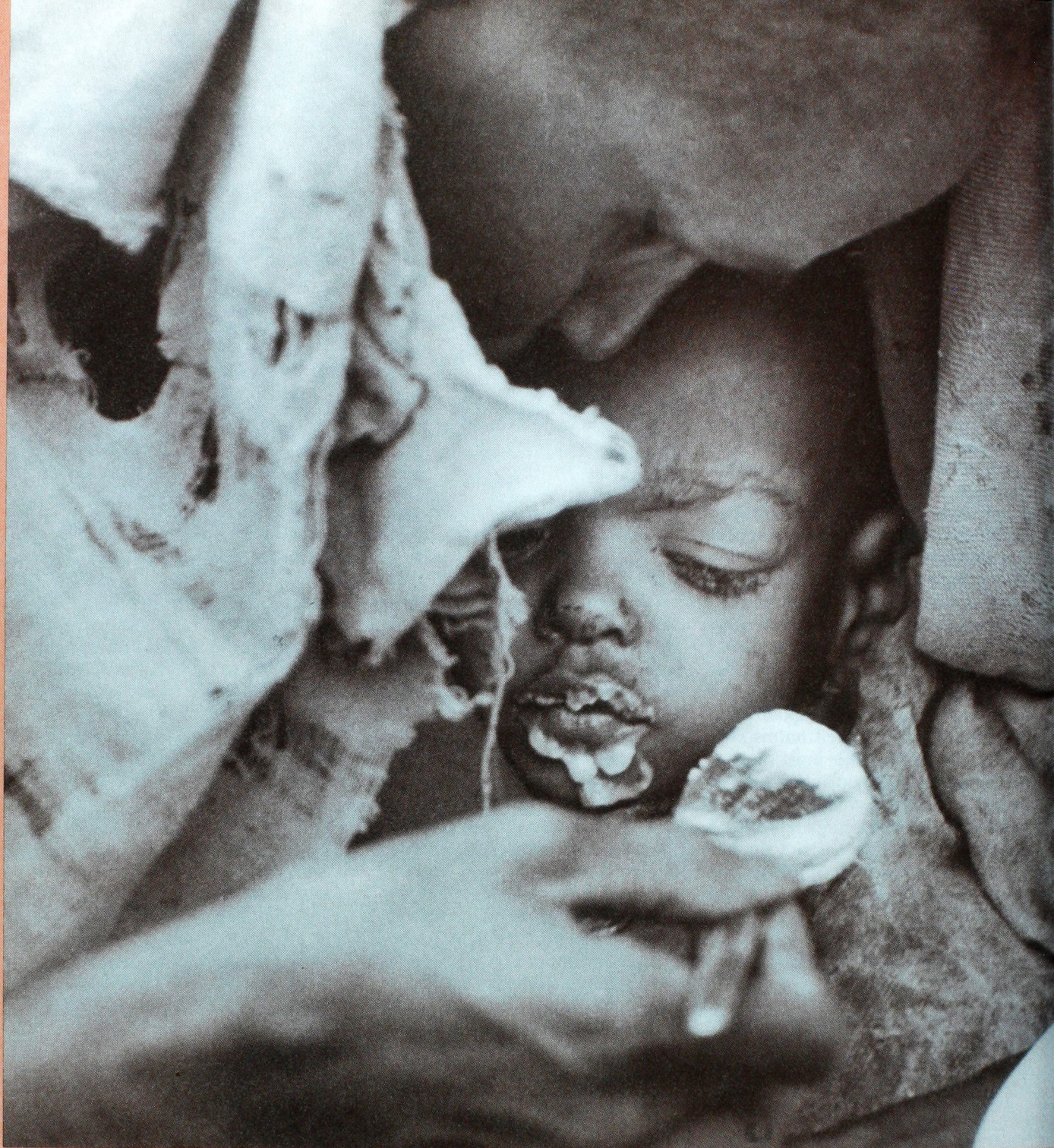
However, if the grip of drought continues to tighten—as it seems to be doing even in the highly productive central regions—much more assistance will be required to provide Baba Chinungu and other Zimbabweans with their tickets to survival. □

*Your help throughout Africa's long, hard famine is needed and appreciated. Please continue to remember suffering Zimbabweans and Ethiopians in prayer. And you can be involved in the saving of lives by using the return envelope from the center of this magazine. On behalf of grateful Zimbabweans and Ethiopians, Thank you!*



*Jacob Akol, a Sudanese Christian, is communications director for World Vision's Africa regional office.*





*(above) A mother in Zui Hamusit feeds her sick and malnourished child. (right) World Vision's Twin Otter airplane, shown here delivering relief food in Zui Hamusit, continues to aid significantly in the struggle against famine throughout Ethiopia.*





# Making a difference in Ethiopia



**“Ethiopia’s major crisis** is now in its second year, although it’s been dry for several years. And that’s starting to occur also in Zimbabwe and Zambia. I don’t really know how to effectively address such a mega-disaster. We need God’s wisdom.”

Russ Kerr, World Vision’s Africa regional representative, made these sobering observations recently. His firsthand accounts brought home the reality of the ongoing famine being endured by thousands of Africans.

“Death occurs slowly in drought conditions,” said Kerr. “The resistance of the human body to disease and deterioration is amazing. But after several weeks and months of dehydration and total lack of food, the body

begins to break down, and that’s when death occurs.”

World Vision’s relief efforts are making a difference for thousands in Ethiopia. The Twin Otter airplane is now operating in the Bale Region, flying four times daily between Goba and an Ethiopia Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) distribution point called Chariti. And, since early June, the two large World Vision of Ethiopia trucks have been carrying relief food and medical supplies from the city of Gondar to the RRC distribution center at Ebinat.

As relief efforts continue, so do needs which will persist in Ethiopia for years. But your help will enable some to live—and to start over. □



*(above left) Up to their elbows in the white powder, these men in Zui Hamusit measure out Faffa, a low-cost, high protein supplementary food for children. Faffa is manufactured in Addis Ababa and consists of local cereals, legumes and milk powder, fortified with a variety of vitamins and minerals. (left) Hundreds await food at the Korem distribution center in the Welo Region.*



by *Konny Thompson*

# Taking a BiTE out of hunger

**Compassion.** That's one word Stephen Macchia, minister to children at Grace Chapel in Lexington, Massachusetts, used to describe a valuable lesson gained through participating in World Vision's BiTE (Bible Treasure Exploration) program. After leading the grade-school children through the BiTE program, Steve was impressed with their sensitive responses to the needs of the poor around the world.

BiTE is a special program that helps children learn more about the Bible while raising funds to help the world's hungry. Children participating in BiTE are challenged by two cartoon characters, Burt Biteright and his friend Chewy, to complete a variety of Bible-related puzzles and games in their BiTE Treasure Books. Each student obtains sponsors (family members and friends) who donate specific amounts for each point the student earns by correctly completing workbook activities. Of the funds raised, the total can be channeled through World Vision to help the hungry, or 40 percent may be used for some other project selected by the church.

The following is an interview with Steve Macchia at the conclusion of Grace Chapel's experience with BiTE.

**WV:** What format did the program take in your church?

**Steve:** We worked the BiTE program into three consecutive Sundays in our Sunday school.

**WV:** How many children were involved, and what were their ages?

**Steve:** 221 children of elementary school age participated.

**WV:** How many sponsors participated, and what was the amount raised?

**Steve:** The kids got 1984 sponsors! The total amount pledged was



\$16,044.98. And out of the 221 children who participated, 191 of them raised the minimum of \$45 to receive the BiTE T-shirts.

**WV:** How would you describe the kids' response?

**Steve:** Enthusiastic! It was definitely fun, and also a learning experience.

**WV:** Do you think the children began to feel the urgency of world hunger?

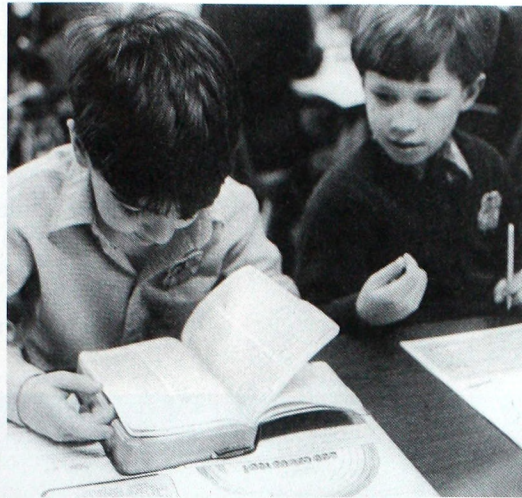
**Steve:** Yes. On the concluding Sunday of the drive, one child said, "I wish we didn't have to wait for the awards Sunday to send the money to World Vision, because the people are starving *now*. They need this

money *now*." Another said, "I earned enough to feed five families!" Since the program concentrated on the number of people helped rather than the amount of money raised, the kids could zero in on how many families or persons would benefit from what was raised. They would say repeatedly that they felt bad for the other chil-

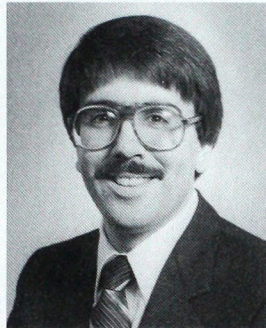
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***"BiTE was a church, child and family activity. Everyone worked together."***





*(left) Proud and pleased, this student was among many who earned certificates of achievement after completing the hunger program. (right) Stephen Macchia, minister to children, who coordinated the BiTE program at Grace Chapel.*



*(left) This BiTE student is busy studying his Bible to answer a question in his "Treasure Book." (below) Students asked family members and friends to sponsor their efforts to raise money for the hungry. Here a student shares with his sponsor a BiTE workbook activity.*



dren in the world who were unable to eat and live like they were.

**WV:** In your opinion, what were some of the reasons for the success of the BiTE program in your church?

**Steve:** Number one is the fact that the church is missions-minded. And you've got to have the support of the church at large for a project like this to really take off. We had about 300 people who wanted to be sponsors but who didn't know the children. They asked to be assigned to a child.

Second, the BiTE program was an educational tool for the church. It helped us think in terms of the

needs of people worldwide. And on top of that, the success of the program can be attributed to the quality of the material that was presented. All the necessary instructions and forms were included. The workbook itself was a superb resource. The kids loved it.

Another reason was that the parents were also included in the project. They were given the answer book and asked to go over the material with their children. It wasn't just a church and child activity; it was a church, child and family activity. Everyone worked together.

**WV:** What kinds of lasting values do you feel the BiTE program left with those involved?

**Steve:** I think one is the knowledge that we *can* be involved in the massive task of reaching the poor in this world. The lasting value is for a

child or adult to say, "I was a part of it; I feel a partnership with World Vision. I can contribute."

The centrality of the Scripture in the program provided another lasting value. The program illustrates how we can respond to Scripture commands to be compassionate, loving and giving.

But lasting values also come from memories. The kids will never forget the BiTE project because the church and the home worked together on a big project where the kids were the focus.

**WV:** Overall, what is your personal response to the BiTE program?

**Steve:** What impressed me the most was that it helped our church encourage children to experience compassion for those who are needy. A project such as BiTE helps children participate literally in caring for the needs of others. The BiTE project helped us do that. □

*For details, write Special Programs, WORLD VISION, Box O, Monrovia, CA 91016.*



REFLECTIONS ON A FRIENDSHIP WITH AN  
EL SALVADOR AREA SUPERVISOR

# *Daniel Torres is a model for me*

*by Stu Willcuts*

**Many of us** here at World Vision's international office have developed a special bond with someone we've met in one of the field offices. For me, Daniel Torres—one of WV El Salvador's area supervisors—is such a person.

Daniel and I have had plenty of opportunity to become friends. We've experienced life-threatening situations together, planned and reviewed projects and swapped snapshots of our families. And we've dreamed and sorrowed together over the seeming hopelessness of his war-racked country's future.

I first met Daniel last November while I was working as an associate director in the Latin America



*Daniel Torres, talking here with a campesino farmer about his crop, is one of nearly a thousand World Vision area supervisors around the world who together form the World Vision "front line"—the vital link between our organization and the individual communities we seek to serve.*



regional office in Costa Rica. On a visit to the El Salvador office I found myself standing next to this tall, quiet man in his mid-20s. We soon discovered that we had many common interests, including baseball. I like to pitch, and Daniel is a star professional pitcher in El Salvador's six-team national league. His office-mates call him the Fernando Valenzuela of El Salvador.

Lately I've been realizing that Daniel is a model for me. I love the people of El Salvador and would give almost anything to do what he does. As one of 20 World Vision area supervisors in El Salvador, Daniel is personally bringing aid to thousands of suffering Salvadorans. I wish I could do that.

Circumstances in his war-torn land require unusually high levels of dedication and commitment from a World Vision area supervisor. Recently, as we rested under a tree in a rural village, Daniel told me about some of his experiences. In eight months his work required him to make 15 project visits into Chalatenango, one of the most dangerous provinces in the country. On those visits he was often stopped at roadblocks—8 times by guerrillas and 21 times by the military. Each time, he was questioned thoroughly about his purpose for being there. Twice he found himself caught in deadly crossfire between the Salvadoran army and guerrillas.

I asked Daniel why he works for

## ***Do you know the One who is the way?***

**When Jesus Christ** lived on Earth in the flesh, He taught, accepted crucifixion and arose from death not merely to show the way to God, but to *be* the way. And He told His disciples emphatically, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*" (John 14:6).

Do you personally know the One who is the way to God? You can!

Through Christ millions have found God and have begun a whole new kind of life. If *you* do not know God through Christ, we of World Vision urge you to read, with open mind and open heart, the entire Gospel of John, and to seek spiritual counsel from a pastor or other member of a Christ-centered church near you.

We also invite you to write to the editor of WORLD VISION magazine for a free copy of a helpful booklet called *Becoming a Christian*, which we'll be happy to send to you. Our address is 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016. □

World Vision, knowing that with his good training in agronomy he could be earning more money in a job with the government or in private business.

"Where else could I help my country and be part of a solution, and also be part of the working Christian family?" he asked me.

He admitted, though, that his wife and eight-month-old daughter are making financial sacrifices for him to continue with World Vision.

We spent the entire day in that village. I quietly watched Daniel interact with the local farmers. Clearly, his concern for their future has won him a place in their hearts. They can see that Daniel considers his involvement with their commu-

nity to be a long-term one; they know that he will *not* be "here today and gone tomorrow," even if the going gets tougher.

Daniel has the authority of knowledge. It would be easy for him to assume a position of power. But that day—as every day—Daniel spoke with the farmers as a friend. In return, he was treated as one of the family—as well he might have been; Daniel himself comes from a poor *campesino* family.

Daniel and I have yet to write a letter to each other. Yet we are close. Daniel is a model for me in the way he understands the ministry God has given him, in the dedication he brings to the task, in his grasping of every opportunity, and in his certainty that what he is doing is relevant and important.

Although I know that God's place for me at this point in time is to work in the international office, a part of me is always there in El Salvador, standing next to Daniel. I eagerly look forward to my next visit. □

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*Stu Willcuts is a relief and rehabilitation specialist at World Vision's international office.*

**Stu Willcuts visits with a Salvadoran child.**





# On readers' minds— and hearts

**Letters to the editor** sometimes refer to deep feelings with which others may strongly identify. Here are a few.

**A man in Panorama City, California:**

In a world where people are trying to find out who they are, I guess I'm another in a long line. I'm 24, a lot better off physically and emotionally than I was several years ago before I read a book which explained that Christ died for our sins. He has been continually and patiently working in my life ever since. I hope your booklet "Becoming a Christian" will help me further along these lines.

**A mother in Reading, Pennsylvania:**

I wish I knew what "the new life" is. My friends say they have become Christians. What I don't understand is what is so different about a Christian. I would like the booklet, "Becoming a Christian."

I lost my two-year-old son last year. It hurts so, and sometimes I still blame God. I think, *Why did it happen to me?* but when I got my first WORLD VISION magazine I began to think, it has happened not only to me but to many all over the world, and God must know what He is doing. I really miss my baby, but now I can live with his death. I hope the booklet will help.

**A woman in Stamford, Connecticut:**

Dr. Engstrom's article, "It's OK to Stub Your Toe," in the June WORLD VISION, was just what I needed as I'm in a decision-making process about a new job offered me. My fear is that I won't be able to handle it—and what people will think then. I especially appreciated the statement, "God made you in a special way for His special purpose, and He wants His special you to be all He meant you to be."

**A woman in Mankato, Minnesota:**

Please send "Becoming a Christian." I keep putting Christ second or even third on my list of priorities, and my life is not fulfilling. I know with Christ on my side I have nothing to fear, but I don't always keep that in mind.

**A man in Phoenix, Arizona:**

Although I've been a Christian for years, I've had an ongoing problem in trying to tell others what being a Christian means, and many times I've been confused myself. If this booklet hits the spot, I could use it as a witnessing tool.

**Dr. Marv Raley, formerly of the Pediatric Hospital in Phnom Penh:**

Ruth Livingston's article, "God, a Nurse and a Little Girl" in the June issue is an inadvertent, but tragic misinterpretation of an aspect of Khmer culture. A lay reader could easily draw the conclusion that the mother refused to give blood out of the usual reticence to bloodletting, or simply as a matter of convenience.

We have been blessed with many caring nurses in the Pediatric Hospital, and Ruth is certainly one of them. Some of them are expatriates, most of them are Khmer. The error lies in not understanding the deeply ingrained taboo in Cambodian culture attached to the giving of blood.

Most of the people think that the loss of even small amounts of blood may well result in irreversible debility or death. During the bloody carnage of the Pol Pot period they observed dozens of people who appeared to succumb after the loss of relatively small amounts of blood. Moreover, the mothers of patients in the hospital are almost invariably very anemic, barely able to muster the energy necessary to care for their young. Their fear in a situation such as this is usually a mixture of grief (believing that this child is going to die regardless) and

brutal practicality (believing that in trying to save this child by giving blood they may become so debilitated or even die themselves that their remaining children will suffer and perhaps die.)

I have taken care of children in other parts of Asia, South America and the U.S. I have never witnessed devotion greater than that of the average Khmer mother.

**A woman in Penfield, New York:**

The May issue really spoke to me. Reading about Jane's tree church in Kenya, her picture on the first page of the story seemed to come alive for me, and I could feel Jesus' love flowing through her. I know she is my Christian sister even though we are thousands of miles apart, and our lives are vastly different. Just reading about her and looking at her picture inspires me to try to be a better Christian. I pray that it will inspire others too.

The "Letter to a Child in Heaven" touched me, too. Although I am a born-again Christian and no longer live in fear of death, I can remember when I did, and I know other people who do fear death. I pray that Ray Seldomridge's article and letter will help many people to lose this fear.

The "Globe at a Glance" newsbrief about earthquakes in Yemen stood out for me as part of the end-time prophecy of our Lord Jesus in Matthew 24. Earthquakes are coming more often and are increasing in intensity.

Yes, it is time to send up "mayday" distress signals to God. As David Olson says, it is "time for sincere repentance, simple faith, honest obedience to Jesus Christ."



**An alternative to prison** is available to criminal offenders as they meet with their victims in a reconciliation process through VORP—Victim Offender Reconciliation Process. Guided by VORP facilitators, offenders and their victims meet to ask and answer questions, express feelings and agree upon adequate restitution. Write for more information to MCC Criminal Justice Office, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501.

**Yokefellow awards** (to missionaries in developing countries, on the basis of need and their special efforts) will be given to selected nominees again this year by Pinewood Center. For information write Arthur Emerson, 4535 Willow Dr., Hamel, MN 55340.

**City-centered careers** are the main topics of San Francisco '83, a conference to be sponsored by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Slated for December 26-30, the event is designed to help students prepare to serve Christ in urban business, professional and government positions. For information write Registrar, San Francisco '83, 233 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53203.

**Persons interested** in crosscultural ministries can benefit from studies in missions and urban ministry offered by the Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The program blends the academic with the practical in the city's multi-ethnic urban

neighborhoods. For more information contact Dr. George C. Fuller, Westminster Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 27009, Philadelphia, PA 19118.

**Schools for Christian Living** offers in-church seminars on practical living. Topics include marriage and family enrichment, relationship building, single adult enrichment, discipleship training, management and labor relations, and leadership training. For more information contact Schools for Christian Living, Inc., P.O. Box 1235, Wheaton, IL 60187.

**The performing arts** are used to present the message of Christ by the Lamb's Players, a California-based company of professional artists. Productions include a traveling street theater, stage company, readers' theater and dance company. Lamb's Players also offers training in dramatic arts with a Christian perspective. For more information write Lamb's Players, P.O. Box 26, National City, CA 92050.

**The church's responsibility** to the poor is the theme of a set of three videotapes of lectures by Dr. John Perkins on Christian community development principles. For information on rental or purchase, write GL Media, 2300 Knoll Dr., Ventura, CA 93003.

**Forty-two** black, Hispanic and Native American college students are participating in



Participants in the MCC Urban Community Development Summer Service Program.

tee's (MCC) Urban Community Development Summer Service program. The program, develops leadership skills of minority students, for work with a church or service organization in their home communities for ten weeks each summer.

**New York City's** teenage runaways are finding help at Covenant House's Under 21 Center. Founded by Franciscan priest Father Bruce Ritter, the center operates group homes for teenage boys and girls. Also provided are crisis intervention, professional counseling, health services, meals, short-term family therapy, and job and educational opportunities. More information is available from Covenant House, 460 W. 41st St., New York, NY 10036.

**Residents** of 12 mental health facilities in California are now hearing the gospel through music. Message Through Music—Mental Health Ministries provides patients concerts of Christian music, and following each performance distributes New Testa-

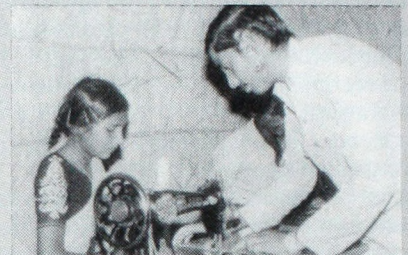
ments. Counseling and prayer are offered whenever allowed by hospital staff. More information is available from Joan Hess, c/o Warehouse Ministries, 9844 Business Park Dr., Sacramento, CA 95827.

**Christian Legal Society**, with help from World Vision and other agencies, provided advocacy and assistance resulting in the release from Russia of the "Siberian Seven" (dissident Soviet Pentecostals) after their 1752-day stay in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

**Dads Only**, a monthly publication for Christian fathers and husbands, provides news and creative resources for men juggling life's varied roles. Book reviews and tips on parenting, marriage enrichment and family activities are all part of this helpful publication. Subscription information can be obtained from *Dads Only*, P.O. Box 340, Julian, CA 92036.



# People & projects



*Farmers, rickshaw drivers and tailors are among those World Vision is helping in India.*

## MANAGING YOUR TIME

A two-day seminar for pastors and Christian leaders



**Ted Engstrom**  
President  
World Vision



**Ed Dayton**  
Vice-President  
Mission and Evangelism  
World Vision Int'l.

**Mail to:**

Norval Hadley/MYT, World Vision, 919 West Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016 (\$125 covers all costs. Make checks payable to **Managing Your Time.**)

**San Diego, California  
September 22-23, 1983**

- Send complete details.
- I enclose \$25 now, the balance of \$100 to be paid at the seminar.
- I enclose the entire \$125.

\*Boca Raton only: \$140, includes meals/lodging

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 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Business-building in India

Rickshaw drivers, tailors, carpenters and farmers are among those in India who have taken advantage of loans to enhance their businesses and increase their incomes. Because of the faithfulness of World Vision supporters, rickshaw drivers have been able to buy horse carts; carpenters and tailors are trained at the project vocational training center; and farmers have purchased seeds, fertilizer and oxen to cultivate their fields. In addition, literacy classes are being conducted for both adults and children.

### Help for unwed mothers

Working in cooperation with the Salvation Army in Brazil, World Vision is providing job training and assistance for unwed mothers in Sao Paulo. During their one-year stay at Rancho do Senhor, a home run by the Salvation Army, the young women are provided food, health care, education and Christian nurture. Each mother-to-be is taught first aid, cooking, knitting, sewing and cloth painting. An opportunity to be trained as nursing assistants is also available.

### Achieving goals

World Vision began working in the Indonesian village of Mamin, Irian Jaya, in October of 1979. Since then, through the dedicated efforts of project staff members and the villagers themselves, many goals have been achieved. Examples include:

- establishing a community-owned cooperative store for financial support.
- providing a means of education for 47 high-schoolers and 10 men in Bible college.
- establishing a vocational training center with courses in literacy, sewing and carpentry.
- establishing 22 model farms with more than 200 sheep and 100 rabbits.

As a result of working together to meet these goals, the community has become a strong unit dedicated to building a better future.





*Chivore Nheredzo inspects his maize crop.*

### Hope regained

Chivore Langton Nheredzo lost everything during the war for independence in Zimbabwe. But today he beams with joy as he works his five-acre tea plantation and four-acre plot of maize (corn). With the help of World Vision donors, Chivore Nheredzo was able to plow his fields with project oxen, which are used on a communal basis. He also was provided with maize seeds, tea seedlings, chicks (which he raised and sold for profit) and fertilizer. In addition, his children are supplied daily with fresh milk and mahewu (a nutritious drink), and his wife is learning dressmaking at the project's women's club.

### Family life in Taiwan

World Vision in Taiwan is helping strengthen the family unit through the Family Life Education project. The program covers such topics as human development, interpersonal relationships and communication, family planning, personal and family hygiene, budgeting, and family worship. One goal of the project is to train 20 leaders to take the family life seminar back to their villages.

### A link to the outside world

People in the Ghanaian villages of Vogyilli, Sakpalua and Kpinchila have been living in isolation, with no road to connect them to the outside world. World Vision, working with the Farmers' Training Program—Mile 7 (of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana), is helping construct a seven-mile road to link these villages to a major road to Tamale. This will create an avenue for development projects, health services, trade and evangelism.

### Helping farmers in Lebanon

Sixty farmers and their families, displaced by last summer's fighting in Lebanon, are receiving help in rehabilitating their homes and agricultural lands through the Damour Village Agricultural Cooperative Development Project. The Lebanese government is also offering assistance by providing home-reconstruction loans that will pay for up to 25 percent of the cost of rebuilding for families willing to return to the village and work their farmlands. World Vision is also working with an agricultural cooperative to provide funding for the families to resume cultivation and to rebuild their toolsheds and barns.

### Achievements awarded

Crispulo Consuelo, after receiving training in farming technology through World Vision's COLT (Community Leadership Training) program, doubled his



*Filipino farmer Crispulo Consuelo*

corn crop. Today he is a scholar in his home village in the Philippines, where he shares the knowledge he has gained with fellow farmers. He is widely respected as a community leader and was voted outstanding corn farmer in his region in 1978.

### *Please pray for . . .*

- **Milton Coke** and other World Vision workers aiding the desperately poor in Bangladesh.
- **Samuel Kamaleson** and the team conducting a Pastors' Conference in Suva, Fiji, in early August.
- **Ted Engstrom** and others ministering to pastors in Alexandria, Egypt, in late August and early September.
- **Norman Tattersall**, now World Vision's El Salvador field director, and all who serve with him in that war-torn nation.
- **Haitians** of Flamand Village, in development projects made possible by World Vision's assistance.
- **Ethiopia's** famine-stricken people and all who minister to their physical and spiritual needs.
- **Zimbabweans** in desperate need of food, water and the gospel of Christ.
- **Nicaraguans** and the 118 missionaries of 24 different mission groups who labor among them despite the turmoil in that nation.
- **America's** inner-city Christian workers ministering to great physical and spiritual needs.
- **Your local church's** role in reaching out to the lost and needy worldwide.
- **Your personal** and family response to needs near and far that God lays on your mind and heart.
- **Inquirers** among this magazine's readers who are seeking a personal knowledge of Christ as Lord and Savior.



# Globe at a glance

NEWS BRIEFS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND INTERCESSION

**Widespread crop damage** in Europe was caused by a rainy, cold spring—the worst in over three decades. Severe flooding has ruined many vineyards in France, West Germany and Denmark. Also, drought in southern Italy has damaged hundreds of thousands of acres of crops, where the Agriculture Ministry estimates 70 to 80 percent of the year's expected harvest in the drought-affected areas will be lost.

**Hazardous industrial waste**—over one million tons of it—is being generated each year, according to a new United Nations report. A major concern is the dumping of dioxin, an acutely toxic compound that may be 150,000 times as toxic as cyanide. An industrial accident at Sevesco, Italy, in 1976, that involved an international search for 41 missing barrels of dioxin waste, has prompted many UN officials to advocate concerted efforts by governments to control the waste and dumping problem.

**Moscow's population**, now 8.3 million, is mushrooming so fast that the Soviet government is encouraging development of privately owned apartment cooperatives to alleviate housing shortages. Some 600,000 citizens already live in non-state-owned properties, bought at 30 percent down with up to 25 years to pay.

**Massive unemployment** is tyrannizing Europe. In the ten Common Market nations, more than 11 million are unemployed, and the total may reach 15 million by 1985 (20 million for all of western Europe). Worst off is Spain (16.4 percent), followed by Belgium, Ireland and Britain.

**Italian government policy** regarding resident permits is affecting missionaries to Italy. Before coming to Italy for anything but tourism, foreigners must obtain a visa from the Italian consulate in their country of origin. The government is applying the law strictly to Mormons and other non-Catholic missionaries, possibly as a result of a report that the Mormons planned to flood Italy with 1000 missionaries during the Holy Year recently announced by the pope.

**In Japan**, a nationwide survey of Protestant churches and meetings revealed a total of 6053 churches, up 85 from 1982. The largest increase came from Kinki District, where 30 additional churches were reported.

**New York City's "Summer Jobs '83"** program, and other cities' similar programs, are designed to aid inner city youth, most of whom are black or Hispanic, living in cities like Detroit where the youth unemployment rate is as high as 50 percent. The Job Partnership Training Act, scheduled to replace the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) in the fall, will shift most of the responsibility of job training and placement to private industry.

**European religious values** were the subject of a survey conducted recently by a Jesuit professor in Belgium. The poll revealed that Ten Commandment rules to honor parents and refrain from murder and stealing are still respected. Belief in the concept of sin is highest in Northern Ireland (91 percent) and lowest in Denmark (29 percent).

**A challenge to evangelize** was given to delegates attending the 80th Annual National Catholic Educational Association Convention, held recently in Washington, DC. Father Alvin Illig proclaimed it is time American Catholics focus on the fourth objective of the Second Vatican Council: mission (evangelization of the world). "That's the challenge of evangelization," Illig said, "the sharing of Christ with the people of our nation and of the world."

**In Kampuchea**, more than half the children in provinces around Phnom Penh are suffering from severe malnutrition, according to a United Nations study of food availability in Vietnamese-occupied regions. Aid workers in the country project a 130,000-ton shortfall in rice production this year, according to a report in the Manchester Guardian.

**Children living in poverty in the U.S.** is a problem that is more widespread than ever, according to a report by the House Committee on Children, Youth and Families. On a general scale, one in five children lives in poverty, and specifically, one in two black children and one in three Hispanic children lives in poverty. The report also said that 13 percent of all school-aged children have not seen a doctor in two years or more.



*Hispanic girl, lower east side, Manhattan, NY*

**Nearly one million jobless** reside in Brazil's six largest cities, and further lay-offs are expected. Stopped public works and food stamp programs appear unlikely to end the crisis, and growing unrest poses a challenge to state governments.

**Martin Luther's** five hundredth birthday (November 10, 1983) is expected to bring a massive influx of tourists to East Germany to celebrate the occasion. Church celebrations are being held from May 4 to November 13.

**Pope John Paul II** has signed a new Code of Canon Law, formalizing changes made by Vatican Council II, the first revision in 66 years. Catholics can marry non-Catholics if bishops approve. Priests and nuns cannot engage in political activities or hold office.



# In partnership with you

"BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL"

(Philippians 1:5)

## ***Creativity: use it or lose it***

**You and I** feel particular appreciation for the Christian who is radiant—who has what I can best describe as a creative spark. We all want to be that kind of person. What does it take?

To be creative means more than painting a picture, writing a play, inventing a machine. I believe creativity has been built into every person—it's part of God's design. When we choose not to live out the creative powers God gave us, each of us lives less than the life He intended for us.

In *The Self in Pilgrimage*, Earl A. Loomis, Jr., asks: "Why are we afraid to embrace our virtues? Why do we mask them behind inaccurate estimates and unreasonable fears?" He then suggests this answer: "Basically we resist recognition of our assets because once recognized they must be used."

What is more personally tragic than love unused? Generosity kept to oneself? Friendship unshared? The world's literature is filled with tales of men and women who knew their own potential, recognized their own talents, but refused to use those gifts. They are the truly tragic figures of history.

I was cleaning out a little desk drawer the other day when I found a flashlight I'd not used for over a year. I turned it on but was not surprised when it gave no light. I unscrewed it and shook it to get the batteries out, but they wouldn't budge. Finally, after some effort, they came loose.

What a mess! Battery acid had corroded the entire inside of the flashlight. The batteries were new when I had put them in a year before. But there was one problem. Those batteries were designed to be turned on, to be used. That was their only reason for existing.

It's the same with us. You and I were made to be "turned on"—to put our love to work, to apply our patience and our faith in difficult, trying situations, sometimes across the room, sometimes across the

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### ***Creativity is built into every person—it's part of God's design.***

street, sometimes across the world. Life is not meant to be waited out but to be lived up! Right now, is there an attitude, a skill, a talent in your life that is wasting away? Are you letting it disintegrate, atrophy? "What you and I refuse to use we will surely lose" is not simply a textbook aphorism but an inescapable fact of life. I keep reminding myself that it's not what happens to me that's critical, but what happens in me.

The Apostle Paul spent months in prison. His bright, cheerful prison epistles have inspired millions for over two thousand years and continue to encourage believers today.

Mother Theresa, who has become a legendary humanitarian figure, was born of impoverished Albanian parents in Yugoslavia. Albania, where no public worship has been permitted for decades, is a hard-core Commu-

nist nation. Yugoslavia is officially atheistic. From such an unlikely background came this beautiful person who ministers grace, loving-kindness and mercy to the destitute and dying in Calcutta. Visit her Home of Mercy in the heart of a slum city, as I have, and you will encounter a bit of heaven on earth.

Tom Skinner, former Harlem gang leader, tough and ready to use a knife, met the Savior through the loving witness of a friend. Today he ministers the gospel to thousands of university students and heads up one of the most effective evangelism efforts in our nation.

The Apostle Paul, Mother Theresa, Tom Skinner—and thousands of others with the most unpretentious of backgrounds or unlikely circumstances—have made a creative difference in their world.

So can you and I, in partnership with Christ and with each other.

Ted W. Engstrom  
President



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*This essay is adapted from a chapter of Dr. Engstrom's book, The Pursuit of Excellence (published by Zondervan).*



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Pasadena, CA 91109

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U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Long Prairie, Minnesota  
Permit No. 15

This label is to be used on the enclosed envelope.

**World Vision's partnership  
with caring people like you—  
making Christ real to a hurting world.**

## THE DAY THAT CHILDHOOD DIED

**For Amilia, it happened suddenly one afternoon...**

There was pounding on the door of their little mud-walled home. Soldiers burst in, grabbed her terrified mother and father, and dragged them outside.

Shots exploded in the afternoon air. Minutes later, Amilia found her father shot to death in the road of her little El Salvadoran village. She never found her mother.

**For Amilia, childhood also died that day.**

At 12 years of age, Amilia has all the responsibilities of a parent. She's up at five every morning, grinding corn, cooking for her two brothers and her sister, and getting them ready for school. Then Amilia works at a job nine and a half hours a day, six days a week, so she can buy a meager amount of food for her little family.

**Who cares?**

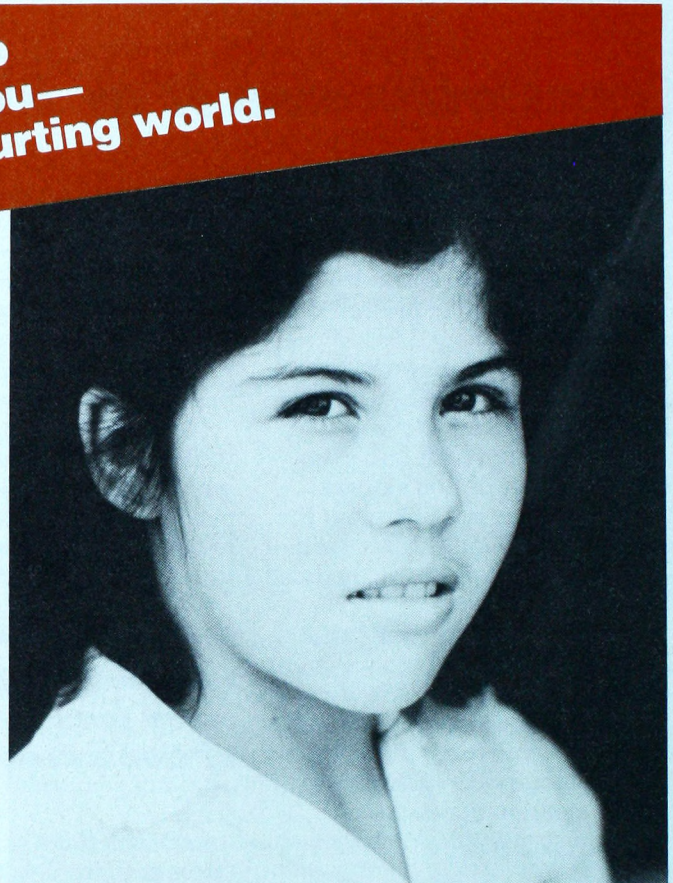
**World Vision cares... because God cares!**

And we've never stopped caring. Today we're working together with people just like you to share God's love with as many people as possible. That's why, for more than 30 years, World Vision's Childcare Sponsors have been making a big difference for children like Amilia—186,218 of them this year alone.

Childcare Sponsors give \$18 a month to help provide things like food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and educational opportunities for children like Amilia—and help them learn about God and the love-gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Share the Childcare experience.**

With your gift of \$18 a month, you can become a World Vision Childcare Sponsor. We'll send you a



photograph and a brief history of your child. You'll experience the joy of those special times when letters and pictures are exchanged, and the magic moments when the hopes and dreams of a child of need become part of your life.

**A child is waiting—waiting for someone like you to care.**

**Mail this coupon today.**

**YES...**

I want to keep the joy of childhood alive by helping World Vision bring health, hope and happiness to one little child of need.

I want to sponsor:

a boy  a girl

Enclosed is my first monthly Childcare gift of \$18.

I cannot sponsor a child at this time, but have enclosed a special gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the world's needy children. 1000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area code) A83W34

Mail today to:

**WORLD VISION • Box 0 • Pasadena, CA 91109**

