

MARCH 1984

world vision

Sheepfold: A door of hope for homeless women and their children

Progress reports from Bolivia, Peru, Ethiopia

Ted Engstrom thinks about a little girl who cost \$2

Facing drought in Brazil



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This mud-hole, source of water for 100 families, is all that remains of this or



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no money, no power, no rain

by **David Ward**

Senior International Journalist,
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For two weeks I had listened to many versions of the same disturbing, almost unbelievable story of massive hunger and misery. How could it be that in Brazil—a nation so very rich in potential—things had gone so terribly wrong?

On the last day of my visit, when I shook the hand of Antonio Bezerra (cover photo), a peasant farmer, I began to understand

what I had been hearing.

Reflexively I responded to Antonio's gesture of friendship without even glancing down; my gaze had been captured by the sad sparkle in his eyes. But as I grasped that leathery mass of callouses I was able to read his palm like a book.

This is no lazy man, it said, no happy-go-lucky layabout with samba

not-deep, 3-acre lake.



and Carnival on the mind. His gentle, strong fingers are Antonio's only tools. They are his only resource in a losing struggle with the forces of death sweeping the impoverished Brazilian Nordeste (Northeast Region).

Antonio and his family are landless, penniless, powerless. And for the past five years, rain-less. Through no fault of his own, his life has become a hand-to-mouth existence. And I had just held that hand.

Flagelados. In the Portuguese language spoken here, this word is used to describe the poor Nordestinos who, like my new friend Antonio Bezerra, have lost all normal means of survival. Flagelados means "the whipped, tortured ones"—those who find themselves existing in the

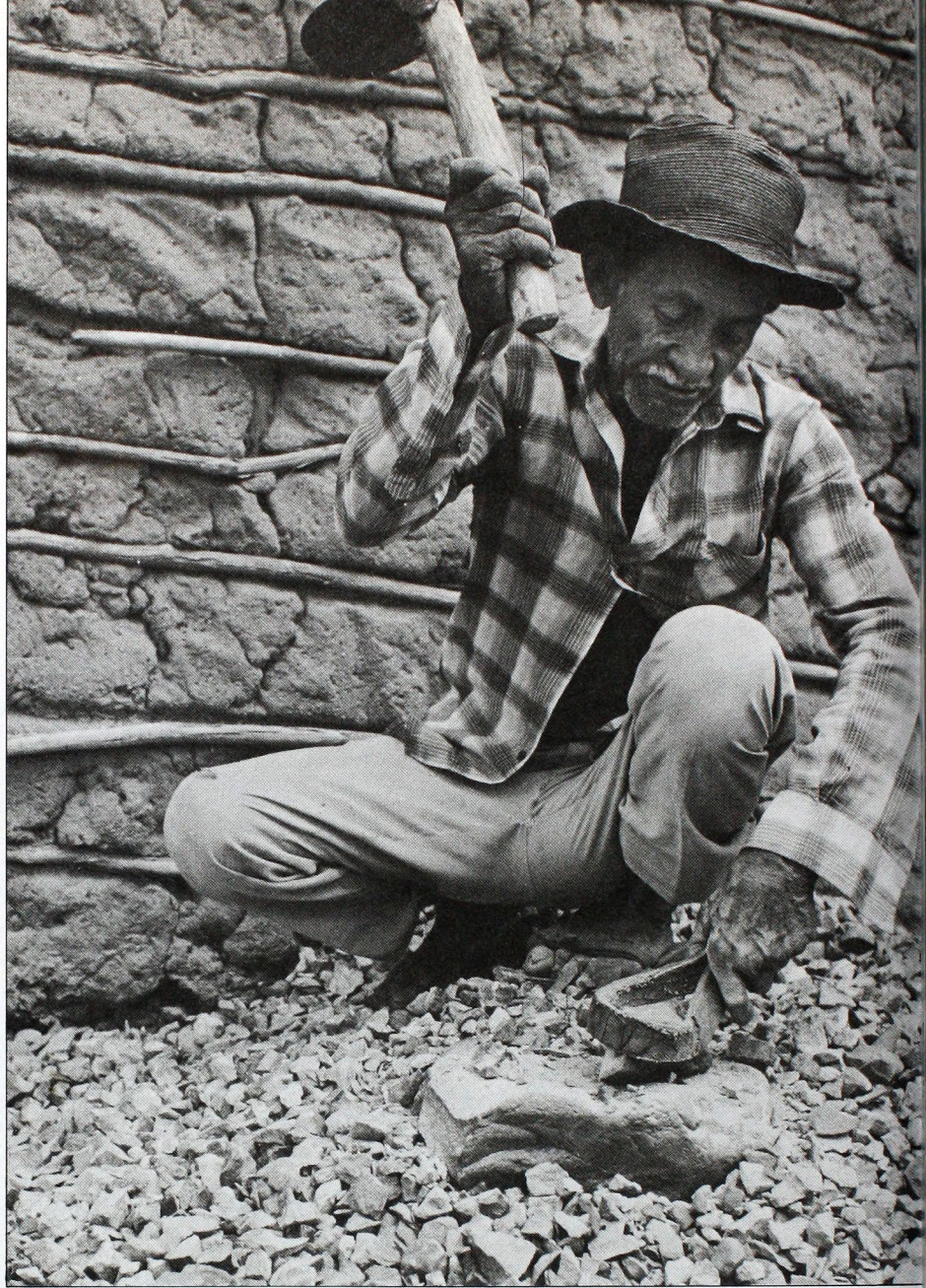
Thousands of northeast Brazil communities have seen little or no rain since 1979.

subhuman margin of life. Unable to meet even their most basic needs, they drift from day to day, only a few steps this side of death. Some estimates put the number of flagelados in the Brazilian Nordeste at ten million.

Prolonged drought is largely to blame for their plight. Only the fertile coastal strip of the Nordeste's huge land mass has been spared meteorological havoc. The rest—an area twice the size of Texas—falls within the drought belt.

Thousands of severely affected agricultural communities have had little or no rain since 1979. Most rivers and lakes dried up long ago, and the water table is dropping steadily. An old man in Piauí told me all about the last *good* rainy season. That was nine years ago. Experts say the drought is likely to continue until at least 1985.

While subjecting ourselves to a bone-jarring drive beyond Serrita, Pernambuco, my World Vision colleagues and I spotted a sign posted above a wooden gate. It read, "No fishing and no swimming." Eager for *any* excuse to stop bouncing up and down for a few minutes, we came to a halt. When the road dust had

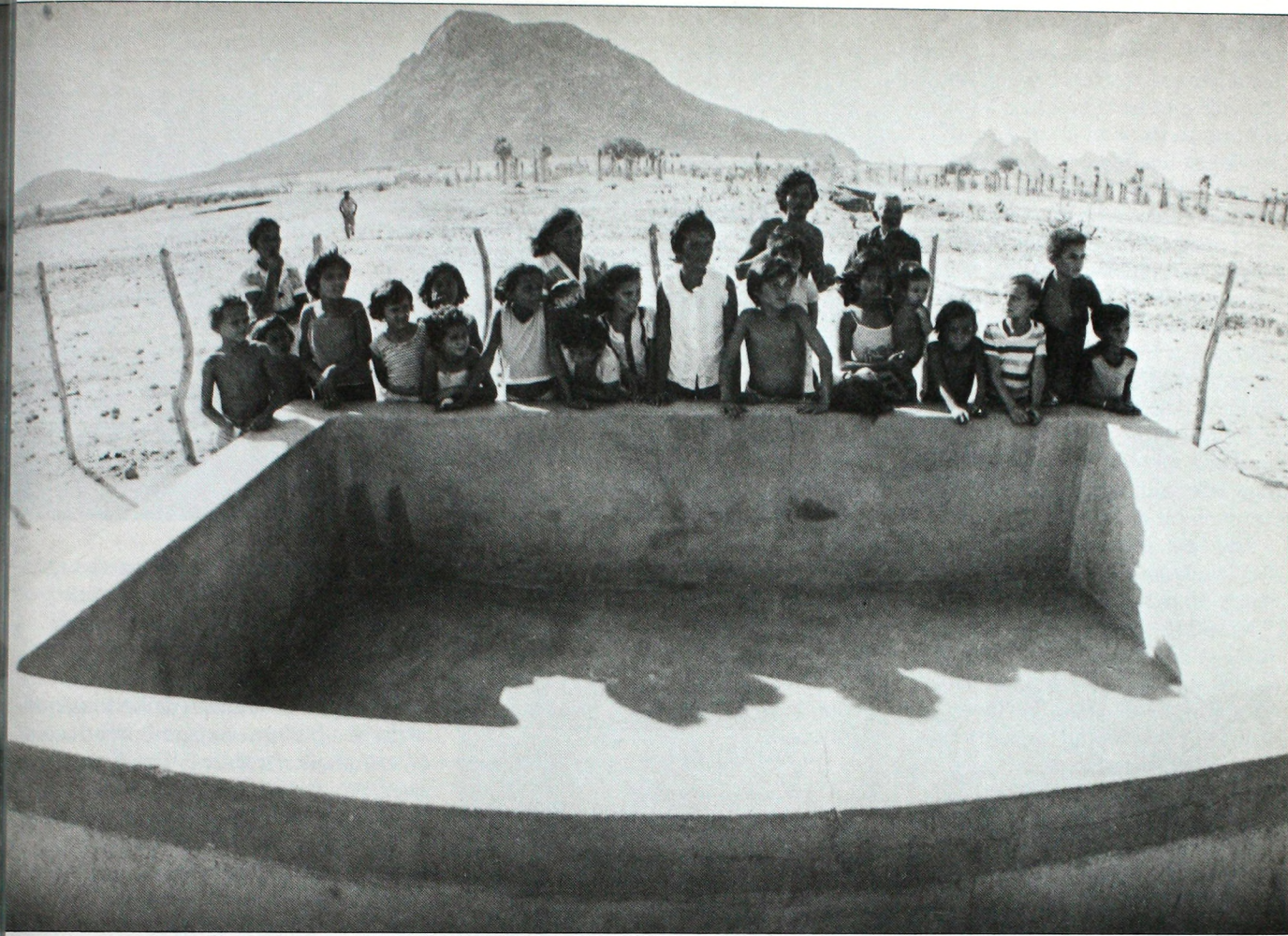


settled, we leaned over a fence and saw the huge, cracked crater below. What had once been a three-acre, thirty-foot-deep, human-made lake was now a crescent-shaped, three-inch-deep, slimy green puddle.

"One hundred families depended on this lake for water," a young man named Manoel told me. "There is no other place to find it around here. We've tried digging wells into the lake bed but they just keep drying up."

He explained how the newest, deepest well at Fazenda Meliza recently had been extended down to bedrock. But now *that* hole, too, is nearly dry. "We have no tools for

(above left) Luís Cassimiro, 70, supplements his \$16-a-month pension by crushing rocks by hand. (above right) Twice a week a government water truck fills this concrete tank in Irauçubá. The water must supply several hundred people in the community. Often people are injured in the struggle to get as much water as possible. (right) Boiled cactus is now a staple food, although pride prevents most people from admitting



digging rock," shrugged Manoel. "When this last one dries up, we're finished. Then we'll leave our homes and go somewhere else—I don't know where. Or we will die."

Twice a week one of 3087 government water trucks stops near a small cluster of houses outside the town of Irauçuba, three hours west of Fortaleza. The driver measures out a few thousand liters into the square, open-topped concrete tank. Then, not too surprisingly, pandemonium breaks loose. Otherwise friendly neighbors push and shove, fighting for just a bit more than their 54-liter ration (about 14 gallons).

"Sure, people get hurt," Luzia da Cruz told me, angrily. "But what can we do? Our river disappeared five years ago and I have seven children and a husband to care for. That water from the truck just isn't enough." I learned later that half of Luzia's children had died in recent years, apparently as a direct conse-

quence of the Nordeste drought.

After traveling for hours along roadways of white, powdery sand—like driving on a beach—it is difficult to imagine that rain-fed food-crop production was ever possible in this drought-stricken land. For the past few years it certainly has *not* been.

Against the ash-colored panorama of rocks and leafless bushes, the only hint of green these days is an occasional spindly cactus or some ancient tree with its deep, deep taproot. Even the few remaining fields of palma—a cactus-like plant grown for livestock feed—are wilted and drooping.

"Nearly everyone I've met agrees that we will experience at least one more year of drought," said Waldir Benevides of Visão Mundial (World Vision of Brazil). "I'm deeply moved to see so many poor people standing out in those dry, stony fields day after day, preparing the land for

planting. They know much better than I what a slim chance there is for adequate rainfall this season. But they have to be ready, just in case. It hurts to think of all that hard work just leading once again to disappointment."

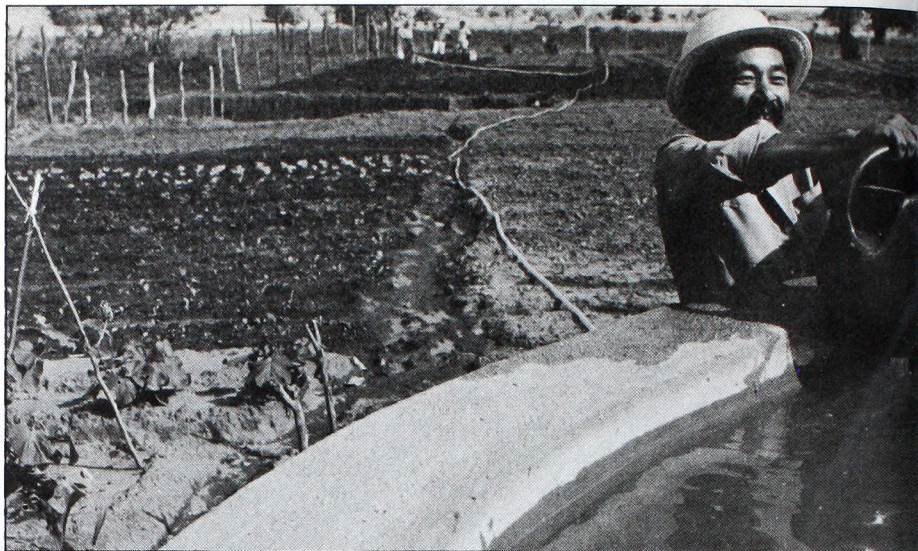
Desperate water shortages. Zero food production in many areas. Nearly unlimited misery. How do the ten million flagelados survive?

Some, like many of the young children at Impueira, don't. Feheira de Lima told me how her young nephew had starved to death just a few days before our visit. The most haunting memory of the child's final days, she said, was the way he kept chewing on his arms.

The best available estimates put the flagelado infant mortality rate at nearly 50 percent.

For other flagelados, like Manoel Barbosa da Silva, of Exú, survival means abandoning rural homes and migrating to urban areas. Maybe, just maybe, they will find work there.

Most are not *attracted* to the cities.

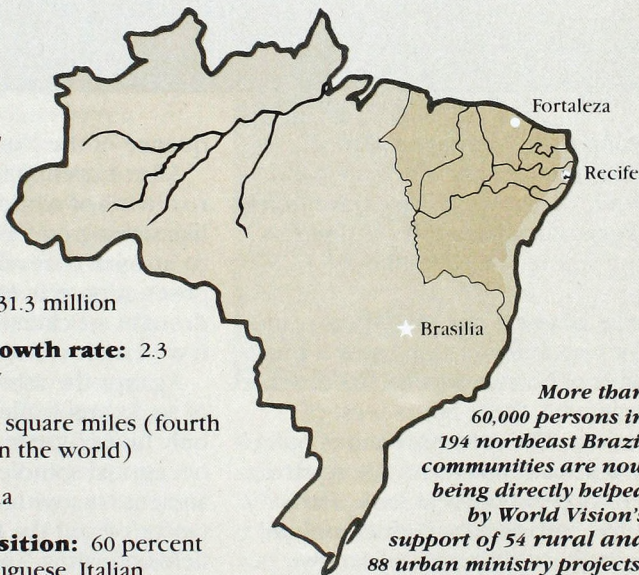


They are *pushed* there by thirst and hunger. The city of Fortaleza alone is struggling to absorb 300,000 just-arrived flagelado migrants. Manoel explained that of his former community of 70 families, 30 have headed for big cities.

Few will be as fortunate as Manoel

and his family. Shortly after arriving in Exú he joined a small irrigated-gardening project initiated by the local Baptist church with help from Visão Mundial. Sadly, most rural-urban migrants—hundreds of thousands of them—become beggars, prostitutes or criminals. Or they fall prey to

Facts about Brazil



Population: 131.3 million

Population growth rate: 2.3 percent annually

Area: 3,286,490 square miles (fourth largest country in the world)

Capital: Brasilia

Ethnic composition: 60 percent Caucasian (Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, Russian and German), 30 percent mixed races (due to the intermarrying of Portuguese settlers), 8 percent black and 2 percent Indian. However, one-third of the population is believed to have some Indian ancestry.

Official language: Portuguese

Other principal tongues: English, French, Tupi, Ge, Garib, Arawak and Nambicuara

Chief commercial products:

Coffee, sugar, soybeans, cocoa, cotton, meat, beans, Brazil nuts, sisal, oranges, pineapples, tobacco, pepper

Economy: Although considered an upper middle-class country, Brazil's economy is suffering from runaway inflation. As a result, Brazil has borrowed heavily from international lending institutions, and is struggling to balance its \$100 billion foreign debt

(largest in the world) by exporting large quantities of agricultural products. Northeast Brazil (Nordeste), virtually an entity unto itself, bears a burden of poverty not seen in much of the rest of the country.

Religion: Brazil has the largest Roman Catholic population in the world, with Protestants ranking second and Pentecostals experiencing rapid growth. Other groups include Spiritualists, Afro-Brazilian cults, Buddhists and Jews.

History and government:

Portuguese navigator Pedro Cabral discovered Brazil in 1500. The area was ruled as a colony until 1807, when Portuguese royalty fled from Napoleon's army and resettled in Rio de Janeiro. Independence from Portugal was announced in 1822. A constitutional democracy was attempted from 1889 to 1930, but ended with a military coup and the dictatorship of Getulio Vargas. Military forces ended Vargas' rule in 1945. Since then, the country has been governed by presidents or military appointments. General Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, the nation's current president, was elected to office in 1979.

(left) Manoel Barbosa da Silva works on a small irrigated vegetable gardening project which is supported, in part, by World Vision. The project was initiated by the local Baptist church to assist flagelado families. (right) Although she must carry a heavy container of water quite a ways on her head, this elderly woman is luckier than others. She and members of her community have a well that produces an abundant supply of water.

some unfair employer eager to exploit their desperation.

Many flagelados survive partly by "living off the land." Snakes, armadillos, chameleons and foot-long rats have become prized catches. Little boys with slingshots stalk the few remaining birds. Boiled cactus is now a staple food, although pride prevents most people from admitting it.

Another kind of foraging also has become commonplace. Hundreds of supermarkets and food warehouses in towns and cities have been looted recently. The pattern is always the same: several hundred desperate mothers and fathers break in and head straight for the staple foods section. Not long ago, a group of 1000 swarmed into a warehouse in Patú, Rio Grande do Norte. They carried home 22 tons of manioc flour, corn and beans.

Most flagelados owe their lives to an extensive government public works program called frentes de emergência—"emergency work fronts." Some 1.3 million heads of families are employed as emergency front laborers, earning about 50 cents a day. An official explained that in order to give work to more people, the emergency front program provides only part-time jobs. A more telling reason might be that most of the malnourished emergency front laborers are too weak to work a full day. Remarkably, though, many walk 10 to 15 miles to and from the workplace and still manage to summon the stamina to do four hours of



heavy physical labor under a blistering sun.

Only the largest flagelado families are allowed to send more than one worker to the emergency front. And in most areas, emergency front work is the only source of income; there are no other jobs to be had. Adequately feeding a family of six or eight people—or even two or three—is utterly impossible on a budget of 50 cents a day.

I met children who, for months, have been subsisting on meals made from the Nordeste's three cheapest foods: white bread, manioc flour and sugar. Occasionally they get a taste of beans. I met fathers who set off for their emergency front jobs at dawn after sipping their one meal of the day—a single glass of syrupy-

sweet coffee with a piece of bread. I saw a baby that was being weaned on sugar-water.

Most emergency front activities have something to do with water—finding it, capturing it, storing it, delivering it. All across the Nordeste, flagelados are digging holes and moving earth to make wells, dams, reservoirs, ditches.

A closer look at these projects helps identify a dimension of the crisis that weather reporters haven't mentioned.

Emergency front projects, by and large, focus on the future. The dams will catch surface water—next time it rains. The holes and ditches will help make better use of water

resources—once the water table rises again. But the projects' here-and-now value to thirsty, malnourished flagelado families is a mere 50 cents a day.

Furthermore, any future value of the emergency front projects will not necessarily accrue to the flagelados; the land on which the projects are being built doesn't belong to them. It all belongs to wealthy latifundiários—large landowners—who have inherited the Nordeste from their forebears. Most flagelados own no land; weather permitting, they work as sharecroppers on rented fields. Saving enough money to buy a little piece of land is the stuff of dreams.

While land is in the hands of the

Through no fault of their own, their life has become a hand-to-mouth existence.

few, suffering is on the hands of the many. I finally realized what this means when I felt Antonio Bezerra's hardened grip. Society is organized in such a way that flagelados like Antonio have no choice but to sell their only resource (the only one valued by society, that is)—their hands—to the only bidder. They receive in exchange a starvation wage, numbing exhaustion, and the nagging thought that the children who survive all of this will have a life

even more difficult than theirs.

"Drought" means more than water shortage alone. There is a *social* drought here too, a set of structural problems deeply rooted in history. Unfair relationships. Unfair distribution of resources. Unfair privilege for the powerful at the expense of the powerless.

If our ten million flagelado sisters and brothers are ever to be released from their torture into the full life God intends for them, it is this social drought that must be broken. And there is every reason to believe that it can be. "I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly" is the promise from Jesus.

There are no such promises about the rain. Maybe this year. Maybe

Going beyond first aid



We sped toward Fortaleza, hot, tired, emotionally drained. It had been a long day, and supper and a shower were still nearly three hours away. But when we saw those nine people standing next to the road, we had to stop.

Josefa Costa, 38, was hot, tired and emotionally drained too. She and her little ones had been on their feet all day. Waving at every passing vehicle, Josefa had hoped that someone might give her children food before it was time to sleep. We did. As they ate, the first cool breeze of a sweltering day chased the sun below the horizon.

"Desperate needs demand urgent response," says Waldir Benevides, Visão Mundial (World Vision of Brazil) relief supervisor. "When we meet starving people, we act. When we visit a community where half the children have died during the past two years, it becomes clear that *now* is the time for emergency assistance.

"But our responsibility does not end there," Waldir continues. "By itself, emergency assistance usually doesn't make much difference for very poor people. Visão Mundial is called to do more than just run around dispensing 'first aid' all the time."

All day long, Josefa Costa and her children try to flag down passing vehicles in order to beg for food.

next. It *will* fall again. But the lesson from history is that there will be more droughts in the Nordeste. Since 1582 there have been 74 of them. □

Your help at this time is deeply appreciated by the Nordeste region's hardworking but drought-plagued people, and by the relief and rehabilitation workers who are seeing to it that your help reaches the needy promptly and efficiently in our Savior's name. To share with these grateful drought victims in their time of special need, please use the return envelope from the center of this magazine. Thank you!



Having filled his containers at the community tap in Santana, this old man must now carry them home.

Handing food to Josefa's children as a satisfying expression of Christian love. It was nice to know that because of us, those little boys and girls didn't go to bed hungry.

But they all returned to the same roadside the next morning. Our compassion changed nothing. How much more satisfying if we had been in a position that evening to give food and an opportunity—an opportunity for Josefa and her husband to discover new ways of providing for their children.

"During the first phase of emergency work," explains Waldir, "there's little we can do about finding permanent solutions. But from the very first day, we must be looking ahead to the last day of that emergency phase because that's when the real work begins."

The sooner the emergency-style activity ends, the better, according to Waldir. "If we don't move steadily toward creating permanent solutions through what we call community development, all our help could become almost worthless. It is so easy for well-meaning helpers to plant

crippling dependencies in the people we serve. And that reinforces our own feelings of superiority and paternalism. It isn't healthy for *any* of us if we get stuck at the 'first aid' stage."

Visão Mundial's vision is deeply rooted in more than 20 years of Nordeste experience.* A member of the international World Vision family, it is a Brazilian organization, managed by Brazilians and committed to ministry in partnership with local Christian churches.

"Until recently, evangelical churches in Brazil had shown concern only for souls—not for the rest of the person," admits Waldir, himself an ordained Presbyterian minister. "I believe that Visão Mundial is in a unique position now to help the church find its deep commitment to the needs of our neighbors.

"There are no easy answers, no shortcuts to this kind of vision," Waldir says. "Any answers are found by working little by little at the local level. And that's what we're doing. All across the Nordeste we are encouraging local congregations, in the name of Jesus Christ, to respond to the desperate emergencies they find in their own communities.

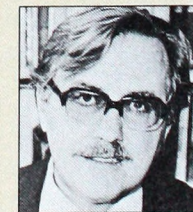
"With resources from concerned

World Vision friends all over the world, each church is able to do much more than it could on its own," he adds. "Of course we can't help everyone. But as long as the work we do is springing from deep concerns within the hearts of local churches, we will be able to help many." □

David Ward

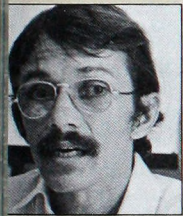
* Under the leadership of Bob Pierce, World Vision began a child sponsorship program and helped create a federation of Christian orphanages in Brazil during the early '60s. World Vision helped convene pastors conferences in 1963, 1966 and 1971. George Doepp was Brazil's first full-time Visão Mundial director in 1975, opening an office in Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais.

Manfred Grellert—respected Brazilian pastor, theologian and educator—became director of Visão Mundial in 1980. Also



Grellert

in that year, Visão Mundial established a branch office in Recife, the capital of Pernambuco. Since that time, the number of World Vision-assisted projects in the Nordeste has increased from 7 to the present 142.



Benevides

Sheer hype by Blaine Smith

When I was in college, a band I played with recorded a song that became the most requested record on a popular Washington, DC radio station. Eventually it made the Top Ten. Thousands of listeners knew that "Little Heart" was a quality piece of music.

What they didn't know was that about 15 people (band members and moms) often phoned the station in different voices to request the song. It was a case of sheer hype, and I know the record would never have made it on its own merit.

Though that was 20 years ago (before my Christian days, mind you), I have never forgotten the experience and what it taught me about the power of hype. Our tastes and opinions are subtly affected by hype in every area of modern life.

I continue to be intrigued with how easy it is to be taken in by promotional tactics. Several weeks ago my wife and I went shopping for new vinyl flooring for our kitchen. A persuasive salesman armed with attractive visuals convinced us not only that we should purchase a certain decorative tile, but that we were getting a great deal on the product. After we got home and our minds cleared, we realized we had spent three times what was necessary for the type of flooring we needed.

So often, hype catches us off guard. If you're like me, you think of yourself as an educated, enlightened person, insusceptible to mind control. This attitude, though, makes our thinking vulnerable to manipulation.

We should take a warning from an experience of ancient Israel during

their invasion of Canaan, described in Joshua 9. God had told Israel to completely destroy the surrounding nations, and they had had a remarkable victory over Ai. Residents of a nearby nation named Gibeon devised a cunning ploy to save their necks. Dressed in worn and dirty clothing and taking with them moldy, dry provisions, they approached Israel and asked for peace. Believing them to be a far-off nation, Joshua and the elders made a peace treaty with them.

Of all people, the Israelite leaders should not have been beguiled in this way. These leaders were among the most intelligent, perceptive individuals in Israel. Yet the inhabitants of Gibeon caught them unsuspecting, as they were no doubt reveling in their victory over Ai. While it would have been a simple matter for them to investigate their claim to be a distant nation, the Israelites just did not bother to do so.

In the same way, you and I can end up believing the most outlandish promotional claims and publicity stunts if we don't take the time to ask the right questions.

When we consider the extraordinary level of commercialism in our society—and what modern hype is typically saying—we need to stop and think too. On an average day, most of us are exposed to at least several hundred advertisements and commercials through radio, TV, magazines, newspapers, billboards, mail and phone solicitations. Each is giving us a negative message about our self-image: "You are not a complete person because you lack this particular product." Each is attempting to shape our sense of values: "Your life will take on more meaning with this product."

Advertisers are paid millions every day to insure that these messages make their impact. How important

that you and I keep up our guard in the face of commercialism and never cease to question the truth of the messages we hear. Israel's encounter with Gibeon reminds us how easy it is to become victims of hype when our defenses are down.

Scripture clearly says that the leaders of Israel were fooled by the people of Gibeon because they "... did not ask direction from the LORD" (Josh. 9:14). If the leaders of Israel had taken the time to draw close to God and seek His guidance in this matter, they would not have been duped.

And as you and I take the steps necessary to keep the Lord at the center of our lives, we will guard against being derailed by hype. This means daily time alone with Christ, seeking His guidance for the day. And it means taking time to take in the truth of God's Word.

We have been given every blessing necessary for living a fulfilled and fruitful life in Christ. We are *complete* in Him and have the highest privilege possible in living this life as His sons and daughters. Our lives *already* have indescribable value and purpose.

We know that. But we must give equal time to God's message if we are going to effectively counteract the counterfeit messages we constantly receive.

And that's no hype. □

Blaine Smith is director of Nebemiah Ministries Inc. This article appeared originally in HIS, the student magazine published by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, copyright 1983. It is used here by permission.

What's been happening

On the altiplano



With pipes and a pump from World Vision, water from this well will be transferred to the stone tank atop the distant hill, completing Belén de Andamarca's gravity water system.

Drought victims living on the two-mile-high altiplano (high plain) that spans Bolivia and Peru continue to suffer from malnutrition and other problems due to the loss of water resources, animal herds and crops.

But with the help of faithful World Vision supporters, seven communities of Bolivian highlanders in the Oruro Department are now battling the disaster more effectively. Ten water pumps are being installed to provide irrigation for crops, and some 100,000 pounds of high-altitude seed potatoes are helping replenish lost potato crops. Also, several varieties of vegetable seeds are helping provide for next season's planting in an effort to insure adequate food supplies for the coming year.

World Vision workers in Bolivia are keeping a close watch on the situation, and new relief proposals

are being considered for meeting additional needs on Bolivia's altiplano.

Drought victims on Peru's altiplano are also being helped through a joint project of World Vision and the national Friends Church. Some 5000 people from 20 communities are receiving food assistance, many through a special community development/feeding project. Participants receive food as payment for work on projects such as garden planting, road repair, and the construction of church facilities. This enables the emergency feeding program to provide food for the area's neediest persons: the elderly, the orphaned and those without other resources for food. As in Bolivia, the drought situation in Peru is being monitored to determine the need for additional assistance. □

In Ethiopia

Long-term drought requires long-term recovery. While rains have brought desperately needed water to some areas of drought-plagued Ethiopia, newly planted crops cannot be harvested for several months. Even then, only 40 percent of a normal harvest is predicted in most areas.

Despite improvements brought by the rains and relief efforts there, thousands of Ethiopians continue to suffer. While UNDRO (United Nations Disaster Relief Organization) reports that conditions appear to be improving in the southern portion of the Welo administrative region, critical needs remain in the north, due to the drought and to increasing security problems.

But while the obstacles remain formidable, many drought sufferers

are being reached with assistance. World Vision recently channeled some 5000 metric tons of wheat to the Gondar, Welo, Harrarghe and Sidamo administrative regions. Additional food supplies are being distributed through strategically located feeding centers that focus on the needs of children, pregnant and nursing women, and people with special medical problems.

The Gondar medical team, while traveling from Maksegnet to Gondar and Ebinat, has been treating more than 4000 patients a month, most suffering from malnutrition-related illnesses. In an attempt to curb these physical problems, the medical team is also distributing Faffa (a high-protein food supplement), dried milk and high-protein biscuits to those in need.

While rain and relief are helping ease the suffering in some parts of Ethiopia, World Vision maintains

a commitment to see the people through the present crisis into a productive program of development for the future. In a recent meeting focusing on the needs of Africa, Vice-president for Field Ministries Graeme Irvine reiterated this commitment when he stated that World Vision will do "what is best for the most people over the long term, to the glory of God." □



A distressed mother describes her child's illness to a member of World Vision's Ethiopia medical team.

When there's no place left to go

by Gene Hart

On February 15, 1982, Ada Poliandro came home to find an eviction notice hanging on the door of her Los Angeles home. "At the time," she says now, "I thought I had fallen to the bottom of the barrel, to the worst life had to offer."

Only two months earlier, Ada, her husband and two teen-age children had sold their home in New York City and moved to California to make a new life. Soon after their arrival, her husband walked out on her. Then the eviction notice appeared.

With the help of a social worker at a mental health clinic, Ada tried for three weeks to find a place for herself and her children to stay. Nothing surfaced until she called Sheepfold, a Christian shelter for homeless women.

"If my life has come to living in a shelter for homeless women, I don't want to live," Ada told herself, recalling the shelters she had seen in New York. "They had holes in the ceiling, rats as big as cats—and cockroaches almost as big," she says. "They were not places you would want to live in. I felt that my life was over."

But her life did not end.

"When I came up the driveway

to Sheepfold, I couldn't believe my eyes. When I came inside, I was even more amazed. Even now, I sometimes go upstairs to my room and just sit there because I still can't believe what God has done for me."

Sheepfold, a private non-profit Christian home for homeless women, has served as a short-term home for more than 600 women and their children during its first four years. As many as 15 women and their children may stay there at one time for as long as two weeks.

Founder/Director Fran Lundquist emphasizes that the meaning in the Greek language for the word "widow" in the Bible is "forsaken—

bereaved by divorce or by death," which describes the women and children cared for by Sheepfold.

Five years before she founded the home, Fran herself experienced the bereavement of being forsaken when her 25-year marriage ended. Following the crushing disappointment of her divorce, she attempted to find ways to help other women who had been through similar trials. She began ministering to single women in a Bible study and to women in a local rescue mission. Then, after attending a conference where the speaker suggested making plans by praying and then listing the specific steps required to do what God led one to do, she planned Sheepfold.

Fran purchased a five-bedroom house and, with help from friends,



The women pray before their daily Bible study, led by Ada Poliandro (right), who became house manager after her own two-week stay.

Resident Michelle Hall (left) and Founder/Director Fran Lundquist prepare food for the women and children.



“Sheepfold helped me clear my mind so I could think about the future.”

spent a month renovating and cleaning it. Then she started spreading the word in her church about her refuge for homeless women. After developing a mailing list, she hosted an open house and Sheepfold was underway.

“Many Christians lack awareness of the need for places like Sheepfold,” Fran says. “We get at least 15 calls a day from women who need immediate housing. Literally thousands of women out there have no place to go, and most of them have children. Usually their plight stems either from violence in the home or from being forsaken.”

Women in such circumstances find it nearly impossible to rent housing without nearly a thousand dollars and several strong references. And in spite of the laws, most landlords won't accept women with children.

“When we started four years ago, there wasn't much talk about this kind of problem,” Fran says. “But God was preparing some of us for it, and now the media is picking up on it.”

“Because this is a need often neglected by the church,” she adds, “we are more dependent on individual Christians for financial support. It's

Ada Poliandro meditates in the room where she first lived at Sheepfold.



Ada's husband walked out on her. Then she received an eviction notice. Now what?

those who can identify with the poor or the needy who give the most. The wealthy usually don't respond."

Sheepfold is financed entirely by donations. It does not seek or receive any county, state or federal funds. Almost all donations come from Christians.

"These women need more than a bed in a building," Fran emphasizes. "They're suffering from a lot of insecurity, fear, anger and often a poor self-image." These needs are met in part by the comfort and support offered by the staff and volunteers of Sheepfold.

"The way Sheepfold helped me most was that I found God there," Ada says. "God was something I had been searching for all my life with-



out really knowing it. I was not a born-again Christian when I came there. I had gone to church in New York, but I didn't know the Scriptures and I didn't know God's love. The peace and the love that I found in this house was so beautiful it seemed unreal."

For 22 years, Ada had been a pediatric nurse in hospitals and private duty. Because her eyesight and general health deteriorated badly, she had to quit working

shortly before moving to California.

"When she came here in March 1982," Fran says, "Ada had physical, emotional, spiritual and mental needs. For quite a while, I took her to the doctor every other day. Now it has been several months since she has visited a doctor. Not only is she being healed physically, she is also trusting God. Her fear and anxiety are being overcome by the Word of God."

"We have two rules for admission," Fran says. "One is that the women must be willing to participate in each day's Bible reading. The

Fran (left) and Norene share their lives as well as their response to a Bible passage.



other is that they must attend the church of their choice each Sunday.

"We open the Bible not to teach doctrines or theology," she explains, "but to read what will help these women gain some stability in their lives. Self-worth is a key issue, and we make an effort to deal with that. Most of them feel like second-rate citizens, rejected by their families, rejected by society and rejected by God.

"You can imagine how you'd feel," Frans adds. "You have no place to go. Nobody will take you in. You have no

Children play under supervision on Sheepfold's patio.



"What am I doing here?" Norene kept asking herself.

money, no future and not much hope of things getting any better. On top of it all, people don't seem interested in your situation. We help the women see that God loves them."

Norene Bailey (not her real name) came to Sheepfold with an eight-month-old daughter after leaving a rocky marriage. She had expected to stay in another shelter, but found that it would not be suitable for her daughter. A Christian friend stood by her, giving her a place to stay, until Norene found Sheepfold.

"I continually asked myself, 'What am I doing here?'" Norene says. "I couldn't understand why I was suddenly without a home for my child. I'd always had a home before. If I wanted anything I would go out and charge it. It seemed unreal to me that I would find myself homeless.

"One day I realized why I was

there," she explains. "God brought me there so I could find Him. I had always read the Bible and had a desire to know God," she adds. "I guess I didn't really know how to get there. But I remembered that the Psalms could always calm me, so when I came to Sheepfold with its Bible study, devotions, fellowship and spiritual leadership, it was a prayer being answered.

"Sheepfold helped pull me out of a trashy situation and helped me clear my mind so I could think about the future," Norene says. "I also made some beautiful friendships there."

Norene found a home and a job as a secretary soon after leaving Sheepfold. She has two desires for the future. One is to teach the Bible. The other is "to pray my husband into the kingdom."

No radios or TV sets are allowed at Sheepfold. Sacred music and

After Bible study, Ada and the residents join hands to pray for each other.



recordings of Bible passages are heard frequently. During their stay, the women and children follow a regular schedule and have a quiet, clean, well-organized home in which to refresh themselves and plan their futures.

Fran finds that the demands of supervising the entire operation, reporting to the eleven-member board of directors, and ministering to various groups, as well as preparing a five-minute radio program (broadcast seven days a week) are challenging and draining. To prepare herself for the rigors of the work, she usually spends two hours a day meditating and praying.

She has learned to recognize the symptoms of pressure. During the first year of Sheepfold, when she ran the shelter by herself, she became so physically and emotionally drained

that she had to close the doors for two weeks to recuperate. Now Sheepfold closes for two weeks every three months to give the whole staff time to rest, and to allow time to have the house thoroughly cleaned.

Fran envisions many Sheepfolds located in other neighborhoods someday. But her immediate plans are to buy a second home that will be an emergency shelter available for women at any time of day or night.

Homeless Americans number 250,000 to 2 million, according to population experts' most recent estimates. New York City, largest public sponsor of temporary shelters, provides for 6000. The Salvation Army, largest private sponsor, provides for 42,000 nationwide. Although a steadily increasing percentage of the homeless are women and children, the vast majority of shelters are designed only for men. World Vision

“We help them see that God loves them,” says Fran.

Another plan includes offering job counseling and psychological counseling by professionals on staff. Sheepfold presently uses volunteers or makes referrals to established counseling services.

“What we deal with most,” Fran says, “are women who are angry and hostile because of their circumstances. They are just mad at the world, and anyone in the line of fire gets it. But we understand that; it’s not really directed at us.”

Rewards as well as struggles come to those who work with homeless women. Sheepfold’s staff of four and its dozens of volunteers get a taste of both.

“Sometimes I have to just walk away for a while because I can’t bear hearing one more sad story or one more voice,” Fran says. “But I think the greatest benefit to me and to the staff is that we see, again and again, the true light of God’s love. It’s not an altruistic pink-cloud kind of thing. You learn simply to minister for God—as Jesus did—no matter what comes back.” □

applauds the efforts of the few dozen known groups such as Sheepfold that provide hospitality for homeless women and their children in an atmosphere of Christian love. To contribute to Sheepfold’s ministry or to learn how to establish a similar ministry in your own community, you may write Fran Lundquist at P.O. Box 1234, Tustin, CA 92681.

Are you seeking inner peace?

You can have peace of mind and heart in spite of all the causes of anxiety around you. That's a promise Jesus makes to all who give themselves to Him.

Shortly before His ascension to heaven, Jesus told His disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

The context of that promise is

His discourse on the Holy Spirit, whom He calls the Comforter, the Counselor. And it's as dependable for us today as it was for those who heard it from His lips.

If you lack—but seek—real inner peace, we at World Vision recommend that you change the focus of your quest. Instead of merely seeking peace, *seek God through Jesus Christ*. For only in that way can you find the inner peace you crave.

For more light on this subject, read today the fourteenth chapter

of the Gospel of John. And then why not the entire Gospel? We urge you also to talk with a pastor or other member of a Christ-centered church in your community. And please write the editor of *WORLD VISION* magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016, if you would like helpful literature on knowing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. He'll be delighted to send you a copy of a booklet called *Becoming a Christian*. □

by Jerry Sweers

In the silence of the heart

Public prayer in the church of my childhood was always audible, spontaneous and of a quality that varied from eloquent to cliché-ridden. When the congregation prayed, someone always led in a big, outdoor voice. In the prayer meeting, any silence lasting more than ten seconds seemed to be an embarrassing admission of spiritual anemia. Those few brave souls who dared to read a written prayer were also highly suspect.

Many years and many miles later, as the young father of a growing family, I discovered a "written" prayer in the pages of an uncommon prayer book, *Bless This Mess and Other Prayers*, by Jo Carr and Imogene Sorely, both mothers of large families. A phrase from one of their prayers spoke to my heart then, and comes back from time to time to do it again:

"Lord, I've had it.

Up to here.

A crisis I can cope with.

But the everlasting picayune frustrations

Are driving me up the wall."

**For a Western adult,
the school of
silence is hard.
But the rewards are
considerable.**

Since that time, I've been touched by many other written prayers—even by some from those "high church" prayer books that smell faintly of old creeds and rich vestments. Speaking a word of life, a number of them express the cry of my heart.

More miles and more years later, as my children begin to leave the nest, I've made the marvelous discovery of silence. The discovery of "Be still and know that I am God" somehow has something to do with prayer as well.

To seek a quiet place of solitude, to descend, as counseled by the desert fathers, "with the mind into the heart," is to find that place where, in the words of Thomas Kelly, "the light of eter-

nity burns still and bright." To wait there in silence before the Lord of all the universe is the secret other half, the best half of the dialogue between creature and Creator.

The school of silence is a hard school for a Western adult Christian. But the rewards of diligence and perseverance are considerable for those willing to take seriously the observation of Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

"If we really want to pray, we must first learn to listen, for it is in the silence of the heart that God speaks." □

Jerry Sweers is World Vision's vice-president of administration. This article is from International Intercrossors, a monthly prayer newsletter sent free on request to Rev. Norval Hadley at World Vision, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.

Is God calling you...

to work where your efforts will be directly related to saving lives and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ? Consider these areas of service and send your resume to Kent Stock, International Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016.

Administrative Assistant to the President

World Vision International is seeking an individual with strong administrative and secretarial skills capable of assisting the president-elect in the administration of his office. Excellent writing skills, a high level of Christian professionalism reflected in personality and appearance, interest in international ministry, a long-term commitment to the position, and a strong commitment to the ministry of World Vision are essential. International experience preferred.

Manager, Career Development

To develop, administer and coordinate a Career Development/Management Inventory program. Should be sensitive to career development needs within a Christian environment and have at least ten years senior-level management training and development experience. Prefer a high-energy individual with training in psychology, counseling and/or a computerized career development system.

Training Associate

Should have a minimum of five years experience in employee training systems with a background that includes practical knowledge in several of the following areas: education and learning technology, design of training courses, various uses of media and graphics, programmed learning, and train-the-trainer concepts. Must be sensitive to cross-cultural issues. Supervisory experience preferred.

Pasadena vision, too

Daily life in much of northwest Pasadena is not what you see when you watch Rose Parades on TV. A growing number of the city's evangelicals are concerned about the area's poverty and crime rate. And, especially since John Perkins and his wife Vera Mae chose to take up residence in the middle of the most crime-ridden area, they've been freshly inspired to redouble efforts to be God's salt and light there.

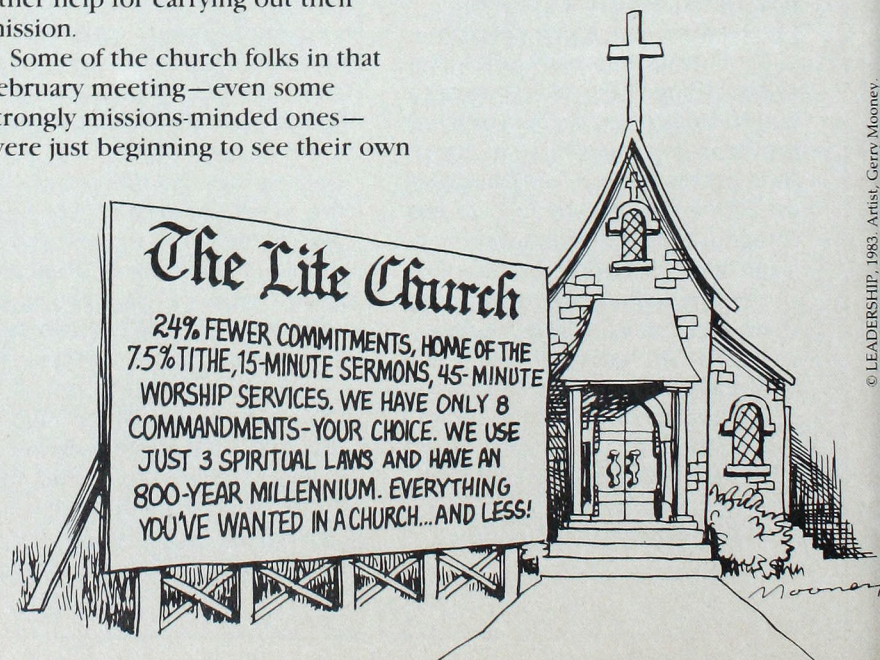
On February 8 this year, blacks, whites and others from scores of Pasadena area churches gathered for a major meeting. Occasion: the birth of the John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development. Purpose: to deepen and broaden a whole range of practical, biblical ministries—both to the victims and to the perpetrators of injustices—in any community, but particularly, at this time, in northwest Pasadena.

Through the Perkins Foundation, networks of Christians working with oppressed, alienated and poverty-stricken people will be able to obtain counsel, technical assistance and other help for carrying out their mission.

Some of the church folks in that February meeting—even some strongly missions-minded ones—were just beginning to see their own

community as the mission field it is. Their vision improved as they heard John Perkins, Chuck Colson, Ted Engstrom, Steve Lazarian and others point out disturbing facts about the area's homeless unemployed, single mothers, fatherless children, angry young men, pregnant teenagers and lonely shut-ins. And about our shared responsibility to those whose lives are rarely touched by any of the thriving nearby churches. Enthusiasm for Pasadenans-to-Pasadenans ministry began to grow.

Reconciliation and development are not overnight achievements, even when borne on the wings of inspiration, prayer, zealous evangelism and solidly biblical discipleship. But wife Dorothy and I, two of the hundreds of Pasadenans who filled that church on February 8, are like most of the others—full of anticipation about what the Holy Spirit is now doing here. Our eyes are being opened wider. So are our hearts and our hands. To the mission field at our doorstep. *David Olson*

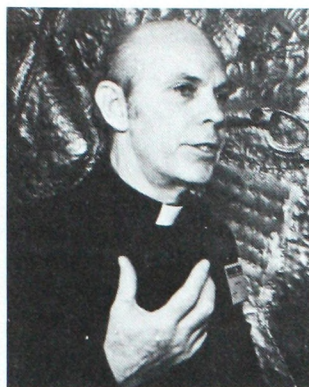


Justice Fellowship, a new organization formed by Prison Fellowship Founder Charles W. Colson, will focus on reform issues as it assists state and federal legislators dealing with criminal justice issues. It also will develop grass-roots support for proposed reforms, and will work to affect current and pending criminal justice legislation. More information is available from Justice Fellowship, P.O. Box 17500, Washington, DC 20041.

Learn to witness and work in a foreign language with the help of Logos Language Institute. The institute offers self-study packets in several languages. The packets contain common phrases, Scriptures and a 60-minute training tape. For a catalog, contact Logos Language Institute, P.O. Box 111223, Houston, TX 77293.

Lutheran Youth Encounter (LYE) offers young adults the chance to share their faith worldwide through music, drama, puppet theater, testimony and personal witness. LYE International Teams, consisting of five to seven members, live and travel together for 19 months as they share the gospel and minister in churches in the U.S. and overseas. For more information write to LYE, 2500 39th Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55421.

"Shelter the Children '83: An International Symposium on Street Youth" drew more than 150 professional youth



Father Ritter, founder of Covenant House

workers from 27 countries to New York City December 5-7. Attendees shared experience and information on the challenges of caring for street youth. The gathering was cosponsored by Covenant House, an international child-care agency ministering to homeless and runaway young people, and the UPS (United Parcel Service) Foundation.

Bread for the World (BFW) needs volunteers to participate in the 1984 Summer Organizing Project, June 10 through August 15. Participants will attend a ten-day orientation in Washington, DC, before being placed in cities across the U.S. where they will work with local BFW groups to organize Christian involvement in public policies. For more information contact Sharon Pauling, Personnel Director, Bread for the World, 802 Rhode Island Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20018.

A world literature conference, sponsored by Evangelical Literature Overseas (ELO), is planned for May 14-17, 1984, at Wheaton College in Illinois. Intended for literature missionaries,

overseas nationals involved in literature ministries, mission executives, and communications professionals, the conference will focus on the theme, "Building the World through Literature." For more information contact ELO at Box 725, Wheaton, IL 60187.

Experience Japan through a short-term mission with LIFE (Language Institute for Evangelism). Spend a summer, a year, or even two-and-a-half years living in a Japanese home and working with Japanese Christians to reach young people for Christ. Learning a second language is not necessary. For information write LIFE, Box 200, Alhambra, CA 91802, or call collect (818) 289-5031.

Peace Parish is a new program from Evangelicals for Social Action (ESA). Program participants work in communities across the country to educate Christians on peace issues, and to organize study/action groups that witness for peace. For more information contact ESA, P.O. Box 76560, Washington, DC 20013.

Increase your knowledge of the latest mission developments through the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. Published quarterly, it offers worldwide mission updates, conference reports, mission leader profiles, book reviews, bibliographies and dissertation notes. Subscriptions are \$12 a year from *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, Circulation Department, P.O. Box 1308-E, Fort Lee, NJ 07024.

Learn what God has accomplished worldwide in the last 4000 years—through the World Christian "Perspectives" video series. Created by Dr. Ralph Winter, founder and director of the U.S. Center for World Mission, the series presents biblical, historical, cultural and strategic dimensions of God's activity in human history. For more information contact USCWM, 1605 E. Elizabeth, Pasadena, CA 91104.

SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology) is offering an intensive, eight-week course in "appropriate technology" and Christian mission June 18 to August 17, 1984. ("Appropriate" technology is a term used to describe technology specially sensitive to the earth and people's needs.) The course includes hands-on training in animal husbandry, basic construction, alternative energies and basic health. For more information write SIFAT Training Center, Rt. 1, Box D-14, Lineville, AL 36266.

College students and mission workers can benefit from an annual transcultural seminar sponsored jointly by the Mennonite Central Committee and three colleges. Scheduled for June 18-29 at Goshen College in Indiana, this year's seminar will feature philosophical studies and technical training in education, health care, nutrition and tropical agriculture. For details write Transcultural Seminar, Goshen College, Goshen, IN 46526.

People you're helping

War ruins make up the play areas for these Lebanese children, who are among thousands displaced by the fighting in their country.



Lebanon aid continues

Winter clothing, mattresses, food and portable heaters provided by World Vision are making life a little easier for 600 especially needy families in Beirut. Like thousands of others, these people are unable to return to their homes in the mountains because of continued fighting there.

The needs of children continue to be the primary ministry focus in this troubled land. With our Lebanese partners, World Vision is giving tangible expressions of hope to people in more than three dozen communities. Recently, a World Vision staff member began living in East Beirut in order to be closer to the people we serve.

A community changes

Midwives in Tagbae, the Philippines, used to deliver babies without sterilizing

their instruments, giving medicine to expectant mothers, or using disinfectant. Now they are learning new ways. Thanks to World Vision donors, they have received training in primary health care and midwifery.

Other improvements in the community include: the construction of a multi-purpose center for use in cooperative projects; the formation of classes in farming methods, and the installation of a new water pipeline that serves 25 families.

Drought relief for the Tonga Islands

Scant rain in November 1983 is the only precipitation Tonga Islanders have seen since being deluged by Cyclone Isaac in March 1982. During the dry period, World Vision donors helped 370 Ha'apai families by providing supple-

mentary food, including rice and sugar, as well as bean, corn, tomato and carrot seeds. The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga supervises distribution of these supplies. A normal harvest is hoped for as a result of the November rain.

Relief in Ecuador

World Vision contributors are supporting relief efforts on two fronts in Ecuador. The first is by supplying flood victims in four provinces with seeds and fertilizer for farming, as well as assisting with housing repair. Second, along with other organizations, World Vision is helping the Comité Evangélico Nacional de Ayuda para Los Damnificados (CENAD) become a permanent national disaster-relief and development organization. CENAD was formed in January 1983 in response to disastrous flooding in Ecuador.

Eight Kenya communities receive food

Only livestock have died so far during the year-long drought in Kenya, Africa. Emergency food for 1500 families in eastern Kenya is being provided by World Vision donors to help prevent human casualties. Food stored since the last harvest has been depleted. Shipments of beans and maize will help feed these families through June. In addition, maize seed will be provided for planting once normal rainfall begins. World Vision is working alongside the Africa Inland Church and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa in this effort.

Church leaders take charge

Local church leaders in Bokondini, Indonesia, are taking responsibility for the completion of two major community goals begun with help from World Vision donors several years ago. The first is to provide all children with an opportunity to attend school. This has required rebuilding a school, providing books and supporting students financially. The second is to help rebuild an airstrip for visiting health workers, evangelists and

development workers. When World Vision became involved in 1977, the community desperately needed help to rebuild and to recover from malnutrition and disease resulting from war and social upheaval.



Three children in Bokondini are ready to begin their two-hour walk to school.



A renewed community

In 1982, life for residents of Ayala, India, meant poor sanitation, few health services, meager agricultural output, illiteracy and few vocational skills. Today, much of this has changed because of the faithfulness of World Vision donors. Community leaders and World Vision officials are shown at one

of the two newly dug wells. A new multi-purpose community center is used for meetings to plan future improvements. A nursery school for 150 children has been started. A health center provides medical aid and health education. And farmers receive tools to increase their tapioca crops.

Foundation representative sought

World Vision is seeking an individual to assist in the coordination of resource development. The successful candidate will be able to effectively interact, select and cultivate resource relationships with major foundations and corporations on behalf of World Vision. The applicant should possess a college degree and experience in a related field, plus excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.

If you or someone you know qualifies, why not consider working in this place where such efforts are directly related to saving lives and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ? Applicant's resume and a brief statement of faith should be sent to the World Vision employment office, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016.

Please pray . . .

- for rain** and crop success in parched northeast Brazil.
- for more** (and well-timed) rains on the altiplano of Bolivia and Peru, where (thank God) some rain has fallen recently.
- for the rain, seed, strength** and all else needed to end the deadly famine in more than 20 African nations.
- for wisdom and endurance** for the relief and development workers (World Vision and others) in each of these desperate nations.
- for the homeless** women, children and men in our own cities, and for the few who are ministering to their needs.
- for readers** of this magazine who have requested information and prayer that they might know Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior.
- for ways** to help some friend of yours grow with you in compassionate participation in ministry to needy people in Christ's name.
- for the witness** of World Vision workers worldwide as they seek to share Christ with people they're helping.

The number of prisoners in state and federal penal institutions of the United States totaled 432,000 at the beginning of this year. County jails hold still more. U.S. penal institutions hold more prisoners per capita than any other industrialized nation except South Africa and the Soviet Union.

"The Philippines is currently one of the most open and receptive areas of Asia," says Asian Outreach Founder/President Paul E. Kauffman regarding the religious climate of the country. "My research indicates that many Filipinos are searching for a spiritual reality that they have not yet discovered in their religious pursuits. . . . Denied Bibles for so many years, they are now experiencing the promise of Scripture that the Holy Spirit will guide into all truth."

Drought victims in southern Africa continue to suffer loss of life, crops and livestock. Regional officials estimate the drought cost six nations—Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe—at least \$1 billion in 1982-83. They estimate at least 4.5 billion people are suffering in Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe alone, and cattle are dying by the hundreds of thousands. In Lesotho, at least 100 people are known to have starved to death.

Welfare cases in New York City rose in number last year to more than 900,000. This occurred after a steady ten-year decline in the number of recipients. James A. Krauskopf, commissioner of the Human Resources Administration, which administers welfare in the city, cites high unemployment and cutoffs from federal disability programs as major reasons for the increase. The monthly cost of providing for the recipients has risen from \$115 million to \$125 million.

Sixty-five Two-Thirds World countries will be unable to feed their people by the end of the century, predict two separate studies conducted for the United Nations. The studies by the U.N. Fund for Population Activities and the World Food Council warn that "Africa will be one of the continents hardest hit, with 31 of its 51 nations in trouble."

More than 10.8 million Bibles were distributed around the world last year by the United Bible Societies—a record figure. Counting Bibles, Testaments, Scripture portions and selections, the total reached 484.6 million. Scripture distribution gained most in the Americas, followed by Asia and Africa.

17,500 preschoolers in Massachusetts may be chronically malnourished, according to a health study conducted by the state. The study was prompted by reports of serious nutritional problems among patients of Boston-area pediatricians. A survey at community health centers found that 18 percent of the children 6 months to 6 years old had indications of chronic malnutrition.

Millions of Africans face the possibility of hunger and malnutrition in 1984, due to natural and human-caused catastrophes. "The prediction is that the critical situation will get worse," says Adebayo Adedeji, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. At least 21 African countries are threatened with severe famine. Mr. Adedeji has called for foreign assistance at \$8.8 billion a year over the next five years.

Traffic fatalities in India number 75 a day, on the average, with an additional 300 or more injuries. More than 26,000 people died on Indian roads in 1981, the latest year for which complete figures are available. That is roughly half the number of traffic deaths in the U.S., which has nearly 40 times as many motor vehicles.



In Ethiopia

UNDRO (United Nations Disaster Relief Organization) reports that in Ethiopia, the combination of malnutrition and infectious diseases—especially of the eyes, upper respiratory tract and intestines—is prevalent in all drought-affected areas. Hardest hit are children, pregnant women and the elderly.

Flooding in Bangkok, the worst the city has seen in 40 years, brought widespread damage and suffering to the city during the recent monsoon season—Thailand's wettest in years. More than 100,000 people contracted water-borne diseases, according to the minister of health. And the city's 400 schools were closed for more than two months due to the flooding. The cost of the flood damage has been estimated at more than \$400 million.

Heroin addiction in Western Europe is spreading rapidly, officials there report. In the Netherlands and Sweden, hard drugs once confined to large cities now reach middle-class youths in outlying areas. Dublin police estimate there are 6000 heroin users in Ireland. British officials say the number of heroin addicts in England could be five times the 4700 registered for government treatment. Nearly one-third of all burglars arrested recently in the suburbs of Edinburgh were regular drug users, according to a survey.

Pope John Paul II has called on scientists of the world to abandon their "laboratories and factories of death" and replace them with "laboratories of life." He urged scientists to insure "that the discoveries of science are not placed at the service of war, tyranny and terror."

In partnership with you

"BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL"

(Philippians 1:5)

The reason we're here

On his very first trip to China in the late 1940s, our World Vision founder Dr. Bob Pierce was deeply moved by the physical as well as the spiritual needs of the people.

It was just after World War II, and Bob's great compassion for people sent him barnstorming through the Far East preaching the gospel. But he wasn't prepared for the raw, empty-belly poverty and deprivation he found.

In Kunming he stopped to see Beth Albert, a missionary to the victims of leprosy there. Soon he found a small girl snuggling into his lap.

"Who's this?" he asked Beth, thinking the girl was part of the family.

"Oh, her? I just bought her."

"You *bought* her?"

"Yes! For two dollars."

Beth went on to explain that the girl's mother wanted to sell her because she couldn't feed her. Beth paid the woman and took the girl to keep her out of evil hands.

On another occasion Bob urged a young Chinese girl to go home and tell her parents about her conversion to Christ. She did—and was promptly beaten and put out of the house. With nowhere to turn, she came back to the mission home where she had first heard the gospel. The woman who ran the mission took her in, but warned Bob, "Don't you dare think you can walk off and leave that girl!"

Incidents like this broke the heart of the man, and he cried, "God, I'm not doing anything for anybody. I'm just making speeches. I haven't got

any money, but everyone here needs money. What am I supposed to do?"

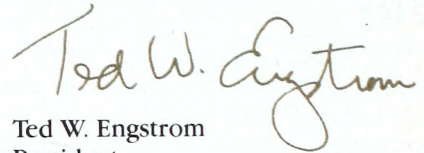
Well, perhaps you know what Bob did. When he returned to the States, he told everyone he knew about the tragedy of China and asked them to help. That great heart of his was so moved by the hurt and the hopelessness he had witnessed, that he had to share that need.

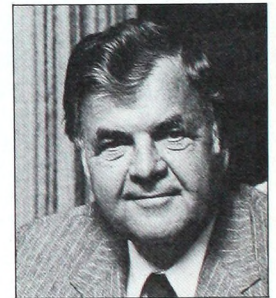
In one sense, that's what we in World Vision have been doing ever since. We ask for help, not for ourselves, but for those who suffer and have nowhere else to turn. We use the printed word, film, television, meetings—any way we can to tell their stories. We don't ask for money to buy our pencils, pay our light bills or install new carpeting. Those things may be necessary, but they are means to an end, not the reason we're here.

These thoughts sometimes pass through my mind when I come home from a trip and find a stack of fund appeals on the desk in my study. I know that some people, irritated with the volume of these, dump them without ceremony into the nearest trash can. Frankly, I think that's irresponsible. I read them for several reasons. For one thing, I want to know what other people are doing. This is part of my education. But I know also that most of these people have a burden to share, just as Bob did and as we do today, and I want to give them a moment to share it. (I know, of course, that a few of these people may not be reputable. As a good steward, you'll want to learn as much as possible about those you support.)

I believe I now know a little bit more of how Bob felt as he con-

fronted stark human need on that first trip to China. I've traveled to scores of countries, seen the extremes of poverty, sensed the hopelessness of men and women trapped in the most miserable of conditions. And what do I do? How do I respond? The same way Bob responded. It's the only thing I can do. The love of Christ compels me to ask everyone I can for help—not for myself or for the organization I represent, but for the precious souls God has made, every one of whom He knows and loves.


Ted W. Engstrom
President



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Pasadena, CA 91109

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You Can Help Fight World Hunger...



and here's how!

Some of America's most popular Christian artists have recorded an outstanding album of gospel songs called TOGETHER. These artists (shown at right) have donated their talents to World Vision so all proceeds and royalties can be used in the fight against world hunger.

Here is what you can do.

This album is yours, compliments of the recording artists, with your donation of \$20 or more.

With your gift, you'll be joining TOGETHER artists Barbara Mandrell, B.J. Thomas, Andrae Crouch, Evie Karlsson, Amy Grant, Dino, Keith Green, Walter Hawkins, the Imperials and the Sweet Comfort Band in their efforts to bring health and hope to hungry children in the world.

Help fight world hunger... Order your complimentary TOGETHER album now!

To receive your gift of TOGETHER, this coupon must accompany your donation.



YES... I want to join the artists of TOGETHER in the fight against world hunger. I understand that my donation of \$20 or more (beyond any current pledge I've made to World Vision) entitles me to a complimentary copy of TOGETHER.

Enclosed is my donation of \$_____.
(One album for each \$20 donation)

Please send: (____) LP records (____) Cassette tapes
Qty. 271C20/W Qty. 271C20/B

(Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.)

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