

Responding to  
Ethiopia's famine

Washington women  
see Africans' need

Getting hungry  
voluntarily

December '84-January '85

# World Vision®

Congressional wife Grace Nelson anguishes over a malnourished infant in Nioro, Mali.



**YEAR-END TAX  
STRATEGY**





## MINISTER-AT-LARGE

**Dr. Gordon MacDonald**, for 12 years senior pastor of Grace Chapel in Lexington, Mass., joined the staff of World Vision in November, as minister-at-large.

MacDonald, who has served on World Vision's board of directors since 1980, now assumes the added responsibility of being a World Vision spokesperson within the Christian community, working out of his residence in Lexington.

"We are overjoyed about having Gordon MacDonald on staff with us," said World Vision President Dr. Ted. W. Engstrom. "In the four years since he joined our board, he has demonstrated strong and effective leadership skills as well as a real burden for ministry to

the vulnerable people of our world."

Under MacDonald's leadership, Grace Chapel's Sunday attendance grew from an average of 400 in 1972 to 3000 in 1984. He has also served on the boards of directors of Gordon College, Latin America Mission, Sudan Interior Mission and *Christianity Today* magazine, and has taught in several seminaries and colleges.

MacDonald has contributed a wide range of published works to the evangelical community, including *The Magnificent Marriage* (Tyndale House, 1978), *The Effective Father* (Tyndale House, 1979), *Facing Turbulent Times* (Tyndale House, 1981), *Ordering Your Private World* (Moody Press, 1984), *Living at High Noon* (Revell, 1984)

and—with his wife Gail—*If Those Who Reach Could Touch* (Moody Press, 1984). Additionally, MacDonald has been published in numerous magazines and journals such as *Christianity Today*, *Leadership*, *Eternity*, *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, *Christian Herald* and *Alliance Witness*.

The son of a Baptist minister, MacDonald holds academic degrees from the University of Colorado and Denver Seminary, and an honorary doctorate from Barrington College.

The MacDonalds have one son, Mark, 20, a student at Wheaton College, and a daughter, Kristen, in high school. The family will continue to reside in Lexington, Mass. □

After huddling with stray dogs . . .

## OUT FROM UNDER A BRIDGE

**Ruth Antipichun** was only five years old when Chilean police officers found her and other little vagrants under one of the bridges that span the Mapocho River in Santiago City. The little Araucan Indian girl did not act like a child of her age—she would steal, beg, curse and act rebellious—but then, she had endured more in her short life than any child should.

Abandoned by her parents at an even earlier age, Ruth lived on the streets with other unwanted children. She had no time to play or explore. Her time was spent looking for shelter or begging on the city streets. At night, she and her friends would huddle together with stray dogs to keep warm. And she was vulnerable to evil adults who would mistreat her.



Ruth today

Most of the time, Ruth and her friends were able to keep one step ahead of the police. However, on that cold and wet night, hidden and half-asleep under the rat-infested bridge, they were caught off guard. The children were taken to a temporary shelter, and Ruth was later transferred to an orphanage supported by World Vision.

For the first time in her young life, Ruth received love and was treated like a human being with needs and wants. As time went on, she also received a Christian education and the modeling of proper manners. Most of all, she has been shown that God does love her.

Today, Ruth Antipichun is a young woman of 15 who earns high marks in school. She has discovered that she has a brother; the two are now very close. And she feels that God has taken her out from under a bridge in more ways than one. □



# World Vision



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## Seeing through Christ's eyes

**Now that** the elaborate 1984 election reports have faded from our TV screens, we Americans are seeing a bit more of the news from a sharply contrasting continent: woeful Africa.

To some American TV viewers who in November saw for their first time the gaunt faces of dying Africans, the famine's toll during the months of our preoccupation with political campaign stories has come as a paralyzing shock. To others, it's come as a call to Christlike action.

A natural first inclination when the screen flashes faces of the starving is to turn our own faces—or the channel selector—elsewhere, and to busy our minds with some less disturbing thought.

But what if we glance toward the face of the One who, as He promised, guides us with His eye?

Such a glance can infuse our holiday sharing plans with an agapé quality and a global dimension. Christlike thanksgiving includes not just thanks but giving; not just gratitude that Africa's food situation is not ours, but action to make it a bit more like ours. And Christlike Christmas giving bears in mind that He said, "I have come that they might have life."

*David Olson*

PHOTOS: Cover, pp. 12-15: David Ward. Pp. 4, 5: Bernard Gomez. Pp. 6, 7 (top), 8: Steve Reynolds. P. 7 (bottom): Russell Kerr. P. 9: Jacob Akol. P. 10 (top and left): Joseph Muchunu. P. 10 (bottom right): Denise Schubert. P. 18: Stuart Willcuts. P. 19: Clarita Laguna. P. 21: Curtis Clever. P. 22: Olga Rondou.



## IN BANGLADESH

by Bernard Gomes

**For the past year, floods have ravaged most of Bangladesh. Of the 460 thanas (administrative units), 360 have been directly affected by rains and seasonal cyclones. In the past five months alone, three successive crops have been lost.**

At the request of the government of Bangladesh, World Vision is assisting hundreds of persons by providing food, clothing, medical care and assistance in rebuilding homes. Earlier reports on the flood victims' plight were carried in the May and June-July issues of WORLD VISION. The following article describes ways World Vision workers are helping many of these needy villagers rebuild their lives.

**One of the most backward** and poorest *upazilas* (sub-districts) in Bangladesh, Rowmari is known as a "punishment zone" to government officials. Its people are poor, illiterate and have little exposure to the outer world.

Located in the extreme north of Bangladesh on the Indian border, Rowmari was one of four flood-affected areas where World Vision's assistance was sought by the Bangladesh government early this year. An important part of World Vision's response to the government's request was the placement of four couples in four of the *upazila's* villages to carry out a rehabilitation program followed by a village development program. (Twenty-one other couples are working in other areas in Bangladesh.) "You have selected the right kind of place to serve the poorest of the poor," said the *Upazila Nirbahi officer* (the area's highest-ranking government official).

We are grateful to you for that."

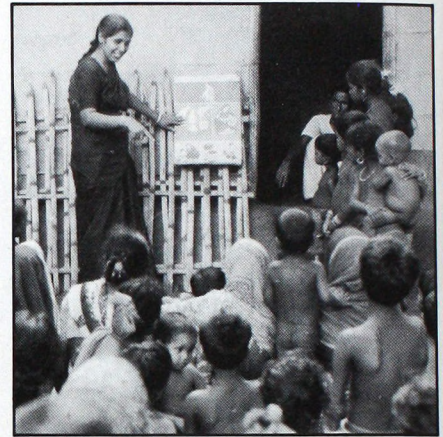
"When we first arrived in Rowmari," the couples told me, "we were treated as foreigners." (The area's people always consider Christians to be foreigners.) "They called us *Padris* (Christian priests) and were very suspicious about our activities," said Benjamin Mondol and his wife Monika who have been living in Bharbandha village for the last six months. "They would not eat with us. They would also ask whether we placed our heads toward the east or west while sleeping at night," added Bernard Hira and his wife Lucky. Muslims are not supposed to place their feet toward the west.

But in a few weeks the couples saw their expressions of friendship received by the people, and began to eat in their houses and learn the special dialect spoken in that area. The couples also went around to the houses and told the people that they had come to live with them and help them. The couples assured the villagers that even though they were Christians, they were also fellow Bengalis.

The couples were very busy teaching the villagers better methods of cultivation and encouraging them to keep family size small through family planning. They also stressed the importance of keeping their houses clean, maintaining personal hygiene and preparing oral saline solutions for diarrhetic children.

"We are happy to have the couples among us," said Mohammed Hanif, a sixty-year-old farmer. "They are teaching us so many good things nobody has ever told us before."

"Our children get sick less now," said a mother in Majhirpara village, where Herod and Sunity Biswas have been working.



Sunity Biswas instructs her women's group in basic hygiene and nutrition.

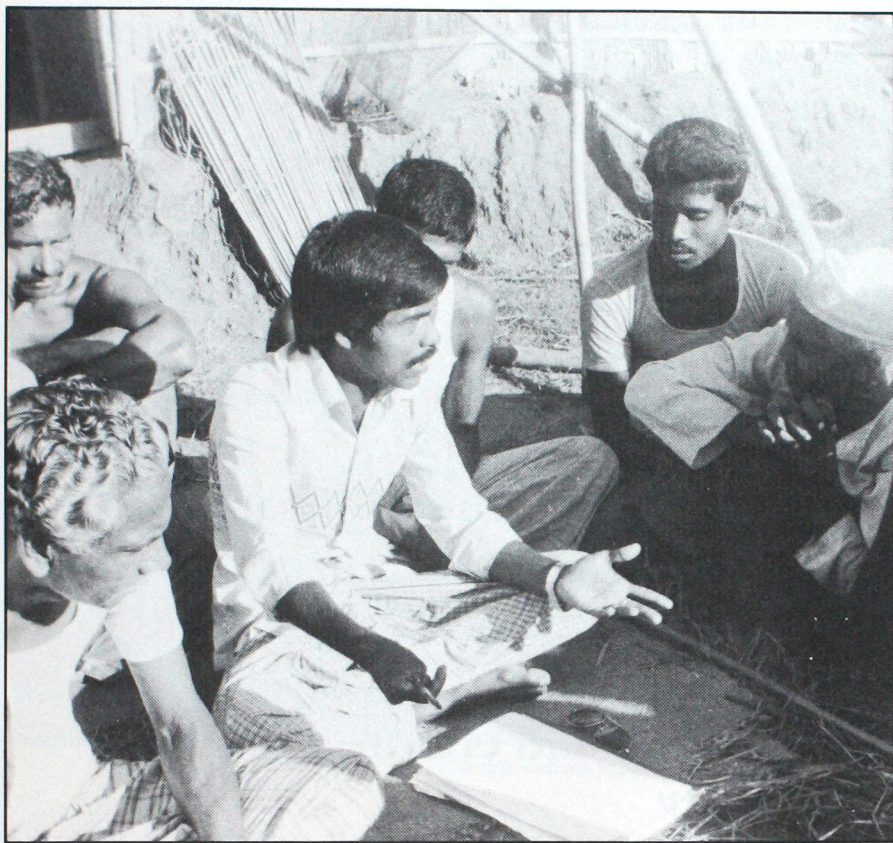
Majhirpara is predominantly a Hindu fishing village. People there are extremely poor and fearful of new things. It took quite a long time for Herod and Sunity to open the villagers' minds toward development. "They were so fearful. They would not go to a doctor even if their children grew sick and died right in front of them," said Sunity. "The women would not go out of the home and work outside even if the family was faced with starvation." (Culturally, village society considered it immoral for women to move freely around the community.)

But as the couple worked with the villagers and lived among them, the

**“You have selected the right kind of place to serve the poorest of the poor.”**

people began changing their minds. During the World Vision medical team's visit to Majhirpara, women actually came to the doctor for treatment. Many women have also





Benjamin Mondol teaches villagers about family planning.

been working in food-for-work projects.

After the couples completed a socioeconomic survey of the communities in which they are working, the flood rehabilitation program began. The program provided housing materials, loans to purchase seeds and fertilizer, and wheat and saris (dress for women) for needy families. Men's and women's *samities* (a type of savings society) were formed, and many families were given loans for setting up small businesses. Through these programs 25,000 people benefited in Rowmari.

Renu Bala Das, a single mother with three children, received a loan of 400 taka (\$16) which she invested in a rice-

husking business. She buys paddy rice from the market and husks it with her own locally-made paddy husker. She then sells the husked rice in the marketplace and makes some profit. With this money she is able to buy food for herself and her children, in addition to paying back the loan in regular weekly installments. She also deposits one taka per week in the samity as compulsory saving. She has already paid back most of her loan. "I am happy because my children do not starve now, and I do not have to go begging," said Renu Bala.

Chan Miah, a notorious thief, would perhaps never have changed his life if Benjamin and Monika had not helped him to forsake his old profession. Thanks to a World Vision loan, Chan



Chan Miah, shown here with his wife and child, gave up a life of thievery and has begun his own business with assistance from World Vision.

Miah has been able to set up a small grocery shop in front of his house. The family now lives on the income he makes from the shop.

**T**hese couples are teaching us so many good things nobody has ever told us before."

"I really feel ashamed of my work in the past," he told me. "I am happy now that I have left the bad habit of stealing. Now I can move around the village without fear of being caught by the villagers for stealing." Chan Miah's wife is also happy for her husband's change. She said, "I am grateful to God and to the couples living in our village for this change for which I have prayed so long."

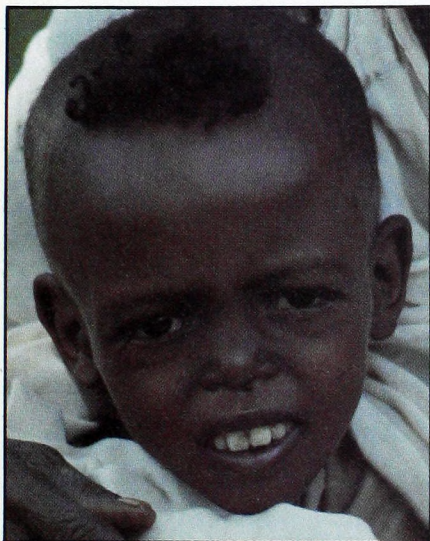
These villagers, who are so precious in God's eyes, are moving toward development and becoming what God wants them to be. They have perhaps never heard the name of the Savior, but are now being shown Christ's concern and love for them through World Vision activities in the area. □

*Bernard Gomes is communications officer for World Vision of Bangladesh.*



“Worse than the drought of 1973/74”

# ETHIOPIA'S FAMINE WORSENS



The feel of famine can be seen in a child's face.

**E**thiopia's famine situation is critical and getting worse every day, reported World Vision International President Tom Houston upon his return from a recent five-day visit there. He said that as many as 6400 men, women and children may be dying *daily*.

“The situation in Ethiopia has deteriorated since March,” he said. “The rains have failed in all but four provinces. The other ten provinces have had a crop loss ranging from 80 to 100 percent. The drought is now reckoned to be the worst in the last 25 years, and greater than that in 1973/74.”





While thousands wait for food, babies suffer because mothers eventually cannot produce milk for them.

In October Mr. Houston met with Ethiopian government leaders, including Chairman Mengisto and Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Dawit Wolde Giorges. The officials told him that some 7.2 million people are now registered with the RRC as requiring food aid to survive.

"At present more than seven million people are facing food shortages," said Commissioner Dawit. "Every day there are additional thousands of people forced to bend in humility to destitution or death. Except the administrative regions of Gojjam, Keppa, Illubabor, Arsi and part of Gondar, all other regions have registered the smallest amount of rain in more than 20 years. Even in the above-mentioned areas there is

going to be a very serious decline in production. In the face of the existing catastrophe and the grave situation anticipated after November, we take this opportunity to call upon you to assist our endeavors to disentangle ourselves from a situation of

permanent dependency on emergency relief assistance.

"Need number one is grain," the commissioner continued. "Need number two is grain, and need number three is grain. Thereafter, relief needs include transportation,



Families wait at food distribution points after walking for days.



medical supplies and medical teams, and supplementary foods.”

In March, the RRC made an appeal to the international donor community for 450,000 metric tons of food aid. At that time, some 5.2 million people were suffering from the drought. Five months passed before any grain arrived, and by then, more than 800,000 persons had been added to the list of those affected by drought. Mr. Houston estimates that some



“**U**nless there is massive aid, half a million people will die by the end of this year.”

124,000 metric tons of food will be unloaded in Ethiopia during the next few weeks. After that, nothing will come unless donor countries recognize the developing potential for disaster.

Mr. Houston saw first-hand how this lack of food was affecting the people at Latsa, near Lalibella, in the Wello administrative region. “On the day I visited, I estimate there were more than 10,000 people seeking food. In addition, there is an emergency intensive feeding camp of 800 to 900 for extreme cases of malnutrition. The food distribution was being carried out in an orderly way by RRC officials working through the peasant associations. I was told that they had 250,000 people registered for food aid in the three districts served from that point. These people have to walk for many days to reach the food distribution point.

“The grain ration they consider necessary is 50 pounds per person per month,” Mr. Houston continued. “When I was there, they were able to give only 25 pounds, and they said that on some days they were down to 12 pounds. Their grainstore was about ten percent full, with supplies for another week, at most. I saw young and old people suffering from malnutrition of an intensity I had never seen. I was astonished that the people had survived. In fact, an

average of ten people a day were dying in that camp.”

World Vision is working alongside other relief organizations who are responding to Ethiopia’s desperate needs. Among them are Catholic Relief Services, Lutheran World Federation and the Christian Relief and Development Association.

Peter Lehman, a reporter from *Stern* magazine who covered the 1973/74 drought in Ethiopia, told Mr. Houston he estimated that each day, 1 of

every 1000 registered with the RRC dies of hunger and related diseases. Said Mr. Houston, “At that rate, unless there is massive aid, half a million people will die by the end of this year.” □

*To help provide food, medicine and a hopeful future for starving Ethiopians, please use the return envelope from the center of this magazine.*





A mother and her child wait for food away from the glaring sun in a grass hut in Korem. (left) Women receive grain at the food distribution center in Korem. (far left) A father attempts to comfort the anguish of his child while they both wait for needed food.



From ashes to hope

# A KENYAN REMEMBERS

by Joseph Muchunu

On Christmas eve in 1982 a tragic fire consumed thousands of homes in a slum section of Nairobi, Kenya. Here is the story told by a young Kenyan whose own home was within view of that area.

they have accumulated over the years: cooking pots, blankets, clothes, sheep, goats, cats and most important, their children. But as the fire victims take their salvaged belongings to safety, malicious looters from neighboring shanties disappear like lightning with whatever they can grab. The shanty dwellers at last stand to watch, helpless, as the fire guts their shacks. By the time the fire brigade arrives, 10,000 families are rendered homeless.

Mathare Valley is a poverty-stricken part of the city of Nairobi, Kenya. The 100,000 people who live in that valley (about one mile long and one-half mile wide) are poor beyond description. Ninety percent of them have no jobs. Most of them are women with an average of five children—either fatherless or with different fathers. Without education, they lack technical skills.

Since education is the only path to a job in Nairobi, a majority of these people are unemployed and unemploy-

able. Their daily living is from hand to mouth, yet they must feed their children and themselves.

The older folks who wish to conduct "decent" small trades earn their livelihood by selling items like vegetables, potatoes, eggs, kerosene and charcoal. Those of the younger generation engage themselves in all sorts of hooliganism like stealing or brewing illicit local gin (chang'aa). Sexual immorality is practiced by both young and old. This is a multi-tribal society of people who have not been reached by the gospel of Christ, and they are an always-hungry lot.

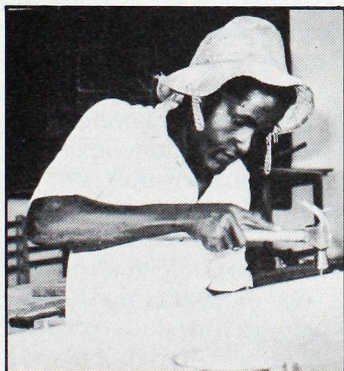
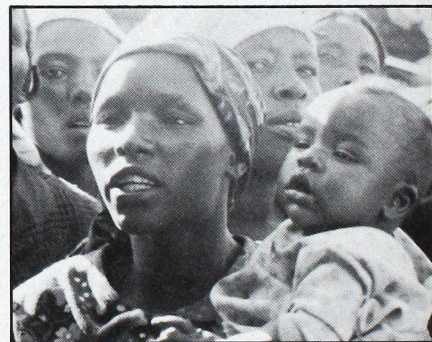
How can they listen on empty stomachs? How can hope be restored in this area without the risk of the worker's life? Several times in the past they have beaten up preachers and threatened to kill them.

Eleven years ago, I myself used to drink chang'aa in this valley before I became a Christian. In later years, I came to work among these people with a group of other dedicated Christians, and two growing churches have been planted.

At the time of the horrifying fire

**F**ire! Fire! Someone help!" Njoki is screaming at the top of her voice. Her kerosene cooking stove has burst into uncontrollable flames. Her igloo-type shack, thatched with polythene plastic and cardboard has caught fire and is burning wildly, spreading flames to neighboring shanties.

More screaming and shouting are echoing throughout Mathare Valley. The shanty dwellers are desperately trying to salvage whatever belongings



Since the fire, the church has built a skills learning center in Mathare Valley with World Vision help. (right) The fire left these children with no homes and with only the clothes they are wearing. (above right) The morning after the fire, victims seek food.





outbreak I visited the fire victims early in the morning when their hopelessness had turned to bitterness. The loss of their homes and belongings gutted by fire and theft the previous night had added more salt to the painful wound of their poverty.

Njoki, whose exploding stove started the fire, was in despair. "Good morning, Njoki," I greeted her, but she kept quiet and looked away.

Having kept silent for a long time, she turned her face, tears running down and forming lines on her soot-blackened cheeks, and said, "All that I possessed has gone in the fire. I have no money. No job or trade. Here are my six children with no food or shelter or blanket. What shall I do now?"

There were thousands of cases like Njoki's in the valley. My co-workers and I went to the church office to evaluate how these people could be relieved. We called the office of World Vision. The staff had read the news from the national newspapers' headlines. The World Vision officers asked for a cost estimate, and in one day many of the fire victims received blankets, cooking utensils, clothes, cooking oils and milk. Because of the concern shown for these people, many began to flood into the church and the church grew immensely. For these once-hopeless people, Jesus became hope.

Later on, World Vision sponsored a rehabilitation project for these fire victims, and the people erected semi-permanent buildings that would not burn easily.

With concerned Christians in action through World Vision, hope came to Mathare Valley. □



*Joseph Muchunu, now a student at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, was by his own testimony "a heavy drinker and rounder" until June 10, 1973, when he came to Christ in a Nairobi church he attended with a girl who made church-going a prerequisite for dating her. His conversion story will appear in a future issue of this magazine.*

## Taxwise giving



by Daniel Rice

World Vision's Associate  
Director of Planned Giving

# YEAR-END TAX STRATEGIES \*

**A**s we rapidly approach the end of another year, wise stewardship calls for attention to this advice from attorney Conrad Teitell:

**General rule**—If you are in a higher tax bracket this year than you will be next year, you can save taxes by taking (where possible) some of next year's deductions this year—and deferring some of this year's income to next year.

Your tax bracket could be higher this year than next (other things being equal) for any of these reasons: (1) you are retiring next year and will have lower taxable income, putting you into a lower bracket; (2) you had an unusually good year in business this year, putting you in a higher tax bracket this year than next; (3) you recently changed (or plan to change) some of your investments—which pay taxable income—to tax-exempt bonds.

Even if your tax bracket will be the same next year as this year, deferring payment of income tax gives you an extra year to keep the tax payment—and earn income on it—before you give it to Uncle Sam.

**The charitable deduction** is the easiest deduction to take this year—because its timing is entirely within your control.

The reason for making a charitable gift to World Vision is, of course, that you believe in our work and our goals. Having decided to contribute, however, you will want to plan your gift to obtain maximum tax savings. Often, the tax savings enable a donor to make a larger gift than initially imagined.

Charitable gifts can take many forms: cash, appreciated securities, real property or art works. And you can make a charitable gift that provides income to you (and a survivor), with the gift passing to World Vision at the end of the retained life interest.

There are many ways to make gifts to charitable organizations while obtaining significant tax benefits. We would like to discuss the advantages of the various plans with you and your advisors. To obtain more information or to arrange a personal consultation, just call or write Daniel Rice, associate director of Planned Giving, World Vision, 919 West Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016, or phone (818) 357-7979.

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At Nioro du Sahel  
in the African  
nation of Mali, Lisa  
Edwards, whose  
husband Mickey  
Edwards is a U.S.  
Congressman  
from Oklahoma,  
comforts a child  
who needs special  
care to recover  
from the effects of  
severe malnutrition.





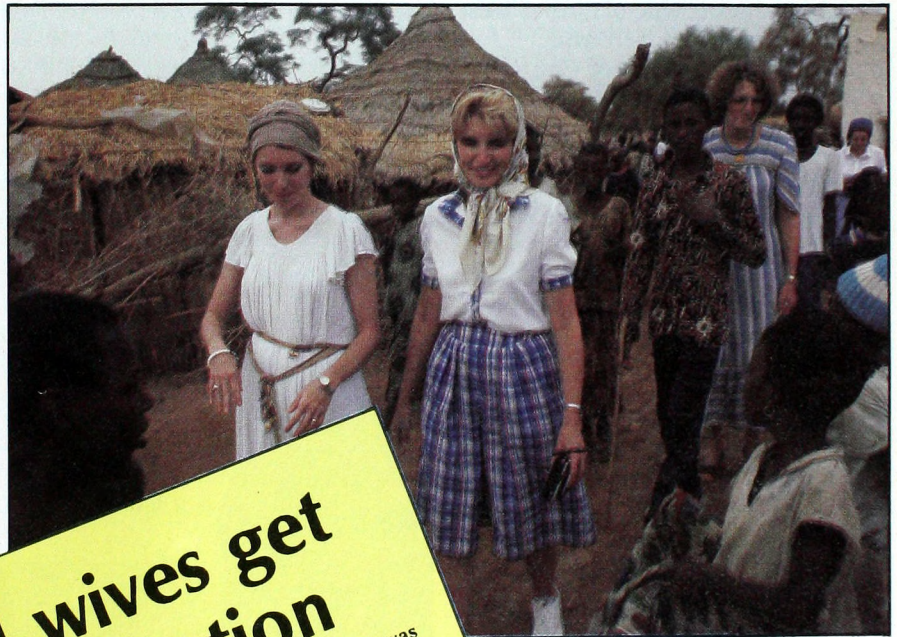
After visiting famine victims

# WASHINGTON WOMEN STILL FEEL AFRICANS' PAIN

by Brian Bird

**T**he long-awaited meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko was just two hours away. After years of ice, perhaps the thaw was finally coming. The international news media had flocked to the nation's capital in droves. Rivals speculated it was election-year politics. Allies hailed it as the beginning of a new season of detente. The media saw it as the day's biggest story.

One-and-a-half miles away, on Capitol Hill, another meeting was just getting under way. A handful of reporters—some of those who hadn't drawn the Reagan-Gromyko assignment—had shown up and were sniff-



## Congressional wives get close look at starvation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A 10-day trip to arid West Africa, where hunger is a way of life and death, convinced a group of congressmen's wives to plead for prayers and money to help a starving, suffering part of humanity. The women returned this week from the African countries Senegal and Mali, where they witnessed the horror of starvation. Their Congress-Group.

rivers, where they also bathe and fish. Scanty diets consisting mainly of cereal leave them malnourished. Their stomachs bloat, their hair falls out and they suffer eye diseases and fatal bouts of diarrhea. Yet they struggle amid seemingly endless drought to grow enough grain—millet, sorghum and rice—to stay breathing so shallow. I was fearful she would die there in my arms," Mrs. Nelson said. The baby's mother, weakened from nursing her 15-month-old sister, had died at her birth. "Imagine knowing your two children are dying and there's nothing you can do about it!" Mrs. Nelson said.

The American women gave the villagers money to buy a goat so the baby could have milk, but feared that after they left, the goat would be eaten and the baby left to die. The prayer group grew interested in African hunger last Fall when a World Vision speaker addressed their group. Their privately financed trip was arranged when World Vision President

(left to right) Lisa Edwards, with Lynn Staton and Janet Hall, active fellow-members of the Congressional Wives Prayer Group, get acquainted with children in Gbedji Dieri, Senegal.



ing for angles. The invitation had given them a few ideas: a bipartisan group of congressional wives . . . hunger in Africa . . . 100-plus women leaders and executives from across the country . . . former Miss Oklahoma to sing . . . two congressmen to speak . . . an international Christian relief agency. Some interesting stuff but, for the most part, it would probably be just another story. After all, this was Washington, DC.

The names of the key participants, of course, were recognizable and newsworthy: Carolyn Bonker, wife of Representative Don Bonker (D-Wash. ); Grace Nelson, wife of Representative Bill Nelson (D-Fla. ); Lisa Edwards, wife of Representative Mickey Edwards (R-Okla. ); Janet Hall, wife of Representative Tony Hall, a Democrat from Ohio and one of the featured speakers; Rosemary Tribble, wife of Senator Paul Tribble (R-Va. ); Lynn Staton, wife of former West Virginia Representative David Michael Staton; and Janice Coe, wife of National Prayer Breakfast Coordinator Douglas Coe.

And World Vision . . . that name brought back a few memories. The clipping files are full of World Vision references: the Great Sahel crisis of the early 70s . . . the Vietnamese boat people's exodus a few years later . . . Poland, El Salvador, Lebanon. And now, Africa again.



Carolyn Bonker, wife of Washington Congressman Don Bonker, grieves over the weakness of a Malian child. "Only our personal commitments will put food in the mouths of hungry children," she later told a reporter.

**"The hungry are individuals, not masses. They are born, and they are dying, one by one."**

But this was DC; Reagan and Gromyko were about to confer over issues affecting every man, woman and child on earth. What was it, exactly, that these congressional wives hoped to accomplish? They were talking about 150 million hungry people, weren't they?

Following an address by Representative Hall, who chairs the Hunger Task Force of the House Select Subcommittee on Food Assistance, the women's story began to unfold. As Christians, several of them had

been praying for this opportunity since their return from Africa.

Wielding a collection of United Nations famine statistics and recounting the heartache they experienced on a ten-day fact-finding tour of Mali and Senegal with World Vision last August, the women had, in a sense, declared war on starvation in Africa.

**They never called** it war in so many words, but the group's intent was obvious. And they were not interested in launching their attack against hunger in Africa from within the political arena, a plan they might have been expected to use as the wives of influential politicians.

The battle strategy they had conceived was much more difficult to implement. It called for recruiting volunteer "foot-soldiers" from across the nation to form a grass-roots





Africa-crisis-action coalition. This coalition would be made up primarily of women because, as the congressional wives learned from firsthand experience, "American women have far more in common with African women than they realize."

Carolyn Bonker expressed it simply: "Before I went to Africa, my reaction to starvation was one of horror and pity. My time there taught me, however, that despite all our cultural differences, we women *are* very much alike the world over. We share many things in common: hard work, motherhood and the hopes and dreams of a better future for our families. I also learned that the hungry are individuals, not masses. They are born, and they are dying, one by one."

The same poignant note was sounded as Grace Nelson, a leader in

the Congressional Wives Prayer Group which had first proposed the survey trip to Africa, gave a moving call to action.

Sharing her own deep concern about Africa's critical need, she spoke of holding a severely mal-

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**American women have far more in common with African women than they realize."**

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nourished newborn in the village of Nioro, Mali. The child's mother had died giving it life. The baby's breathing was very shallow and her little head hung limp.

"I was so afraid she was just going to die in my arms. I started crying . . . and the child's grandmother and some other village women started to cry. Embarrassed, they hid their faces in their dresses. But at that moment we knew that we were one and that we shared a mother's heart.

"I don't know if that child is still alive or not," Mrs. Nelson continued, "but this is an issue that transcends politics and partisanship. Here in America, if even one child were found dead of starvation on the street, it would be national news and there would be a public outcry. But that kind of horror is happening in Africa every few minutes. To do nothing about it is a crime against

God and all of humanity.

"As a Christian and a citizen of the world, I can not stand by and let 150 million African people slowly starve to death," she added. "The prayer of my heart is that my tears will be the rain that brings food to starving children. I'm praying that you will join me."

The TV crews had what they wanted and left. The reporters who stayed got a preview of the coalition's marching orders and also heard Senator John C. Danforth (R-Mo.) talk about his own experiences in Africa.

And they witnessed planning for the establishment of a national network of volunteers who will coordinate a variety of fund-raising programs within their own communities. (The volunteers will then channel funds initially through World Vision to hunger relief projects in Ghana, Mali and Senegal.)

A final scoop was word of a major World Vision Africa fund-raising project in which the congressional wives will be taking part—the National Planned Famine GET HUNGRY! program to be conducted in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia next April.

The reporters were glad they had not missed this story. It, no less than the day's feature meeting of Reagan and Gromyko, had at its heart the preservation of human existence. □

*Brian Bird is media relations officer for World Vision.*



(left) Janet Hall shares a walk with children of the Tonkeleur tribe in Gamadji, Senegal. (above) Young women of the Podor area in Senegal express their affection for Grace Nelson as they walk along the village "street" with her.



A Maryland youth group tries

# A RUMBLE WITH HUNGER

by Les Wagner

**I**t seemed like a worthwhile effort. Our Lutheran youth group had agreed to help alleviate world hunger by committing to a 30-hour fast. The plan was to secure pledges from sponsors and collect a given amount of money for each hour the youth members could go without food.

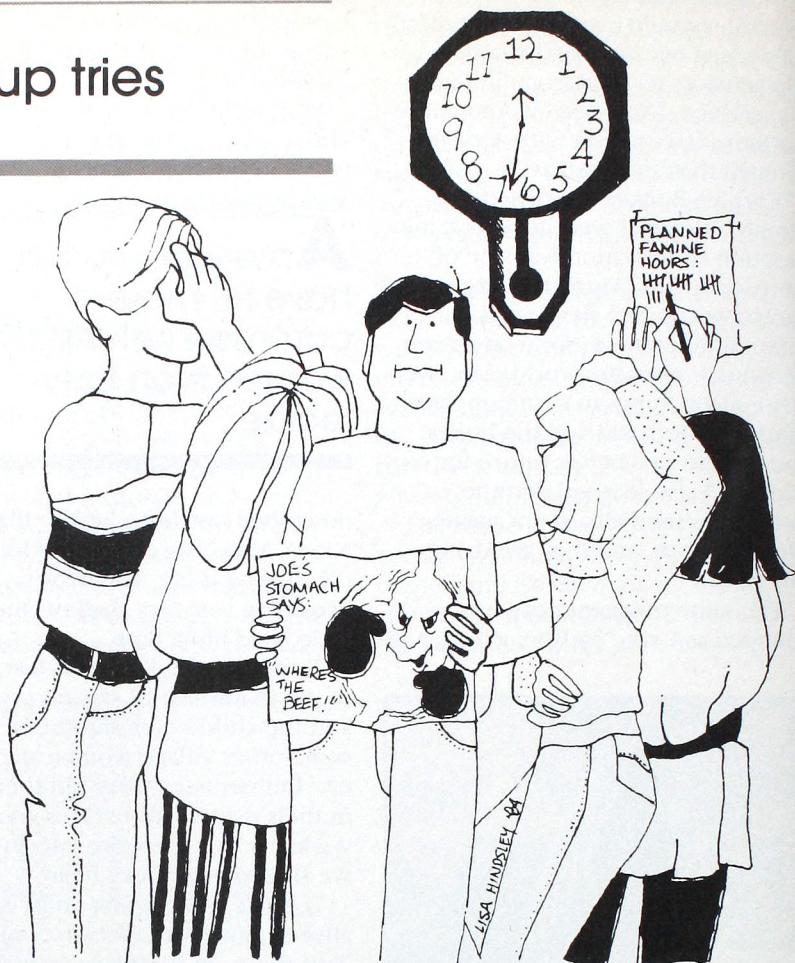
I was impressed with the young people's sincerity and all-out eagerness to help a worthy cause. And the idea of a dozen teenagers going without food on a Friday night and all day Saturday was intriguing. I couldn't imagine today's youth going without milkshakes, pizza, french fries and other staples of teenage Americans' diet.

As president of our congregation, I was proud that our youth group was taking such a positive step. The situation was rich in spiritual and moral overtones. Our young people would be carried along on a spirit of benevolence and charity. Clearly, I could show my support in only one way. I would join them in the fast.

After all, hard-working parents miss a meal now and then due to job demands or home responsibilities. How bad could it be to miss a few more meals. Easy, right?

Wrong!

My first inkling of what going without food is like came when



we assembled at 5 p.m. on the appointed Friday evening. Normally at this time I am arriving home after a busy week and have been known to indulge in a few light snacks to help me unwind from the rigors of the week. But this time all such delights were out of the question, as we had agreed to eat no food and to drink only water, in keeping with the spirit of the program.

We spent the first hour reviewing purposes, plans, goals and procedures. The enthusiasm of the youth group members was encouraging. It was also contagious. I wanted the project to succeed. I wanted the largest possible donation to the world hunger alleviation movement that we

**A**pparently the mild growls emanating from my stomach were not distracting to the others.

could manage. My body responded to this burst of feeling by increasing my energy output. This, of course, burned up additional body fuel, which in turn increased my hunger level. But it's okay, I told myself. This is just a temporary feeling. It will subside. Just remember, it's for a good cause.

**The early evening hours** were devoted to Bible study, reviewing filmstrips of current relief efforts, and other organized activities. Apparently the mild growls emanating from my empty stomach were not distracting to the others. I could tolerate them because after all, it was for a good cause.

A few organized games, a break for drinks, a sing-along and devotions filled the late-evening hours right up to the time I normally eat a bedtime snack. Then, again, my body clock sent me signals.

Buzz off, I told my now-rumbling stomach. It's not right to think about



snacks when others have no meals.

I busied myself with evening preparations. To provide reassurance and counseling, we had agreed to spend the full 30 hours at the church, which meant bedding down in sleeping bags in the Sunday school wing. Turning in for the night, the pastor, the youth director, twelve teenagers and I each mentally recited our new litany: just remember, it's for a good cause, a good cause, a good cause . . .

**Eventually** I drifted off to sleep, trying not to think of hunger. That's like trying to ignore a throbbing toothache. No matter how hard you pretend, the feeling is still there. My dreams were fitful. Awake at one point, I thought about the old joke concerning the teenage girl who dreamed she was eating a giant marshmallow. When she woke up her pillow was gone. Somehow that tale no longer seemed funny.

In fact, lying there on the hard floor that chilly November night with my stomach growling and a dull ache in my head brought home the stark realization that there is no humor in being hungry. Up to that point, the enthusiasm and spiritual camaraderie of the youth group had sustained me. Blessed with an active metabolism, I'd never had a weight problem and thus lived by my own basic rule in life: if you're hungry, eat. But what if there's nothing to eat? That question, so easy to pose in the abstract, became much clearer and sharper as my stomach contracted.

Our fast was scheduled to end in 30 hours, but—I reminded myself—for many in the world, their fast will never end.

Finally I dozed off for a few hours, and awoke to some early morning bustling about the church. Realizing that keeping busy was going to be the key to profitable use of our time, I got into a clean-up campaign organized by the youth director. Grateful for something positive to do, we all pitched in. It turned out to be a top-to-bottom cleaning project. We even did windows!

Later, children in the junior choir arrived for their Saturday practice. Normally they top off an enthusiastic

rehearsal by whipping up a large batch of buttered popcorn. However, realizing that 15 ravenous adults were poised to pounce on every morsel, the choir director (bless her heart) decided to forego the treat for the kids. The children were surprisingly understanding. In fact, every few minutes they kept telling us not to worry, they were not going to eat any of that hot buttered popcorn, or have any cold soda to wash it down with.

Patience, we silently prayed, give us patience. Looking at each other, we nodded, it's for a good cause, a good cause.

At the close of day, we started a serious discussion on why world hunger efforts were falling more and more to individuals, churches and private groups rather than to formal efforts by our government and those of other nations. I shared with the group a recent talk given by U.S. Representative Paul Simon of Illinois, who is also the son of a Lutheran pastor. Addressing a group of pastors, teachers, and lay members at a gathering in Virginia, Representative Simon reviewed how relatively little of our Gross National Product now

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couldn't imagine today's youth going without milkshakes, pizza and french fries.

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goes for non-military foreign aid. It's less than one-half of one percent, he said, compared to the massive foreign aid that the U.S. undertook after World War II (approximately three percent of our total GNP).

Mr. Simon made the point that 30 years ago there was tremendous support for foreign aid among the American people, "because you could go to Americans named Schmidt or Leicht and say, 'We need your support to help rebuild your native land.' There was a tremendous push to help the people back in their homelands. But now when we talk about world hunger, it's in places like Bangladesh and Kampuchea, and rare is the letter from any U.S. citizen saying, 'I think Congress should do

more to help feed my people.' "

Thus, the growing shortfall every year between official U.S. relief action and increasing needs throughout the world. Thousands of children die of starvation before their fifth birthday. Concerned Christians must both prod their government and continue to provide needed relief through active church programs such as our 30-hour fast for world hunger.

Near the end of our fast, we reviewed our pledges and donations, added a bit more "for luck," and reported a total of \$1000 for the fight against world hunger. Not a bad weekend's work, we reflected. Certainly not enough to solve the world's problems, but if each Lutheran church could somehow do the same, and then youth groups in other denominations could do similar projects, wouldn't we be taking a major step in helping to feed the truly needy people of the world?

**One last point** needed to be covered with the hard-working band of teen-agers who looked a bit disheveled from the weekend's activities. I reviewed with them a beautiful passage from Matthew 6:16 that I had discovered during our Bible study. "... and when you fast, do not put on a sad face as the hypocrites do. They neglect their appearance so that everyone will see that they are fasting. I assure you that they have already been paid in full. When you go without food, wash your face and comb your hair so that others cannot know you are fasting. Only your Father, who is unseen, will know, and your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you."

So, freshly scrubbed and with an inner feeling of peace and accomplishment, we drove to a local fast food establishment that was still open at a late hour. We tried to be "cool" and restrained as we entered, but human resolve is no match for the fragrance of french fries. A wild scramble ensued for a place in line at the counter. Imagine, grown people acting that way!

Oh, yes. I came in third. □

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*Lester Wagner, Jr. is production manager in marketing for AT&T in Silver Springs, Maryland.*



# People you're helping

## Helping displaced Mozambicans

Drought and political unrest have pushed thousands of Mozambicans into Zimbabwe since 1981. Some 4000 of these people, most of whom are malnourished, are being helped in the Nyamgombe camp by World Vision donors. Basic health care training, medicines and clothes are being provided for all people in the camp. Nutrition and education are received by 338 children five days each week. Adult literacy education—including scriptural reading materials—involves 300 adults. In addition, 200 families are being provided with seeds, fertilizer and tools for growing crops. With this help, camp residents provide the labor to build camp facilities and sustain life in their new community.

## Fishing for a future

Antelia and her husband, Dorce, and others in Balan, Haiti, face two battles. One is poverty: shortage of food, work, rain and hope. During a good year the total family income from the sale of garden produce might be \$150. In a dry year it is \$60 or less. The second battle for residents of the 75 percent Christian community is ending the deeply rooted folk-religion belief that people are the playthings of gods. World Vision supporters have helped fight these battles. Recently donors helped start a community fish farm. Land was found, a nearby spring was tapped, and fish are now being harvested. Future expansion is already being planned.

## Improving poor children's prospects

Myrtle Kennedy, who is deaf and too poor to feed her 12-year-old son John even during school holidays, is glad that John has a chance to live a life better than hers. World Vision supporters provide for John's needs at St. George's School for poor children of mixed race in Kilpauk, India. Myrtle,

whose husband abandoned the family when John was two, lives in a corner of a one-room building, sleeps on a hard-mud floor, and cooks on a mud stove with two mud pots. Her source of income is from hemming pillowcases and tablecloths which are sold at the Salvation Army Creche where she works. Myrtle's kind neighbors and the faithful donors to St. George's School help her smile in spite of all her difficult experiences.

## A bed, a box, a bowl, a bar of soap

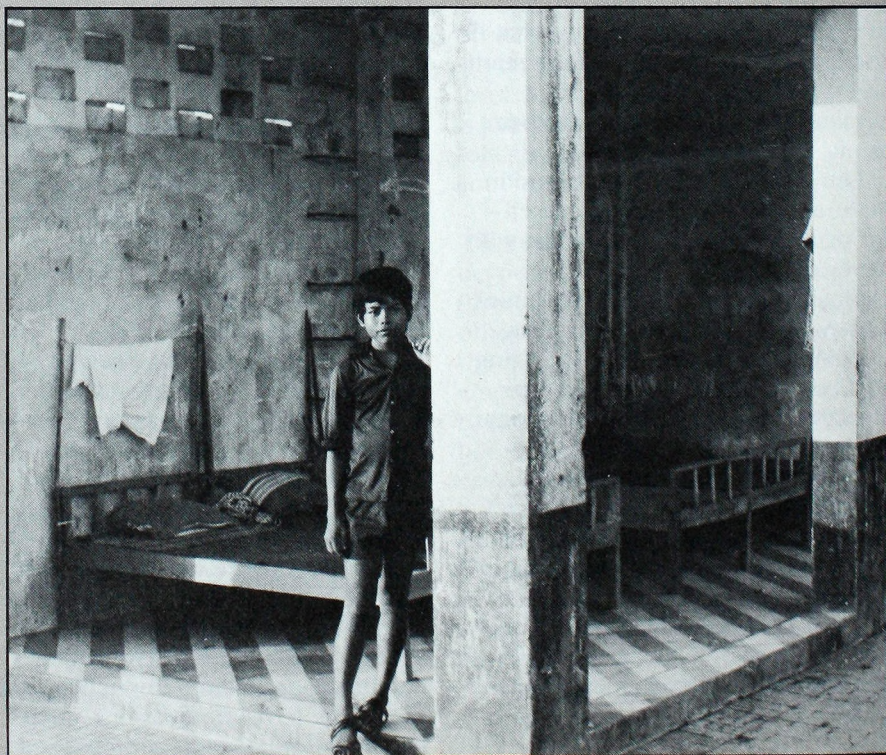
During the genocidal rule of Pol Pot in Kampuchea in 1979, thousands of Khmer children were orphaned. Since then, government-established orphanages have provided homes, health care and education for these children. Children in several orphanages receive aid from World Vision and other Chris-

tian groups. The sparsely equipped orphanages often include only a bed and a box that contains all of a child's possessions—including a second set of clothing and a few health-care items. Mosquito nets, plastic bowls, bars of soap, notebooks, sewing machines, weaving equipment and hoes are some of the loving gifts provided by donors' monthly support to make the future hopeful for these parentless children.

## Families and villages grow together

The lives of families and tribal groups around the village of Quezon on the island of Palawan in the Philippines are being transformed, thanks to the help of World Vision donors and field workers. In one family, the most important need that World Vision is helping to meet is spiritual, according to Aveniego and Angela Elefane, parents

This Kampuchean orphan, who benefits from World Vision aid, stands near his bed.





## Mini-message

# MAKE ROOM FOR JESUS!

The "no vacancy" sign which once hung at an inn in Bethlehem symbolized a worse tragedy: that Jesus Christ "came unto his own and his own received him not."

Yet, as the Gospel of John points out, many *did* receive Him as Lord and Savior. And to them He gave the power to become children of God.

It's the same today. While many still say to Jesus, "Sorry, no vacancy," others receive Him gladly and in doing so are made more glad.

Have *you* received the Lord Jesus Christ in glad faith and submission? Or will you spend another Christmas without the relationship that matters most now and forever?

That incomparable relationship begins on the day you sincerely ask Him to step into your life as your Savior from sin and your forever Lord.

If you feel that you lack understanding or assurance about this vital matter, here's a pertinent suggestion: Read and reread, today, the first two chapters of Luke. Consider what really happened in Bethlehem. Then open yourself to the entire Gospel of Luke and, above all, to the One whom that God-given book presents with clarity and power.

Trust that One. Give Him the central place in your life and in your home. Seek fellowship with others who know Him. And introduce Him to yet others.

You'll be glad. So will He.

David Olson

For a copy of a helpful booklet called "Becoming a Christian," simply write WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016. It's free for the asking.



The Elefane children take their water buffalo to a nearby river where they swim, and where adults go to wash laundry.

of five children. They became Christians through the village Bible classes. That decision, they say, has been the strongest cord to knit the family together. They have also received training in village leadership, basic literacy and vocational programs. Some trainees have become Bible study leaders. Others, like Aveniego, have focused on village leadership and on learning about rice and corn production or other crops, and have used the loan assistance program to develop a livelihood.

### Tanzanians seek to improve food production

A major cause of food shortage in Tanzania was recently identified by Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere. He blamed poor farming methods, few fertilizers and a lack of skilled agronomists, in addition to drought. He appealed to his people to improve food production methods to ensure self-sufficiency. The Evangelical Lutheran church in Tanzania is teaching people methods of food production and practical implementation of local food programs. To supplement the help this education affords, World Vision donors are supporting shipments of grain for Tanzanian drought victims.

### Please pray . . .

- for all who arrange for and expedite** the delivery of food, medical aid and hope to the starving people in Ethiopia and other famine-plagued African nations. Their work is often difficult, dangerous and exhausting.
- for the recipients** of that aid, that they may recover in spirit as well as in body, and that they may recognize God's hand in their rescue.
- for the African nations' leaders**, who must deal with long-range recovery needs as well as emergency undertakings.
- for wisdom** concerning your personal involvement in supporting caring-in-Christ's-name efforts in whatever ways God opens for you.

### GETTING HUNGRY VOLUNTARILY

**In scattered locations** across America during the past few years, some 3000 different groups have spent 30 hours fasting together to heighten their awareness of world hunger and to raise funds for overseas hunger relief. They've called their efforts "Planned Famine."

Now plans are underway to involve thousands of people simultaneously in a Planned Famine program, and to stretch the experience to 40 hours.

Bluntly called "GET HUNGRY!" the maxi-fast will be conducted in the states of Maryland and Virginia and in Washington, D.C. Dates for the event are April 26-28 (Friday evening to Sunday noon).

WORLD VISION magazine readers in that area are being invited to organize "GET HUNGRY!" groups in their churches, clubs or other organizations.



Sharing Jesus' love in heartsick homes . . .

# CHRISTMAS ANGELS CHEER PRISONERS' CHILDREN

by Charles W. Colson

**H**olidays are the toughest days in prison. I know. I remember.

And Christmas is particularly hard, not only for inmates, but especially for their families.

The really forgotten ones are the little children. For thousands of such children, Christmas trees and gifts are nonexistent if Daddy is in prison and Mom is on welfare or working two jobs, trying to keep things together. For them, Christmas is just another day on which they wish they were like everyone else and had a family all together.

But because of a creative Christmas project, hundreds of inmates' children will have a real Christmas this year. The project is called Angel Tree. This year it's being conducted by Prison Fellowship in 50 locations.

In these cities this December, as in ten cities last December, volunteers will set up large Christmas trees in local shopping malls, banks and churches. Then they'll contact people who have a family member in prison, round up the children and find out what the children would like as a Christmas gift.

Toys are usually low on the lists. Prisoners' children tend to request things that most of us take for granted.

*Chuck Colson is founder and president of Prison Fellowship, whose national office address is P.O. Box 17152, Washington, D.C. 20041.*

A winter coat. Gloves. Large print books. A hearty meal.

And, of course, some things that kids across the country want: toy trucks, dolls, crayons. But for the children of prisoners, such toys, which most of us so easily provide for our own kids, are like a dream.

After gathering the wishes, our volunteers decorate the Christmas trees with colorful paper angels. Each angel bears a child's name, his or her age, and four Christmas wishes. Individuals then stop by the tree, select an angel and buy any or all of the four gifts listed.

They then return the presents to the Prison Fellowship table beside the tree, where they are wrapped with Christmas paper donated by local merchants. The gifts are distributed to the prisoners' children a few days before Christmas.

**I wish all** the people who helped last year could have been in the homes of the more than 2000 children they helped, to see their faces light up.

As so often happens when we give to others, the givers are blessed even

more than the recipients. Let me give you some examples.

• An expensively dressed older woman stopped and examined the Angel Tree. "What's this all about?" she demanded. As a volunteer explained, the woman pulled her fur coat around her impatiently.

"Well," she said, "I think that's just marvelous. I'm here today to shop for my grandchildren—who have everything they could possibly ever want, and don't appreciate any of it. I'd just as soon buy for children who have real needs."

The woman swept four angels off the tree and disappeared into the throng of shoppers. She returned

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**H**olidays are the toughest days in prison. I know. I remember.

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several hours later, arms full of packages, her eyes bright with excitement. "This is the most wonderful shopping I've ever done," she exclaimed as she unloaded boxes onto the wrapping table. "Merry Christmas!"

• A young man stopped by. Twenty-two or so, unmarried, he was the manager of one of the mall stores. He looked over the trees, then began to talk about his own childhood. His





(left) A Birmingham boy helps his parents pick a Christmas "shopping list" for a needy child of a prison inmate. (below) Ecstasy overcomes a prisoner's daughter, accompanied by her mother as she receives a gift bought by a Christmas Angels volunteer in Washington, DC.



mother had been widowed, left with five young children, and she'd been forced to turn to welfare.

There had never been much money for Christmas presents. "But," he said, "there's one thing that Mom always told us: 'There's no shame in accepting help from others, as long as you do everything you can for yourself. And then, when you have the chance, you make sure you help someone else.'"

"So that's what I want to do today," he concluded. "Help somebody else."

After examining every angel, he decided on one requesting gifts for a newborn infant whose mother had simply listed a "complete layette set."

"That's it!" the young man exclaimed, turning to dart away toward a store. Suddenly he stopped. "Wait a minute!" he shouted to one volunteer. "What's a layette set?"

- Then there was the older man who saw the Angel Tree advertised on TV and drove 60 miles to Birmingham, Alabama. Arriving at the mall where the Angel Tree was, he immediately picked six angels off the tree, returning hours later with all four gifts for each child.

Over the next few weeks, he returned several times. On each trip he would take more angels and buy all the gifts requested for each child. By the end of the project, he had

provided for 11 children.

One of the volunteers asked why. "I think this is great," he said slowly. "The poor always get somebody else's cast-off, secondhand things. I just like the idea that these kids—maybe for the first time in their lives—are getting something new of their very own."

- One young man looked over all the angels, then suddenly chose a two-year-old boy named Michael. He came back after shopping with an armload of presents. "Now, can I be sure that *Michael* will get these gifts?" he asked. "These won't go to another child, will they?"

A volunteer assured him that Michael would receive his gifts. Several hours later, she looked up to see the same man. He had a small boy by the hand, and was with two women. "I want to explain to my wife and mother-in-law what this project is all about," he said.

The volunteer obliged, and as the young wife listened, she bent and picked up the toddler. "This is our son," she said, tears running down her cheeks. "He's two years old, and he was a twin. His brother was named Michael; he died soon after birth. So my husband wanted another little Michael to have Christmas in memory of our Michael."

You can see why this Angel Tree project is so close to my heart. After all, Christmas marks the birth of the

Christ—God coming as a person to lead us as our Savior. It's the very heart of what we celebrate that we honor the Christ child by helping forgotten children today.

Whenever I think of Angel Tree, I remember Jesus' words, "To the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." □

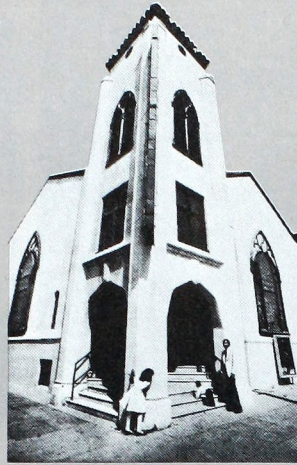
The 1984 Angel Tree will be conducted in these cities.

Little Rock, AK	Jefferson City, MO
Birmingham, AL	Kansas City, MO
Fullerton, CA	Missoula, MT
Livermore, CA	Albuquerque, NM
Los Angeles, CA	Las Cruces, NM
Sacramento, CA	Santa Fe, NM
San Francisco, CA	New York, NY
San Jose, CA	Oklahoma City, OK
Santa Barbara, CA	Tulsa, OK
Colorado Springs, CO	Portland, OR
Denver, CO	Austin, TX
Ft. Collins, CO	Big Springs, TX
Grand Junction, CO	College Station, TX
Pueblo, CO	Dallas, TX
Wilmington, DE	Fort Worth, TX
Ft. Pierce, FL	Houston, TX
Miami, FL	San Antonio, TX
Atlanta, GA	Waco, TX
Lexington, KY	Salt Lake City, UT
Baton Rouge, LA	Richmond, VA
Baltimore, MD	Olympia, WA
Jackson, MS	Seattle, WA
Meridian, MS	Tacoma, WA
Tupelo, MS	



# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



Caring churches meet the special needs of residents of urban neighborhoods.

**Recorded Bible passages for the blind**, covering 40 percent of the Old Testament, have just been released by the American Bible Society. Readings (from the Today's English Version) represent major Old Testament stories and themes, with an emphasis on passages reflecting deep spiritual concerns, human interest and texts vital to a fuller understanding of the New Testament. The 23-cassette album is available at \$35 from American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023; phone (212) 581-7400.

**Children** across North America collected pencils, erasers, crayons, rulers and notebooks to send to school children in Haiti as part of a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) material aid shipment. Parents sewed bags to hold the supplies, and Sunday school classes assembled the kits. Haitian children also received health and sewing kits for use in school. For more information contact MCC, 21 South 12th St., Akron, PA 17501.

**The Death Row Support Project** needs individuals interested in corresponding by letter with prisoners on death row. This project offers a unique opportunity to minister to many who have lost all hope. Currently more than 400 death row prisoners are involved in corresponding. For more information contact Rachel Gross, Death Row Support Project, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102

**World Impact**, an inner-city Christian missions organization, has begun a program of renovating abandoned or deteriorated homes in an inner area of Newark, NJ. The restored homes will provide quality housing for the homeless poor. Volunteer or retired Christian carpenters or contractors are needed. Contact World Impact, 2001 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles CA 90007.

**"Tentmaker" witnessing** is the focus of a new Overseas Counseling Service program for Christians who work overseas. For a fee, OCS offers job listings to denominations, agencies or churches, and includes screening and follow-up of job-seekers. For information write Overseas Counseling Service, 1600 East Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104, or call (818) 797-1512.

**Parents of mentally retarded children** have special needs which a California church wants to help meet. If you or your church have experience in such a ministry, please share insights and suggestions by writing to the Outreach Committee, First Baptist Church, 223 S. Encinitas, Monrovia, CA 91016.

**Samaritan Ministries**, an outreach of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church in Washington, DC, offers a comprehensive ministry program to the poor in their area. Specific services include job placement, food sharing, counseling and legal assistance. Staffed almost entirely by volunteers, Samaritan Ministries also conducts weekly workshops for the unemployed and serves lunch to senior citizens five days a week.

**Christian Conciliation Service** chapters are being formed throughout the U.S. The emphasis is on healing of relationships. The purpose is to provide biblically faithful methods for resolving legal disputes within the framework of the church. In addition, a victim-offender reconciliation ministry seeks to bring offenders from the criminal justice system together with their victims to mediate, allow expression of feeling and attempt to arrive at agreement on an amount and means of restitution. For information about a CCS chapter in your area, contact the Christian Legal Society, P.O. Box 2069, Oak Park, IL 60303.

**A book for children on world hunger: *Hunger Activities for Children*** (\$6). Crafts, games, music, tapes, pictures are just some of the media discussed as channels through which the needs of the hungry can be presented to children. Lists of relief agencies and other informational resources are included. Available from Brethren House, 6301 56th Avenue N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

**A new overseas training camp** conducted by Inter-Varsity Missions met in Hong Kong during summer, 1984. Chinese culture and history and service opportunities in Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China were the program focus for 24 students. The IVM roster of regular summer programs also includes training camps in Latin America, Europe, the Philippines and Kenya. Planned for summer '85 are new camps in Colombia, Nigeria, Eastern Europe and Mexico. For more information write Inter-Varsity Missions, 233 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703, or call (608) 257-1103

**Christian managers** will gather for the Christian Management Institute, February 18-21, 1985 in Dallas, Texas. Plenary session speakers include motivational and management experts from a broad spectrum of Christian institutions and businesses. For information write Sylvia Flaten, Christian Ministries Management Association, P.O. Box 4651, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 or call (714) 861-8861.

**An agricultural improvement** program linking groups of families in Haiti to small support groups in the United States has been developed by Harvest, an international Christian development agency. On-the-field assistance is provided by a veteran missionary. For more information on the project (called Terre Verte) contact Bob Moffitt, Harvest, 3080 N. Civic Center Plaza, Suite 10, Scottsdale, AZ 85251; phone (602)945-2300.



## AS THE HOOFBEATS DRAW NEAR

**Anyone tempted** to think of the Book of Revelation as fantasy, or as an old man's vivid imagination of remote events, should read Billy Graham's, *Approaching Hoofbeats*. Graham makes this often-misunderstood book of the Bible as immediate as the six o'clock news and as clear as spring water.

But that's not why I've chosen to write about this small volume. In some ways Graham's comments are unsettling. Revelation is a book of warnings, and he puts its warnings into the context of current events—cults, famine, the nuclear threat. He warns us of deception from both inside and outside the church. He pricks our conscience with nearly incomprehensible statistics on world poverty. He reminds us that brother has battled brother since the beginning of time.

In other ways, however, I found *Approaching Hoofbeats* a reassuring and comforting chronicle of events that will culminate in the return of Jesus Christ. It is inscribed on my heart the motto, "God is sovereign." It renewed my hope in the reality of His plan for heaven and earth.

Graham obviously believes we live in a crucial time in history. I agree. Yet he stays out of the trap of setting time tables or linking specific events with prophecy. All he says is that the hoofbeats of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse "can be heard growing louder with each passing day." He feels it in the air and in his bones. He reads it in his morning paper. He senses the concern of believers and unbelievers. And he has

no choice but to pass the warnings on to us.

The book focuses on the four horses—white, red, black, and pale—described in Revelation 6:1-8. "The first has to do with counterfeit religion. The second deals with war



and peace. The third has to do with famine and pestilence. And the fourth represents the trauma of death and the suffering of Hades."

Each of these topics Graham expounds until the depravity of man and the deterioration of our society shock and numb us. With the promises of Revelation, then, it would be easy to preach a gospel of easy escapism. Instead, Graham writes, "I have also become more convicted about Christians' responsibility to declare and live the gospel and to fight against both individual and corporate evil."

That's where we at World Vision stand. While we thrill to the anthem, "The King is Coming," and joyfully contemplate a future world without problems, we refuse to construct a cloistered, ecclesiastical compound and push our tracts out through the knotholes. The Lord forbade Peter and James and John to build three tabernacles on the mountain; He doesn't give us that option either.

For years I've reviewed an endless parade of data. I've read periodicals, books, printouts, reports, proposals, white papers, analyses and plans. Not only does the accumulation of pure information tend to make the mind and soul dizzy, it obscures the inevitable judgment of God upon evil.

The book of Revelation cuts through this mountain of humanity's perishable prose and opens a divine vista of hope. Death and sorrow and crying and pain are no more. God is on the Throne. The King *is* coming. Hallelujah! Amen!

*Ted W. Engstrom*

Ted W. Engstrom  
President







**"When I trade this income property to World Vision for a life-income plan . . .**

**"I'll have greater income, no management problems—and I'll help six hungry children in Ethiopia."**

**"My heart bled** for the hungry children in Ethiopia, but there was little I could do to help. Inflation had eaten up most of the insurance John left me. Even this worrisome rental property barely covered its expenses; and it's worth over \$125,000.

"When Daniel Rice, World Vision's planned-giving consultant, showed me how I could trade this property to World Vision for a high-interest life income plan, it was the answer to my prayers. That plan will pay me over \$1000 every month for life. Afterwards, the principal will go to World Vision to help their wonderful work for the Lord.

"Now I'll have enough extra income to pledge \$108 per month to help six children in Ethiopia . . . I'll get a charitable income tax deduction that will save me several thousand dollars . . . and I'll never have to worry about tenant problems again!"\*

**After years** of rampant inflation, many people have real estate, stocks and other investments that have appreciated greatly in value, but yield very little

current income. To sell them, however, would incur severe capital gains taxes.

Donating such assets to a favorite charity can often work miracles for donor and donee alike. For instance, you avoid capital gains taxes completely

when you exchange a low yielding appreciated asset for a high-interest World Vision Life Income Plan. The monthly payments you receive are based on the *full present value* of the asset, and you also get a charitable-gift income tax deduction based on full value.

If you have appreciated assets of \$50,000 or more, and you want to improve your spendable income and help the work of the Lord, mail the coupon today for our free booklet "A Gift That Pays You Life Income." We'll also send you an estimate of how much monthly income your gift could earn and how large your income tax deduction could be. There's no obligation, and your inquiry will be completely confidential.



*Daniel Rice, planned-giving consultant*

A house such as this may earn only \$2800 this year after taxes and repairs. Exchanged for a World Vision Life Income Plan, it can bring its present owner more than \$12,000 a year for life.

To: Daniel Rice  
World Vision  
Office of Planned Giving  
919 W. Huntington Dr.  
Monrovia, CA 91016

I have low-yielding appreciated assets of \$50,000 or more and would like to learn how to exchange them for a high-interest World Vision Life Income Plan.

- Please send me your free booklet "A Gift That Pays You Life Income."
- Please also send me a free and confidential estimate of what my monthly income could be and how large a charitable-gift income tax deduction I could get.

I'm interested in a plan for  
 Myself.  Myself and a loved one.

My age is \_\_\_\_\_. Age of second party (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_.

I am usually in the \_\_\_\_\_ percent tax bracket.

The approximate value of the asset(s) I am considering exchanging is \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
Original cost \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*I understand that your estimate is free and without obligation, and that this inquiry is completely confidential.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



\* Although the situation depicted is fictional, it typifies specific cases which World Vision's Planned Giving Office will be happy to document on request.